

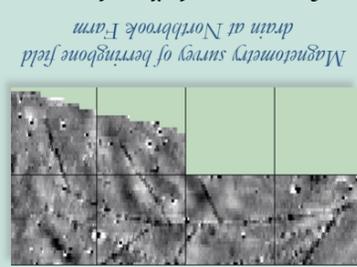
The military camp at Widley was created as part of the huge mobilisation of troops for the First World War. The camp was constructed on open sandy heathland, much of which has now been engulfed by trees and scrub. No structures survive but their appearance and arrangement is well recorded by surviving documents, plans and photographs. This artist's impression is based on contemporary photographs of the camp looking north towards the rising ground north of the Portsmouth Road. The buildings on the left are almost certainly the baths, a boiler-room and a disinfectant room, whilst the large building in the middle distance is probably a forage barn or gun shed. (Drawing by Giles Pattison © Surrey County Archaeological Unit)

**Widley Military Camp
c. AD 1916-1919**



Spoon from Widley Camp (Surrey County Archaeological Unit)

Post-medieval – or historical – archaeology is a discipline which has often been overlooked compared to earlier eras, but it is a study of profound cultural, technological and religious change. Many significant events occurred in this 500 year period – both within Britain and on a global scale – from the impact of the Dissolution, to the birth of the Industrial Revolution, and culminating in the devastating conflict seen during both world wars. With more scientific techniques being developed every day, new advances are able to be applied towards archaeological research, including in post-medieval studies. One such contribution is geophysical survey, a method which can detect sub-surface features whose properties notably contrast with their surroundings. This includes magnetometry, which maps patterns of magnetism, and electrical resistance, which passes an electric current between probes to assess patterns of varying moisture content. Though magnetometry is particularly useful on buried features such as pits and ditches which often contain burnt material, it can also – with the right geology – detect concentrations of pottery and tile, whose magnetic properties changed when the clay was fired. A major advantage of post-medieval archaeology is the addition of written records and archives to supplement research, such as the apportionments, historical censuses, wills and probate records, and even oral accounts. Military service records can also give considerable insight into both the history of sites and individual objects, as seen in the spoon from Widley Camp, whose service number was able to identify its original owner.



Magnetometry survey of berrynbone field drain at Northbrook Farm

The Post-Medieval period AD 1485 +

Where can I discover more?

There is no shortage of historic sites left standing in Surrey which date from the post-medieval era, many of which can still be explored today. This includes ticketed venues – and National Trust properties – such as the historic royal palaces, great country houses, gardens and industrial sites. Even more are free to visit however, including the numerous pillboxes and other war-time defence landmarks.



Shalford mill (left) and pillbox at Waverley Abbey (right)

Some learning sources on Post-medieval Surrey
 Brandon, P (1998) *A History of Surrey*
 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
What the Victorians Threw Away (whatthevictoriansthrewaway.com)
Surrey in the Great War (surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk)
Defence of Britain archive (archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/)
The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
Surrey Industrial History Group (sihg.org.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 exhibits can be viewed at heritage sites and museums across Surrey (see surreymuseums.org.uk), though the Rural Life Centre, nearby Weald and Downland Living Museum and Aldershot's Military Museum are well worth a visit, as are many of the historic royal palaces, gardens and parks in what was once part of the historic county.



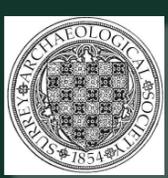
“Promoting the study of archaeology and antiquities... and any other matters or things relating to the pre-history and history of the County.”

- *Articles of Association*
 Surrey Archaeological Society

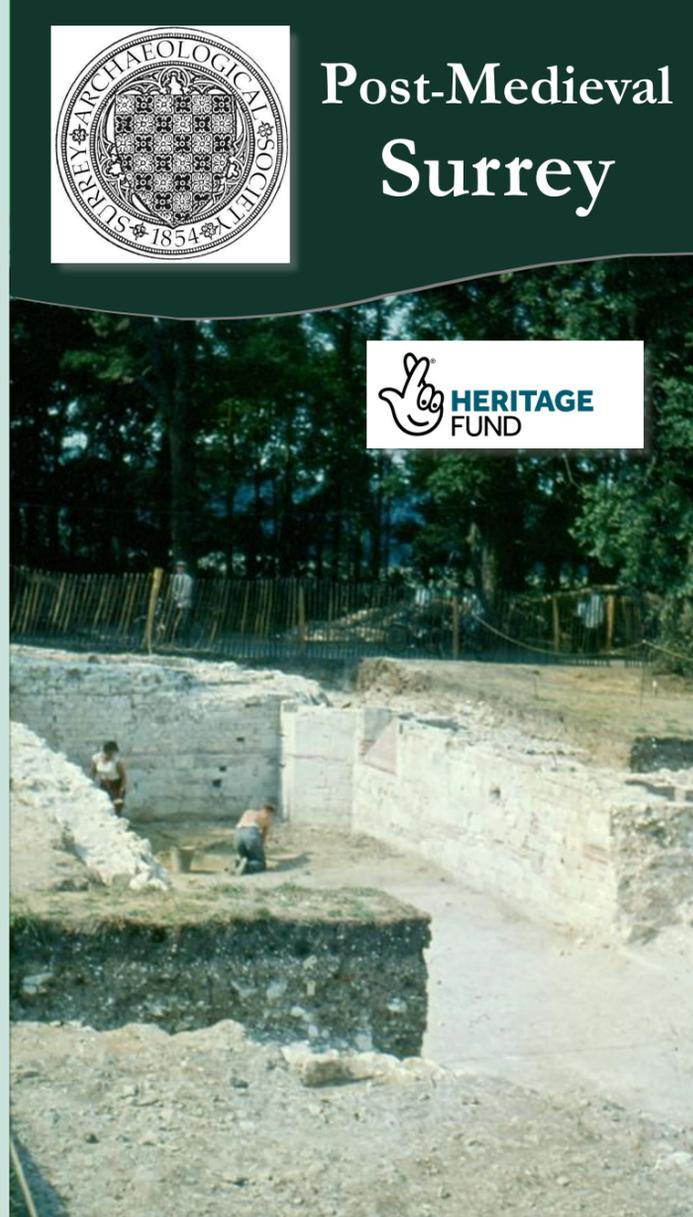
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AD 2000	AD1939-45 Following invasion of Poland, war declared on Germany, leading to World War II	20TH CENTURY
AD 1901	AD1914-18 Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand leads to First World War AD1903 Women's Social and Political Union formed to campaign for women's rights AD1889-1906 Establishment of mobilisation Centres, including those along the North Downs in Woking	VICTORIANS
AD 1837	AD1889 Britain's oldest mosque, Shah Jehan, built in Woking AD1854 Brookwood Cemetery (London Necropolis) built to house London deceased AD1851 Great Exhibition of international works	GEORGIANS
AD 1714	AD1840-1860 Coming of the railway AD1834 Poor Law passed to create workhouses AD1832 Great Reform Act of electoral system AD1830-46 Era of Surrey Iron Railway AD1769 James Watt granted steam engine patent AD1760-1830 General era of land enclosure AD1760-1820 Age of canal building	STUARTS
AD 1603	AD1707 Act of Union between England and Scotland AD1666 Great Fire of London AD1665 The Great Plague, which kills around 100,000 people AD1642-59 Civil War and Commonwealth AD1611 King James Bible is published AD1605 Gunpowder Plot	TUDORS
AD 1485	AD1485 Battle of Bosworth Field and defeat of Richard III by Henry Tudor AD1496 John Cabot given patent to find land in New World, following its discovery by Columbus AD1517 Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther AD1534 Act of Supremacy, resulting in Henry VIII declared as head of the Church of England AD1584 Sir Walter Raleigh establishes colony of Roanoke in Virginia	



Post-Medieval Surrey



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



Post-Medieval AD 1485 + Surrey



Royal palaces

In the late medieval period, rural royal residences were prominent in Surrey, as royalty – and their hunting parties – moved from one manor to another. By Tudor times, Henry VIII owned as many as eleven houses in the county and is

estimated to have spent a quarter of his reign there, including palaces at Guildford, Richmond, Woking (*bottom*), Otlands and Nonsuch (*above and cover*). This work came at great expense, and not only were abbey strips of material for reuse in the new

structures – as with Chertsey's stone cornice (*right*), which was transferred to Otlands – but the entire village of Cuddington was demolished to make way for the grand palace at Nonsuch. (Images: Bourne Hall Museum, Steve Nelson, Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Elmbridge Museum, Elmbridge Borough Council)



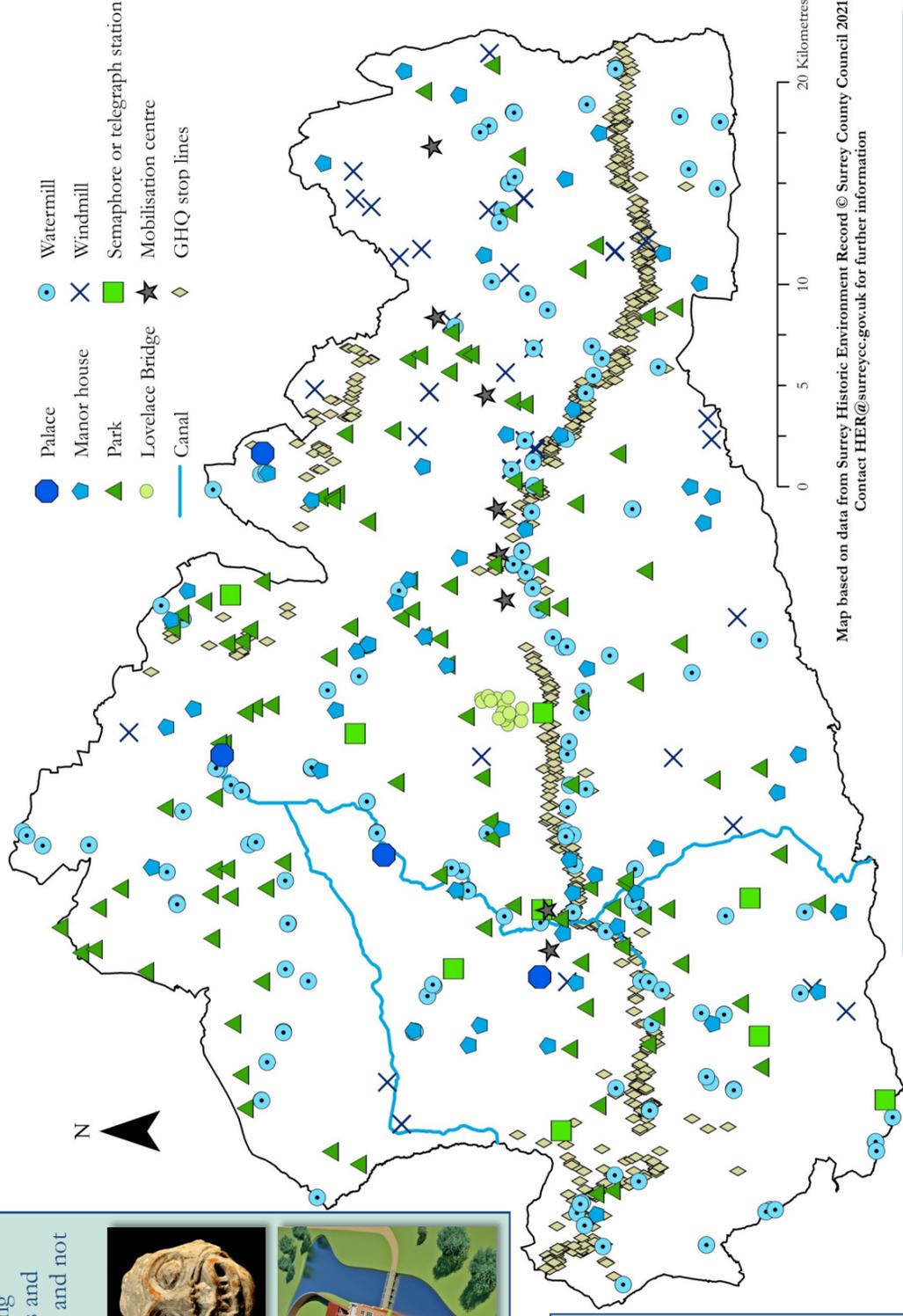
House and home

By the 15th century, changing social patterns also led to yeomen farmers – particularly in the Weald – rebuilding on a notable scale. This included timber-framed hall houses, which saw many developments – such as smoke bays and brick chimneys – throughout the vernacular period. From the early 17th century, timber was replaced in favour of stone and brick, with many structures (e.g. Bletchingley Place Farm, *above*) given brick facades in the Georgian period. Domestic architecture in Surrey peaked however in the later 19th century, with work including Augustus Pugin's Gothic Revival style (as on Albury's ornate chimneys, *below right*), Lord Lovelace's flint-and-brick buildings (East Horsley, *left*) and Edwin Lutyens' Arts and Craft 'Surrey style'. (Photos: Brigid Fice, Rob Briggs, Anne Sassin)



A changing landscape

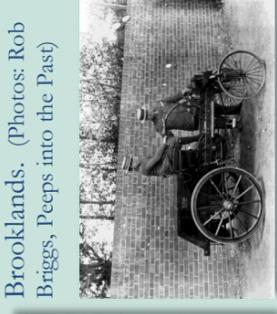
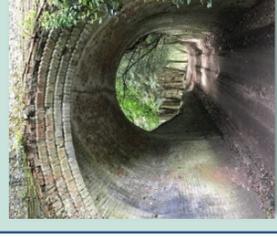
Many changes to the rural landscape took place in the early modern period, from an agricultural surge in production and improvements in the 17th century – brought about by London's population rise – to the enclosure movements of the 18th and 19th. Surrey also has a wealth of historic parks and gardens – both privatised urban parks and at rural estates – including Polesden Lacey (*left*) and Deepdene (*upper left*), many of which were supplied from prominent nurseries, particularly in the Woking region. Victorian London's growth also led to the Necropolis at Brookwood (*right*), at a time when large municipal cemeteries were established and denominational worship became more varied, with Britain's oldest mosque – Shah Jehan – built in 1889. (Photos: Denise Furlonger, Chris Reynolds)



Map based on data from Surrey Historic Environment Record © Surrey County Council 2021
Contact HER@surreycc.gov.uk for further information

Transport and communication

As each parish was responsible for the upkeep of its own roads, recognition of their generally impassable state in the 17th century led to the 'Turnpike Act' and its maintenance tolls. The Wey Navigation also created a new route, allowing more efficient transportation of goods. Early 19th century transport still largely relied on horse-power, including the 'Surrey Iron Railway' – the world's first public line – and the 'Lovelace bridges' (*left*) which aided movement through woodland. Soon, however, steam-power took over the railways, eventually replacing canals as a means for moving goods and leading to centres such as Woking being established. In the late 19th century, the advent of the motor car gave Surrey additional claims in transport history, including the first ever traffic fine issued to Farnham's John Henry Knight (*below*) and Britain's oldest motor racing circuit at Brooklands. (Photos: Rob Briggs, Peeps into the Past)



Military and mobilisation

Many of Surrey's castles played a military role in the Civil War, but it was not until the 18th century when the fear of French invasion led to newly established defensive features. This included the semaphore system in 1795 – an experimental line of shutter telegraphs, as at Chatley Heath (*right*) – and late Victorian mobilisation centres such as Reigate (*below*). Second World War defences, were based on anti-tank obstacles, were numerous and comprised gun emplacements, pill-boxes and even an 'Atlantic Wall' at Hankley Common (*bottom right*) which was used for D-Day training. (Photos: Martin Higgins, Paul Bowen, Anne Sassin, Chris Reynolds)



Industry and manufacturing

While many medieval industries – for instance cloth-making and leather-working – continued to flourish in early modern Surrey, some restrictions saw others come to an end, such as the Chiddingfold glasshouses, which suffered both from monopolies and charcoal prohibitions, or Wealden iron, which could not compete with new processes and the raw material available elsewhere. Despite notable mills such as Outwood (the oldest working windmill built in 1665, *right*), Surrey's rivers played a key role in most industries and supplied the water to drive the machinery. The variety of mills along the Tillingbourne alone included corn, malting, fulling, tanning, iron, copper-beating, wire-making, gunpowder (as at Chilworth, *left*) and paper. (Photos: Anne Sassin, Chris Reynolds)



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.

