

## Volume 92 abstracts

### **10,000 years in the life of the river Wandle: excavations at the former Vinamul site, Butter Hill, Wallington**

Archaeological excavations alongside the river Wandle in Wallington produced evidence of the environmental history and human exploitation of the area. The recovery of a large assemblage of struck flint provided information on the nature of the prehistoric activities represented, while a detailed environmental archaeological programme permitted an examination of both the local sediment successions and thus an opportunity to reconstruct the environmental history of the site. The site revealed a complex sedimentary sequence deposited in riverine conditions, commencing during the early Holocene (from *c* 10,000 years before present) and continuing through the late Holocene (*c* last 3000 years). Large flint nodules were washed by the river onto the site where they were procured and worked by Mesolithic and Bronze Age communities. Potentially usable nodules had been tested, and suitable pieces completely reduced, while the majority of useful flakes and blades had been removed for use elsewhere. Small numbers of retouched pieces, such as scrapers and piercers, indicate that domestic activities took place nearby. By the Saxon period the site had begun to stabilise, although it remained marshy and probably peripheral to habitation. Two pits from this period were excavated, one of which contained an antler pick. A small quantity of cereal grain also suggests that cultivated land lay in the vicinity of the site. During the 19th century a mill race was dug across the site, redirecting water from the river Wandle, which resulted in episodic flooding.

### **Excavations near Broad Street Common, Worplesdon, Guildford, in 1994, 1997 and 1998**

The site, within the grounds of the former Barnwood School, was investigated by trial trenching in 1994 and 1997, and by area excavation, in advance of housing development, in 1998. Occupation began in the late 1st or early 2nd century AD, and the earliest substantial features were a post-built structure and a boundary ditch. The area was laid out anew around the mid-late 2nd century, with the construction of an aisled agricultural building, containing a T-shaped corn drier, set within a complex of ditched and fenced enclosures. The aisled building was demolished in the later 3rd century, but significant activity clearly persisted until the early 4th century. It is almost certain that the excavated site forms part of a complex associated with the villa on nearby Broad Street Common, which was identified in the 19th century. The emergence of this settlement on the London Clay may be associated with more developed exploitation of the woodland and pasture resources on that geology, for which the postulated creation of a road, linking settlements at Neatham, Hampshire and Ewell and passing nearby, may have acted as a catalyst.

### **Owen Manning, William Bray and the writing of Surrey's county history, 1760–1832**

*The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* took more than 40 years to research and thirteen to publish. It was begun in the 1760s by Owen Manning (1721–1801), vicar of Godalming, and completed in three volumes by William Bray (1736–1832) of Shere, between 1801 and 1814. But Manning and Bray did not operate alone and the work, though one of the finest county histories of its day, was fraught with difficulties. The prefaces to each volume and papers of those closely associated with the project testify to the support given to the editors by a national network of antiquaries and the industry, patience and accuracy that ensured the book's enduring value for local historical research. This paper, drawing on the rich archive materials of Manning and Bray, the antiquary Richard Gough (1731–1809), and

the printer, John Nichols (1745–1826), charts the research and production of a county history which remains a basic tool for students of Surrey's past.

### **Three sites in Reigate: 12–14 London Road, 20–22 and 74–76 High Street**

This report brings together an excavation and two observations on three tenements backing onto the western and southern slopes of Reigate Castle. On all three sites there is evidence for construction of the castle's defences in the form of large amounts of dumped sand overlying medieval material. It is argued from this that the castle slopes may have been free from domestic buildings until the castle ceased to have any military significance. An excavation at 12–14 London Road also uncovered the remains of a building dating from the mid-17th century and which was demolished during the 18th century. Both archaeological and documentary evidence suggests that this was the first building on the site. Among the finds from London Road was a glass wine bottle containing urine and bent pins and which is identified as a witch bottle.

### **Chilworth gunpowder mills in the period of the Dutch Wars**

This paper deals with the history of the Chilworth gunpowder mills in the third quarter of the 17th century and thereby completes the principal author's study of the mills from their establishment in 1626 to the end of that century. It attempts to distinguish the parts played by the two gunpowder makers involved, Josias Dewye and Vincent Randyll, in particular regarding Dewye's role in the 1650s and its bearing on the development of the site. The paper also discusses the performance of the Chilworth gunpowder makers in what was a period of intermittent war and hence of widely fluctuating demand for the product.

### **An archaeological excavation at Long Grove Road, Epsom**

Excavation undertaken by Archaeology South-East at Long Grove Road, Epsom in 2003 revealed evidence of mid–Late Bronze Age features including ditches, pits and other, amorphous, features. It is thought that the more irregular features may represent tree and scrub clearance in the early prehistoric period. The ditches are likely indications of agricultural features, such as droveways and fields, imposed on this cleared landscape in the later Bronze Age. Several postholes were identified within the fields, which may be the remains of internal fences, possibly for stock control. Nearby settlement may also be suggested by a pit containing pottery and worked flint. The excavation has revealed valuable, if ephemeral, evidence of the early landscape in an area that has seen little previous work.

### **Roman occupation at Skerne Road, Kingston upon Thames**

An excavation at Skerne Road, Kingston upon Thames identified the presence of three phases of Roman occupation in an area where Roman finds had been identified in the 19th century. Several pre-Flavian pits and a gully were recorded. Two 3rd century quarry pits were also identified which had been utilised subsequently for the disposal of rubbish. While a wide spectrum of domestic refuse was represented within these pits, certain assemblages recovered were unusual. High concentrations of both roof and box-flue tiles dating to the mid-1st to 2nd centuries AD were recovered, deposited with pottery dating to the 3rd century. This may indicate the presence of a 1st/2nd century building in the vicinity of the site possibly demolished or altered in the 3rd century. Partially articulated cattle and horse skeletons were also recovered from one of the quarry pits. An alignment of postholes of probable 3rd century date was identified, while a 4th century arable deposit suggested continuity of activity in the area for most of the Roman period.

### **Disparking the Royal Park of Guildford**

Documents relating to the disparking of the Royal Park of Guildford in the 17th century have been analysed and interpreted. Gradually, the former deer park was divided into farms and information has been discovered about the owners, mortgagees, tenants and sub-tenants. The character and repair of buildings and pales has also been investigated. The deeds do not usually reveal directly the locations of landholdings but a detailed study of their areas and comparisons with later documents has enabled many of them to be specified. Finally, landscape features and surviving early buildings within the park provide additional information.

### **Trial trenching on a probable moated site at Downside Farm, Cobham**

Downside Farm is probably the site of the manor of Downe, referred to in medieval documents. Trial trenching in advance of gardening and building works produced pottery dating from the 11th/12th centuries onwards. No intact medieval features were found, but an excavation within the dining room of the existing 18th century farmhouse revealed an underlying flint floor, a wall and an apparently external cobbled surface belonging to a building of late 15th–17th century date. The existing curving water-filled linear feature, mainly to the north of the farmhouse, was found to have originally extended along its east side as well and these cuts probably represent two arms of what may have originally been a three-sided moat.

### **Work at the Palaeolithic site at Rookery Farm, Lower Kingswood, 2001–5**

This article outlines the results of fieldwork undertaken between 2001 and 2005 at the Palaeolithic site of Rookery Farm, Lower Kingswood by the Plateau Archaeology Group under the direction of the author. The work comprised annual fieldwalking with test pitting in summer 2002 followed by excavation in September 2003–February 2004. The work produced nearly 400 flint artefacts of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic date. These artefacts mainly comprise handaxes and waste flakes (débitage), and it is suggested that although the majority of the artefacts resemble material recovered from earlier investigations of the site which have been compared with Farnham Terrace B material, artefacts are also present which are distinctive in both technology and post-depositional weathering and are comparable to Farnham Terrace A and Terrace C material. Excavation demonstrated that those artefacts not within the plough-soil exist within a loessy clay layer under the plough-soil and resting on Clay-with-flints, and it is concluded that there is evidence for multi-period deposition on the site during the Palaeolithic. There is also a brief summary of recently recovered Palaeolithic finds from the general area, and some comments on previous work at the site.

### **Survey of a post-medieval ‘squatter’ occupation site and 19th century military earthworks at Hungry Hill, Upper Hale, near Farnham**

A measured survey of a redoubt (centred SU 8456 4978), once part of a complex of practice earthworks situated on a narrow ridge overlooking the Aldershot Ranges in Surrey, was carried out in 2004/5. These earthworks, constructed between and 1855 and 1863, overlie a series of enclosures that relate to a squatter settlement that was abandoned soon after the area passed into military ownership. A similar settlement on low-lying land to the north of the ridge (centred SU 841 508) was also investigated.