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**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

Tel/ Fax: 01483 532454

E-mail: [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

Website: [www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

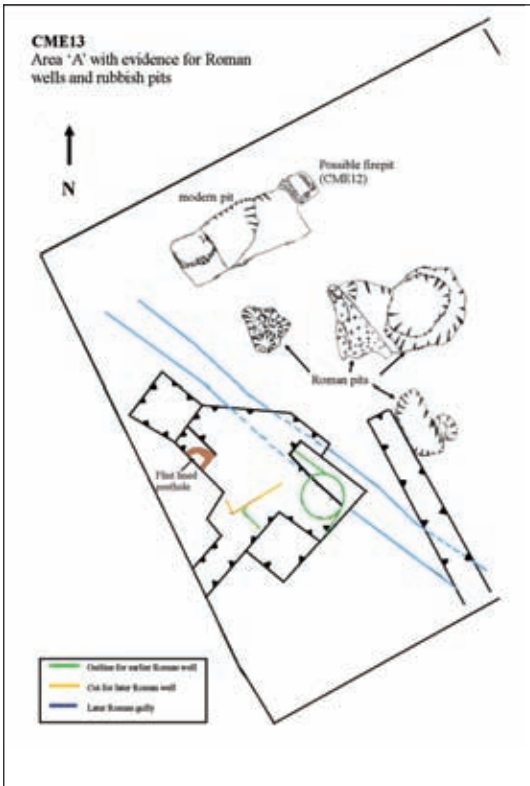
## Bulletin 442

December 2013



**Hot and thirsty work at Ewell**

*("Please Miss, can I have a glass of water")*



Plan of 2013 excavations.

A second season of rescue excavation took place from 3rd - 21st July. The site lies towards the north-eastern extent of the known Roman settlement in Ewell, and it was anticipated that evidence for Stane Street and settlement activity alongside would be uncovered. The unusually hot weather, with temperatures regularly up to 30° C, made for slow progress in the trench, and thanks must go to all 70 participants who soldiered on regardless.

The 30 x 10m 2012 trench was re-opened to further investigate a number of features, together with another 30m section of the consecrated strip (see Cowlard 2012). For practical purposes the trench was divided into ten 6m sections, notated alphabetically, with 'A' at the lower end of the field closest to Church Street and 'J' towards the Ewell by-pass at the north-east end. Several interesting features were uncovered but not all the archaeology conformed to expectations.

The steam plough damage identified in 2012 as having removed almost all features above Roman ground level, was found to continue up the field. This is in contrast to previous excavations in the adjacent churchyard where Roman above-ground features were recorded (Pemberton 1973; Pemberton forthcoming; Anon 1954, xxii). Evidence in Church Meadow indicates episodes of hill-wash, both before and after the deep ploughing. Whilst a disturbed stratum above the natural was recorded in Areas A-E, this was not evident in Areas F, G and H, which were found to be devoid of archaeology with fewer finds. If there was Roman activity in these areas it must have been surface-based as no features were found cut into the natural. Whilst steam ploughing had cut into the Roman ground level in Areas C-D by some 5-10cm (as shown by narrow strips of flint surviving between plough lines), in Areas H, I and J the ploughing had cut down well into the clean natural. Thus apparent surfaces in these areas are likely to be what remains of features/ foundations below Roman ground level.

The large pit in 'A' was re-opened and the section across it enlarged. It was noted that the fill varied on either side of the section, and further investigation showed that beneath a Roman rubbish pit were the remains of two Roman wells. The earlier well was roughly square in outline, 1.65 x 1.5m, with the shadow of a plank lining. A barrel, approximately 1m in diameter, was incorporated into its construction in its north-eastern corner, seen as a circular stain extending for a depth of 0.8m (through



the excavated silt). The later well, about 1.25m<sub>2</sub>, was sunk slightly to the west of the earlier well, overlapping it by about 20cm and aligned at an angle of 10-15°. This showed no signs of a plank lining, but a line of flints was found which may have been part of its lining/revetment. Associated with the wells was a well-constructed flint-lined posthole that may have supported a windlass.

A NNW-SSE gully identified in 2012 overlay the wells and therefore may represent a later property boundary once the latest of the two had gone out of use. A series of rubbish pits, both Roman and modern, were found in the well area. The previously uncovered flint/chalk areas in C and D, which are thought to represent the only Roman ground level remains of a chalk platform and flint surface to have survived the deep ploughing episode, were further investigated, clarified and recorded. From

the chalk spread and small lengths of edges, the chalk platform was identified as being about 2.5m NW to SE, by 6m NE to SW, in extent, constructed of unabraded chalk blocks and standing above the surrounding flint surfaces by about 10cm. This suggests it may represent a chalk floor within a building. The platform appeared to respect the recut gully (171) but was laid over the original ditch (172). The flint spread extends about 8m NE-SW and 4m NW-SE, has a good surface in places and also overlies the ditch (172) and borders the recut gully (171) to the NW, and a charcoal filled gully (174) to the SW.

The alignment of the NNE-SSW ditch (172) and its recut gully (171) first identified in 2012, was clarified. The shallow U-shaped ditch, up to 0.6m in depth, runs diagonally across the trench for approximately 20m and its mottled silty fill contained a small amount of Roman pottery. The recut to the SSE was cut after the original ditch had silted up as there is some wandering in its line and it was seen to have been cut through the ditch fill. The pit in Area D, which was found to be cut into the ditch in 2012, was re-examined. It was found to be a bowl shaped pit with an amphora sited in its NE quadrant and a series of mortar linings. To either side of the amphora (but not behind it) the bowl was lined with first chalk then flint. At the base was a layer of ash between the mortar and flint lining. Below these fills the cut became more vertical and in plan appeared square. It may be that the pits were a re-use of an earlier square feature such as a well or cistern, and this feature will be revisited in 2014 to confirm its earliest use.



During initial machining a linear flint feature aligned NNE-SSW was identified in Areas I-J. It corresponded to the anticipated line of Stane Street but excavation showed it to be lying on/within disturbed soil, having been turned over by the deep ploughing. A metre wide section was cut across the flint feature at a right angle, and beneath the plough soil in J was a steep-sided sub-circular pit about 1m in diameter. It was roughly half-sectioned and excavated to 1.4m. Augering suggested the fill extended a further 0.5m, and pottery and a mid 4th century Chi- Rho coin suggest a late Roman date for this feature. It has been mooted that this pit was a latrine, and environmental samples were taken for analysis. If the flint feature above it is road-related it suggests that the road at this point had already gone out of use by the late Roman period. Other features at this end of the trench included areas of pebbles, flint and chalk, and four postholes, including one double.



*Looking south-west, with outline of earlier Roman barrel well to left of arrow, and cut for later Roman well to its right.*

A 1m wide trench of the Ewell Churchyard excavation of 2000 (ECY00) was identified, crossing Area I. This had been laid out at right angles to the anticipated line of Stane Street to assess the concentration of Roman settlement activity, and in particular how the intensity and nature of such activity changed away from the eastern edge of the road (Orton 2000). Orton had identified an area of chalk, which related to similar findings this season. Adjacent to the pit a narrow gully was identified cut into the clay natural, on the same orientation as the disturbed linear flint feature; it may be that this is all that remains of the road structure. Whilst material evidence for the Roman road crossing the trench is slight, features to the west appear to relate to its proposed alignment. It is planned to re-open the northern 10m of the trench next season to fully elucidate any features that may have survived beneath the plough soil.

The excavation hosted the first of a two-day SyAS environmental course run by Becky Lambert. Surrey County Archaeological Unit kindly lent a flotation tank and sample buckets, and a grant from The Council for British Archaeology enabled us to hire a petrol pump to circulate the water, as running water was not available on site. The participants learnt how to take and process bulk soil samples from a number of the pits, gullies and wells and the resulting environmental evidence is currently being analysed.

A large amount of Roman pottery was found in the plough soil and in the subterranean features, together with bone and metal finds. As in 2012 the majority of the pottery was of Roman date, with a few possible prehistoric sherds. The range of pottery was wide, including fineware imports such as eggshell ware, terra nigra, *c ramique   l' ponge*, and samian. Post-Roman finds of any kind were rare but included two Charles I Rose farthings and a medieval long-cross penny. Over 200 Roman coins were retrieved with the help of metal detectorists Bill Meads and Mairi Sargent, together with metal and bone hairpins, brooches and an intaglio ring.

A number of visits to the site took place during the excavation as part of the project's commitment to community involvement. All 180 pupils from a local infant school visited, as did the Classics class from Ewell Castle School, and 75 children from Bourne Hall Museum Club took part in a day of excavation, finds washing and sieving on the spoil heaps (*see front cover*). A number of parents are hoping to join the project as volunteers next season. The Open Day held on 13th July, which welcomed more than 300 visitors, was held in conjunction with The CBA 'Festival of Archaeology' and the Ewell Village Fair. Since the excavation, a group meets weekly to catalogue the Roman pottery, and an exhibition was held in Ewell on 26th October to inform local residents, parishioners and the wider community about this season's excavation.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers involved in the project, and in particular: Emma Corke, Assistant Director, who supported the Site Director, and ran the trench and diggers - a considerable task; Frank Pemberton, Assistant (Finds) Director; Chris and Gay Harris who ran the finds tent; Lou Hays, Volunteer Co-ordinator, environmental sampling and site assistant; Colin Nutley who organised the 'pot washers'; Jenny



*The flint-lined posthole.*



*Becky's gang.*

Newell, site assistant; Michelle Cave, environmental sampling; trench supervisors Roger Brookman, Rose Hooker, Phil Stanley, Nick Moore and David Calow; assistant trench supervisors Laura Dodd, Meurig Thomas and David Hartley; metal detectorists Bill Meads and Mairi Sargent; and Becky Lambert (above) who ran the environmental course and advised on environmental sampling.

This project would not be viable without grants and loan of equipment from Surrey Archaeological Society and Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society, and CBA Challenge Funding. Thanks also to SCAU for environmental archaeology support. The Vicar of St. Marys Church, Russell Dewhurst has arranged the extension of the faculty enabling us to excavate on consecrated ground, has afforded us access to the site and given much practical support. Neighbours Jane and Rob Pedler gave us the use of Rectory Barn for storage and access for equipment, and generously provided us with a water supply.

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As part of the Ashtead Common Roman villa and tileworks project I have been gathering together as much information about the earlier work at the site as I can. This includes press cuttings, contemporary photographs, original notes and other handwritten scraps (often drafts of published reports), and notes or texts for lectures. (One of these talks, by Lowther's collaborator A R Cotton, will be given at the next spring symposium, with as best as can be judged the original illustrations – it seems to be a rare survival of an illustrated archaeological talk from the 1920s).

One of the curiosities among this information is that until 1959 there is apparently no published record of a Saxon knife and piece of pottery supposedly found on the site in 1926. It appears in a list of Saxon finds from the Leatherhead area as 'Saxon knife and piece of rim of Saxon pot with pierced lug, found in top level beneath soil on site of Roman bath-building on Ashtead Common, in 1926' (Lowther 1959a, 72). This may be the 'Saxon knife and piece of pottery from Ashtead. Presented by A W G Lowther' that appears in a list of accessions to Guildford Museum in our *Collections* (45, 1937, 166). Anne Lea has kindly checked the accessions register for me, which shows that the item was deposited in May 1937 as number 1076, again described as just 'from Ashtead'. At the same time Lowther deposited other material, from Ewell and Farnham. The bulk of the material from the Ashtead villa seems to have been deposited earlier in 1937, with the accession number 1049.

There is some confusion in the listing of the finds supposed to be from the Ashtead Common villa held in Guildford Museum; a list from the Museum's records kindly provided for me by Mary Alexander several years ago included:

AS 4404 'rim sherd of Saxon jar in coarse black fabric. 500-700' = formerly S6990  
 AS 7510 'Saxon knife, 400-600. 1924-9' = formerly 1076; S6989  
 AS 7511 'Saxon pot, 400-650. 1924-9' = formerly 1076; S6990.  
 Presumably 4404 and 7511 are duplicates even though there is no mention of 1076 in respect of the first; there was perhaps some confusion when the finds were given separate numbers. The recent dates given for 7510 and 7511 are those for the villa excavation and have probably been added recently. It has always seemed odd to me that Lowther did not make more of these Saxon finds. They are not mentioned in any of the reports on the excavations, or in his later discussion of the dating of the villa, published in 1959 in the paper immediately following the survey that is the only published record of the find (Lowther 1959b). Saxon finds from a Roman villa site, even one that had probably been abandoned in the middle of the Roman period, are always of interest (cf Poulton 1989, 93). I therefore find myself wondering if they did actually come from the villa or if Lowther was relying on a faulty memory. A few years before the 1959 finds survey, he wrote a series of notes on the history of Ashtead for the *Ashtead Resident*, reprinted in the Leatherhead Society's *Proceedings*. In the Roman section we find: 'Of the final phase of the Roman occupation and of its submergence in the fifth century, under the flood of the Saxon invasions, no material evidence has, as yet, been obtained from our area'. In the next note including the Saxon period no early finds are mentioned (Lowther 1950, 24; 1951).

The finds held in Guildford Museum (and now attributed to the villa excavations) were identified as Saxon when deposited in 1937. The 1959 note cannot therefore be a matter of them being put aside for further study until suddenly being identified much later on. In the case of some Roman vessels that puzzled Lowther this did happen, and when he had got as far as he could he published a note (Lowther 1933, 97-8). But whether or not the Saxon finds came from the villa or just 'Ashtead' (or indeed are two different discoveries), it is odd that they are not mentioned in Lowther's Ashtead history in 1950.

There is no easy explanation. Lowther's house on the outskirts of Ashtead was not far from the Goblin Works site where excavations for a water main uncovered skeletons in 1927 (Poulton 1989, 68). He is known to have thought these might be Saxon, a reasonable enough suggestion in its own right, but is it possible that he based this in part on the somewhat illicit recovery of a knife and piece of pottery? If so, could he have 'buried' the information about the findspot so successfully that he later became confused about it? There is a kind of parallel in the way that later on he dated the villa excavations to 1926-8 when they certainly began in 1925 and he did some digging on the bath-house in 1924, probably without formal permission. It may also be worth noting that in 1926, the given date for the find, most of the work of excavation was devoted to the villa and not the separate bath house (while the bath house attached to the villa had not yet been discovered). If Lowther in 1959 remembered the dig as starting in 1926 that might be explained, but it would still mean that in some way at this later date, when he was only 57, he erroneously convinced himself about the circumstances of the discovery of the Saxon finds as specifically from the top level of the bath-building. It does not seem likely to me that he would have deliberately invented the story.

I would therefore welcome any other ideas or extra information, as this is an important part of the villa story. I have not yet tried to check the objects themselves, but they will be included in the reassessment of all of Lowther's discoveries as part of the ongoing work to publish all that we can currently say about this very important site.

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## COUNCIL NEWS

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### NEW MEMBERS

*Emma Coburn*

Welcome to the following new members who have joined the Society. I have included principal interests, where they have been given on the membership application form. If you have any questions, queries or comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me on 01483 532454 or [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Mr A Carlow	Guildford	Roman History, Guildford Castle, Guildown
Dr F Dunstan	Pyrford, Woking	Woking Palace
Dr C Dunstan	Pyrford, Woking	Woking Palace



Miss R Ford  
Mr D Hall  
Mr J Kelly

Worth, Crawley  
Guildford  
Kingston

Romans  
Roman History; History of Guildford  
Archaeological Digs/Roman  
History and Language

Mrs J Lake

Worcester Park

## **LIBRARY**

*Rosemary Hughesden*

Visitors to the Library will be aware of disruption at the moment. Guildford Borough Council officers have discovered repairs are needed to parts of the structure at Castle Arch and the more work the builders do the more repairs they find are needed.

For this the builders need to access the chimney and we have had to move the library filing cabinets. This has disrupted our normal arrangements. Unfortunately, we do not know how long it will take to complete the repair work.

Museum storage is also affected. More material has been put into the basement which means access must be strictly staff only.

We do need more volunteers for the library, especially someone who would find it easy to drive between the storage at Abinger Hammer and Castle Arch. We need to transfer items between the store and Castle Arch, to rearrange some of the books there so that they are in one area and to help list the journal contents. Please let Hannah Jeffery know if this would be of interest to you.

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## **ROMAN STUDIES GROUP**

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### **HOW 'ROMAN' WAS ROMAN BRITAIN?**

***DAY CONFERENCE 2014***

***10th May, 9.30am - 5.15***

***Chertsey Halls, Chertsey***

The programme for the Group's major day conference is now available. Professor Michael Fulford will again chair the Conference and the topics and speakers will be:

**Britain before the Conquest** Professor Tim Champion

**On Being a Roman** Professor Martin Millet

**Large Towns and Town Life - Colchester** Philip Crummy

**Small Towns and Town Life** Paul Booth

**The Impact of Rome on the Countryside** Dr. Alex Smith

**Immigrants and Locals** Dr. Hella Eckardt

**Religions in Roman Britain** Professor Tony King

Tickets: £18 (£16 for members of RSG and £10 for students).

Further details and a booking form can be found on the Society's website under 'Events'. Alternatively, phone Edward Walker on 01428 682232.

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## SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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### QUARTER SESSION AND ASSIZE RECORDS WORKSHOP

*Saturday 25th January 2014*

*Surrey History Centre, Woking, 1.30pm to 4pm.*

The Tudors transformed Justices of the Peace from simple law enforcers to key administrators of local government. Together with the Assize records the documents reveal a wealth of local information from murder, theft and rape to bridge repairs and religious reform.

This half day course will focus on the 16th to 18th centuries, and Dr. Catherine Ferguson will explain how the legal system worked, and then explore how we can use the documents to cast light on local history.

Cost: £5 payable on the day.

If you would like to attend please register with Phil Stevens, 22 The Avenue, Camberley. GU15 3NE, email - philstevens@ntlworld.com

### EDUCATION IN SURREY

#### SLHC Annual Symposium

*The Peace Hall Ashted.*

*Saturday 5th April 2014*

Catherine Fergusson will open the meeting with a talk on **Education in the early modern period**. In the afternoon we have two speakers giving two different views of the education of the poor in the 19th century: Dr Lois Loudon will speak about **The role of the National Society in promoting church schools**, while Terry Ransome will tell us about **The work of the non-denominational British and Foreign Schools Society**. The question of **Education for girls and women** will be addressed by Dr Stephanie Spencer, and special educational needs will be covered by Anne Lea who will talk about the pioneering **educational work of the Royal Earlswood Hospital**.

Local history societies will put on displays related to the theme in their areas.

Full programme in the next Bulletin.

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## WOKING HISTORY CENTRE

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### APPOINTMENT OF HERITAGE SERVICE MANAGER

The Cultural Services department at Surrey County Council are pleased to advise that Barrie Higham has been offered, and accepted, the post of Service Manager for SCC Heritage. The permanent full time appointment will take effect from 1st January 2014.

Barrie has done an excellent job in the joint interim Service Manager arrangement over the last 10 months, and has accumulated a wealth of knowledge from over a decade of Heritage experience. He has specialised skills in the management of historic buildings, museum collections and education and outreach teams.

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## MISCELLANY

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### FINDING KING RICHARD III: the Grey Friars Project

*The Menuhin Hall, The Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon  
Friday 28th February 2014, at 2pm*

A University of the Third Age Prestige Lecture will be given by Dr Turi King, (Lecturer in Genetics and Archaeology at the University of Leicester), on the biological analysis of the bones of Richard III discovered in the car park.

The lecture will cost £3, and applications and SAE should be sent to John Kennedy, 20 Greville Park Road, Ashtead KT21 2QT, surreyU3Astudyday@btinternet.com,

### A LATE ROMAN SITE IN ARTINGTON

*David Williams*

Over the last few years metal detecting by Richard Burnip in a limited area on top of the sand ridge in the Artington area, has yielded a total of 49 Roman coins. These coins all date to the 4th century and presently comprise:

House of Constantine	IOVI CONSERVATORI	307-318	1
	GLORIA EXERCITVS	330-340	2
	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	330-335	2
	VICTORIAE DD AVGG QNN	347-348	1
Constans	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	348-350	3
	VICTORIAE DD AVGG QNN	343-348	1
Magnentius	FELICITAS REIPVBLICAE	350-353	2
	VICTORIAE DD AVGG QNN	350-353	3
Constantius Gallus	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	353-354	1
Constantius II	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	354-361	1
	FEL TEMP REPARATIO	364-378	1
	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	364-378	3
Valentinian I	GLORIA ROMANORVM	364-378	3
	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	364-378	3
Valens	GLORIA ROMANORVM	364-378	4
	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	364-378	2
Gratian	GLORIA ROMANORVM	367-375	1
	Vota in Wreath	378-383	1
	GLORIA ROMANORVM	364-378	5
	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE	364-378	5

To put this group into context, the sum total of Roman coins recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme from Artington parish is 65, of which only two are of 1st or 2nd century date and none is of the prolific issue of radiates of c270-295. The present group therefore stands out by virtue of its size and by its limited date range, which is of the order of cAD 330-380.

To check on the possibility that this group represented a scattered hoard a survey of the general area was carried out in 2010 by John Cole with a metal detector capable of deeper penetration, but no deeper coin group was found. In 2012 Mr Burnip recovered a few sherds of Roman pottery from the edge of the track which crosses this ridge, and this may suggest that the coins represent some form of settlement.



Sam Moorhead (National Finds Adviser, Portable Antiquities Scheme, British Museum) writes:

'This group of coins has a preponderance of Valentinianic coins from the period AD 364-78 (65.3%). If these coins are not from a hoard, this is significant. High proportions of Valentinianic coins are found on rural sites in Hampshire, Wiltshire and parts of Dorset, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. However, they are much rarer in Sussex, Surrey and much of Kent. The presence of a large proportion of Valentinianic coins might be associated with the presence of, or activity surrounding, officials and soldiers working for the *Annona Militaris*. This was the 'tax-in-kind' levied on the province in the late Roman period to feed the Roman army on the Rhine.'

As well as the coins, two joining fragments of a buckle of Hawkes and Dunning's Type IIB (SUR-322AD4) were recovered on separate occasions from within the coin spread. Buckles of this form are rarely reported from Surrey and are usually thought to be associated with the late Roman military, perhaps cAD 340-410.



*Roman military-type buckle from Artington. Scale in cm.*

## A PROBABLE PREHISTORIC FIELD SYSTEM AT WILLEY FARM, CHALDON

*Judie English*



Transcription of aerial photographs by Simon Crutchley (English Heritage) led Mike Russell (2002) to suggest the presence of a prehistoric field system at land on Willey Farm, Chaldon, and that it might be associated with the nearby hillfort known as either War Coppice or Cardinal's Cap. A visit to the area showed that some of the field boundaries appeared as above ground earthworks and it was decided that an analytical survey would be undertaken by members of the Prehistoric Group. The project is far

from finished and the aim of this note is to report progress to date.

Several of the fields have been extensively ploughed and the remains are slight but one field, presently under the management of Surrey Wildlife Trust, seems to have been used for grazing and some of the lynchets still stand over 1m high – a most unusual finding in Surrey.

The results from that field are shown and reveal a series of enclosures 'looped' onto each other and with 'playing card' corners. There is no evidence for the date of construction of this field system but the morphology is similar to examples which, using phasing or relative chronology, can be tentatively placed within a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age context. At Stockbridge Down (Hants) the sides of a series of 'looped' fields are overlain by a 'Wessex' Linear Ditch and both features are cut by the outer ditch of Woolbury Rings (Cunliffe & Poole 2000). This type of boundary complex is usually dated to the Late Bronze Age (Bradley *et al* 1994) and the hillfort is somewhat insecurely dated to the Early or Middle Iron Age (Cunliffe & Poole 2000). A number of similar field systems occur on the South Downs including examples on Thundersbarrow Hill, on Plumpton Plain and on Tenantry Ground, Willingdon and again, a Late Bronze Age genesis is likely (English forthcoming).

These fields are clearly formed sequentially but whether over a period of days or decades is uncertain; in all the cases studied the series starts upslope and individual fields were added downhill. The fields may have originally had squared corners, but ploughing round, rather than into, those corners resulted in soil spilling over each side and masking the square shape. Whether intentional or not, the successive field boundaries would 'catch' erosion products thus retaining some relatively fertile and water retaining soil above the porous chalk bedrock.

The contour lynchets seen to the south, on a steeper portion of the scarp slope of the downs, may well be high medieval in date, but one of a similar series in the Mole Gap was overlain by a Late Bronze Age hoard (Williams 2008) and an earlier genesis is possible.

The paucity of prehistoric field systems on the North, relative to the South Downs mirrors that of barrows (Field 1998), remains unexplained. On the South Downs it is difficult to find unenclosed land other than on the scarp, whilst on the North Downs in Surrey the few examples include Fetcham Mickleham and Farthing Downs. Of these

the fragment at Chaldon remains the best preserved and it is hoped that inclusion within the nature reserve at Quarry Hangers will afford it some protection.

Those undertaking the survey include Rose Hooker, Pauline Hulse, John Jennings, Jen Newell, Ken Waters and we are grateful to Nickie Blatch of Willey Farm and Geoff Hewlet of the Surrey Wildlife Trust for permission to work on land under their control.

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## ANOTHER SEAL MATRIX FROM COBHAM

*David Taylor*

People in medieval Cobham seem to have been notoriously lax in caring for items of personal value. Following the discovery of a fine medieval seal matrix from Stone Priory in Cobham in 2011 (Bull **430** and **431**) another matrix has recently been discovered.

Although not as fine as the monastic item, it is nevertheless of great interest as it bears the name of a local person – William of Coveham. The matrix is considerably smaller than that from Stone. It is pointed oval in shape and measures just 34 x 21.5mm.

The matrix was found by our member Tony Burke, who also found the Stone Priory matrix. In September 2008 Tony and his wife, Veronica, also found a 17th century gold mourning ring, relating to a local knight, close to the site of this new discovery. The new find was not far from Downside Farm and in an area that was occupied by





several small farmsteads in the medieval period. Downside Farm stands of the site of Down Place, a place of some importance in the medieval period. It was once home to William de la Dune, Keeper of the Hanaper in the reign of Edward I. The hanaper was the basket in which the Great Seal was kept and it seems likely that the king made several visits to Down Place during his royal progresses.

*Coveham* is the early spelling for Cobham thereby confirming that the item came from Surrey and not Cobham, Kent. The de Coveham name is not particularly well represented in the names of Cobham's medieval population that can be gleaned from taxation documents and the Chertsey cartulary. However there is a William de Coveham named in the Surrey Eyre of 1255 as one of the two administrators and commissioners.

David Williams suggests this matrix is of 13th or early 14th century date and so it seems quite likely that the matrix from Downside once belonged to William de Coveham, the Eyre administrator and commissioner or a member of his family.

This is the first known example of a local personal seal matrix to be discovered in Cobham and the fact that it carried the old place name makes it of particular local interest. In addition to the inscription S' WILLI DE COVEH'(M) the matrix carries the symbol of a lamb with a flag – the Agnus Dei, which is not an uncommon device for this period. The seal matrix (database number SUR-7B3601) is currently in my possession.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### **A Mesolithic 'persistent place' at North Park Farm, Bletchingley, Surrey**

*by Phil Jones*

SpoilHeap Monograph 8, 122 pages, 93 illustrations, £20 + £3 p&p

This volume reports on a near-continuous mantle of struck Mesolithic flints, extending over more than a hectare, found at the North Park Farm quarry in Bletchingley, Surrey. Selective excavation demonstrated that they were the debris from repeated visits, and it can be estimated that in excess of a million struck flints were present, with at least 17,000 microliths. The locations of up to twelve formal hearths were identified, with a few retaining some of their original hearthstones, and two providing reasonably secure radiocarbon dates. A 'fire pit' was the only such feature, but the multiple series of later Mesolithic dates from its burnt fills, and its primary purpose, proved enigmatic. Mesolithic activity was found to have spanned the entire period. The early period was better represented towards the western end of the valley, and discrete activities, such as axe/adze preparation and the manufacture of microliths, could be identified at other localities along its flanks. More commonly, multiple visits and subsequent movement made it impossible to distinguish the unique assemblages of discrete events. Despite this, the work has demonstrated that the valley, and its immediate hinterland, was one of five 'persistent places' within Surrey that were chosen at similar watershed positions that commanded at least two river systems.

Please visit the SpoilHeap Publications web page for details of how to order the book online from the Surrey Heritage Shop, or directly from the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU), via the following link: [bit.ly/SpoilHeap](http://bit.ly/SpoilHeap)



A MESOLITHIC 'PERSISTENT PLACE' AT  
NORTH PARK FARM, BLETCHINGLEY, SURREY

Phil Jones

## **ELEPHANT & CASTLE A History**

*by Stephen Humphrey*

Published August 2013 Amberley Publishing. 128 pages 51 images. ISBN 978-1-84868-780-6 Price £14.99. Enquiries to Nicki Giles on 01453 847813 or n.giles@amberley-books.com

Originally called Newington, Elephant & Castle in the Borough of Southwark is named after a public house in that area. However the origins of the name Elephant and Castle stretch far beyond the pub, with connections across the globe. The area possessed an extraordinary range of landmarks and attractions from around 1850 to 1940, which are all discussed in detail. The area is now subject to redevelopment ; in this in-depth account of the history of the Elephant and Castle, Stephen Humphrey brings to light considerable new material and several valuable finds about the area.

## **COBHAM FROM OLD PHOTOGRAPHS**

*by Peter F. Cornell*

Published 2013 Amberley Publishing

Books of old photographs of a particular locality are always popular within the locality of the area they cover. This book of old photographs is part of the Amberley Publishing series. It is very much a personal approach to Cobham as the compiler, who lived in Cobham for the first forty years of his life, has drawn upon a large selection of family linked views and portraits that have not been seen in print before. From that point of view it has much of interest, especially the portraits of the compiler's ancestors, and former Cobham residents, such as James Bridgen, who ran a general stores in Cobham, and the West family who owned a number of properties in Cobham in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Hugh West was a well-known local photographer with a studio in Anyards Road and we can only regret that not more of his portfolio has survived. Members of his family were some of the first to own motor cars in Cobham and those with a particular interest in old automobiles will find some fascinating photographs in the book. However, I would question the inclusion of some of the more recent coloured photographs of parts of Cobham which do not really complement the text and whose quality is not the best.

Although lacking the more general coverage of a locality that is usually associated with this type of book, and the fact that a number of the old views of Cobham used have already been used elsewhere, I am sure that it will sell well and be a popular "stocking filler" in many local homes this Christmas, especially for older residents who will have memories jogged by some of the more recent views of Cobham and people who have lived there.

*David Taylor*

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## **LECTURE MEETINGS**

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### **1st January**

"Prehistory in Malta" by Richard Watson to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome £4.



#### **4th January**

“London’s other city – Westminster” by Pete Smith to Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3pm.

#### **7th January**

“Air travel in the 1930’s” by John Wettern to the Dorking Local History Group at the Follett Hall, United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS at 7.30p.m. Visitors welcome £2.

#### **8th January**

Open evening: short talks by members to Addlestone Historical Society in Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road at 8pm. Visitors welcome £2.

#### **10th January**

“Recent excavations” by Bob Cowie to Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

#### **11th January**

“Iron Age to Jet Age: the story of Heathrow” by Nick Pollard to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at the Library Lecture Hall, Weybridge at 3pm.

#### **13 January**

“More Discoveries at Flexford” An update by David Calow on this fascinating site to the Guildford Group at Guildford United Reformed Church (side entrance), 83 Portsmouth Road, GU2 4BS at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £3.

#### **13th January**

“Sir Joshua Reynolds and his house on Richmond Hill” by Catherine Parry-Wingfield to Richmond Local History Society in the Duke Street Baptist Church, Duke Street, Richmond at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome £2.

#### **14th January**

“A forgotten treasure of Walworth – The Royal Surrey Zoological Gardens” by Stephen Hunphrey to Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at the Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut (almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors welcome, £1.

#### **14th January**

“The East India Company” by Janet Bateson to Westcott Local History Group in the Westcott Reading Room, Institute Road at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome £1.

#### **15th January**

“Some recent archaeological finds” by David Williams to Holmesdale Natural History Club in The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate at 8pm.

### **17th January**

“Surrey History, 1760-1832 ; The Manning and Bray Bicentenary” by Julian Pooley to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8pm. Admission £2. Visitors welcome.

### **18th January**

“Recent researches” Short talks by members to Merton Historical Society in Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood at 2.30pm. Visitors welcome, £2.

### **21st January**

“Turner and the Thames Valley” by Catherine Parry-Wingfield to Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors welcome, £2.

### **21st January**

A selection of short films resented by Terence Patrick to Send & Ripley History Society in Ripley Village Hall at 8pm.

### **30th January**

“Farnham Potteries” by David Graham to Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

### **30th January**

“History of Thorpe in railway era” by Jill Williams to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm.

### **31st January**

4th Nick Fuentes Memorial Lecture: an archaeological talk to Wandsworth Historical Society at The Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Wandsworth Town Hall) at 8pm. Visitors welcome.

### **1st February**

“Treasures of the Thames” Elliott Wragg to Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3pm.

### **3rd February**

“Guildford Cathedral” by Janet Matthews to Woking History Society at the Holiday Inn, Victoria Way, Woking at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome, £3.

### **4th February**

“The Civil War in Surrey” by Laurence Spring to the Dorking Local History Group at the Follett Hall, United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS at 7.30p.m. Visitors welcome £2.

## 5th February

“From manor house to medicine” by Emma Warren to Addlestone Historical Society in Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road at 8pm. Visitors welcome, £2.

## DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS

There will be six issues of the *Bulletin* in 2014. To assist contributors relevant dates are as follows:

	<b>Copy date:</b>	<b>Approx. delivery:</b>
<b>443</b>	<b>3rd January</b>	<b>3rd February</b>
<b>444</b>	<b>28th February</b>	<b>31st March</b>
<b>445</b>	<b>2nd May</b>	<b>2nd June</b>
<b>446</b>	<b>4th July</b>	<b>4th August</b>
<b>447</b>	<b>19th September</b>	<b>20th October</b>
<b>448</b>	<b>14th November</b>	<b>15th December</b>

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**Next issue:** Copy required by 3rd January for the February 2014 issue.

**Editor:** Phil Jones, 5, Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB. Tel: 01635 581182 and email: [crockpot.jones8@gmail.com](mailto:crockpot.jones8@gmail.com)