

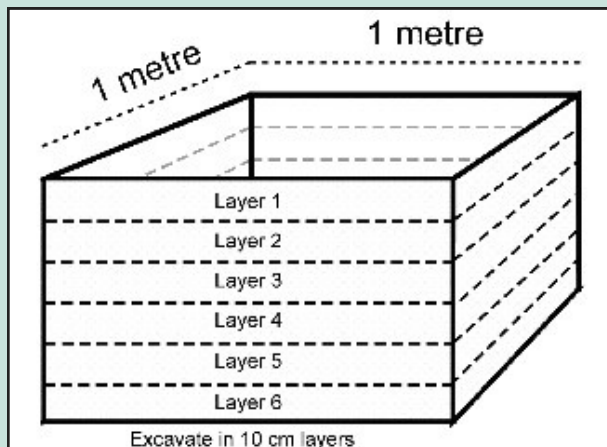
## What is test-pitting?

- ◆ Test-pitting involves small-scale excavations which are carefully targeted and aim to characterize settlement activity over time



### Quick, minimal unbiased sampling

- ◆ The CORS (Currently Occupied Rural Settlement) methodology employs 1×1 metre test-pits, which allows for quick excavation with minimal disturbance
- ◆ Because focus is on currently inhabited settlement, available land is often under intensive use (e.g. gardens) and not large open space



“Promoting the study of archaeology and antiquities...and any other matters or things relating to the pre-history and history of the County.”

- *Articles of Association*  
*Surrey Archaeological Society*

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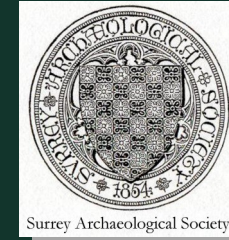
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Surrey Archaeological  
Test Pitting Programme

## Leatherhead



Explore your local heritage and help investigate the origins and growth of Surrey's settlements

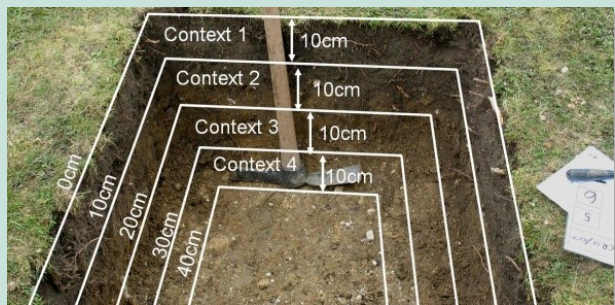


Leatherhead & District  
Local History Society



## How we dig

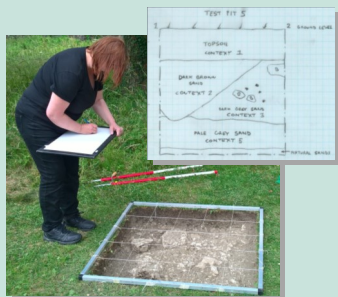
- ♦ All pits are the same size (1x1m) and follow the same procedure
- ♦ Each pit is excavated in a series of 10cm spits



- ♦ The soil is sieved for finds, which are washed and recorded separately



- ♦ When the pit is completed, the sections are drawn, as well as any features



- ♦ It is then backfilled and the turf restored



### Interested?

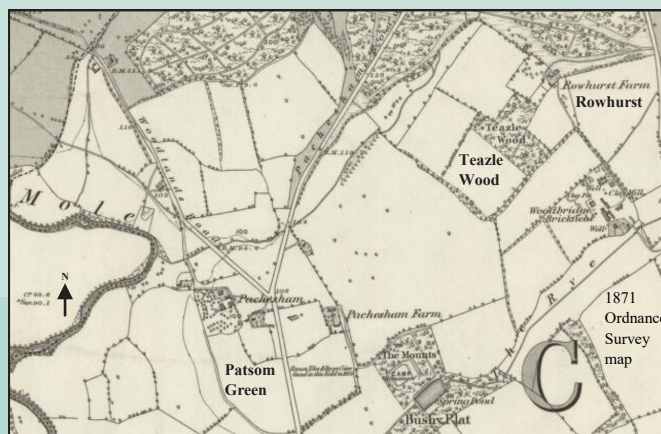
Anyone who is interested in getting involved, working with us on an event, wants more information or would like to be added to the mailing list, please email [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

Located on the banks of the River Mole and at the north end of the Mole Gap, the town of Leatherhead has Saxon origins and would have been part of a larger division of land known as a **Hundred** (of which there were fourteen in Surrey, each with its own court and special meeting place). Up until the 13th century, when Henry III removed it to Guildford, the County Court was held here.



Copthorne Hundred

The settlement was one of Surrey's five royal **vills** to be mentioned in King Alfred's will (drawn up in the 9th century). A vill (or **villa regalis**) was the administrative centre for the region and would have provided the royal household with food rent.



Leatherhead would also have had a minster church in the Saxon period (associated with the royal manor of Ewell and one of twelve in Surrey). Though the precise location is no longer known, placename and other evidence have led to the manor of **Pachenesham Magna** in the north-west of the parish being a likely candidate. More than one location has been proposed for Pachenesham, including land by the former hamlet of Patsom Green, and at Rowhurst, next to Teazle Wood.

The site of Rowhurst has been documented as far back as at least the 15th century, from its mention in manorial court rolls, and the oldest timber-framed section of the Grade II\* listed house has been dendro-dated to 1346. Its foundations (a large square-shaped stone-built basement) are of uncertain date but likely earlier than the house itself.



Stray finds from the site and nearby vicinity indicate a long history of activity even before the medieval period, from the Bronze Age through to the Roman. Although Teazle



Wood includes ancient woodland, it expanded in the last century to include former fields and the site of 19th century brickworks.

### What next?

Targeted geophysics, survey and test-pitting to search for:

- ♦ Possible evidence of Saxon activity in the nearby area
- ♦ Details of the development of Rowhurst over the centuries
- ♦ Features associated with the Teazle Wood brickworks



### How can you be involved?

- ♦ Join the volunteers in surveying, digging and processing finds



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