

# Surrey Archaeological Sustainable Impact

Expanding and strengthening the  
Society's outreach



January 2020

Welcome to the January edition of the monthly e-letter updates for Surrey Archaeological Society's Heritage Fund 'Sustainable Impact project'.

January has been relatively quiet in terms of fieldwork and workshops, but quite a lot has been taking place behind the scenes, including getting to grips with more specifics in QGIS and planning the training series for a flint group who will regularly meet at Abinger on alternate weekends. More details on this will come in next month's e-letter, but hopefully this will be good news for those who love their lithics!



In other news, there is more test pitting planned for the spring and summer months at Rowhurst, Old Woking and Outwood, in addition to excavations at Abinger (which will run from 13 June to 14 July) and a Roman rural site in Farnham in late August/early September, for which dates will be given soon. We are also looking forward to the many experimental archaeology projects, outreach events and educational sessions which will take place later in the year – do get in touch if you're particularly keen to get involved with this aspect of the project, as volunteer support is always integral to these activities running smoothly.

More dates for further workshops and events to come shortly!

Anyone who is interested in our various volunteer opportunities please contact me at [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk), and keep up-to-date via the website and social media ([@surreyarch](https://www.instagram.com/surreyarch)).

Looking forward to an exciting year ahead,

Anne Sassin

*Projects and Outreach Officer*

## GIMP (Free Image Editor) courses

Led by Elvin Mullinger (SyAS), these will be offered as two-part courses (introduction and advanced) with a choice of two different dates for each. Introduction courses will run approximately 10:00-16:00 on Wednesday 12 February (\*Saturday 8 February is now fully booked\*). The advanced follow-up course will run from 10:00-16:00 and be either Saturday 7 March or Wednesday 11 March. The venue is at the Abinger Research Centre (Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer RH5 6SE).

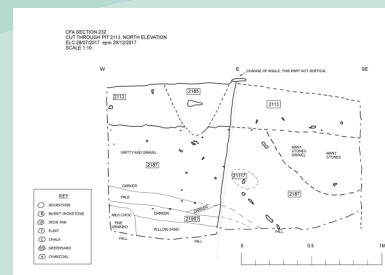


## Digital Line Drawing for Archaeology introduction

The course will involve looking at the installation and setup of GIMP for line drawing; an overview and description of the screen and basic functions; a demonstration and practice drawing simple shapes; demonstration by use of a computer graphics tablet; basics of image manipulation, copying cutting and pasting; working with digital drawing layers; use of text, scaling and measuring; and saving and exporting files to common file types.

## Digital Line Drawing for Archaeology follow-up workshop

The follow-on course will consist of a review of the GIMP introduction course; demonstration and practice digitising drawings from photographs and scanned pencil sketches (trench sections, pot sherds and lithics); standards – Historic England and SyAS; manipulating, scaling and joining sketches; file organisation and backing up.



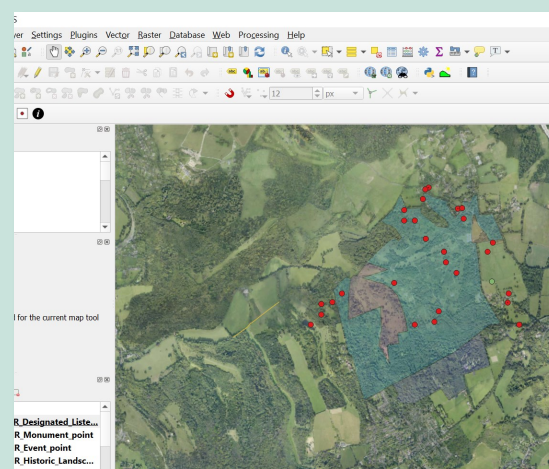
Email [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) to book and for instructions.

\*Please note that a laptop and computer mouse are needed for this course, and a pen-tablet (though not required) is useful to also have\*

## QGIS projects

Interest in training in QGIS is still high, and it is likely at least one more series will run in the winter to allow interested Society members to take part. Anyone still awaiting an advanced session which they can book onto, please let us know.

In the meantime, there are a select number of Society-led fieldwork projects which require the assistance of those who have attended the courses and want to keep their skills fresh. If interested, please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).





## Fieldwalking and geophysical survey at Chipstead

Although dates are still uncertain and entirely weather-dependent, a survey incorporating both fieldwalking and geophysics with the Society's Bartington Grad-601 magnetometer are planned for a site at Chipstead in the New Year, likely early March. Volunteers will be needed to help lay-out grids, fieldwalk, record finds and assist with the geophysics. By next month the field should be ploughed and plans more firmly in place, so please email [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) to express interest, particularly for the fieldwalking elements.



## Landscape survey at Headley Heath

Plans are forming to get a small team together to undertake a landscape survey at the National Trust site of Headley Heath this winter, an open heathland, woodland and chalk downland with everything from prehistoric findspots to a WWII military training ground. To register your interest, please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).



## Roman mosaic reconstruction project

A small team is being formed to lead on an exciting experimental archaeology activity in the coming year: reconstruction of one of the roundel panels from the Abinger Villa mosaic, which was first uncovered in the 1870s excavations and again during more recent work in 2013. Inspired by the full-scale floor mosaic which was recreated in the past year by volunteers at Butser Ancient Farm (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gQ9jell1sA>), the project will utilise original materials for the mosaic section reconstruction.

Please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) if you'd like to help lead with this work, and stay tuned for more details!



## Medieval landscape workshop



As part of the Sustainable Impact project, the Medieval Studies Forum are organising a study day for Saturday 14 March at Surrey History Centre in Woking from 10:00 to 15:30 which will centre around the medieval landscape and some of the less obvious and more specialist forms of research, including the use of primary documentary sources, name studies and non-settlement based landscape archaeology.

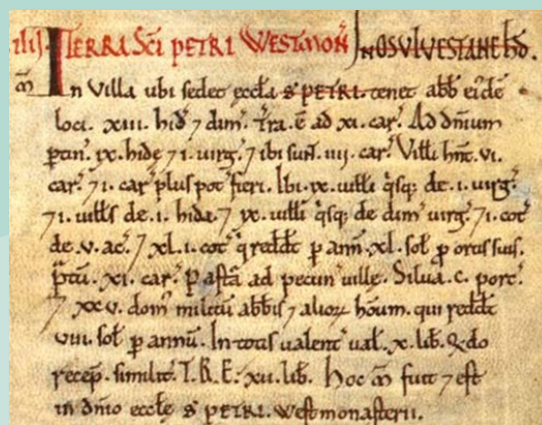
Although the full programme is not yet finalised, the day will include a number of informative talks, including:

Dr Rebecca Gregory, Uni of Nottingham 'Names as artefacts: learning the language of the landscape'

Dr Judie English, SyAS 'Prehistoric and Late Saxon / Early Medieval transhumance in the Low Weald: landscape archaeology, placenames and regressive map analysis'

Jo Richards, SyAS 'Finding Claygate Court'

Rob Briggs, SCC 'Two Woodings and a Furzen Field: perceiving past landscapes in Puttenham parish using field-name and place-name evidence'



There will also be a map-based workshop in the afternoon and opportunity to view original maps, manorial records and title deeds that are held by SHC.

As this workshop is part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project, there will be no charge for the day. However, as numbers will be strictly limited, we ask that those who book a spot commit to attending, and if they cannot for any reason, give as early notice as possible so that someone on the waiting list can be offered a place.



A full programme will be available shortly (and online at <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/medieval-landscape-workshop>) but in the meantime, to register your interest, please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).