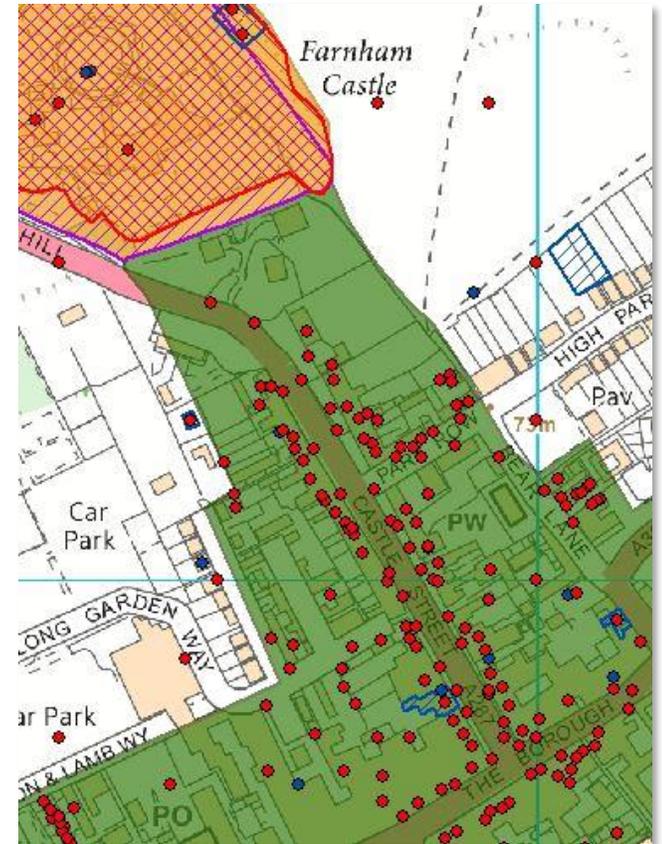


# An introduction to the **Surrey Historic Environment Record**

Rob Briggs, HER Officer, Surrey County Council

9<sup>th</sup> June 2022



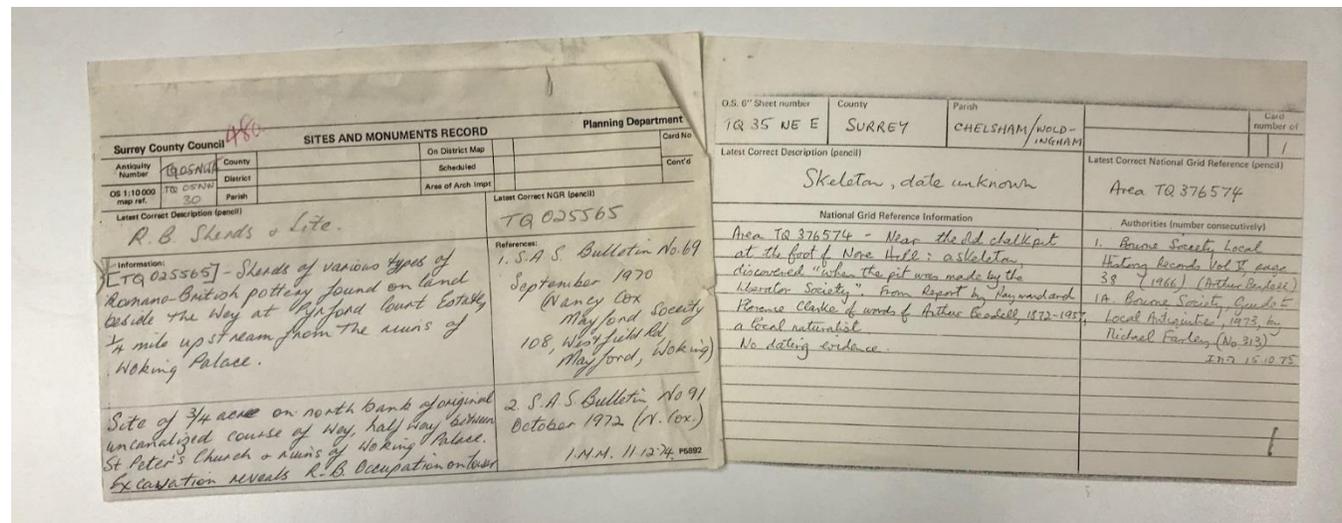
# What is the HER?

“The comprehensive record of archaeological sites, finds and historic monuments within the administrative county of Surrey”



# History lesson 1: the SMR

- Sites and Monuments Record
- Established in 1972 by the Surrey Archaeological Society
- Based on earlier Ordnance Survey archaeology division record cards
- Transferred to SCC in 1979
- Part-time SMR officer appointed in 1999

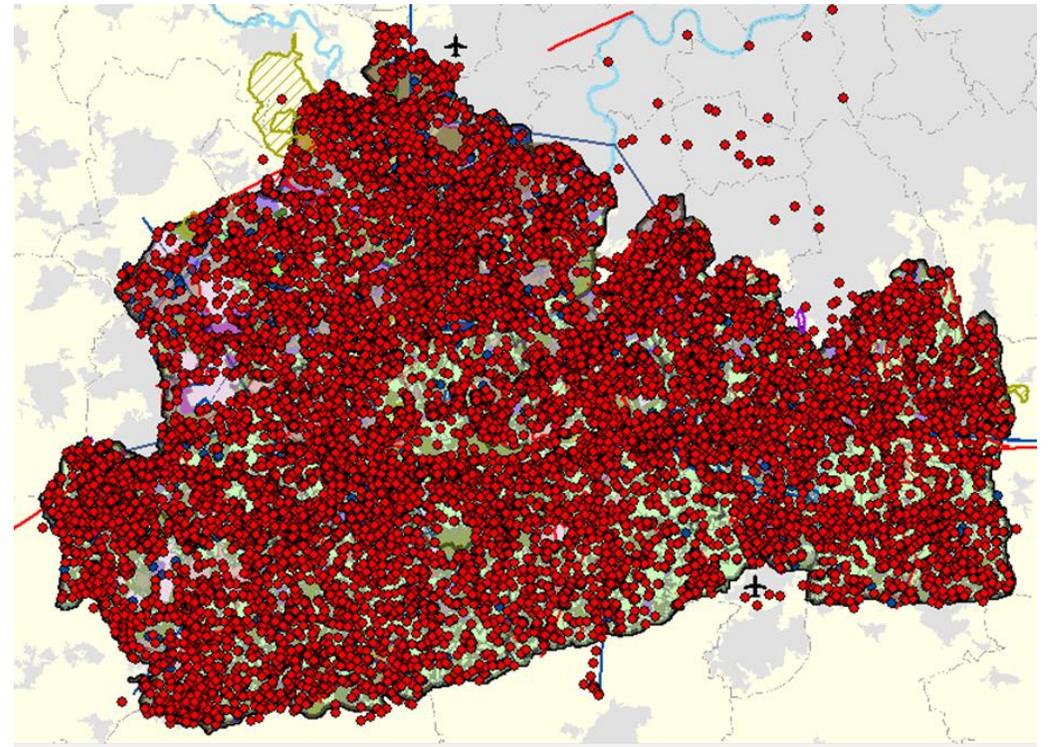
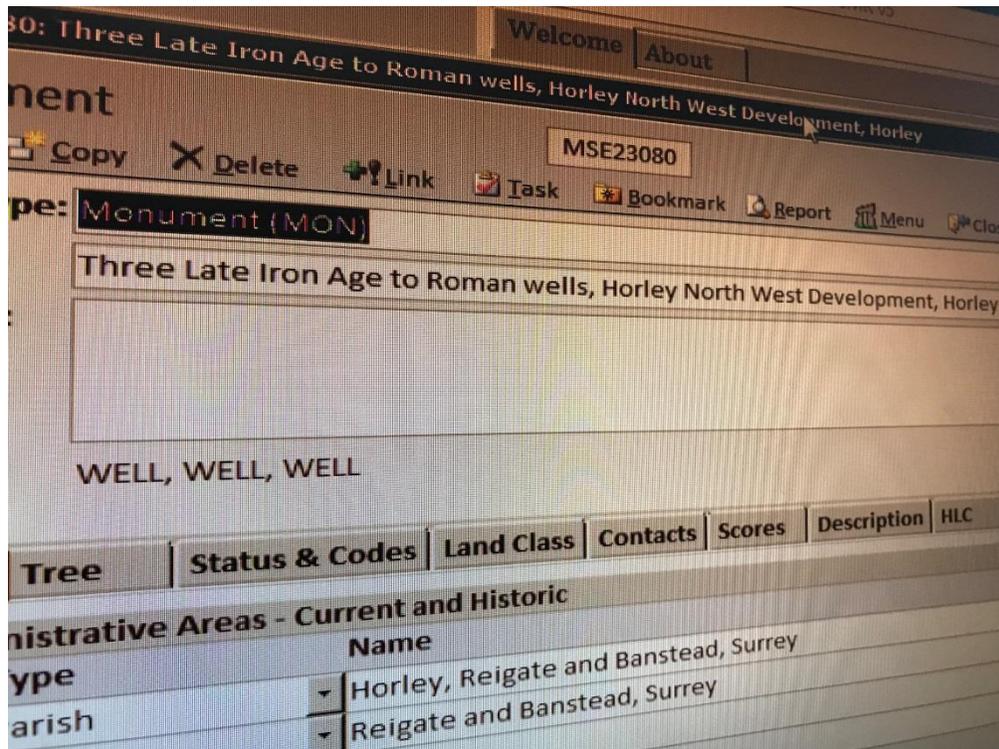


# History lesson 2: becoming the HER

- Name-change (and more) took place in 2007
- Reflected broader range of data
- On in-house computerised databases since 1979, latterly RELICS, linked to GIS
- Online summary versions of some records made available on [Exploring Surrey's Past website](#) in 2009
- Shift to industry standard [HBSMR](#) (Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Records) + ArcGIS in 2015

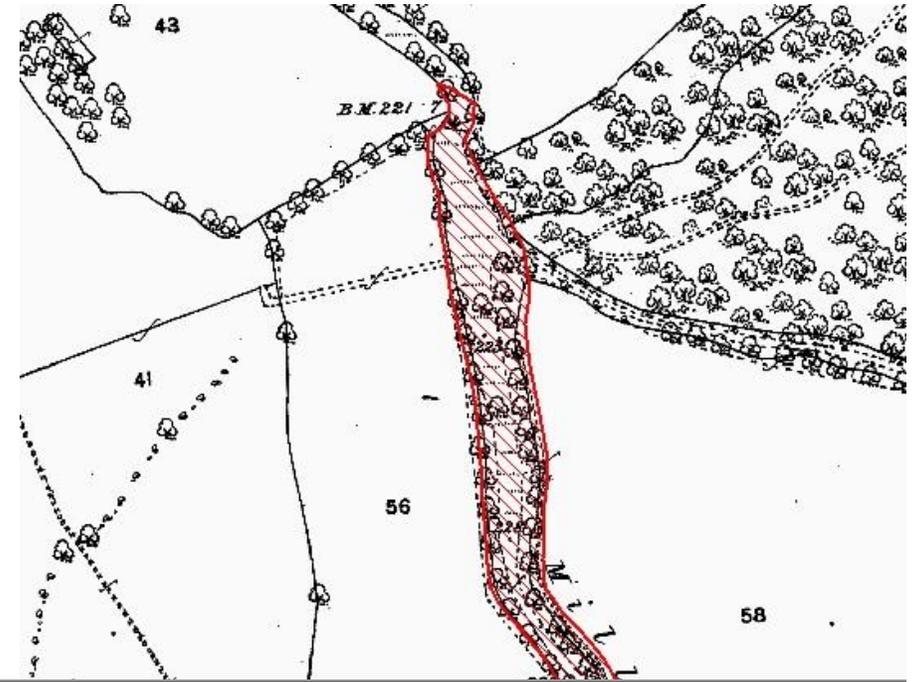


# What's in the HER?



# Monuments

- **Monuments** (excavated archaeological remains, earthworks, cropmarks, routeways)
- **Find Spots** (many pre-PAS)
- **Listed Buildings** (now NHLE)
- **Locally Listed Buildings**
- **Buildings**
- **Parks and Gardens**
- **Negative Evidence**



Monument MSE13736

New Copy Delete Link Task Bookmark Report Menu Close

Record Type: Monument (MON) SMR No: 13736 Search:

Name: Mill Lane (diverted), 19th century hollow way, Newdigate

Summary: Part of the original route of Mill Lane, now diverted, survives as part of a trackway following a field boundary. This is most likely the same route that is visible on John Rocque's 1767 map.

Type(s): HOLLOW WAY, TRACKWAY

NGR: Centred TQ 2051 4440 (96m by 323m) Map: TQ24SW

Location	Tree	Status & Codes	Land Class	Contacts	Scores	Description	HLC	Metadata	M
----------	------	----------------	------------	----------	--------	-------------	-----	----------	---

- Mill Lane (diverted), 19th century hollow way, Newdigate (Monument, 13736)
  - HOLLOW WAY (18th Century to 20th Century - 1701 AD to 2000 AD (between))
  - TRACKWAY (19th Century to 20th Century - 1801 AD to 2000 AD (between))
- Peer (Related to): Ewood Pond, 16th-19th century mill pond, Newdigate (Monument MSE23513)

# Events

- **Interventions** (excavations, evaluations, watching briefs)
- **Surveys** (geophysics, standing building recording, earthwork survey)
- **Interpretations** (post-excavation analyses, desk-based assessments, heritage statements)
- Must be planned and reported in order to count as an Event



# Sources and Finds

- **Source** records underpin other record types, giving them an authoritative basis
- **Find** records allow artefact-specific information to be logged (e.g. dimensions, weights, pottery fabric types)



12TH CENTURY COPPER BOOK BOSS FOUND IN MONKS' INFIRMARY, WAVERLEY ABBEY.

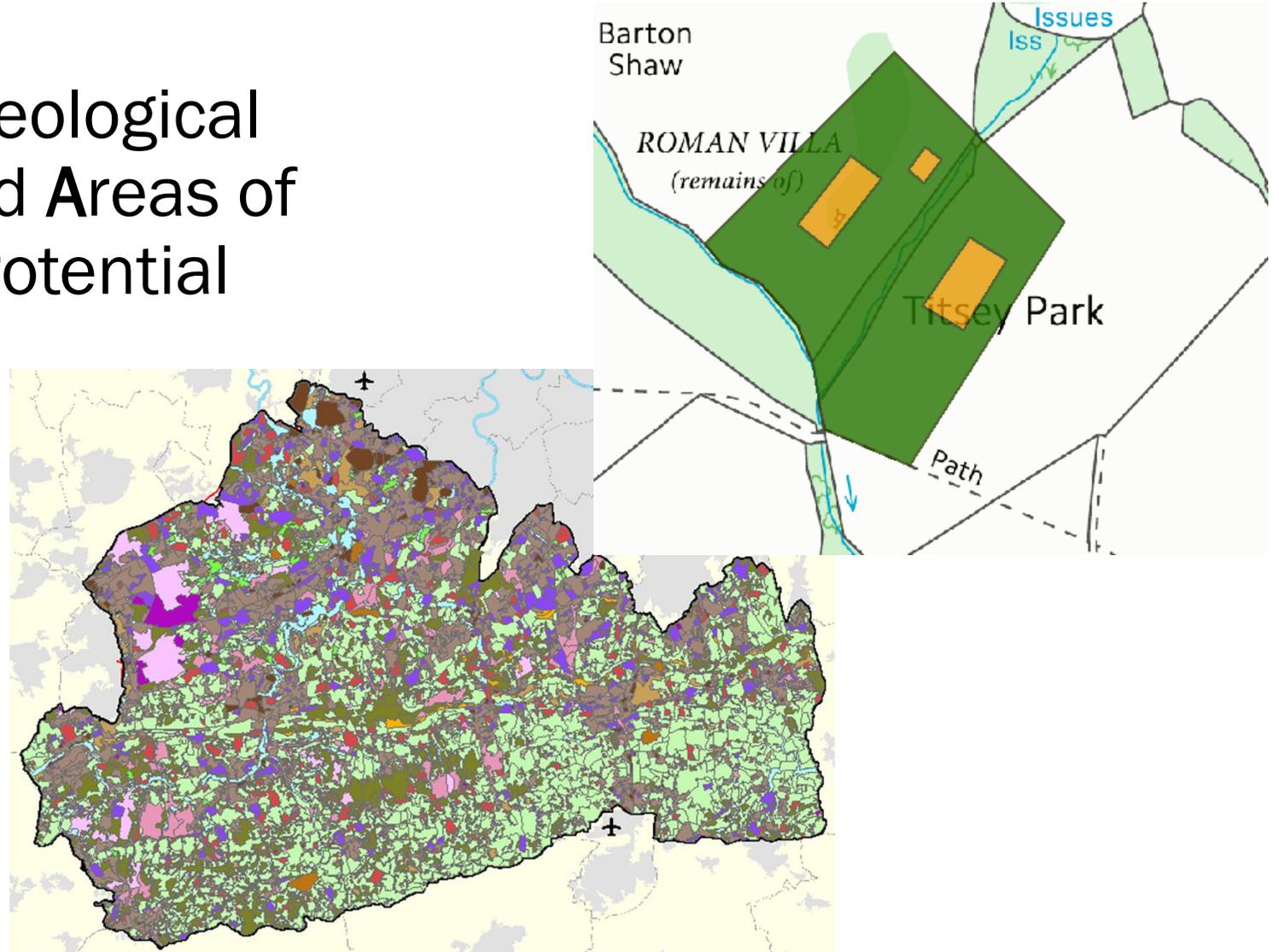


# Area-based datasets

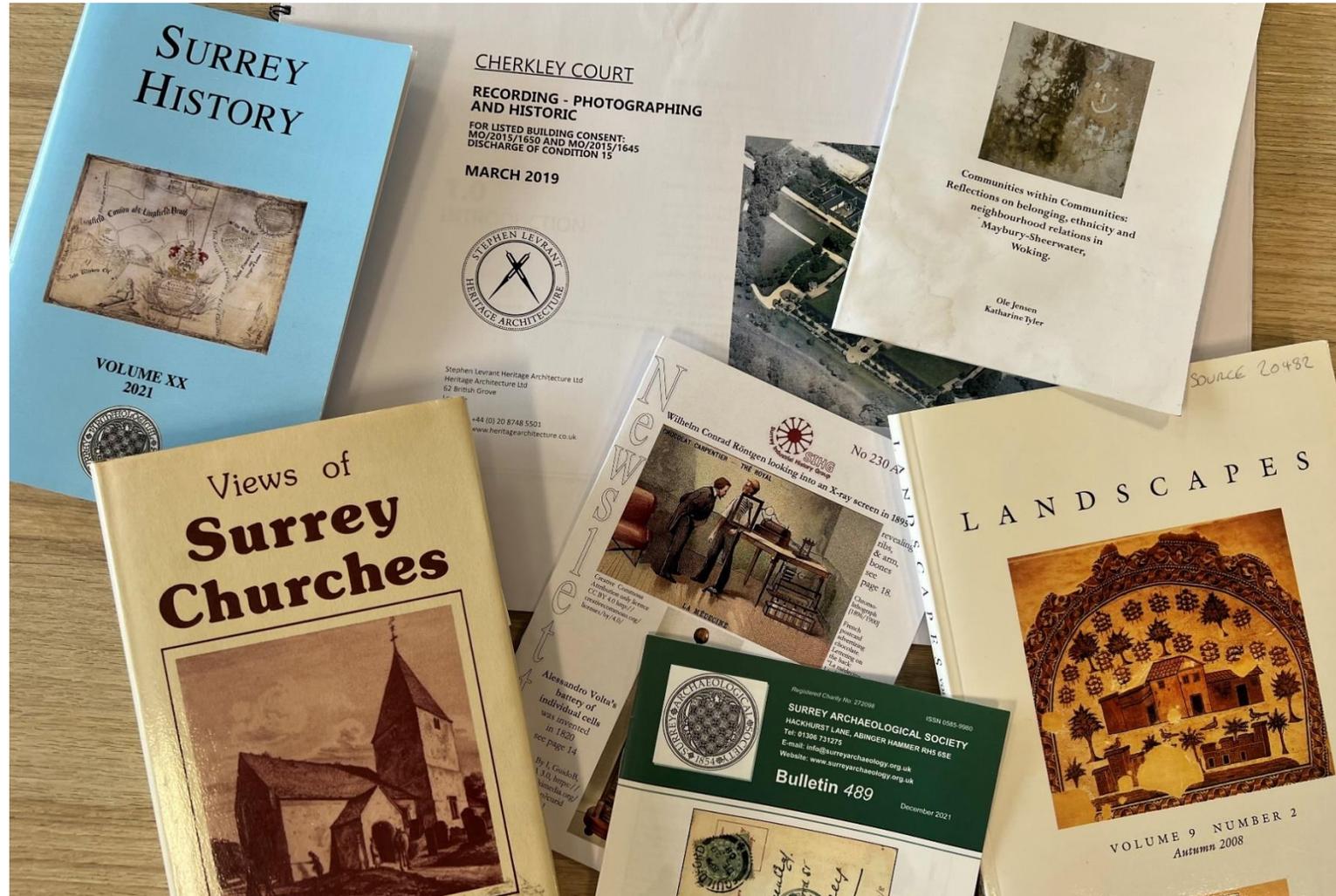
- County Sites of Archaeological Importance (CSAI) and Areas of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP)

- Conservation Areas

- Historic Landscape Characterisation



# What goes into the HER?



# Reports

St John the Evangelist Church,  
Redhill, Surrey:  
An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Reference No: P/12/01483/F  
National Grid Reference Number: TQ 27435 49377  
AOC Project No: 32385  
Site Code: JCR14  
Date: August 2014

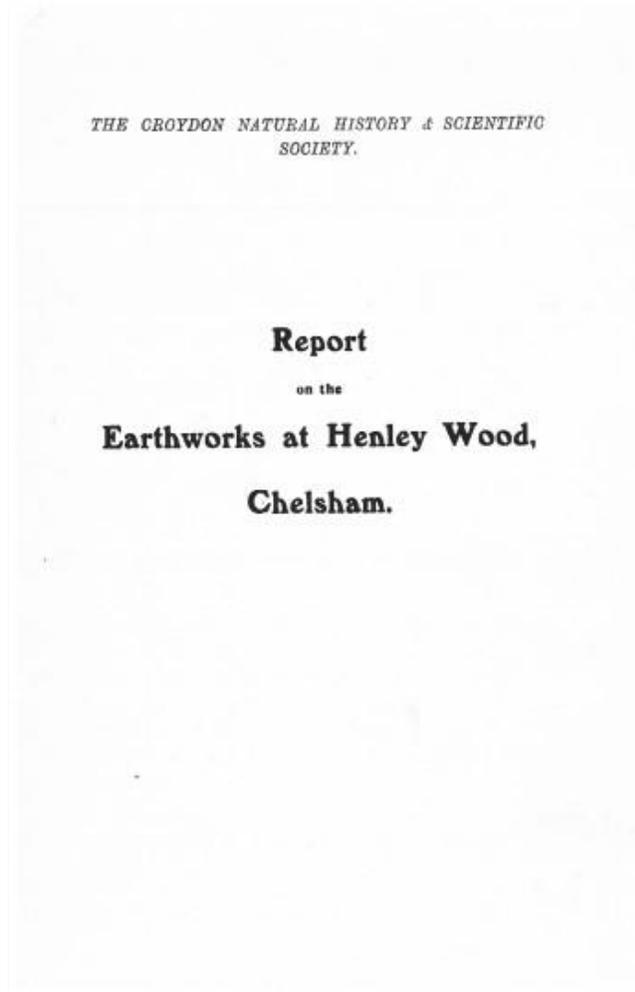


**AOC**  
Archaeology  
Group

ARCHAEOLOGY | HERITAGE | CONSERVATION



# Publications



A Bloomery Site in Burwash *David Brown*  
Crowhurst Forge, Surrey – a new site identified *J. S. Hodgkinson*  
Notice of Wealden Ironworks in Early English Newspapers *J. S. Hodgkinson*  
The Location of Etchingam Forge *Brian Herbert & Tim Cornish*  
Modelling Business Performance of a Mid-18th Century  
Cannon Manufacturer *Alan F. Davies*  
Index

**Volume 32**  
Second Series  
**2012**

**Wealden**  
**Iron**

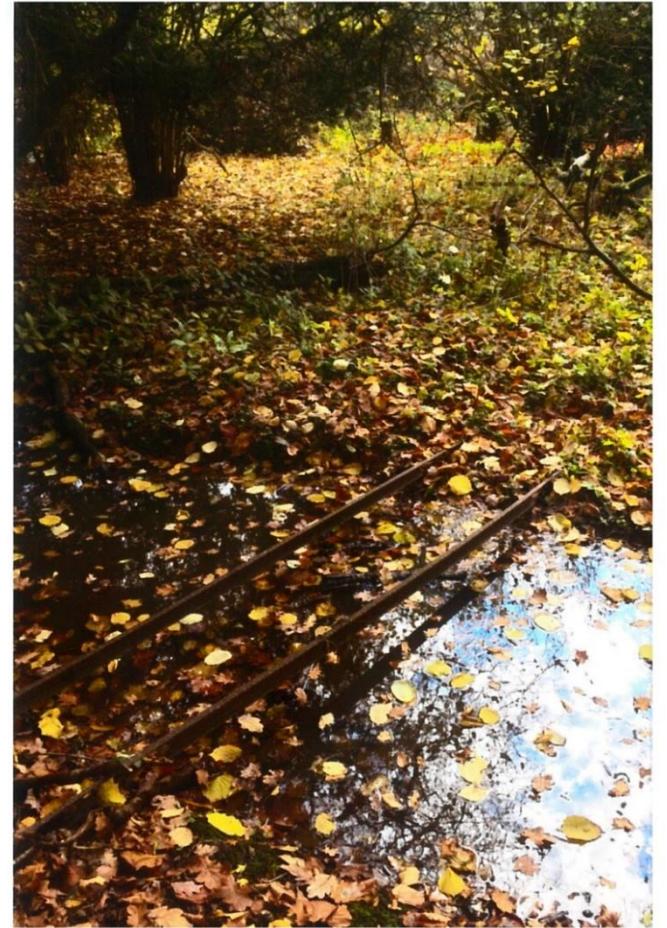
# Correspondence from the public



*Palaeolithic handaxe, Farncombe  
([SHER Find Spot 23074](#))*



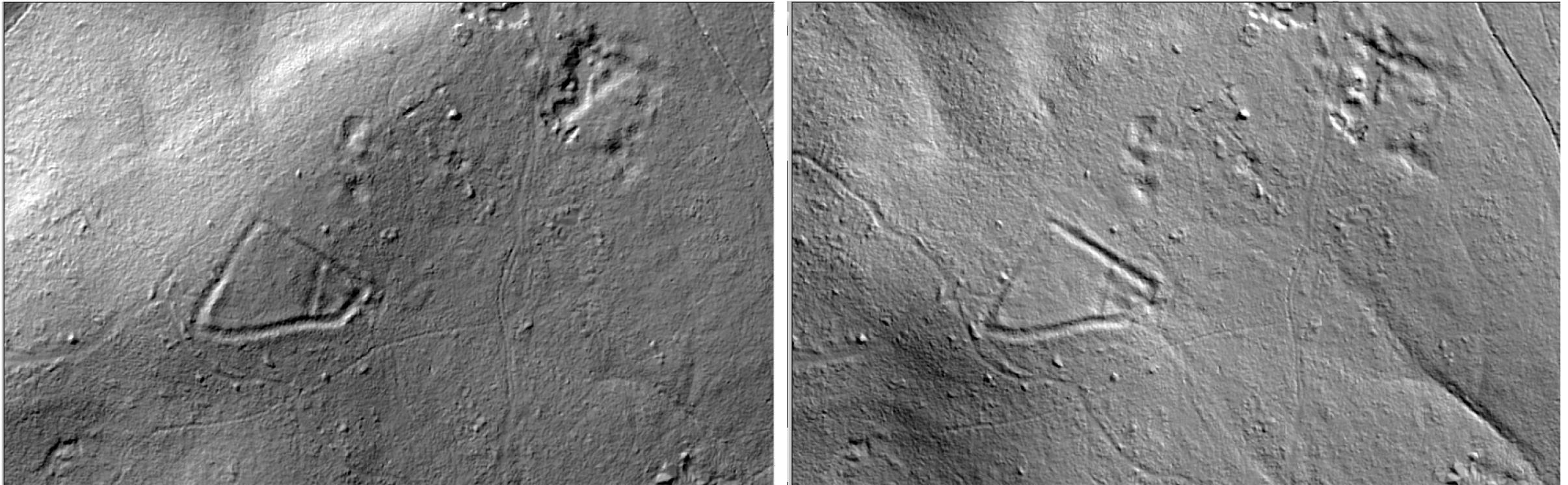
*Undated cropmark, Cranleigh  
(SHER Monument 24131)*



*20<sup>th</sup>-century tramway, South  
Earlswood (SHER Monument 24168)*

# LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging)

- Environment Agency – open source data for most of county
- Surrey Heath Borough and Kent Lidar Portal tiles



*Lidar imagery of earthwork enclosure on Ashtead Common ([SHER Monument 271](#)) viewed at 315 degree azimuth (left) and 45 degree azimuth (right)*

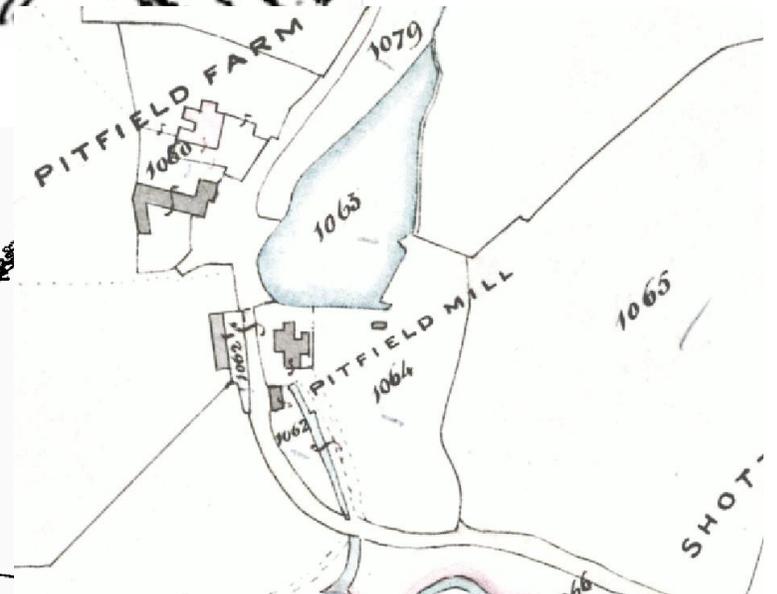
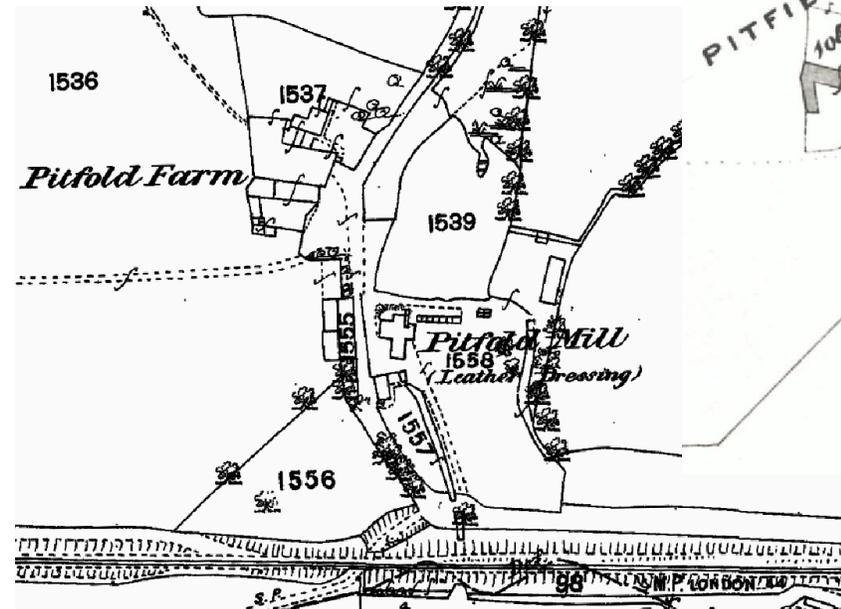
# Aerial Photographs

- Coverage from surveys done 1948-2018
- Mostly vertical
- Lots of historic and archaeological information
- Some prints from other surveys and flights



# Historic Maps

- Reproductions of 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century
- Digitised version of John Rocque's county map (1750/60s)
- Digitised Tithe Maps and Apportionment lists (early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> century)
- Digitised 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey (late 19<sup>th</sup> century)



# Scheduled Monument condition reports



*Bronze Age round barrow, 'Culverswell Hill' (really Long Hill), Crooksbury Common, The Sands ([SHER Monument 2152](#) / [NHLE entry number 1011032](#))*

# The Surrey HER has a backlog

- We don't add records to order to help with planning application objections or other "urgent" causes
- There may be sound curatorial reasons for adding data more quickly
- Our backlog is quantified, prioritised – and being worked on!
- **Everything we hold forms part of the "greater HER", so can be accessed even if not entered in database**

# What comes out of the HER?



# Reports from HBSMR

- PDF format
- Differentiated by Type (i.e. Monuments, Events etc.)
- Can be subdivided by record type within the dataset
- Bespoke selections (e.g. Bronze Age jewellery)

## Surrey County Council Monument Full Report 24/01/2020

HER Number Site Name  
271 - MSE271 Earthwork, Ashtead

### Monument Types and Dates

ENCLOSURE (Prehistoric - 500000 BC to 42 AD)  
Evidence EARTHWORK  
ENCLOSURE (Romano-British - 43 AD to 409 AD)  
Evidence EARTHWORK  
ENCLOSURE (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)  
Evidence EARTHWORK

### Description and Sources

#### Description

A trapezoidal enclosure with a right-angled corner at the north on Ashtead Common, just within the woods. It almost suggests a rectangular plan hurriedly diminished during construction. The profile of the defences shows a shallow ditch 30-40 feet wide with no rampart. There is a well-marked entrance on the east. Roman pottery has been found a little to the north east of the enclosure. Pre-Roman and Roman dates have been suggested, but the earthwork is most likely to date from the Medieval period.

*Ancient Monuments of England & Wales (1961) (M.O.W.)* (Unspecified Type). SSE6725.  
Scheduled under "Camps & Settlements", as Surrey monument no. 20.

*Ashtead Common leaflet, published c. May 2000* (Unspecified Type). SSE6938.  
Mention of the historical significance of the Common and the archaeological sites it contains.

*Ashtead Common News April 2000* (Unspecified Type). SSE6939.  
Mention of the earthwork and the prevention of erosion on the site.

*Ashtead Common Newsletter no. 20, March 2001* (Unspecified Type). SSE6940.  
Article including plan of the earthwork.

*Field monument report by Alan Hall of Surrey Archaeological Society dated 03/11/2010.* (Unspecified Type). SSE10388.  
Having removed damaging tree cover, the Corporation of London continue to maintain the site in good order and much deterioration has been halted. However, fallen trees have overgrown with bracken, brambles and grasses which now contain seedling trees (particularly Silver Birch) which are not susceptible to normal site strimming.

The Roman Studies Group of Surrey Archaeological Society are to undertake small exploratory excavations under the directions of English Heritage with a view to understanding the date and purpose of the monument. A recent magnetometry survey by this Group suggests that the interior of the earthwork may contain archaeological features.

*Field monument report by Alan Hall of Surrey Archaeological Society dated 11/04/06* (Unspecified Type). SSE10391.  
Having removed damaging tree cover, the Corporation of London continue to maintain the site in good order and deterioration has been halted. Work required: The Roman Studies Group of Surrey Archaeological are to undertake small exploratory excavations under the direction of English Heritage with a view to understanding the date and purpose of the monument.

*Field monument report by Alan Hall of Surrey Archaeological Society dated 30/09/07* (Unspecified Type). SSE10392.  
The owners of Ashtead Common - the City of London - have recognised the sensitivity of this monument and have recently taken action to protect it: the footpath has been re-routed westwards, a brushwood "fence" has been erected to discourage access, trees growing within the earthwork have been felled without disturbing the ground. The monument appears to be in good hands. Work required: An enigmatic monument whose date and purpose is not understood. However, the monument was surveyed by John McOmish of English Heritage this year and he envisaged the possibility that it may be prehistoric in origin. The Surrey Roman Studies Group plans an exploratory excavation, under guidance from English Heritage, in the near future.

*Lever, R.A. 1978. 'The earthwork in Ashtead woods and its suggested age'. Proceedings of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, Vol 4, No 2: 45 Located in Yellow District Folder.* (Unspecified Type). SSE13464.  
Suggests that the earthwork represents the site of a moated homestead standing on made-up banks.

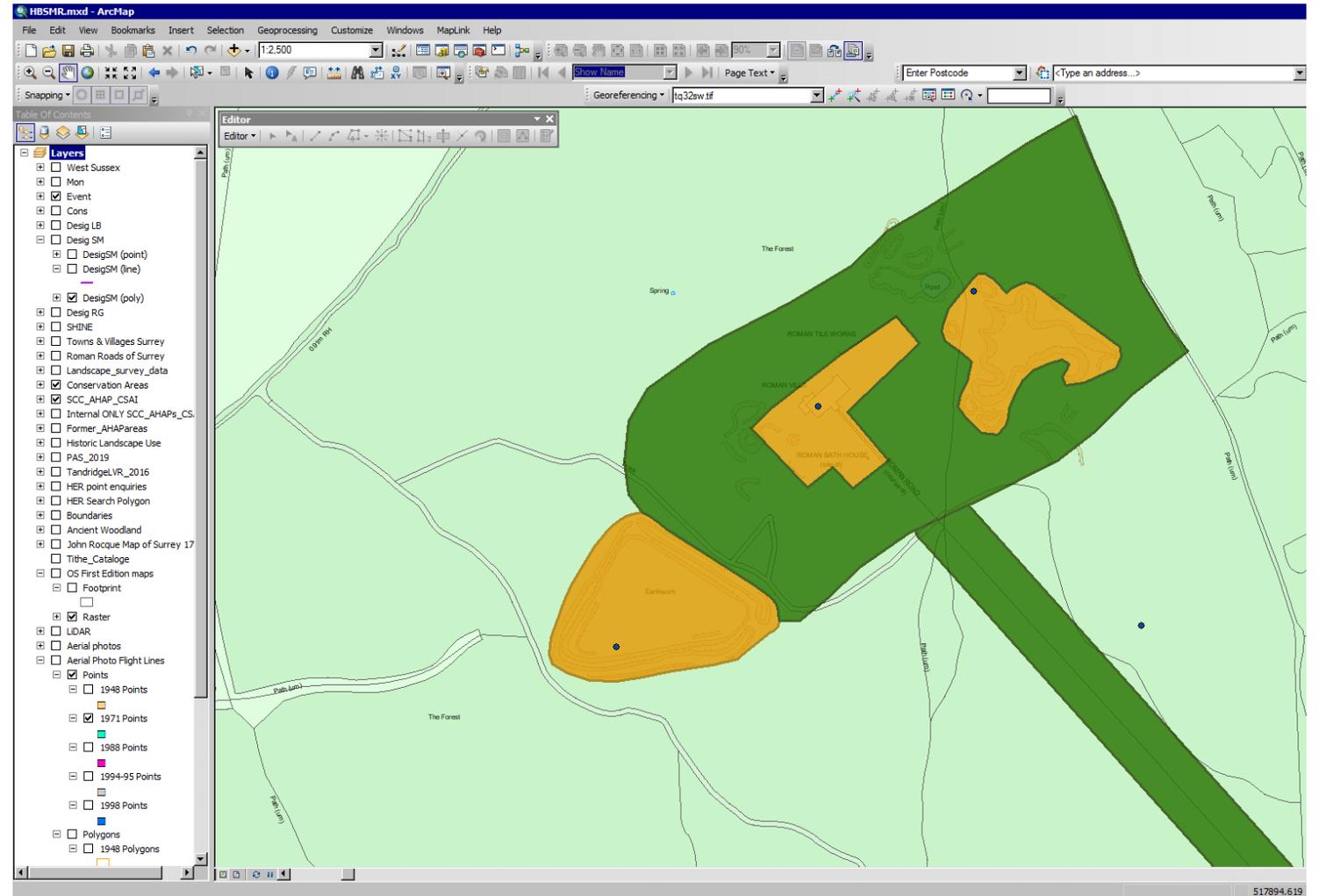
O.S. 6" 1932-38 Prov. (Unspecified Type). SSE14330.  
(TQ 1762 6002) Earthwork

Surrey County Council		SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD		Planning Department	
Antiquity Number	271	County	SURREY	On District Map	Y
OS 1:10000 Map Ref.	TQ 16 SE	District	MOLE VALLEY	Schedule	Y 28
		Parish	ASHTEAD	NAR Number	TQ16SE16
Latest Correct Description	EARTHWORK-PROBABLY MEDIEVAL		Latest Correct NGR	TQ 1762 6002	
Information			Ref Pt CENTRED		
(TQ 1762 6002) Earthwork (??) Overgrown with oaks and thick undergrowth in places. Bank much 'washed'. Big ditch well preserved in places. A small defensive camp probably. A curious work on Ashtead Common, just within the forest, not hardly so classed as a most of defaced enclosure of any strength: it is trapezoidal with a right-angled corner at the north. It almost suggests a rectangular plan hurriedly diminished during construction. The profile of the defences shows a shallow ditch 30-40 feet wide with no rampart. There is a well-marked entrance on the east. Roman pottery has been found a little to the NE of the enclosure. Scheduled under "Camps & Settlements" Suggests the earthwork to be possibly pre-Roman.			1. O.S. 6" 1932-38. Prov. O.G.S. Gravesend. 2. Rec. 6" O.G.S. Gravesend. 3. VCH, Vol. 4, 1912, Surrey, p.281. (Clitch and Montgomery) 4. A.M. Eng. Wales, 1961. (M.P.B.W.) No. 20. 5. St. A.C. No. 38, 1930 W.C.W. 10.11.62. 6. F.O. Aidenwort, F.I., 04.01.66.		
Information			References		
(Its form and construction suggest it to be of Medieval rather than Roman or earlier date. 1:2500 Survey revised. Downham suggests that earthworks represent the site of a moated homestead standing on made-up banks. A plan of the earthworks, at a scale of 25 in. to 1 mile done by Mr. Edward Atterton (London, Essex, between 1889 and 1905 in Kingston Museum Ref. 4915) No. 3658.			7. Proc. of Leatherhead & Dist. L.H.S. 10, p. 4, No. 2, 1978. No. 45. (R. Lever) M. O'Connell 30.07.82. 8. St. A.C. Bulletin No. 169, Oct-Dec 1950, p. 5-6 (D. Field & P.		

# GIS data

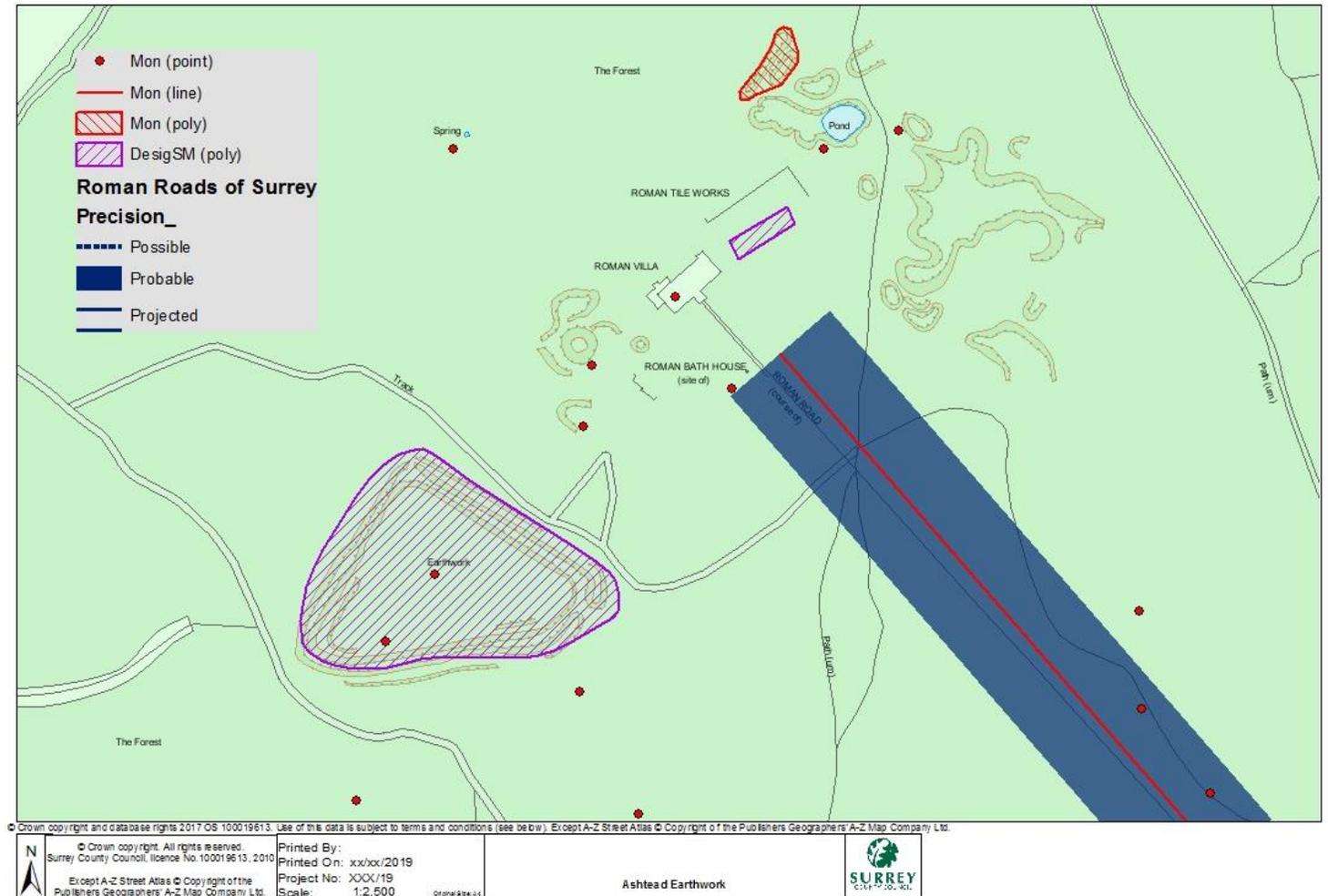
- Shapefiles
- Layer files
- Attribute data

***County Sites of Archaeological Importance and Areas of High Archaeological Potential on part of Ashtead Common***



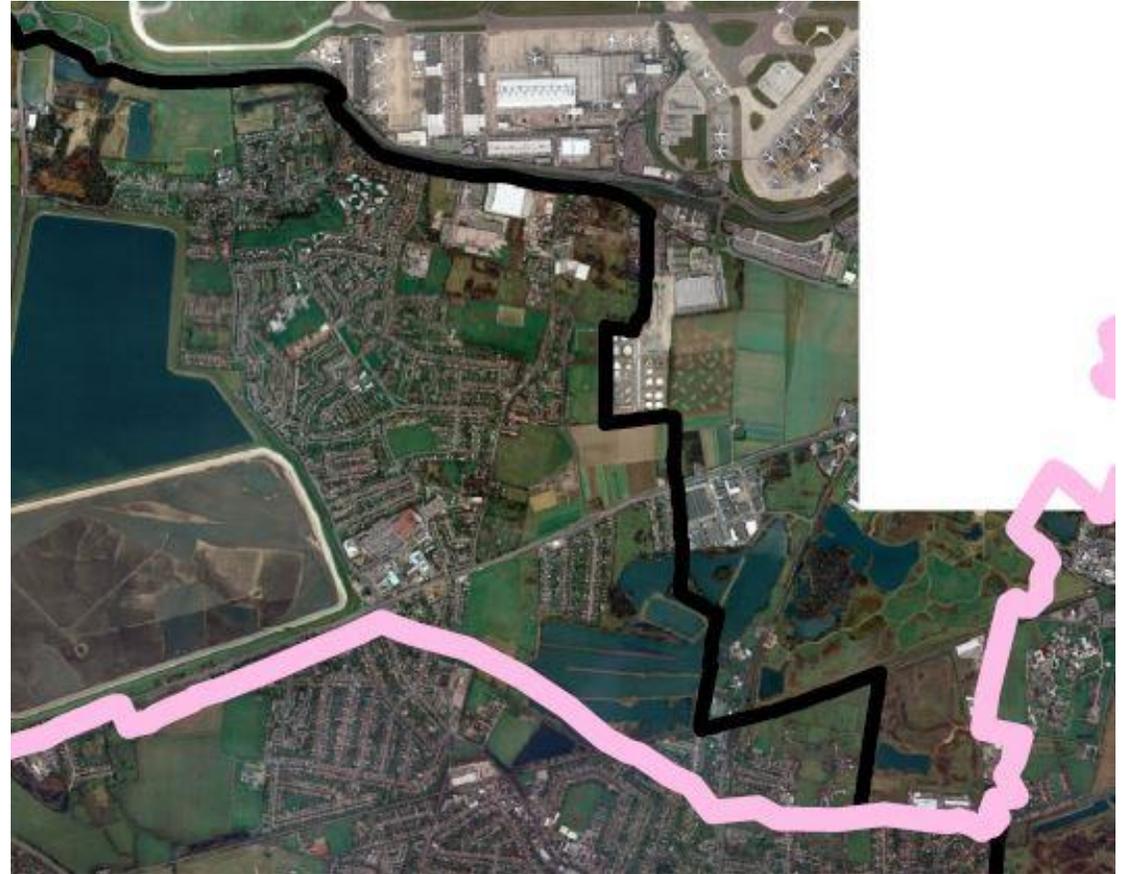
# PDF maps and aerial photographs

- Represents info given in PDF data reports and more
- Can include other “spatial” information
- Multiple data types on a single map!

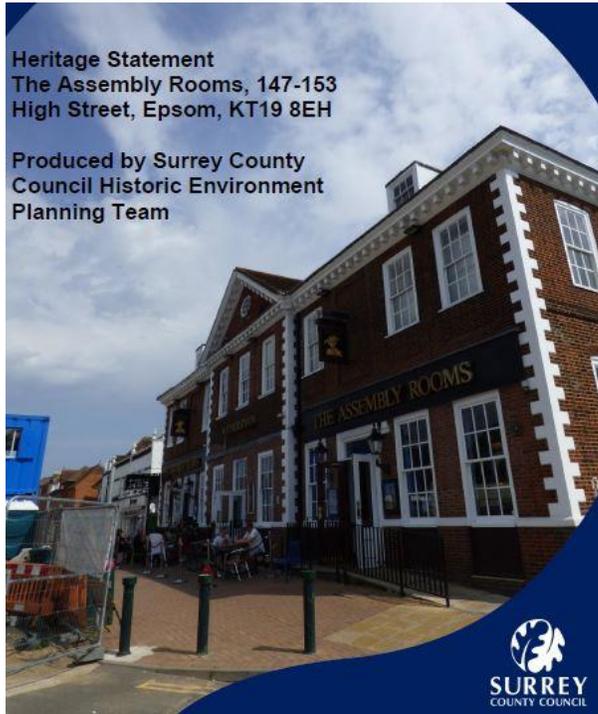


# Commercial customers

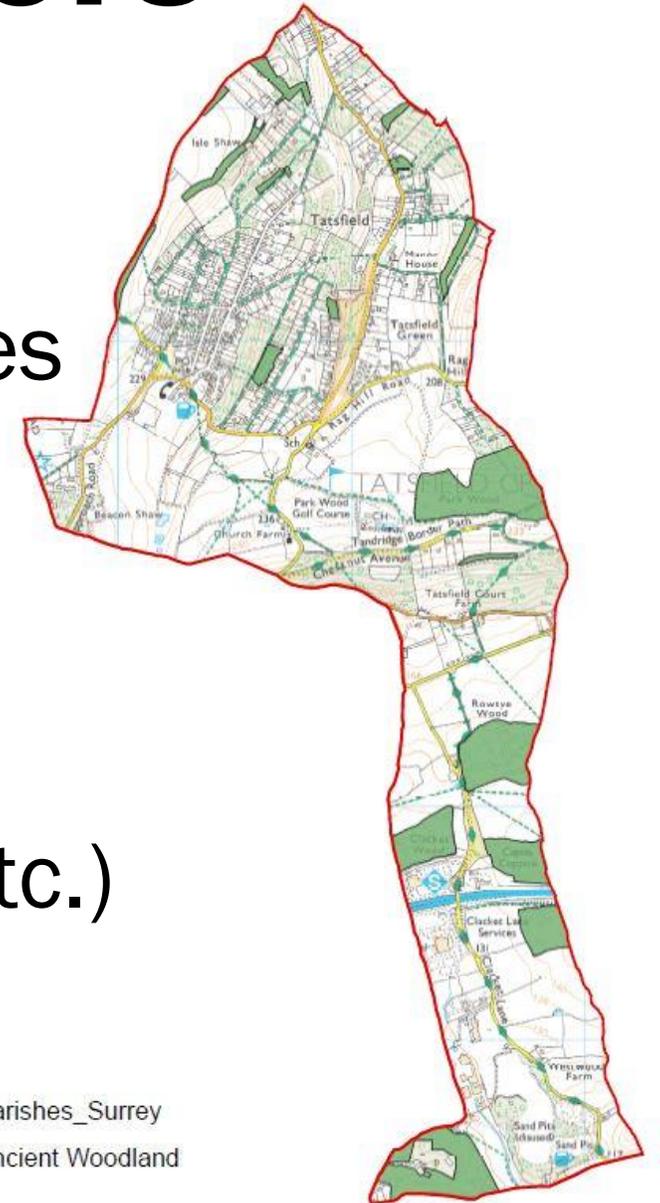
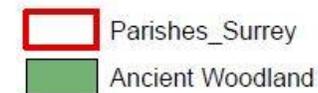
- Professional archaeological units, heritage consultants, etc.
- New housing developments
- Also infrastructure projects
- *Anything* that has a sufficient potential archaeological impact



# Professional customers



- SCC colleagues
- Local Planning Authorities
- Other national or local government bodies
- Parish councils (Neighbourhood Plans etc.)



# Academic researchers

- Academics
- University students (especially Postgraduate Researchers)
- School pupils

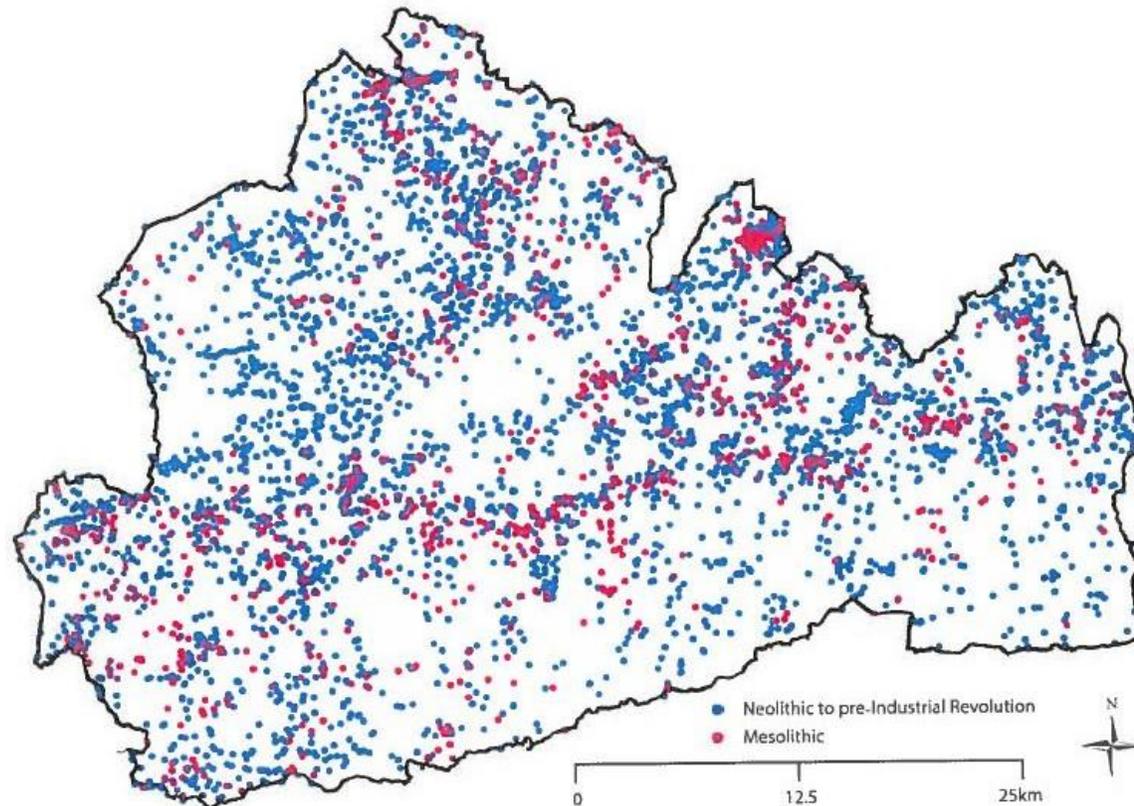


Fig 7 All Mesolithic to Neolithic to pre-Industrial Revolution monuments and findspots. Courtesy of Robert Briggs, Surrey Historic Environment Record, Surrey County Council.

# Local researchers

- Surrey Archaeological Society groups and members
- Local museums
- Surrey Gardens Trust (below is [SHER Park and Garden 16732](#))



THE FOUNTAIN GARDEN AT WINDYCROFT NEAR GODALMING

=



# Members of the general public

- What do we have about X? Do we know about Y?
- House/street histories
- Sometimes in relation to planning applications; the HER can supply information but **never an opinion**

*Bramley House alias Bramley Park ([SHER Monument 14012](#)), an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century mansion and childhood home of Gertrude Jekyll demolished in 1951, and partly excavated in 2019*



# A virtuous circle

- More information = better HER!
- More informed about the historic environment
- Historic Environment Planning team + partners in a better position to safeguard what's out there



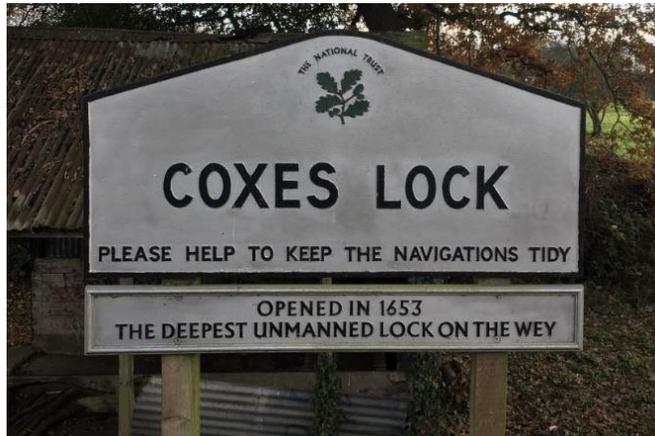
*Panoramic view of Bronze Age bowl barrow, Culverswell Hill, The Sands ([SHER Monument 3796](#)), newly Scheduled in part thanks to HER and HEP input*

# Exploring Surrey's Past blog posts

## What goes into Surrey HER's records: navigating further through Coxes Lock on the Wey Navigation

📅 December 2, 2019 ⌚ 7:02 pm 📁 Historic Environment Record 💬 Leave a Comment

Are you curious about the information held in the **Historic Environment Record (HER)**, the most comprehensive database of Surrey's historic environment? The HER and the team are here to help you understand the *whos, whats, whens, wheres, and whys* of the county's archaeology.



<https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/category/her/>

## Signal The Fleet! Surrey's Semaphore Stations

📅 February 13, 2017 ⌚ 12:54 pm 📁 Historic Environment Record 💬 Leave a Comment

From the Late 18th Century Surrey formed part of a crucial communication link to London. Consisting of a line of buildings with odd looking structures built on the roofs, we look into one of Surrey's more unusual buildings.



# SyAS publications and events

## A barrow (or two) in Nutfield?

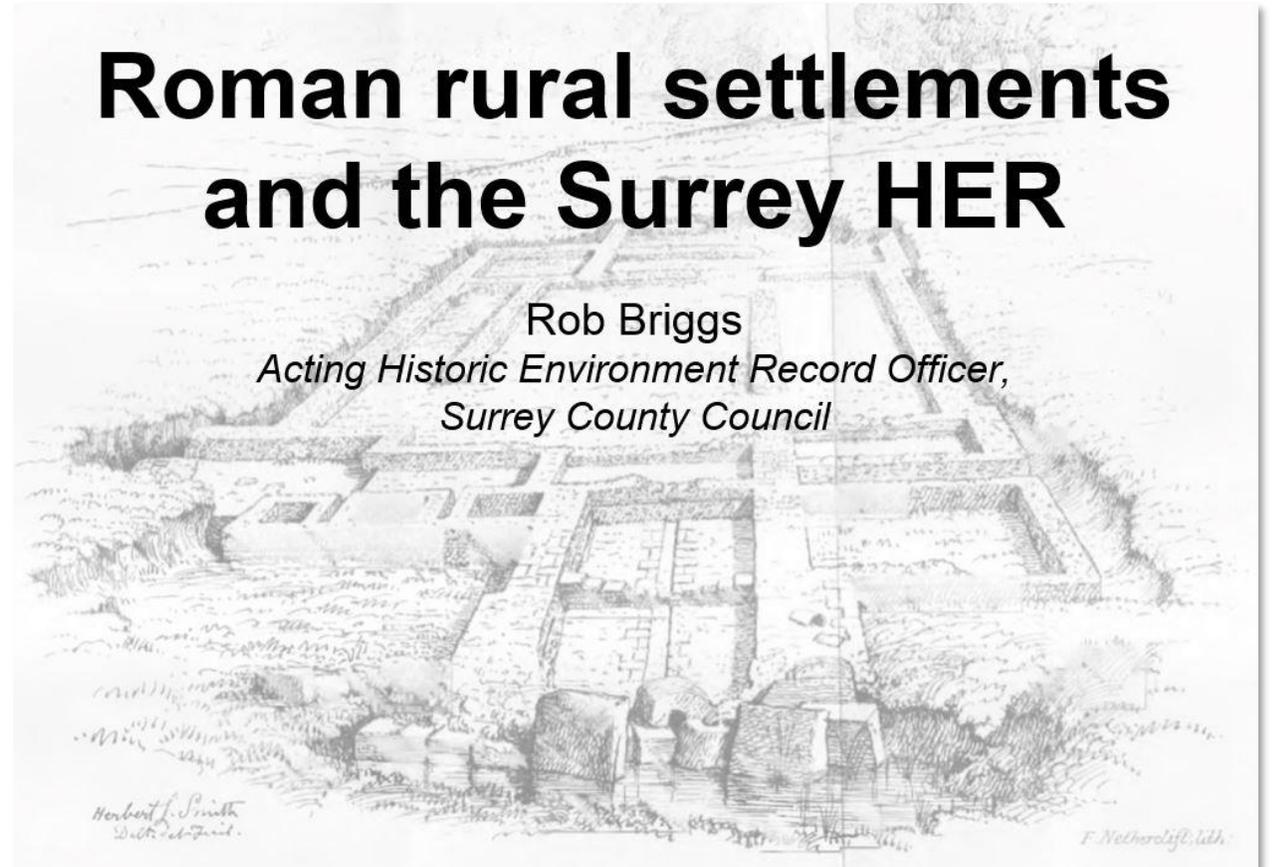
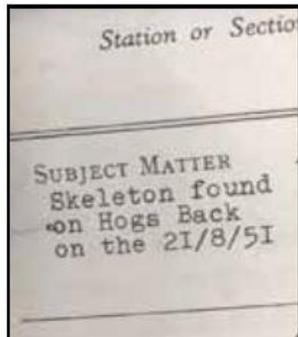
Rob Briggs

*The Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER) is always keen to hear from people who have found evidence of possible monuments inside the administrative county boundary that are not on our database, or further information about sites for which we already have records (summaries of which can be viewed via the Exploring Surrey's Past website). This note forms the first of what we hope will be an occasional series highlighting interesting sites in Surrey about which we think there is more that could be added to the relevant HER entries. The best way to contact us with information (or questions) is by email to [her@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:her@surreycc.gov.uk), or via post to Surrey Historic Environment Record, Heritage Conservation Team, Room 340, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames KT1 2DN.*

## A prone burial found atop the Hog's Back in 1951

Rob Briggs

In mid-December, we received an email from our colleague Emily Rowland, Modern Records Officer at the Surrey History Centre, alerting us to something of apparent archaeological significance recorded in a 1951 coroner's report. The discovery in question could not be correlated with anything on the HER, nor in any published source. All of what we knew about it was contained in just three documents: the Coroner's Officer's Report Concerning Death, Deputy Coroner's General Report, and a typed-up version of the police statement given by the original finder. The purpose of this note is to outline what was found, what this may represent, and what still remains insufficiently understood about it.



**SyAS Bulletin contributions**

**SyAS Roman Studies Group workshop presentation, December 2019**

# Special projects

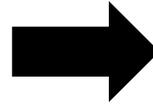
- World War Two defence lines reports (2018)
- [Lagham Park Historic Landscape Survey \(2020\)](#)
- Reports on monuments for listing or scheduling nomination (ongoing)



*View across former Lagham Park ([SHER Monument 2531](#)) from its northern boundary*

# Volunteering and work placements

- Have hosted short-term work experience placements
- Looking at resuming regular volunteering activities at our Woking offices



*Medieval field boundary earthworks in Cobham Park ([SHER Monument 18148](#)) transcribed by an HER work experience placement in 2019*

# Find out more

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development/historical-planning/historic-environment-record>

Land, planning and development > Heritage and Planning > Historic Environment Record

## Historic Environment Record

Surrey's Historic Environment Record (HER) is maintained by the Historic Environment Planning team at Surrey County Council. It is the most comprehensive record of archaeological sites, finds and historic monuments within the current administrative county.

<https://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/category/her/>

[HER@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:HER@surreycc.gov.uk)