

Surrey Archaeological Sustainable Impact

Funding raised by The National Lottery heritage lottery funding raised by and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



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 (<u>www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk</u>) 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 f8.7 down to f4 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.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/consultation-on-council-services.







Anne Sassin Projects and Outreach Officer



QGIS courses

Led by Simon Miles (<u>loosegoat.com</u>), 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 georeferencing).

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.







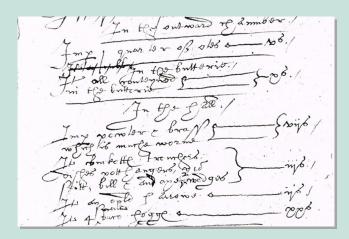
Palaeography courses

A major ambition for our new Early Modern group, led by Dr Catherine Ferguson, is to organise a palaeography course to increase the number of members and friends who are confident in reading and transcribing early modern documents in the pursuit of their research interests. For some time Tim Wilcock has been formulating a project to transcribe and publish the wills and inventories of the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Winchester for the Stuart period up to 1650, and so there is an opportunity to organise a palaeography course using these documents as raw material, and progress the transcription project as a by-product.

Initially the course will run for three monthly sessions on 23 October, 13 November and 4 December, all Tuesdays, from 10:00 to 16:00. The venue will be the Society's Research Centre in Abinger. Tea and coffee will be provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch or visit the excellent café at the village store.

The course is aimed at beginners or improvers, and will be led by Dr Catherine Ferguson, an expert in palaeography of many periods. Handwriting in this period 1603-1650 was in a state of transition from the Elizabethan secretary hands to the start of more modern italic writing, so there is a wide spectrum of readability but much for beginners to start on, even at a first session. The transcriptions will be checked and then added to a database on the Society's website and therefore participants will hopefully see quickly the benefits of their labours. All required materials will be provided other than the usual pens/papers for notes. As well as palaeography, you will also learn about the probate records for Surrey at all periods and where they fit into the material culture of the county and England as a whole.

Initially numbers will be limited to 10, although if there is demand we intend to have further sessions in 2019 both for new members and existing students whom we hope will continue to transcribe for the project and hone their new skills. If you wish to join us please email tim.wilcock@googlemail.com with your details and some indications of your current abilities and why you are interested in joining the project. There is no charge for the course and it is open to both Society members and other interested students.



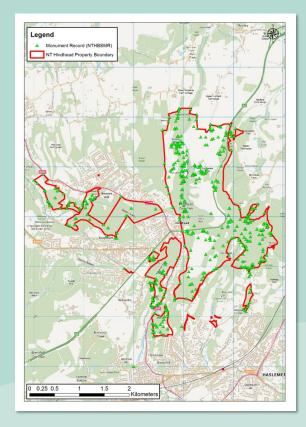




Monument condition assessment training course

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