

Saturday July 6th – Farnham Park

Starting off the first weekend with test pits 3 and 4 between the postern gate of the castle and the Avenue, where the cannon park from the Civil War might have been. Despite on and off rain all day, our participants seemed eager and happy to kick off the season!



Lots of sieving, sorting through the finds, and digging through the thick gravel layer to hit the natural. At the end of the day, test pits 3 and 4 show the natural to not be much more than half a metre down, with possible unmortared chalk footing from castle wall in the corner of 4.





Sunday July 6th – Bishops Meadow

A much sunnier Day 2 in the New Community Orchard at Bishops Meadow, just south of the West Street Cemetery Wall. Very thick layer of clay alluvium makes the sieving difficult, with most of the finds farming equipment and debris, including a bucket handle and hoop.





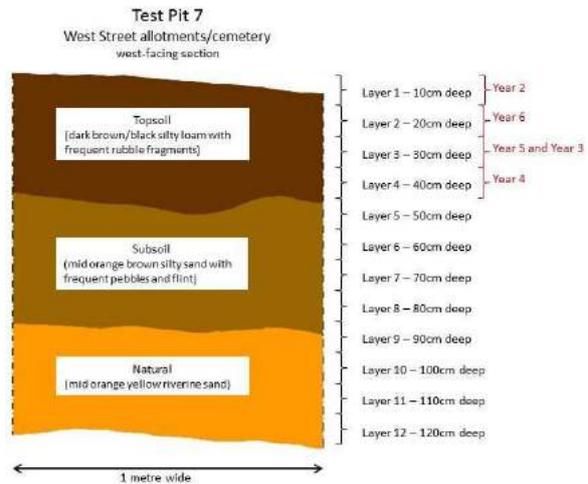
Tuesday-Thursday July 8th-10th – West Street allotments/cemetery

Three days of digging and archaeological activities with the lovely children from St Peter's C of E Primary School in Wrecclesham, Farnham



Doing various activities with the Year 3's to 6's, including finds identification, planning, and even some surveying with the older children





Saturday July 12th – The Old Vicarage

A hot and muggy day at one of the most beautiful tucked-away spots in Farnham – mainly uncovered building debris in the two pits (9 and 10) dug at the meadow end of the property, but a good day regardless, with a little bit of medieval pot!





Sunday July 13th – West Street allotments/cemetery

Digging in a prime location for Mesolithic activity, as well as some much later Victorian terracing



Continuing to dig down in test pit 7, first started by the school children, to the natural at just over one metre in depth, as well as starting pit 8 just to the east, which revealed an interesting pair of cuts and richly artefact-laden fill – lithics were indeed uncovered, as well as beautiful Tudor ware



Wednesday-Thursday July 16th-17th – Bishops Meadow ‘Tudor Mound’

Putting test pit 11 at the north end of the ‘Tudor Ditch’ with school groups from Rowledge C of E Primary – even though not much was found in the thick layer of clay and muggy hot weather, we were able to write-off the spot for future investigation of the ditch, and get in some great prehistoric activities!



Saturday July 19th – Farnham Park



Continuing to investigate the road surface leading to the postern gate with pits 12 and 13 – although the road was hard going to get through, a Victorian dump closer to the ditch was prime picking for clay pipes!



Sunday July 20th – Memorial Hall



Investigating two pits (14 and 15) at the back of 55 West St – a great collection of material, including medieval to Victorian pottery, even if more recently deposited!





Saturday July 26th – Farnham Library

A mini-open day took place in the library gardens, including an animal bone workshop, tied into test pits 16 and 17. Despite the prime location just behind the original building (Vernon House), and the amount of medieval pottery dug-up, the pits were bottomed and consisted of the same deposit of topsoil, tying into the artificial terracing which took place when the building was extended in 1989 – if there are original medieval deposits, they either are below our safety depths, or were swept away in the pre-Planning Policy development!



Sunday July 27th – nos. 17 and 19 High Park Road



A fantastic final day at two houses along High Park Road, with owners who spent the whole day digging with us (and making us tea)! Items were not sparse, and consisted of typical kitchen waste from the Edwardian houses, as well as medieval pottery (from the hop fields?)





Saturday September 13th – Museum of Farnham



A sunny wrap-up day at the Museum, involving pottery, small finds, zooarchaeology, underwater archaeology specialists, living history and of course the talks and visits which go along with the HODS weekend. Combined with the completion of test pits 1 and 2, which were first started at the May bank holiday open day, and which exposed the foundations of a previously unknown building behind Willmer House (a pre-Georgian kitchen?), it was a great finale to the 2014 season!



Overall, this year's pilot season of test-pitting was spread throughout the town in 9 different sites total, stretching from Farnham Park to the West Street allotments.

This involved 187 total community members on the weekends and 330 school children.

Here's to a similarly successful 2015!