

# SURREY'S PAST



**Cocks Farm Abinger 2023 excavations**  
**Geophysical survey of Roman remains**  
**at Pendell Court**

**Battle of Farnham, AD 893**

**Medieval Guildford's expansion**  
**west of the Wey**

**The west tower of St Mary's**  
**church, Bletchingley**

**National Trust**  
**archaeology**

**South Wales**  
**type bronze**  
**axeheads**  
**in Surrey**

## Note from the Editors

Welcome to the Summer edition, which has a variety of pieces on recent research and fieldwork within the county. Members are reminded that allowing us to send *Surrey's Past* electronically is quicker, cheaper and saves on paper and postage, so please do let us know if you would be willing to receive it this way for future editions.

New guidelines for contributors are also now available online (<https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/surreys-past-1>) which we would encourage potential authors to read. For more on other updates, events and opportunities, do subscribe to our monthly e-newsletters, emailing [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) to be placed on the mailing list.

## Welcome to new members

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
J C M Blake	Dorking	Late Iron Age, Roman and Medieval
Susie Campbell	Guildford	Prehistoric, early medieval and Surrey's history
Stephen Castle	Tongham	Neolithic to WW2
Havva Clarke	Camberley	Freelance video editor interested in archaeology; would like to volunteer on an excavation
Chris Cory Wright	Guildford	Volunteering on digs; keen detectorist with multiple finds on the PAS
Andy Dinnage	Dorking	Attending digs
Clare Dover	Knaphill	Interest in archaeology and history
Andrew Foreman	Worcester Park	Roman, Castles and grounds, Churches, National Trust houses, WW2 defences, dowsing
John Hawthorne	Beckenham	British and European pre-history, Roman, ceramics and faunal remains
Helen Jahans	Woking	Prehistoric and Roman
Craig James	Horsham	Particularly pre-history and Roman
Victoria Lea	Woking	Bronze age and Iron Age structures in British Isles
Bella Martin	Hindhead	A-Level Ancient History
Nicola Martin	Hindhead	General history
Jadd Mihell-Mufti	Woking	General interest, particularly Woking history
Patrick Molineux	Guildford	Early medieval and medieval history, Anglo-Saxon charter and Domesday studies for Surrey
Jack Oliver	Knaphill	Interest in all aspects of archaeology and history
Anthony Pitter	Banstead	Lithics and prehistory archaeology; Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic
Paul Robins	Westerham	
Matthew Saywood	Camberley	Industrial modern, timber framed buildings
Angus Scott	Oxshott	Roman, Greek and Egyptian History
Dean Smith	Prosser, WA (USA)	Roman Britain
John Stokes	Bookham	Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Ancient Linguistics, Numismatics
Mandy Young	Leatherhead	Museum curation; currently researching Anglo-Saxon sword and artefacts from Ashted Villa

## Contributor information

There will be one further issue of *Surrey's Past* in 2024. Next issue **498**: copy required by **16 September** for the **October** issue.

Articles and notes on all aspects of research on the history and archaeology of Surrey are very welcome. Contributors are encouraged to discuss their ideas beforehand, including possible deadline extensions and the proper format of submitted material.

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# Cocks Farm Abinger: 2023 excavations

By Emma Corke

The summer of 2023 saw two trenches being dug on this multi-period site (a season known as CFA23 for short; interim reports for all preceding seasons of fieldwork are available at [www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/excavations-at-cocks-farm-roman-villa-abinger-2009-present-interim-reports](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/excavations-at-cocks-farm-roman-villa-abinger-2009-present-interim-reports)). Both were in an area where extensive Romano-British (RB) occupation overlies prehistoric activity almost certainly related to an Early Neolithic mound that stood until the Late RB period. Fig 1 shows the area already excavated (colours) overlying magnetometry

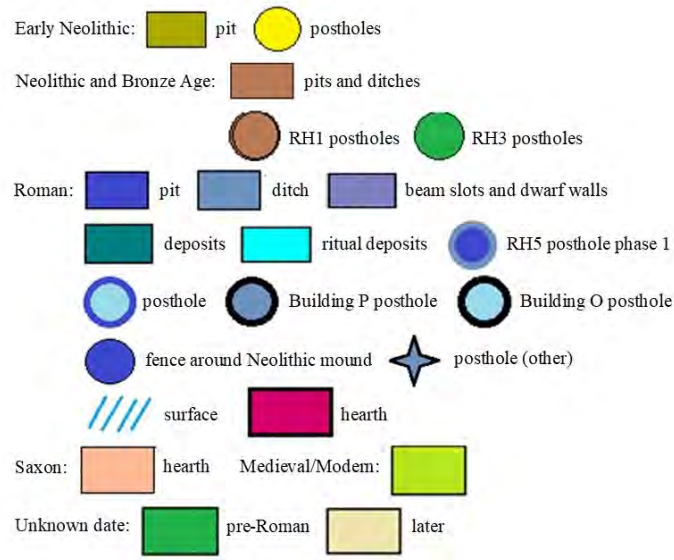
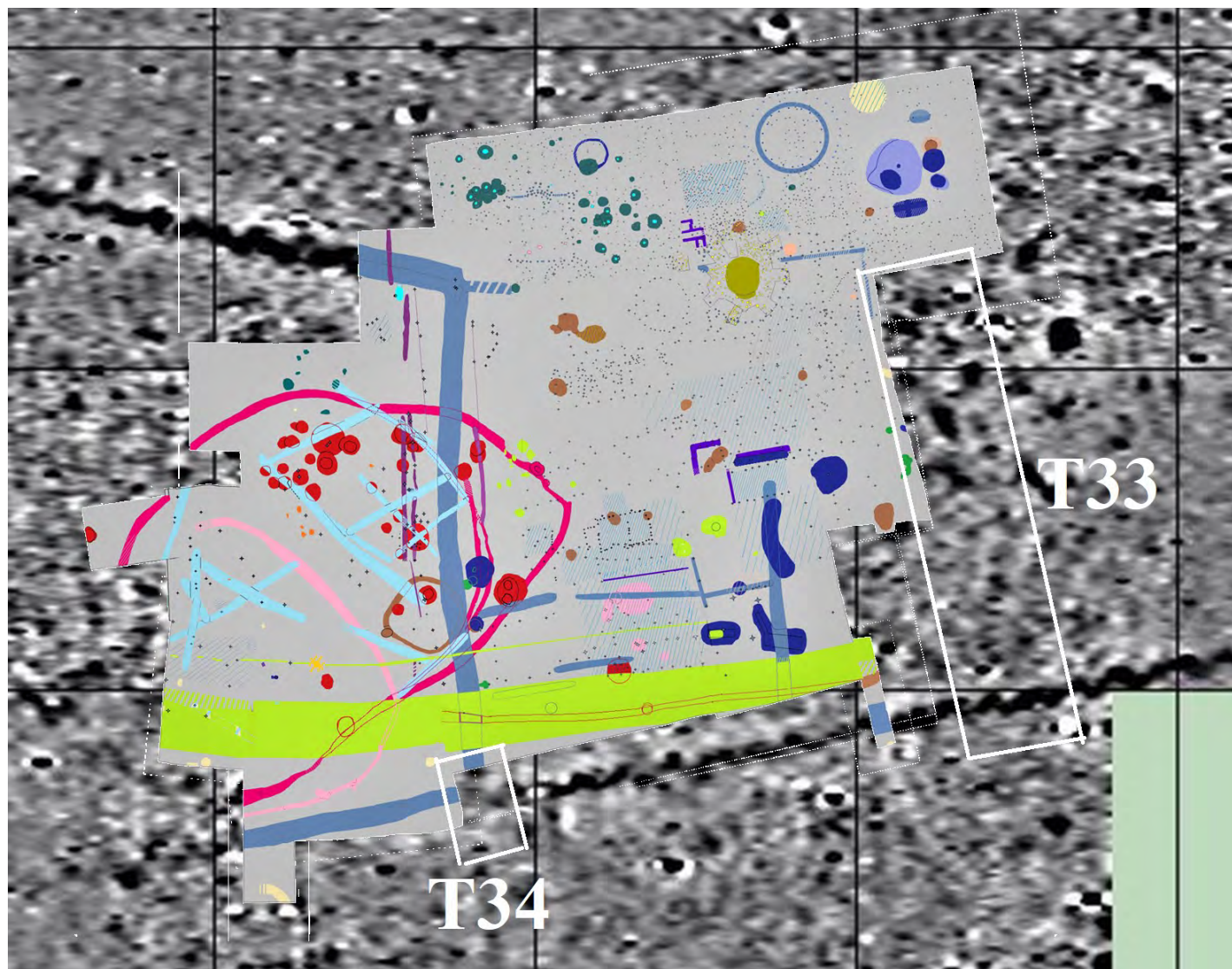


Fig 1 The excavated area overlying magnetometry with the CFA23 trenches outlined. NB squares are 30m. See Key for all plans (*right*); note paler edges around features show spreads.



(greyscale), with the two CFA23 trenches T33 and T34 marked in outline. T33 (10m x 47m) overlapped T32 (excavated in 2022) on the north and T28 (2020) and T25 (2019) on the west, while T34 (7m x 12m) overlapped T21 (2017) on the north and T26 (2019) on the west.

## Trench 34

T34 (Figs 2 and 3) was placed where two major ditches, one north-south, one east-west, intersected (they can be seen in Fig 1 as mid-blue in the excavated area and dark in the magnetometry). The aim was to find out if they were contemporary and if not, which came first.

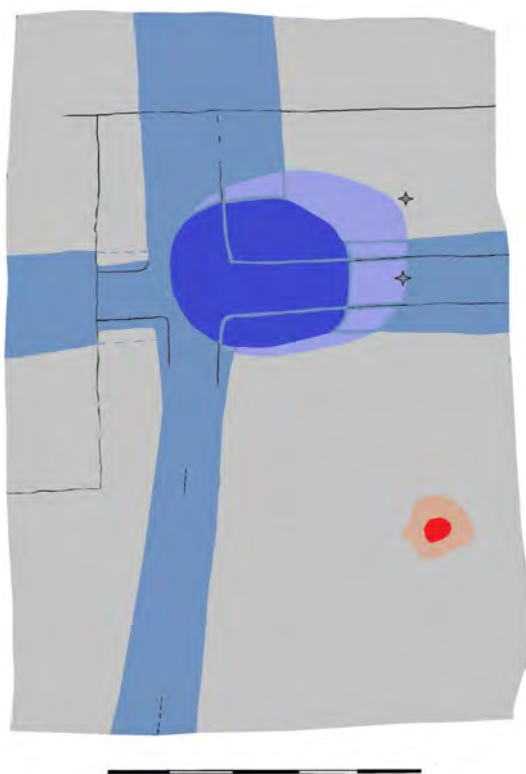


Fig 2 T34 (north at top). Red is a tree hole of uncertain date. Top and top left are T21 and T26.



The picture proved to be complicated but careful excavation of slots through very similar and almost find-free layers of sand enabled a succession to be worked out. The east-west ditch was probably first in the sequence, though it is possible that the western (earlier) version of the north-south ditch was dug at the same or almost the same time. Both of these ditches were scoured or re-dug, sometimes in rather different places – evidence had already been seen for this in earlier trenches. The fills of the two ditches varied, that of the east-west containing more organic material (including rare charcoal specks) than that of the north-south, and at the cross-over point there were five layers of these fills, alternating north-south over east-west over north-south and so on, each less than 0.05m thick, proving that the ditches were open at the same time. It seems that later on the part of the north-south ditch north of the junction was re-dug a metre or so further east, while the part of it to the south of the junction went out of use. Stones including a piece of broken quern were found at the latter's base, possibly indicating that it was deliberately backfilled as there were virtually no other stones in the ditch fills. The east-west ditch may then, or later, have been allowed to fill up, but the north-south ditch remained open.

After the east-west ditches were completely full of silt a sump was dug at the south end of the north-south ditch over the old ditch junction. This sump (c2.5m x 3.5m, c35cm deep) was filled with several layers: gritty at the base, finer further up and round the edges, with a patch of clay in its centre at (the present) top. This may have been the result of settling within the water-filled sump rather than changes in what was flowing into it. It cannot be ruled out that the sump was not dug but formed as a result of water lying in this position, but the free-draining land here combined with the nature of the fills, and the fact that the sump's edge was readily found when excavating, makes this less likely than its purposeful creation.

Fig 4 shows the sump edge where it cut the ditch fill to the east. The sump fill contained more finds than elsewhere, mainly stones but also some pottery dating from throughout the RB period. Probably contemporaneous with the sump were two postholes: one cut into the fill of the eastern branch of the

Fig 3 T34 (north at bottom). Some more slots were excavated in the sump after this photo was taken.



east-west ditch, the other to the first one's north. Both lay on the line of a late RB fence previously seen further north.



Fig 4 Cut of sump through earlier ditch fill. Note stones in sump fill.

### Trench 33

T33 (Fig 5) ran from a flat northern end southwards down an increasingly steep slope to a rather flatter southern end. These changes unsurprisingly proved to reflect the archaeology beneath: the northern 15m or so contained a building and working area, the steep middle 21m mainly quarrying, while the southern 8m was crossed by a substantial ditch with a ploughed field to its south.

At the southern end, the east-west ditch that we have already looked at in T34 continued, but it was far larger in T33 (Fig 6). This was despite the fact that here it had to be dug through hard layers of flints and ironstone in a fine compacted yellow-white clay rather than sand. To the ditch's south lay an area of natural sand about 3m wide with a line of stones on its southern edge. South of that the natural fell away rapidly with an RB ploughsoil (c0.15-0.20m thick) above it containing some RB pottery. The area between the ditch and ploughed area is interpreted as either a bank or a track.

North of the ditch the yellow-white areas of ironstone and clay were seen to lie in two wide parallel lines NNE to SSW across the trench (they are visible in the magnetometry, Fig 1). The northwest edge in particular was very sharp and distinct against the surrounding orange-yellow sand. On excavation these deposits were found to lie in deep grooves cut into the sand. The upper parts were in general disturbed, with sand and some finds intermixed with the clay and ironstone, but the lower were even

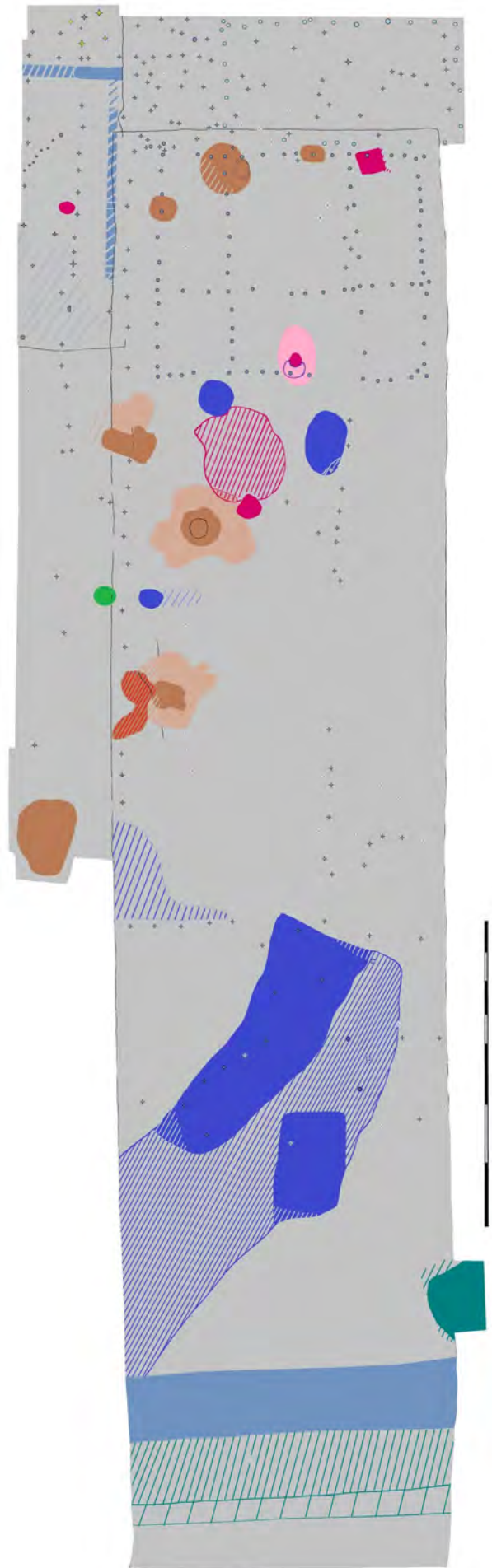


Fig 5 T33. The plan also includes parts of T32 (top), T28 (top left), and T25 (middle left).

CFA SECTION 861  
 DITCH 3343, SLOT F AT TRENCH BAULK, EASTERN ELEVATION  
 EPM 16/07/2023 epm 24/11/2023 ver 2  
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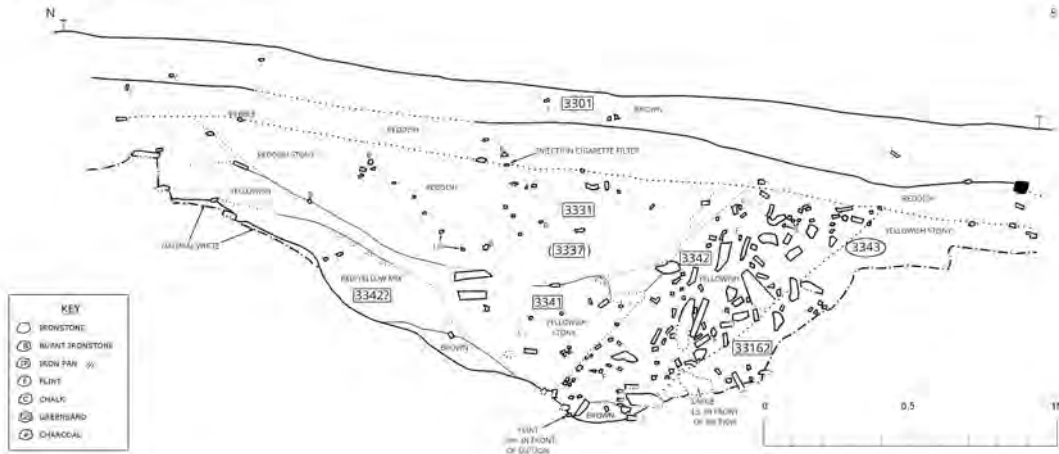


Fig 6 Ditch section at the eastern edge of the trench.

harder and evidently natural. Their most likely origin is probably glacial deposition. This was an important discovery, as previously it had been thought that there was no *in situ* ironstone on site (only ironpan) but now we had an abundant source of this material which had been so extensively used in all the periods seen on site. Not only have we had tons of it in RB and Iron Age (IA) features, but also as far back as the Early Neolithic pit where small pieces were found (burnt) in the fills.

The areas of disturbance are thought to be quarrying, certainly some is RB but some is very probably earlier. On the eastern side of the trench beside the ditch a large heap of ironstone was found (Fig 7), with an occasional sherd of RB pottery in it. This was presumably a store of quarried stone for use in postholes or other features. It may be noted that there are very few RB postholes on site that do not include at least one piece of ironstone. It is also possible that the clay was utilised; several IA pits contained white clay of unknown origin.

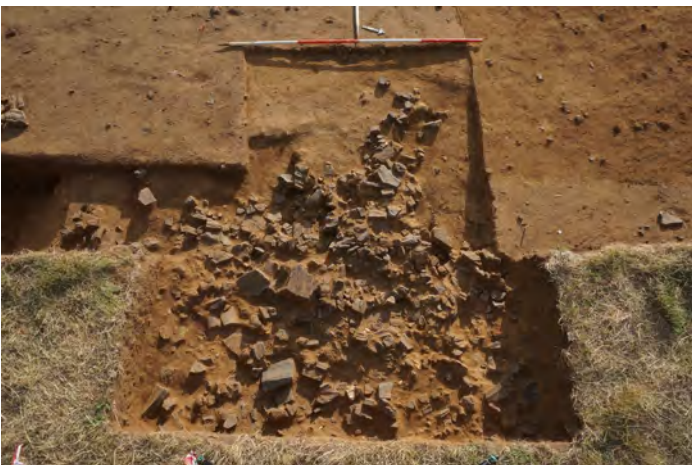


Fig 7 The ironstone heap. North to the right. Note the ditch on the left of the heap. Some stones had fallen into the ditch (they can be seen in Fig 6).

There were some postholes in the quarrying area but, although some formed lines, their purpose could not be ascertained. They may well have supported some type of shelter. A few late Roman coins were also found here, possibly part of a small hoard (deposited after 388 AD).

At the point where the clay-and-ironstone deposits were no longer visible there was an east-west fence. Its western part was very well-made, with an area of hill-wash against its northern side, but the eastern part of the fence was less clear, with posts further apart and at a different angle. It did seem clear, however, that there had been a gateway at the change of style of construction. The gateway was about 3m wide, and a north-south fence ran north from its eastern post. This fence ran the whole way (with some gaps) up the trench and across T32. There it had been a later RB feature, and that agreed with what was seen in T33. To the east of this fence and through a possible wide gateway was a featureless and find-free area (very unusual on this site) which could have been RB pasture. In its south-west corner were some postholes, possibly representing a field shelter. Another fence ran down the west side of the trench, apparently stopping about 3.5m north of the east-west fence. This also had been seen before, running to almost the northern edge of T32.

The two north-south fences were not on exactly same alignment, differing by about 5 degrees; this subtle change has been seen throughout the RB ancillary buildings and fences. The western fence belongs to an earlier phase than the eastern. The area between these two fences may also have been used for grazing; the only features excavated here were



the tree-holes or throws of three trees. One, quite a small tree with a deep taproot (an ash?), had already been seen in T25. Its fill contained parts of a glass vessel, alongside pottery including large sherds from an OXRC bowl and AHFA dish (MOLA codes), both post-dating 250 AD. This was the only substantial piece of a glass vessel so far seen on the hilltop, and it is likely that this was a placed deposit. This tree grew close to the western fence. The other two were large, probably oaks, and the fills contained no finds but struck flint and (for one tree) prehistoric pottery, probably Late Bronze Age (LBA) or Early Iron Age (EIA). These trees had therefore gone long before the RB activity.

Continuing north we have reached a flat area, where the natural was mostly ironpan. This was largely shattered into small pieces, either naturally or by human activity. Another prehistoric tree underlay the western fence posts, but elsewhere between the fences was an area of hearths (magenta in figs) and pits (royal blue in figs). This included two hearth pits cut into the ironpan, each about 0.8m across, a flat subcircular area of burnt ironpan  $c3.5m \times 2.5m$ , a pit 1.15m across and another pit  $c2.1m \times 1.4m$ . Neither pit contained anything but sheets of ironpan in a dark fill so their purpose is not known, but they could have been backfilled slurry or latrine pits (cf. the pit associated with building D in T25).

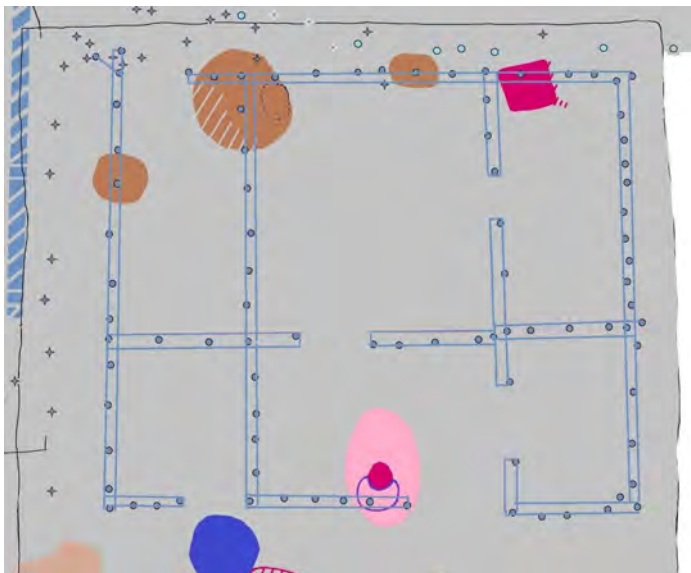


Fig 8 Plan of building P (north at top). The lines show possible doorways (the walls may well have been wider than shown). Later features including the north-south fence posts are not shown.

Over the northern of the two hearth pits was the southern wall of a building: building P (Figs 8 and 9), with the western north-south fence a little over 1m from the wall. P was rectangular ( $c8.6m \times 7.4m$ ) and divided into six rooms, with walls constructed using 90 small, closely-spaced posts. The post packing was interesting in that the packing of the 90 postholes included only two very small pieces of ceramic building material (CBM). In general RB postholes on site included some CBM packing; nevertheless this is a thoroughly Roman building design. It seems likely that this is the earliest of the RB buildings on site; 1st or early 2nd century AD (or even conceivably pre-conquest). It is also almost the only building to look like a house; the room sizes and layout are more suitable for human habitation than for animals or workshops. It was possibly a 'proto-villa', perhaps only inhabited until the first phase of the stone-built villa in the valley to the SW was completed. Interestingly, building O's southern wall is parallel to P's northern wall and they are only about 0.5m apart (when the wattle- and-daub that would have been attached to both walls is added this gap is tiny or even non-existent), while O's west wall continues the line of P's western internal wall. O's postholes however follow the usual pattern of being packed with CBM. It seems possible that they co-existed at some time, although O must have been built later than P. Building O was discovered in T32; its postholes can be seen in Fig 5.

This early dating of P suggests that the hearth that its southern wall overlies may be IA rather than RB. This hearth seemed to have two phases and also overlay a small pit; all these are presumably IA. Another hearth (an area of highly burnt *in situ* ironpan) under P's north wall is also probably IA.



Fig 9 Overhead of building P (north at bottom). Note the later fence posts and the partially dug pit on the right.



Fig 10 Pit 33189 part-excavated. Note the LBA sherd visible inside the posthole (which lay entirely within the pit).

Included in the packing of one of the postholes in P's western wall were a number of sherds of LBA pottery. These proved to come from a pit (brown in Fig 8) that the posthole had been cut into. This pit [33189] (Fig 10) was probably the hole for a smallish tree that had been modified to form a circular bowl-shaped pit with a hard impenetrable ironpan base. Struck flints had been placed around at least the eastern lip (possibly originally all round) and large sherds of pottery placed into the pit (Fig 11); total: at least 14 vessels, 712g.

To the northeast another pit [33219] was found. This too had originated as a tree hole, but a much larger one than [33189]. A few struck flints were found in the fill, while on the eastern edge of the tree hole a small deposit of LBA pottery had again been made; total: LBA 4 vessels 250g, mainly the base of a single large jar, plus a small Mortlake (Neolithic) sherd (8g).

Further east again, one of P's north wall postholes was seen to have an unusual rock-type in its packing. The stone was large and not well-placed for its job of supporting the post. On investigation this too was in a pit [33225] into the top of which the posthole had been cut to the depth of the top of the stone without disturbing it or the pit-fills below. The stone (Fig 12) was found to be approximately cubic, with sides about 0.2m. It is extremely dense and heavy (9506g) and of non-local origin. The stone



Fig 11 Pottery from deep in pit 33189. Some finer pieces (not shown) were near the lip.

has been identified as a 'quartz sandstone: minimal porosity, minimal internal structure. Rounded granules, subaerial deposition. Cross-lamination. Hisingerite (fine black)'. It is likely to be a sarsen. It is not known what it was used for; a fine metal-working anvil is perhaps the most probable purpose. Two sides were dressed, and another one was polished flat (with a slight wear-dent at its centre). The other faces had apparently been broken before deposition.

The stone was lying with its polished side vertical and facing east; a flint axe rough-out, four other worked flints including a blade and seven other pieces of flint, one of which was a half hollow fossil sponge, and an ironstone 'pipe' had been placed against the polished face. The whole assemblage was lying in a bowl-shaped deposit of charcoal, a piece of which was dated to 1412-1257 BC (91.0% probability), 1247-1227 BC (4.4% probability). This deposit was thus consistent in date, if not contents, with the LBA pottery deposits in pits 33189 and 33219. Like the other two deposits, 33225 was found to be a deposit within a treehole, in 33225's



case as well as 33219 it was on the eastern edge. 33225's tree root-ball was small but quite deep: it resembled 33189's tree rather than 33219's.



Fig 12 The polished face of the stone from pit 33255.



Fig 13 Trowelling party over the northern part of the quarrying area. Note patches of pale clay.



## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to: Marco Marchesini and Paul Ensom for the geological identification; Jon Cotton for pre-historic pottery identification; the Reigate flint group; the Thursday AARG members who did post-ex; Steve Dobinson who, with Ann Morrison and the finds team, not only processed all of CFA23's finds but also recorded and sorted for discard many boxes of CBM from the 1995-97 excavations; all the dozens of diggers old and new (far too many to name) who coped cheerfully with desperately hard clay-and-ironstone, soft shifting sands and the constant frustration of the ever-present injection lines; Tim Wilcock and others who used the Total Station and Trimble; those who drew, especially Elvin Mullinger who also digitised the drawings; David Calow for hard work and excellent advice; and of course above all Nikki Cowlard who supervised T34, and who made sure that everything happened as it should.



Fig 14 The southern part of the quarrying area. RB backfill and two postholes can be seen in the slot. On the left is a line of small (rejected?) pieces of ironstone, and the stone heap is being excavated in the extension on the far side of the trench.

Fig 15 (*left*) Early days at the south end of T33. The stone heap is beginning to emerge, with the ditch fill at the bottom of the photo.

# Geophysical survey of Roman remains at Pendell Court, Bletchingley in 2023-24

By Anne Sassin & Mary-Jane Dawson

## Summary

In 2023-24 a small team of SyAS volunteers undertook a geophysical survey at the site of the Roman period hypocaust remains recorded to the north of Pendell Court, Bletchingley. The survey was carried out with an objective of accurately plotting the archaeological remains and establishing whether any associated features, presumably tied to a villa complex, could be found, or whether the structure was an isolated hypocaust building site. Although no further structures were apparent in the survey within the surrounding fields, a (presumably Roman) field system and trackway were revealed through the magnetometry in the immediate vicinity of the hypocaust site.

The full report will shortly be submitted to the Surrey HER and made available on the Society's website under 'Recent fieldwork'.

## Background

The site of the Roman hypocaust building, presumed to be a bath-house, at Pendell Court, also referred to as Pendell Court or Bletchingley villa, lies on the valley bottom of the Vale of Holmesdale, less than 1km to the north of Bletchingley village and to the west of Brewer Street hamlet (NGR: TQ 31854 52065; Fig 1). Geologically the site is on a layer of sandstone and mudstone and on the southern edge of the Folkestone Sand beds, with the North Park Farm quarry, operated by Sibelco, immediately to its north. Now given over to paddock, the field within which the hypocaust lies is large and flat, adjoining three similar fields on the valley floor.

The hypocaust building remains were first discovered in 1813 by workmen digging out a hedge on the northern side of Water Lane at Pendell Farm, Bletchingley. A stone-walled room which was filled with broken tiles of 'Roman workmanship' was uncovered, with a cross wall and two pillars 18 courses high. Two circular recesses are described in the west wall, with a 3-foot high arch (possibly a

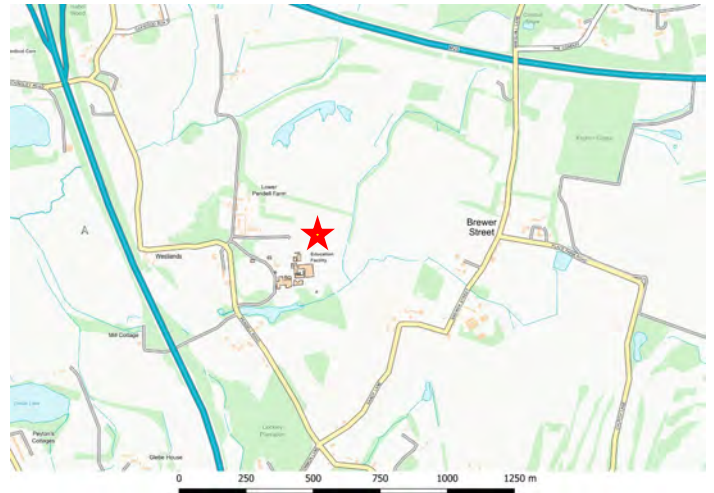


Fig 1 Map of Pendell Court, with the star denoting the location of the Roman hypocaust (OS Open Data)

furnace flue) at the southern end of a room with floor and walls both paved with tiles. A plan was drawn by Mr Ambrose Glover, a Reigate solicitor (Fig 2), and the site then covered, to be excavated further the following spring (Lambert 1949), though it is not clear if further investigation took place. An 1846 note by Alfred J Kempe suggested that the building outline could be traced from a surface hollow at this time, 40 feet long and 24 feet wide, with remains of a party wall and a circular north end, and numerous fragments of roof and flue tile and 'other Roman material' scattered upon the ground (Kempe 1847).



Fig 2 Early 19th century plan of the hypocaust by Mr Ambrose Glover of Reigate from *Bletchingley, a short history*

Although the 19th-century hollow has long since disappeared, an electrical resistance survey in 1996 by Chris Hasler and Malcolm Davies reconfirmed



the hypocaust building's precise location. At 1m resolution, a rectangular area of low resistivity indicated the wall foundations and debris from the hypocaust (low resistance in this instance, given the sand geology which registers as high resistance in comparison). A small series of investigative trenches indicated wall foundations, mortared on top and with a tile course that largely matched the 19th-century hypocaust building plan. The additional discovery of a 4.7m length of chalk wall foundation (0.8m wide) which protruded eastwards from the north-east corner of the structure was interpreted by the excavators as support for a possible wooden annexe. The building's size through excavation was 7.25m by over 13.25m (the full length not obtainable due to its continuation under Water Lane), slightly more accurate than the earlier simplified plan (Davies & Hasler 1996). Resistivity across the wider field indicated no further structures, leaving the question of whether the hypocaust remains were isolated or part of an associated villa complex, unanswered.

Focused metal-detecting over recent decades by Mairi Sargent and Dave Williams within the paddocks surrounding the hypocaust site have revealed a number of small finds comprising mainly late Roman coins and personal items. All of these finds have been recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and some are now on display at East Surrey Museum. Although the areas detected have focused on the hypocaust field, there is a clear concentration of finds noted around the known building location (Fig 3).

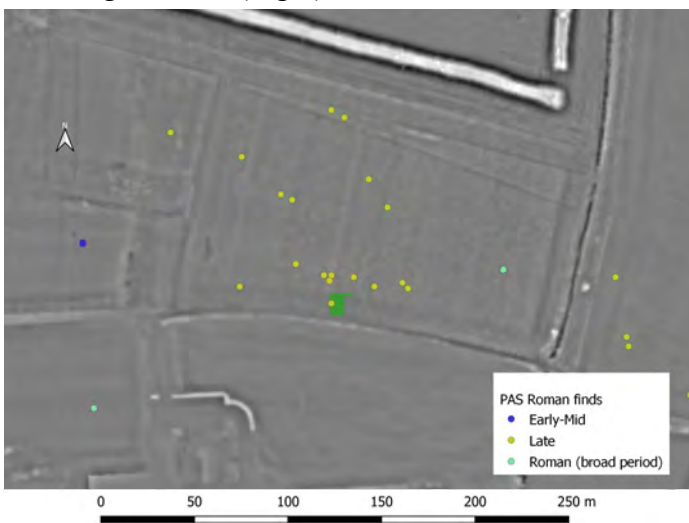


Fig 3 Map of detecting finds of Roman date from the site, as reported with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, showing the clear concentration of Late Roman items around the hypocaust (outlined in green); LiDAR 1m LRM basemap © Environment Agency, visualised by PTS Consultancy

Since 2012, excavations ahead of sand quarry extraction at North Park Farm, mainly carried out by Wessex Archaeology, have produced evidence of activity ranging from the Pleistocene to post-medieval. This included a small Romano-British inhumation cemetery within an L-shaped enclosure (c350m north of the hypocaust building) consisting of seven graves, two of which contained coffins of decorated lead (Coombe *et al*, 2018, 224-9). To the west, ditches bounding graves formed a roughly N-S Roman trackway, 14m wide and over 400m in length, with a trapezoidal ditched enclosure 50m north of the cemetery and large roundhouse 15m north of that, both 1st-2nd century in date (Egginton *et al*, 2022, 264-7). Signs of a multi-phase rectilinear field system were also present (*ibid* 2023, 258-60; see Fig 5 for a location map of these features). In addition, limited excavations under SCAU immediately to the south-east of the Hawthorns School, c200m to the south of the hypocaust building, also revealed ditches which may represent medieval or early post-medieval land enclosures (Randall & Poulton 2011).

## Geophysical survey (2023-24)

Over the course of eight days between March 2023 and 2024, a small team of volunteers undertook a geophysical magnetometry and electrical resistance survey across an area totalling 4.43 hectares. The electrical resistance focus was over smaller areas, 0.75 hectares in total. Six current fields or paddocks were surveyed (the following names representing 19th-century Tithe parcels): the southern half of Crooked Field Shaw (the hypocaust paddock and the paddock to its east), the southern half of New Barn Field (represented by two small paddocks to the west of the hypocaust field), the northern half of Park Meadow to the south of Water Lane (now used largely for goats), and House Barn Field (the Hawthorns School playing fields to its east).

The magnetic gradiometer survey was carried out using the Society's Bartington Grad601 gradiometer. The data was collected in zig-zag mode at 0.25 centres along traverses 1m apart, with 4 readings per metre along the traverses. The electrical resistance survey, conducted with two RM Frobisher TAR-3 Resistance Meters, used a sampling interval of data collected every 0.5m along traverses 1m apart.

Overall, the survey results were affected by a small amount of magnetic disturbance and bipolar readings, caused by modern water pipes which run through the paddocks, metal gates, fences and water troughs, and the cricket pitches on the school playing fields. Nonetheless, only a small number of features of potential archaeological interest were apparent in the magnetometry (Figs 4 & 5), the most notable being a series of positive linears representing ditches which form a NW-SE oriented field system in the area of the two main paddocks and school playing field. The main enclosure, to the north of the hypocaust building, is clearly bounded on three sides and c95m wide, with what appears to be a 10m wide E-W trackway along its southern side with a splayed opening for the hypocaust itself. Part of this southern enclosure, within which the hypocaust building may sit, is apparent, though may be disturbed by later activity on the playing field.

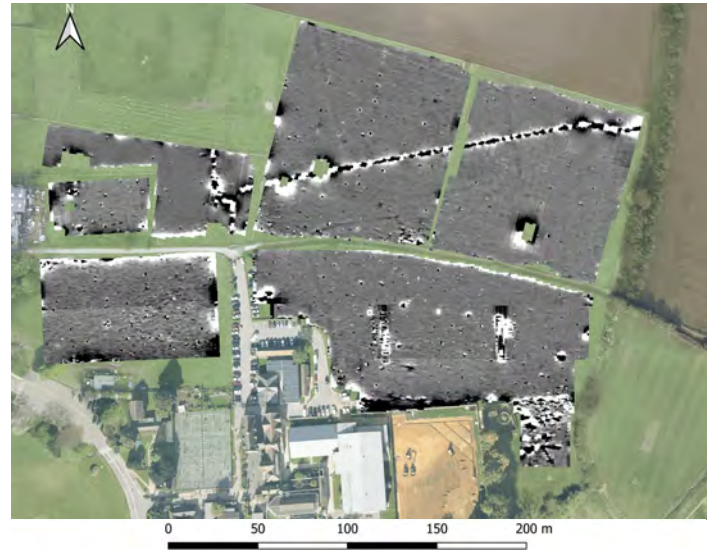
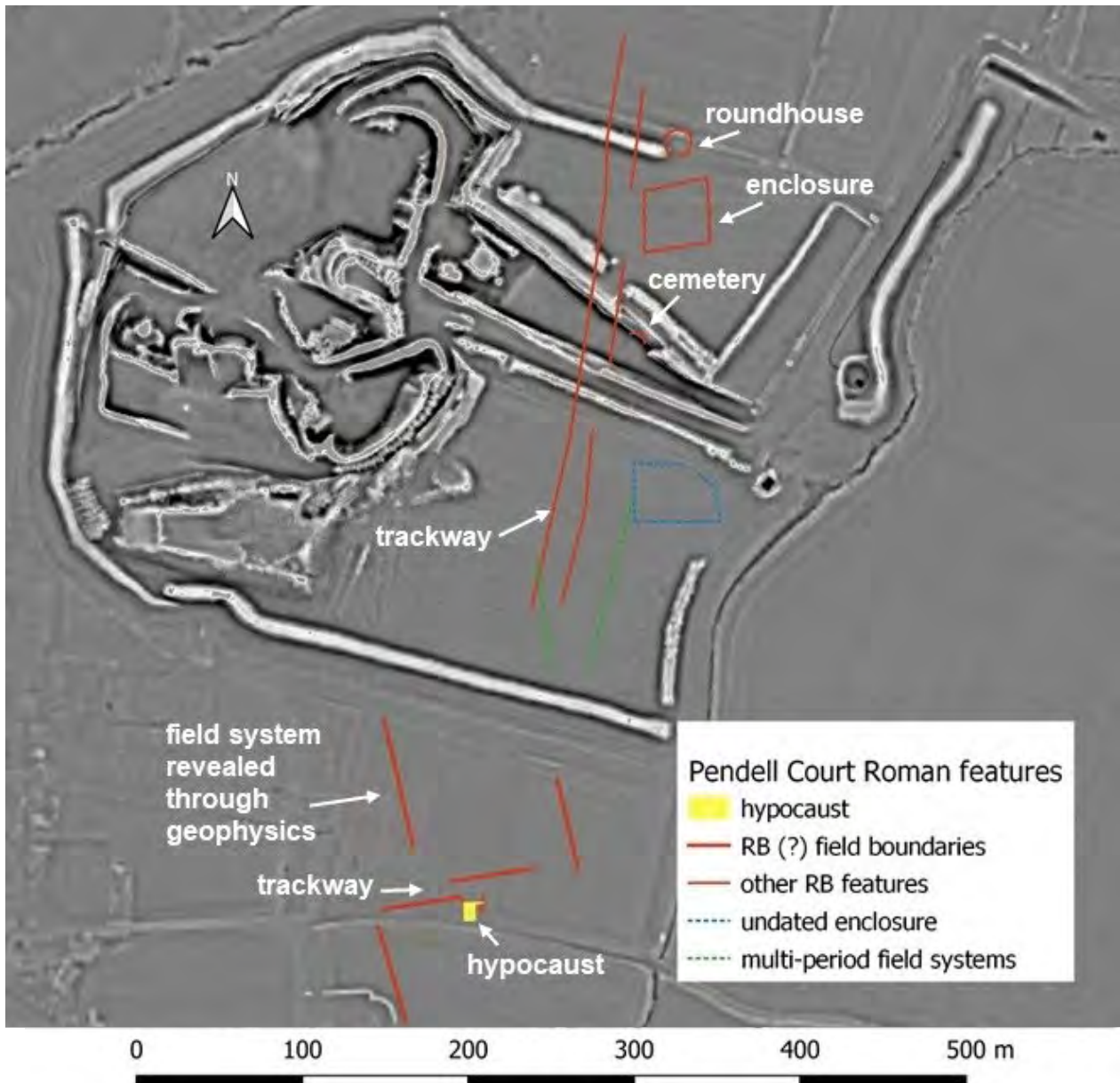


Fig 4 Magnetometer survey of Pendell Court (unmarked)

Fig 5 Map of Roman period (or possible Roman) features from Pendell Court and North Park Farm quarry, the latter based on Wessex Archaeology excavations; LiDAR 1m LRM basemap © Environment Agency, visualised by PTS Consultancy





Whilst the resistivity survey (Fig 6) successfully georeferenced and accurately plotted the hypocaust building's outline, neither it nor the magnetometry identified anomalies likely to represent associated structures. A small number of low resistance linears in the hypocaust field may represent ditches, though of ancient or modern date (e.g. water pipes) is not clear. The only identifiable features in the small area of resistivity conducted in the goat field to the south-west are likely to be water pipes, and despite a higher amount of magnetic noise here which might represent a spread of building material, nothing of definite interest was noted.

## Discussion

The size, alignment and proximity of the field system close to the hypocaust building all strongly suggest a Roman date. Though similarly aligned field boundaries at the quarry site to the north are suggested as multi-period, it is recognised that land division was likely to have taken place over several phases. Although it is noted that the N-S Roman trackway traversing the quarry does not appear on the geophysics further south, its lines can be faintly detected in both the LiDAR and current field boundary, suggesting it may have indeed extended down to the hypocaust building. Certainly the field system pre-dates Water Lane, which though only traceable as far back as the 1622 estate map is likely to be at least as old as the 15th-century Brewer Street and Place Farms.

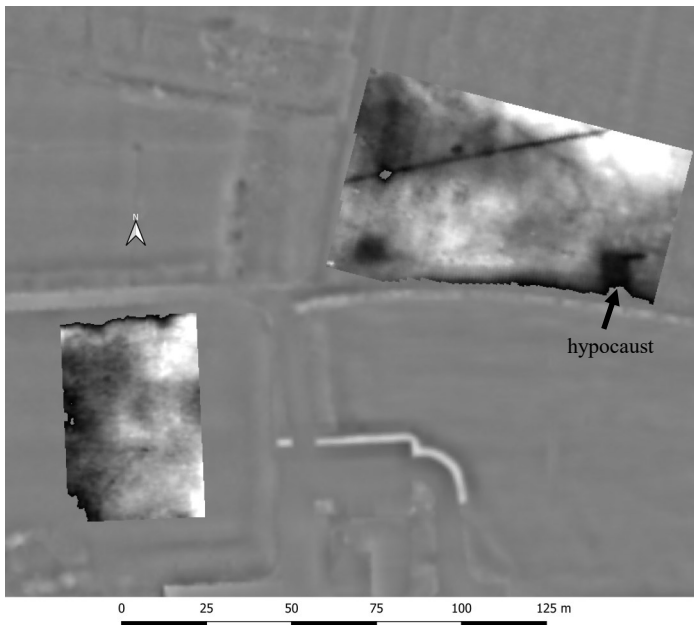


Fig 6 Resistivity survey of Pendell Court, with low resistance features, including the hypocaust, shown in black

The apparent close relationship between the hypocaust building and field system would suggest they are near-to contemporary, possibly with the hypocaust constructed first. Most of the North Park quarry features are Early Roman in date (1st or 2nd century), although it is noted that the scallop motifs of the lead coffins found in the cemetery, reminiscent of both Spitalfields and Lullingstone which are likely 4th century (Meates 1979; though cf. the early 3rd-century date assigned to the scallop-decorated lead coffin from Beddington, Adkins & Adkins 1984), making the initially assigned 2nd-century date for the Bletchingley coffins (Coombe *et al*, 2018) potentially problematic. The possible extension of the field system in the southern half of the quarry appears to cut the Roman trackway, and given the large presence of Late Roman coins near to the hypocaust, it is likely that combined, the evidence points to more prolonged activity in the area.

Hypocausts buildings, interpreted as bath-houses, discovered on their own within the landscape are frequently assumed to be indicative of an as yet undiscovered villa complex. The south-east of England, and Kent in particular, are known to have a comparatively high number of isolated hypocaust buildings, notable enough that a lack of extensive fieldwork would not seem enough of an explanatory factor (Parsons 1973; also see Boyce 2007 for those in the Cray Valley and in the London Boroughs). For some, such as the two examples along the Darent Valley, Kemsing and Shoreham, the apparent absence in the archaeological record of further buildings may merely be a case of destruction by later development or lack of investigation within the wider landscape. Alternative views recognise that known detached bath-houses tend to be of earlier date, with a correlation mooted between their construction and a desire to adopt new modes of behaviour at a relatively early stage. The majority of examples are also noted as being located close to (particularly riverine) transport routes, with evidence often pointing to involvement in trade or industry (Blanning 2008), and discussion over this much-debated topic is unlikely to conclude soon.

Though it is possible that the Pendell Court hypocaust was constructed in isolation, the trackways and presumed relationship to the Roman hinterland attest to local activity and possible wider

settlement. Although no evidence of local industry is known, local resources abound with easily accessible sand deposits of high grade and suitable for glass-making and substantial amounts of iron stone in the ground could have been used for construction or iron smelting. To date, signs of an associated villa complex are still lacking, and it may indeed be the case that this lies buried under later buildings. While the origins of the hypocaust are still not certain, it is possibly Early Roman and contemporary with the settlement at North Park quarry, with the lead coffins and detecting finds suggesting continued settlement into the Late Roman period.

## Acknowledgements

The recent investigations at Pendell Court relied extensively on Mairi Sargent and Mary-Jane Dawson, who contributed several hours in both research and fieldwork assistance. Thanks must be made to those who assisted with the survey: Dave Williams, Helen Kemp and Tony McLaughlin with the magnetometry, and John Peters, David Wilkinson, Jonathan Harris, Paul Ferris, Claire Smith and Alison O’Gorman who all worked brilliantly in tandem with the resistivity metres. A special thank you must also be extended to Elaine and David Forsyth for their kind permission, access and support throughout the survey, Louise and Todd Bentley for access to their property, and the staff at Hawthorns School for kindly permitting access to the school fields.

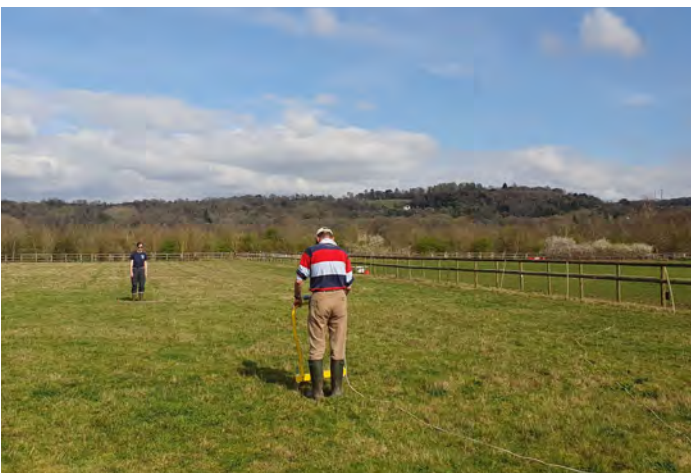


Fig 7 Resistivity survey taking place in the hypocaust field (image looking north, from approximately the site of the hypocaust which is in the SE / lower righthand corner of the field); the cover image shows the survey with a view to the east

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# The so-called Battle of Farnham in 893

By **Rob Briggs**

In the course of writing up research into the early medieval charters relating to Farnham for publication in future volumes of *Surrey History* (stemming from a paper I gave at a SyAS Medieval Studies Forum meeting in March 2018), I had cause to consider the only other historical testimony for the place during that period. The sources in question are two brief narrative accounts of an armed encounter between Viking and English armies fought at Farnham. Some have gone so far as to dub this the Battle of Farnham; there is a Wikipedia page using that title, for example. Having had to excise what I wrote on the subject from the article draft in order to manage the word count, I offer it here in expanded form to act as the first thorough published appraisal of the evidence, including some thoughts on where the battle (if that is what it was) might have taken place.

## The historical evidence

The earliest record of the event in question is found in MS A of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (Fig 1), in the annal attributed to 894 but correctly 893 (and not 892 as is asserted on occasion), first composed not long after the events it describes:

*Þa hie gefengon micle herehyð 7 þa woldon ferian norþweardes ofer Temese in on Eastseaxe ongean þa scipu, þa forrad sio fierd hie foran 7 him wið gefeaht æt Fearnhamme 7 þone here gefliemde 7 þa herehyða ahreddon, 7 hie flugon ofer Temese buton ælcum forda þa up be Colne on anne iggað. (Bately 1986, 56)*

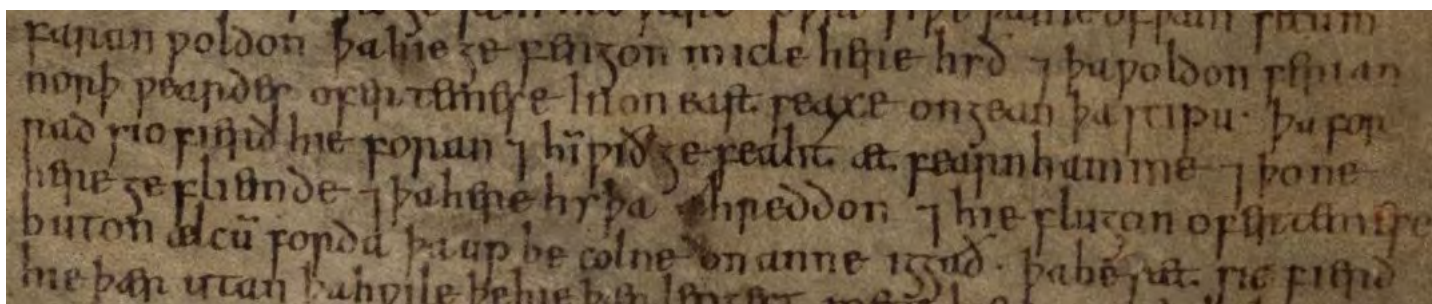
‘Then they seized a large amount of booty and wished to carry it north across the Thames into Essex to meet the ships. Then the English army intercepted them from in front and fought against

them at Farnham and put the Viking army to flight and recovered the booty; and they fled across the Thames, without any ford, and then up the Colne to an islet.’ (Keynes & Lapidge 1983, 115)

This account is supplemented by the lengthier and in some respects more detailed one provided by Æthelweard in his Latin translation of a lost recension of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle written in the period c975–83 (the standard published edition and translation is Campbell 1962, 49). The text as it is known today is incomplete, and matters are not helped either by Æthelweard’s eccentric Latin prose writing style, but nonetheless it provides a few extra morsels of information. Firstly, it implies the viking army had amassed its previously-reported ‘large amount of booty’ in Hampshire and Berkshire (*Hamtunscire et Bearrucscire*). It also seems to suggest the battle at Farnham was instigated by *iuuentus*, here perhaps signifying something like “young English men”, conceivably drawn from the locality and just possibly garrisoned in the *burh* at Eashing (Briggs in prep).

Another novel aspect of Æthelweard’s account is its naming of Edward, King Alfred’s son (and heir), as the hero of the hour. Edward was already in command of forces in southern England and journeyed to Farnham to secure the victory. Campbell evocatively translated the relevant passage

Fig 1 The section of the annal for 893 relevant to Farnham (*æt Fearnhamme* may be discerned on the third full line of text) from Anglo-Saxon Chronicle MS A, alias the Parker Chronicle (Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 173, folio 16v). This part of the manuscript was probably written in the early 10th century (image copyright Masters and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License).



(*Fit in occurso minacibus stridens agmine denso Fearnhamme loco*) as ‘He [the prince] came clashing in dense array into collision with the foemen at Farnham’. However, a better translation is that proffered by Keynes and Lapidge; ‘The engagement takes place at Farnham, with the dense throngs (?) shrieking with threats’ (1983, 189; also 335 notes 6-8, 10, where they make clear this portion of Æthelweard’s text as it survives is incomplete and that other portions of Campbell’s translation are impossible). Æthelweard also recorded another outcome of the battle; the wounding of the unnamed viking leader (*Vulneratur ibi tyrannus*). Unfortunately, it is unclear whether he fled, was captured or succumbed to his injuries afterwards as the text refers only to ‘the filthy crowds of his supporters’ (*iuuantum squalidas turmas*) being driven away from Farnham (Keynes & Lapidge 1983, 189 and 336 note 14).

## At Farnham, but where exactly?

Whether it was a pitched battle or a more fleeting armed encounter, it would be most interesting to know where in the Farnham area it occurred. Archaeology has thus far not revealed any relevant evidence, with the possible exception of an iron axe-head found at Tilford in 1952, which is consistent with published examples of viking-period date but may well be a modern copy or antiquarian import, rather than a genuine 9th-century loss (David Graham pers. comm.; Surrey HER Find Spot 2134). A piece of folklore reported by at least one historian held that local women, from a position in the tower of the church, repelled an attack by a band of viking raiders at Farnham c869-70 (Jackman 1988, 9). Even if the published dates are wrong and the year 893 was meant, the story has a rather odd feel to it (above all the detail about the church tower) and may be an elaboration of a very different event.

The two early medieval historical sources offer precious little in this regard. Farnham famously was situated on the main historic route between London and Winchester, so the nuggets of information regarding the whereabouts of the prior plundering and intended rendezvous supplied by Æthelweard and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle respectively could be considered consistent with the raiders heading north-eastwards along its course out of Hampshire, but are not necessarily so; they may have been

heading in a more roundabout, southerly direction.

On a similar note, the earlier chronicle annal specifies that the viking *here* was ‘intercepted’. Yet this need not mean that the engagement was completely spur-of-the-moment and unplanned. Indeed, one published study of early medieval warfare has argued it was heavily ritualised, with places of combat being ‘designated and chosen’ as opposed to random (Halsall 1989, cited in Semple 2013, 84). The notion of the 893 battle being fought at a pre-selected site – with an open, capacious nature among its chief characteristics – becomes of potentially greater interest because Farnham has a documented medieval meeting-place situated not far to the north of the town. Historically, meetings of the Farnham Hundred were convened at or very close to Lawday House Farm near Hog Hatch, but name-forms like *Farneham Blakehethfeld* 1283 echo the “heathfield” attested in the 10th-century estate bounds of both Farnham and Crondall (The Electronic Sawyer, S 382 and S 820 respectively; also Gover *et al.* 1934, 165, and Anderson 1939, 62). The compounding of Old English *hæth* ‘tract of uncultivated ground’ and *feld* ‘open country’ affirms the open character of the land a matter of decades after 893 (Gelling & Cole 2014, 269, 279).

Hundredal meeting-places in Surrey tended to be positioned towards the centre of the hundred rather than the edge; Farnham might even be unique at the county level in having its one situated close to its boundary (I owe this point to Dr Stuart Brookes who made it in a talk to the Medieval Studies Forum many moons ago). The other possible instances are considerably less convincing – it should be added that not all Surrey hundred meeting-places have been (satisfactorily) identified to date, although hundred-names provide good indications of their general whereabouts. The assembly-place of Woking Hundred named *Hameshatch* in 1375 lay between Old Woking and Send, not at peripheral Harms Heath in Ockham parish (Bloxham 1963, 61-2, correcting the *Victoria County History* and Gover *et al.* 1934, 135). Perry Bridge near Shalford need not be anything other than the site chosen for a meeting of Blackheath Hundred for a specific purpose in the late 14th century (*contra* English & Turner 2004, 115). Similarly, Leith Cross/Leith Pit between Fetcham and Leatherhead may simply have served as a locale where occasional joint meetings of



Copthorne and Effingham Hundreds were convened (Harvey 1949; cf. Nail 1965 and Pantos 2004, 159 for clear exposition of the true location of the Copthorne Hundred moot).

Leaving aside the question of the uniqueness of Farnham’s decidedly non-central meeting-place, might the Hundred have assembled on the “heathfield” because, alongside being a suitable open space, it was an earlier place of significance? And, at the risk of conflating two different things, could this characteristic have been influential in where the 893 battle took place? Sarah Semple (2013, 84) has highlighted how several battles of the period 600-850 were fought in locations ‘marked by ancient remains’. The clash at Farnham, though it was contested almost half a century later than the timeframe employed by Semple, could accord with this characteristic were it to have happened in the vicinity of Hog Hatch. Not far to the north of the hundredal assembly-place site is the Iron Age hillfort of Caesar’s Camp (Fig 2; Riall 1983), while to the west lay a trio of bowl barrows destroyed by gravel extraction between 1934 and 1962, part of the larger ‘Heath Brow’ group extending west across the county boundary into Hampshire (Fig 3; Grinsell 1934, 47-8 and 1987, 35). Of course, if the presence of ancient earthworks was a significant factor in the (pre-)selection of a battle-site then the land south of

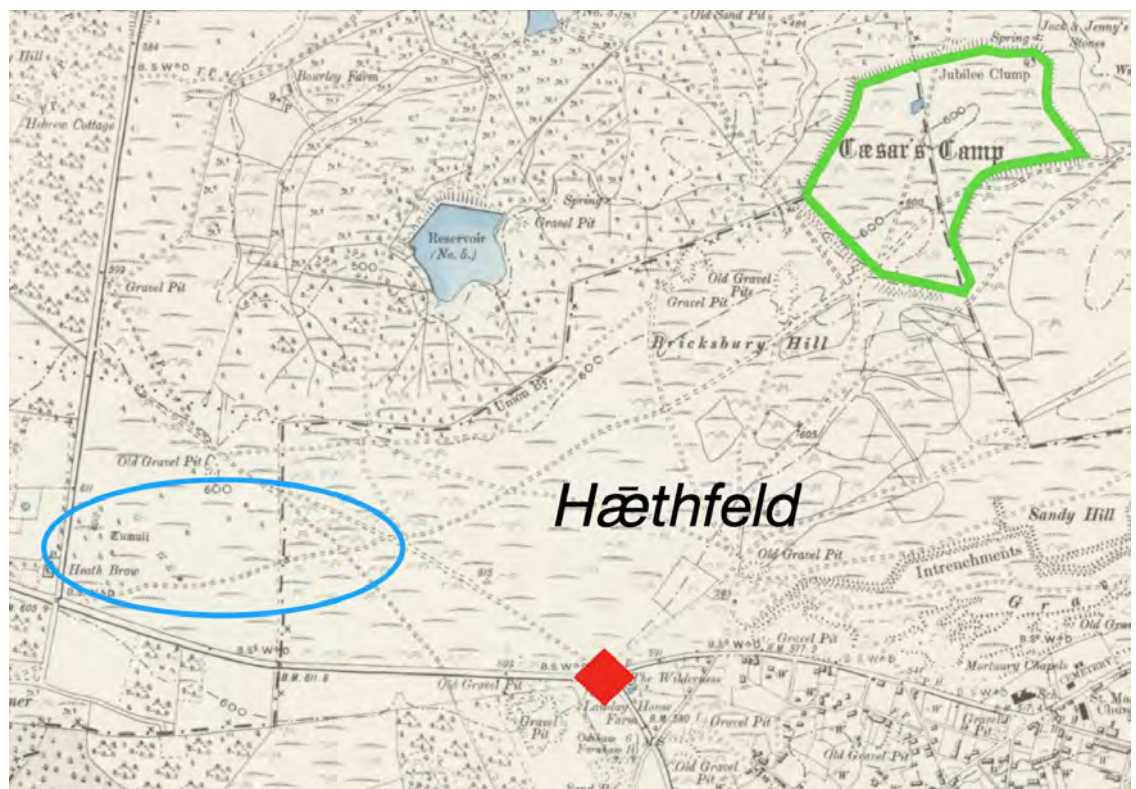
Caesar’s Camp was by no means the only apt location in the Farnham area; the cluster of round barrows on Frensham Common (Grinsell 1987, 36) would be but one possible alternative.

## Conclusions

The evidence favouring the “heathfield” belongs firmly in the analogical category rather than being anything more substantive, but if nothing else shows that restricting the focus of the search for the site of the 893 clash to the immediate environs of the historic town of Farnham runs counter to current thinking about spatial considerations in the conduct of warfare in the early Middle Ages. Furthermore, after its appearance in three charters of the late 7th and early and mid-9th centuries (S 235, 1263 and 1274), Farnham being named in the combined testimony of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and Æthelweard’s Chronicle provides a hint of continued supra-local importance at the end of the 9th century.

Whether what occurred *at Fearnhamme* in 893 actually merits being characterised as a battle, as opposed to a shorter skirmish, remains unclear and probably beyond resolution. It does not seem to have been of the same magnitude as the contest fought in 851 *at Aclea*, highly likely to have been in Surrey, which is described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles as ‘the greatest slaughter of a heathen raiding-army that

Fig 2 The monumental context of the Farnham Hundred meeting-place. Lawday House Farm is marked by the red diamond, north of which is the area likely to have been referred to as the “Heathfield” in the 10th century. They lie between the Heath Brow barrow group (blue oval denotes its approximate extent) and Caesar’s Camp hillfort (outlined in green). Based on Ordnance Survey Second Edition Six-Inch survey, Surrey Sheet XXII.SW, published 1897 (digitised and made available online by National Library of Scotland).



we have heard tell of up until the present day' (X 1912; Swanton 2000, 64-5). Even so, with Surrey being so deficient in recognised battle-sites of any century, frustration that the location and precise nature of the 893 confrontation cannot be determined using the available evidence should be offset by acknowledging that having the historical testimony enables us to understand a good few of the fundamentals of what happened at or not so far from Farnham in that year.

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# When did urban Guildford spread west of the River Wey?

By **Judie English**

During the 1970s and 1980s a number of sites on the western edge of Guildford town centre were subjected to minor excavation by the Guildford Group of SyAS with the aim of determining the date at which settlement expanded from the Late Saxon *burh* onto the west bank of the Wey. Only brief mentions of this work have appeared in print and the Medieval Pottery Group have undertaken to publish those where sufficient archive can be located. Three sites were excavated in the area of ground bounded by Park Street to the west, Bridge Street to the north, the tow path beside the river to the east and Friary Bridge to the south. Of these, one was opposite the Electricity Works building of 1913 (area SU 9936 4950) and another close by on the site of Riverside Cottages (exact location unclear) but no archive from these interventions is presently available and none may have survived.

The third site was in the gardens of houses fronting Park Street (area SU 9934 4947), now the open area east of Wey House, and was excavated in 1986 (hence the site code PS 86). Many of the finds were retained and Audrey Monk wrote a draft report in 2010. The aim of this note is to publish a précis of that report together with an analysis of the pottery made available for study through the kind offices of Richard and Pamela Savage.

## The excavation

Three trenches (numbered I, II and III) were excavated but no drawn archive appears to have survived and it is not possible to locate the trenches exactly. Trenches I and II formed, in effect, a single trench 2m x 9m long set at right angles to the River Wey and divided by a 2m baulk. Before the canalisation of the Wey in 1760, the entire site would have been subject to seasonal / frequent flooding. In trenches I and II, adjacent to the river, silty sand was reached at a depth of approximately 2.1m. Except for a small area at the western end of trench II, the soil was disturbed throughout, producing pottery and other artefacts of all periods.

The area available for the third trench was extremely limited and a trench 2m x 3m was opened. The area had been the garden of no. 7, Park Street. Topsoil was removed quickly, revealing first a linear feature of compacted earth, apparently a path leading to the privies; then a loose fill overlying an extensive drainage system, relating both to the privies and directly to the house. A very considerable amount of early 20th-century and later Victorian pottery was recovered from the surface context together with large quantities of oyster shell. Below the drainage system, a large pit 1.5m deep was revealed which produced large amounts of Victorian pottery. At the western end of the trench in the area undisturbed by the pit, the fill was still very loose and comprised mostly late 18th and 19th-century material (level 2B).

To the east of the pit the soil was more compact and contained earlier material (level 3B). At an approximate depth of 1.40m a distinctive grey sticky clay was reached over the whole trench (level 4). Pottery from this level was all medieval, and the upper layers contained mortar. In addition to the medieval sherds there was part of a curfew, tile, bone and shell and some waste metal. Two large lumps of chalk were noted in the east end of the trench (level 4A) which partially overlay a very shallow linear feature (level 4C). A posthole was noted in the centre of the trench, and bottomed at 2.00m (level 4B).

A sandy area (level 5) in the south-west corner of the trench overlay an area of loose chalk and flint. This was found to be lying on a well consolidated and partially mortared base of knapped flint and chalk, packed tight within a sticky clay material which also contained a small amount of bone, some tile, and two sherds of medieval pottery, rammed hard within the feature (level 6). The feature was bottomed at 2.22m but lack of time prevented further investigation. The area below the feature was spaded out (level 7) to 2.30m; one piece of burnt wood only was recovered. The trench was augured

to 3.00m plus, when a wetter sandier soil was reached.

## The finds

In view of the short timescale and specific aim of the excavation post-medieval pottery was only retained, either on-site or in the early stages of post-excavation recording, when complete or distinguishing sherds were recovered. Further pottery appears to have been disposed of in the intervening period between the excavation and the 2010 report; what remains is listed in the table.

The only pottery retained from the lowest context in trench I comprised Surrey medieval type series fabrics Q2 (c1150-c1325) and WW1B (c1240-c1400). An apparently undisturbed context in trench II produced a few sherds of unabraded medieval pottery, fabrics Q2 and FQ2 (c1150-c1325) in a grey sticky silty soil.

In trench III two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from an apparently undisturbed context, one each of fabrics WW1A (c1240-c1550) and WW1B (c1240-c1400). This latter piece, shown in Fig 1, has a horizontal applied cable and is distorted and poorly glazed, with glaze visible within a portion of the break. However, the vessel may still have been of use and it is a matter of opinion as to whether it should be considered a waster or a 'second'.



Fig 1 WW1B sherd with distorted and poorly applied glazing

A few potentially earlier sherds were recovered, albeit from disturbed contexts. Of particular interest are those in chalky fabric SNC 7 (pre-1000 – c1150) found in contexts 4, 4A and 4C. Together with small amounts of shell-tempered fabric S2 (pre-1050 –

c1250) activity in the area during the 11th century seems likely.

Also recovered were a shaped piece of burnt clay which may have been a spacer from a kiln (context 4A). Unfortunately the six small 16th/17th-century sherds with green mottled red glaze which had blistered (total weight 35g, context 4), thought by the late Felix Holling to have been poorly fired wasters, were not found in the available archive. A small amount of slag identified by Jeremy Hodgkinson as probable smithing waste (context 4A), offcuts of lead and small drops of copper (context 4) were also recovered.

Later finds included a number of inkwells, some stoneware examples dated to the 18th/19th centuries and a number of 17th/18th-century glass phials and a green 'fluted' bottle which may have been for pharmaceutical use.

## Discussion

The town of Guildford is thought to have been founded as a commercial burh, probably in the 10th century and replacing the strategically better positioned *Escingum* (Eashing) (Biddle & Hill 1971; O'Connell & Poulton 1984; Blair 1991, 56).

Although within the boundaries of the Borough of Guildford as shown on the Ichnography of 1739, the development which necessitated this archaeological work lies on the west bank of the River Wey in the parishes of St Nicolas, the Manor of Artington, and the Hundred of Godalming. The remainder of the Borough lies east of the river within the parishes of St Mary's and Holy Trinity, and the Hundred of Woking. The River Wey itself is the boundary between the Hundreds of Woking to the north, Godalming to the west and Blackheath to the south. The earliest pottery from relatively secure contexts at Park Street dates to the 12th century or later but a small amount of potentially earlier material was found in disturbed contexts in trench III and may hint at 11th-century activity in the area. Although the main portion of the early town clearly lay east of the river, it is likely to have included a small area on the other side, at least including the western end of the ford or bridge approaching the main street of the burh. There are hints of industrial activity in the area during the medieval period but these sparse finds of waste products were all recovered from disturbed contexts.



A copy of the full report written by Audrey Monk will be deposited at the SyAS Library under grey literature reports reference F31.

## Acknowledgements

Identification of the pottery was undertaken by members of the Medieval Pottery Group including Emma Corke, Andrew Francis (who photographed the pottery sherd), David Hartley, Angela Mason, Christine Pittman, Gabby Rapson and Lyn Spencer using the medieval type series for Surrey (Medieval Studies Forum 2020). Mary Alexander discussed the possibility of occupation to the west of the river in the Late Saxon / early medieval period.

Trench	Context	Fabric	Sherd count	Earliest date	Latest date	Weight
I	3	BORDY	1	1550	1700	22
I	3	BORDG	1	1550	1700	15
I	3	TGW	1	1570	1800	13
I	3	RBORS	1	1600	1850	11
I	5A	BSGSW	1	1700	1800	19
I	5B	PMR	1	1580	1900	72
I	5C	WW1B	1	1240	1400	8
I	5C	BORDG	7	1550	1700	91
I	5C	RBORS	1	1580	1900	26
I	5E	Q2	12	1150	1325	79
I	5E	WW1B	2	1240	1400	8
II	1	MOD	5	1889	1951	765
II	3	Q2	1	1150	1325	20
II	4	Q2	1	1150	1325	43
II	4	WW1B	1	1240	1400	9
II	9	Q2	1	1150	1325	9
II	9	Q2	2	1150	1325	6
II	9	FQ2	1	1150	1325	4
III	1	PMR	1	1580	1900	106
III	1	ENGS	1	1830	1900	597
III	1	MOD	3	1830+		63
III	1F	PMR	1	1580	1900	232
III	1F	YELL	12	1820	1900	918
III	2	PMR	2	1580	1900	272
III	2	YELL	1	1820	1900	104
III	2	MOD	2	1830+		180
III	2A	ENGS	1	1830	1900	10
III	2A	REFW	1	1805	1950	10
III	2A	YELL	9	1820	1900	562
III	2B	BORDY	1	1550	1700	40

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Trench	Context	Fabric	Sherd count	Earliest date	Latest date	Weight
III	3B	WW1B	3	1240	1400	10
III	3B	WW1A	2	1240	1550	7
III	3B	BORD	1	1550	1700	100
III	3B	BORDY	6	1550	1700	141
III	3B	BORDG	1	1550	1700	13
III	4	SNC 7A	1	pre-1000	1150	8
III	4	Q2	26	1150	1325	304
III	4	WW1B	75	1240	1400	667
III	4	WW3TG	5	1350	1500	10
III	4A	SNC 7A	1	pre-1000	1150	3
III	4A	S2	2	pre-1050	1250	8
III	4A	S2 GROG	1	pre-1050	1250	12
III	4A	Q2	18	1150	1325	155
III	4A	WW1B	8	1240	1400	49
III	4A	OQ	2	1250	1500	40
III	4A	RWW	1	1400	1550	18
III	4A	BORDG	1	1550	1700	18
III	4C	SNC 7A	1	pre-1000	1150	4
III	5	Q2	1	1150	1325	6
III	5	WW1B	3	1240	1400	15
III	6	WW1B	1	1240	1400	92
III	6	WW1A	1	1240	1550	19

Table 1 Pottery recorded from Park Street, Guildford

# Recognising greatness: observations on the original form and features of the west tower of St Mary's Church, Bletchingley

By Rob Briggs

In *Surrey's Past* 493 I presented the results of a December 2019 site visit and subsequent research that revealed various distinctive pieces of stonework set into the walls of the west tower of the church of St Mary the Virgin at Bletchingley originally belonged to the tomb of Sir Thomas Cawarden, a notable Tudor courtier (Briggs 2023). As was noted at the start of that piece, the stonework in question was not the intended subject of the site visit. What follows below is the fulfilment of the primary intention behind the visit, to examine two features that have been noted but never adequately analysed and explained in previous publications. Based on what was observed during the site visit (and a previous one in 2007), prior knowledge of a potential correlate in Kent and allied research, these features are argued here to be considerably more significant and unusual than admitted up until now, and enhance the case for the tower at Bletchingley to be understood as a "great west tower" (after Secker 2014) such as exist or formerly existed at a not-inconsiderable number of English churches of the 11th and 12th centuries (e.g. Morris 1989, 252).

## Introducing the tower and the unheralded features

The west tower at Bletchingley church (Fig 1) is comparatively massive in terms of its footprint, being approximately 31 feet or 9.5m in its north-south dimension and 27.5ft or 8.3m east-west (as per Baker King 1911, 172). Some of its walls are reported to be five feet (1.5m) thick at the base (Blatch 1997, 73). The external design of the tower (neatened but not fundamentally altered in a restoration of 1910; Baker King 1911) is of three stages, of which prevailing opinion has attributed the lower and middle stages to the late 11th century (e.g. Lambert 1921 335; Blair 1980, 109; Blatch 1997, 73), while the upper stage (in its original state) is

unanimously assigned to the late 12th century. The lower stage was originally lit by single windows in the north and south walls (as well as by the first tower arch and perhaps, when opened, a precursor to the present west doorway); the middle stage by pairs of separate small windows, of which three survive in heavily restored states. The tower appears to have been added to an earlier church building, as its east wall is thinner than its other three walls (e.g. plan in Blair 1991, 123 Fig 33). The addition of west towers to English local churches is very well attested in this period (Stocker & Everson 2006).



Fig 1 Bletchingley, the west tower of St Mary's viewed from the south (all photographs taken by author in December 2019 unless stated otherwise).

The features pivotal to this article are two blocked openings, represented by parallel vertical lines of squared stone blocks that are clearly visible on both faces of the wall between the tower and nave, either side of the apex of the tower arch. The blocked openings appear to be of identical or near-identical width to one another; owing to their positions and lack of a ladder or scaffolding, they were not able to be measured during the site visit but are estimated to be under 3ft/1m across. On the nave side of the wall, any possible view of the tops of the blocked





Fig 2 Bletchingley, view from the nave looking westwards; the jambs of the blocked openings are highlighted in red.



Fig 3 Bletchingley, view inside the ground floor chamber of the tower from the staircase to the middle and upper levels. Note the construction of the aperture jambs, probably formed from blocks of squared chalk sourced locally.

apertures is obscured by a sizeable moulded tie beam (Fig 2), while inside the tower they are obscured by the floor of the clock chamber, inserted after the fire that destroyed the medieval spire and damaged much of the tower's fabric in 1606 (Fig 3). I have found three published references to the features. The earliest is the most useful;

'There are remains of two openings on each side above the [tower] arch, of Norman work, which

have been walled up, and may be seen from the belfry. It is difficult to say what they were, but the same may be seen in the tower of Chelsham church' (Leveson Gower 1871, 229).

Charles R Baker King and Uvedale Lambert later identified them as a pair of blocked windows, to match those that originally existed in the other three walls of the tower at first floor level (Baker King 1911, 171, where it is also reported only the internal jambs were visible; Lambert 1921, 335). Such conjecture is almost certainly wrong, as the features appear to be the same width on either side of the tower's east wall whereas all of the tower's other early window apertures, both open and blocked, are splayed (meaning the windows appear externally much smaller than the apertures behind them). It is possible the blocked apertures were double-splayed windows, which could manifest as being of the same width internally and externally (as is the case, broadly speaking, with the two windows in the chancel north wall at Thursley: Johnston 1931, 105-7; Blair 1991, 125 Fig 34). However, where the infill of the northern aperture has been cut through to insert a beam supporting the clock chamber floor, it is evident that one of the squared stones is of a form inconsistent with the beginning of a splay, instead seeming to mark a right-angled turn suggestive of an unsplayed, doorway-like opening (Fig 4).

Whatever their original function, these openings subsequently ceased to serve a useful purpose and were blocked. This may have happened in the late 12th century when a new tower arch was inserted (probably in tandem with the reconstruction in stone of the upper stage of the tower), although there remains room for doubt as the present arch is a 19th-century enlargement of the medieval one (Baker King 1911, 171). Alternatively, although perhaps less credibly, they persisted in use until the reconfiguration of the floor levels in the tower following the 1606 fire rendered them inaccessible.



Fig 4 Bletchingley, detail of northern blocked opening as seen from within the tower. The uppermost block on the right-hand side looks to make a right-angle turn rather than commence a splay angle (note what appear to be vertically-laid bricks on the opposite side).

## The “great west tower” at Brook, Kent

The site visit in 2021 was in no small part the means to test a hypothesis hatched back in 2007 in the course of research for my Masters dissertation on Surrey church towers of the ‘Saxo-Norman’ period (c1050-1150; Briggs 2007). This analogised Bletchingley’s blocked apertures with what survives, apparently intact and unaltered, at the parish church (coincidentally also dedicated to St Mary) of Brook in Kent. Brook church is well known as an essentially complete early 12th-century building featuring a massive west tower coeval with the nave and chancel to its east (Rigold 1969; Berg & Jones 2009, 72-8). Its tower is a structure of notably high quality, with features such as a spiral staircase contained in ‘an ashlarred Caen stone stairwell’

matching or even exceeding the quality of what can be found at contemporaneous cathedrals (Huitson 2014, 51). The manor of Brook was a possession of the cathedral priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, and for this reason the church is interpreted as one commissioned by a prior, probably Ernulf (1096-1107; Rigold 1969, 270). The luxurious design of the tower, especially its first-floor level, suggests it was as much a proprietary building as a parochial one; thus, it is no surprise to find Brook considered by Eric Fernie (2000, 239) as an example of his ‘palace chapel’ class of ecclesiastical buildings.



Fig 5 Brook, first floor openings viewed from the nave in 2007



Fig 6 Brook, the east wall of the first-floor chamber in 2007. Note the regular ashlar construction of the jambs of the arches, superior in quality to what is visible at Bletchingley as shown most clearly in Fig 3.

Two round headed openings are visible from the nave high up in the wall shared with the tower (Fig 5). These communicate with a first-floor space, in the east wall of which the two apertures appear as half-height unsplayed features, flanking a slightly wider central niche beneath an arch embellished with a chip-carved design, that very probably housed an altar. This trio of features is contained within a



single blind arch otherwise filled with ashlar masonry (Fig 6). The first floor space is interpreted as a private oratory or chapel for the prior of Christ Church. It is worth adding that less consideration has been paid to the function of the apertures between this chamber and the nave, and whether their present forms are authentic or not (i.e. were their lower halves always walled up?). Brook is unique among hitherto published examples of Early Romanesque “great west towers” for having such a fine grouping at first-floor level, but others boast scarcely less interesting features, for instance the centrally-positioned elevated doorways communicating with the nave at Stambourne, Essex, and probably at Leeds, also in Kent, studied by Daniel Secker (2014).

## Observations from inside Bletchingley's clock chamber



Fig 7 Bletchingley, east wall of the clock chamber, showing ? modern rectangular opening (A), reconstructed round arched aperture (B), and possible top of blocked opening (C).

After so many years of waiting, it was disappointing to discover the east wall of the present clock chamber at Bletchingley – the middle of the three levels in the tower, but crucially with a floor at a height considerably above that of the medieval original – shares next to nothing in common with the one in the first-floor chapel at Brook (Fig 7). The wall is of rubble construction, with no sign of a central altar niche nor of a blind arch above. There is a deep, non-central, rectangular opening in the wall, terminating in a metal door. Although this bears a passing resemblance to the grilled feature at first-floor level at Leeds church interpreted by Secker

(2014, 298) as the remains of a doorway, its position, size and appearance – above all its crisp edges and surfaces formed of grey cement – would indicate it was let into the wall in relatively recent times, perhaps during the 1910 restoration.

Two other features offer more promise. Lower down in the wall is an opening, rising no more than 45cm above the present floor level, defined by a round arch of roughly dressed voussoirs (Fig 8). It is 64cm deep and contains the end of what must be the same beam as can be seen in the northern blocked opening at ground level (cf. Fig 4). The opening is 53cm wide at its mouth, narrowing to 30cm at the end of the beam; in other words, consistent with a splayed aperture. However, the arch completely fails to convince as an original Early Romanesque feature, its construction being completely unlike the jambs visible in the level below and the rere-archs of the supposedly contemporary round-headed window openings elsewhere in the tower. It could well be a crude post-medieval attempt to recreate something that had to be disturbed when the new floor structure was inserted; it is even possible the round-headed form of the arch duped Leveson Gower and inspired his above-quoted claim the blocked openings were of ‘Norman work’.



Fig 8 Bletchingley, reconstructed semicircular-headed opening in clock chamber east wall.

In a position seemingly above the southern blocked opening is the hint of an equivalent feature to the one described above (Fig 9). There is no sign of any arch, not even *ex situ* dressed voussoirs, merely a boulder-like stone built into the wall at floor level that, just like its northern counterpart, measures 53cm across. Beyond this one matching dimension,



Fig 9 Bletchingley, possible blocked head of opening in clock chamber east wall.

the dearth of evidence precludes any further statements of value being made.

## Interpretation

The preceding paragraphs have made the case that the two blocked openings certainly had jambs of dressed stone rather than rubble, were probably unsplayed and possibly round-headed. Contrary to my (admittedly hopelessly over-optimistic) hypothesis, what is in evidence at Bletchingley does not mirror what survives at Brook. The Bletchingley openings seem to have been taller and narrower than the Brook ones, thus making them more commensurate with doorways. These could have provided access between the tower interior and stairs, a western gallery, or both. A loose analogue exists at Stoke d'Abernon church, where a blocked doorway in the nave south wall is interpreted as the entry/exit point for a patronal gallery of pre-Norman Conquest date, one accessed by means of an external staircase (Blair 1991, 116, 117 Fig 30).

A pair of doorways at first-floor level would be most unusual, quite possibly unique, but not improbable. Secker posits corresponding external first-floor 'hanging' doorways in the tower north and south walls at Leeds (2014, 297, 300; Berg & Jones 2009, 171, identify them as windows). Single doorways of pre-Conquest date are present at both first- and second-floor levels in the wall between the west tower and nave at Bosham in Sussex (Aldsworth 1990). However lavish two doorways might seem from the present-day perspective, they would not be

out of keeping for an Early Romanesque tower and church like Bletchingley which so clearly belonged to a class of ambitious and innovative structures associated with elite patrons.

## Conclusions

Bletchingley has rather flown under the radar in recent works on Anglo-Norman "great west towers" but warrants consideration alongside better-known examples from Kent and beyond. While it may not be of the same high quality as the tower at Brook, it very much holds its own among other such towers. In some ways, the closest published parallel for Bletchingley tower is Stambourne, with its matching original fenestration arrangement, although it also had a stone upper storey in its first phase so is not a perfect match (Secker 2014, 288). Diversity of design is one of the hallmarks of such towers.

Bletchingley's tower was added to the west end of an existing, probably late 11th-century church, one of unusually large proportions for its time in Surrey. There is a very strong chance the patron of this building was Richard fitz Gilbert, a Norman noble and first head of what would become the (de) Clare family in England, logically in the years between the Domesday Survey (no church is mentioned on his manors of Bletchingley and Chivington in 1086) and his death c1090 (Turner 1996, 48; cf. Blair 1991, 122). Richard is believed to have constructed the first stone 'country house' at Bletchingley Castle, possibly before 1070 (Turner 1996, 47), and may have built another two-celled church of above-average size at Walton-on-Thames, likewise an important Clare family possession (Blair 1991, 122; Turner 1996, 47-8). There can be little doubt the addition of a west tower to this building was the handiwork of the heir to Richard's Surrey estates, Gilbert fitz Richard I, whether as a (poor) imitation of Brook or through general inspiration from the proliferation of such structures being built by clerical and secular patrons across a swathe of England at the time. The dateable evidence from Brook and Leeds (for which see Secker 2014, 298-9) would indicate this happened in the early 12th century, not the late 11th, and reinforced Bletchingley's position as the *caput* of the Clare family's holdings in Surrey.



As remarkable as Bletchingley might seem from the foregoing, it is not the only known “great west tower” of a Surrey church. An even more outstanding example existed at St Martha’s, Chilworth, attested in a series of 18th- and 19th-century depictions (several of which are reproduced in Palmer 1900, 119-22) and remembered by the thoroughly-renewed blocked arch at the west end of the present church. This took the “great west tower” concept in a different direction again, with a stone vaulted ground floor chamber and stair turret attached to the south wall. An early 12th-century construction date again seems most credible. (Any analogy with Chelsham, as posited by Leveson Gower, is invalid as the west tower there was added in the 15th century (Blatch 1997, 85).) Surrey is often deemed something of a backwater during the Middle Ages but the churches of Bletchingley and St Martha’s, situated almost at opposite ends of the county, show that it was very much within the part of England in which remarkably innovative towered structures were built as parts of ecclesiastical buildings in the late 11th and early 12th centuries.

## Thanks

Particular thanks are due to Ed Muller, bell captain at Bletchingley, for enabling access to the inside of the tower at St Mary’s, and to my former colleague Chris Reynolds for being such a good sport on the site visit in 2019. My gratitude, too, to the churchwarden of Brook who so kindly gave me and my late father access to the tower of that church in 2007.

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# South Wales type socketed axehead production in Bronze Age Surrey?

By **Simon Maslin**

A recent find from the Fetcham area recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme as [SUR-9302E5](#) is a copper alloy casting jet, comprising a solidified lump of the metal retained in the opening (gate) and channels of a two-piece stone mould, which was trimmed away from the finished object following production. Similar waste products can be the result of non-ferrous metalworking in many periods, but the distinctive sub-conical shape with projecting runners is usually associated with the production of socketed axes of later Bronze Age date (c1000-700 BC). These objects can be clearly dated when recovered in hoards alongside identifiable artefacts but they are also encountered singly or in groups of otherwise undiagnostic scrap, such as that intended for recycling by itinerant metalworkers, where the dating is more difficult.



SUR-9302E5, a late Bronze Age casting jet from Fetcham



NMGW-07EA87, a Late Bronze Age bronze socketed axe of South Wales (Stogursey) type

What is unusual about this particular example is that it has four runners as opposed to the usual two, which is the much more commonly encountered form. This feature is regarded as being associated with the production of socketed axes of the South Wales (Stogursey) type, which have a distinctive rectangular mouth and used a four-runner casting process (see [NMGW-07EA87](#)). This type is considered to be part of the Ewart Park metalworking tradition (phase XII) corresponding to Needham's (1996) Period 6-7 (c1000-700 BC) and more specifically dates to around 950-750 BC.

South Wales type axeheads are, as the name suggests, most commonly found in South Wales, where this form of distinctive casting waste is known from base metal hoards as well as from stray finds. Finds are rare outside of Wales, limited to a few stone moulds and other evidence relating to production of the type from North West England, Cornwall and southern England. In the context of this distribution, the presence of this evidence for manufacture of the type in Surrey would seem to be extremely unusual. Unfortunately this object was not found in association with any other contemporary finds which could help provide further context. Although not providing definitive evidence, does this find still suggest potential distribution extension for this type into south eastern England – or perhaps is it better interpreted as being the result of long-distance trading of scrap metal and the travels of itinerant metal workers during the late Bronze Age? It is certainly worth highlighting that the findspot was very close to the present day course of the River Mole within the wider Thames watershed. This may suggest both association with a likely contemporary trade route and the find potentially being part of a wider pattern of votive deposition associated with waterways during this period.

With thanks to Adam Gwilt at Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales.

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# National Trust archaeology update

By James Brown

This is the first of what I hope will be regular updates from the National Trust (NT) Archaeologist in Surrey where I will try to provide a bit of an overview of new, ongoing, and completed research, projects, and opportunities.

The key priority for the NT archaeology team in Surrey has been seeking to rapidly enhance our knowledge of what we have. Though some of the Surrey Hills sites are some of our oldest owned sites and considered protected in the eyes of the Trust, it doesn't mean we always know much about them. The opportunity to work with the Society's Lidar Portal (<https://surreylidar.org.uk>) and volunteers to rapidly map and then groundtruth potential archaeology has led to productive engagement with NT ranger teams and has become a key tool in ongoing conversations about future plans for tenant farms (I hope to explore this in more detail in a future update). The steps to enhance our records means we are in a better position to discuss potential partnership projects with societies and universities to further our understanding of our sites and address some of the research questions for Surrey. The NT maintains its own version of a HER which is accessible via NT Heritage Records (<https://heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org.uk/>).



*Surrey Past* 495 had an update from Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) on their work at **Runnymede and Ankerwycke** over the last few years on the NLHF Runnymede Explored Project.

Alongside the community excavations SCAU undertook wider work on site which saw the conservation of the surviving ruins at Ankerwycke by Cliveden Conservation and a large amount of archaeological work linked with the installation of the new paths and interpretation including panels and audio trails that I would welcome any feedback on. The project officially ends in June as part of Magna Carta weekend (15-16 June), but we are in conversations with how we might undertake further investigations of the geophysical results captured in 2023 at Runnymede.



In 2023 the NT acquired **Munstead Wood** for the Nation. The 11-acre garden surrounds an Arts and Crafts house that showcases Jekyll's collaboration with architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. It is the place where, from the 1890s to her death in 1932, Jekyll grew her influence on national and international garden design, transformed horticultural practice, and inspired others to become gardeners through her books and more than 1,000 articles.

The Trust have been using archaeological techniques to help unpick the work of Jekyll in her own garden. Jekyll does not appear to have used wiring, and there are various types of staples preserved on both sides of the main garden wall. Archaeology South-East were brought in to undertake a complete orthophoto survey of the house and garden walls to help unpick Jekyll's horticultural technique and inform how we treat the walls. The detailed mapping of the staples helps identify and date the types used and will be used alongside Jekyll's plans and written descriptions to determine the exact position of wall-trained plants.





After a year of essential conservation work, **Leith Hill Place**, which has connections to the Wedgwood family, Charles Darwin and famous composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, is reopening to the public. There has been a complete restoration of the exterior and essential works inside allowed trained volunteers to undertake a detailed graffiti and under-the-floorboards survey. Alongside some more salacious finds linked to the buildings use as a boys' boarding school from the 1970s and the usual collection of cigarette boxes, match boxes and sweet wrappers, there were some more intriguing finds: several pages from the *Huddersfield Examiner* dated 1 March 1941, two pages from the *Girls Friendly Society*, *Shere*, *Abinger*, and *Holmbury S Mary Branch 1919 New Year Letter* and a tease for a 'Wonderful Desinograph'. A bit of research by our volunteers found the closest match being a French version 'Le Wondergraph' dated around 1910.



A final note as some of you may have crossed paths with Harry Farmer who joined the NT via the NHLF Runnymede Explored Project as our first Level 4 Historic Environment Advice Assistant Apprentice. After two years hard work at Runnymede and beyond, Harry successfully completed his Apprenticeship. Though we weren't able to keep Harry at the Trust, we wish him the best in what we expect will be a productive heritage-focused career. The overall experience of the heritage apprenticeship scheme was very positive, and we are hoping that this first success won't be the last, so we are seeking to discuss how we might be able to support or host more apprentices in the future in partnership with other organisations.



Looking ahead, we are seeking to undertake a programme of geophysical survey and research at **Hatchlands Park** focused on the Tudor house that was swept away in favour of the house you can visit today, built in 1758. Various historical records refer to it as a Tudor Mansion or Farm and a bit of targeted geophysical survey in 2009 suggested it was located east of the current house. The plan is to widen the survey area with volunteers from Trust and Surrey Archaeology Society in the autumn. More info on this will be available shortly.

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# Annual Symposium, March 2024

By **Sam Boggia**

The Annual Symposium was held at a new venue this year, East Horsley Village Hall. The event was adeptly chaired by Emma Corke in the morning and Rob Briggs in the afternoon. Many interesting topics were covered. Before lunch we were presented with the results of excavations at West Horsley Place and the Society's Community Archaeology projects, The National Trust's acquisition and future plans for Gertrude Jekyll's house of Munstead Wood, and interesting Surrey finds reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. In the afternoon, after the presentation of the Margary Award, we heard from speakers about the making of a recent film in Surrey based on the famed Sutton Hoo excavations, the long-term research and excavation project into the development of Old Woking, results from a pre-development excavation in Church Street, Effingham, and another fascinating long-term project transcribing and publishing early 17th-century Surrey wills and inventories.

Rob Poulton, SCAU, presented recent excavation work at West Horsley Place, a Grade I-listed house of exceptional architectural interest. The mid 17th-century façade conceals a long history of substantial buildings on the site, with a manor house in place by the 13th century, a medieval hall and detached kitchen then replaced by a courtyard house by 1500 that was able to host royal visits.

Community archaeology carried out by SyAS was presented by Dr Anne Sassin, covering a sample three projects. The first of these was a programme of geophysics at West Horsley Place. Resistivity and magnetometry surveys were carried out by volunteers. Although some interpretation is required, potential medieval foundations of a west wing, a ditch that could be an enclosure ditch or a garden boundary and culverts on three sides of the house together with possible foundations of an extension dating to 1735 have been identified. A survey of the 'champagne lawn' showed possible garden beds and paths. More survey work may take place in 2024.

Eighteen test pits were dug at Albury Park targeting cottage foundations, some of which were discovered

during the insertion of services in the 1970s. Some medieval pottery and building material was found along with two jettons and a copper alloy heraldic mount, one a Moor's head type jetton dated 1350-1425 and an Edward II jetton dated 1310-27. A report will be available on the website shortly and further work is planned for 2024.

Im coverage for the whole county is now available on the Surrey LiDAR portal. Volunteers have so far identified a potential unmapped Roman road or track which has been identified connecting to Stane Street at Newdigate. Groundtruthing of potential sites of interest was carried out at Headley Heath, finding bomb craters, gravel extraction and dew ponds together with remnants of trench digging during World War II and terracing work. More ground-truthing work is planned for the spring. For further details of this, Albury Park test pitting, etc please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.co.uk).

Katherine Mills, General Manager at Munstead Wood National Trust property, formerly the home of Gertrude Jekyll, discussed aspects of Jekyll's life and career that will be explored in the presentation of the Grade I house and gardens, together with an overview of the collaborative approach that is being taken to prepare the property for the future. Few original features survive in the house and substantial changes have been made to the gardens. Access to the site is limited and there are many challenges to overcome including how to guide visitors around such a significant property and how to ensure Munstead Wood becomes financially self-sustaining. There are five main strands to the preparation work being carried out: research into Jekyll's life and designs, house and garden surveys including ground penetrating radar and photogrammetry, assessing potential for opening, and fundraising.

Dr Simon Maslin, Finds Liaison Officer, presented twenty of the most interesting recent finds in Surrey that have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. These include a Neolithic polished axehead found at Outwood National Trust site, a Middle Iron Age copper alloy brooch from Bletchingley, Roman

figurines from Dormansland and Flexford, an early Saxon copper alloy brooch found at Wotton, a unique 17th-century farthing token from the Ship Carpenter's Arms, Rotherhithe Wall, clay pipes and production waste in Guildford and an 18th-century chatelaine found at Leigh together with an 1870s livery button with the Evelyn family crest from Westcott.



The Margary Award, which underwent a new format this year, was presented to Chris Gibson and the Roman Roads Group for their online and fieldwork project work, with Spelthorne Museum runners up for their display presentation on the day.

Roy Stephenson, MoL (retired) gave a very entertaining and informative talk about his time as the archaeological advisor to the Netflix film *The Dig*, based on the novel by John Preston. The novel is a fictionalised account of the 1939 Anglo-Saxon ship burial excavation at Sutton Hoo. The excavation was filmed at Shackleford in Surrey. We learned about the excavation skills of Ralph Fiennes, the excellence of the catering, the military precision of the planning and execution of the filming and the difficulties of filming a summer dig in the autumn.

Richard Savage presented the results of the Old Woking Project 2009-2019. The project included over 50 test pits and the detailed analysis of five 13th-century land deeds. The test pits were dug using the Currently Occupied Rural Settlements (CORS) methodology, where 10cm spits were dug, sieved and finds collected. This provided an insight into the development of the settlement as well as posing some questions for further research. Late Iron Age farming was suggested by the pottery finds. St Peter's Church was founded in c690, potentially within a boundary enclosure of Saxon date

(confirmed by radiocarbon dating of a feasting deposit), on a promontory above the River Wey overlooking a scattered settlement. This site was on the border between the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia. To the northeast of the church is an area known as Kingworth and a village settlement may have been located there. A significant deposit of pre-1250 high status pottery was found south of the church. Although Woking Manor House became Woking Palace, the settlement of Woking never became especially economically successful, partially due to its distance from major routes. A new market charter was granted in 1452 and some extant cottages in Church Street date to this time.

Catherine Langham from AOC Archaeology presented the results of excavations on a development site at Church Street, Effingham. Roman agricultural ditches were found together with Saxon/Medieval infilled ponds. It is not clear what the ponds were used for but the layout of the medieval ditches suggests the possibility that these marked burgrave plots along Church Street. The presence of trees along the street edge means that excavations and development cannot be carried out here to answer this question. Local finds suggest that this was a sparsely populated pastoral economy in prehistoric and Roman times. The Church is 13th century and Church street was possibly laid out in the early Saxon period. Land drains overlay the whole site.

Catherine Ferguson and Tim Wilcox presented the programme of transcription of 270 Surrey Wills and Inventories from 1603-1650. This important and interesting work can illustrate what mattered in society at this time. It is not easy to find Surrey Wills and Probate Inventories owing to the complicated system of church courts at this time, and this set of wills are held at the Hampshire Record Office. A letter by letter transcription of these wills and inventories is being carried out by a team based at Abinger and online, with the transcriptions stored on the Society's website. The process of transcription and checking is a long one, with team members trained in palaeography, checking and rechecking and finally translation into modern English required. Some of the wills include probate clauses written in abbreviated Latin and they are very difficult to transcribe.



# Note on Library use

By Christine Pittman

The Surrey Archaeological Society's library at the Abinger Research Centre is open on Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:00–16:00. It's best to contact the librarian, Helen Lynott, to book your visit – you can leave a message on 01306 731275 or email [librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk). If you can't visit in person, Helen and her research assistants will be happy to help you with your enquiry.

The Research Centre is also the base for several of the Society's special interest groups, and on one recent Sunday, its resources were put to very good use.

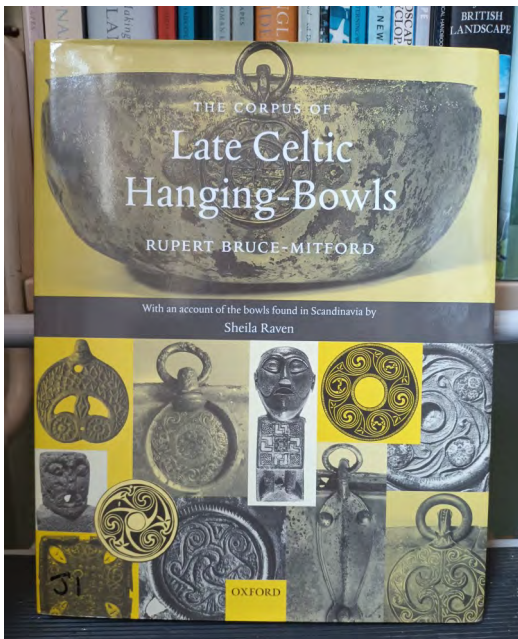
Members of the Medieval Pottery Group, which meets fortnightly through the year, were identifying and recording a collection of pottery that day and reference was made to 'The ichnography or ground plan of Guldeford, the county town of Surrey, 1739'; (reprint 1993), London Museum, which was stored in the map cabinet, and a boxed collection of the Newsletters of the Guildford Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society, 1973-1985, which was shelved with other Surrey newsletters.

They also looked at the 'Report of an excavation at St Nicholas Churchyard, Guildford, Surrey, during October-December 1976', carried out by the Guildford Group, in October 1984, which was shelved with other unpublished excavation reports.

On behalf of the Roman Pottery Study Group, they checked on two publications on Roman pottery – *Early fine wares in Roman Britain* by Paul Arthur & Geoff Marsh, 1978, which was on the library shelves, and *Roman pottery from the Nene Valley, a guide* by M D Howe, 1980, which was in the pamphlet files.

A Society member who was unable to visit Abinger asked one of the team to borrow on his behalf *A corpus of late Celtic hanging bowls: with an account of the bowl found in Scandinavia*, by Rupert Bruce-Mitford and Sheila Raven, published in 2005, and purchase a copy of *The development of timber framing in Surrey's old buildings. An analysis and calibration by means of tree-ring dating*, by Rod Wild and Andy Moir of The Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey), published in 2022.

Finally, a note was left by one of the team suggesting that the librarian purchase a copy of *The world of Stonehenge* by Neil Wilkin & Duncan Garrow, published by The British Museum in 2022.



# Roman Studies Group visit to Richborough

By Heather Robins

Further to the talk by Dr Philip Smither to the Roman Studies Group back in March, a group of 18 members joined him on a bright sunny Saturday in May for a guided tour of the English Heritage Roman fort and amphitheatre. He asked if anyone had visited the site before, and if so, to forget everything they had ever been told about it.

We skirted around the outside of the 4th-century walls to the western entrance, where Philip described the remains of the Claudian ditch and rampart of the original invasion site. A climb to the top of the reconstructed gateway offered an aerial view of the whole fort. We then moved on to the raised area near the centre of the fort, which was the position of the monumental arch or quadrophon, one of the largest in the Roman Empire. It was at this arch, a four-way intersection, that Watling Street started and continued through the west gate eventually on to Londinium. The roads through the archway would not have been elevated to their current height as a lot of surrounding soil was removed during excavation and deposited in the north-east corner of the site.



Under Philip's guidance we viewed the Chapel of St Augustine, sitting on top of the robbed-out or collapsed east wall, the Mansio in the site's north-east corner, formerly a site office for much of the fort's long history, and construction of the north wall with evidence of having been built in four sections.

Lunch at the New Inn, Sandwich was tasty, ample and reasonably priced. After lunch we returned to Richborough car park for a short walk through gates and a field to the site of the amphitheatre. First identified in the 18th century and part excavated in 1849, the amphitheatre was excavated more thoroughly in 2021 by Historic England, where it turned out to be turf-built and lined with an interior chalk wall, covered in painted plaster.

Following the walk to the amphitheatre, some members returned to the fort site to look at the museum exhibits, but not before we had thanked Philip for such an informative tour. Thanks must also go to John Felton for his organisation of such a pleasant and successful visit.





## Lecture meetings

Please note that lecture details, in particular venues and format, are subject to change. It is recommended that up-to-date information be obtained from the individual organisations before attending. If you would like your programme included in future editions, please contact the editors.

### 10 June

‘Mapping the WW2 bombing of Surrey (and the V1s, and the crashed aircraft, and the mines, and...)’ by Martin Stilwell to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society via Zoom at 19:45.

For joining info, contact [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com).

### 13 June

‘Family History from Education Records’ by Colin Chapman to West Surrey Family History Society in Woking Methodist Church Hall, Brewery Road, Woking at 19:50

### 19 June

‘Where there’s a will there’s usually an argument’ by Sue Ellis to West Surrey Family History Society in Camberley Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley at 19:30.

### 26 June

‘The lost story of South London’s technological excellence’ by Alan Burkitt-Gray to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome £3

### 27 June

‘Eton College Archives’ by Eleanor Hoare and Amy Stone to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

### 1 July

‘The Battle of Dorking: an Influential Book’ by Nick Cook to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

### 2 July

‘Local Hostelrys’ by Jocelyn Barker to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 3 July

‘History of Local Health (title tbc)’ by Ross MacFarlane to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in Ewell Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

### 17 July

‘Annabel Dott: a tiresome lady architect and vicar’s wife’ by Lynne Dixon to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome £3

### 25 July

‘Shepperton Studios’ by Nick Pollard to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

### 2 September

‘The River Mole: its history and its current state’ by Nigel Bond to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

‘Continental Drift’ by Martin Eales to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome £3

‘Plant nurseries’ by Patricia Fletcher to Woking History Society in Woking High School, Morton Road, Horsell, Woking at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 3 September

‘A History of local renewable energy. Part 3: Coxes Lock and other sites’ by David Barker to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 9 September

‘London street food’ by Peter Ross to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

### 11 September

‘Tillingbourne Tales’ by Anne Sassin to Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall, High Street, Ripley at 19:30

### 12 September

‘Metropolitan Ancestors – Finding Families in Georgian and Victorian London’ by Nicholas Dixon to West Surrey Family History Society in Woking Methodist Church Hall, Brewery Road, Woking at 19:50

### 16 September

‘Surrey, Suffrage and the Arts pre WW1’ by Lucy Ella Rose to Dorking Local History Group via Zoom at 19:30.

### 17 September

‘The Changing Face of Local Media’ by David Rose to Albury History Society at Albury Village Hall, Albury at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 25 September

‘Overhill in Warlingham: the land, the house and its residents’ by Carole Roberts and Phil Swallow to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome £3

### 26 September

‘Oh No It Isn’t! the history of pantomime’ by Peter Allen to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

### 27 September

‘The Geological Evolution and Landscape of the Farnham area’ by Dan Bosence to Farnham & District Museum Society at The Garden Gallery, Museum of Farnham, West Street, Farnham at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £3

### 7 October

‘The development of film making in Walton-on-Thames’ by Simon Brown to Woking History Society in Woking High School, Morton Road, Horsell, Woking at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

## 9 October

'Nightjar ecology and movements' by Greg Conway to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society via Zoom at 19:45. For joining info, contact [cnhss.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnhss.info@gmail.com).

'Literary Mole Valley' by Kathy Atherton to Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall, High Street, Ripley at 19:30

## 10 October

'Posted in the Past' by Helen Baggott to West Surrey Family History Society in Woking Methodist Church Hall, Brewery Road, Woking at 19:50

## 14 October

'Remembering in Kew: the history of the village's war memorials' by Marian Mollett to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

## 15 October

'The Life and Loves of Ada Lovelace' by David Taylor to Albury History Society at Albury Village Hall, Albury at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

## Festival of Archaeology

This year's Festival of Archaeology, themed around Archaeology and Community, will run from the **13-28 July**. The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2024 – the perfect opportunity for us all to celebrate the incredible grassroots groups, societies and individuals that share a passion for archaeology across the UK.

There will be several exciting events, both nationally and more local, whose listings can be found at <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html>. More events will be listed over the course of the next month (check listings for full details), but include:

**Thursday 18 July** – Talk on Ewell Grove and its long history at Bourne Hall Museum at 19:30 (£6 per person)

**Saturday 20 July** – Living History day at Bourne Hall Museum

**Tuesday 23 July** – Nonsuch Park and Palace walk at 13:30  
(email [dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk))

**Wednesday 24 July** – Cave painting at Bourne Hall Museum at 11:00 and 14:00  
(email [dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk))

**Thursday 25 July** – Bronze Age metal smelting by Dr James Dilly at Bourne Hall Museum (multiple times available)

**Saturday 27 July** – Talk by Martin Rose (SyAS) on Stone and Bronze Age tools at 11:00, followed by children's soap knapping Stone Age tool session (12:30-14:30) at Museum of Farnham

**Saturday 27 July** – Saxon Fayre in Kingston's ancient market place (11:00-17:00), to include a falcon display, working forge, living history, displays and other family activities

**Sunday 28 July** – Open day at Albury Park as part of this year's test pitting project, which includes displays, a chance for families to dig, a bookable walking tour of Albury at 14:00 led by Surrey Hills Society and talk on the project by Dr Anne Sassin in the church at 16:30 (time tbc; see <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/albury-park-test-pitting-and-open-day-0-for-full-details>)



## Roman Southwark

The Conservation and Heritage teams at Southwark will be holding a Roman Day at the Heritage Centre on **Saturday 21 September**. The morning will consist of the opportunity for people to see Roman material from the Southwark collection and other excavations within the borough. In the afternoon there will be three talks about the Roman archaeology of Southwark, Roman roads, burial grounds and settlement, largely focused on Landmark Court. In the week before, on **Tuesday 17** and **Thursday 19 September**, Dr Chris Constable, borough archaeologist, will lead some walks through the Roman town. More information tbc on <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage> nearer the time.

## Heritage Open Days

The Society will hold a Heritage Open Day at their Research Centre in Abinger Hammer on **Sunday 15 September** (10:30-15:00). The Lithics Group will be in attendance studying and cataloguing lithics collections and there will be an opportunity to explore the Society Library.

Please check other local HOD listings to see what events are in your area.

## Local History Symposium

Save the date for this autumn's Surrey Local History Committee symposium, run jointly with the Medieval Studies Forum, at Surrey History Centre on **Saturday 12 October**. The full programme and booking info will be available soon on the Society's website.

## Summer fieldwork

Dates for the second season of test pitting at Albury Park are **29 July-1 August** and **9-12 September**. Volunteers are welcome for both finds and digging; no prior experience needed and all tools provided. To be put on the project email list, please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).



Please also contact the above email for interest in the Society's LiDAR project (<https://surreylidar.org.uk/>), including upcoming groundtruthing work in the autumn and early 2025.

**For further events taking place around the region, please follow the Society's monthly e-newsletters. To be placed on the mailing list, email [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).**