

## Where can I discover more?

Perhaps the most visually impressive prehistoric remains in the Surrey landscape today – and certainly most prominent earthworks – are the massive ramparts of the hillforts which dominate the landscape. A particularly important and strategic line runs along the scarp of the Greensand – including Hascombe and Holmbury – with extensive views south



over the Weald, though other, smaller earthworks are dotted elsewhere around the county.

*Hillbury, Puttenham (top) and Caesar's Camp, Aldershot (left)*



“Promoting the study of archaeology and antiquities...and any other matters or things relating to the pre-history and history of the County.”

*- Articles of Association  
Surrey Archaeological Society*

### Some learning sources on Iron Age Surrey

Bird, J and D G Bird (1987) *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*

Cotton, J et al (2004) *Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey*

Hunt, R (2002) *Hidden Depths: an Archaeological Exploration of Surrey's Past*

### Other suggested resources

**Iron Age Coins in Britain** ([iacb.arch.ox.ac.uk](http://iacb.arch.ox.ac.uk))

University of Reading's **The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain: an online resource** ([archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/romangl/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/romangl/))

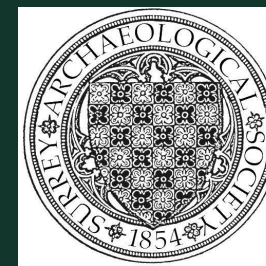
**Schools Prehistory & Archaeology** ([schoolsprehistory.co.uk](http://schoolsprehistory.co.uk))

**Ancient Craft Three Age Experience** ([ancientcraft.co.uk](http://ancientcraft.co.uk))

**Exploring Surrey's Past** ([exploringsurreyspast.org.uk](http://exploringsurreyspast.org.uk))

In addition to the Society's own handling collections and teaching resources, local loans boxes are available from many of the county's museums, as well as Surrey History Centre.

Prehistoric and Iron Age exhibits can be viewed at local museums including Chertsey, Guildford, Godalming, Farnham, Kingston and Woking, and several hillforts are well worth a visit, including impressive ones nearby at Cissbury Ring and Danebury, as well as the oppidum at Silchester.



# Iron Age Surrey



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Explore your local heritage and discover more about the origins of Surrey's earliest settlements

800 BC

c.1000-700BC Main phase of hillfort building begins (with many built in the Late Bronze Age)

c.800BC Iron working techniques reach Britain, being in common use until c.625 BC

EARLY IRON AGE

c.625-450BC Hallstatt D period, where southern British weaponry follows continental fashion (daggers replacing swords and bow brooches being used over ring-headed pins)

400 BC

c.450-325BC Early La Tène sees re-introduction of long swords and new art style

c.400-100BC Main period of hillfort building in the SE (some newly constructed and others modified)

c.300BC Good quality iron exchanged over considerable distance as standardized ingots

MIDDLE IRON AGE

c.200BC Gold and bronze smiths create highly skilled decorative objects (e.g. Battersea Shield and Waterloo Helmet)

c.150BC Coins developed amongst elite of southeast England

c.100BC Introduction of potter's wheel

c.100BC Iron bars begin to be used as tokens of wealth

100 BC

55-54BC Julius Caesar makes two expeditions to Britain as part of his Gaulish campaign

50BC Large 'oppida' settlements such as Silchester and Colchester begin to emerge

LATE IRON AGE

AD1 Southeast Britain controlled by powerful leaders with close contact with Roman Empire

AD43 Britain invaded by Emperor Claudius

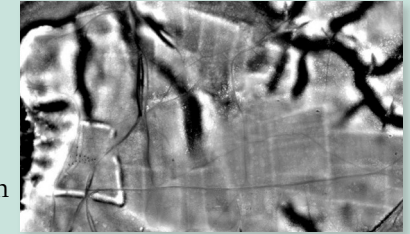
AD 43

## The Iron Age period c. 800 BC - AD 43

Though the study of late prehistory in Britain has commonly focused on the introduction of metallurgy, many important developments also took place, including changes in the agricultural landscape and technological advances. Just as the transition from the Late Bronze Age is often an unclear boundary, many aspects of Late Iron Age culture also remained largely unchanged into the Roman period, particularly in the countryside.

As more scientific techniques and advances are developed every day, local research can lead to new discoveries, without a single spade going into the ground. The application of LiDAR (**L**ight **D**etection and **R**anging) is a case in point, which uses lasers to create a topographic model of the landscape, allowing not only clarity of well-known earthworks – as at Hillbury, Puttenham – but more faint features, such as the adjacent field systems, to be detected.

*LiDAR imagery (1m Environment Agency data) of Hillbury hillfort, Puttenham*



Even more traditional studies such as numismatics – the study of currency – can provide insight into other aspects of society, when not looked at in isolation. In



addition to being useful dating tools when found in context, coins such as the Late Iron Age *potins* can tell much about tribal identity and settlement activity, making recording on databases such as the Portable Antiquities Scheme integral to distribution studies.

*A flat linear potin from Surrey*  
© Surrey County Council

**Tongham Nurseries**  
c. 100 BC

Evidence for all the buildings shown was found in the form of wall trenches, postholes and eaves-drip trenches. The buildings in the foreground were separately enclosed and might be the residence of a chief with the dwellings of his followers behind. The site is one of a group of this period established on level ground created next to the river Blackwater before that was reduced to a stream (which hence no longer floods the plain adjacent) when its headwaters were captured by the river Wey some 500,000 years ago. The viewpoint looks approximately south-west, with the Blackwater on the east side. (Drawing by Giles Pattison © Surrey County Archaeological Unit)

