

Romans

Map 4 PEGWELL BAY

‘Not surprisingly, my boy, a lot happened over the next several thousand years.’

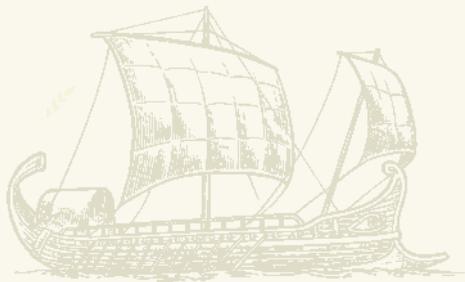
We were looking out over a wide, shallow bay, the wind whipping the loose sand up in billows.

‘The spread of new technologies and culture. Communities working with Bronze and then Iron Age tools, as our ancestors became ever more settled and cleared more and more of the forests for crops and livestock. The countryside is studded with their tools and implements. Remember, of course, there was no unified country or nation. A myriad of tribes existed across a patchwork of territories. We could have taken a trip to any number of fascinating sites where evidence of settlements from those years remain. Perhaps next time we will. But quite frankly, time marches swiftly onwards.’

‘I have been impatient to get to this moment. The moment in the summer of 54 BC when looking out over the bay we would have seen an enormous fleet of Roman ships.’

Looking out over the water, I could easily imagine the horizon teeming with ships and almost shivered.

‘Caesar had been here the year before but he’d only brought two legions, and though he landed, soon set off again. It was somewhat of a minor detour in his seven-year campaign against the Gauls. This time he brought



hundreds of ships, some say twenty thousand men and thousands of horses. The weather was terrible with a storm blowing up, and the ships at anchor were broken against themselves. So they pulled the ships up on to the beach. Archaeologists have found evidence of the defensive fortifications the Romans made to defend the ships less than a kilometre in that direction.’

Aunt Bea pointed inland. ‘They found pottery and iron weapons, including crucially a Roman spear. Back then, this would all have been an island, cut off from the mainland by the Wantsum Channel until it gradually silted up over the next thousand years. The watching tribes fled at the size of the force. Caesar won some victories over the various tribes that Britain was made up of and left again. But that initial link had been made between here and the Roman world. Over the next eighty years, there were many planned invasions, including my favourite story, of Caligula gathering a force of 200,000 only for them to collect seashells. It wasn’t until AD 40 that the invasion began in earnest and for the next forty years vicious battles were waged as the Romans sought to subdue the various tribes.

‘This had thus far been an island that had been shaped by those who came to its shores. But no one could have had any idea quite what that fleet signified on that stormy summer day. Now, I think some puzzles.’

QUESTIONS

■ Easy

1. How many clubhouses are marked on the map?
2. What location name is nearest to the lowest road survey height on the map?

■ Medium

3. How many different road numbers appear on the map?
4. Which location sounds like it might be a storage battery?

■ Tricky

5. Which of the following numbers are printed on the map: 3, 9, 18, 23, 52?
6. How many times do the letters ELL appear next to each other on the map?

■ Challenging

7. With respect to the map, which of the following is the odd one out:
WELL, SITE, CROSS, CLUB, POINT?
8. Can you piece these fragments back together to make four locations shown on the map: BOR, BURY, CAN, DITI, ENSC, ONAL, ORE, OUGH, RICH, SEV, TER, TRA.

