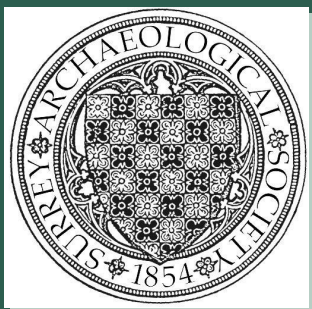




SURREY'S PAST



60 years of the Bulletin / Surrey's Past

**2024 Cocks Farm Abinger
excavations, Part 1**

**Analysing handaxes from
the Farnham Terraces**

**Medieval pottery from the
western Low Weald**

**Pottery from St
Mary's Guildford**

**Surrey LiDAR
Portal**

**News &
Events**

Note from the Editors

Welcome to the summer edition of *Surrey's Past*, which also happens to be the 500th issue of the original *Bulletin*, which first appeared sixty years ago! We are proud to be able to continue the tradition in providing one of the Society's key staples for communication and dissemination of research to its members, and hope it has many years still to come.

This issue continues to cover a spread of research topics spanning all periods and parts of the county, as well as select news and events items. We look forward to receiving more of your contributions in the autumn edition. We hope you find it an enjoyable read and have a pleasant summer ahead, whether it involves fieldwork or other, more leisurely activities.

Welcome to new members

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Alice Breeveld	Ewhurst	
Dominic Sanders	Betchworth	
Erin Knight	Kenley	Early medieval period but anything before 1600 is of interest
Marilyn Leggett	Woking	
Edward Breeveld	Ewhurst	
Robert Wild	Cranleigh	Diverse interest including ancient history and pre-Roman
Peter Burgess	Crawley	
Jennifer Creed	Godstone	Industrial History and Archaeology
		Practical archaeology/fieldwork as well as the Roman period, Viking settlement and Victorian era
Zillah Stone	London	Medieval and industrial
Moyna Bridge	Oxted	Local and UK archaeology
Karen Ross	Godalming	Roman and Medieval artefacts and digs
Isabel Young	Godalming	Drawing on archaeological theory and experimental archaeology, field practice exploring the socio-cultural dynamics and history of the house, its integrated environments and the people who lived in them.
Andrew Jones	Woking	
Arin Edwards	Banstead	Everything including metal detecting
		Roman Britain, Medieval Britain; Greek history from Bronze age to Venetian/Byzantium; Christianity

Contributor information

Surrey's Past is issued three times a year, normally in February, June and October. There will be one further issue of *Surrey's Past* in 2025. Next issue **501**: copy required by **15 September** for the **October** issue.

Issue no:	Copy date:	Approx. delivery:
501 October	15 September	13 October

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. Guidelines for potential authors are also available online under the *Surrey's Past* section of the website.

© **Surrey Archaeological Society 2025** The Trustees of Surrey Archaeological Society desire it to be known that they are not responsible for the statements or opinions expressed in *Surrey's Past*.

Editors: Dr Anne Sassin, Email: asassinallen@gmail.com; Rob Briggs, Email: surreymedieval.blog@gmail.com

1 to 500 in 60.5 years

By Rob Briggs

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 1 BULLETIN January, 1965

This Bulletin represents a new venture on the part of the Surrey Archaeological Society. Its aims can be grouped under three headings.

The first is to bring all members of the Society into closer touch with its many activities. We can, I believe, claim that our programme is as varied and lively as that of any county archaeological society. Each year a really remarkable number of excavations is carried out by our members in different parts of the county. Throughout the greater part of the year a very varied programme of visits and lectures is arranged. Members are given general notice of these branches of activities annually, but details can usually only be notified shortly in advance of the date on which events are taking place. These details have hitherto only been sent to those members who have asked to receive them. The Council believes that many more members would be interested to know what is going on. Even if they do not themselves wish to participate in excavations, they might be interested to visit one if they were in the neighbourhood, and though they might not feel it likely that they would regularly take part in visits, their interest might be attracted to one particular programme. The Bulletin will include the programme of excavations, visits and any other activity, and these will therefore be available to all members.

Secondly, the Council has for some time had under consideration the possibility of issuing a form of Notes and Queries by means of which members can pass on interesting items of information of a kind that would not merit a full-scale article in the Collections but nevertheless should not pass without mention. It would also be a means whereby members (and others) could ask for information on a subject in which they are interested.

The third aim is to serve as a means of liaison between the County Society and the numerous active local and school societies. One of the outcomes of the very successful meeting organised recently with representatives of the local societies was the expression of the need for some organ of this sort.

The Council therefore hopes that the Bulletin will serve these needs and any others that may arise. That it has become possible to publish and circulate it is due entirely to a number of most generous offers of voluntary assistance from public spirited members, to whom the gratitude of the whole Society is due.

Kathleen M. Kenyon,
President.

Fig 1 The presidential preface to *SyAS Bulletin 1*

This being the 500th issue of the Surrey Archaeological Society's regular newsletter-cum-magazine, it feels appropriate to take a look back at where it all began and how far things have come since the first issue of the *Bulletin* appeared in January 1965 (Fig 1). *Surrey's Past* as a title may be only a little over three years old, but the issue numbering was carried over from the *Bulletin* and this is not the only thread of continuity from what went before.

Such retrospection at a milestone moment is not without precedent. At the start of *Bulletin 200* (April 1985), pieces by Rosamond Hanworth and Elvey Humphreys together provide a detailed survey of progress of publication and Society alike in the two decades since the advent of the former. Dennis Turner and Richard Muir did the same, if anything with even greater rigour, in *Bulletin 300* (March/April 1996). These contributions make for fascinating reading and anyone interested in the past – and perhaps the future – of this Society should

read and ponder upon them (every single issue is available in digital format online via <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/bulletins>). For whatever reason, the landmark of a century of issues passed without comment in *Bulletin 100* (September 1973). In *Bulletin 400* (April 2007), Phil Jones, editor at the time, marked the moment in a humorous caption to the cover image; the question remains, who were the two 'esteemed and illustrious' SyAS members he had in mind?

Bulletin 1 comprised a mere four pages, fairly densely packed with text but not a single image – indeed, I make it that the *Bulletin* remained text-only until issue 184 (May/June 1983), and even then images were used sparingly for years after. This 36-page issue of *Surrey's Past* has over 40 images plus seven tables! The *Collections* (as well as the Research Volumes series of the 1970s and 1980s) may be the primary formal published record of the Society's activities and areas of interest, but it is the *Bulletin/Surrey's Past* that feels like its authentic voice, perhaps even its soul. To mark the 500th issue, the contents of *Bulletin 1* and *Surrey's Past 500* are compared, an exercise that turns out to reveal a lot about changes inside and outside SyAS over the past six decades.

A good proportion of the content of *Bulletin 1* is arranged, rather enjoyably, in alphabetical order according to the relevant geographical location, whereas today we structure *Surrey's Past* by theme (fieldwork, research etc.) and sometimes also chronology. Weston Wood in Albury features prominently in *Bulletin 1*, both in an excavation notice of no little urgency, given the impending threat of commercial sand extraction destroying the archaeological site, and a 'local note' reporting discoveries to date (which also gained national press coverage – when was the last time a SyAS dig achieved the same?). The excavation director was Joan Harding, whose death in 2004 means full publication of the excavations is still to happen, although formal reporting of the largely Late Bronze Age pottery from the site has been achieved by Mike

Russell in 1989 and 2019. Not so far along the Tillingbourne valley from Albury, the Roman Studies Group's long-running fieldwork project at Cocks Farm in Abinger, while in no way rescue excavations, have also revealed multi-period evidence from the Lower Greensand ridge, as can be gathered from Emma Corke's interim report in *Surrey's Past* **500** and those that have appeared in a good number of issues before it.

Another *Bulletin* **1** 'local note' announces the second (and as it would transpire last) year of excavations at Orchard Hill in Carshalton, directed by Dennis Turner. The combined results of these investigations were not brought to publication until several years after his death in 2013 (English, Ellaby & Taylor 2018). The important work of bringing decades-old excavations and other fieldwork to publication continues, exemplified in this issue by Judie English's note on medieval pottery assemblages from the Cranleigh area, achieved through the sterling work of the Society's Medieval Pottery Group.

One of the most profound differences between 1965 and 2025 is the much greater protection afforded to archaeology and similarly to historic buildings by the planning process – see, for instance, the notes by David Bird and Dennis Turner in *Bulletin* **259** (September 1991) about some of the main implications of Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 16 for archaeology in Surrey and Greater London respectively. Many early *Bulletin* issues feature dispiriting notices of buildings and sites threatened with destruction, or reports of important evidence recorded at the 11th hour. *Bulletin* **1** carried two brief notes about windmills at Outwood and Reigate Heath, in both cases reporting good news about the restoration of the buildings (Fig 2; the Outwood note does also relay that a nearby smock mill had collapsed only four years prior). SyAS is not so actively concerned nowadays with the preservation of historic buildings as it was in the time of its Conservation Committee, later Historic Buildings Committee (1970-2013). It is perhaps not altogether surprising, therefore, that this *Surrey's Past* issue lacks any contribution primarily about a standing building, although recent issues have featured such pieces, about both secular and ecclesiastical subjects.



Fig 2 Outwood Mill in July 2024

It seems to have been complete coincidence that the *Bulletin* launched in the same month as Surrey lost its north-eastern belt of boroughs to Greater London (while gaining the two local authorities from Middlesex that would be recast as Spelthorne borough). *Bulletin* **1** carried notes about sites in Carshalton and Wimbledon (plus Southwark, sundered from Surrey to London in the 19th century) alongside ones pertaining to the likes of Ashted and Badshot Lea. By contrast, no piece in *Surrey's Past* **500** concerns a place now in Greater London. Again, this is not entirely representative of recent *Surrey's Past* issues, but it does speak to changed conceptions of Surrey as a county and a place in which archaeological and historical research is conducted. At the time of writing, further profound changes to Surrey as a political entity are in the pipeline in the name of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, with proposals for the current county to be split into two or three new unitary authorities below, in the case of two sets of proposals, a Surrey Mayoral Strategic Authority (the various final plans can be accessed online at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/lgr/plans>). How might whichever arrangement ends up being chosen by central government impact SyAS in the future?

The final page of *Bulletin 1* was filled with notices of forthcoming events: the provisional programme of SyAS visits and lectures for 1965; a symposium in Southwark on the results of excavations carried out by the Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee; and a London Natural History Society lecture on the topic 'Mediaeval pottery and its use in tracing trade connections between England and the Continent' to be given by G. C. Dunning (drawing upon research such as that published in Dunning 1956). Turn to the final pages of this issue of *Surrey's Past* and you will find details of an even greater array of lectures, visits and so forth. Within and without the Society, such activities continue to be vital for the acquisition and sharing of knowledge about the past.

Dennis Turner, founder-editor of the *Bulletin*, pondered at the end of his contribution to issue **300**:

'Who knows whether the Bulletin will survive another 300 issues. The last 300 have seen the progress from scissors, paste and hot lead to computer formatting in the Society's office and at the last Council Meeting we were told that the Society now has a page on Internet. Technology may replace the Bulletin just as the Bulletin itself replaced stencilled notices. But for the moment, Congratulations to all our successors – astoundingly we are all alive.'

200 issues later and the *Bulletin* has undergone not only a name-change but also the shift to being a larger format, full colour, primarily digital publication. The same struggles to assemble sufficient content for an issue as noted in previous editorial reflections remain – the editors of *Surrey's Past* welcome all suggestions for future pieces large or small, please drop us an email to set the ball rolling! – but the publication remains alive and kicking. I will refrain from offering prognostications on whether this publication will still exist, and if so in what format, 100, 300 or 500 issues hence. At the present frequency of issue, *Surrey's Past 600* will not see the light of day until the Autumn of 2058. It feels impossible now to conceive of SyAS without its regular magazine, so let us not just hope but together actively work towards ensuring *Surrey's Past* and the Society of which it is a key feature both continue to thrive in the decades to come.

Postscript

There have been 500 issues of the *Bulletin* and *Surrey's Past*, despite the issue numbering system having gone awry on a couple of occasions, in mid-1976 and in mid-2004. Thus, purely on the basis of the issue number printed on the cover, there were no *Bulletins 130* and **377**, rather unintended duplicates of numbers **129** and **378** (Phil Jones comes across as particularly mortified when acknowledging the second such error in his editor's note on page 16 of the "real" issue **378**).

References

- Bird, D, 1991 Surrey County Planning Department: Archaeology and Historic Landscapes Team, *SyAS Bulletin*, **259**, [6–8]
- Dunning, G C, 1956 Trade Relations between England and the Continent in the Late Anglo-Saxon Period, in D B Harden, ed, *Dark-Age Britain: Studies presented to E. T. Leeds*, London: Methuen & Co., 218-33
- English, J, Ellaby, R & Taylor, C, 2018 Excavations at Orchard Hill, Carshalton, 1964-5, *SyAC*, **101**, 195-208
- Russell, M J G, 1989 Excavation of a multi-period site in Weston Wood, Albury: the pottery, *SyAC*, **79**, 3-51
- Russell, M, 2019 Albury Landfill, Shere Road, Surrey: Analysis of the pottery from excavations at Weston Wood, 1961 - 1968, unpublished report, online at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e31b1b469888b7d96de51e0/t/5e330e6890359a4ba1a6a938/1580404359599/32093-Albury.pdf> [accessed 25th May 2025]
- Turner, D, 1991 Archaeology in London, *SyAS Bulletin*, **259**, [8–9]

Cocks Farm Abinger: 2024 excavations, Part 1

By Emma Corke

Summary

Cocks Farm in Abinger is a multi-period persistent site that has been investigated by the Roman Studies Group of the Society since 2009 in the field adjoining the Roman villa discovered in 1877. Interim reports for all preceding seasons of fieldwork are available on the Society's website at <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/excavations-at-cocks-farm-roman-villa-abinger-2009-present-interim-reports>. The summer of 2024, a fieldwork season hereafter referred to as CFA24, saw four trenches (numbered T35 to T38) being excavated between the Romano-British (RB) limekiln excavated in 2010-12, shortly to be published in the *Collections*, and the main previously-excavated area (Fig 1). This report summarises the results from T36, T37 and T38, as well as the RB and later features in T35. All the other features found in T35 were prehistoric and will be reported on in Part 2 in the next issue of *Surrey's Past*.

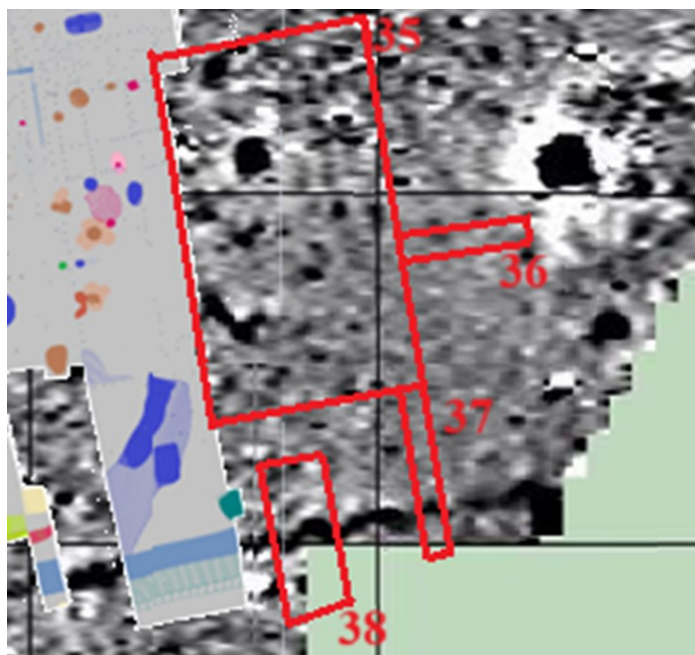


Fig 1 CFA24 trench outlines on magnetometry, with plans of earlier trenches to the west. The limekiln is the large black blob with a white surround to the NE of T36. Note that the trenches are laid out on the main RB alignment.

T36

Plough-base in T36 (measuring 8m x 2.2m) was the natural sand. There was a slight scattering of chalk in its north-east corner, no doubt relating to the limekiln, but its main features were irregular pits identified as tree-holes. In the plan (Fig 2) these pits are the brown areas, with shallower root disturbance in the paler colour. The features were half-sectioned. Finds from all of them were exclusively flints, many being struck (Fig 3). The absence of later finds strongly suggests that these trees all lived in prehistory, probably before the Iron Age. This is a consistent finding across the site as a whole.

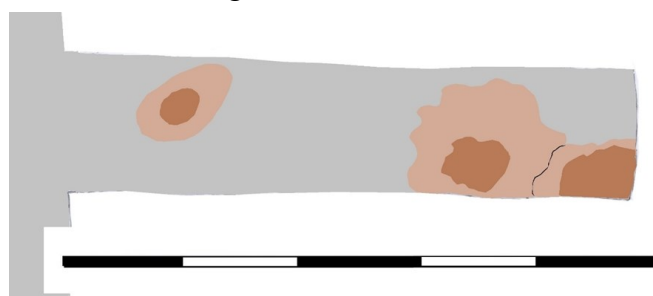


Fig 2 T36. 3603 is the western-most feature. Scale: 2m bars – the same for all trench plans



Fig 3 Flints from the half-section of 3603.

T37

This trench (21m x 2.2m) (Fig 4) crossed the large RB east/west boundary ditch seen before in trenches to the west. In T33 (excavated in 2023 and the nearest trench to the west of T38) an RB ploughed field had been found south of the ditch, with an area approximately 2m in width between ditch and field thought to be either a bank or track. Further west (in T21 and T27, excavated 2017 and 2019 respectively) a prehistoric ditch running to the north of the RB ditch had been seen. Hard to identify even at its most obvious, this prehistoric ditch had not been seen in T33, but if once present there it would have lain in an area heavily disturbed by RB activity (probably quarrying).

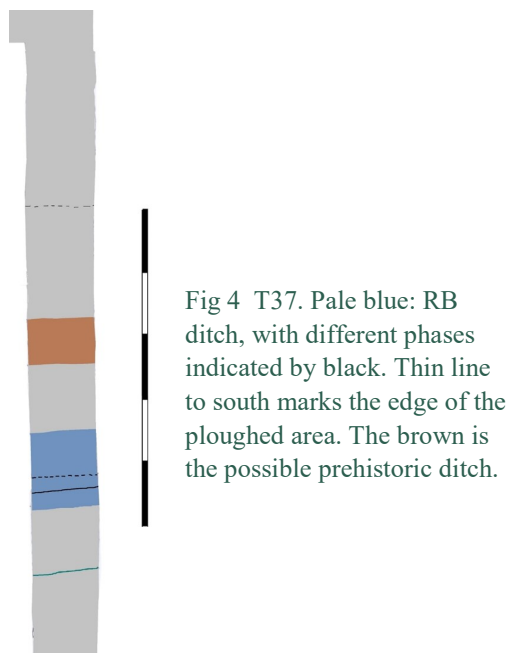


Fig 4 T37. Pale blue: RB ditch, with different phases indicated by black. Thin line to south marks the edge of the ploughed area. The brown is the possible prehistoric ditch.

The RB ditch was found, though very truncated by the erosion already mentioned. It had at least two, probably three phases. The final fill contained sherds of RB pottery including Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated ware (MOLA code OXRC, dated 270-400) and Overwey white ware (PORD, dated 350-400), showing that, as expected, the ditch was at least partially open from 350AD. The ploughed field was present, as was the bank/track between field and ditch.

To the north, a soft clayey band ran across the trench. On excavation it merged into an area of natural slightly sandy clay, and was thought to probably be natural. However, in the following weeks as sun and rain affected the section, the probable outline of a ditch appeared. It is in good

alignment (see Fig 6) with the sections of the prehistoric ditch previously seen, and this identification does seem likely to apply here too. If so, it must have either only been open for a short time or have been kept well-scoured as there was no organic matter on the base.

T38

The results from T37 led to T38 being added (13m x 4m; Fig 5). Lying between T33 and T37, it was hoped this trench could elucidate the cause of the differences (particularly in ditch depth) between the two other trenches.

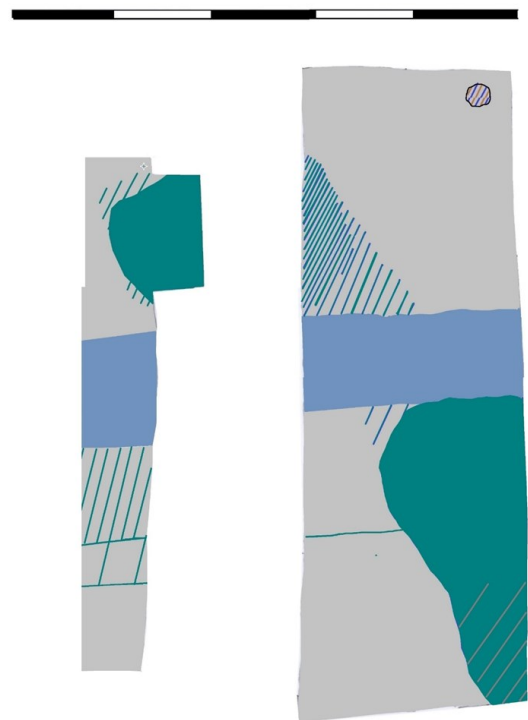


Fig 5 T38 to the right, part of T33 (2023) to the left for comparison. Blue: RB ditch. Blue-green: deposits/heaps of ironstone. Stripes stony areas, possible made surfaces.

The RB ditch was duly found and, as anticipated, it was shallower than in T33 and deeper than in T37. Unlike in T37, there were no apparent different phases; it seems that if or when the ditch was recut it was done in exactly the same place. The ploughed field was also found, again divided by a 2m strip from the ditch. Here, however, the natural in the south-east corner of the trench was not sand but ironstone in a fine pale clay matrix. This was familiar from T33 (and also T35) and is interpreted as a deposit found in glacial grooves cut into the sand. Overlying this many pieces of ironstone lay in

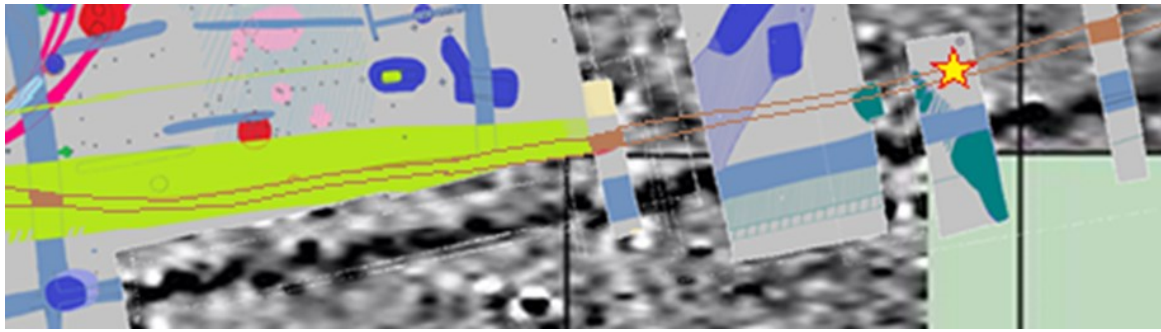


Fig 6 Star: axehead find spot in T38. Brown: prehistoric ditch, brown edges only: projected ditch alignment.



Fig 7 Axehead from T36 (left; also featuring in cover image)

a scattered heap, partly on the strip and partly over and within the ploughed area. More stones were seen on the northern part of the western edge of the trench; these might be a continuation of the stone heap seen in T33, but they were more scattered than there. As in T33, pieces of RB tile and pottery were found in the ditch fill and also mixed with or under the stones, so dating the features (nothing later was found). It was not clear whether the ditch was cut through the heaps or the heaps deposited later, but the likelihood is that the heaps at least partly derived from digging the ditch.

Lying not far below ploughbase in the northern part of the trench was a Neolithic axehead (Fig 7), one end of which is missing. Post-excavation it was realised that this was lying on the alignment of the prehistoric ditch (Fig 6).

T35

The magnetometry in Fig 1 shows that T35 (31m x 19m; Fig 8) contained some major anomalies. As expected, the majority of these turned out to be pits but unexpectedly only one was RB. In fact there were very few RB features in the trench, and it appears that the farmyard buildings and enclosures did not extend this far west. Instead any activity in this area, lying between the working area of hearths and pits in T33 and the limekiln to the east, must

have been above-ground: possibly a storage area for fuel and chalk related to the kiln? Or perhaps pasture?

As noted above, the whole of the south-east portion of the trench had been eroded to the point where the ploughsoil lay directly on natural (stripy) sand. The difference in erosion showed very clearly in that the RB ditch (coloured blue in Fig 8), which was over 1m wide and 15cm deep near the western edge of the trench and petered away to nothing two-thirds of the way across. Five slots were cut across it, producing 3 sherds of pottery, all post-250AD. The ditch was so shallow, however, that this cannot be seen as reliably dating the feature. The ditch intercut a number of small pits (green in Fig 8). They were circular (on average about 80cm diameter), bowl-shaped with quite steep sides (a maximum of about 60cm deep), and intercut each other. They contained no finds other than ironstone. While the ditch probably cut the pits, this was not certain, as the fills were very similar and merged into each other. Their regularity makes them almost certainly man-made, but their function is unknown. They are most probably earlier RB in date.

The northern, level part of the trench preserved occupation layers, and proved to contain a large number of pits and postholes. The first cleaning also revealed small concentrated areas of bones in the north-east corner (yellow in Fig 8). These turned out to be burials of birds. Context 3503, which seemed to be one of the best preserved, was excavated in detail. It was a small square pit containing the articulated skeleton of an adult domestic fowl, together with those of several chicks and a great many eggs – the shell was everywhere.

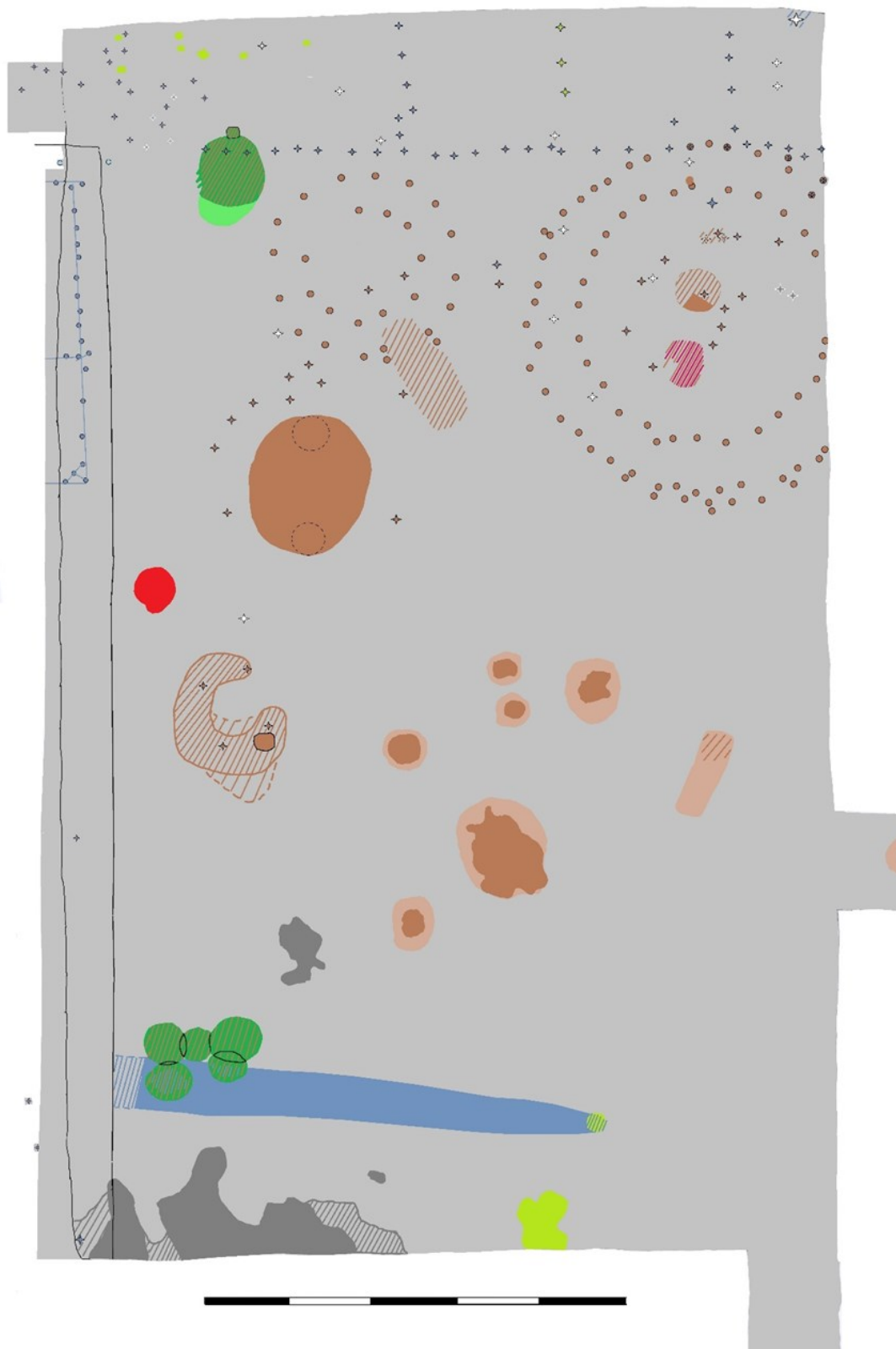


Fig 8 T35. Stars: postholes. Blue: RB, Red: Iron Age, Brown: prehistoric. Yellow: modern. Green: undated pre-Late RB, Dark Grey: glacial deposit. Part of T33 is outlined to the west, the NE corner was also seen in T32. The ends of T36 and T37 are also shown.

The good preservation suggested that these were not (despite the promising appearance) a ritual deposit, and this was confirmed on the last day of the excavation when metal detecting found another, previously unsuspected, deposit which included a leg ring. The earliest date of this is probably 1880, so these deposits are probably the disposal of birds

that had died from infection and been buried with their chicks and eggs in an effort to avoid further disease. It is interesting that a few years ago we found calf burials buried in a similar way about 50m to the west, the radiocarbon dates of which matches well with the leg ring.

Further east, the bases of three very narrow postholes with wood still present were found, running north/south (stars with yellow centres in Fig 8). Confusingly they appeared to be (nearly) on the RB alignment and to match two lines of posts (to east and west) that had all the appearance of being RB. However, this is a topographically obvious alignment; it faces directly down slope and is parallel to a field boundary that existed until about 1900. Thus it cannot be taken as proof that all the parallel lines of postholes in this area are modern, particularly given the three were of a very different form to any of the others, being driven posts with no packing and a maximum diameter of 8cm.

The probably RB north-south lines of posts that were parallel to these wooden posts ended at an east-west line of posts that ran right across the trench (context 35234). These were closely spaced, about 60cm apart, which is more typical of a building wall than a fence, but no corresponding parallel line was found to form the opposite wall of a building (we will be looking this year to see if one lies to the north). Postline 35234 may connect to the southern wall of building O, a fairly early RB building seen in T32, to the west, but the latter was badly preserved (possibly damaged by the bird burials and related activity?). 35234 does however certainly overlie a sizeable pit (context 3525, green in Fig 8) as three of its postholes were cut into the pit fill.

Pit 3525 contained no finds (apart from stones). There was a very large posthole on and partly in its northern edge. This was lined with ironstone and contained a square-cut post 30cm in width at trench base, and 15cm wide at the posthole's base. This

was by far the largest posthole in the trench and it didn't appear to relate to any others. The pit (210cm x 170cm x 57cm deep) is thought to be earlier RB rather than prehistoric, but there is little evidence either way. It could possibly be a modified tree hole, but its shape (which resembles those of clearly RB pits seen in other trenches rather than other tree holes) makes that seem rather unlikely.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to: Jon Cotton for prehistoric pottery identification; Geraldine Missig for bird identification, the Reigate flint group; the Collections Review Group members who did post-ex; Steve Dobinson who, with Ann Morrison and the finds team, not only carried out the on-site processing of all of CFA24'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 soft shifting sands, the constant frustration of the ever-present injection lines and large areas of trench with no features or finds; those who used Total Station and Trimble; those who drew, especially Elvin Mullinger who also digitised the drawings and taught others; those who metal-detected, David Calow for hard work and excellent advice; and of course, above all Nikki Cowlard who supervised T38, and who made sure that everything happened as it should. And finally I must mention Paul Lehman and the team from Austin Community College who coped with unaccustomed English archaeology and sunshine during the first week of the dig.



Fig 9 The northern part of T35. North lies to the right. Postline 35234 runs at an angle from the near the bottom right-hand corner. Pit 3525 is part-filled with shadow. The white sample boxes are beside burial 3503, which is covered. The majority of RH6 postholes can also be seen; RH7 has not yet been excavated.

By **Christopher J W Taylor**

A paper by the author with the much same title as appears above has recently been published online by the Lithic Studies Society as part of Volume 42 of its journal, *Lithics*. It is available in full to view and/or download via <https://journal.lithics.org/>. Since the paper has been published in a non-Surrey specific journal, I thought it would be useful to provide *Surrey's Past* readers with the summary article below that mentions the main points. Milestones of the underlying research project focused on the Henry Bury collection were reported in *SyAS Bulletins* **467**, **473** and **477**.

The full version of the paper covers many aspects including the Palaeolithic handaxe types, the collections included in the study, terrace geology, issues regarding pits, biographical details of Henry Bury, the Farnham collectors and their collections, and statistical analyses that cover all aspects of the handaxes on each terrace. This much-summarised paper may provide useful information, not only to those with an interest in Surrey's Palaeolithic archaeology, but also to local historians who may find the details on the gravel pits of Farnham and the local collector Bury helpful.

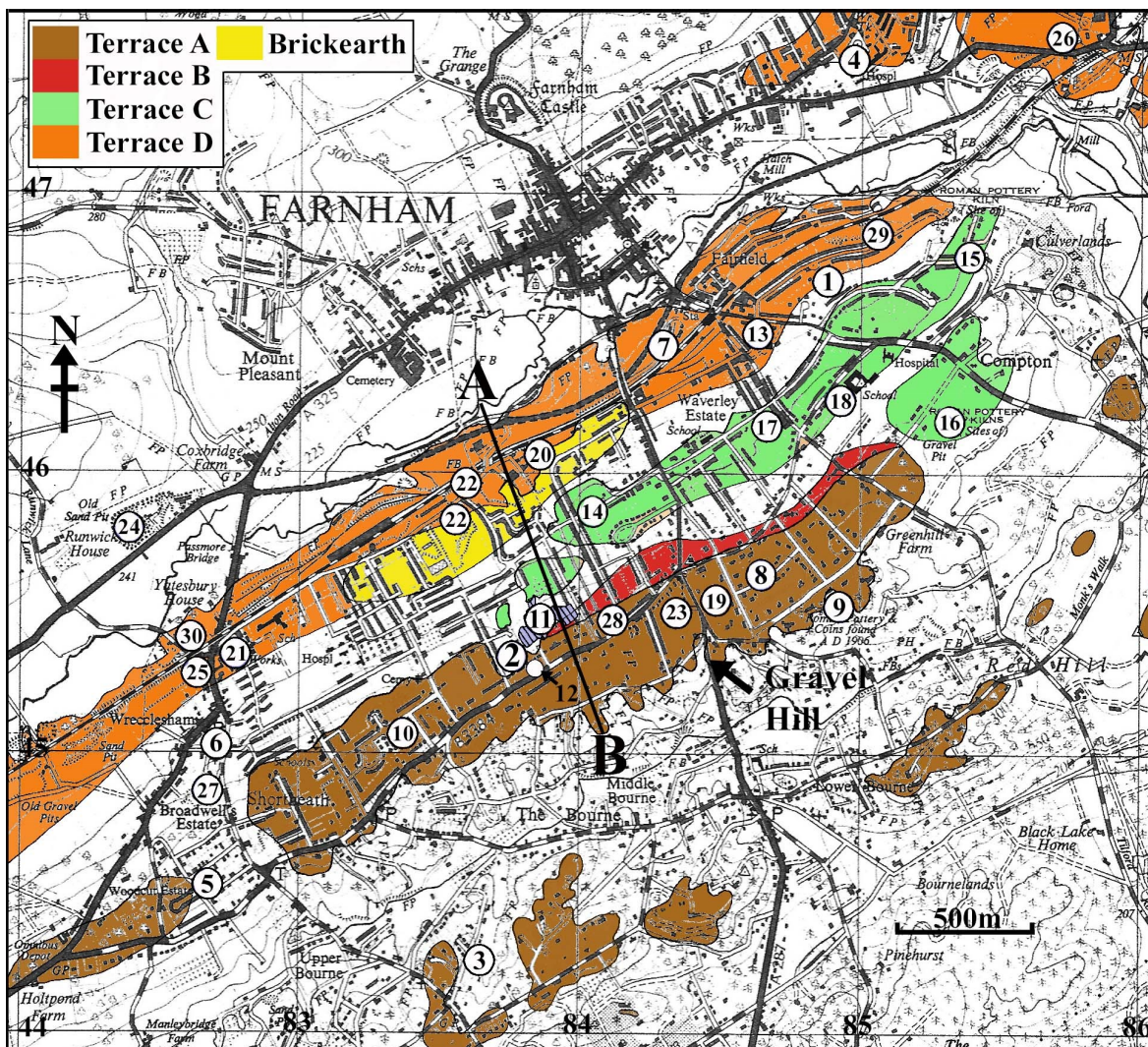


Fig 1 The location of Terraces A–D on the south bank of the River Wey at Farnham, with pits plotted

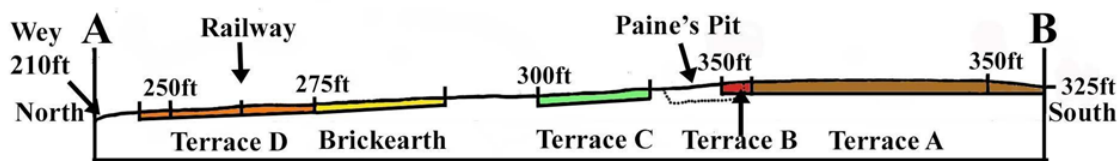


Fig 2 Cross-section A–B of the terraces as marked on Figure 1. The vertical and horizontal scales are the same so there is no vertical exaggeration.

Background

Recently, river terraces have been recognised as important geomorphological markers, with deposits linked to specific climate fluctuations attributed to Marine Isotope Stages (MIS) (Wenban-Smith *et al.* 2019, 14). White & Bridgland (2014, 21) have proposed that certain Palaeolithic handaxe types, when found in significant numbers within such deposits, might be indicative of certain MIS; in particular, twisted ovate handaxes are attributed to MIS 11 (*circa* 400,000 years ago) and assemblages with significant proportions of cleavers (Fig 3) and ficrons to MIS 9 (*c.*325,000 years ago). Bout coupé handaxes are thought to be indicative of MIS 3 (*c.*50,000 years ago), primarily due to their association with dated Devensian contexts rather than river deposits (Tyldesley 1987, 169; White & Jacobi 2002, 122). Studies of rivers in England have provided ample specific examples of this patterning.

The Wey at Farnham has been described as having ‘a classic flight of river terraces’ (Wymer 1987, 20) that are considered to rank in importance with those of the Thames for the study of the Palaeolithic handaxe sequence in southern Britain. Wymer (1987, 19–23) summarised the tentative dating of the terraces, which are illustrated in Figs 1 and 2. Terrace A, the highest, is thought to be the oldest, with the successive terraces being progressively younger and Terrace D dating to the mid-Devensian, MIS 3.

This article (and the full version) presents an analysis of over 900 handaxes from the Farnham terraces, utilising additional information from Bury’s rediscovered detailed notebooks that provide previously lost, important contextual information. The results are compared to White & Bridgland’s (2014) temporal patterning of handaxe types.

The main collector, Henry Bury, M.A. (Cantab.), F.G.S; F.L.S, was a president of the Prehistoric Society. He amassed a collection of over 800

artefacts, mainly purchased directly from workmen, with a few gifts from the pit owners. Almost all of the collection is Palaeolithic in date, although there are a few later artefacts, of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Bury was a meticulous recorder and recorded his finds in 11 notebooks, totalling over 1,000 pages, providing every detail of each with a sketch. This important resource has been used to inform this study.

River terraces: geology

The basic geomorphological framework has it that the higher a river terrace, the older it is, evidencing the rejuvenation of a river’s profile resulting from climate change on a *c.*100,000 year cycle (Bridgland & White 2014, 543). However, it is very important to bear in mind that we cannot assume prehistoric artefacts were only left on the terrace then currently being formed. Hominins would have explored and consequently left handaxes on all the terraces available, including those from previous climate cycles. Notably, Wymer (1968, 25–33) and Bridgland (2014, 1, fig 1) described this in some detail. Also, terraces can be reworked by the river so that ‘older’ terrace deposits can be redeposited into a ‘newer’ terrace.

Similarly, non-terrace material from superficial deposits at a river’s headwaters may contain artefacts that are eroded out and redeposited downstream. It seems likely that this has happened at Farnham. The present source of the Wey is located near Alton in Hampshire (Dines 1929, 131). Above the town the highest hills are capped with Clay-with-Flints with now dry valleys leading down to the Wey valley cutting through this deposit.

Willis (1947, 255) reported 65 Lower Palaeolithic implements and flakes at Holybourne (north-east of Alton) from within the Clay-with-Flints. Scott-Jackson (2000, 65) suggested that, generally, artefacts are ‘released’ into river gravels from the Clay-with-Flints capping the local summits. Much earlier, Willis (1947, 256) suggested Yarnhams

Farm (c.1.25 miles north-west of Froyle) was a 'site from which Hampshire has in past times received its terrace and valley gravel implements at *second hand*' (author's emphasis). The area above Alton may therefore be one source of the Wey gravels with implements contained within it.

As far as terraces are concerned, rather than a neat demarcation in clearly separated chronological steps, as we would like, there is most probably some mixing here at Farnham of the terrace material and artefacts found within it. The fact that the boundaries of terraces lie within or near to the major pit sources of these artefacts only serves to complicate matters further. Unfortunately, pits were often located between the boundaries of terraces, sometimes making it difficult for pit workers, and even Bury, to decide exactly which terrace a find was from.

Handaxe types by terrace

Recently, White *et al.* (2019a, 20) have suggested a probable age for Terrace A of MIS 13+ (c.500,000 years ago), based on it being the highest terrace and the crudity of its associated handaxes. Crude handaxes have been mentioned as associated with pre-Anglian (i.e. before c.400,000 years ago) sediments. Table 2 shows that crude (Wymer type D/E) handaxes are found on all terraces but are especially prevalent on Terrace B (41%). However, it is important to bear in mind the possibility of mixing of terraces.

A more accurate picture may be obtained by looking at Terraces A and B together. Table 2 shows that, together, Terraces A and B contain 250 (53 and 197, respectively) crude type D/E handaxes compared to a combined total of only 71 on Terraces C and D (46 and 25, respectively). There has almost certainly been reworking of the terrace material, with fluvial action, solifluction and soil creep moving handaxes down from higher terraces. At Broken Back Field, for example, Terraces A and B are almost merged and crude handaxes from Terrace A have probably found their way onto Terrace B. If the incidence of crude handaxes at pre-Anglian sites is accepted as substantiating their significance as age markers, Farnham's Terrace A and B crude handaxes seem to confirm these terraces as being the oldest, with A being the oldest of the two, possibly pre-dating the Anglian glaciation.

Cordates (type J) and ovates are similarly represented on all the terraces. There is a decrease in their concentration on Terrace C, but this may be due to the fact that Wymer's types J, K and F tend to blur into one another.

Both cleavers and ficrons (pointed handaxes with concave sides) appear in small numbers over all of the terraces. Of note is the largest ficron from the Bury collection, measuring 273 mm in length, which was found on Terrace D. Given their suggested association with MIS 10/9/8, when cleavers and ficrons are considered together, the picture becomes more distinct. The absolute numbers on Terraces A, B and C are fairly equal (A = 13, B = 9, C = 10 and D = 4). However, the percentages based on the total number of handaxes from each terrace (A = 5.6%, B = 1.9%, C = 6.9% and D = 4.6%) suggest a slightly higher concentration on Terrace C.

Although bout coupés are also recorded in very small numbers, they are clearly more common on Terrace D than elsewhere.

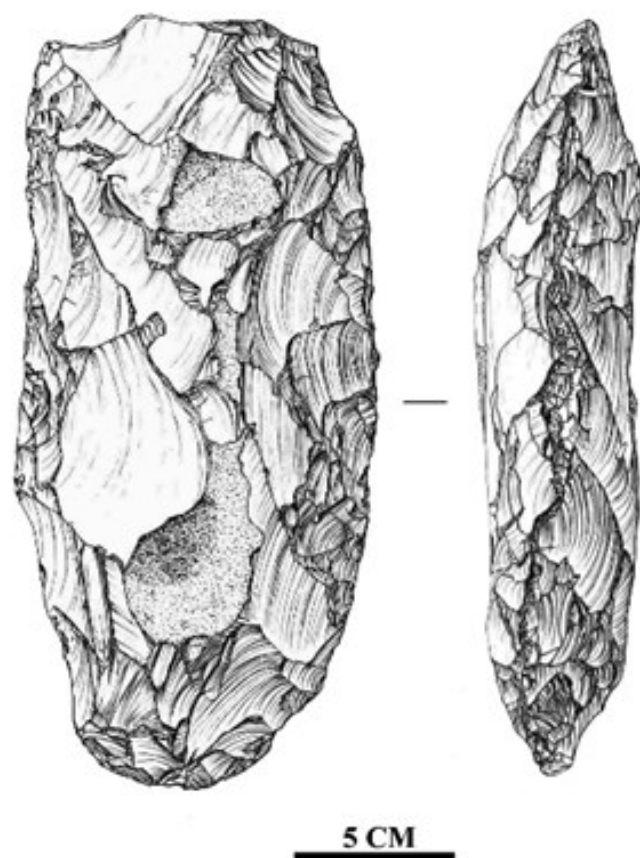


Fig 3 Cleaver from Wakeford's Pit, Terrace C

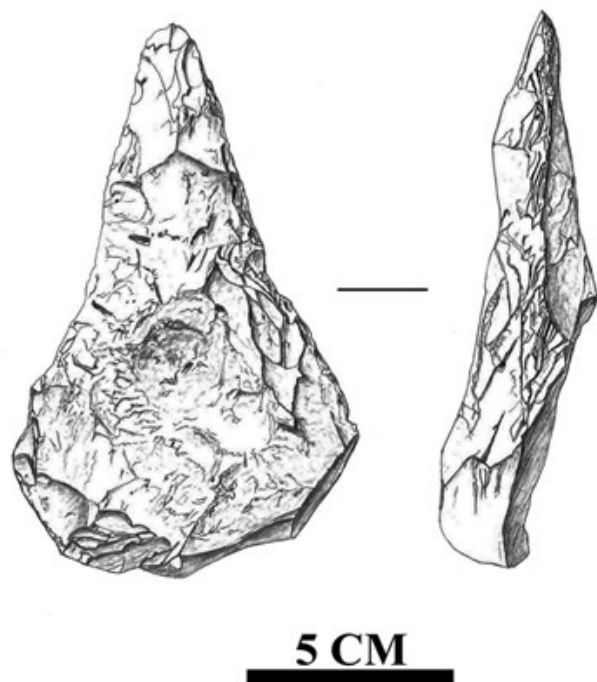


Fig 4 A ficron with part of one side missing. This type is pointed but with concave sides. From Paine's Pit, Terrace B.

Other findings

Handaxes from Terrace D are the most abraded; some D/E examples from this terrace are abraded, almost beyond recognition. There is the possibility that some of the Farnham gravels are derived from higher superficial deposits around Alton. Terrace A contains generally less-heavily abraded handaxes.

Twisted ovate handaxes (types J and K) are present almost exclusively on Terrace B. As the number of handaxes on each terrace differs significantly, percentage concentrations are perhaps more helpful. However, the very small absolute numbers for Terraces A, C and D may be a problem statistically. Therefore, all we can say is that handaxes with twisted edges appear on all terraces but are most prevalent on Terrace B.

Regarding size, broken handaxes were excluded from length measurements to prevent the data from being skewed. The average length of handaxes across all terraces is approximately 104mm, while the average width is 67mm. However, there is considerable variation between the terraces. Terraces B and D include the shortest handaxes, with a number of very small artefacts, including some as short as 60mm. Pointed forms (type F) are relatively scarce on terrace B, averaging 93mm, compared to much longer examples at 126mm, 129mm and 110mm on Terraces A, C and D, respectively.

Comparisons with recent research

Crude D/E handaxes: The largest number of crude handaxes is found on Terraces A and B, compared to C and D. Assuming that there has been considerable reworking of Terrace A onto B, and possibly even the merging of these terraces at some point, aggregating these seems valid. Terrace A is thought to be the oldest, probably dating to MIS 15-13 (Bridgland *et al.* 2014b, 547), and the incidence of crude handaxes, as at the dated sites mentioned above, appears to confirm this.

Twisted ovates: Handaxes of types J and K with S-twist edges are prominent on Terrace B (MIS 11), which fits the expectations for this artefact type. However, whilst there is a relatively large concentration on Terrace B, these artefacts do occur across all the terraces, including three on Terrace D. This may reflect the continued use by hominins of earlier, upper terraces well after their formation, as well as the slumping and undercutting of terrace material onto the later, lower terraces.

Ficrons and cleavers: The highest concentration of ficrons and cleavers is on Terrace C. This agrees with expectations, although it is important to note the relatively low numbers and general spread of these types of artefact across the terraces.

Bout coupés: Although limited in number the majority appear on Terrace D, with single examples also present on Terraces A and B. Bout coupés are firmly associated with the Devensian (Tydlesley 1987, 118, 169-70), and the finds from Terrace D, the lowest and geomorphologically the youngest terrace, are in agreement with this dating.

Conclusion

The terraces of the Wey's south bank at Farnham represent a palimpsest of deposits. Early 20th-century authors have suggested that they have been mixed and disturbed by geomorphological processes, including solifluction, flooding and soil creep. Despite this, there appears to be a discernible pattern within the archaeology and the presence of handaxe types across the terraces appears to conform to expectations formed from more recent studies of artefact patterning within river terrace systems.

Pit Name	Site No.	NGR (centre)	Handaxes	Terrace
Barrett's Field	1	SU 84914662	63	C
Broken Back Field	2	SU 83754535	45	Top = A, Middle = B
Boundstone Pit	3	SU 83624425	23	A & Gravel Hill Channel (A/B).
Bourne Mill	4	SU 84964745	5	D
Clay Hill (location)	5	SU 82664454	4	A
Ellesmore's Pit	6	SU 82694504	4	C (outlier)
Firgrove Pit	7	SU 84314645	1	D (see Taylor 2017)
Great Austin's Pit	8	SU 84654565	72	A & some A/B
Greenhill (location)	9	SU 84924550	27	A (location)
Green Lane Pit ('Gravel Cos. Pit')	10	SU 83374507	22	A
Paine's Pit and Knight's Pit — adjoining (these pits indicated by 'N. of Ridgway Rd, 340ft' written on artefacts)	11	Paine's: SU 83854545 Knight's: SU 83954550	349	Lower = C; Upper = B. Straddles terraces
Narrow Pit, north of Ridgway Road	12	SU 83824530	21	A
Patterson's Pit, behind Farnham railway station	13	SU 84594650	15	D
Mayfield House (Bury's residence)	NA (south of map limit)	SU 82874359	2	A (outlier)
Searle Road Pit	14	SU 84054587	4	C
Snailslynch Pit, Upper	15	SU 85404677	47	C
Stoneyfield Pit	16	SU 85324619	91	B*
Tilford Road Pit	17	SU 84624619	2	C
Wakeford's Pit	18	SU 84954633	3	C
Ward's Pit	19	SU 84484555	13	A, (possibly some Gravel Hill Channel (A/B))
West of Firgrove, South of Railway Pit	20	SU 83824605	33	D
Wrecclesham Railway Pit	21	SU 82804535	4	D
Weydon Hill, ¼ mile west of (probably two pits as marked.)	22	SU 83574592 SU 83554580	7	D

Table 1 Locations of pits that produced artefacts used in this study. See Figure 1.

* The gravels at Stoneyfield Pit belong to the old Blackwater consequent stream. Although included in articles under sections on Terrace B, these gravels originated from the south and are essentially a different deposit to the Farnham terraces (Bury 1935, 66; Oakley 1939, 39).

Wymer type	Found on terrace:				Totals
	A & A/B	B	C	D	
D/E Crude	53 (22.9%)	197 (41.3%)	46 (31.9%)	25 (28.7%)	321 (34.2%)
F Pointed	59 (25.6%)	115 (24.1%)	47 (32.6%)	21 (24.1%)	242 (25.8%)
J Cordate	55 (23.8%)	95 (19.9%)	23 (16.0%)	20 (22.9%)	193 (20.6%)
K Ovate	33 (14.3%)	32 (6.7%)	12 (8.3%)	7 (8.0%)	84 (8.9%)
H Cleaver	10 (4.3%)	5 (1.1%)	7 (4.9%)	2 (2.4%)	24 (2.6%)
M Ficron	3 (1.3%)	4 (0.8%)	3 (2.1%)	2 (2.4%)	12 (1.3%)
N Bout Coupé	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.2%)	-	4 (4.6%)	6 (0.6%)
Graded Handaxe type	17 (7.4%)	27 (5.7%)	6 (4.2%)	6 (6.9%)	56 (5.9%)
Total	231 (100%)	476 (100%)	144 (100%)	87 (100%)	938 (100%)

Table 2 Number and percentages of handaxe types by terrace. N.B. Terrace D includes a large ficron, 273mm long.

References

- Bridgland, D R, Howard, A J, White, M J & White, T S (eds), 2014a *Quaternary of the Trent*, Oxford: Oxbow Books
- Bridgland, D R & White, M J, 2014b Fluvial archives as a framework for the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic: patterns of British artefact distribution and potential chronological implications, *Boreas*, **43**, 543-55
- Dines, H G & Edmunds, F H, 1929 *The Geology of the Country around Aldershot and Guildford*, London: HMSO
- Scott-Jackson, J E, 2000 *Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Artefacts from Deposits Mapped as Clay-with-Flints*, Oxford: Oxbow Books
- Taylor, C J W, 2017 Five Palaeolithic handaxes from Farnham, with a comment on the Huband flint collection, *SyAC*, **100**, 213-21
- Tyldesley, J A, 1987 *The Bout Coupé Handaxe: A Typological Problem*, BAR British Series, **170**, Oxford: British Archaeological Reports
- Wenban-Smith, F, Bridgland, D, Harp, P, Pope, M & Roberts, M, 2019 *South East Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the Early Palaeolithic Period* (Maidstone: Kent County Council), online at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/98938/Early-Palaeolithic-chapter.pdf (accessed November 2020)
- White, M J & Bridgland, D R, 2014 Patterns in Palaeolithic archaeology, in D R Bridgland, P Allen & T S White (eds), *The Quaternary of the Lower Thames and Eastern Essex Field Guide*, London: Quaternary Research Association, 21-23
- White, M J & Jacobi, D, 2002 Two sides to every story: bout coupé handaxes revisited, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, **21**(2), 109-33
- Willis, G W, 1947 Hampshire palaeoliths and the clay-with-flints, *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*, **16**(3), 253-6
- Wymer, J J, 1968 *Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain as Represented by the Thames Valley*, London: John Baker
- Wymer, J J, 1987 The Palaeolithic period in Surrey, in J Bird & D G Bird (eds), *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, Guildford: SyAS, 17-30

Prehistoric finds from field-walking on Bocketts Farm and in Norbury Park, Fetcham and Mickleham, *Surrey's Past*, 498, October 2024

It has come to light that two references to Fig 3 of the above article were inadvertently transposed. The figure is reproduced again here with descriptions of the flint tool types.

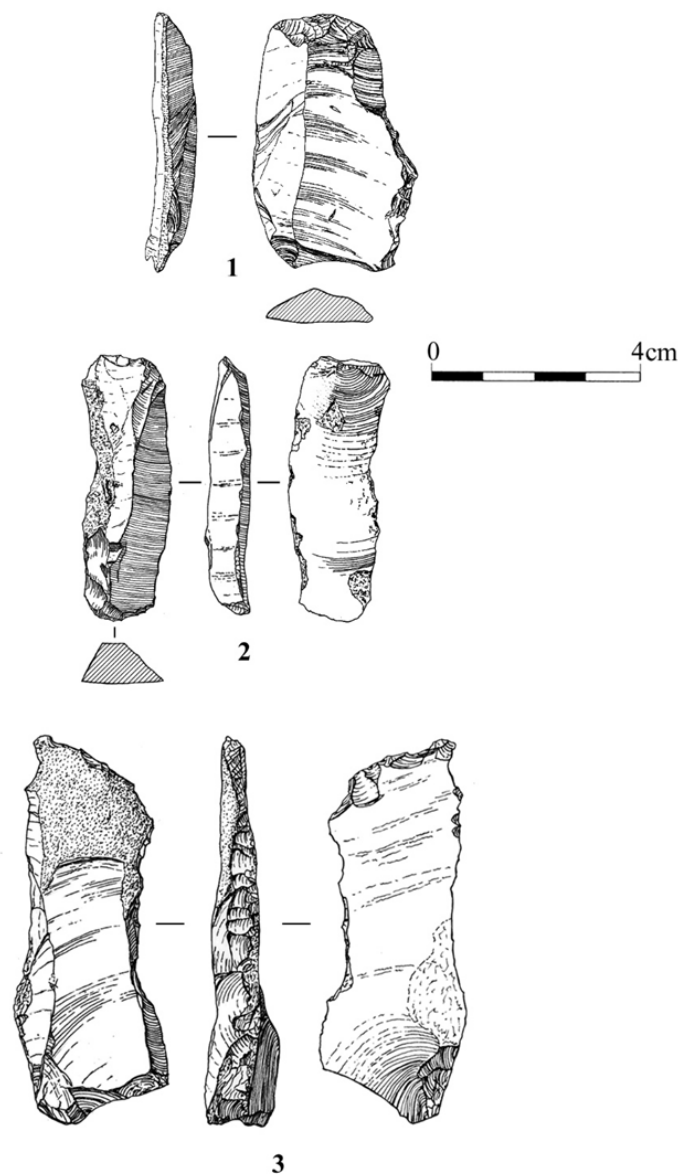


Fig 1 1. Bocketts Howes Field – end scraper with smoothed edge; 2. Bocketts Further Longcut – end scraper on a blade; 3. Bocketts Park Corner – piercer/rotating awl

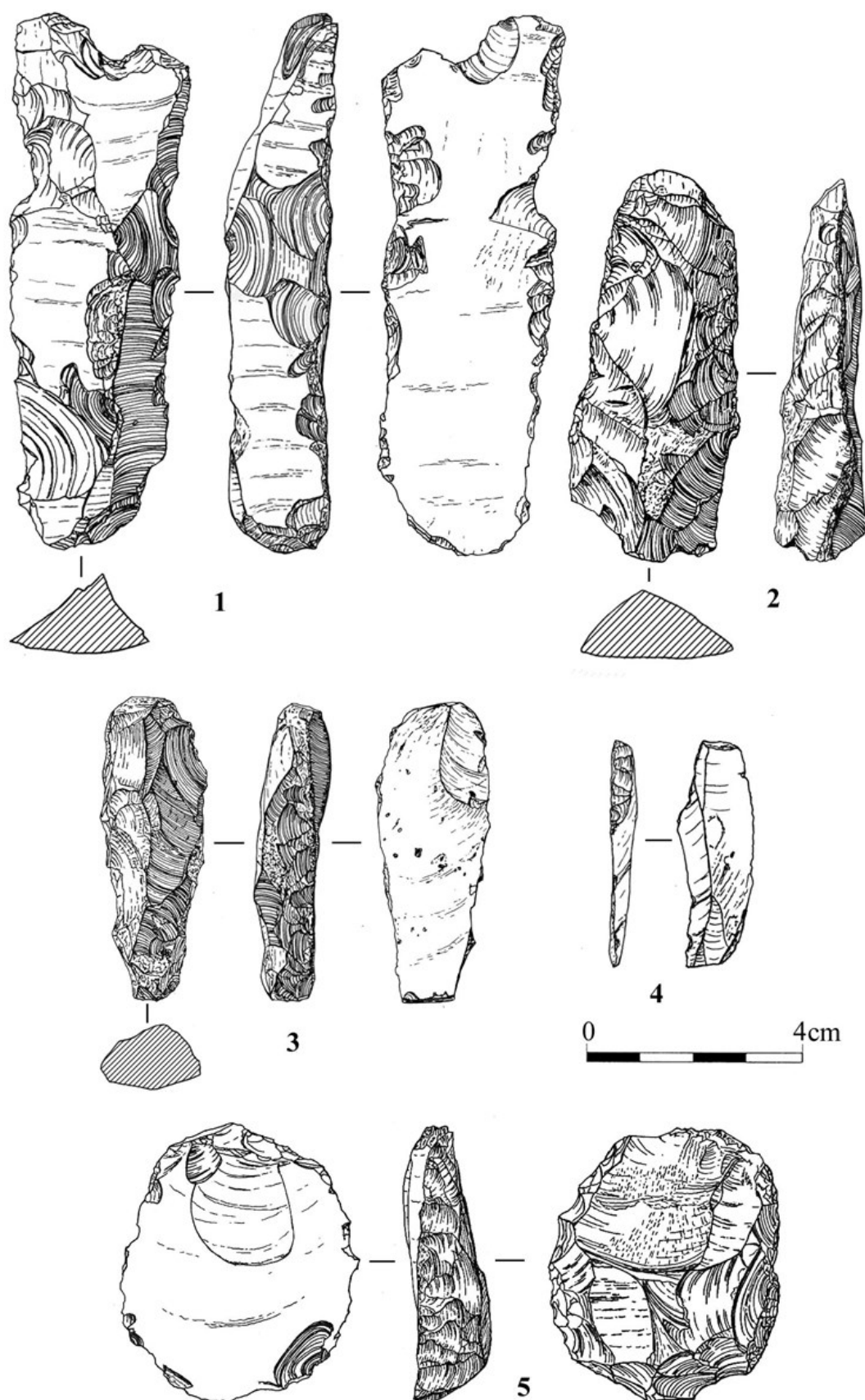


Fig 2 From Thorncroft Six Acres: 1. Y-shaped tool with scrapers at ends of "horns"; 2. Part of a possible knife; 3. Fabricator; 4. Obliquely backed point class 1a microlith; 5. Steeply-flaked end scraper.

Medieval pottery from sites in the western Low Weald around Cranleigh

By Judie English

In an attempt to identify potential ‘early’ domestic sites among the dispersed settlements of a small area of the Low Weald, 16 farms and seven deserted sites identified through documentary and cartographic evidence were visited at various times between the mid-1970s and 2010. These sites either appeared in the Fifteenth and Tenth Taxation Returns of 1332 (Willard & Johnson 1923) or in another medieval document (Gover *et al.* 1934). Many of the personal names recorded in these documents include the identifiers ‘de’ or ‘atte’ (meaning “of/at”) preceding a place-name, and these place-names can be related to occupied or deserted sites. It cannot always be certain that the individual recorded lived at or close to the present location of the place-name, but it is a strong indicator that the settlement existed.

With the owners’ permission, any medieval or earlier pottery was collected from disturbed ground, mainly gardens around standing buildings or animal burrows close to deserted sites. Exceptions to this method were:

Baynards, which was subjected to more formal fieldwalking (English 2023);

Wildwood, where an area close to the moated site was examined during development of a golf course (English 2002);

Tothill, where what appeared to be part of a spoil heap left after excavation by Winbolt in 1928 (unpublished) had been subjected to animal disturbance;

Rapsley Farm, where a small amount of medieval pottery was recovered during excavation of the Roman villa there (Hanworth 1968);

Cranleigh Rectory moat, where minor excavation took place in advance of development – here later medieval levels were probably truncated when the island was scalped during construction of the Victorian rectory (English 2017).

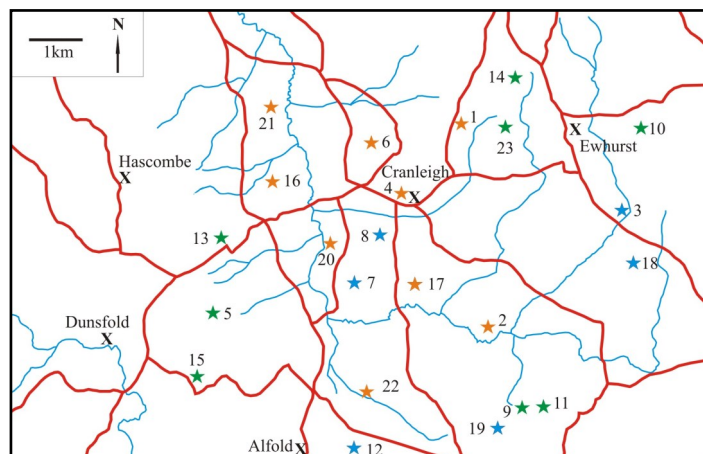
The location, geology, topography and documentary evidence of the early history of these sites are shown in Table 1; details of the identification of the pottery recovered by fabric and date of currency in Table 2.

The majority of these assemblages are too small to produce clear evidence of the date of earliest occupation but the advent of Surrey medieval type series fabric Q2 suggest an increase in settlement density in these western Weald sites in the late 11th / 12th centuries as has already been noted further east (Ellaby 2010; Tanner & English 2024). There appears to be a slight tendency for sites with earlier pottery to occur in the Bramley Wey valley which would accord with identification of a Late Anglo-Saxon-period ‘multiple estate’ around Bramley (Blair 1991, fig 9D) which showed earlier economic development than the estate to its immediate east based on Shere (English & Turner 2004).

However, the Bramley Wey valley is home to a concentration of the rare Old English place-name element *ersc* considered to indicate land under arable use in an area more generally suited to stock farming (Cole 2000). Most of those in the valley are sites on small deposits of terrace gravels and, as such, are likely to represent sites used for permanent settlement rather than transhumance grazing. The latter could well have been occupied by graziers who carried vessels of organic material to their temporary housing rather than the more fragile ceramic vessels (Margetts 2021, 204).

Acknowledgements

This work could not have taken place without permission from the various landowners and agents. Identification of the pottery was undertaken by members of the Medieval Pottery Study Group including Emma Corke, Andrew Francis, David Hartley, Angela Mason, Christine Pittman and Lyn Spencer using the Surrey Type Series (Medieval Pottery Group 2020).



Location of the sites where the earliest pottery fabric/s recovered predate Q2 (c1150 – c1325; previously known as grey / brown sandy ware) shown in orange, those where the earliest pottery fabric was Q2 in blue and those where it was later than Q2 in green. X marks the site of parish churches.

References

- Blair, J, 1991 *Early Medieval Surrey: landholding, church and settlement*, Guildford: Alan Sutton Publishing & Surrey Archaeological Society
- Cole, A, 2000 *Ersce*: distribution and use of this Old English place-name element, *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, **32**, 27-39
- Ellaby, R, 2010 Horley revisited: reflections on the place-name of a Wealden settlement, *SyAC*, **95**, 271-9
- English, J, 2002 Two possible medieval bloomery sites in Alfold, Surrey, *Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group, 2nd series*, **22**, 5-9
- English, J, 2017 Excavation of a moated site at Cranleigh Rectory, 1985, *SyAC*, **100**, 249-58
- English, J, 2022 Baynards, a field in history: the Old House Field, Cranleigh, *Surrey History*, **21**, 33-48
- English, J, & Turner, D J, 2004 Medieval settlement in the Blackheath Hundred, in J Cotton, G Crocker & A Graham (eds), *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey: towards a research framework for the county*, Guildford: Surrey Archaeological Society, 103-18
- Gover, J E B, Mawer, A, & Stenton, F M, 1934 *The Place-names of Surrey*, English Place-name Society 11 (1982 edition used)
- Hanworth, R, 1968 The Roman villa at Rapsley, Ewhurst, *SyAC*, **65**, 1-70
- Margetts, A, 2021 *The wandering herd – the medieval cattle economy of south-east England, c 450 – 1450*, Oxford: Windgather Press
- Medieval Pottery Study Group, 2020 *A guide to the Saxon and Medieval pottery type series of Surrey*, Abinger: Medieval Studies Forum
- Williard, J F, & Johnson, H C (eds), 1923 *Surrey Taxation Returns*, Surrey Record Society **11**

Table 1 (continued overleaf, page 20)

Site number	Present name	Date of earliest record	Earliest recorded name	14th-century taxation vill	Historical parish	Present status	NGR	Geology	Height OD (m)
1	Barhatch Farm	1422–71	Henrico ate Berhacche	Shere	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0688 4073	Head Deposits	100
2	Baynards	1331	Henry Baynard	Gomshall	Ewhurst	Deserted	TQ 0791 3640	Alluvium	52
3	Bildens Farm	1225	Roberto de Byleden	Gomshall	Ewhurst	Occupied	TQ 1086 3869	Weald Clay	80
4	Cranleigh Rectory Moat			Shere	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0594 3919	Alluvium	56
5	High Billingshurst Farm	1241	Henrico de Bylinghurst	Bramley	Dunsfold	Occupied	TQ 0202 3690	Sandstone	70
6	High Upfold Farm	1263	Roger de Upfolde	Bramley	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0520 4031	Sandstone	65
7	Holdhurst	1203	Waltero de Holehurst	Bramley	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0496 3800	Terrace Gravels	65
8	Knowle Farm	1263	Henrico de Knolle	Bramley	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0534 3851	Sandstone	70
9	Linacre	1332	Leticia de Langenaker	Shere	Cranleigh	Deserted	TQ 0839 3489	Weald Clay	75
10	North Breach Manor	1255	Johanne ate Brech	Gomshall	Ewhurst	Occupied	TQ 1048 4067	Weald Clay	95

11	Old House moated site (earlier East Pollingfold)	1279	Willelmo de Pelyngefeld	Gomshall	Ewhurst	Deserted	TQ 0883 3500	Weald Clay	70
12	Oxcombe	1332	Waltero de Oxenecombe	Bramley	Alfold	Deserted	TQ 0493 3387	Weald Clay	65
13	Painshill (earlier Dunhurst)	1235	Ricardo de Danhurst	Bramley	Bramley	Occupied	TQ 0229 3835	Weald Clay	65
14	Rapsley Farm	1544	Rapsley	Shere	Ewhurst	Occupied	TQ 0798 4154	Head Deposits	135
15	Rickhurst Farm	1255	Ricardo de Rykhurst	Bramley	Dunsfold	Deserted	TQ 0159 3561	Weald Clay	50
16	Ridinghurst Farm	1255	Roberto de Rydinghersh	Bramley	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0324 3949	Weald Clay	60
17	Snoxhall	1279	Roberto de Snokesulle	Shere	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0603 3746	Terrace Gravels	70
18	Somersbury	1212	Henrico de Somerbury	Gomshall	Ewhurst	Occupied	TQ 1004 3843	Alluvium	65
19	Tothill	1332	Willelmo de Tothulle	Gomshall	Cranleigh	Deserted	TQ 0776 3445	Sandstone	95
20	Utworth Manor	1185	Thoma de Otteworth	Bramley	Cranleigh	Occupied	TQ 0432 3830	Terrace Gravels	50
21	Whitley Manor Farm	1241	Thoma de Wyppelegh	Bramley	Wonersh	Occupied	TQ 0328 4102	Terrace Gravels	65
22	Wildwood moated site	1294/5	le Wyldewod	Albury	Albury	Deserted	TQ 0504 3529	Alluvium	53
23	Wykehurst	1255	Willelmo de	Shere	Ewhurst	Occupied	TQ 0800	Sandstone	120

Table 2

Site number	Present name	Q1 c970 - c1200	SNC pre-1000- c1150	QFL c1080 - c1200	S2 pre-1080 - c1250	Q2 c1150 - c1325	WW1A c1240 - c1550	WW1B c1240 - c1400	WW2 c1350 - c1500	WW3 c1350 - c1500	RWW c1400 - c1550
1	Barhatch Farm			2	3	8	6				
2	Baynards		2		3	38	302	37		3	1
3	Bildens Farm							4		3	
4	Cranleigh Rectory Moat		185	17	114	169		2			
5	High Billingshurst Farm					2		2	1		
6	High Upfold Farm		2	2	5	2	3				
7	Holdhurst						2	6		1	1
8	Knowle Farm						1	7			
9	Linacre					2	1	3	1		
10	North Breach Manor					1	2	2		1	
11	Old House moated site					2	4	1			3
12	Oxcombe						5		1		
13	Painshill					2	5	7			1
14	Rapsley Farm					1	1	7			
15	Rickhurst Farm					2	2	4			2
16	Ridinghurst Farm				15	14	3	5			
17	Snoxhall		4		3	4	6	4			
18	Somersbury						2	2			
19	Tothill						2	4			3
20	Utworth Manor				3	9		5			
21	Whitley Manor Farm	1	2	1	4	12	3	3			
22	Wildwood moated site				8	11	9	5			4
23	Wykehurst					6		1			

St Mary's Guildford: the pottery found in Felix Holling's excavations of 1966–67

By Rob Briggs

St Mary's church in Guildford has been the subject of a number of important studies in recent years that have enhanced understandings of its earliest fabric. Opinion remains divided in these works as to whether its now central tower was constructed in the later 10th century (Alexander 2009, 8 and 2021, 15; reflected in O'Brien 2022, 394) or the mid-11th century (Shapland 2012, 501–2 and 2019, 54, 101; Briggs 2021, 11–13). One piece of evidence that has been cited but not leveraged to its full capability in these reviews is a sherd of pottery found during limited excavations directed by Felix Holling within the church in 1966–67, specifically 'in the chalk footings of the south wall of the tower ... from its position [the sherd] could not have intruded after the construction [of the tower]' (Holling 1967, 167–68). The sherd was examined and dated to the period c.1050–1150 by John G. Hurst, pioneer of medieval archaeology and ceramic studies, whose opinion Holling then claimed 'agrees closely with the generally accepted dating of the tower to not long before the Norman conquest' (1967, 168; oddly the only published work Holling referenced – Parker 1872 – offers early 11th-century and immediately post-Norman Conquest dates but not one of c.1050).

Holling (1967, 167) mentioned in passing other medieval sherds found during the excavations, but failed to discuss their number or any notable characteristics. 18 pottery sherds (plus a piece of medieval roof tile and three window glass fragments) from Holling's excavations are in the collection of Guildford Museum under accession number AG.25131; the museum catalogue describes them as '11th – 13th c sherds'. These were kindly made available for study on 30 May 2025, when Lyn Spencer of the SyAS Medieval Pottery Study Group examined and made identifications of all the pottery sherds so far as was possible using a hand lens and with reference to the latest published version of the Surrey medieval pottery type series (Medieval Pottery Group 2024). The results of the exercise are set out in Table 1.

Having a properly assessed and identified collection also enables its components to be compared with the more modest pottery assemblage (9 sherds, mostly from grave fills) recovered in the 2019–20 Archaeology South-East (ASE) watching brief at St Mary's, which was assessed by Luke Barber with partial reference to the Surrey medieval types series (in Russel 2023, 13–15). Table 2 (adapting Russel 2023, 14 Table 8) presents a reconsideration of the all the sherds in terms of the Surrey type series – without, it must be stressed, any sight of the pottery itself, only the details supplied by Barber in the ASE watching brief report. Doing this permits broader questions to be asked. How do the fabric types represented by the sherds recovered in 2019–20 compare with the ones from Holling's investigations? And, when the two sets of sherds are combined, what might they have to say about the commencement and cadences of activity on the church site?

Holling's excavations and pottery finds

Holling's published report indicates the excavations of 1966–67 were restricted to the west ends of the north and south aisles, extending into the nave in the latter instance, and within the the southern half of the tower (Shapland 2012, 482 Fig. I.13.2 attempts a combined plan of the excavated areas but lacks any indication of the trenching in the north aisle). It is very difficult to reconcile this with what is inked onto one of the sherds now in Guildford, namely its provenance being 'N. TRANSEPT FOOTING IN WIDENED AISLE' (Fig 1). This implies there was at least one further area of investigation elsewhere in the church (something possibly also intimated by Holling's mention of 'several features in the church' being examined; 1967, 165).

The only place to begin with the analysis is with the sherd dated to c.1050–1150 by Hurst (Fig 2). It is tiny, 2 grams in weight, sub-square in shape and

Fabric type (? = uncertain identification)	Approximate date-range (CE)	Total sherds	Total weight (g)	Comments
Hurst's 'early medieval ware'	1050–1150	1	2	Packed with quartz, no obvious flint, very burnt on one surface; impossible to assign to a type series fabric code
IQ (?)	Pre-1050–1150	1	20	Black-coloured inclusions are suggestive of IQ but impossible to be certain without clipping. Some of the internal surface looks almost burnished.
S2	Pre-1080–1200	1	13	No other inclusions other than shell; exterior blackened so cooking pot.
Q2	1150–1325	8	87	One sherd (20g) inscribed “RB 1819 N transept footing in widened aisle Sherd dated 1150-1250 (J. G Hurst)”; 2 others blackened externally, one with thumb strip (a feature which dies out before c1325?)
LIMP (?)	1150–1400	3	14	Could also be very burnt Q2
OQ	1250–1500	4	23	2 show some blackening
Roof tile	Medieval	1	42	Rather thin, 12mm thick
Window glass	Medieval?	3	8	Each a different shade of green; two smaller pieces more translucent than the other, larger sherd (3g)

Table 1 Pottery and other finds from the 1966–67 excavations at St Mary's accessioned at Guildford Museum as AG.25131

Fabric type (? = uncertain identification)	Approximate date-range (CE)	Total sherds	Total weight (g)	Comments
IQ (?)	Pre-1050–1150	3	10	'Ironstone sandy ware'; one cooking pot sherd 'oxidised, simple everted rim with row of internal rosette stamped decoration' - this type of decoration is not known on IQ
QFL	1080–1220	1	11	Oxidised
S3	1140–1250	1	4	'Sandy-shelly ware'
Q2 (?)	1150–1325	3	45	'Grey-brown sandy ware'; one piece listed as '?chimney pot ... oxidised'
FOQ (?)	1250–1500	1	9	'Earlswood-type ware'; cooking pot, oxidised
OQ	1250–1500	4	23	2 show some blackening

Table 2 Medieval pottery found during the 2019-20 watching brief at St Mary's, with quoted comments by Luke Barber

little more than 2cm across. As such, and being unable to create a clipped fresh edge to allow a better view of the fabric, regrettably it is impossible to obtain a precise identification and attribution to the Surrey type series. From what can be seen, one side is reddish-brown coloured, the other black, no doubt from placement within fires for cooking. The fabric is packed with quartz and has no obvious flint inclusions (as per fabric types Q1 or QFL). The absence of visible ironstone inclusions argues against it being a sherd of IQ ironstone sandy ware (c.pre-1050–1150). Black-coloured inclusions consistent with IQ are present in another example from the 1960s sherds, although could not be seen well enough to be certain of their derivation. Three sherds of what Barber calls 'Ironstone sandy ware' were also found in 2019-20 (Russel 2023, 14). One of these, a rim sherd, is marked with a 'row of internal rosette stamped decoration', which prefers an attribution to something other than IQ because it

is understood to have only scratched and combed decoration (Medieval Pottery Group 2024, 11).

Grey/brown sandy ware (fabric code Q2) is well represented in the 1966-67 excavation finds and likewise those from the 2019-20 watching brief. Another small discovery from the museum visit was that Hurst inspected and dated at least one other sherd from Holling's excavations, the one depicted in Fig 1. Hurst assigned it to the period 1150-1250; in fact, as a piece of type Q2 (c.1150-1325), this sherd could be somewhat later than he envisaged.

One shelly ware sherd from the 1966-67 excavations could be positively assigned to type S2 (c.1080-1200) on account of its lack of inclusions besides crushed shell. Barber identified a 'sandy-shelly' sherd found in 2019-20 as one of type S3 (c.1140-1250; Russel 2023, 15). This came from context 207, a human skeleton that returned a calibrated radiocarbon date of cal AD 1050-1265 (at 95%

confidence), cal AD 1160-1225 (68% confidence) (860±30 BP; Lucy Allott in Russel 2023, 25-26). The respective ceramic and radiocarbon datings are thus in agreement.

Of the remaining pottery sherds, a solitary example of QFL (*c.*1080-1220) identified by Barber accords well with the dates of the types already discussed. Signs of slightly wider connections, as might be expected of a site in an important later medieval town like Guildford, are given by sherds of OQ (*c.*1250–1500) and perhaps FOQ (if Barber's 'Earlswood-type' sandy ware identification is to be taken at face value). Another three may be fragments of LIMP Limpsfield reduced ware (*c.*1150–1400) but are possibly very burnt instances of broadly contemporary Q2.

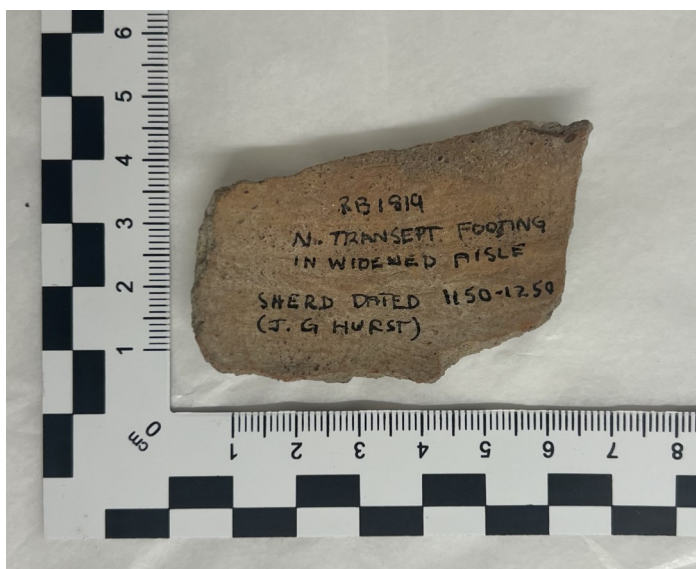


Fig 1 Sherd of Q2 with inscription indicating it was found in the vicinity of the north transept in 1966–67 and was examined by John Hurst. 'RB 1819' refers to the original Guildford Museum accession number. Photograph by Rob Briggs, used courtesy of Guildford Heritage Service.



Fig 2 The sherd of an 'early medieval ware' (as per John Hurst) from the footings of St Mary's tower. Photograph by Rob Briggs, used courtesy of Guildford Heritage Service.

Discussion and conclusion

Taken together, the ceramics suggest deposition of pottery sherds began on the church site no earlier than the middle of the 11th century. IQ spans the period pre-1050-1150, which corresponds suitably (though maybe no more than coincidentally) with Hurst's suggested dating of the quartz-packed mystery sherd. The absence of demonstrably earlier-commencing fabric types (e.g. S1 of *c.*900-1050, FLQ of *c.*970-1100, Q1 of *c.*970-1200, SNC of pre-1000-1150) can be seen to tell a similar story of a mid-11th-century advent of dateable activity on the church site. These observations are also supported by the three calibrated radiocarbon datings from burials uncovered inside the church in 2019-20, the earliest of which begins cal AD 1030 (at 95% confidence; Russel 2023, 26). Holling's discovery of an extended slot cut into the chalk could well represent a wooden building pre-dating the tower but this need not have been a substantially earlier building; there is, for instance, credible documentary record of a timber church being built at Studham in Bedfordshire *c.*1060 (Blair 2005, 388, 392, 396).

In terms of the standing fabric of the tower, the 10th-century dates favoured by Alexander and O'Brien come across as prodigiously early when seen in the national context. John Blair has highlighted how archaeological results from across England serve to demonstrate that local churches were not being built in rural areas until *c.*940 (Blair 2018, 376). St Mary's may, of course, stand apart from that phenomenon given its intramural position within the 10th-century burh of Guildford. There can be little doubt that Guildford was a locally to regionally important central place by the late 10th century (hence its mint and execution cemetery; Alexander 2021, 14) but its urban credentials are questionable until the mid-11th century (discussed in Briggs 2021). Shapland identifies St Mary's, Guildford as an example of a non-monastic, lordly tower-nave; a structural type which, with a very limited number of archaeologically-demonstrated exceptions reaching back to the 10th century, is a phenomenon of the 11th century (Shapland 2019, 103). For a tower-nave church to be erected in Guildford so soon after the advents of local churches and tower-naves (processes that were still ongoing *c.*1100) feels improbable, and conjecture about the prior existence

of a 'royal chapel in a royal enclosure' (Alexander 2021, 14) must be viewed with scepticism given the absence of secure archaeological or historical evidence for either.

It is unfortunate that non-destructive examination of the sherd capable of providing new insight regarding the date of St Mary's tower did not yield a positive identification of its fabric type. This means discussion of its date of construction of the tower must remain an architectural historical matter. The Taylors' broad-brush attribution of it to their Period C (950-1100, though they were adamant it was pre-Norman; Taylor & Taylor 1965, 266-68) has enabled mid- to late 10th-century dates to be proposed. In this regard, a review of the medieval pottery sherds from the archaeological work carried out inside the church in 1966-67 and 2019-20 is instructive. The presence of some fabric types and the absence of others add to the convergence of evidence indicating activity began on the site no earlier than the middle decades of the 11th century, while the dates of the later fabric types fit well with the phases of expansion of the church in 12th and 13th centuries. The extent of the archaeological work from which the evidence has been recovered, and the contexts in which the pottery was found, means that the picture we have (while superior to the vast majority of Surrey's medieval churches) is anything but complete. For that reason it is not possible to claim the interpretations about the origins of St Mary's presented in this note are conclusive, only suggestive.

Thanks

I am most grateful to Lyn Spencer for giving of her time and expertise to identify the 18 sherds (and more besides). Many thanks also to Rosie Thorburn and Sarah Leary of Guildford Museum for being so helpful in preparing and facilitating our visit to record the pottery.

References

- Alexander, M, 2009 *Guide to St Mary's Church, Guildford*, Guildford: Parish of Holy Trinity and St Mary's
- Alexander, M, 2021 Between burh and town: some observations, *SyAS Bulletin*, **487**, 13-15
- Blair, J, 2005 *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Blair, J, 2018 *Building Anglo-Saxon England*, Oxford and Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press
- Briggs, R, 2021 Between burh and town: reconsidering the proto-urban topography of Guildford, *SyAS Bulletin*, **485**, 8-13
- Holling, F W, 1967 The Early Foundations of St. Mary's Church, Guildford, *SyAC*, **64**, 165-8
- Medieval Pottery Group, 2024 *A Guide to the Saxon and Medieval Pottery Type Series of Surrey: Fabric, form and decoration*, 3rd edition, Abinger: SyAS
- Parker, J H, 1872 The Church of St Mary, Guildford, *Archaeological Journal*, **29**, 170-80
- O'Brien, C, Nairn, I, & Cherry, B, 2022 *The Buildings of England: Surrey*, revised edition, New Haven, CT & London: Yale University Press
- Russel, C, 2023 An Archaeological Watching Brief At St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 3SX, unpublished Archaeology South-East client report
- Shapland, M, 2012 Buildings of Secular and Religious Lordship: Anglo-Saxon Tower-nave Churches, unpublished University College London PhD thesis
- Shapland, M, 2019 *Anglo-Saxon Towers of Lordship*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Taylor, H M & Taylor, J, 1965 *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, **1**, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Surrey LiDAR Portal: 4 years on

By Anne Sassin

In July 2021, an exciting new interactive citizen science tool for the county, the Surrey LiDAR Portal (surreylidar.org.uk), was launched to act as a long-term outreach and engagement tool which makes available imagery from various LiDAR datasets in Surrey. With the right set of eyes and careful research, LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, whether old field boundaries, hillforts, bomb craters or other hidden sites waiting to be revealed. By helping map and interpret these potential features online, volunteers can then go out into the field and investigate them on the ground, ultimately working to build a more complete story of the local landscape.

This note serves as a brief reflection of the Portal and its use in the past four years.

The development of the Portal

Although it is not the first county-wide LiDAR portals (being closely modelled on its sister site in Kent which was launched in 2020), the Surrey Portal is possibly unique in being one solely created by a local (in this case county-wide) archaeological society, rather than the usual local authority-run portals managed by national parks and AONBs which rely on largescale, usually National Lottery funded landscape partnership schemes.

The Portal's main purpose has always been to display specially visualised LiDAR imagery and provide detailed data able to be interrogated by heritage professionals, volunteer archaeologists, and interested members of the public alike. Thanks to the cooperation of partner organisations and colleagues at Surrey County Council, in particular the Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER) and Surrey Heritage, the addition of the georeferenced 19th-century historic maps for the county (including the Tithe maps and First Edition Ordnance Survey) and up-to-date HER data provide additional layers to help in interpreting the images, but are valuable assets for open access in their own right.

It is also an important outreach instrument, offering a mapping tool in which the public assist in the detection, identification and record creation of LiDAR features of potential archaeological interest. Effectively citizen science, the practice of public participation and collaboration in scientific research, the success of such portals relies on a well-devised monitoring program and the dedication of volunteers. To date, the portal has 812 registered users, with 840 features recorded, although this does not reflect the level of interaction where the data is simply viewed and incorporated into other research.

Citizen science LiDAR portals have developed significantly even just in the last five years, from the groundbreaking Chilterns Beacons of the Past portal, one of the first and which the Surrey/Kent portals were modelled after, to almost a dozen sites now spread across the UK and managed by (or with advice from) Dr Rebecca Bennett of PTS Consultancy. The Surrey Portal had the advantage, as one of the early sites, of modelling itself off of others, while experimenting with new features, including a tiered reviewing process and public accessibility of all digitised records from initial entry. As it developed in the first couple years, it has also managed to incorporate all known large-scale LiDAR surveys for the county, spanning three resolutions (0.25m, 0.5m and 1m, the latter the only data resolution to be Surrey-wide coverage, including the historic county). Its incorporation of Local Relief Model (LRM) visualisation (see below), also sets it apart from other freely available LiDAR sites, e.g. lidarfinder.com and National Library of Scotland (maps.nls.uk).

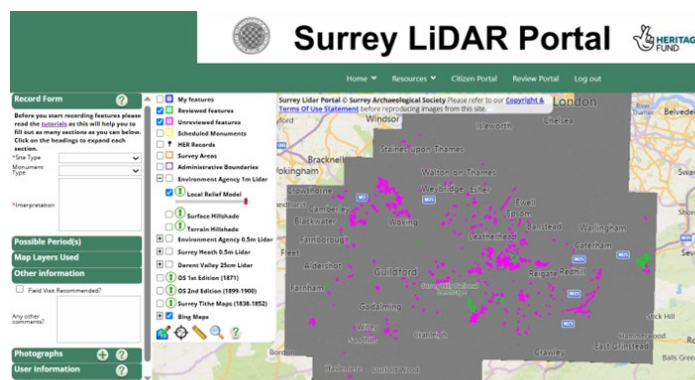


Fig 1 Screenshot of main Surrey LiDAR Portal page (right)

LiDAR models and resolutions used

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is based on the principle of measuring distance through the speed and intensity recorded for a pulse of light to be fired from sensor equipment and reaching a target, before sending a return signal. A cloud of height points is created from these reflections which can then be turned into 3D models of the landscape. In order to visualise the data easily, a surface is created which can be modelled and shaded as a raster image. The most common model used for archaeological purposes is the Digital Terrain Model (DTM), which filters the dataset to remove all non-ground returns, allowing features under the vegetation canopy in particular to be visualised. In recent years, another visualisation, Local Relief Model (LRM) has become the preferred method for archaeological prospection, as it filters out the large-scale topographical elements from the data, such as hills and valleys, so that the more subtle, small-scale features remain. Although more detail is likely to be discerned from the higher resolution data (i.e. that which has a lower point distance or separation between points, such as the 0.5 or lower), the 1m county-wide coverage has still proven to be valuable in feature detection.

LiDAR features in the landscape

Of the 840 features recorded on the portal as of June 2025, only *c.*150 have been reviewed. This makes detailed analysis and interrogation of the data difficult, as not all features are likely to be allocated to the correct monument type without validation and review. Nonetheless, some patterns emerge in terms of what features are being recorded, with the most common by far being extractive pits (count of 152), followed by field system (59), building platform (45), pond (49), trackway (43), rectilinear enclosure (42), deserted settlement (37), linear earthwork (34) and mound (other) (30).

Much of the review process has been dictated by which sites have had groundtruthing sessions (investigations in the field to assess features) organised. These sites have often been National Trust properties, due mainly to the mutual monument monitoring needs which both organisations have and the ease of acquired access

permissions at the NT sites. Although the following is not an exhaustive summary of the groundtruthed sites over the past four years, it provides a flavour of the discoveries. [Note that references for monuments can currently only be provided as their Surrey LiDAR Portal (SLP) reference number (e.g. 6856) used for groundtruthing or unique reference when first digitised on the portal (e.g. 23hj6oim) until cross-referenced and assigned HER numbers].

Cronklands, Limpsfield Chart

In 2021, a small team of volunteers from the Darent Valley and the SyAS community archaeologist carried out a LiDAR-based assessment and walkover survey of historical features within the woodlands at Cronklands, Limpsfield Chart, private woodland which is part of the Titsey Estate. This survey utilised the small-sized and only 0.25m LiDAR dataset available for Surrey, courtesy of Kent Downs National Landscape, through which detection of the smaller size features was only possible. A number of features were identified, which included pre-modern field systems, woodland boundaries and the Lewes-London Roman road. The main dataset of interest, however, was the substantial number (at least 32 in count) of rectilinear building platforms related to Second World War Nissen hut bases which formed part of the now-demolished Cronklands Camp.

Although mostly of similar size (*c.*16m by 5m) and form, these structures varied by either cutting into or being terraced out from the natural slope within the woods. The overall layout was irregular, with buildings often set at odd angles to each other, although some small groups were on the same alignment. The platforms are also apparent as two distinct clusters or blocks of structures within the site. While the western cluster consisted of mostly insubstantial earthen platforms, the more prominent remains were in the eastern half, including, concrete bases, brick porches and drains. This possibly reflects two contemporary encampments of different status or function, or a later conversion of the camp settlement, although more fieldwork and research would be needed to confirm this.

Despite it being well known that a large number of servicemen were based in Limpsfield during the Second World War, from the Royal Canadian Air Force, Canadian Army and Seaforth Highlanders Regiment, documents specific to Cronklands and its

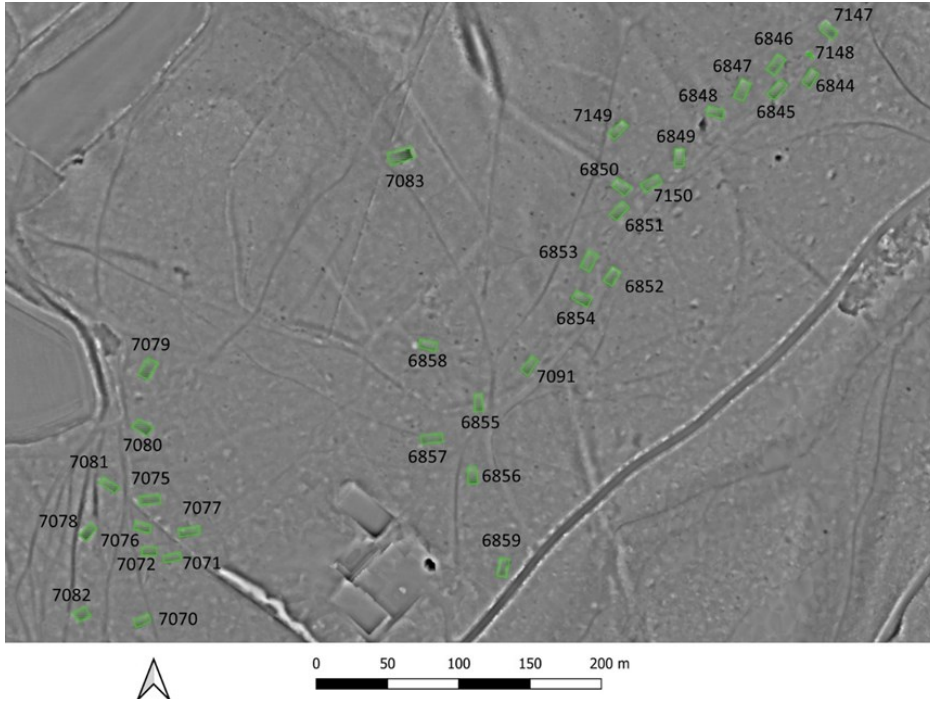


Fig 2 Local Relief Model (LRM) of hut bases / building platforms identified at Cronklands (numbers used denote their assigned individual SLP number)



Fig 3 LRM imagery of building platform 7083, and view of platform, looking east

army base are limited. It is referred to as Cronklands Camp, The Chart, Limpsfield Chart in English Heritage's 'England's Army Camps' database, being noted as destroyed, presumably at the end of the war (Schofield 2006). Oral histories recall a German POW camp in the local woods at Limpsfield Chart, and close by an Italian one (Peckett 2005), although the validity of these memories require more in depth research. Canadian Camerons are stated to have been stationed at Limpsfield Chart in early 1942, before moving to Paxhill Park, and an article in the *Surrey Mirror* on 19 April 1946 notes damage caused at Oxted Station by two Pioneer Corps privates stationed at Cronklands Camp, suggesting the camp was still in use at this time. Clearly, despite the relatively good condition and survival of the platforms, prior to the survey this site was not a record on the HER database and poorly understood in terms of its specific use and dates of occupation, in essence a 'lost' Second World War camp only rediscovered through the LiDAR analysis.



Fig 4 LRM imagery of building platform 7150, and view of the raised north-east corner, view looking east



Fig 5 LRM imagery of building platform 7149, and view of northern end of platform, looking south-west



Fig 6 Building platform 6844, view of northern porch and entrance,

Leith Hill

In April 2024, during one of many SyAS-led groundtruthing sessions, two days were spent at Leith Hill reviewing features which were identified online. This resulted in a handful of new features being added to the site's monument database, mostly related to gravel extraction on the northern slopes of the hill. The historic ornamental drive leading to Leith Hill Place was also investigated, whose square-shaped fir-pounds or tree enclosures are still obvious on the ground today. The drive's construction was roughly contemporary with Leith Hill Tower, erected in 1765 and which would have been impressive feature along the route.



Fig 7 One of the many square mounds at Leith Hill; the banked enclosure of the tree mounds was formed from an external ditch, though the interior is largely the natural ground level

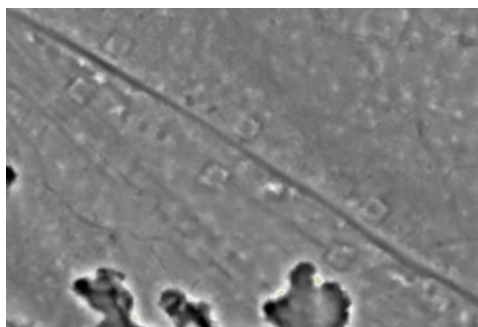


Fig 8 A section of the mound-lined driveway as it nears Leith Hill Tower

Although the line of the mound-lined drive, which largely follows the present Leith Hill Road before turning uphill to the Tower, is well-marked on not only the First Edition OS but on present-day maps, its northern extent near Friday Street does not appear to be depicted after the John Rocque map of 1768. It is only through assessment of the LiDAR that the details of the drive's northern end can be seen, through the faint outlines of the mounds, which differ in detail from the Roque map. Whereas the mound-lined drive appears to terminate in a perpendicular line of enclosures on the map, on the LiDAR, two flanking lines over 300m in length and c.100m from the actual trackway are apparent, formed of approximately eight square-shaped (and in the case of a couple, circular shaped) enclosures

each. Whether the differing details reflects a later modification to the drive is not clear without further research, but the site serves as another example of new insights into the local landscape made apparent through the LiDAR imagery.

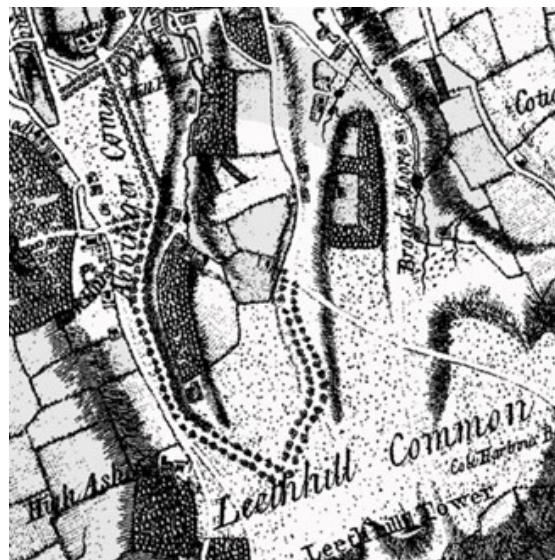


Fig 9 Depiction of the ornamental drive on the John Rocque map c.1768

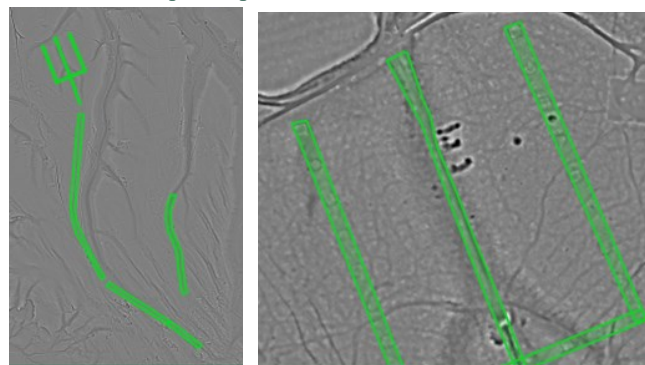


Fig 10 The various sections of ornamental drive and its presumed associated enclosures running from Aninger Common to Leith Hill, as digitised on the LiDAR (left), with a close-up of the drive's northern end (right)

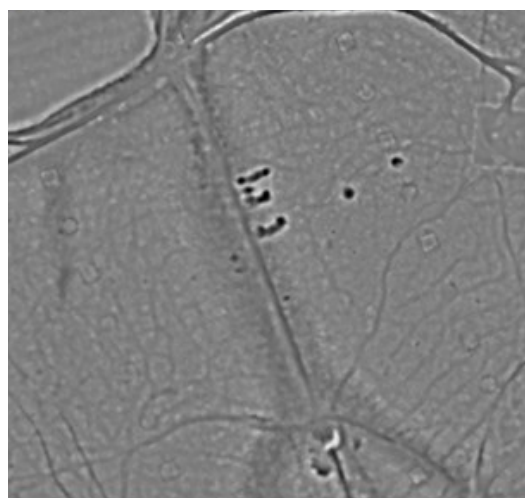


Fig 11 The undigitized detail of the northern end of the drive

Other sites

Other groundtruthed properties included Headley Heath, Holmwood Common, Netley Park and Box Hill, each of which was coordinated with the assistance of National Trust archaeologist James Brown. Although the results were often more of an exercise in populating the monument database for the site than in revealing new discoveries, the occasional new feature was noted, e.g. a line of bomb craters at Headley Heath (Fig 12). At times the in-the-field assessment also served integral in determining whether the online identification of a feature was valid or not, e.g. a possible new pillow mound at Box Hill which when groundtruthed was quickly determined to be a modern mound related to the car park construction.

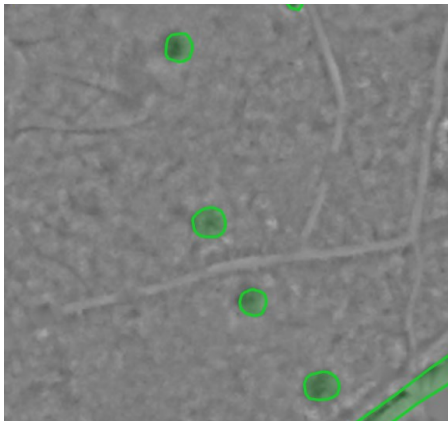


Fig 12 LRM imagery of a line of dispersed bomb craters at Headley Heath, c.12m in diameter and with slight signs of upcast around the edges, likely a reflection of damp conditions when first created (SLP unique ref id 387xwkro for northern-most pit)

Conclusions

Whether the use of the Surrey LiDAR Portal is as a volunteer digitising features and contributing actively to the citizen science resource, or as a more passive research tool, it has proven to be a valuable resource for the county and its assessment of the historic environment. There is still a large backlog of feature review which needs to be undertaken, not least so that new features (or enhancements to existing records) can be added to the HER database.

The observations noted in this article are selective, but provide good insight into the potential of the resource, particularly when local groups or individual researchers undertake more investigation.

Anyone is welcome to register for a free account, which will allow access to the Portal's interactive map. Volunteers who would like to be more involved and help in digitisation should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions.

Acknowledgements

The Surrey LiDAR Portal relied heavily on funding from the Society's National Lottery Heritage Fund Sustainable Impact project, and owes considerably to Rebecca Bennett of PTS Consultancy for the design and visualisations and Steve Smith for the software programming. The dozens of volunteers who have been working on the project and digitising features are to be warmly thanked for all of their hard work, especially those who trek in the field for the groundtruthing stages.

References

- Peckett, R D, 2005 Our Village In The War, Article ID: A4458422, Contributed 14 July 2005. WW2 People's War: an archive of World War Two memories. London: British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/22/a4458422.shtml>
- Schofield, J, 2006 England's Army Camps [data-set]. York: Archaeology Data Service [distributor] <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000269>



Fig 13 Volunteers groundtruthing at Headley Heath (top) with the GPS-enabled fieldkit app and tablet recorder, and taking measurements in the field of one of the hut bases at Cronklands (bottom)

2025 Annual Symposium

By Sylvia Solarski, Ann Morrison,
Emma Coburn, Janet Wilson &
Rosemary Carter

Portable Antiquities Scheme – 2024 update, Simon Maslin (PAS)

Simon Maslin, Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Surrey, presented his personal highlights from the over 1100 finds recorded in 2024, noting that the total number of finds is increasing year on year. This presentation was a fascinating, wonderfully illustrated, chronological journey through time (with a short mention of a new publication focusing on objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, *50 Early Medieval Finds*, a copy of which is already in the Society Library).

Of the seventeen objects showcased (from a casting gate, coins, tokens, a figurine, a thimble, a back spit support, a candlestick and a pocket watch), I want to share my three favourites. The objects were found from across Surrey, from Betchworth to Bletchingley, Hascombe to West Horsley and the presentation demonstrated the breadth and depth of archaeological and historical richness in Surrey.

Highlight number one, [SUR-9AB9B3](#), a beautiful Roman figurine featuring a winged hat (petasos), small pouch, youthful face and partial drapery commonly associated with the deity, Mercury. Found in Limpsfield, the cast copper alloy figurine may have been imported from Gaul and is an exceptional find (in addition to which, it was the subject of a note in *Surrey's Past* 499).

Highlight number two, [SUR-F1767B](#), a decorated earthenware medieval or post-medieval brick spit support which was part of the raised section of kitchen furnaces with holes to hold turnspits above the fire. The circular stamped design is delicate and attractive. This wonderfully unusual object was found in Ewhurst.

Highlight number three, [SUR-962CD7](#), a military wristwatch named to Lieutenant Leslie Richmond of the Gordon Highlanders, who died at the Battle of Mons on August 23, 1914. Found in Thursley and dating to the Edwardian period, this object represents the more recent history of Surrey and poignantly connected us with the Great War.

Whilst there was plenty of 'bling' on show, with gold and silver coins of significance, the treasure discovered in Surrey is wide ranging and fascinating. Find out more here: <https://finds.org.uk/>. Also look out for the PAS Database Rebuild Project which promises to improve the tracking, recording and researching of objects on the database by Autumn 2025.

Community archaeology in Surrey – a year in review, Anne Sassin (SyAS)

Anne Sassin spoke on some highlights of current community archaeology projects in Surrey led by the Society. This included geophysics at Pendell Court, Bletchingly over the remains of a Roman hypocaust first discovered in the early 19th century and excavated, as well as again in the 1990s.

Magnetometry and resistivity undertaken by SyAS volunteers as part of a training exercise in 2022 and 2023 showed there to be remains of a Romano-British field system with likely trackway associated with the bath-house which pre-dates the current Water Lane and extends into the school grounds to the south. Resistivity confirmed the detailed layout of the bath-house, as well as lack of other associated features related to a villa complex. It is possible it is indeed an isolated bath-house, though there could be villa remains located under the present school or farmhouse which just have yet to be uncovered. Its proximity to Roman remains in North Park Farm Quarry to the north, where Wessex Archaeology in particular have found several Roman features including a N/S trackway, roundhouse and inhumation cemetery which included a lead-lined coffin, may suggest the hypocaust is part of a much wider Roman landscape (see *Surrey's Past* 498).

Another season at Albury Park also took place, a research project which is investigating the origins of the village, along with the original road, which were relocated by the early 19th-century landowners. Last year a total of 30 test pits were dug by volunteers over 3 weeks, supplementing the 18 pits from 2023. Finds in the pits near the old N-S road, Dog Kennel Lane, included a large amount of 12th/13th-century pottery, as well as a handful of Late Bronze Age. Demolition for the post-medieval cottages was also identified near the river. During the final week in September, 9 pits were opened north of the Tillingbourne with finds including 40 sherds of

Roman pottery and a small number of tegulae and tesserae mixed with medieval pottery. A late medieval composite strap end and late medieval/early post medieval book clasp were also found in this area. Geophysics and test pitting confirm buildings in this area which may be Roman or medieval in date (for more information see the fieldwork report in *Surrey's Past* 499).

The Surrey Lidar Portal has also been a useful tool to identify new sites which may warrant ground-truthing, including at Leigh Hill Tower and Netley Park.

Bronze Age Settlement at Painshill, John Boothroyd (Oxford Archaeology)

John explained that the site borders the A3 at Junction 10 of the M25 and took place at the start of major road works there in 2022. There was evidence of some barrows and Roman activity in the area. Accessibility was a real problem right from the start as work could not commence before the contractors arrived, with a high density of trees in the area.

Activities included a geophysical survey, a watching brief, trial trenches and strip, map and sample excavations. Of the 268 trenches, 257 yielded nothing and the post-medieval ditch was underwhelming. Only Painshill and Wisley came up with anything interesting.

At Wisley there was evidence of medieval ditches, hedgerows and some indication of a Middle Bronze Age presence, but everything was poorly preserved.

At Painshill there was evidence of 6 ring ditches with postholes possibly indicating evidence of round houses. Overlapping ditches proved multiple phases of settlement, and there might have been a trackway bordering one of the ditches with two phases of settlement defined by ground structures. The pottery has not yet been fully examined.

Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age storage pits were found and a shelved pit for storing grain. Another one with ill-defined post holes is a bit of a mystery but was probably from an earlier phase. Some burnt flint, flint, pottery and two small Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age amphorae and a jar were the most significant finds. It was concluded that the area was only ever used for domestic activity with no evidence of industrial use.

Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Dunsfold Park Access Road, Gerry Thacker (Oxford Archaeology)

Gerry Thacker presented the results of an excavation on the site of a new access road to the former Dunsfold aerodrome. Struck flints indicated some early prehistoric activity, but the most significant features were Late Iron Age/early Roman gulleys and ditches which were potentially associated with round houses. Pits within these areas containing low status pottery and evidence of an oven suggested a domestic settlement. Slag deposits indicated some occasional metal working. The most unusual finds were seven concentrations, in shallow ditches, of cremated animal bones which were carbon dated to mid 1st to early 2nd century CE. These did not appear to be associated with either ritual structures or butchery activities.

Outwood to Buckland Strategic Water Main, Giles Dawkes (Institute of Archaeology and Archaeology South East)

Giles discussed the results of the excavations undertaken by ASE along the route of the Outwood to Buckland strategic water main (now published in full in *Collections* 105). The pipeline was c.17km in length and the archaeological works were undertaken between March and September 2013. 108 evaluation trenches were undertaken along the route of the pipeline and two sites of particular archaeological significance were identified near the village of Buckland. The earliest activity was a Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit but the most substantial occupation of the site was in the Roman period with successive enclosures straddling the Greensand ridge overlooking 'the Sloughs' stream to the west. The earlier Roman enclosure had evidence of domestic iron-working/smithing, possibly relating to a farmstead. The medieval site nearby was characterised by intensive occupation during the 13th century, with a succession of timber framed buildings with masonry sill wall foundations. This occupation was probably the original core of the village and the most likely location of the Late Anglo-Saxon-period settlement. With its demise in the 14th century, the focus of the village shifted a short way south to the top of the Greensand ridge, where the present Buckland village green is located today.

Industrial History of the Wandle River, Mike Taylor (Wandle Industrial Museum)

Mike highlighted the importance of the River Wandle in the Industrial History of the Croydon/Sutton/Merton areas. This chalk stream is 19km long but this short area saw at its height in the late 18th-/early 19th-centuries up to 65 mills, making it the hardest working river for its size in the world at this time.

There is evidence of corn mills from Roman times through to the Early Middle Ages with Domesday Book recording 13 water mills. Merton Priory was the richest religious house in Surrey owning many mills. The Middle Ages saw textile related industries such as fulling of wool and also metal working with Dutch settlers specialising in bleaching linen during the 16th century. Huguenot refugees introduced calico printing in the 17th century with many other industries developing including metal working, gun-power manufacture, leather, copper plate engraving & dye making. During the 18th century some mills were converted to tobacco grinding to produce snuff.

From 1881-88 William Morris' textile design and printing company was sited at Merton Abbey making use of the purity of the chalk stream water. Liberty used the site for wall paper manufacture from 1908 to 1977, demolishing the existing buildings.

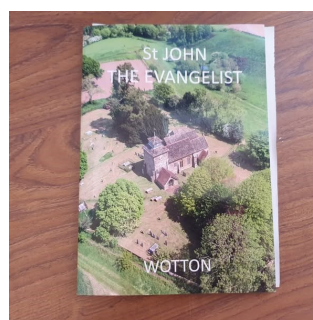
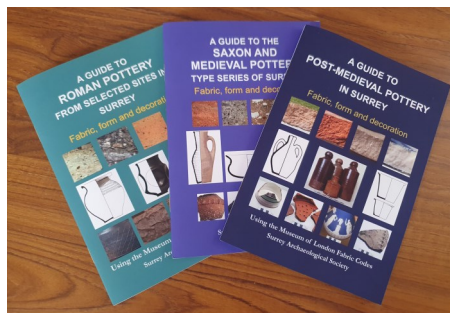
Before the decline of the mills in the 20th century, some were converted to produce electricity during the Second World War.

Grove Mill & Snuff Mill at Carshalton and Ravensbury Mill at Morden are the only remaining mill buildings, with Merton Abbey mill wheel being the only one in full working order. However, remnants of sluices, wheel pits & mill stones still survive. Mill ponds can be seen at Waddon, Beddington Park Lane & Hog Pit Carshalton.

The Wandle Industrial Museum is open to the public and for group visits with a guide titled *The Mills of the River Wandle* by David Saxby available.

The talk on the Farnham Museum lithics was cancelled as Martin Rose was unfortunately unable to attend.

Thanks to everyone who joined the day, whether the speakers or those in the audience. Congratulations as well to the joint winners of this year's Margary Award, which went to the Surrey pottery reference guides and updated guidebook for St John the Evangelist, Wotton. Spelthorne Museum also received a special mention for another excellent display.



Peter Youngs

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Peter Youngs on 9 April 2025. Peter joined the Society in 1990 and was Hon Secretary, Vice-President and an active member of the Council, the Guildford Group, the Library Committee, the Historic Buildings Committee and the Reigate Roman Kiln Trust. A memorial service was held in St Mary's Church, Guildford on 8 May and there will be an appreciation of his life in the next edition of *Surrey's Past*.

Judie English

It is also with much sadness that we report the death of Judie English, who passed away on 9 May 2025. Judie was a Vice-President of the Society, chaired the Archaeological Research Committee, supported the Prehistoric Group and led the Medieval (and Post-Medieval) Pottery Group. She was always looking for unpublished or part-published sites to enable further insights into past excavations. A private burial service was held at the Woodland Burial Ground, Shamley Green on 10 May, and there will similarly be a more thorough obituary in the next edition of *Surrey's Past*.

Library volunteers

The Society's Abinger Research Centre library is open on Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:00-16:00. The librarian, Helen Lynott, helps members with loans of books and pamphlets and membership enquiries, and assists members and non-members with research enquiries ranging from village histories to copyright permissions and book sales.

Helen runs a small team of volunteers who meet at the library on Tuesdays, 11:00-14:30. They are working their way through a very long list of jobs, which includes cataloguing maps, re-organising pamphlet files, checking newsletters, sorting out stocks of books for sale and even the graphic design on signage and other Society materials.

Helen is looking for two more volunteers to join our friendly team. No experience is required – training is given, and volunteers work together on projects. Attendance isn't strictly necessary every Tuesday. Members who might be interested in helping us should email librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



Collections Review Group

This Group was set up in December 2024 as a result of the reception at the Research Centre of the Society's archaeological archive from Guildford Museum's store at the Woking Road depot. The aim of the Group is to reassess all the collections held by the Society, using up-to-date methods and codes, to produce a digital record that will ultimately be placed on the Society's website for the use of researchers. It is hoped that this will raise the profile of Surrey's archaeology, particularly our more important sites, some of which are currently not as well-known as they should be. The Group is co-operating with the Medieval and Roman Pottery groups to achieve this end.

The Group meets on Thursdays at Abinger (10:00-15:00) (sometimes at other times or places by arrangement) and looks at every kind of find: some people will be identifying building material, others pottery, bone, glass, metal – anything may turn up. Some days it is tiny sherds, others complete vessels – we are enjoying the challenging variety! The Group welcomes new members and students on work experience. Previous experience is an advantage but training is given, so do give it a try. Contact info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk with any queries and to get involved.



Medieval pottery group

The Medieval pottery group meets on alternate Sundays at Abinger Research Centre. We would love more people to join our friendly group. Why not come for a taster session? We start at 9:30 and finish by 15:00. Currently, we are examining pottery found on antiquarian excavations, which is briefly mentioned in the short reports that were produced, but with no full assessment of the finds. No experience is necessary, only a fascination with the past. Please contact info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if interested.



Visit to Rapsley Roman villa

On 12 June, the Roman Studies Group visited Rapsley Roman villa, which was deemed a great success. The day started with coffee at the Bull's Head in Ewhurst before a walk to Rapsley Roman villa where we viewed the site of the villa and the remains of the bath house. Richard, the owner, had kindly set up a display of artefacts from the site including a whole and unusual box flue tile, a lead pipe and several semi-circular tiles.

Chris Gibson then led us on a tour of the landscape in which he and his team have uncovered sections of the Rowhook to Farley Heath Roman Road, one section of which had been left exposed for us to admire. We also saw the site of the Wykehurst Roman tile kiln and the threatened rain generally held off while we returned to the pub for a very sociable lunch together. To work off the lunch we then walked to Sayer's Croft to see the landscape around Coneyhurst Gill in which sections of the road had been excavated by DoE participants last season. Chris and his colleague, Sue, will be returning this year to open up two more trenches with DoE students – Sayer's Croft is the only centre offering archaeology and it has proved to be very popular. The day ended with tea and carrot cake back at The Bull's Head – what's not to like!

Many thanks to David Calow and Chris Gibson for organising such an enjoyable visit.

If you are interested in joining Chris' very active 'road team' please contact him for more information at chrisgibson01@btinternet.com.



Section of the Rowhook to Farley Heath Roman Road

SCAU publications

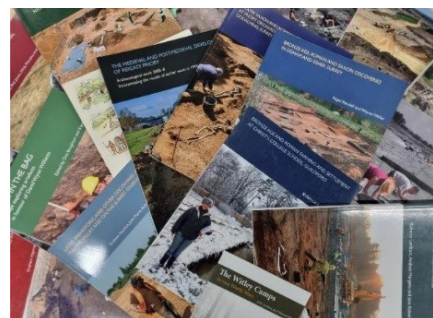
Surrey County Archaeological Unit is pleased to announce that many of its publications are now available to download for free from the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as part of an initiative which will make the research more widely accessible. These publications include its SpoilHeap Monographs and Occasional Papers, offering valuable insights into Surrey's rich archaeological heritage.

Monographs – access at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1121025>

Occasional Papers – access at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1121029>

Please follow the links to see the full list of publications available.

For those who prefer hard copies, all publications remain available for purchase from Surrey History Centre during normal opening hours, as well as online via the Surrey Heritage Online Shop (<https://www.surreyarchives.org.uk/product-category/archaeology/>)



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.

26 June

‘Made in Runnymede’ by Emma Warren to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

30 June

‘Woodside: exploring its unique history and topography’ by Dr Trevor James to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £3

2 July

‘Landmarks in the history and archaeology of Algeria: from prehistoric caves to the Roman period and the 20th century’ by Hugh Ricketts to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

7 July

‘Christopher Whall, Arts and Crafts stained glass artist: the Dorking Years’ by Anne Anderson to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

23 July

‘I do like to be beside the seaside! A history of holidays’ by Nick Dobson to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £3

31 July

‘History of Kempton Park Racecourse’ by Nick Pollard to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

1 September

‘A History of St Martha’s Church’ by Simon Harrold to Dorking Local History

Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

‘The magic of the electron microscope – how cells work’ by Ian Goodall to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £3

‘The Wey Navigations’ by David Rose to Woking History Society in Woking High School, Morton Road, Horsell, Woking at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

2 September

‘Chertsey Pubs & Breweries’ by Jocelyn Barker to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

8 September

‘Richmond History – past, present and future’ by Paul Velluet and Simon Targett to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

11 September

‘Thomas Sopwith - Aviation Pioneer’ by David Hassard to Surrey Industrial History Group in Oddfellows Hall, Bridge St, Leatherhead at 14:00. Visitors welcome: £3

12 September

‘Roman Roads in Southwark: an alternative model’ by Becky Haslam to Richmond Archaeological Society at Richmond Library Annex, Quadrant Rd, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome.

16 September

‘Polesden Lacey - a Model of Invention and Innovation’ by Roger Mendham to Albury History Society at Albury Village Hall, Albury at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

23 September

‘An Introduction to Medieval Buildings Myths’ by James Wright to Dorking Local History Group via Zoom at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

‘Merton Priory’ by John Hawks to Newdigate Local History Society at Newdigate Village Hall, Kingsland, Newdigate at 19:00. Visitors welcome: £5

24 September

‘The status of London’s flora’ by Mark Spencer to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £3

25 September

‘The Ramblings of a Railwayman’ by Geoff Burch to Surrey Industrial History Group in Oddfellows Hall, Bridge St, Leatherhead at 14:00. Visitors welcome: £3

26 September

‘Surrey, Suffrage and the Arts’ by Lucy Rose to Farnham & District Museum Society at The Garden Gallery, Museum of Farnham, West Street, Farnham at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £3

6 October

‘The Call of Nature: The History of the Toilet’ by Anthony Poulton-Smith to Woking History Society in Woking High School, Morton Road, Horsell, Woking at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

7 October

‘The Victorian Pharmacy – Kill or Cure’ by Judy Hill to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

10 October

‘The Oxfordshire field systems’ by Becky Haslam to Richmond Archaeological Society at Richmond Library Annex, Quadrant Rd, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome.

11 October

‘Blueprinting History: cyanotype printing on textile’ by Cathy Corbishley Michel to Merton Historical Society at St James’ Church Hall, Merton at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £2

13 October

‘Old Q’ by David Fleming to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

Medieval Chaldon guided walk

On **Thursday 3 July** (10:00-16:30), a guided tour of the medieval landscape around Chaldon will take place, arranged by the Medieval Studies Forum. It will begin with a tour of the Farthing Downs, followed by lunch in Mugswell, and tours of the churches of St Katharine Merstham and St Peter & St Paul Chaldon, the latter which will involve a talk on the famous Medieval Doom painting. Spaces must be booked via medforum@hotmail.co.uk (see <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/exploring-the-medieval-chaldon-area>).



Farnham Industry walking tour

SIHG (Surrey Industrial History Group) will be hosting a guided tour of Farnham industries (and more!) on **Thursday 3 July** (10:15-13:00). £6 per person. If you would like to come, please book by emailing meetings@sihg.org.uk.

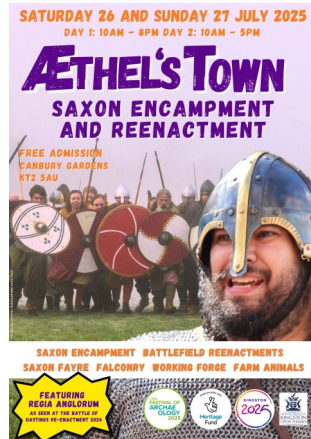
CBA Festival of Archaeology

This year, the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology will take place between **19 July and 3 August 2025**, themed on 'archaeology and wellbeing'. There is a varied programme of local talks, tours and other activities, both online and in-person. See <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/2025-festival-of-archaeology.html>.



Saxon Fayre

The Kingston Saxon Fayre – Æthel's Town – is back and taking place in Canbury Gardens on **Saturday 26** and **Sunday 27 July**. The Society will once more be there with a stall, so do come see us and join in the fun!



Heritage Open Days

The Society's Research Centre at Abinger Hammer will be open to visitors for a Heritage Open Day on **Sunday 14 September** (10:00-15:00). A group working on medieval pottery will be there to discuss their work. Visitors are welcome to explore the library and ask about any journals and pamphlets of interest to them, with some displays from other groups also available to view.

For other events in your area during the course of the annual heritage celebration (**12-21 September**), see <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>.



SyAS AGM and Annual Symposium

This year's Society Annual General Meeting will take place on Zoom on **Saturday 15 November** (14:00-16:00).

The 2026 Annual Symposium will be held on **Saturday 14 March** at East Horsley Village Hall.

More details on both of these events will be available soon, but please save the date in the meantime.

Summer fieldwork

Banstead test pitting

Members of Plateau, the Society's local group dedicated to the North Downs plateau in the area bounded by Headley, Box Hill, Mogador, Chipstead, Woodmansterne, Banstead, Nork and Tadworth, are running a multi-year test pitting programme to investigate the development of the village of Banstead and identify sites for further investigation. The 2025 season is taking place on 8-10 Saturdays between April and October. The project is open to all, so if you would like to take part, please contact plateau.surrey@gmail.com.

Albury Park test pitting

Dates for the final week of this year's test pitting at Albury Park are **8-11 September**. Volunteers are welcome for both finds and digging; no prior experience needed. To be put on the project email list, please contact Anne at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



For interest in our outreach projects, training and fieldwork, including the Society's LiDAR project (<https://surreylidar.org.uk/>), please email the above Outreach address.

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.