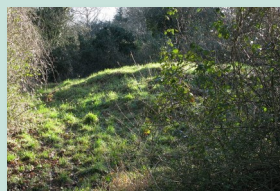


## Where can I discover more?

Surrey lacks many notable Saxon remains which are still standing and can be viewed today, as most excavated sites are now re-buried with little to see on the ground. However, various Saxon barrow earthworks can still be seen in the landscape, as at Banstead or (albeit less so) Farthing Downs. Although a small number of parish churches may boast Saxon foundations, the only one with



particularly pre-Norman features in its fabric is St Mary's in Guildford.

*St Mary's, Guildford (top) and Gally Hills, Banstead Downs (left)*

### Some sources to learn more on Saxon Surrey

- Blair, J (1990) *Early Medieval Surrey: Landholding, Church and Settlement before 1300*  
Hunt, R (2002) *Hidden Depths: an Archaeological Exploration of Surrey's Past*  
Poulton, D (1990) *Saxon Secrets in Surrey*

### Other suggested resources

- UCL Institute of Archaeology's **Beyond the Tribal Hidage** ([ucl.ac.uk/early-medieval-atlas/map-data/beyond-tribal-hidage-data](http://ucl.ac.uk/early-medieval-atlas/map-data/beyond-tribal-hidage-data))  
University of Cambridge/King's College London's **The Electronic Sawyer** ([esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk](http://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk))  
King's College London's **Landscape** ([landscape.org.uk](http://landscape.org.uk))  
**Jorvik Viking Centre** ([jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk](http://jorvikvikingcentre.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.

Saxon exhibits can be viewed at local museums including Guildford, Godalming and Kingston, and the Museum of London, Sutton Hoo, Ashmolean and other churches in the region including Worth and Sompting 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  
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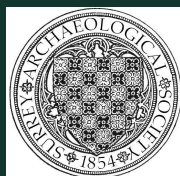
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# Saxon Surrey



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





AD 410

TRANSITION

AD410 Sack of Rome by Visigoths and Britain told to look to its own defences

c.AD449 Traditional landing of Hengist and Horsa in Kent and beginning of Saxon invasions

AD 450

c.AD477 Foundation date given for the Kingdom of Sussex by Saxon warlord Aelle

c.AD495 Wessex kingdom founded under Cerdic (who had a British name)

c.AD540 Gildas writes the 'Ruin of Britain'

AD597 Mission of St Augustine, who founded a monastery at Canterbury

AD664 Synod of Whitby

AD731 Bede completes his Ecclesiastical History of the English People

c.AD760 Construction begins on Offa's Dyke between England and Wales

AD871 Battle of Reading, in which Aethelred and his brother Alfred fail to capture the Viking-held town

AD891 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle is begun

AD893 Battle of Farnham between West Saxon and Viking armies

AD900-970 English kings are said to be crowned at Kingston

AD910-920 Guildford becomes a town

AD1002 Aethelred orders St Brice's Day Massacre of Danes living in England

AD1016-1042 Rule of Danish kings, beginning with Sweyn Forkbeard, causing Aethelred to flee to Normandy

AD1066 Death of Edward the Confessor, leading to the Norman Conquest

AD 924

SAXON/ENGLISH KINGS

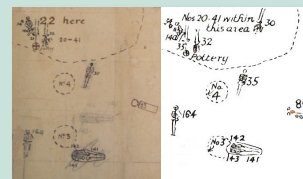
AD 1066

## The Saxon period AD 410-1066

Although early medieval studies have the advantage of documentary evidence – particularly from the 6th century onwards – the historical accounts are often rife with bias and must be treated with caution. Saxon and Viking studies are also complicated by issues of ethnicity and religion, and it clear that rather than notions of mass migration or simple 'Christianisation' of pagan practices, identities formed through a variety of processes.

With the development of more scientific techniques every day, further advances are able to be made in local fieldwork. At Old Woking, radio-carbon dates from an assemblage of animal bones – mainly pig – recovered in test pitting provided dates of AD 663-721 and irrefutable Saxon presence in the settlement. Minor excavations at Guildown cemetery by TVAS (Thames Valley Archaeological Services) undertook strontium and oxygen isotopic analysis of teeth from three 'deviant' (atypical) burials (*cover image* © TVAS), revealing them to be local to Cornwall, rather than the Guildford area.

*Pig remains of Saxon date from Old Woking*



*Comparative plans from Guildown burials*

**Hurst Park, East Molesey**  
c. AD 550

The excavations uncovered a total of eight hollows that would have formed the principal below ground element of what are called sunken-featured buildings, these being the smaller buildings shown here. It seems probable that the shallower evidence for the larger post-built structures that are most prominent in the image was lost through truncation before archaeological work began. The viewpoint looks approximately north. (Drawing by Giles Pattison © Surrey County Archaeological Unit)

