

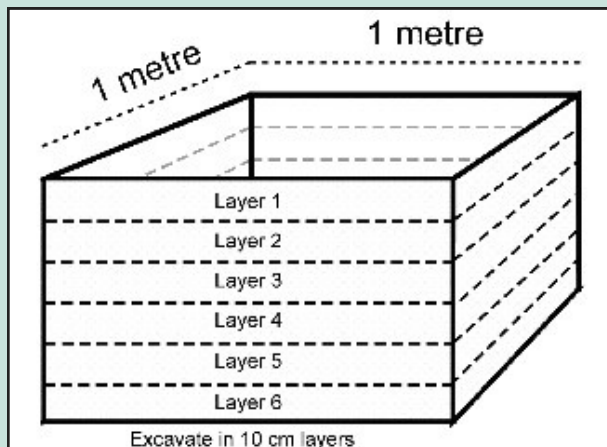
## What is test-pitting?

- ◆ 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*

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

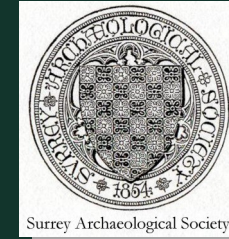
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Surrey Archaeological  
Test Pitting Programme

## Old Woking



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



Old Woking Project  
Surrey Archaeological Society

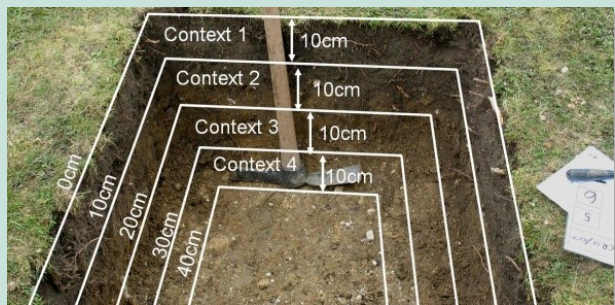
Funding raised by  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund





## How we dig

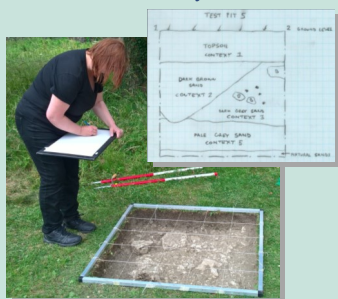
- ♦ All pits are the same size (1x1m) and follow the same procedure
- ♦ Each pit is excavated in a series of 10cm spits



- ♦ 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



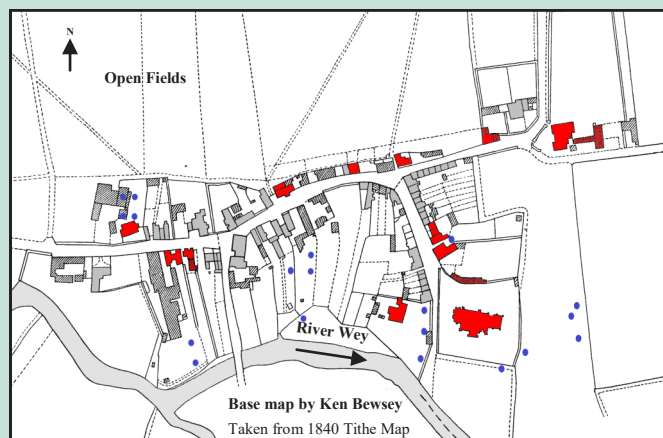
### Interested?

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)

In Saxon times Woking was not just the name of the settlement by the River Wey but also of a much larger division of land known as a **Hundred**. There were 14 Hundreds in Surrey and each had its own court and special meeting place.



Woking Hundred



Buildings coloured red are those present in 1840 that still exist

Those shaded plain grey were habitations, while those with grey hatching were not domestic buildings

Test pits are shown as blue dots



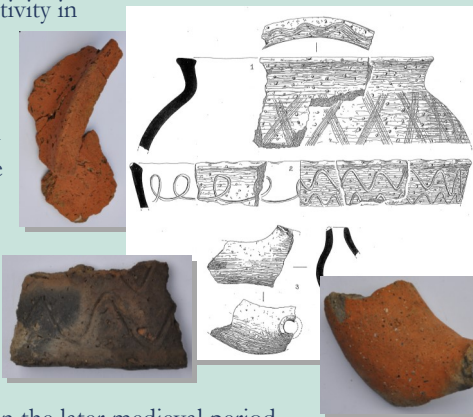
Old documents tell of a church founded in Woking in the late 7th century, and today's St Peter's Church has within it a door dating from the early 12th century.



The Saxon settlement likely developed around this minster church, and pig bones (remains of a feast?) have been dated to around AD 700 and were found in a test pit close to the churchyard.



The pattern of settlement from the Saxon period onwards can be traced through the various test pits, such as early Norman pottery which was found near the church and indicates activity in the 11th century.



By the 12th century, the settlement developed along the High Street, gradually expanding in the later medieval period, with 15th century material (including brick clamps) possibly associated with nearby Woking Palace.



### What next?

Targeted geophysics and test-pitting to search for:

- ♦ The Saxon settlement associated with the minster church
- ♦ Details of growth and decline in the medieval period
- ♦ The date of the road to Send



### How can you be involved?

- ♦ Offer your garden for test-pitting and geophysics
- ♦ Join the volunteers digging and processing finds



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