



# Surrey Archaeological Sustainable Impact

Expanding and strengthening the  
Society's outreach



October 2018

Welcome to the first of our monthly e-letters for the Surrey Archaeological Society's Heritage Lottery funded Sustainable Impact project!

As many of you will know, Surrey Archaeological Society has received a National Lottery grant totalling £90,000 for an exciting two-year heritage project which focuses on training its members to carry out fieldwork and research and strengthening the group's outreach activities in the community. Over the next two years, various fieldwork projects, day-schools and courses will take place across the county which will enable in-depth training for people in the community – members and non-members, young and old – working in partnership with Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU), Surrey Heritage and the National Trust. This includes workshops and field sessions in:

- Geophysical survey
- Excavation skills
- Monument condition assessment
- Fieldwalking
- GIS / QGIS
- LiDAR
- Mapping & archives
- Finds identification and processing
- Illustration
- Palaeography
- Animal bones
- Adult education / curriculum learning



Courses and other opportunities will be open to all and provided free-of-charge, but it is important that participants commit once signed up, as spaces are limited on many.

Overall, there will be a wide range of areas for volunteers to contribute to, from assisting with events to honing research and fieldwork skills, as well as helping to create some of the exciting educational and experimental archaeology outputs. Anyone interested in a specific project or field should get in touch ([outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)) and on the Society's social media accounts ([@surreyarch](https://twitter.com/surreyarch)).

I look forward to working with our members and helping to see this project unfold!

Anne Sassin

*Projects and Outreach Officer*



## QGIS courses

Led by Simon Miles ([loosegoat.com](http://loosegoat.com)), these one-day courses will provide an introduction to the uses of GIS and QGIS for archaeological purposes. They are intended for newcomers (or relative newcomers) to the key concepts and capabilities of the programme. A follow-up more advanced course 'Driving into QGIS' is planned for early 2019.

All of the autumn 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](mailto: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 19 October, 23 November and 1 December, and is not a series, but a single day-course. A more advanced alternative to those already somewhat familiar with QGIS is available on Saturday 27 October (see below).

### QGIS for Archaeology:

After a short introduction/refresher of QGIS and other Open-Source/Open-data offerings, you will look at how you can utilise the power of GIS to look at a site or landscape pre, post and during excavation. Using data from a recently excavated Roman site in Surrey and a range of Open-Data sources, you will explore themes such as site grids, Lidar, gps data, view-shed analysis, analysing finds data, as well as explore map production techniques. There will be discussions throughout the data on how best to include GIS as part and parcel of a site investigation and wider practical applications of GIS/QGIS. This course will run on 27 October, and is intended as a more advanced starter option.

**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.



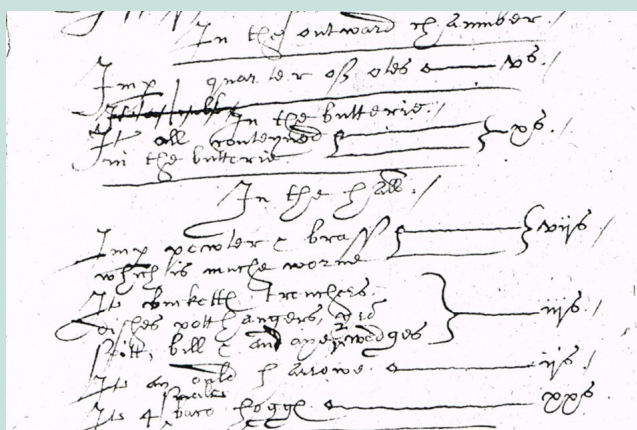
## Palaeography courses

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](mailto: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.

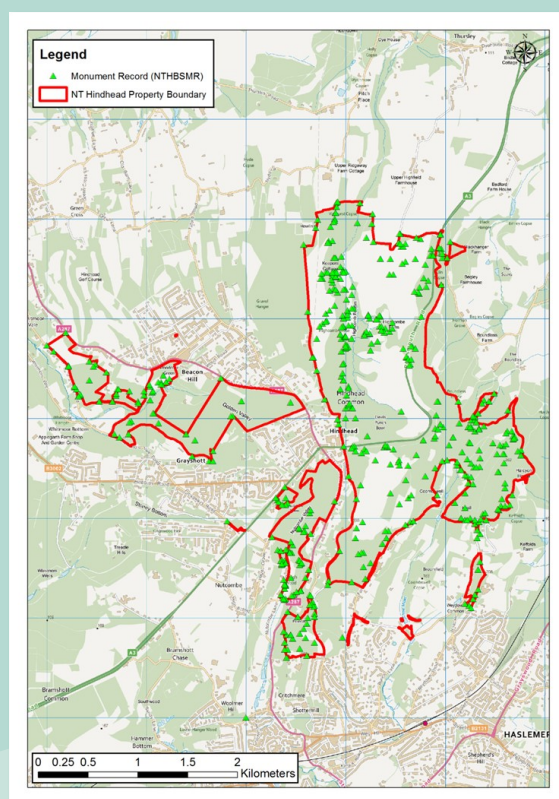




## Monument condition assessment training course

This two-day course on 29-30 November is led by National Trust regional archaeologist Tom Dommett, who is responsible for 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. A full schedule and venue are to be confirmed. Contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) for any queries and to book.



## Fieldwork training

Opportunities to train on the Society’s Bartington Grad601 magnetometer and new RM Frobisher resistivity meter will take place over the coming months, with geophysical surveys planned in the Farnham, Chiddingfold and Woking areas in particular. Fieldwalking is also currently planned for 2019, as are test-pitting programmes which will require volunteer support in Puttenham, Old Woking, Hindhead, Epsom and Ewell, and Leatherhead. Anyone who would like to be more involved in work in a particular project or field, please do get in touch. More details to come!

