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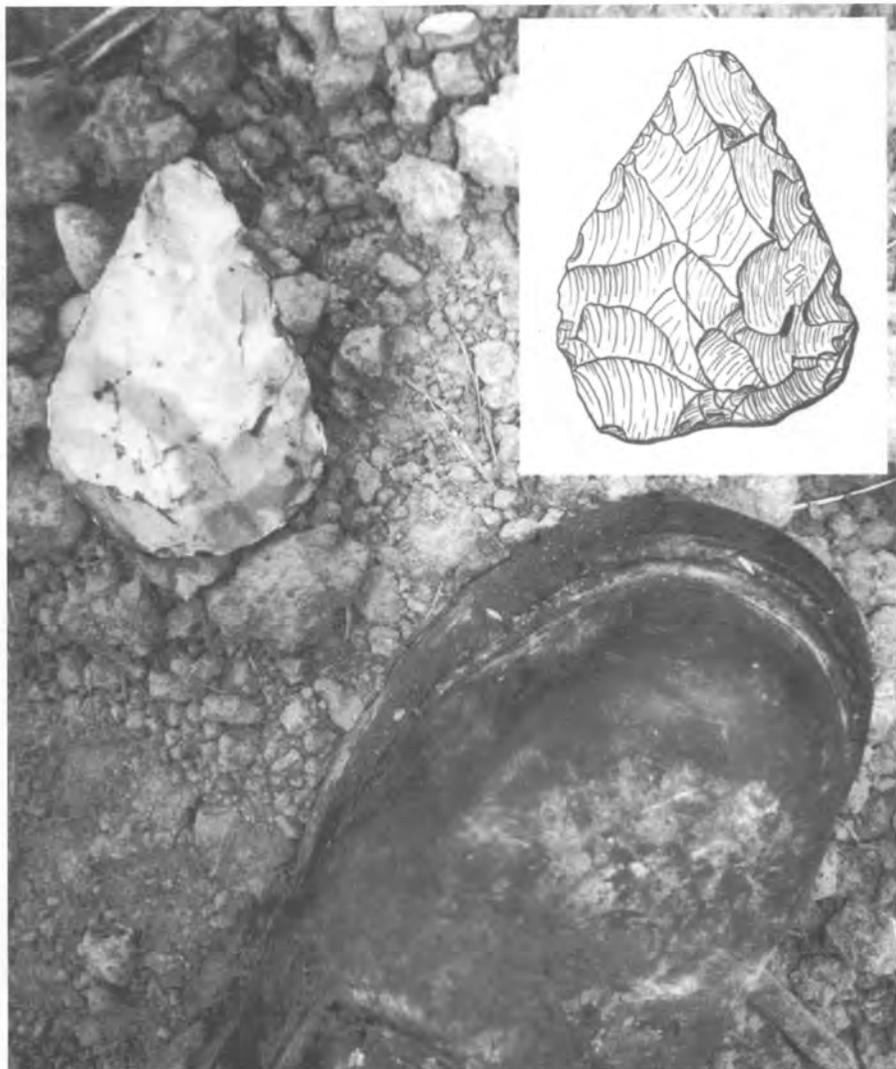
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The Society's First Palaeolithic Excavation

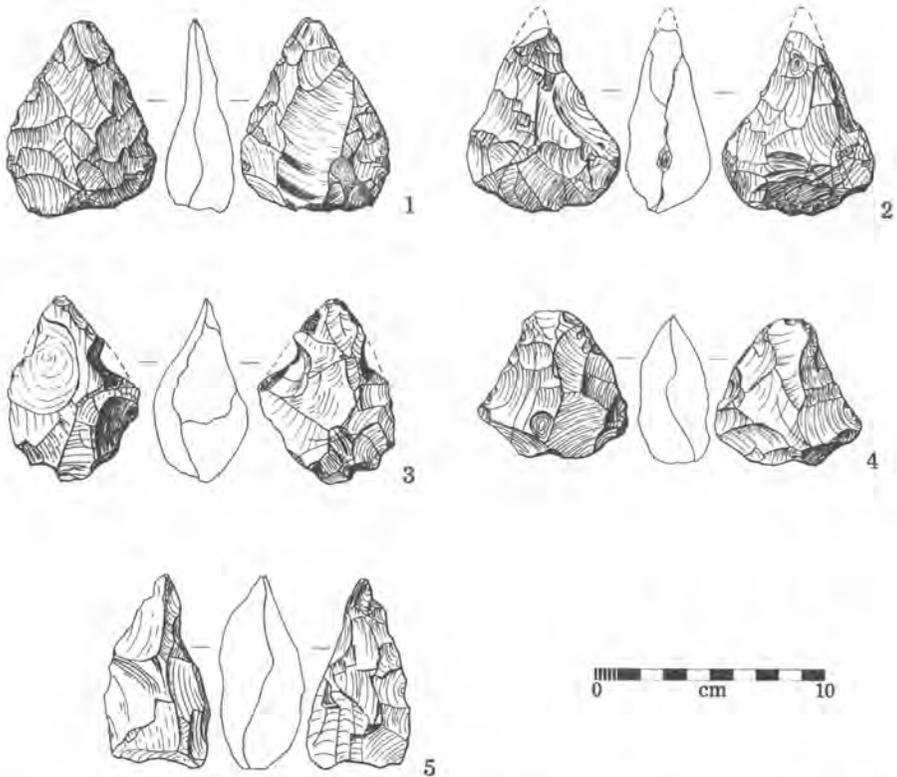
THE EXCAVATION OF A LOWER PALAEOLITHIC BUTCHERY SITE AT LOWER KINGSWOOD

14-22 September

Following the reporting of a Lower Palaeolithic knapping floor by L.W. Carpenter in 1960, this site was field-walked by Tom Walls who recovered over 50 bifaces (handaxes). This material is now in the British Museum, and a very small excavation was carried out by Frank Pemberton of the British Museum in 1970.

This new excavation, directed by Jon Cotton for the Museum of London and Peter Harp, will be the first Lower Palaeolithic excavation carried out by the Society, and is based on new evidence from field-walking the site last year which located a further seven bifaces. The Lower Palaeolithic material is believed to be virtually in situ, and likely to date to the early Wolstonian, about 350,000 years ago.

The purpose of the excavation, in the first season, is to assess the condition and spread of any knapping floor or stratified remains present, concentrating on the main scatter of material – there are several scatters present in total. There will be a strong emphasis on environmental sampling and recording, and to that end specialists from English Heritage will be joining the excavation together with a team from Oxford



Bifaces recovered from Lower Palaeolithic site at Lower Kingswood in 2001 (after Harp, 2002)

University led by Dr. Julie Scott-Jackson. A geological resistivity survey is also planned. The overall excavation will be under the auspices of the Plateau Group, with considerable involvement by the Prehistoric Group. A scatter of post-glacial struck flint is also present on site, with axes, arrowheads etc. of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date having been recorded.

It is anticipated that the initial Saturday will involve site surveying and that excavation should start on Sunday the 15 September. As with the Banstead Heath excavation last summer, we plan to have lunches at The Sportsman PH for the duration of the dig. A visit by the national Lithic Studies Society has been arranged for mid-week. This is a *rare* opportunity to take part in a Palaeolithic excavation in Surrey and should not be missed by anyone interested in prehistory.

There is no charge for participating in the excavation, and further details and application forms can be obtained from Brian Wood, 5 Tumblewood Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1DS (tel: 01737 351383; fax: 01737 373526; e-mail: BRIANLWOOD@compuserve.com). Alternatively you can e-mail the Plateau Group at stellahill@nutwood66.fsnet.co.uk. Applicants should be members of the Surrey Archaeological Society or affiliated groups, or archaeology students at university level. Any other applications will be dependent on places available.

FURTHER READING:

Harp, P., 2002, *Further work at two Lower Palaeolithic sites on the North Downs in Surrey: Rookery Farm, Lower Kingswood and Canons Farm, Banstead, including a comparison with, and further research on, earlier finds from the sites*, Plateau Bulletin 3, 4-24

Scott-Jackson, J.E., 2000, *Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts from deposits mapped as Clay-with-flints*, Oxbow, 47-50

Walls, T. & Cotton, J., 1980, *Palaeoliths from the North Downs at Lower Kingswood*, SyAC 72, 15-36

FIRST ROMAN BUILDING DISCOVERED IN CARSHALTON

During the course of archaeological trial trench evaluation of a small site to the rear of 18 West Street, Carshalton by Sutton Archaeological Services, unexpected Roman remains were discovered. The remains were clearly part of a significant Roman masonry building. As a consequence it was necessary to extend the evaluation into a limited area excavation with the agreement of the developer to clarify the potential phasing, nature and extent of the remains.

The 'room' exposed measured c10 by 5 metres with flint masonry walls just under a metre wide. No internal floor was identified to indicate the surviving wall that stood to a maximum height of c0.4 metres were below the original floor level. Fragments of plaster were recovered adjacent to the internal wall surface. Roman pottery and other items of building material including box flue were also recovered but no coins or votive objects. It was evident that the single cell exposed was part of a larger structure extending into neighbouring properties and of an orientation at odds with the medieval and modern topography. The evidence would suggest that there was indeed a Roman style villa or farmstead in close proximity to a spring that existed in this area.

The discovery is regionally significant and opens a new chapter on the history of Carshalton, being the first direct evidence for Roman settlement known in the area. Due to the positive support and interest of Mr Griggs, Director of Oakdene Home, a solution was readily found to ensure the remains could be left undisturbed beneath the new foundation.

There was tremendous interest in the site from local people, and again we must thank Oakdene Homes for permitting a number of visits by St Mary's School during the archaeological dig.

Even though it may have been a relatively small site, it not only produced important results but it can be cited as an example of how a developer and their appointed archaeological practice were able to work closely with English Heritage on behalf of the local planning department, in this instance Sutton Borough Council, not only to ensure the survival of the archaeological remains, but to actively engage the public with their work.

THE HOG'S BACK WORLD WAR DITCH

Chris Shephard

I was interested to see the article about the ditch excavation on the Hog's Back, but I would like to correct one point. This particular ditch was not part of the GHQ Line. The GHQ Line ran roughly parallel to the Hog's Back ditch, but about half a mile to the south from Runfold through The Sands. There are photographs of this in the IWM collection and we have recently been trying to identify their exact location.

The GHQ Line did have a ditch defence in this area and it ran through the fields (now pits) immediately behind Barfield School. It was defended with pillboxes (some of which still exist), and road blocks.

The ditch in your article was part of the Aldershot Garrison Stop Line. As far as I can tell this formed a ring around the town and camp and came very close to the GHQ Line at this point. It, too, was defended by pillboxes, and some of these still exist. One was swept away during the creation of the Runfold Diversion of the A31 to join up with the Blackwater Valley Relief Road. Another is at cSU 888481 in the garden of Old Victory Cottage. A third is one of few surviving, disguised pillboxes in Surrey and is built into a former farm building at Manor Farm, Tongham (SU 886484). It is now used by a plumbing supply company and the loopholes have been glazed. This box would have covered the ditch where it turned north-eastward, but a second loophole was positioned to cover the east-west section too.

The Surrey Defences Survey is still very active and would be pleased to hear from any archaeologists excavating on or near WW2 sites – until I read the article I was completely unaware of this dig!

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

Chiddingfold Roman Villa

David Bird

The Roman Studies Group is planning a programme of work centred on the supposed Roman villa at Chiddingfold. The intention is to use a variety of methods to seek to understand the site better, including geophysical survey, fieldwalking and limited excavation, probably over a period of five years. The exact programme has yet to be agreed, and scheduled monument consent will be required for some aspects of the proposed work. One aim of the programme will be to test the theory (developed in a note to be published in the forthcoming *Surrey Archaeological Collections*) that the site may be a religious centre rather than a villa.

As a first step in the process, it is intended to carry out a detailed fieldwalking exercise over four or five days in mid-September. The exact date will depend on farming requirements, but the aim would be to start on a Saturday and continue until about the following Thursday. The work is to be grant-aided by the Society and is intended to provide training in carrying out formal fieldwalking projects.

Anyone interested in taking part is invited to contact David Bird or Tony Howe (Conservation Group, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DY; davidbird@surreycc.gov.uk, 020-8541 8991; tony.howe@surreycc.gov.uk, 020-8541 9325).

Banstead and Walton Heaths

A survey was undertaken to assess an area on Banstead and Walton Heaths (centred on TQ 234 545) for inclusion in the Surrey County Council list of Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value (ASHLV). The work was carried out by the author as part of a Community Archaeology Project involving local volunteers, and was completed in May 2001.

The study area contains the potential remains of archaeological and historical landscapes of great interest, and the range of archaeological remains is quite considerable, extending from the Palaeolithic through to the Second World War. In consequence, it is recommended that the area be accepted as an Area of Special Historic Landscape Value, and that further evaluations are carried out in selected areas to give further protection to localised areas of particular importance.

The area contains some of the highest incidences of Palaeolithic flintwork in the county, and it is suspected that the Clay-with-Flints capping overlying the Chalk here may have preserved Palaeolithic ground surfaces *in situ*, or else stratigraphy close enough to this state to enable the recovery of important information about this little-known period. This importance is further highlighted by the identification of numerous possible solution hollows in the study area. These had been previously thought to be quarry hollows, but such is the regularity of their formation that natural agencies are now considered a possibility. They are most common on the Walton Heath Golf Course, but can be found in smaller quantities over most of the study area. If these features do prove to be geological, it is possible that some of them contain preserved ground surfaces and other information from the Palaeolithic and later prehistoric periods, dependent on when they were formed. They could also prove to be one of the largest concentrations of such features identified to date in this country.

Discoveries from the later prehistoric periods occur throughout the study area. Although mainly in the form of artefact scatters, the lack of archaeological fieldwork undertaken using modern techniques within the study area suggests that there is considerable potential for some of these to have been formed by occupation sites.

That the poor grade soils did not discourage major settlement is shown by the discovery of the Walton Heath Roman villa within the study area in the late 18th century. This has long been recognised as one of the most important Roman villa sites in Surrey. Although much disturbed by antiquarian diggings, and by the creation of a golf course across its site, it is thought that there is still potential for the survival of intact archaeological stratigraphy. Also surviving within the golf course are areas of banks and ditches that could prove to be of late prehistoric or Roman field systems, as well as a possible late prehistoric or Roman bloomery site just outside the golf course on Banstead Heath. A provisional suggestion is that this may have been one of the *raison d'être*s for the presence of the villa.

From at least the Saxon period, nearly all of the study area became part of an extensive common known as Walton and Banstead Heaths. Documentary sources suggest that these two commons were once intercommoned with the adjoining Kingswood Common, thereby throwing up the possibility of them being the common pasture of a large early Saxon estate that may have been later subdivided following the conversion to Christianity. Research has identified the importance of these commons as sheep pasture in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. A series of rectangular earthworks existing within the study area are suspected as being stock enclosures associated with sheep husbandry. Three of these enclosures survive in good condition and have been designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Two further possible enclosures have since been discovered that may have been put to similar uses.

In the late 19th century an attempt to enclose Banstead Heath led to the formation of the Banstead Common Conservators. Since 1893 these have acted as guardians of the northern part of the study area, and their records are full of details concerning the most recent uses of the area. This has included much quarrying, and the excavation of a number of features associated with defence plus the training and billeting of troops during World War Two.

From 1904 Walton Heath was laid out as a golf course. This has since obtained a very high reputation in golf circles, and its presence has had considerable influence not only on the landscape of the study area, but on the surrounding areas as well. Since its creation Walton-on-the-Hill has considerably expanded to provide middle class villas of some distinction for golfing enthusiasts. Members of the golf club have included influential politicians such as Lloyd George and Winston Churchill. More recently changes to the design of the golf course have resulted in the further disturbance of archaeological sites. It is hoped that the club can be persuaded to recognise that the original layout of the course is now also a historic landscape with its own importance in the history of golfing, and that as much of that layout should be preserved without further alteration. Such recognition would not only help to establish the course's place in golfing history, but would also help to preserve the important prehistoric and Roman remains that underlie it.

Cheverells Farm, Titsey

In advance of building works, the author undertook historic building recording of Cheverells Farm, (TQ 3951 5654) for J P Whelan Homes Ltd. It appears to have begun its life as a two-bay late medieval hall house with two-storey (floored) bays at both ends. It is recorded from the early 14th century as a sub-manor of Titsey, and was converted into a fashionable hearth passage house, probably in the mid to late 16th century. There is evidence that the original floor level in the service end was raised, and this may have coincided with the digging of a cellar under the hall wing. In the 17th century a kitchen wing was added on the north-east side, with evidence in the roof of later, undated remodelling. At some unspecified time a brick façade was added to the original timber-framed building. There is evidence that the house was refurbished internally in the 18th century. In the 19th century at some time before 1870, the old solar wing at the north-west end was taken down and a new extension added, largely completing the building up to the time of recording.

Internally, a number of early features survive. The crown post roof of the open hall is largely as originally built, with the full-height smoke-blackened closed trusses of lath and daub remaining intact. There are a number of early doors surviving within the former hall wing. The hinge types seem to date these to two phases: plank doors dating from the 17th century phase, and panel doors from the 18th century refurbishment

Noke Farm, Chipstead

In advance of the conversion of farm buildings to residential use, historic building recording was carried out by the author at Noke Farm (TQ 279 561) for Village Developments plc. The farm buildings appear to be a good example of 'model' farm construction, dating from a time of agricultural optimism between 1847 and 1869. Although the brick and timber buildings are not exceptional, they are good examples of their kind, and the barn extension and annexe contains the remains of what appears to have been a steam-powered pulley system to assist in the movement of heavy materials. Two buildings have been identified as having been almost completely rebuilt in modern materials, and these were not identified for recording in

the original brief. These may account for certain missing elements at this site that are typical of a 19th century arable farmstead. Other than these the main ranges around the central courtyard appear to have been little changed since the mid 19th century

Puttenham Common

A survey was undertaken of Puttenham Common (centred on NGR: SU 915 465) for inclusion in the Surrey County Council list of Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value (ASHLV). The work was carried out as part of a Community Archaeology Project involving local volunteers, and was completed in March 2001.

The assessment found this landscape to be of great archaeological and historical interest. Fieldwork confirmed the reports of later 19th century antiquarians, who identified extensive prehistoric and Roman activity in the area. This seemed to be particularly intense to the north of the Hillbury Ridge, overlooked by a hillfort of possible Iron Age date.

The 19th century antiquarian, the Reverend Kerry, identified a possible Roman settlement site on the common below the hillfort in an isolated valley known as Long Bottom. This included the discovery of what appear to be cobbled surfaces that he recorded as a 'rude pavement'. The exact location of this discovery is not known, and although Kerry kept detailed diaries of his activities, these related mainly to the finds recovered. His recording of structures and stratigraphy, even exact locations of finds, was often extremely vague, and many of his discoveries can only be located approximately. More recent work at Hopeless Moor has identified a possible Roman ceramic production site. It is suspected that this was associated with the site in Long Bottom, and other contemporary finds made in the vicinity. Consequently it is suggested that the boundaries of the proposed ASHLV are extended to incorporate the Hopeless Moor site.

The study area included two medieval manorial sites at Shoelands and Rodsall, both part of a dispersed settlement pattern on the north and south edges of Puttenham Common respectively. The common itself is an area of great interest, and it is thought that evidence for its former extent to the east over Church Croft can be detected. 'Breach', 'Hatch' and 'Sheepcote' field names can all be found in this area.

In the west of the study area, the Cutt Mill stream demonstrates extensive historic usage. The most obvious site here is the medieval Cutt Mill site in the south. There is also a fine series of late 18th century landscaped ponds to the north of the mill extending the length of the Puttenham/Seale parish boundary. These were associated with the creation of a parkland landscape for Hampton Lodge. There is some evidence to suggest that the famous landscape designer, Humphrey Repton (1752-1818), provided provisional consultation in the design. However, fieldwork has revealed that a more extensive system of ponds existed on the Cutt Mill stream, and one of its tributaries on Puttenham Common. Three pond dams have been identified north of Shoelands that may be associated with a fishpond mentioned in a 13th century charter. Further small ponds seem to have existed within the grounds of Shoelands House, the latter being associated as a grange of the Augustinian priory at Selborne, Hampshire. Finally there are the dams of at least two ponds on Puttenham Common. One of these, General's Pond, is first reported as being in disrepair in the mid 18th century. A second dam to the east is not recorded on 18th century sources, and is therefore thought to have fallen out of use before that date.

The area to the south of Puttenham Common is centred on the Domesday manor of Rodsall. Despite the antiquity of the manorial centre, this is largely an area of marginal land, that in the far south of the study area probably only being enclosed in the post-medieval period. The farmland around Rodsall is characterised by a series of ancient trackways, and it is considered that these formed the basis of land division dating from at least medieval times.

The far northern part of the study area contains a number of old quarries of various types. These are probably sited to take advantage of the variable geology between the common and the Hog's Back, and may have provided a mixture of resources, including chalk, sandstone and clay.

Considering the proximity of the study area to urban conurbation at Farnham and Guildford, the landscape remains largely isolated and undisturbed. Extensive views south can be obtained from the Hillbury Ridge. A notable concentration of archaeological and historic sites from the prehistoric period onwards makes it a strong candidate for ASHLV status.

St. Catherine Lock, Godalming Navigation

Test pits were excavated behind the lock chamber walls at St. Catherine's Lock, Artington, near Guildford (SU 99574770), by the National Trust ahead of proposed restoration, and the work was watched by the author.

The pits failed to come up with any evidence that the concrete sides acted as a facing for earlier brick sides. Substantial horizontal timbers were found behind the concrete suggesting that these were part of a bracing structure to help support an earlier timber revetment. A document in the Godalming Navigation records tells how the timber sides of the lock chamber were replaced by concrete in 1909. Previously interpretation of this record was that it was incomplete, and failed to mention that the concrete was merely a facing to a brick structure. This work has conclusively shown that this was not the case and, at this particular lock, the conversion from timber lock chambers to concrete was direct, without any intervening brick stage. References to brickwork at this lock now seems certain to relate to the aprons and flooring of the lock, but not to the chamber sides.

Chobham Common: An Assessment of its Potential as an Area of Special Historic Landscape Value (ASHLV)

During the autumn, winter and early spring of 2001-2, the Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey County Council sponsored their fifth Community Archaeology Project to date. The designated area was based on Chobham Common (centred on SU 980 640), but included some enclosed land around Chobham Place Wood in the west. A small, but enthusiastic, team formed after the initial well-attended meetings, braving the colder weather of the winter months to get the project completed within its proposed deadline. The project ended with a measured survey of the Longcross Barrow, one of the finest Bronze Age round barrows in the county. A welcomed addition to the normal volunteers was the Chobham Common Ranger, Andy Wragg, who took a particularly pro-active role in the work, providing many little bonuses, such as the transport of surveying gear across the common to the Longcross Barrow.

The survey revealed a large expanse of heathland that has seen little change since the Bronze Age. A large Bronze Age barrow at Longcross, with other possible barrow groups just outside the study area, attest to occupation during the Bronze Age. The poor sandy soils seem to have been abandoned from the Late Bronze Age, and was subsequently used as heathland pasture thereafter with little evidence of occupation in the study area. A large banked enclosure in Albury Bottom known as the Bee Garden has been attributed by some sources to the Bronze Age, although other commentators consider this to be a medieval enclosure.

There seems to be little evidence for settlement activity in the area until the medieval period. Early in this period Chobham passed to Chertsey Abbey, one of the most important monasteries in Surrey. Much of the study area formed part of a wide tract of common pasture that spread over much of the Surrey Heath area. Surviving

documents from the abbey records seem to show small-scale piecemeal enclosure occurring in the southern underbelly of Chobham Common. A larger enclosure called Langshot is specifically mentioned in the early 14th century, the boundaries of which still survive largely intact today.

Chertsey Abbey records tell of the creation of a large fishpond of over sixty acres on the common called Gracious Pond, reputedly made by Abbot Rutherwyk in the early 14th century. Maps dating from the 18th and 19th centuries show that there was a number of other ponds built on the common by unknown builders. These were still intact in 1766, but most had disappeared, their former bottoms being converted to isolated enclosures within the common by the mid 19th century. The area therefore demonstrates a particular high concentration of fishponds, possibly of medieval origin, on common land.

There appears to have been little subsequent activity on the common after the 14th century, with the boundaries largely fossilising after this date. From the 1850s the common was used occasionally for army exercises, and there are some minor earthworks in the northern part of the study area to support this.

Chobham Place and its ornamental landscape, in the south-west of the study area, is included in the survey. This developed from the 16th century as a post-medieval country house. Ornamentation began to spread out onto an area of former common now known as Chobham Place Wood from the early 18th century by way of a series of tree avenues. From 1785 the area was enclosed to make ornamental walks for the owners of the house and their guests. This area continued to develop throughout the 19th century, evolving into an area of woodland.

The result led to the recommendation that the area be accepted as an Area of Special Historic Landscape Value, with certain reservations and boundary changes as outlined in the main report.

The Longcross Barrow: a plea for information

Following on from the successful Area of Special Historic Landscape Value assessment at Chobham, it is proposed to publish a note on the Longcross Barrow (located by GPS at SU 9912 6466), surveyed by team members in March 2002. It was during this survey that the remains of a small excavation trench, about 6m by 1m, was identified on the north side of the barrow, cutting across the ditch and part of the mound. There appears to be no record of this excavation, but its N-S alignment, and apparent metric layout, seems to suggest it was not an unrecorded antiquarian foray, but a cutting of more recent date. In 1963, one H W Copsey visited the site, and noted the remains of 'a recent small excavation'. This excavation was not noted by Grinsell (1934, 1987) in his visits in the 1930s and 1980s, nor by Fred Aldsworth during his visit as an Ordnance Survey archaeologist in August 1966 (SCC SMR card no 1856). Based on Copsey's account, it would seem this trench was dug shortly before 1963, by people with some prior knowledge of systematic excavation techniques.

If anyone reading this knows anything about this excavation the author would be most grateful of any information so that our proposed publication can be as informative as possible. Please reply by way of the editor.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Inter-Library Loans

The British Library has increased the cost of supplying books and photocopies and we very much regret that we have had to increase our charges accordingly. To borrow a book will now cost £10.00 and to obtain a photocopy will cost £8.23.

Recent Accessions to the Society's Library

Excavations and evaluations carried out by units working within the county, which are reported periodically elsewhere in the *Bulletin*, are omitted here. Each entry includes the author, title, publisher and date of publication, followed by the four-digit accession number, and classification number indicating the shelf location of the book.

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VISITS COMMITTEE

A Visit to Sutton Hoo

Duncan Mirylees

It is not given to many of us to be instrumental in the discovery of a treasure of such richness and splendour that makes the world, even a world teetering blindfold on the brink of a World War, to actually take notice. Schliemann at Troy and Carter in the Valley of the Kings are names we are all familiar with, but, until a few years ago, that of Mrs Edith Pretty might have invited the response "who?" Yet it was because of her that the Sutton Hoo Anglo Saxon ship burial and its incredible dragons hoard of artefacts was found after having lain in its protective mound of earth for nearly 1600 years.

On a sunny Sunday in the middle of May, Liz Whitbourn gathered together another merry band to go and visit the newly opened centre at Sutton Hoo. It had always been a sore point amongst East Anglian archaeologists that the Sutton Hoo treasure had been given to the British Museum rather than to a local museum where, they believed, it belonged. It was, after all, a local archaeologist who first began the dig. For the first time since 1939, it is now possible to actually see some of the original pieces from the collection on their home ground. The magnificent new Centre which the National Trust has built using money from the Heritage Lottery Fund, contains a secure strongroom which now makes that possible. Not all of the pieces have been brought from London, but the plan is that every year others will be exchanged for



Our guided tour at Sutton Hoo

them so that it will eventually be possible for them all to be seen where they were first found.

Our group was given a guided tour of the site, which will now be quite familiar to many readers from its several recent TV appearances! The site is high on a ridge overlooking the River Deben estuary which would have made the burial mounds a prominent landmark to travellers coming and going by sea to and from the Saxon homeland on the other side of the North Sea, thus making it not only a monument to the dead, but a political statement and a status symbol to boot. This status was also reinforced by the extraordinarily international nature of the grave goods. Silver from Byzantium, cloth from Syria and metalware from all over Europe, all of which make quite clear that Anglo Saxon society, for the wealthy at least, was hardly insular and not in the least 'primitive' or barbaric, as earlier historians loved to stress.

What is particularly ironic of course is that the identity of the dead man is unknown; indeed, at first it was thought that there was no body in the buried ship at all, making it a cenotaph rather than a grave. Modern chemical analysis has however now proved, from trace elements left in the acidic, sandy soil, that there was indeed someone buried there. The most likely candidate, dated from coins found amongst the treasure, is one Raedwald, a King of East Anglia who ruled from 599 to 624/5 AD, but even this is unsure. The graveyard probably contains a number of kings and nobles from the family of Wuffingas, which included Raedwald.

What it also turned out to contain were the bodies, which remained as nothing but a sandy shadow in the soil and thus known as 'sandmen', of execution victims. After the triumph of Christianity the royal burial site became a place of superstition and, because of its pagan origins, a place worthy of damned souls. As a result it became a place of execution and even the faint remains of these poor souls raise the hackles, so visible is their agony even now.

It is sad whilst standing there, as the sea wind blows gently over the sunny mounds and the skylarks chatter away above you, to dwell on 'what might have been', since

to look at all those other mounds is to realise that many of them too once held locked inside them other hoards as fabulous as that found in 1939, of which only a few tantalising fragments have been found and it is only by pure chance that this particular grave managed to survive, a robber's shaft having missed the burial chamber by inches.

Alas, their dragons slept too soundly to protect them.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

THE COUNTRYSIDE AND HERITAGE OF SURREY

St Saviour's Centre, Woodbridge Road, Guildford

Surrey's countryside and heritage is a precious feature of the county, and ensuring its conservation for present and future generations is a difficult and complicated task, involving many individuals and organisations. Specialists from the County Council's Countryside and Heritage Division will discuss the objectives of this work and current issues and projects in a series of illustrated talks to be held at St Saviour's Centre. There is no charge and all are welcome to any of the talks, which begin at 7.30pm.

- 16th October **Mike Dawson (*Countryside and Heritage*):** Surrey's countryside and heritage is changing fast, and who looks after it day to day and in the long term?
- 23rd October **Margot Walshe (*Countryside Conservation*):** Beautiful landscapes and woodlands – highly cherished, but in places overgrown, derelict and despoiled. What can be done?
David Bird (*Heritage Conservation*): A rich heritage of buildings and archaeology, but huge pressures for redevelopment. How can we keep the best of the past?
- 30th October **Rob Poulton (*Surrey County Archaeological Unit*):** Digging up the past, the work of Surrey's own Time Team.
- 6th November **Nick Baxter (*Countryside Management*):** Surrey's internationally important habitats such as the lowland heath and chalk grassland are threatened – the problems and successes of managing these wonderful but fragile areas.
- 13th November **Sue Todd (*Rights of Way and Countryside Access*):** Managing Surrey's rights of way, the most important means of accessing the countryside – changes in the wake of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, including the management of the very large areas of open access land.
- 20th November **Rob Fairbanks (*Surrey Hills AONB Officer*):** Celebrating and conserving the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty – which covers one quarter of the county, stretching from Tatsfield to Haslemere.

Enquiries: Bernice Hall, telephone: 020 8541 9433.

MISCELLANY

More About Tree-Stealing

Ann Noyes

I enjoyed reading the article about tree stealing by Graham Dawson in *Bulletin* 359. There is no doubt that trees were a valuable asset to a property, thus it seems strange that Roger de Savage de Pecco should have sold the trees on his manor of East Gomshall in 1331 and suffered dire consequences. I cannot quote original

research, but Manning and Bray *History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* Vol. I p.493 has the story:

“Roger, son and heir of John, in 5 Edw. III sold to Thomas Bonet and others, citizens of London, all the Trees, Underwood, and all other the produce whatsoever, growing on 250 acres of a Wood called East Chert, [part of the Hurtwood] in tenure of the said Roger, for 108l. sterling, with liberty to cut down, carry away, or otherwise dispose of the same. The purchasers accordingly cut down eighty acres, forty whereof were sold again and carried off. The remainder so cut being valued at 18l. and what was not yet felled at 72l. [footnote; Inquis. ap. Suthwerk d. Sabb. p. Circumc. 5 Edw.III]. For this felony, trespass, and waste, the said Roger being indicted, was taken and committed to Newgate, from which having broken out and escaped, his Maner of GUMSELE was taken and seised into the King’s hands 2 Dec. 6 Edw. III”.

This raises several questions: did Roger not hold full title to the woodland on his manor? Was it timber for building or fuel and how was it transported? Were agents of the Crown alert to the provenance of timber brought to London (if that was its destination)? Did Roger have enemies anxious to see him dispossessed?

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST POST:

Support for Local Societies within the Greater London area *Vanessa Bunton*

English Heritage and the Museum of London have a long term commitment to supporting community archaeology and local societies, and as a result of an informal letter survey in 2001 it was proposed that a Community Archaeologist be appointed to liaise and aid the local archaeological societies. This is initially a one-year post based at the Museum of London with funding provided by English Heritage, and the purpose is to support societies and work with them to become more actively involved in London archaeology. An anticipated outcome will be a lottery bid for future projects.

Having recently been appointed to the post, my first priority is to talk to local societies and their members to find out the sort of things they would like to be doing and how I can help them. I have met some of you in a brief introductory session that was generously provided for at the recent workshop held in Mitcham and look forward to meeting the rest soon. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

I look forward to working with members of the Surrey Archaeological Society to create a more positive framework for the future of archaeology throughout London.

Please feel free to contact me at: Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED; Tel: 020 7566 9310; Mobile: 078 11411447; Email: vbunton@museumoflondon.org.uk

Mother Ludlam’s Cave, Farnham

Audrey and David Graham

Mother Ludlam’s Cave (SU 8707 4575) is located to one side of the Moor Park Heritage trail, where it approaches Stella’s Cottage, more or less immediately across the river from Waverley Abbey, a few miles south east of Farnham. The cave, the largest of a small group of such features, was probably originally formed by a spring which emerges at this point from the side of a sandstone bluff formed by the river Wey. The cave itself is now approximately 3m high and extends at this level about 13m into the hillside, at which point the void narrows considerably, though it has been explored for a further length of 60m.

Moor Park House was owned by Sir William Temple and is associated with Jonathan Swift, the author of *Gulliver’s Travels*. It is shown in a late 17th century drawing as being set in a large formal garden and Mother Ludlam’s Cave is depicted as a grotto with paved flooring and seats, lying just to one side of the carriageway approach to the house (now the line of the public footpath/heritage trail). It therefore seems likely



Mother Ludlam's Cave in 1773

that an original narrow void cut by the spring was enlarged in the 17th century to form a grotto, as one of the features within the landscape around the house.

During the 19th century a carstone arch and supporting vault were inserted into the cave entrance and the entrance itself was closed by wrought iron gates. These gates were removed in the 1960s and since then the cave has become derelict and has suffered from a number of roof falls and a degree of vandalism. In order to make the cave safe and as part of the heritage trail initiative, Waverley Borough Council, in co-operation with the owners, has commissioned replacement gates which are due to be fitted later this year.

A small team from the Society was asked by Waverley to carry out a trial excavation of the cave entrance in advance of this installation work, to see whether any traces of the original grotto remained in place under the collapsed roof material. In the event the trenches showed that a well-laid brick floor, probably from a mid-19th century restoration, remains intact within the cave itself and that footings, that probably originally supported the old wrought iron gates, still remain in a partially intact line across the cave entrance. No trace of the external water features, shown in a late 17th century panorama, was found immediately outside the cave, though there are remains of a series of cascades still visible further down the hillslope.

The legend of Mother Ludlam has it that she was a white witch who lent expensive kitchen utensils – cauldrons and the like – to needy people, but only on condition that these were returned within a few days. Unfortunately on one occasion, several hundred years ago, a borrower failed to return an item within the stipulated time and Mother Ludlam has been in a huff ever since – certainly she did not appear during the course of the dig – to the disappointment of some and the relief of others.

A full report has been sent to the Council and a decision on further work is awaited.

A Letter about Beggars Bushes

Neil Howlett

Information is requested about sites known as Beggars Bush in Surrey. I know of two sites already.

One is in Beddington, at the south end of Mear-Bank and on the track between Duppas Hill and Foxley Hatch This is on the old parish boundary between Beddington and Croydon, and possibly at Park Farm, where skeletons were found in 1871 and 1875 (but which may now be a sewage works).

The other is in Puttenham, at the triangle at the top of the road from the village to the Hog's Back, and on the parish boundary with Wanborough.

Please contact me at 6, West End, Frome, Somerset BA11 3AD;
email webhowletts@lineone.net

ULTIMOGENITURE

Graham Dawson

We have all heard of primogeniture where the eldest son inherits all his father's property, but there is also the opposite where the youngest son does. I first came across this in a case in the court of Chancery involving the manor of Kennington (see PRO C1/876/21). Not surprisingly it also occurs in the manor of Lambeth (see Survey of London Vol XXVI (Lambeth Part 2) p168 *et al*) but I have also found it in the manor of Dulwich, which is a sub-manor of Camberwell (see Dulwich College deed 278 *et al*).

I should emphasise that this only applies to copyhold land; freehold in these manors descends by primogeniture. Also it does not seem to occur in the neighbouring manors of Paris Garden (Southwark), Walworth or Friern, another sub-manor of Camberwell; however, in none is there any explicit evidence for primogeniture either, and for Friern there is a suggestion of partible inheritance, as in Kent, since two sons are admitted to their father's copyhold.

This custom is known as Borough English, but this is misleading since it is rare in boroughs but is symptomatic of villein tenure (of which copyhold is a descendant) as here (see Vinogradoff, P, *Villeinage in England* p185).

I would be interested to know if any member has come across this custom anywhere else in Surrey (at 40 Station Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0SA)

Yet More about Heraldic Beasts: Wood or Stone?

Carole King

All accounts seem to agree that the Inner Gatehouse at Nonsuch Palace was built of stone to the first floor and then subsequently a timber frame construction was added with finely designed plaster and slate decorated panels, which would suggest that such a build would not be robust enough to support "king's beasts" weighing 90 kilos each.

Our only evidence for these creatures adorning Nonsuch Palace in the first instance is in the pictorial representations made by artists at the time, but who do not always produce the finished picture *in situ*.

However, representations of the king's beasts in contemporary paintings seem to show disparity. Dent points out that "Hoefnagel (1568), shows a mast and pennant at each corner above the level of the clock. Speed (1610), replaces the masts by king's beasts, and adds another tier of them round the bell-chamber. The Fitzwilliam picture (c 1620), probably painted about ten years after the publication of Speed's engraving, shows neither pennants nor beasts on the gatehouse." (Dent, 1962, 92).

From the Fitzwilliam painting regarding the west wall of the Inner Court, Dent concludes "The blue-slate pitched roof ran down to purely ornamental overhanging battlements; they were made of wood covered with lead, and supported by strong bars of iron which were also covered in lead. The battlements were surmounted by king's beasts with vanes. In 1624 John de Creete painted 91 "beasts" on the

battlements and Banqueting House, 83 of which had been cleaned and set upright by a carpenter in the previous year." (ibid, 99).

This last perhaps suggesting that they were not made of wood painted to resemble stone. Also the large numbers of them shows that Merton Priory was not their provenance.

Perhaps the weight of the stone king's beasts on the battlements caused so much wear and tear, necessitating the repairs for strengthening the timber work, and leading eventually to two turrets (one on the queen's side) having to be completely rebuilt around 1609.

Perhaps it was considered dangerous and expensive on turrets to maintain the king's beasts on the Inner Gatehouse, and that sometime after 1624 and John de Creete's painting, they were removed, which would mean that perhaps we can re-date the Fitzwilliam picture to post 1624.

Maybe we can conjecture also from the lack of stone king's beasts in the archaeological evidence from the excavation in 1959, that they had already been removed and dispersed around the mid-17th century.

Indeed, demolition of Nonsuch officially seems to have started in 1682 with the removal of statues, adornments and stuccoes. Even as early as 1667, the Earl of Berkeley had seen fit to remove and sell materials from the Banqueting House, hiding some of the spoils for his own use and, finally selling the Banqueting House. His right to remove the finer fittings for his house, Durdans in Epsom, ended in 1684. But Durdans' fate was sealed when fire engulfed it, and when it was rebuilt there was another fire some years later; this was a house Pepys had enjoyed visiting as a young boy – sometime in the early 1600's.

If, as according to John de Creete's painting, there had been approximately 91 beasts, all weighing about 90 kilos each, perhaps they have not all confined themselves to Durdans or its ruins. And as John Toland suggests in 1711, extolling the virtues of Epsom, "Even the houses of the very townsmen ... and therefore beautified by the owners to the utmost of their ability, to which the ruins of Nonsuch Palace have contributed not a little," (ibid, 227).

Perhaps a judicious search in old buildings, churchyards and old gardens of Epsom may reveal some sibling beasts?

And perhaps the two heraldic beasts found their way to Worcester Park in this way, having escaped the clutches of the Earl of Berkeley and the ill-fated Durdans.

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COURSES

WEA Adult Education Winter Programme 2002/3

The following courses may be of interest to SyAS members:

Guildford Institute, Ward Street

MAN'S REACTION TO THE LANDSCAPE (Part 1)

10 weekly meetings from 23rd September, 2-4pm

How past peoples 'saw' the landscape in which they lived, and how they reacted to it through ritual expression, power relationships, regional and settlement character

and historical and environmental change. Themes will include the effects of Roman and later divisions, the introduction of towns to the British landscape and the pattern of English villages.

MAN'S REACTION TO THE LANDSCAPE (Part 2)

10 weekly meetings from 7th January, 2-4pm

Medieval and post-medieval changes to Britain's landscape can still be seen today; we will consider the relationship between the landscape and military power, the Church, the needs and effects of towns and the contribution of aristocratic parks and chases.

Both of the above courses will be run by Judie English, and the fees for each is £40 full, and £32 concessionary. These are joint WEA/Surrey University courses, and each has 10 credits at Level 1.

Guildford Museum (Salters Annexe), 391/2, Castle Street

THE HISTORY OF GUILDFORD

20 weekly meetings from 24th September, 10am-noon

The town bears the imprint of more than a thousand years of occupation, and the course includes visits to several historical buildings in the town centre.

The tutor is Matthew Alexander, curator of the museum, and the fees are £80 full and £64 concessionary.

United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford

THE HISTORY OF THEATRE FROM ATHENS TO AYCKBOURN

20 weekly meetings from 24th September, 2-4pm

An expedition through the history of the theatre: the purpose, the places, the players and playwrights; Greece, Rome, medieval mysteries, Shakespeare, the Comedy of Manners and on to the 19th and 20th centuries. The course includes visits to two theatres.

The tutor is Margaret Heale, and the fees are £80 full and £64 concessionary.

For further information about the above courses contact the EWA Guildford branch secretary, Tel: 01483 829423.

LECTURE MEETINGS

2nd September

"AC Cars Ltd and its History" by *Dennis Davey* to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8.00 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

3rd September

"Juniper Hall and its inhabitants" by *Jan Murray* to the Dorking Local History Group at the Friends' Meeting House, Butter Hill, Dorking at 7.30 pm.

4th September

"Beacons, Semaphores and Radars – Naval Signalling through Surrey from the 16th Century to World War 2" by *Richard Muir* to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

10th September

AGM and Presidential Address to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 8.00 pm

17th September

"Elton Palace: revealing the 1030's" by *Michael Turner* to the West Surrey Branch of the Historical Association at the Friends; Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members £3.

20th September

"Surrey Castles in the Landscape" by *Derek Renn* to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8pm. Non-members £2.

24th September

"The Archaeology of Reigate Stone-Underground Quarries to Standing Buildings" by *Paul Sowan* to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, Lambeth North at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors £1.

26th September

"A History of Lighthouses" by *Alan Cordell*, to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm. Non-members £1.

1st October

"Tales of the Pilgrims' Way" by *Terence Patrick* to the Dorking Local History Group at the Friends' Meeting House, Butter Hill, Dorking at 7.30 pm.

2nd October

"The Surrey Estates of Merton College" by *Michael Stansfield*, Archivist of Merton College, Oxford, to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, at 7.45 for 8pm

7th October

"The Church in the Centre: A History of Christ Church, Woking" by *Peter Wichmann* to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8.00 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

6th October

"Dating Houses from their Fixtures and Fittings" by *Linda Hall* to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8.00 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

10th October

"The Looting of the Wanborough Hoard" by *Alan Bridgman* to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

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The Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society desires it to be known that it is not responsible for the statements or opinions expressed in the *Bulletin*.

Next Issue: Copy required by 6th September for the October issue.

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