



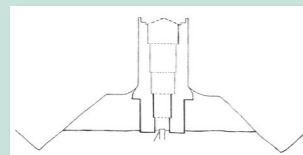
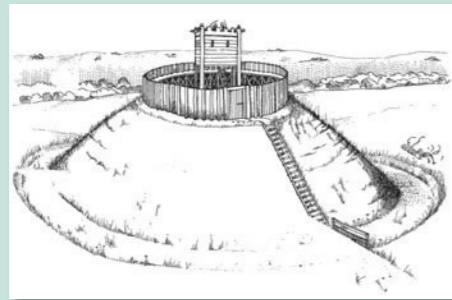
Medieval Surrey

AD 1066-1485



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)



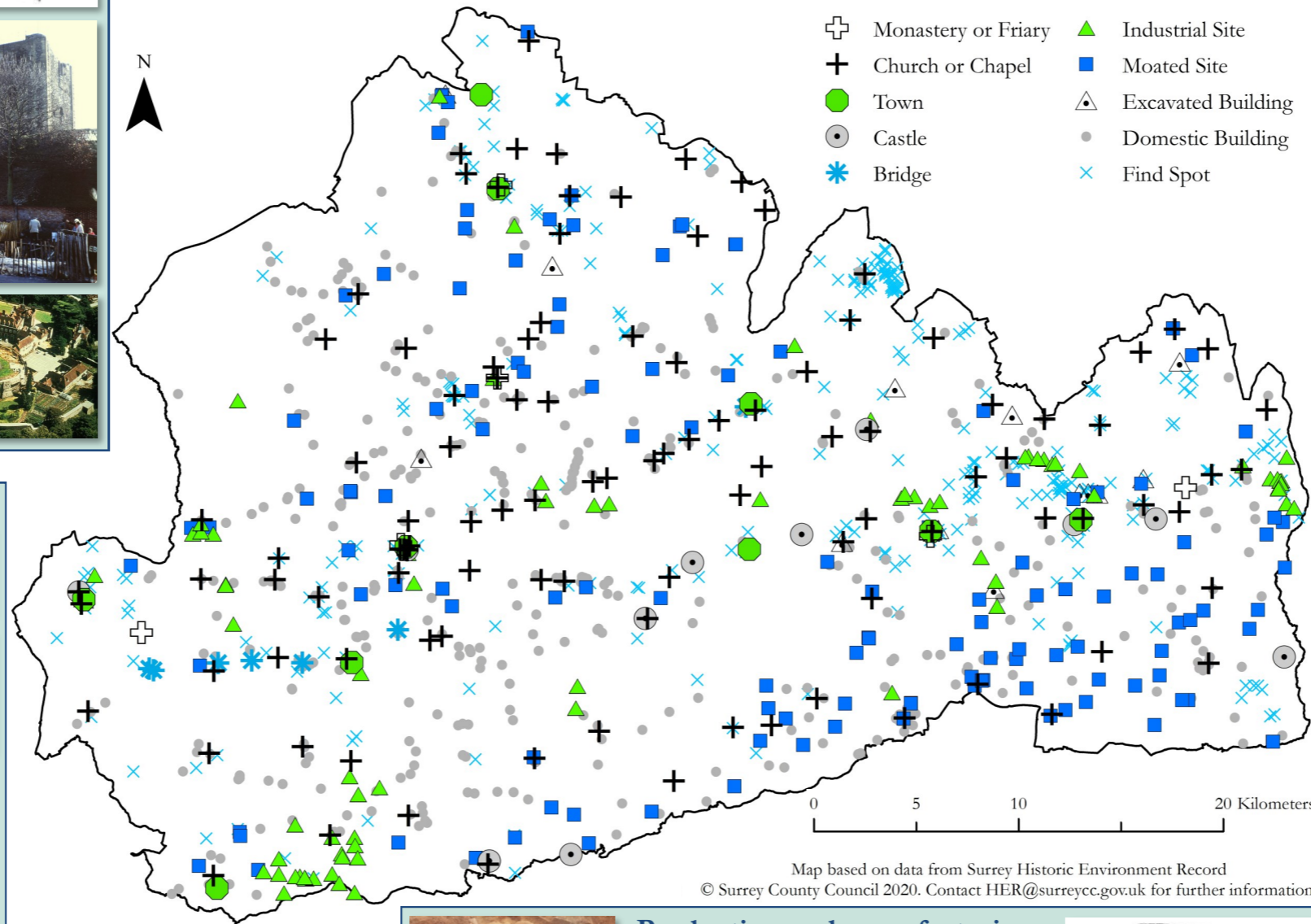
Metal Detecting

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.



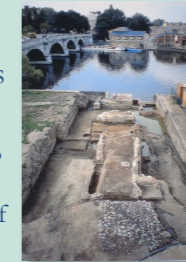
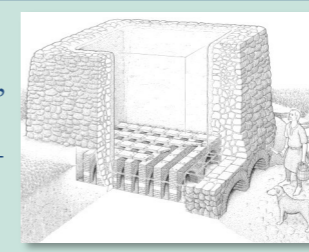
Churches and the parish

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 Sassin, Abigail Coskun, Christine Pittman)



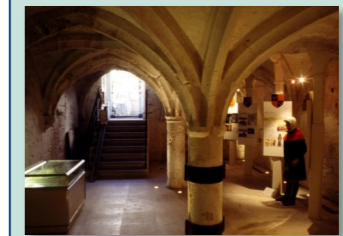
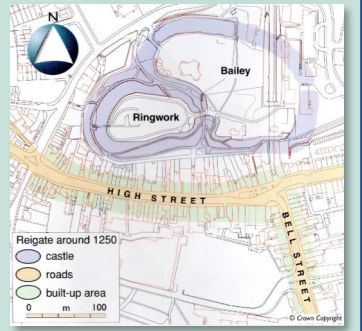
Production and manufacturing

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)



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)

