

**SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

Number 104

February, 1974

BULLETIN

Edited by Rosamond Hanworth, Folly Hill, Ewhurst, Surrey

SAS VISITS 1974

March 20th Westminster.

April 27th West Horsley Place (SAS members only) and Clandon Park.

EXCAVATION NOTICE

ASHTEAD, THE OLD QUARRY, THE WARREN

Directors: Frank Pemberton and Richard Temple

Excavation by the members of the Leatherhead District HS and Nonsuch AS will recommence on 9th February, continuing at least until Easter, 1974.

In 1933 the late Captain Lowther found two shafts or pits cut into the chalk, containing Iron Age pottery and fire-crackled flints, with similar material scattered throughout the topsoil on the site. SAC XLI. It is hoped to re-excavate the shafts and also to look for traces of a neighbouring settlement.

Work starts at 10 a.m. and continues to dusk. Please bring personal hand equipment. Newcomers are welcome and demonstrations of digging, trowelling and note-taking are being given on the site. The Old Quarry lies south of Ashtead village, on the A24. Several bus and coach services pass the site, namely 408, 418, 470, and 712, 713.

Enquiries are welcome to Frank Pemberton, Tel. 01-669 5621 (evenings) and Richard Temple, Tel. 01-393 7366.

NOTES

Hon Local Secretary

Mrs Jean Shelley, 4 Norwood Hill Road, Charlwood, Horley RH6 0ED, has replaced Mr Warnes as Hon Local Secretary or Horley and Charlwood.

New Members from 1.11.73

Miss M. M. M. Bussy, 1 Springfield Court, Springfield Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2SB.

Mr G. E. B. East, 24 Marbles Way, Tadworth.

Mr W. Crabtree, FRIBA, Piccards Manor, St Catherine's, Guildford
Departmental Library, Dept of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,
Room 823—400 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa KIA 0H4, Ontario,
Canada.

New Members from 1.12.73

Miss J. E. Smith, 13 St Paul's Road West, Dorking RH4 2RT.

Alice Holt Forest: Archaeological Survey

Two years' surveying of the Alice Holt Roman potteries has already resulted in a much greater understanding of this important industrial complex.

The reason for the potteries being at the southern end of the Gault outcrop instead of nearer the Wey valley may be due to a rectangular, ditched enclosure of six acres surrounding Forest Lodge. This has two opposing entrances north and south, being reminiscent of the Hardham type of *mansio* in plan. The eastern half of the ditch, however is up to 24ft wide and flat bottomed giving it a medieval appearance and the western half is mutilated by fish ponds and the Bordon Camp road.

The Roman road, mentioned in *Bulletin* 90 for August 1972, when projected north strikes the southern entrance of the enclosure. A drainage ditch cut across the entrance has a gravel hump in its bed with pottery associated. The writers think that the enclosure may well be Roman with its ditch partly re-dug in medieval times as a moated surround for the lodge of Goose Green deer park. In the field inside the ditch are very faint traces of an accompanying internal bank. When the field was ploughed this bank was seen to be of gravel with much Roman pottery scatter and three small late fourth-century waster dumps inside it. A hedgerow crossing the field strip from the middle of the east side of the enclosure aligns with a stretch of pathway in Abbott's Wood and the road running east from Batt's Corner. There are waster dumps extending along both sides of this alignment east of the enclosure suggesting that it may be another Roman road. We appear to have a road junction here which would have been useful to the potters in distributing their wares.

At present 70 waster dumps have been surveyed with attendant pottery scatter and other features. A network of minor trackways linking potting areas show up as hollow ways and negative strips through pottery scatter. At one point a trackway passes through a roughly circular area 100 metres across ringed by waster dumps. This area is largely taken up by intense pottery spread and a cluster of low mounds. One mound beside the trackway is roughly L-shaped, measuring 40 x 30 metres and is probably the site of drying sheds.

Some waster dumps are so well preserved that they still have a central hollow with a breach through the surrounding mound producing a horse-shoe shape. An examination by Mr A. J. Clark of waster dumps with a flux gradiometer last year indicated that some kilns were beneath the dumps. After a period of use the soot rake-back accumulated as a bank round the kiln which was now in a central hollow with a breach in the bank at the stoke hole. The latest dump surveyed has two opposing breaches in the bank suggesting that the kiln may be a double firing updraught one of Overwey type. The whole complex is now in the process of being re-scheduled. (M. Lyne and R. S. Jefferies)

The writers are currently preparing further notes on: Sites of other periods in the area; the sequence of phases of pottery development in the industry; etc. and these will be published in later editions of the *Bulletin*—Editor.

Capel: Excavation of Anstlebury Hillfort (TQ 153440) Interim Report

By permission of the owner, Mr L. N. Tucker, and the Department of the Environment a second and final season of excavation of the Iron

Age hill-fort of Anstiebury, near Dorking, took place from 7th July to 3rd August 1973. The work was again financed by grants from the British Academy and the Society of Antiquaries and directed by the writer, assisted by Mrs. Vivien Ettlinger. A previous report appeared in *Bulletin* 94.

The 1972 defence section indicated construction in the first century BC, followed shortly afterwards by total demolition of the stone revetment of the main rampart, and a brief re-occupation in the outer ditch area at the beginning of the Roman period. Since evidence for occupation of the hill-fort seemed non-existent, it seemed logical to choose the single entrance on the east as the area for excavation in 1973. A resistivity survey carried out by Mr A. J. Clark, FSA, and the writer in 1972 indicated that the break in the main rampart was linked with a solid causeway passing across the line of the ditch. It was hoped, by stripping the area between the main rampart and the ditch terminals, to obtain some impression of structural features and additional occupation material.

There were few surface indications of the original form of the entrance. The main rampart, approximately 40ft (12.1m) wide north of the gap, and 35ft (10.61m) wide to the south, ended on either side in a rounded terminal with no clear suggestion of inturns. The gap between the terminals was approximately 20ft (6.05m), but the terminals themselves, were very low; in fact, there was a gap of approximately 70ft (21.2m) between the crests of the rampart to either side. The outer defences were quite distinct and recognisable to the south of the gap, but were by no means obvious to the north.

As in 1972, tree cover was a limiting factor in the siting of trenches, but it proved possible to excavate an area 63ft (19.1m) from west to east by 40ft (12.1m) from north to south, running from inside the entrance eastwards to a point where it was hoped to locate the butt-ends of the main ditch (trenches 1 and 2). Stripping of the soil cover over the rampart terminals disclosed a capping of small rubble, beneath which was a clean yellow/brown soil layer with some stone, resting in turn on a heavier stone pitching, itself set on natural. It was not possible to detect any stone facing *in situ* to mark the squared-off ends of the terminals, nor indeed on the front face of the rampart where it was investigated on the north side. Centrally, however, there was a roughly pitched stone surface, presumably intended for a track, which merged without any obvious break into the rubble of the terminals. Lifting of the track surface revealed a single central post-pit, 2½ft (0.76m) in diameter, with a post-hole c. 9in (0.22m) in diameter, and approximately 10ft (3.05m) to north and south were two less clearly defined post-hole pits of similar dimensions lying against some rather more massive sandstone slabs. There were no finds from the rampart material, the track and the clean natural below, or from the post-hole pits.

Since there was no evidence for the butt-ends of the main ditch in Trench 2, two further trenches, 3 and 4, were cut obliquely from its SE and NE corners. These showed the gap between the two ends to be very wide, approximately 52ft (15.7m). In each case the ditch had a solid packing of rubble rising to within a foot (0.30m) or so of the surface; at the bottom of the filling were massive slabs of sandstone; there was a distinct impression that the rampart front had been deliberately thrown down into the ditch. In Trench 4 a little pottery was found and pressed into the freshly cut side of the ditch of the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age, probably first century BC; similar pottery was recovered from the rubble

fill of Trench 3, indicating that there was probably little, if any, interval between construction and demolition of the defences. Finally, on the surface of the rubble fill of Trench 4 was a layer of occupation material—charcoal, heat-reddened stone, and pottery—interpreted, in the absence of structural evidence, as temporary occupation unrelated to the defensive character of the hill-fort. This pottery was essentially native in character and, with some Belgic traits, can be classed as South-Eastern ABC or of the Ultimate Pre-Roman Iron Age or, possibly, of the very beginning of the Roman period. A date either side of c. AD 50 may be suggested and so, although the pottery is of a rather different character to that found on the filling of the outer ditch in 1972, the case for activity in the area in the mid first century AD is further strengthened. It is tempting to think of the demolished main rampart as a quarry for the construction of Stane Street in the valley below, but this must remain an unproven hypothesis.

Surface indications seemed to show that the track from the entrance led eastwards in a straight line, and that the outer defences were not staggered. In order to confirm this, five trenches, 5-9, were cut to locate the butt-ends of the outer ditch. Trench 5, south of the track, was successful, but Trench 6, in a corresponding position on the north side of the track, was not. Trenches 7-9, cut both at right angles and parallel to 6, were equally unsuccessful and it was concluded that the outer ditch had never been cut on this side. The surface indications of outer defences are slight or non-existent on this side of the track, until the modern entrance to the site is reached at the north-east corner, where they reappear in a well-defined form. Since the ground to the east offers a comparatively easy approach, it seems best to conclude that the defences were never completed on this side. The extremely wide gap between the ends of the main ditch would then be explicable as failure to carry them to their intended conclusion close to the entrance track, while the indeterminate nature of the rampart terminals might be interpreted as evidence for preliminary pitching only. Whether or not the argument for an unfinished state is accepted, there can be no doubt that demolition took place almost immediately and that the building of Anstiebury represents one brief episode.

The results of the two seasons at Anstiebury may be stated summarily as follows:

- (i) construction during the first century BC of multivallate defences related to sling warfare.
- (ii) failure to complete the entrance and the defences in its vicinity.
- (iii) deliberate destruction of the main rampart revetment, presumably for the same reason as (ii).
- (iv) brief re-occupation in the mid first century AD, of a non-defensive character.

(F. H. Thompson)

Caterham: Thames Pick (TQ 328542)

A mesolithic Thames pick found in 1948 in the garden of the Old Forge, Stanstead Road, has recently been published by Mr D. R. Rudling (*Proc. CNHSS XIV* (1973): 261). It is of a brown-grey flint and measures 16.5 x 3.5 x 3cm.

A number of stone beads said to have been found at the same time have since been lost.

(D. J. Turner)

Farleigh: Medieval sites (TQ 379603 & 37286004)

A number of features, some with associated medieval pottery, found by the West Kent Border Archaeological Group in 1965 during Operation Gaspipie (*Bulletin* 15) have now been published by Brian Philp in *Excavations in West Kent, 1960-1970* (1973), 215-218.

(D. J. Turner)

Mitcham: Cache of Mid-Eighteenth Century Ceramics and Glass (TQ 27486851)

Vigilance by local residents during the course of building extensions at the rear of what is believed to be a late Tudor building at Mitcham Cricket Green resulted in the salvage of a group of mid-eighteenth century pottery, stoneware and glass ware together with an accumulation of clay pipes dating from c. 1660-1820. Of particular interest are fragments of stoneware tankards bearing the name of the tenant of the adjacent White Hart Inn.

The site lay in the former back gardens of 346/8 London Road. Behind the eighteenth century facade of these is a timber frame building which is believed to date from the late sixteenth century, though corroborative evidence is lacking. In August 1972 a trench was excavated by building contractors during the erection of a squash court for Thermal Conditioning Ltd., the owners of the property. The trench was at right angles to the rear wall of No 348, parallel to the side accessway to the White Hart. It exposed stratified deposits of oyster shells, wine bottles, clay pipes and pottery. The material is stated to have been distributed generally throughout the length of the trench. A quantity was retrieved by Dr Annal, of Windermere Road, SW16, who subsequently notified Merton HS. The site was visited by members of the Society, but it was not practicable to conduct an organised excavation in the time available.

It would appear that much if not all of the material salvaged represents refuse from the White Hart, which would suggest that at the time of deposition the land was uncultivated and lying waste. Two distinct periods are represented by the tobacco pipes, but the bulk of the ceramic material dates to approximately 1760-1780. The absence of evidence of occupation of 346/8, London Road is disappointing and cannot be explained by selectivity on the part of those salvaging the material. Presumably the evidence for the earlier period remains beneath the foundations and oversite of the new building.

A full report has been prepared, and is deposited in the Library of the Surrey Archaeological Society. (E. N. Montague)*

Mitcham: Excavation at Ravensbury Manor House, Ravensbury Park (TQ 26656804)

Exploratory excavations were carried out during June and July 1973 by the Merton HS at the invitation of the Director of Parks and Cemeteries, London Borough of Merton, in the immediate vicinity of the ruins of Ravensbury Manor House. They exposed the foundations of three outbuildings enclosing a flint cobbled yard of the mid-eighteenth century. Sections

of an extensive system of brick drainage, pre-dating the yard and believed to have served an industrial rather than domestic function were uncovered. The undisturbed subsoil overlying the natural river silt contained medieval pottery sherds.

Documentary evidence for the site, indicating a sixteenth century date for the house, which later became a centre for calico bleaching and printing, has been produced as an illustrated booklet 'The Ravensbury Story' by the Director of Parks and Cemeteries, London Borough of Merton. The discovery and removal in 1962 of a wooden water pipe in the park 140 metres away was reported in SAC LXVII.

The twin objectives of the excavation, to promote better public awareness of the history of the site and to produce tangible evidence of its occupation in the Middle Ages, were achieved. Far more extensive excavation would be necessary to establish a full sequence of building and occupation.

A full report has been prepared, and is deposited in the Library of the Surrey Archaeological Society. (E. W. Montague)*

*Notes marked with an asterisk have been condensed from the full reports sent in by the excavator—Editor.

Titsey: Romano-British burials at Tatsfield Road (TQ 40805608)

Three first century cremation burials and nearby features discovered by the West Kent Border Archaeological Group in 1966 during Operation Gaspipe (*Bulletin* 25) have now been published by Brian Philp in *Excavations in West Kent 1960-1970* (1973), 99-101. (D. J. Turner)

Woking: Mayford Green Roundabout SU 996561

Most of the work in the construction of this roundabout, which has now been completed, consisted of building up the levels rather than excavation, and the only find made on the site itself was the handle of a pipkin.

On the adjacent field, where the contractors have been stripping the top-soil along the course of the proposed new stretch of the A320 across the river, two rim sherds of late medieval pottery have been found.

The contractors engaged on the construction of the roundabout have been extremely helpful. (Nancy Cox)

Ceramic Repair Classes

Members may be interested in taking part in the work of restoration of excavated ceramic material from the site of Fulham Pottery. This unique and beautiful salt glazed stoneware is being sorted, catalogued, discussed and restored at a Friday evening class at the Addison Institute, Addison School, Addison Gardens, W14 0DT, from 7.00 p.m. until 9.00 p.m. The fee for the two term course will be £1.50 (Pensioners 15p), payable on enrolment.

Buses 11, 12, 49, 72, 88, 105, 117, 207, 220 and 295 pass to within walking distance of the Institute.

Regular attendance is hoped for. Previous experience is not necessary as the classes provide a considerable amount of information about materials and techniques, and include practical demonstrations of straightforward sticking together of fragments, making good missing parts and assembling fragments to regain the original form.

It would be advisable to bring an overall.

(Fulham & Hammersmith HS Newsletter)

MEETINGS

FEBRUARY

Friday 15th, 8 p.m.

THE PROBLEM OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN SURREY AND A POSSIBLE ANSWER. Talk by D. Bird to Merton HS in the Lecture Room, Morden Library, Morden Road, Morden. Details of further meetings in February were published in *Bulletin* 103.

MARCH

Monday 4th, 8 p.m.

THE GENERAL HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF GUILDFORD. Talk by D. M. Sturley to Mayford HS at the Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.

Tuesday 5th, 8 p.m.

EXCAVATION AT GUILDFORD PARK MANOR. Talk by Dr A. G. Crocker to Guildford members of the SAS at the Brew House, Guildford.

Thursday 7th, 8 p.m.

THE WEY AND ARUN CANAL. Illustrated talk by a speaker from the Wey and Arun Canal Trust to the Holmesdale NH Club in the Priory School, Reigate.

Wednesday 13th, 5 p.m.

THE TIMBER CASTLE AT HEN DOMEN, MONTGOMERY, A FURTHER REPORT. Talk by P. Barker to Royal Archaeological Institute at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly.

Wednesday 13th, 7.30 p.m.

THE COURT AND COUNTRY IN THE EARLY SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. Annual Sixth Form Lecture by Professor Robert Ashton at The Royal Grammar School, Guildford.

Thursday 14th, 8.15 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE M.25. Talk by Bernard Johnson in the series of SAS and Chertsey Museum lectures, at the Old Town Hall, Chertsey.

Friday 15th, 8 p.m.

NEW WIMBLEDON: THE RISE OF A NINETEENTH CENTURY SUBURB. Talk by R. Milward to Merton HS in the Lecture Room, Morden Library, Morden Road, Morden.

Tuesday 19th, 8 p.m.

THE RIVER THAMES SOCIETY, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES. Talk by J. W. Parton to Kingston upon Thames AS at The Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield West, Kingston.

Wednesday 20th, 10.30 a.m.

SAS VISIT TO WESTMINSTER

Full details were given in *Bulletin* 103.

Friday 22nd, 7.45 p.m.

FIELD SURVEY II. BASIC INSTRUCTION IN THE RECOGNITION OF POTTERY. Talk by D. Graham to Farnham Mus Soc at 32 South Street, Farnham.

Wednesday 27th, 5 p.m.

ROMANO-CELTIC TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE. Talk by D. R. Wilson to the British Archaeological Association at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly.

Friday 29th, 8 p.m.

THE BISHOP'S PALACE SITE, FULHAM. Talk by K. Whitehouse to Wandsworth HS at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday 30th, 3 p.m.

THE HEPWORTH STORY. Talk by Avril Lansdell to Walton & Weybridge LHS at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall.

APRIL

Thursday 4th, 8 p.m.

THE PROBLEMS OF RESTORATION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS. Talk by D. Nye to The Guildford Society in the Guildhall, Guildford.

Saturday 6th, 10 a.m.

IRON. SAS SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION at Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon. The programme is circulated with this *Bulletin*. Admittance by ticket 50p, Students 40p obtainable from Mrs Thornhill, 31 Devonshire Way, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8BU. Please send stamped addressed envelope with order. There is still time for exhibitors to book space with Mrs Thornhill for the display of plans and finds from excavations.

Wednesday 10th, 5 p.m.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL. Talk by P. Kidson to Royal Archaeological Institute at The Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly.

Tuesday 16th, 8 p.m.

SCIENCE AND ARCHAEOLOGY: the work of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, DoE. Talk by J. Musty to Kingston upon Thames AS at The Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield West, Kingston.

Thursday 23rd, 8.15 p.m.

EGHAM, PAST AND PRESENT. Talk by a member of the Egham-by-Runnymede HS in the series of SAS and Chertsey Museum lectures, in the Old Town Hall, Chertsey.

Wednesday 24th, 8.15 p.m.

ASHLEY PARK. Talk by M. E. Blackman to Walton & Weybridge LHS at Elmgrove, Walton-on-Thames.

Friday 26th, 8 p.m.

PALEOLITHIC ART. Talk by D. Collins to Wandsworth HS at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday 27th

SAS VISIT to West Horsley Place and Clandon Park.

Friday 31st, 8 p.m.

FIELDWORK IN HERTFORDSHIRE. Talk by T. Rook to Wandsworth HS at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.