

Surrey Archaeological Sustainable Impact

Expanding and strengthening the
Society's outreach



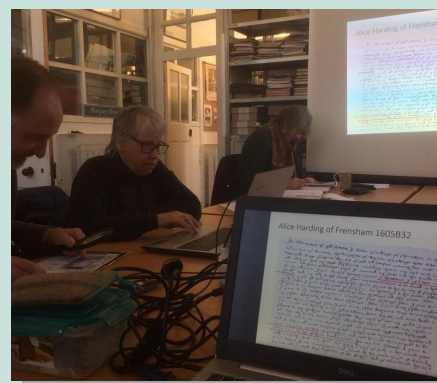
January 2019

Welcome to the first of the 2019 monthly e-letters for Surrey Archaeological Society's HLF Sustainable Impact project. We're still busy planning for the spring fieldwork season, though are certainly not letting the cold weather stop us from training at the moment!

This week, the Society tested out its new RM Frobisher TAR-3 resistivity meter, used for geophysical survey, at Badshot Lea moated site, where excavations were undertaken by the Society back in 1966. The survey results were interesting and identified several features (and the lightweight frame is already proving to be much-needed relief for our backs!) We will be testing the equipment more in the next month and begin training exercises with it in the early spring, including in Farnham, Old Woking and Leatherhead.



Both the QGIS and palaeography courses are proving very popular, with the latter particularly successful in training a small working group who can apply their skills to an ongoing research project, as even volunteers with no prior experience are able to work with simple documents after just one session. Although both programmes are now almost fully booked this year, it is anticipated that they will re-run in the autumn (certainly the QGIS), so please do express an interest at any point to be placed on a list.



As always, anyone who is interested in a specific opportunity or area please get in touch with me (outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk). Be sure to also keep up-to-date on progress and future activities or courses via the website (www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk) and social media ([@surreyarch](https://www.instagram.com/surreyarchaeology)), including our new Instagram account ([surrey archaeology](https://www.instagram.com/surreyarchaeology)).

Best wishes in the meantime and fingers crossed for a productive 2019,

Anne Sassin
Projects and Outreach Officer

QGIS courses

Led by Simon Miles (loosegoat.com), these one-day courses will provide an introduction to the uses of GIS and QGIS for archaeological purposes, to be followed by more advanced workshops into on the key concepts and capabilities of the programme.

All of the courses on QGIS will take place at Abinger Hammer Village School and run from 10:00-16:00. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. As these courses are part of the HLF training programme, they are free-of-charge, though we ask that you commit to attending, once signed up. To book and for any queries please email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

QGIS for Archaeology:

This course will take a more advanced look at the uses of QGIS and will build upon the previous workshops, but attending that course is not a prerequisite of attending this one.

Using actual site data, combined with a series of Open-Data sources you will explore how to use QGIS. You will look at pre-excavation tasks such as geophysics, field walking and site grids, as well as post-excavation (find-plotting, digitising of trenches and geo-referencing).

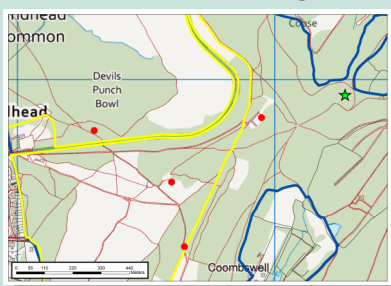
This course is being run for its final slot of the winter on 8 February. However, we will likely re-run them next year to allow for those who did not manage a place this time.

Survey training course at Gibbet Hill, Hindhead

Working with both the National Trust team at Hindhead and Liss Archaeology, this two-day course will provide training in walkover survey and metal-detecting whilst undertaking an initial component of an on-going research project at Gibbet Hill, the Devil's Punch-bowl, Hindhead to locate the site of the former RAF tower masts, one of which was sadly responsible for the crash of the US Air Force Curtis 46D in June 1945 which was carrying wounded servicemen back to Winchester.

The survey course is scheduled to take place over two days (Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 February) from 10:00-15:30.

Volunteers will be divided into three groups which will rotate between training in walkover survey, total station survey and metal-detecting. Both



days will largely take place on-site, though with a small classroom element. Numbers will be restricted and we do ask that you commit to attending, once signed up. Email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to express an interest and for queries.



Archaeology in the Archives course

Led by Jane Lewis (Surrey Heritage) and Nowal Shaikhley (SCAU), this one-day course will take place on two separate occasions (Tuesday 5 February and Saturday 16 February) from 10:30-15:30 at the Surrey History Centre (130 Goldsworth Rd, Woking GU21 6ND).

This is an introductory course in how to access archives and resources at Surrey History Centre, followed by a hands-on map workshop. Historical maps can be a very useful source of information when looking for archaeological features, as it is often possible to trace the development of a landscape over hundreds of years or more, and features recorded on early maps, which often disappear on later ones, can be identified. Desk based archaeological assessments use a number of maps including Rocque's Map of 1768, the Tithe Maps c1840-1843 and the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map series 1878-1933 to chart the development of a specific site and assess the impact on potential buried archaeological feature. The course will use a series of practical exercises to develop your skills in using historic maps.



As this is part of the HLF training programme, the course will be provided at no charge. However, booking is essential and spaces are limited, so we do ask that you commit to attending, once signed up. Please email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to book and for any queries.

Fieldwork training

Opportunities to train on the Society's Bartington Grad601 magnetometer and new RM Frobisher resistivity meter will take place in March and April, with geophysical surveys planned in the Farnham, Chiddingfold, Hindhead and Leatherhead areas in particular. Fieldwalking is also currently planned for March 2019. Anyone who would like to be more involved in work in a particular project, please do get in touch. More details to come!



Community Test Pitting

As part of the project initiative to increase outreach potential and engage with more areas and local groups across the county, the first of the community test-pitting events will take place in April at Old Woking, followed by Rowhurst, Leatherhead in May.

Old Woking

The community test-pitting days in Old Woking have been set to run over the Easter school holidays from Saturday 13 April through to Monday 15 April. All test pits will be dug in the grounds of Rosemead, and for most of the days members of the public will need to apply for a time-slot to excavate, with sieving and finds-processing also taking place. More experienced diggers will also be needed to help lead on the excavations and processing – if interested please get in touch with Pam Savage (medforum@hotmail.co.uk).

An update on the findings from the 2018 season will be presented by Jo Mansi at the Annual SyAS Symposium on 23 February (<https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/annual-symposium-book-online-0>).



On Saturday 13 April, there will be an open day at Rosemead where the public may simply turn up and take part in the various events. This will involve children's activities, including Anglo-Saxon living history demonstrations. Volunteers to assist with organisation and activities will be greatly appreciated.

In order to help raise awareness of the April test pitting, a public exhibition and open day has also been planned at The Lightbox in Woking on Saturday 16 February, which will include a display of artefacts from earlier seasons. Contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if you are interested in helping.

Leatherhead

Although dates are not yet finalized, test-pitting is planned for the first three weekends of May at Rowhurst and Teazle Wood near Leatherhead, with a prospective open day on the Bank Holiday Monday. It is anticipated that at least one day will also be planned for finds processing. More information will come when plans are finalized, but for those who are interested in the meantime, please contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

Other locations

Test pitting is also planned for Bletchingley in August/September and Epsom and Ewell in September (with an open day currently in the diary to take place at Bourne Hall Museum for Saturday 25 May to raise awareness of the planned project). Updates of Autumn dates will follow in due course.