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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

Tel/ Fax: 01483 532454

E-mail: info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Website: www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

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PENN TILE FROM WOKING CHURCH

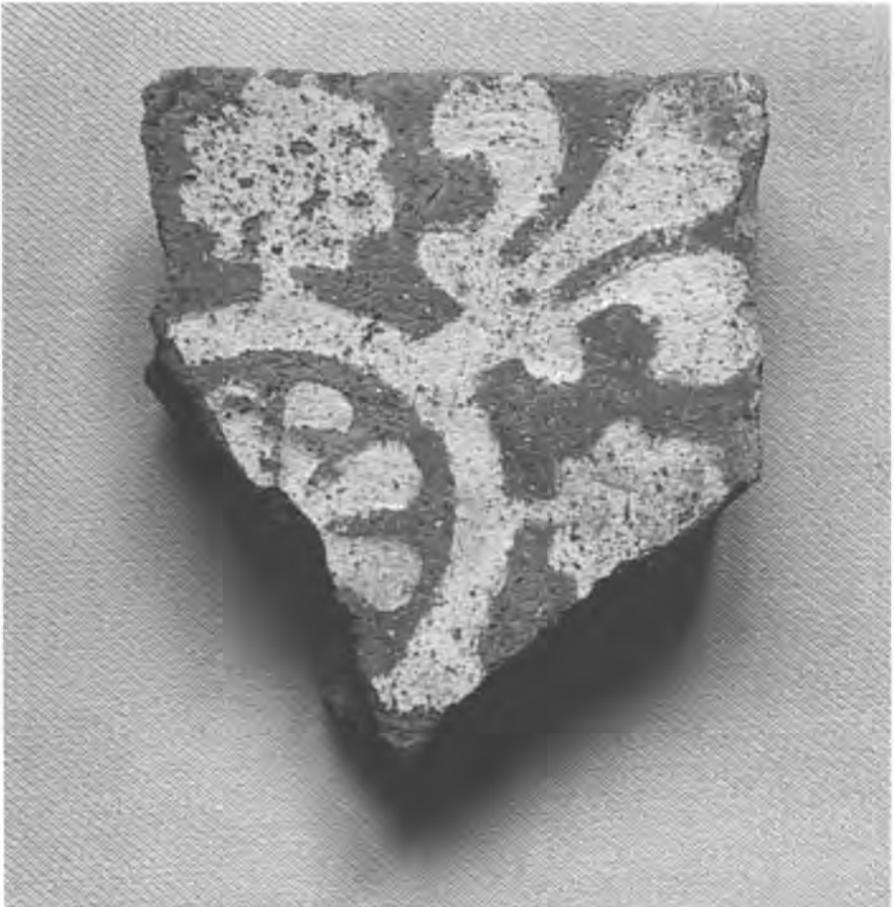
MEDIEVAL TILES IN OLD WOKING CHURCH

Philip Arnold

St Peter's, Old Woking is fortunate in having two tiles and some fragments that probably formed part of the floor that existed before the church was visited by its Victorian restorers. Although the tiles could have been removed before the 19th century, Edward Hassell's water colours of the interior of the church (nos 1128, 1133 and 1144 dated 1829/30) show the floor at that time made of flagstones as well as, what appear to be, square tiles, although no detail is shown. The tiles and fragments were discovered under the floor in the nave and it is fortunate that they were retained rather than thrown into a skip.

Most of the tiles and fragments are Penn tiles which, as the name implies, were made at Penn in Buckinghamshire. The period of production of these was between 1332 and 1390, and the tiles made before the Black Death in 1349 were slightly larger and better made than later examples, like those of St Peter's.

Elizabeth Eames (1980) says in respect of the period of production after the Black Death: "*During this time most of the churches in Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties and along the Thames Valley as far as London were paved with Penn tiles*". She also states that Penn tiles were bought by Royal Clerks of Works and were used in Windsor Castle. This is interesting in view of the close connection between St



Peter's and nearby Woking Palace, the latter as the manor house of the royal manor of Woking being in the gift of the reigning monarch. Penn tiles were probably used in other Surrey churches but there are no remaining tiles or fragments in St Peter's sister churches at Byfleet, Horsell or Pyrford. The blue and white Tile no 10 must have a different provenance from the other tiles insofar as it has a similar pattern to one of the Woking Palace fragments and possibly was acquired by the church after the palace was abandoned in the 1620s.

Laurence Keen (2002) only mentions Chertsey Abbey, Guildford 59 Quarry Street, Kennington Palace, Lagham Manor South Godstone, Merton Abbey, Oatlands Palace and Sheen Palace Richmond as Surrey sites with Penn tiles, so St Peter's Old Woking must be added to that list.

Details of the tiles and fragments in the St Peter's collection, eight of which are Penn tiles, are as follows:

Tiles 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 Penn 1350-1390. Probably Eames type 2342 (Hohler type P68) or possibly type 2337. There is a white border on 2337 (missed from Eames' published drawing), so both designs are very similar. In fact they could be the same design. The white border is not visible but is often missing where the stamp has not been pushed well enough into the clay before firing. The edges are also frequently removed when the tile is trimmed after the application of white slip, so the lack of any visible white border does not mean it is not either design 2342 or 2337.

Tile 1 (tile)	10.5 x 10.5cm and 2cm thick
Tile 4 (fragment)	7.2 x 8cm and 2cm thick
Tile 5 (fragment)	10.8 x 8.2cm and 2cm thick
Tile 7 (fragment)	10.9 x 6.1cm and 2.1cm thick
Tile 8 (tile)	11 x 10.7cm and 2cm thick

Tile 2 Penn 1350-1390 (fragment) 4.8 x 6cm and 2cm thick

Tile 3 Plain Penn tile 1350-1390 (fragment) 10.5 x 6cm and 2.3cm thick

Tile 6 Glazed Low Countries import 1480-1600 (fragment) 8 x 5cm x 2.1cm thick

Tile 9 Penn tile 1350-1390 (fragment) 6.2 x 6.8cm x 2cm thick. Eames type 2353, 2354, 2355 or something similar.

Eames, E, 1980, *Catalogue of Medieval Tiles*, British Museum Publications

Keen, L, 2002, *Windsor Castle and the Penn tile industry in Windsor: Medieval Archaeology, Art and Architecture of the Thames Valley*. Maney Publishing)

SURREY DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT SECOND PROGRESS REPORT

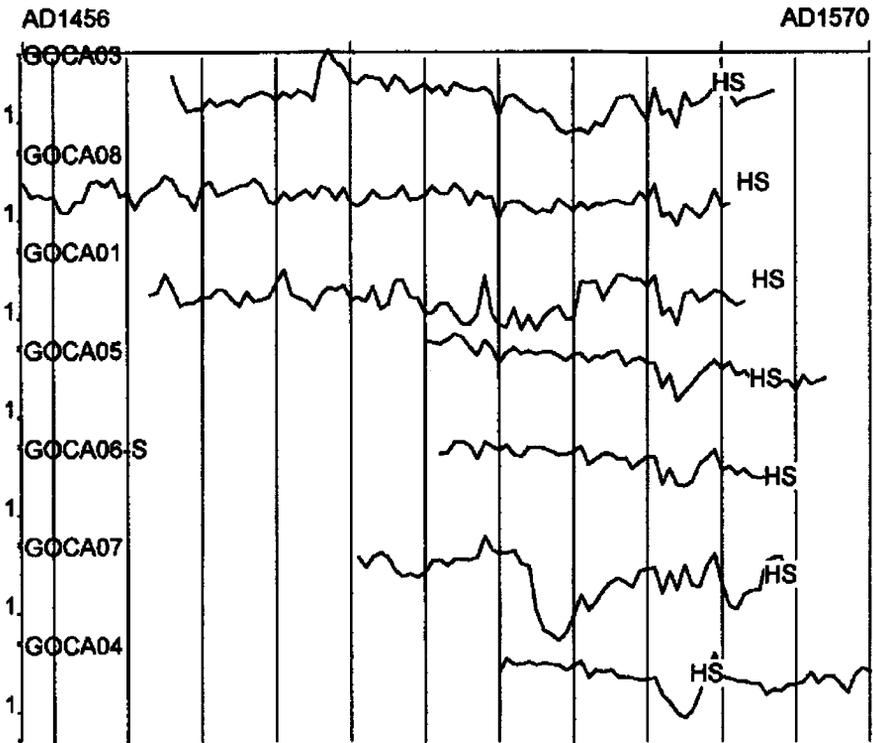
Rod Wild

Fine results continue to come in this project, which uses tree-rings to date timber-framed buildings. The project is working with clusters of buildings, to maximise the archaeological value of the findings, and to help with the dendrochronological matching. "South Mole Valley" was the first major area to be covered, with the results for 42 buildings outlined in *Bulletin 380* (January 2005).

'East Guildford Borough' (Cluster 2)

This is a loosely defined area running from West Horsley and the Clandons, over the Downs, to Shere, Albury and Gomshall. A few were included from Westcott, even though they are technically in Mole Valley.

In spite of a number of technical difficulties, a further nineteen buildings have been dated with the astonishing precision that is the hall-mark of the technique (see Table). Finding the oldest building is by no means the prime objective, but, in the event, ten dated back to the 15th century:



The ring width (mm) is plotted on a (y axis) logarithmic scale, using a common axis for all sequences. H/S = heartwood/sapwood boundary

Ash & Willow Cottages, Shere	1494
Rookery Nook, Shere	1485
Edmonds Farm Barn, Gomshall	1471
Old Rectory Barn, Albury	1469
Logmore Farm, Westcott	1464
Sumners, West Horsley	1449
Lower Hammonds Farm, West Horsley	1448
Edmonds Farm, Gomshall	1443
Church House, West Horsley	1434
Brook Farm, Westcott	1407

That Brook Farm should be the oldest was something of a surprise, if only because it is so little known, hidden away in a pretty valley running south from Westcott. But it does have a number of archaic features, including a roof without longitudinal bracing – only the cladding holds it in place. It is amazing that it should have been built before Agincourt and survived with very little change.

The early date for Church House, by the church in West Horsley, was also a surprise. It is an intriguing building. Originally intended to serve the church, it was built with a first floor meeting room and an arcaded ground floor like a market hall.

It is not just the older houses that are interesting. There are several with decorative framing, Malthouse Cottages in Gomshall being perhaps the best known, although Tunmore Cottage and Lamp Cottage in East Clandon are also very fine. All three

dated to within 10 years of each other (1581, 1572 and 1582 respectively). It looks as if this style was quite a brief fashion.

Then there are the so-called 'Wealden' houses. These are richly built, with wings at each end of an open hall, and a recessed front, originally with spectacular 'flying braces'. These are quite common in Kent and Sussex, but rare in Surrey. Two have now been dated; Ash & Willow Cottages and Rookery Nook, both in Shere. Again, the dates cluster quite closely together – 1494 and 1485 respectively. These are later dates than elsewhere, suggesting that the fashion took its time to travel into wild, central Surrey.

There are many other findings from the project being uncovered, including:

- Almost all the houses dated before 1500 have 'crown post' roofs, an ancient structure. The first house after 1500 is Meadow Cottage, Albury (1515). This has a later type of roof, but still had an open hall, and would have had a fire in the middle of the room.
- Grange Cottage, Albury (1544) is the earliest house with a chimney, albeit a timber-framed one
- Malthouse Cottages (1581) is the earliest house in this cluster built with a proper brick chimney.

'Godalming and the Greensand' (Project 3)

The project has now moved on to the west of the county, Godalming and the parishes immediately to its south and west. Data from eleven buildings are being processed. The first results are from four buildings in the centre of the town and are fascinating. They include:

- 1, **Church Street** (1571) has pride of place next to the "Pepper Pot" and is another example of the highly decorative Elizabethan style, with a pattern of circles in the framing. It is quite close in date to Malthouse Cottages, Gomshall (1581). Two other examples of this style have been dated: Jordans, Eashing (1575) and Great Tangley Manor (inscriptions 1582). It is intriguing that they should be so closely grouped in their dating.



No 1 Church Street, Godalming (1571)

3, Church Street (1557) is a classic, double-jettied town house, also next to the Pepper Pot. It is the earliest house that the project has confirmed to have a proper brick chimney. Furthermore, it has a number of carpentry features more usually associated with the 17th century. Some work in Hampshire (Roberts) has indicated that town buildings were in advance of their rural cousins. This dating indicates that the same could be true for Surrey.

Godalming Museum (1446) is, pleasingly, the oldest of this batch, and indeed it could well be the oldest building in Godalming (the church excepted). It is another Wealden-style house, although disguised by a more modern frontage. Inside, there is a fine crown-post roof, carefully exposed as it would have been originally.

The project continues to work in this area. A dozen buildings are “in the laboratory”, mostly from Thursley. A final group will be sampled in July, mostly from Milford and Witley.

The Future

The immediate funds are now consumed. The Heritage Lottery Fund has been wonderfully supportive and our own Society has been a major contributor. Assistance has come from the Domestic Buildings Research Group and The Farnham Trust, particularly welcome because it enabled a useful third cluster to be undertaken. Thanks are due to the increasingly large number of owners who are funding their participation in the project. Some of their houses are in the cluster areas; others are around Surrey generally, giving useful statistical “background”.

By the summer, we shall have detailed data, both dendrochronological and archaeological, on about 100 buildings. This has been achieved in barely more than a couple of years, and it is time to take stock. The emphasis will turn to analysis and reporting. There is a great deal to do.

That is not to say that further owner-funded contributions would not be welcome. The cost for a normal timber-framed building averages £320 and is capped at £400. Reports are produced and have been much praised. How our splendid dendrochronologist, Andy Moir of Tree-Ring Services, has held these prices for so long is a mystery – they are set to increase, so don’t hold back! Ring me for details on 01483-232767.

Sometime, probably next year, the project will resume full throttle. We will search for funds and once more call on our small army of willing helpers. The aim will be at least 200 buildings in total, and a comprehensive mapping for the County, the first such in Britain, or indeed any where else. We can hardly wait!

Buildings Dated by Dendrochronology in East Guildford Borough

The dates given are the felling dates for the timbers in the first phase of the building. Construction is likely to have followed soon afterwards.

Parish and Building

Timber Felling Dates

West Horsley

Lower Hammonds Farm – hall range
– parlour wing

Winter 1447/8

Winter 1456/7

The Soap House
Sumners

Winter 1596/7?

1447, winter 1448/9, spring/summer 1449

East Clandon

Boscawen Cottage
Lamp Cottage
Tunmore Cottage

Winter 1580/1

Winter 1580/1, winter 15881/2

Winter 1572/3

Albury

Grange Cottage
Meadow Cottage
Old Rectory Barn

Winter 1541/2, 1543, winter 1543/4

Winter 1514/5

Winter 1468/9

ShereAsh & Willow Cottages
Rookery NookWinter 1493/4
Spring/summer 1485**Gomshall**Edmonds Farm – hall range
– parlour wing
Edmonds Farm Upper Barn
4, Malthouse CottagesWinter 1472/3
Spring 1443
Winter 1469/70, winter 1470/71
Spring/summer 1581**Westcott**Brook Farm
Logmore Farm
Lower Springfield Farm
Stowe MariesSpring/summer 1406, winter 1406/7
Spring/summer 1464
1538, winter 1538/9
Winter 1571/2**Buildings Dated by Dendrochronology in Godalming Town****Godalming**1, Church Street
3, Church Street
57/59 High StreetWinter 1570/71
Winter 1556/7
Winter 1469/70, winter 1470/71**OLD ENGLISH LEAH,
AND SURREY'S ROUGH GRAZING COMMONS****Gavin Smith**

The Old English place-name element *leah* – as in Horley, Leigh, Witley, Wisley, Kenley, etc. – is the most frequent place-name element in Surrey parish names. *Leah* been understood to mean initially “woodland”, but to have undergone a “sense-development” over time towards a meaning “clearing” (Gover; Ekwall), and even “pasture, meadow” (Gelling & Cole). This is a rather odd shift of semantic. It is one reliant on a “topographical” interpretation of place-names, rather than as will be suggested here, historical agrarian economics.

More recently, Hooke has proposed a meaning “woodland pasture”. This would concur with Rackham’s view that “wood-pasture” and coppice are the two ancient forms of woodland management, present in England since the Neolithic, and with Vera’s discussion of woodland ecology. The apparent shift in meaning from woodland to open land thus reflects simply the impact of over-grazing in turning woodland towards heath or grassland. However, let me suggest that the true semantic of *leah* is rather “communal open grazing-land”, and that such a reinterpretation would be highly significant for Surrey, allowing as it might the possibility of mapping, through *leah*, the distribution of Surrey’s Dark Age’s common-land. Much of this common-land survives to this day as Surrey’s rough grazing commons. On these commons, now largely owned by the National Trust or Local Authorities, grazing has ceased – though in some cases is being revived for conservation reasons by amongst others the Surrey Wildlife Trust in partnership with the owners.

A parallel reinterpretation of a “topographical” place-name element to one under an agrarian economic paradigm might be dialect *hyrst* – as in Ewhurst, Crowhurst, Hurst Green, and many small woods in the Weald – said to mean “wood, wooded hill” (Gelling & Cole) but perhaps more likely to have meant “coppice-wood”. *Hyrst* would seem cognate with Welsh *prys* (Gelling & Cole) and Old English *hris*, both “brushwood”, while Richard Jefferies (p.68) seems (though I stand to be corrected here) to pair Sussex dialect “hurst” with “copse”.

But to return to *leah*. It is first recorded in England in the Weald, since the Weald itself is described as *Andredesleage* in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for AD 477, later *Andredes Weald*, AD 1018 (Ekwall), in which *leah* is coupled with the name of the

Roman fortress of Pevensey in Sussex (*Anderitu*). *Andredesleage* is assumed to be the name of a large part of the Wealden woods, over which by implication the people of *Anderitu* held jurisdiction.

In Surrey, *leah* is virtually omnipresent (Gover, 352). Its frequency is not surprising given the county's prevalence of woodland in the present but also in the past. The interim has been marked by deforestation, as witnessed by the First Edition of the *Ordnance Survey* (published for Surrey in 1816), through overgrazing predominated; today, many of our commons are reverting to woodland. One of the earliest documented names is *Aclea* in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for A.D. 851, the site of a victory against the Danes; the place variously has been postulated to be Ockley Common near the subsequent Anglo-Saxon fortress of Eashing in Surrey (Forster) and the Oakleys near Basingstoke in Hants (Coates). The name is of a type with that of the Surrey places Oakley Wood in Merstham (now under the M23), and Oakwoodhill on the Roman Stane Street – presumably, “the *leah* of oak-trees”. Some major *leah* names, now parishes (Wisley, Ockley, Bramley, Witley, Blechingley), appear in the Domesday Book, but Horsley is recorded from the 880's and Farleigh possibly likewise, and Frimley from 933 (Gover). Minor *leah* names appear as rather a frequent feature in the tenth century bounds of Farnham Hundred (Ockley, *Fingley*, Willey, and the expression ‘upp on leage’; Gover, pp. 165-6) and in the Middle English versions of the bounds of Chertsey, Egham and Chobham parishes (*boggesley*, *wihsanleghe*, *Hertly* – the last probably a parallel to an extant name Hartley in Coulsdon; Gover, pp. 106, 114, 119, 47). Apparently, by this stage *leah* referred to fairly small stretches of land.

But what does *leah* actually mean? Gelling & Cole note *leah* may have been confused with *laes*, and thus the dialect and archaic terms “leasow, leaze” (“pasture”), and with “lea” (stated as “fallow, untilled”); all of these seem likely to mean “pasture” (Ekwall, p.284; Clark Hall, p.209). Note specifically the parallels (drawn mostly from Surrey or the Bristol area) Shipley / Sheep Leas, Horsley / *Horselese*, Oxley / *Oxenlese*, Henley / Henleaze, Ockley / *Okelees*, Bramley / *Brome leace* (partly, Gover, p.362). Clark Hall for *leah* gives “piece of ground, lea, meadow”, but makes no reference to woodland. Pokorny defines *leah* as “meadow, open country”, though this can only be a secondary meaning in English, and originates it in an Indo-European root *leuk-*, said also to give us the in some cases archaic words light, leam (“gleam”), leye (“fire”) and ley (“land temporarily under grass”, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*) – opening the possibilities that *leah* might have originated as anything from “(grazed, open woodland with) gleams of light shining through” to “land cleared by fire”. Conceivably the Indo-European root of *leah* may have been Celtic rather than Anglo-Saxon.

Perhaps its true semantic is well illustrated by the names attached to Surrey's open spaces: Pewley *Down* and Purley *Downs* on the chalk, Mitchley *Wood* (in Sanderstead), Horley Common (now built over, but formerly a damp *marshy* area), and the great *heaths* of Headley Heath, and Hankley and the aforesaid Ockley Commons (Gover) – which all surely are “common pasture” rather than “woodland”. Indeed several Surrey parish names seem to indicate this: as in Horsley (“leah used for horse-grazing”; Ekwall says “pasture for horses”), Headley (“heath leah”), Cranleigh (“leah – presumably a marsh – frequented by cranes”), Wisley (“meadowland leah”), Bramley (“broom-covered leah”) and Farleigh (“bracken-covered leah”) (Gover). Heath, broom and bracken are ecological markers, on particular soils, of particular stages in grazing regimes – that is, reflective of the economically and historically defined factors of type of grazing animal, stocking levels, seasonal variations, burning practices, etc. Such indicators of grazing are in contrast to the “climax” dense woodland that would otherwise prevail.

Is leah, then, the native term for Surrey's archetypal grazing commons? That this may indeed be the case is strongly suggested by the situation in the Old Wey valley south of Godalming, where of a succession of leah names half are associated with small commons or village greens (Norley Common, Shamley Green, Birtley Green, Cranleigh with its common; *Ordnance Survey* 1:25,000); one might surmise that the other leah places here (Tangley, Bramley, Lea Farm, Rowly, Whitley Manor) have simply lost their commons. In fact Whitley retains one called Goose Green, Tangley may refer to Wonersh Common, while Bramley and Rowley refer respectively to "broom" (or conceivably "bramble") and "rough" – fair descriptions of a Surrey common. (The nineteenth-century novel by S. Baring-Gould, *Broom Squire*, describes west Surrey cottagers subsisting partly on the making of besoms cut from the broom on the heaths). For a further example of a place-name element indicative of a stage in a "grazing regime" note the "juniper" names associated with a reduced intensity of grazing on open chalk downland, as in places in Surrey called Juniper Hill and the like (see various editions of the *Ordnance Survey*). The transience of these intermediate ecosystems – vulnerable to further changes in grazing regime and the development of woodland – is illustrated by the increasing rarity in the twentieth century of juniper in Surrey (Lousley).

Blindley Heath in Godstone is now grassland, but presumably once was heath (*Blyndley Heathe* in 1559), but before that apparently woodland ("wood called *Lynlee*" in 1365; Gover); if its first-element is lind (*ibid.*) the place was originally a lime-wood. If leah is indeed a semi-technical term applied to "unenclosed communal pasture", then an adequate meaning of the *Chronicle's* *Andredesleage* is "the stock-browsing territory (associated with its focus the fort/port/city) of *Anderitu*".

A perspective of agrarian economic activity allows some leah names to be re-interpreted. Thus note Kinnersley near Reigate. Kinner(s)ley names recur in Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. There must be a suspicion (*pace* Gover and Ekwall), that rather than "Cyneward's" or "Cyneheard's leah" these are really "kine-warden's / kine-herd's – ie. cow-herder's – leah" (thus for the Reigate name, *Kinewardeslee*, 1255; see *cyna, heord, weard* in Clark Hall). The close-packed parallel tracks leading out of the Weald in east Surrey are a known reminder of the long era of cattle-droving in Surrey, which in the nineteenth century still brought Wealden cattle to fatten on the Thames marshes for the London market. Specific place-name evidence for cattle-droving may be afforded by Riverhead near Sevenoaks in a location equivalent to Kinnersley but just across the Kent border, and by the parish name Rotherhithe due north on the Surrey Thames by London – both apparently *hrother hyth*, "cattle trading-place" (Ekwall). Wealden-bred cattle would have been collected in the River Darent marshes by Sevenoaks and the equivalent Wealden-edge marshes by Reigate, including the River Mole flats by Kinnersley, before being driven north.

Kinnersley Manor to the south of the town may be compared with Colley Wood (*Colelie*, cAD 1180) in the northern part of Reigate. The latter must be equivalent to Colliers Wood in south London – "charcoal (-burners') *leah*" (Gover) – and evidences charcoal-production predating the record of the late medieval industry of the Croydon area by four centuries. Such place-names would seem to be describing the economic geography of the district. Charcoal normally is made from coppiced wood, *in situ* (and on coppicing see *hyrst*, above).

Other place-name elements arguably concerned with grazing practices include *denn* ("woodland pasture") typical of the Kentish and East Sussex Weald and just reaching east Surrey as in Puttenden, and *falod* ("animal fold") typical of the Weald of west Surrey and West Sussex as in Chiddingfold, Dunsfold, Alfold. Their semantics might be approached in a similar way to that of *leah*: thus Cowden as "cow pasture", or

Tenterden as probably “the pastureland of the people of Thanet” – which with its Romano-British first element appears a close parallel to *Andredesleage*.

By later medieval times, *leah* appears no longer to be being adopted or coined for even moderately major names like those of settlements. For minor names it seems also to have become extinct, or possibly conflated with or transmuted into *laes*. Instead, we find the apparently generalist term *wudu* (“wood”) as in Charlwood, Newdigate (perhaps, “At the gate into Ewood”; Gover), but also *feld* (“field”) for open grazing areas as at Limpsfield Common and the village greens at Lingfield. *Leah* as a universal feature of Surrey nomenclature may have died as the collective grazing management practices with which it may have been associated may locally have ceased, or at least failed to be newly created. A significant component of the shift from the use of *leah* to that of *wudu* (and indeed *feld*) may have been the enclosure – the early privatisation – of formerly communal grazing zones. While *leah* is rarely found combined with a personal name or title, *wudu* sometimes is, as in south-central Surrey at Kingswood, Earlswood and Petridgewood (if “Peda’s wood”), though these places largely remain as commons. Walliswood may be associated with the family of Cristina Waley in the fourteenth century, or that of William Waleys in the thirteenth century at Waley’s Farm (Gover), but since Wallis Gill and Wallace Brook (in Reigate) also appear in the area, these place- and surnames conceivably originate in *wealisc*, “the British” – potentially offering an interesting parallel to the “ceorls” of Charlwood, whose racial identity is unstated, and who may or may not have been the originators of Surrey’s communal grazing practices.

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WAS THERE EVER A ROMAN NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY

Graham Dawson

Until 1969 it was generally accepted that there were two Roman roads running to Southwark. One, usually called Watling Street, came from the Kent coast as far as St George’s Church; the other, usually called Stane Street, came up from the Sussex coast. It was believed that they met in the area of St George’s Church and proceeded to London Bridge as one road. In 1969 we found a road, rather unexpectedly, at Montagu Close, and at first I tried to fit this into the accepted model, but eventually realised that it was another road entirely, aligned south-westward towards Lambeth.

Since then, a length of this road from the area of St George’s Church to the area of London Bridge has been found at several sites on either side of Borough High Street, as has Watling Street, along Tabard Street and the Old Kent Road. Stane Street, however, has not been found on any site in Southwark. Its line seems to be indicated

by the line of the modern Kennington Park Road as far as the Elephant & Castle, but the line between there and St George's Church, and its putative junction with Watling Street, is completely unknown.

Negative evidence is always difficult to evaluate, and Roman roads can be very elusive, so it is not particularly safe to argue from negative evidence, though this has not stopped some suggesting that the Montague Close road was just a local road and did not go very far.¹ In 1998, a large site in the angle of great Dover Street and Borough High Street was excavated,² and no trace was found of the Roman road; this was, what I call, positive negative evidence, for it ruled out there having been a Roman road there. Thus, if there was a Roman road connecting Watling Street at St George's Church to Stane Street at the Elephant & Castle it would have to lie further west. A small excavation west of Borough High Street at 218-24 in 1979 only produced negative evidence; that is there were no Roman features at all so a road could not be ruled out.³ There have been several other excavations and watching briefs in this area, but none have found evidence for a Roman road, and if there was one it would probably have to have been exactly on the line of the modern Newington Causeway. This, rather than following a straight line from the Elephant & Castle to St George's Church, bends in a shallow curve west of this line.

However, we are not entirely dependent on finding the road in identifying its line. As is well known, burials were forbidden in built-up areas in Roman Britain and they therefore took place along roads leading to towns. Burials can, therefore, in the immediate vicinity of towns, be used as a proxy for the road itself. I have argued elsewhere⁴ that the cemetery recently found at America Street is good evidence for the continuation of the Montague Close road well south-west of the built-up area. Burials have another advantage over roads; they are more easily recognized, especially in building operations, so that their distribution should be more significant. So what light do they throw on this question?

The figure shows a distribution map of Roman burials drawn up in the 1930s by Mortimer Wheeler. This was long before proper archaeological excavations had been undertaken in Southwark, but, though the number of spots has been greatly increased in the interim, the basic distribution has not been fundamentally altered. The largest concentration of burials is still in the area alongside Watling Street; the other concentration seems to relate to the line of the Montagu Close road. Though this was only represented by one spot on Wheeler's map, it has now been greatly increased by the America Street cemetery and, perhaps, by the late Roman cemetery at 15-23 Southwark Street. What is noticeably lacking are any burials near Newington Causeway; the nearest ones, near Trinity Church, probably relate to Watling Street rather than to Newington Causeway, and this still holds good today.

This evidence, with the lack of any traces of the road itself, must raise the question as to whether any such road ever existed. It would seem strange for Stane Street to get so near to London Bridge without actually meeting it any many, no doubt, will find this hard to believe. There is a possible explanation for this, however. Clearly, there must have been some way of reaching the Southwark settlement and the bridge from Stane Street, so how would this have been possible if Stane Street did not continue north of the Elephant & Castle? Watling Street is aligned not on London Bridge but on the area of Stanegate in Lambeth opposite Westminster. I have argued⁵ that this was laid down in the invasion period, and that the road from this to the bridge was a later creation, running north-west from the area of the Bricklayers' Arms, or turning left to Lambeth and then reaching the bridge by the Montagu Close road.

This east-west road has, like the Newington Causeway section of Stane Street, been completely elusive, and it is too far from the settlement for the distribution of burials to be useful. However, it has long been suspected by archaeologists, mainly on the basis of the alignment of Watling Street. It does derive some small support from later

evidence⁶ but the argument propounded here would be greatly strengthened by finding it.

If this theory is correct, it has some important implications. It would greatly strengthen my argument about the development of the road pattern in the post-Roman period.⁷ It would also rule out the theory that the Roman invasion began on the Sussex coast and approached the London area from the south, not from the east via Kent. This would be quite impossible if the main road from Sussex ended at what must have been a pre-existing east-west road.

Unfortunately, this theory is either likely to be disproved, by someone finding evidence for the Newington Causeway section of Stane Street, or to remain a suggestion, since proving a negative is always the hardest thing to do, especially when it overturns an idea which has been taken for granted for generations.

- 1 SLAS News 93 March 2003, 4.
- 2 LA vol 9 supplement 1 1999, 24
- 3 LA vol 4 no 6 Spring 1982, 165.
- 4 SLAS News 93 March 2003, 4
- 5 SyAC vol LSS1 1977, 45
- 6 LA vol 9 Summer 2001, 263
- 7 SLAS News 83, September 2000, 5

From the September 2004 Newsletter (99) of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, with many thanks to the author and the editor.

REIGATE STONE AT MALDON, ESSEX

Paul W Sowan

The distribution of Reigate Stone in Roman, Saxon and medieval buildings reflects the difficulties and costs of its transport before the days of serviceable roads for wheeled traffic and heavy freight distribution. The principal east Surrey quarries for 'Reigate' Stone, in several parishes from Reigate to Godstone, sent most of their building stone northwards, towards the center of wealth. It was always an expensive material, and used in its parishes of origin primarily in churches and larger houses, appearing in more humble buildings only around, and after, the end of the 18th century, by which time London had found affordable supplies of better stone from elsewhere.

Although similar stone occurs elsewhere along the Upper Greensand outcrop, from Godstone as far as Dorset, it is not of quite the same character, it is further from London (where resided most of those who could afford it), and there are, in Wiltshire for example, better stones of Jurassic age as readily available. At Farnham, Selborne in Hampshire, Eastbourne in East Sussex and Ventnor on the Isle of Wight, stone has also been taken from the Upper Greensand for building purposes, but mostly for immediate local use.

Reigate Stone was always at a price disadvantage in London, as most competing material could be delivered direct by water, and thus much more cheaply, from quarries to market. Kentish Rag from around Maidstone, for example, could be delivered via the Medway and the Thames; and even Caen Stone from Normandy, shipped direct from the quarries on the banks of the Orne, was competitive in price. The underground medieval quarries at Chilmark, west of Salisbury, are comparable in having had no water transport option, but supplied the cathedral.

Once Reigate Stone had been hauled by horses or oxen the twenty miles or so overland to wharves at Kingston, Battersea or Vauxhall on the Thames, the additional cost of onward shipping by water was relatively modest, and thus we find quantities of it in principal medieval buildings up and down the Thames, and around the Essex and Kent coasts.

Maldon, about eight miles east of Chelmsford, stands on a low hill overlooking the head of the Blackwater estuary on the Essex coast, where the rivers Blackwater and Chelmer unite. The population in 1086, estimated from the Domesday Survey data, was of the order of 1200. An Abbey was founded nearby at Beeleigh in 1180, and in 1171 Maldon became the first Essex town to receive a charter. The town was, therefore, a place of importance and wealth in the Middle Ages and a significant port. It is hardly surprising, therefore, to find that Maldon imported considerable quantities of Reigate Stone, since substantial Purbeck Marble columns had passed the mouth of the Blackwater estuary en route to Durham for the cathedral, as also large amounts of Caen Stone for the cathedral at Norwich. The building materials employed at Beeleigh Abbey and All Saints church in the town are instructive.

Beeleigh Abbey (TL 839077)

A small part of the Abbey that remains standing includes the ground floor chapter-house, calefactory and an intermediate room now called a parlour, with a former dormitory area above. The calefactory and chapter-house are imposing rooms with vaulted chalk-block ceilings supported by Reigate Stone ribs and Purbeck Marble columns. Each room has three free-standing central columns, the capitals of which have been formed from blocks of Reigate Stone from one foot to three foot square on plan, and ten to twelve inches in depth. Sound blocks of Reigate Stone of this size are unusual, and considerable trouble and expense may well have been required to secure them, let alone the cost of dragging them from the quarries overland to the Thames, and then shipping them to Maldon. The remainder of the Reigate Stone visible in the vaulting ribs, and door and window dressings, is in smaller blocks of the size more commonly seen, dictated by most beds of good stone being no more than eight inches thick. Large pieces forming the arch of a large, and later, fireplace are most likely to have been formed by slabs, no more than eight inches thick, placed with their bedding planes vertical. The most likely origin of the chalk blocks is either north Kent or the opposite coast of Essex around Grays.

The main walls, as visible on the outside of the buildings, are formed of an unattractive iron-stained flint pebble conglomerate or 'puddingstone', somewhat resembling the cemented Blackheath Pebble Beds exposed at Croham Hurst, Croydon. The pebbles, however, are smaller, less regular and to some extent broken. If iron oxide-cemented, this material would be classed as a ferricrete. If, as at Croham Hurst, the iron is no more than staining and the cement is siliceous, it is a silcrete. It would be necessary to take a sample and boil it in hydrochloric acid to dissolve out all the iron compounds to see if they or silica hold the rock together. These rust brown irregular lumps would in the past have been rendered and thus hidden from view.

Whilst not normally open to the public, it is occasionally possible to arrange for guided group to visit Beeleigh Abbey.

Maldon All Saints Church (TL 849072)

This very striking church at the heart of the town is noted for its possibly unique three-cornered tower. Inside is a considerable length of decorative Reigate Stone arcading along the south wall of the south aisle. Such lavish use of this expensive material is not common outside the grandest cathedrals and royal palaces.

Origin of the Stone

It is not certainly known which of the east Surrey quarrying parishes supplied Maldon. Chaldon, Merstham, Gatton or Reigate could have been the source, but the Godstone quarries are not thought to date back earlier than the 17th century, despite their being on a Roman road which would have made transportation to the Thames very much easier.

LIBRARY NEWS

RECENT ACCESSIONS

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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GUILDFORD GROUP

RE-LAUNCHING THE GROUP

Mary Alexander

The Guildford Group was started in 1973 by members of an evening class in archaeology who wanted to continue their interest. It became a major force in Guildford archaeology and local history, carrying out several small but important excavations and some major local history research.

A generation later, the organisation of professional archaeology (and the increasing years of the founder members!) have meant a different role for the Group. We have decided to re-launch the Group as a way of bringing it to a wider audience. Guildford is the county town of Surrey and deserves to have an active society concentrating on the history and archaeology of the town. Museum staff are often asked by newcomers to the town if there is a history society they could join, so the new Guildford Group will be it.

The Museum will be closely involved with it, as part of our outreach work, and it will

still be a group of the SAS. Everyone is welcome to join, and its activities will complement the activities of the SAS and the Friends of Guildford Museum. Meetings will alternate between talks by guest speakers and 'home' meetings where members can discuss anything, in the old way. These meetings were a very happy feature of the old group, where members talked about their own research, asked questions and discussed anything and everything. Non-members can attend meetings for a small fee. The Group will be re-launched on Monday 12th September, though future meetings will be on a different day of the week. The venue will be announced later. The speaker for the launch meeting will be Judie English, talking about recent work in local landscape studies.

Please join us to re-vitalise an important local society!

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

Surrey Celebrates! VE Day and VJ Day Remembered 5th May to 20th August 2005

A small display and video in the foyer at Surrey History Centre.

There is also a 'Memories Box' for written contributions of memories of wartime Surrey.

The Work and Final Days of the Home Guard in Surrey Thursday 14th July 2005

A talk by **Paul Crook**, author of *Surrey Home Guard*, commencing 7.30pm
Tickets £2. There are a limited number of places so early booking is advised.
Tel: 01483 518737.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

SUMMER MEETING AT EWHURST Sunday 17th July

The meeting will be centred on Ewhurst Village Hall near the church, with parking on the opposite side of the road.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2 pm | Talk by Janet Balchin |
| 2.45 | Village walk |
| 3.45 | Return to Village Hall for tea and to view displays |
| 4.15 | Talk by Judie English |

Meeting to finish at 5pm.

Cost £3, to include tea and biscuits.

MISCELLANY

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK *David Bird*

As part of the proposed abandonment of the historic County Hall in Kingston, coupled with moving Surrey County Council's headquarters and many services to Woking, the County Council is undergoing considerable reorganisation. The heritage teams within the Planning and Countryside Service are part of this process and it is intended that they will be grouped together and based at the Surrey History Centre. Further details about this reorganisation will be provided when the final arrangements have been agreed.

One result of the reorganisation will be to release staff time that can be devoted to the creation of the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework. This has been under discussion for several years (*Bulletin* 308) and is one of the aims of Surrey's Heritage Strategy. The Historic Environment Group of that Strategy has a Research Framework sub-committee chaired by Jon Cotton, who will also be the Society's representative to the Steering Group for the SE Framework, to provide a strong link between the two frameworks. Considerable progress has been made towards a Surrey Framework through conferences and publications organised by the Society, in particular the conference in 2001, which was specifically intended to raise research questions (published as *Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey*, ed J. Cotton, G. Crocker, and A. Graham, 2004). Little other progress has been possible, except that the Roman Studies Group has been able to devote more time to discussion of the questions that could form part of the agenda section of the Framework. Recently the Society's Archaeological Research Committee has called for further more general input towards this part of the process (*Bulletin* 382). The complete Framework, however, will need to include resource assessment and strategy sections as well as the agenda.

The option for me to devote full-time work to the process will now make it possible to create this complete Framework by September 2006. Initial drafts will be prepared with the aid of relevant specialists and then widely circulated for comments and further contributions. The process will be largely period-based but attention will also need to be given to overall themes. It should be possible to carry out much of the work by the exchange of documents rather than by meetings, but where necessary seminars will be held. The research framework will be the subject of the Society's conference planned for October 2005, by which time it is intended that work will be in progress. The overall process will be facilitated by the Planning and Countryside Service of Surrey County Council, working closely with the Society.

It is important that the process of establishing research priorities for Surrey involves the entire archaeological community. The Society's groups and committees will have a key role; ARC, SIHG, the Historic Buildings Conservation Committee, the Prehistoric Study Group, the Roman Studies Group, the Village Studies Group, but so will other local groups, metal detecting clubs, museums, universities, SCAU and other units active in the county, as well as English Heritage and experts in adjoining areas. The eventual outcome will be a joint SAS/SCC publication, which will need to be updated, probably by annual supplements. Although it is intended that the Framework will serve as a basis for future work in the county, it is recognized that new discoveries and new ideas will mean that continuing revision will be necessary, and should be welcomed as a means of keeping the research culture alive.

IRON AGE ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEATHERHEAD

Jim Stevenson

Archaeology South-east have carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Hawkshill House, Leatherhead. This work, in advance of the residential development of the site, has revealed significant remains of Iron Age date. Twelve pits were found, ranging in size from 0.6m in diameter and 0.8m deep to a massive example 2.5m in diameter and over 2m deep. These pits, some having a distinctive 'beehive' shape, are thought to have been originally for the storage of grain, backfilled in antiquity when they went out of use. They are similar in form to other examples excavated earlier last century in the Hawkshill vicinity and are a known Iron Age phenomenon. Finds from these features include pottery, animal bone, loomweights and spindle whorls. Part of a ring gully, potentially an eaves drip gully for a roundhouse, was also identified. This possible building may have been as large as 10-12m in diameter. Interestingly, a pit was found adjacent to this ring gully that may have been for the production of daub, used to coat the wattle walls of the roundhouse. The upper levels

of this pit contained the skulls of pigs and sheep. It is tempting to think that they are the remains of a feast which took place after the completion of the building.

Millgate Homes funded the excavation and will fund the further, detailed, publication of the site.

Prepared for, and first published in, the May 2005 Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, with many thanks.

PUBLICATION

“GARDEN ARCHAEOLOGY: A HANDBOOK” by Chris Currie *CBA Practical Handbook 17*

The book looks at the methods used for this sub-discipline and traces the development of the genre with particular reference to the advances made in the last twenty years.

Chapters deal with the historical background to gardens and designed landscapes; excavation techniques in the era of development archaeology as well as in the research field; survey; historic buildings analysis; geophysics; air photography; and environmental sampling techniques. The last chapter brings together the most recent thinking on this vital aspect of garden archaeology in one place for the first time.

To conclude, the book gives a series of case studies including many of the most important recent projects undertaken in the UK.

Price £12.50 plus P & P.

Now available from Central Books, 99 Wallis Road, London E9 5LN. Tel: 0845 458 9910 or contact CBA Tel: 01904 671417.

For members not yet aware of the fact, I regret to inform you that Chris Currie, who was very recently engaged in various joint SyAS/ SCC landscape archaeology projects in Surrey, died in late May. On your behalf I extend commiserations to the family that survives him.

CONFERENCE

‘ASPECTS’ AND AFTER

SyAS Autumn Conference 2005 *Bourne Hall, Ewell, 10am- 5pm*

- 10am Registration and coffee
- 10.30 Welcome by the Chairman **Jon Cotton**
- 10.40 **Investigating Sussex Villas in Research and Training Frameworks**
David Rudling (University of Sussex).
- 11.50 **Past and Present Environmental Archaeological Research in Surrey:
Setting an Agenda for the Future**
Nick Branch and *Lucy Farr* (Royal Holloway College).
- 12.20 **Palaeolithic Surrey: Moving from Dots on Maps to Peopling the
Landscape** *Peter Harp* (Plateau Group of SyAS)
- 12.45 Lunch
- 2pm **The Surrey Dendrochronology Project** *Rod Wild*
- 2.25 **The Extractive Industries: Quarrying for an Agenda** *Paul Sowan*
- 2.50 **Agenda Case Study: Cobham** *David Taylor*
- 3.15 Tea
- 3.45 **Research and Development-led Archaeology**
Rob Poulton (Surrey County Archaeological Unit).

4.10 **Setting the Agenda: A Timetable for Action** *David Bird* (Surrey County Council).

4.30 Discussion and Summary

5pm Disperse

Fee: £12.50

Enquiries and booking form from the Membership Secretary at Castle Arch, Tel: 01483 532454.

GUIDED WALKS IN SOUTH LONDON

Lambeth Local History Forum

7th July **The Thames-Side Pleasures of the South Bank** *Tony Merrick* (Morley College). Fee: £7. Meet at South Bank Lion, Westminster Bridge at 6.45pm.

10th July **Streatham Village** *John Brown* (Streatham Society). Trails on sale. Meet at St Leonard's Church at 2.30pm.

10th July **Balham Town Centre** *John Rattrey* (Balham Society). Meet at Balham Station at 2.30pm.

20th July **Old Clapham** *Mary Coales* (Clapham Society). Meet at Clock Tower, Clapham Common Underground station at 6.30pm.

24th July **Crystal Palace to Beulah Spa** *Richard Lines and Ray Edds* (Norwood Society). Meet at Café St Germain, Crystal Palace Parade at 2.30pm.

31st July **East of Streatham Hill** *Judy Harris* (Streatham Society). Meet at Crown & Sceptre, PH, Streatham Hill/Streatham Place at 2.30pm.

LECTURE MEETINGS

6th July

"Guildford Castle" by Mary Alexander to Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

12th July

"The Collections of Kingston Museum" by Cheryl Smith to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

14th July

"Seventeenth Century Copper Coinage and the Introduction of Trade Tokens in Kingston" by Tim Everson to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the United Reformed Church Hall at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

21st July

"Gunpowder Mills" by Alan Crocker to the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust at the Archaeology Centre, London Road, Bagshot at 7,30 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 15th July for the August issue.

Editor: Phil Jones, 5, Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB. Tel: 01635 581182 and email: crockpot@ukonline.co.uk