

## 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)*



“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 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](http://whatthevictoriansthrewaway.com))

**Surrey in the Great War** ([surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk](http://surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk))

**Defence of Britain archive** ([archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/))

**The National Archives** ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk))

**Surrey Industrial History Group** ([sihg.org.uk](http://sihg.org.uk))

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



## Post-Medieval Surrey



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



AD 1485

TUDORS

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

AD 1603

AD1605 Gunpowder Plot

AD1611 King James Bible is published

AD1642-59 Civil War and Commonwealth

AD1665 The Great Plague, which kills around 100,000 people

AD1666 Great Fire of London

AD1707 Act of Union between England and Scotland

AD 1714

cAD1760-1820 Age of canal building

cAD1760-1830 General era of land enclosure

AD1769 James Watt granted steam engine patent

AD1830-46 Era of Surrey Iron Railway

AD1832 Great Reform Act of electoral system

AD1834 Poor Law passed to create workhouses

cAD1840-1860 Coming of the railway

AD 1837

AD1851 Great Exhibition of international works

AD1854 Brookwood Cemetery (London Necropolis) built to house London deceased

AD1889 Britain's oldest mosque, Shah Jehan, built in Woking

AD 1901

AD1889-1906 Establishment of mobilisation Centres, including those along the North Downs

AD1903 Women's Social and Political Union formed to campaign for women's rights

AD1914-18 Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand leads to First World War

AD1939-45 Following invasion of Poland, war declared on Germany, leading to World War II

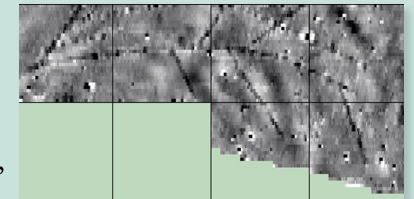
AD 2000

## The Post-Medieval period AD 1485 +

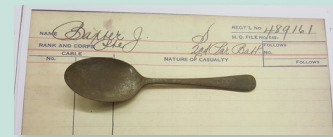
Post-medieval – or historical – archaeology is a discipline which has often been overlooked compared to earlier eras, but it is a study of profound cultural, technological and religious change. Many significant events occurred in this 500 year period – both within Britain and on a global scale – from 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 tithe 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 Witley Camp, whose service number was able to identify its original owner.



*Magnetometry survey of herringbone field drain at Northbrook Farm*



*Spoon from Witley Camp (Surrey County Archaeological Unit)*

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

The military camp at Witley 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 Witley Camp. The exact location is unknown but is in the eastern part of 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)

