

Abstracts

Mesolithic, Iron Age and Saxon findings from excavations at Esher Park Avenue, Esher, by David Saxby

An archaeological excavation at Esher Park Avenue, Esher revealed a 0.40m-thick layer of sand that produced some 1522 Early Mesolithic flints, including microlithic flint points, microburins and at least four core adze fragments and a scraper (*c* 9.3–9.0 ka BP). The flint assemblage suggests the presence of a discrete short-stay knapping episode, perhaps centred around a hearth or hearths. Activity appears to have been directed towards the maintenance and repair of hunting and foraging kit, rather than any long-stay 'base-camp' type occupation. The Iron Age is represented by a 3.80m-diameter circular structure indicated by a series of postholes that may be a small shelter. Pottery sherds from the fills of the postholes and within the nearby hill wash date the structure to the Middle to Late Iron Age. Lastly, a sequence of Saxon pits and gullies was truncated by a series of ard marks that represent a rare example of early ploughing on the site. Truncating the ard marks was a large pit, which produced pottery and loomweight fragments dated to the late 6th or 7th century AD.

From findspot to site: a spatial examination of the Mesolithic resource in Surrey, by Michael Simmonds, Robert Hosfield, Nicholas P Branch and Stuart Black

Surrey has a diverse range of Mesolithic occupation evidence, spanning the Early Mesolithic, Horsham period and the Later Mesolithic. This paper collates these data and then quantitatively analyses the relationships between the geographical distributions of Mesolithic material and a range of environmental characteristics. The distribution of material is also analysed using a GIS to understand where 'hotspots' (and 'coldspots') of activity may be located and takes into account variations in collecting activity and modern discovery opportunities. There is evidence that the environment may have been important in determining the spatial extent of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer behaviour, and this is assessed through comparison of the Mesolithic resource and a range of environmental variables. The record shows a prevalence of hunting-type assemblages in the south-west of the county, where the majority of microliths and points were identified, together with sites with evidence for occupation (often excavated as such, or with evidence for domestic activities such as burning). There was also evidence that records identified on higher elevations and steeper slopes appeared to represent items used, discarded or lost on hunting trips and potentially highlighted the importance of these regions as lookout or observation locations; however, there was a lack of occupation sites based near these optimal viewing locations. The majority of occupation sites were located across an east-west Greensand band and situated within 5km of the Clay-with-Flints outcrops. These were wet/dry marginal regions, probably conducive to settlement owing to the benefits these locations may have had for hunting and gathering. A lower density of records from north-west and south-east Surrey appears to indicate these areas were used primarily for the processing of material while people were moving across the landscape. The overall high proportion of findspots and scatters within the dataset may result from the nature of hunter-gatherer living, with high levels of mobility within the landscape alongside ephemeral occupation and activity sites.

Excavations at 78 Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames, 2016-17, by Oliver Good

An archaeological excavation took place at 78 Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames on the site formerly occupied by an 18th century Friends' Meeting House that had been demolished in 2016, and an associated burial ground from which the burials had been exhumed. The excavation revealed evidence for a single Saxon ditch, as well as medieval ditches and a pit, and the remains of the post-medieval frontage of Eden Street. A small number of undated features was also recorded. The watching brief identified the continuation of the Saxon ditch to the east and a post-medieval well. The watching brief also uncovered the remains of seventeen Quaker burials which, in line with an agreed mitigation strategy, were either excavated under archaeological conditions or exhumed, depending on the date at which they were interred.

Activity within the prehistoric landscape of the Surrey chalk downland, Cherkley Court, Leatherhead, by Ian Hogg

During 2013 Archaeology South-East (UCL Institute of Archaeology) conducted a series of archaeological investigations at Cherkley Court, Leatherhead. The work identified an interesting and varied prehistoric landscape set within the North Downs, an area not renowned for later prehistoric activity. The estate is set within rolling chalk downland with commanding views over the Mole Valley to the west, providing a significant access route to the Thames Valley; the site is also bisected by Stane Street, the London to Chichester Roman road.

Clusters of archaeology were encountered; most of the remains dated to the Late Bronze Age and Middle to Late Iron Age with surprisingly few Roman remains found, given the proximity of Stane Street. The Late Bronze Age remains showed an open landscape delineated by large ditches and used mainly as pasture. A rectilinear enclosure in the south-east was more likely to be associated with arable farming, particularly as a series of probable grain storage pits lay in one corner. Evidence of cereal storage and processing was found in the centre of the site where a series of post-built granaries, stores and probable drying racks were located.

Some of the post-built structures as well as one of the ditches ran at right-angles to Stane Street, suggesting that a trackway, similarly aligned to the Roman road, probably predated it and provided a further transport route through the North Downs. Iron Age activity, although less intensive, appeared to respect much of the Bronze Age landscape consisting of similarly aligned features and a continuation of pitting and grain processing in some areas.

A 3rd century AD cremation cemetery at Franklands Drive, near Addlestone, by Michael Henderson and Isca Howell

Archaeological investigations on an open field site to the south-west of Addlestone revealed two foci of Middle-Late Bronze Age activity that involved the setting of pottery vessels in pits. A lone Late Iron Age unurned cremation burial was accompanied by an unusual North Gaulish Gallo-Belgic facet-cut barrel beaker, dated to c 10 BC-AD 14. An isolated pit contained a range of early/mid-2nd century ceramics related to consumption. However, the most significant feature of the site was a mid-late 3rd century AD cremation cemetery that comprised 28 urned cremation burials and nine possible (or unurned) cremation burials. The

remains were indicative of a rural population and the urns were mostly of a regional type. A curious aspect of the cemetery was the near absence of grave goods but there is some evidence for pyre goods and analysis of the iron nails from cremation deposits reveals the presence of footwear and possibly upholstered biers. It is suggested that this cemetery was located in a special place in the landscape with little evidence for an adjacent settlement. There was no evidence for any later land use until the site was crossed by field boundaries, in the 18th century.

The Surrey group of pin-hinged, clamped, medieval chests: a comparative study of the chests at Chobham, Godalming, Shere and Stoke d'Abernon, by Christopher G Pickvance

The Surrey chests are examples of joined construction in furniture and belong to a rare type found mainly in southern England. In the early 1900s writers dated them to the early 13th century on a stylistic basis. This article re-examines the Surrey chests in the light of dendrochronological research on other chests in the wider group and puts forward some new, later, dates for them. The diversity of the Surrey chests and the links of some of them with Sussex chests of the same construction type are emphasised. Some reasons for the development of pin-hinged, clamped chests and their possible original uses are discussed.

Prehistoric ploughing and post-medieval occupation at 7-9 Holland Street, Bankside, Southwark, by Antony Francis and David Saxby

In the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age the Holland Street site occupied a Thames flood plain eyot surrounded by tidal channels. It was fertile, well-drained, farmed land and fieldwork recovered ard marks, cut features, pottery and evidence of on-site flint working. In the later prehistoric period, the eyot became inundated owing to rising river levels and was gradually buried beneath alluvial clay. Medieval ditches indicate repeated efforts to drain and stabilise land that was at least periodically flooded. These ditches provide botanical and invertebrate indicators of local environmental history and development. As occupation spread southwards from Bankside, the site was fully reclaimed and buildings were constructed in the late 17th century. A boundary ditch or sewer, eventually lined with reused boat timbers, was backfilled around the turn of the 17th/18th century and produced a rich assemblage of household artefacts. Later periods were represented by a series of wells and cesspits that provide a wealth of information on domestic occupation, the local tavern trade and industrial processes carried out in the area in the 18th and 19th centuries, including pottery manufacture and glass working.

Archaeological investigations at the former George Payne Ltd site, 57 Croydon Road, Beddington, by Sarah Porteus, David Fallon and Lucy Sibun

Archaeological investigations comprising evaluation, excavation and watching brief, were undertaken by Archaeology South-East during 2007 and 2008 at the former George Payne Ltd (Payne's Poppets) site, 57 Croydon Road, Beddington. The work revealed evidence of multiple phases of archaeological activity. A scatter of worked flint of Mesolithic date indicates early land use with small quantities of Neolithic flint as evidence of continued prehistoric occupation in the vicinity of the site. Late Bronze Age features, including a possible enclosure or barrow ditches and pits, were also uncovered. Following an apparent hiatus in land use, a 5th-7th century Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found overlying the Bronze Age features. Although skeletal remains proved to be badly preserved an interesting assemblage of grave goods was recovered. The archaeological investigations have revealed

important evidence of early medieval activity in the area and added to the understanding of the prehistoric landscape of Beddington.

Excavations on the site of a Late Bronze Age settlement at Cambridge House, Renfrew Road, Kingston upon Thames, 1986-7, by David Field

Excavations at the site of the former Cambridge House, Renfrew Road, Kingston upon Thames recovered evidence of Late Bronze Age structures that provide a context for the finds made in the area by 19th century gravel diggers and indicate that the site was of regional importance. The site may have been deliberately levelled in order to promote a change in land use.

Further discoveries on the site of the Roman villa at Walton on the Hill, by Wayne Weller

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief, following on from a trial trench evaluation, was conducted at Windmill Bank, Sandlands Grove, Walton on the Hill. The development site is located adjacent to a Roman villa, an Historic England Scheduled Monument (SM). The initial evaluation revealed a small number of features and unstratified Roman finds. The excavation, however, was more productive and uncovered a number of flint-packed postholes, some smaller pits or postholes and a ditch running from east to west, all of which are of a Romano-British date. The position and characteristics of a number of the postholes indicate that they are contemporary and potentially form the ground plan of a timber-framed building, of which the function is unknown. The ditch probably relates to a division between the domestic and working areas of the villa complex.