

Surrey Archaeological Sustainable Impact

Expanding and strengthening the
Society's outreach



November 2018

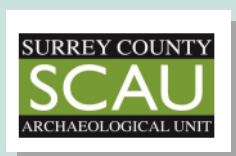
It's been a busy month but please find attached our second monthly e-letter for the Surrey Archaeological Society's two-year HLF Sustainable Impact project, which includes the addition of a few new dates to the programme. By the new year we hope to have more exciting courses in place, including geophysics, fieldwalking and mapping. And of course, as the weather warms, the excavation season can get back into full swing.

Overall, there will be a wide range of volunteer opportunities, from events to fieldwork to interpretation creation. Opportunities to train on the Society's Bartington Grad601 magnetometer and new RM Frobisher resistivity meter will take place from March onwards, with planned geophysical surveys including Farnham, Chiddingfold, Hindhead and Woking areas. Test-pitting programmes which will require volunteer support – starting in April in Old Woking – are also planned (and include Puttenham, Epsom and Ewell, and Leatherhead). Anyone interested in a specific project or area should get in touch (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).

One important point to raise however concerns our main partners in this project – Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) and Surrey Heritage – who are facing drastic proposed cuts within the Library and Cultural Services Department at Surrey County Council of over half of the annual budget (from £8.7 down to £4 million). This will have a dramatic effect on every aspect of the services provided at Surrey History Centre, including archives, archaeology and conservation, if the proposed cuts go ahead. We in SyAS want to encourage everyone to submit a response to the consultation before Friday 4 January 2019 and express how highly valued Surrey's heritage and its heritage providers are and how much they deserve our backing – remember, the less responses, the lower the assumed value will be.

www.surreysays.co.uk/legal-and-democratic-services/libraries

Please pay particular attention to questions 2.1 and 4.3 in the survey where there is space for you to express your views more fully on the county's Heritage service and its future shape and role in meeting the Council's priorities. Further information about the Consultation can be found at: www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/consultation-on-council-services.



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 will be provided at no charge. However, booking is essential and spaces are limited to 5-6, so we do ask that you commit to attending, once signed up. Please email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to book and for any queries.

Introduction to GIS and QGIS:

This is an ideal workshop for those that want to learn about what GIS is and how it can be applied in Archaeology. Using a free piece of GIS software called QGIS you'll apply what you've learned about GIS in QGIS. After learning the basics of software, you will discover how to setup new projects, create, load and edit data, plus explore open-data resources. You will also use data supplied from a recently excavated Roman site in Surrey to make the learning more real. Throughout the day you will discuss wider 'GIS in Archaeology' themes, based upon what you have learned.

Please note this course is being run on 23 November (now fully booked), 1 December and 12 January.

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 on 18 January, 26 January and 8 February.

A more advanced 'Driving into QGIS' is also planned for 2019.

Abinger Hammer Village School, Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer RH5 6SE

Please note parking is not available at the school, but is elsewhere in the village, including the village carpark and village hall on Felday Road. Gomshall Station is also approximately half a mile walk away.



Monument condition assessment training course

This two-day course on 29-30 November is led by National Trust regional archaeologist Tom Dommett and landscape archaeologist Richard James of Archaeology South-East, with an aim of ensuring that archaeological sites on NT land are monitored continually to help inform conservation work, identify problems and ensure future preservation. Once trained, volunteers will continue to visit and monitor sites throughout the year – which range from prehistoric hillforts to Second World War pillboxes – taking photographs and collecting data. Although training will take place on Hindhead Common, which has over 300 identified monuments alone to monitor, participants will be encouraged to apply their training to other sites in the county and be registered as NT ‘HART’ (Heritage Archaeology and Ranger Team) volunteers.

No prior training is necessary, but volunteers should be physically fit, able to walk to and around monuments (sometimes in remote locations), and have basic map-reading skills. Although this course is free, spaces are limited. Contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk for any queries and to book.

Basic schedule:

Day 1

- 9.30–10.00 Arrive at Grayshott Village Hall
- 10.00–13.00 Classroom Training: The NT, Archaeology and Assessing Condition
- 13.00–14.00 Lunch and travel to Tennyson’s Lane Car Park
- 14.00– 15.30 Guided walk on Black Down

Day 2

- 10.00–10.30 Arrive at National Trust Hindhead Car Park
- 10.30–10.45 Introduction to Hindhead (Matt Cusack, Lead Ranger)
- 10.45–13.00 Fieldwork Exercise: Condition Assessment
- 13.00–14.00 Lunch and travel to Swan Barn Farm
- 14.00–15.00 Debrief and Discussion – HART in Practice

