

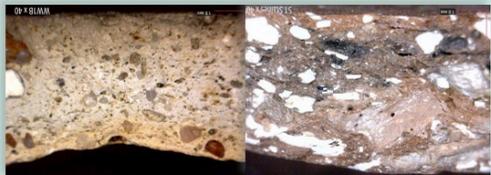
The buildings in the foreground belong to the royal palace that flourished from around 1150 to 1400. The walls of some (notably part of the king's chambers on the left) still survive, while others (such as the great hall, whose gable end is shown) are known only from foundations. In the background (right) is the motte, surmounted by the 12th century stone keep, where the castle was first established soon after the Norman conquest. (Drawing by Giles Pattison © Surrey County Archaeological Unit)

c. AD 1250 Guildford Castle and Royal Palace

Sanded cores and work in the Bishop's camera roof, Farnham Castle, dated c. 1380



Archaeological science has also been used on timber-built domestic buildings to assess and date their fabric through dendrochronology – study of tree ring growth – which has been able to date key features and help form a chronology for certain styles and patterns.



Magnification of pottery fabrics: *S2 Shelly Ware (AD1050-1250) and W1B Surrey Whiteware (1240-1400)*

As more scientific techniques are being developed every day, even items such as pottery, which have long been a focus of artefactual studies, can inform on their provenance and technology behind their production. High magnification of fabric and its inclusions has led to identification of a county type series, while ICP mass spectrometry allows detailed chemical analysis and compositional data for ceramic from specific kiln sites, such as Kingston.

Medieval archaeology developed comparatively late as a discipline, with antiquarian focus largely on the artworks and architectural ruins. As a period which saw an increasing amount of valuable historical sources however, material evidence can be evaluated alongside documentary, placename and landscape studies, whether in traditional areas – e.g. castles – or new topics of research, such as production, exchange and gender studies.

The Medieval period AD 1066-1485

Where can I discover more?

Medieval remains are comparatively prominent in the Surrey landscape today, as most of the towns and villages can boast of medieval fabric within their parish churches and timber-framed buildings. Castle keeps such as Guildford and Farnham are open to the public, as are monastic sites such as Waverley Abbey and Newark Priory. While the tithe barn at Wanborough is available on select days, a cluster of medieval bridges are still in daily use along the River Wey.



Newark Priory (top) and medieval bridge at Elstead (left)

Newark Priory (top) and medieval bridge at Elstead (left)

Some learning sources on Medieval Surrey

- Blatch, M (1997) *The Churches of Surrey*
- Hunt, R (2002) *Hidden Depths: an Archaeological Exploration of Surrey's Past*
- Surrey Archaeological Society (2015) *A Guide to the Saxon and Medieval Pottery Type Series of Surrey*

Other suggested resources

- Open Domesday (opendomesday.org)
- Univ of Sheffield's Taxatio Database (www.dhi.ac.uk/taxatio)
- Univ of Winchester / King's College London's Mapping the Medieval Countryside (www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk)
- Univ of Nottingham's Key to English Place-Names (kepn.nottingham.ac.uk)
- Exploring Surrey's Past (exploringsurreypast.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.

Local Medieval exhibits can be viewed at museums including Chertsey, Guildford, Godalming, Kingston and Woking, and several castles, ecclesiastical sites and medieval towns such as Winchester, Chichester and Canterbury are also worth a visit.



“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

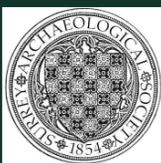
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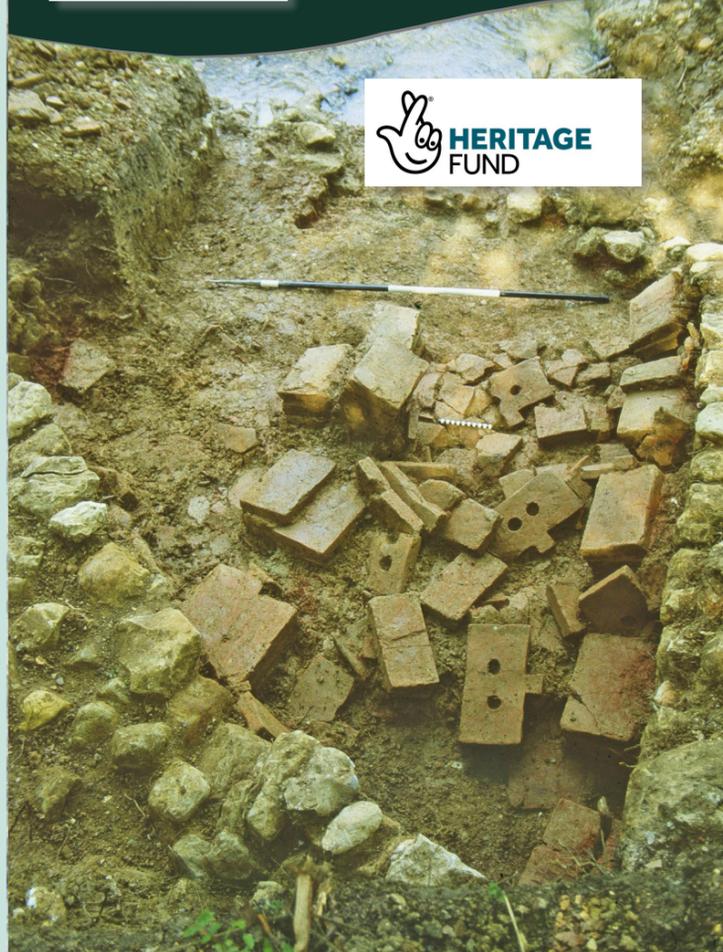
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Medieval Surrey



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

- AD1066 William of Normandy lands at Pevensey and defeats Harold at Hastings
- AD1085-86 Great Domesday Survey undertaken
- AD1095 Pope Urban II calls the First Crusade
- AD1128 First Cistercian house in Britain founded at Waverley, on the bank of the River Wey
- AD1135-54 Period of civil war (Anarchy) between Stephen and the Empress Matilda
- AD1154 English conquest of Ireland begins
- AD1170 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered by men loyal to Henry II
- c. AD1200-1325 Period of moated homesteads sealed at Runnymede
- AD1215 Signing of the Magna Carta, which is
- AD1265 Simon De Montfort calls first parliament
- AD1312 Suppression of the Knights Templar
- AD1314 Battle of Bannockburn
- AD1337-1453 Hundred Years War
- AD1348 First wave of bubonic plague ('Black Death')
- AD1381 'The Peasants' Revolt
- AD1387 Chaucer begins Canterbury Tales
- AD1415 Henry V defeats French at Agincourt
- AD1476 Caxton's first printing press in England
- c. AD1480 Brick gatehouse at Esher Place built
- AD1455-85 Wars of the Roses, ending with Henry Tudor defeating Richard III at Battle of Bosworth
- AD 1485

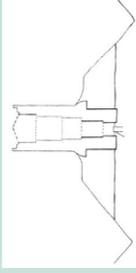
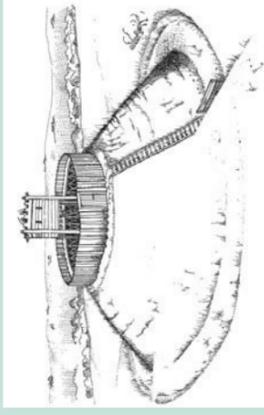
LANCASTER/YORK HOUSES
PLANTAGENETS
ANARCHY
NORMAN KINGS



Castles and conquest

One of the most prominent landscape changes to result from the 1066 invasion under William of Normandy – and the subsequent take-over of territory – was the rise of castle building, monuments which

were statements of power as much as they were for defence. These early castles ranged in both size and form, from small earthworks such as Abinger motte – the first of its kind to be excavated from the top, thus evidence of its timber tower (*top right*) – to 12th century masonry keeps, whether shell design (as at Farnham, *bottom right*) or great square towers, e.g. Guildford (*right*), showing excavations of the ditch) and Farnham (*bottom left*), whose foundations are set within the mound). (Photos: David Bird, David Graham; Drawings: David Williams, Audrey Graham)



Monastic houses



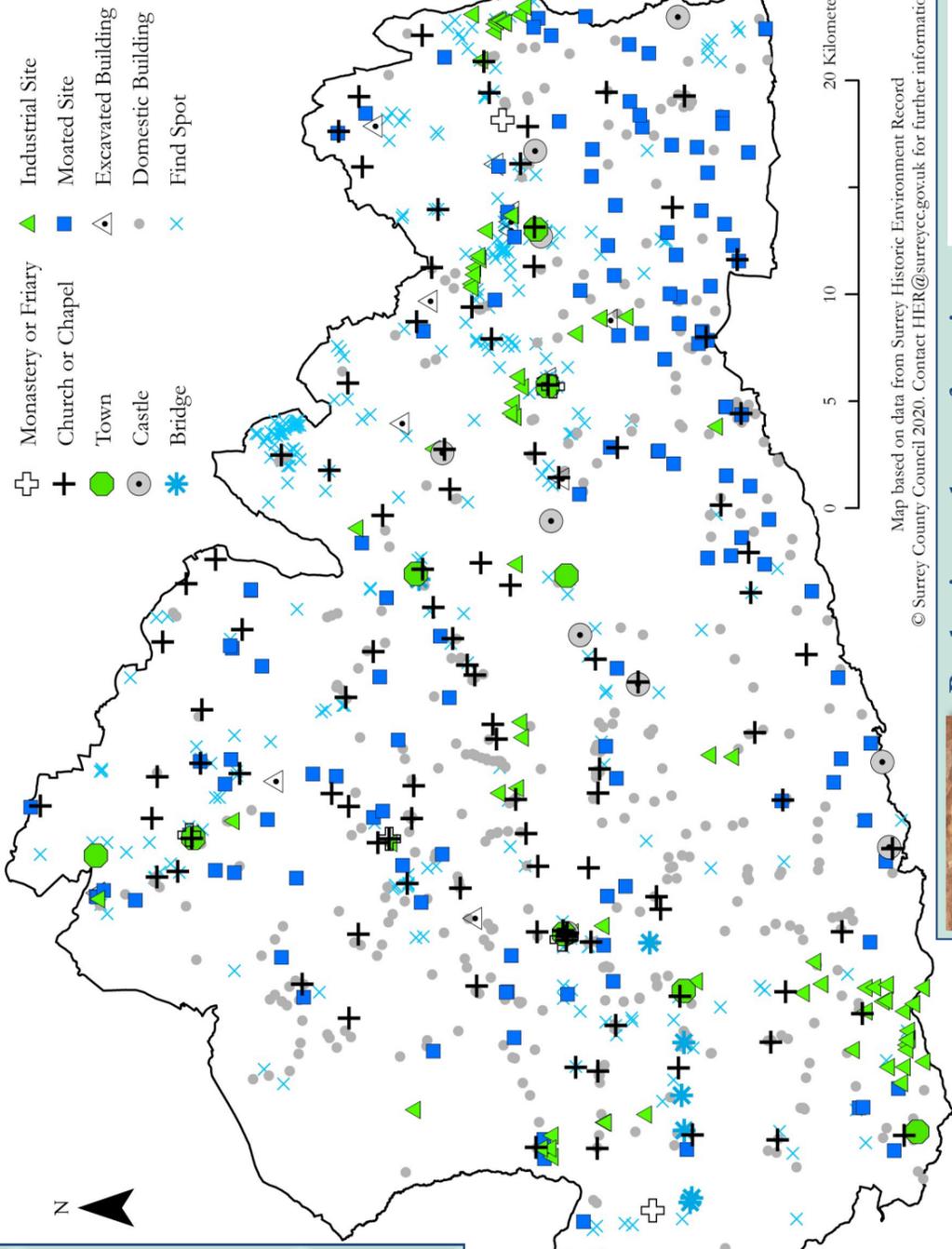
The conquest also led to new monastic establishments such as at Waverley Abbey (*below right*), the first Cistercian monastery to be founded in Britain in 1128) and the Dominican Friary in Guildford (*bottom left*, which dates to c.1275). Others, like Chertsey Abbey – founded in 666 as the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter – had earlier roots, and the 1855 dig photos of the chapter house (*top left*) are considered possibly the oldest excavation photos in the country. Although the sites were well-known for their elaborately carved sculpture and decorated tiles (e.g. Chertsey, *top right*), much material was stripped after the Dissolution and re-used for early modern structures.

(Photos: David Bird, David Graham, Guildford Heritage Service, Surrey Archaeological Society)



Churches and the parish

Provision of smaller, often private churches – such as Wisley (*left*) – took place when local lords built next to their manor houses, many of which would come to serve the parish. Although many Surrey churches underwent heavy Victorian restoration, some retain impressive features, such as the late 12th century fresco at Chaldon (*right*), as well as more subtle markings, e.g. the Norman knight graffiti on Compton's chancel arch (*left*) and 14th century designs of the window jamb mouldings at Pyrford (*far left*). (Photos: Anne Sassini, Abigail Coskun, Christine Pittman)



Map based on data from Surrey Historic Environment Record © Surrey County Council 2020. Contact HER@surreycc.gov.uk for further information.

Production and manufacturing

Trade and industry flourished at this time, with Surrey whiteware – produced at centres like Farnham and Kingston (*left*) – in widespread use from the 13th-15th century. Quarrying and tile production (e.g. Borelli tile kiln, Farnham, *upper right*)



were other established industries, as was glass-making, which thrived in the Wealden area. Markets – urban and rural – required good transportation networks, relying on bridges at important crossings, such as at Kingston (*right*) and along the River Wey. (Photos: Steve Nelson, Kingston Heritage Service, Museum of London Archaeology; Drawing: Jim Farrant)

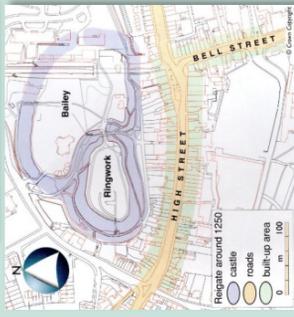
Metal Detecting

If undertaken responsibly, detecting can make important contributions to archaeological knowledge. Detectorists are reminded that it is illegal to trespass – remember all land has an owner! – and to record finds with their local Finds Liaison Officer and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. For more on the Code of Practice, see www.finds.org.uk.



Towns and urban life

Market towns including Guildford, Farnham, Reigate and Godalming also grew from the 12th century as these settlements – many with important castles – became key centres of trade. While castles like Guildford were sited at the edge of existing settlements, new towns were created on land below the



castles at both Reigate and Farnham (*above*), often with surrounding defences (e.g. Farnham's town ditch) which served as taxation boundaries. At least three domestic town houses have survived as stone-vaulted undercrofts, as at Guildford (*below left*) and Kingston (*bottom right*), possibly denoting merchants' shops or homes. (Photos: Mary Alexander, Steve Nelson, David Graham; Map: Surrey County Archaeological Unit)

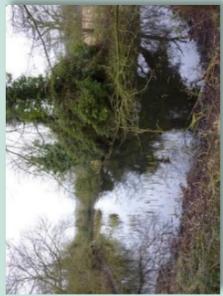


Villages and manors

Surrey's population at the time of Domesday was dispersed and largely consisted of farmsteads and small hamlets, though from the 12th century, villages began to emerge – often with both church and manor house – with houses and their attached plots regularly arranged along a street, as at Great Bookham (*above*). Many estates were re-



organised with open field arrangements for arable cultivation, the signs for which can occasionally be seen in ridge-and-furrow earthworks as at Farnham Park (*above*), and some barns – where crops were processed and stored – still survive today, such as Wanborough's tithe barn, built by the Waverley monks. From the 13th century, around 150 of the county's homesteads and manor houses became moated sites, as at



Guildford Park (*right*), although the moats were more a social statement than means of security. (Photos: David Graham, Alan Crocker; Map: Lyn Spencer)