

# Iron Age

Late Iron Age occupation at Middlewich is confirmed by the presence of roundhouses in the King Street area and finds of things like sword scabbard-fittings, earthenware salt-containers and coins. Taken together with environmental evidence of forest-clearance and farming, it is possible to create an early picture of Middlewich.



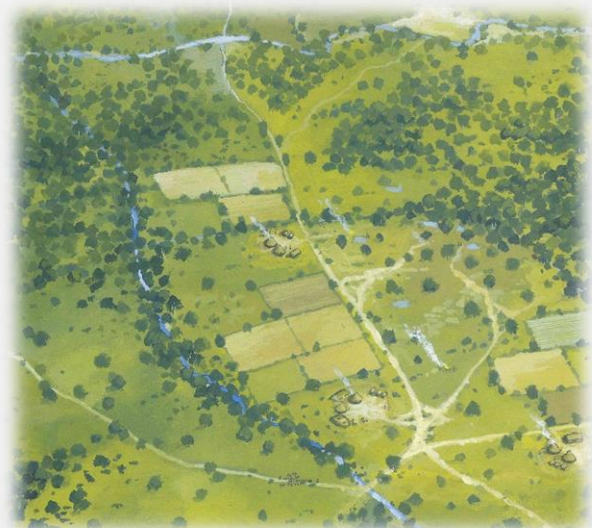
Above left: Gold Coin 50BC – 50AD called a **stater**. Above centre: A willow lined brine well, the type probably used pre-Roman and beyond. Above right: illustration showing what the sword may have looked like.

Two things gave Middlewich importance: the salt brine-springs and the crossing-points on the Dane and Croco rivers. The brine was exploited around King Street, and this important commodity was traded far a-field.

In a general Middlewich's landscape was boggy along most riverbanks; natural crossing-points, such as those near the sites of the bridge in the town-centre and where King Street crosses the Dane, would have been well-used and important.



Drawing of the local Cornovii tribe's people



Here you can see the roundhouses within a farmed landscape. Long-distance track-ways in-between settlements had been in use for many Centuries.

