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# Bulletin 481

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ROMAN CBM AT OLD WOKING (see p8)

## Cocks Farm Abinger 2019: part two

Emma Corke

Part 1 described Ts 26 and 27, and the post-invasion archaeology of T25. This report should be read in conjunction with part 1, as it assumes knowledge of information in that.

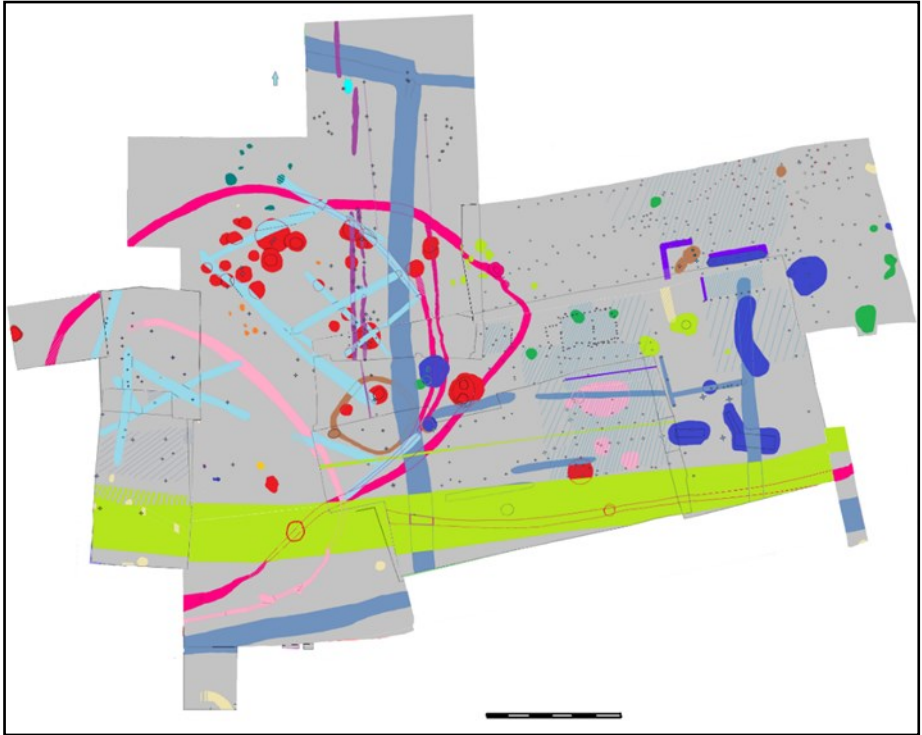


Figure 1: all hilltop trenches. For key see part 1. NB the scale bar is 12m long.

Very few clearly Iron Age features were seen in T25, and very little pottery (less than 100g in a 420sqm trench). While the lack of finds may seem surprising in an area thought to quite probably lie within an IA enclosure, the extensive Roman activity over the whole area may explain this.

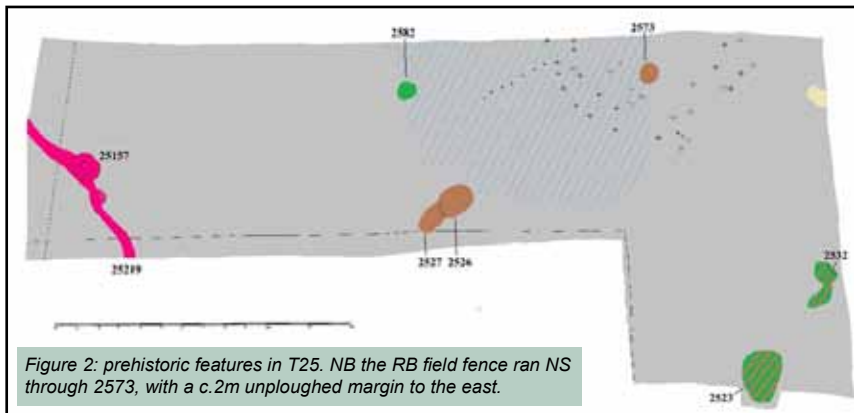


Figure 2: prehistoric features in T25. NB the RB field fence ran NS through 2573, with a c.2m unploughed margin to the east.



*Figure 3: the Iron Age ditch. An unexcavated baulk can be seen across pit 25157.*

The one IA feature that was found was the ditch (25219). This was difficult to find, as the post-Medieval bovid burials had cut into it, and it was also very shallow here; the difference in width of the ditches in the plans is in general a reflection of the depth of plough or other disturbance rather than the original depth of the ditch. However, in the section south of 25157 the ditch may have been shallower in reality: along some of it nothing was left of the ditch itself, only the turbated natural below giving away its location. The rather abrupt change in angle, the fact that this is the highest point of the ditch, rising as it does to the top of the ridge here, and the shallowness may suggest that there may have once been an entrance here. Although we have now seen a large portion of the length of the ditch, no other likely entrance has been seen, so this does seem not improbable. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that 25219 broadened into a largish scoop-like pit (25157): its fill contained two sherds of probably LBA (Late Bronze Age) or EIA (Early Iron Age) pottery, while a large retouched flint blade (9x4x1cm) was lying at the base of the pit.

In the north-eastern area of the trench the southern half of a round house was found. The dark fills of postholes of the western part of its outer circuit were seen as the RB laid surface was trowelled, but those in the eastern quarter were very hard to find as this area lay within the middle phase RB ploughed field. Some possible ones were later identified below the ploughsoil. The presence of many RB postholes in the same area both in the farmyard and ploughed field and the fact that postholes of both dates were very similar made distinguishing between RB and earlier ones hard, so a good many remain white on the plan as being of undetermined date. However, the outer ring of the roundhouse was quite easy to identify, as they were larger and deeper. They were carefully cut through the c10cm ironpan layer, making a neat circle that was presumably the exact size of the post (12-15cms). The natural below was soft sand, and to keep the posts upright (no packing was possible below the ironpan as it could not be got in between post and cut) the holes were dug deep (c40cms + whatever lay above the ironpan – 10-15cms?). (RB posts were cut wider and shallower, with packing extending below the ironpan). An inner circle of posts was identified, and various other internal posts of unknown function. To the east of the RB fence, but within the unploughed field margin, were four closely-dug postholes forming a right-angle: were these possibly the southwestern side of a porch, the north-eastern side of which was ploughed out in the RB field? Leading southwestwards from the outer wall of the roundhouse was a line of seven small stakeholes about 25cm apart, cut into the especially hard and thick ironpan. This line of wattle fencing is thought to be associated with the roundhouse, as it terminates at its wall.



*Figure 4: Elvin Mullinger recording a posthole in the roundhouse inner circle (outer circle to the right).*

Nearly all the finds within the roundhouse area were unsurprisingly RB (due to its position within the RB farmyard), but there were a few sherds of prehistoric pottery, the majority BA. There were not far short of 200 struck flints, including c50 blades and c60 flakes. Some of these may of course have been introduced in the RB surfacing, but some were clearly placed: some blades were pushed vertically into the gap between post and cut, and some pushed vertically into a soft part of the ground. One pair of very similar blades was vertically placed, the two being tightly together. About 5m to the west of the roundhouse a blade was placed under a loosened piece of the ironpan, the loose piece being carefully replaced over the blade in its natural position.

Although all this flint (apart from a couple of Mesolithic pieces) was clearly Neolithic, the size and form of the roundhouse makes it unlikely to be of that date. The close association of the flints with the building makes me think that this building is possibly more likely to be BA than IA, though there is very little evidence either way. We hope that the excavation of its northern half may provide some proof one way or the other.

Within and slightly south of the presumed centre of the roundhouse was feature 2573. This was first seen as a circle of dark fill containing burnt clay and was initially thought to be the roundhouse's hearth. It was sectioned, the eastern half being removed; the western remains intact on site. The pit proved to be wider than seen on the surface: the RB surfacing had covered the edges, the fill forming a slight dome (with its top sliced off.) The base of the pit was a shallow scoop; the whole would have formed a squashed sphere when made.

It was soon apparent that the fill contained many flints, and that these were probably placed: they were either vertical, horizontal with the flat side upwards, or on edge: none were at any other angle. Some were in pairs or larger groups. These flints were all numbered, photographed in situ and their positions plotted. In all, the half-pit that was

excavated contained 49 struck flints, including four microdenticates, and many very fresh.

The whole of the removed fill was put through the flotation tank, and produced 118 more flakes and chips, many <2mm. Is it possible that some of the flints were knapped on the edge of the pit before being immediately placed within it? Also within the fill, and associated with one of the microdenticates, was a modified pebble of an unusual red flint, while pressed into the eastern edge was an almost perfectly spherical flint (SF163). This rather remarkable object is a natural fossil sponge, possibly slightly modified. It is hollow, therefore light in weight, and has some holes in it, so it is possible to look through it. It also rattles, due to something loose within it.

Throughout the pit-half was a considerable amount of burnt and unburnt ironstone. There was also 739g of burnt clay. This had been part of an oven dome, and was seen in the pit as quite large pieces (to c15cms) with red outer edges and very black interior. Unfortunately it was impossible to retrieve it intact, but some of the smaller pieces in which it now is show the marks of the wattle that would have supported the clay when the oven was made.

Near the base of the pit was some pottery. Again the largest piece disintegrated when lifted, but the 94g/21 sherds were of Grooved Ware. There was also one piece of charcoal in the pit: a 1cm diameter twig; this was C14 dated to 2496-2338 BC (85.2% probability) (or 2565-2532, 8.8%), which agrees well with the accepted date for Grooved Ware of c2900-2100 BC.

The dates all suggest that this is a pit of a known Neolithic kind. They often occur as groups.



Figure 5: 2573 in course of excavation. Tags mark flint positions. The finds tray holds burnt clay.



Figure 6: the four microdenticates.



Figure 7: SF163. It is c 6cm in diameter

Pit 2582, to the west, was also thought to be a hearth. It contained flints but no pottery. Its fill was also all floated, and some charcoal was found. It is intended to date this at a future date. Although much smaller than 2573, this may be a similar feature.

In the southeastern part of the trench under the RB ploughsoil the two pits 2523 and 2532 were both interpreted as tree-throws, 2532 being a part-arc possibly due to the tree stump having fallen back into the hole after the trunk was cut. Both had dark fills. 2532 contained very little apart from some probably EIA or MIA pottery sherds (31g/3 sherds). 2523 was an irregular oval 2.6 x 1.6m with a maximum depth of 1m. Its fill contained both burnt and unburnt ironstone (two very large), and 111g/14 sherds of Mortlake Ware in good condition. Charcoal was dated to 1893-1741 BC (93.4%) which must be incompatible with the pottery. Possibilities include: the pottery was placed near the tree long before it fell, the pit was open for a very long time/the pottery was kept for a very long time – both highly unlikely given the time frame, or the pottery was re-deposited – surely the most likely.



*Figure 8: pit 2523. NB the western edge is not completely excavated; the rest is.*

2526 and 2527 were two (or one oddly shaped) pits that largely underlay the RB building D. The fills were identical, dark and containing a large quantity of ironpan. Their exact shape was hard to determine as they were cut into an area of naturally broken ironpan, with variously coloured natural sand. However, the fill also contained ironstone, including some pieces up to 20cms, flint, pottery and some charcoal. The pottery (2526: 78g/20 sherds, 2527: 47g/14 sherds), with some uncalcined flint inclusions, all appeared to be Neolithic, while the 316 worked or burnt flints included 112 flakes, 54 blades, and 4 microliths. It may be relevant that the adjacent RB layer 2530 (see building D, part 1) contained 396 flints, including 133 flakes, 94 blades, 1 microlith and 3 microburins. The (2526) charcoal was dated to 3106-2917 BC (90.3%). This is the earliest C14 date for the site.

A C14 date was also obtained for the chalk/lime capping of pit 645, excavated in 2018. Charcoal was found in the flotation processing, which was dated to 549-401 BC (81.5%),

Elsewhere on site, Historic England (to whom thanks) gave permission for a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of part of the scheduled area: the western part of the orchard over-lying the earlier phases of the villa. David Staveley (to whom also many thanks) carried out the survey, which was very successful, adding considerably to our plan of the walls, and adding at least one probable previously unknown hypocaust system.

I owe thanks to far too many people to name here, but I am greatly indebted to Jon Cotton for identification of the pottery and information about prehistoric pits and buildings, on which my interpretation is based. Also thanks to Elvin Mullinger, for drawing on site and digitisation of, Tim Wilcock for GIS, Mairi Sargent and Dave Williams, the flint group for identifications, all the other people helping with post-ex, AARG and the finds team on and off site, David Brown for bringing and looking after the tools, all the diggers, David Calow, and of course above all Nikki Cowlard. Every one of you is a vital member of the team.

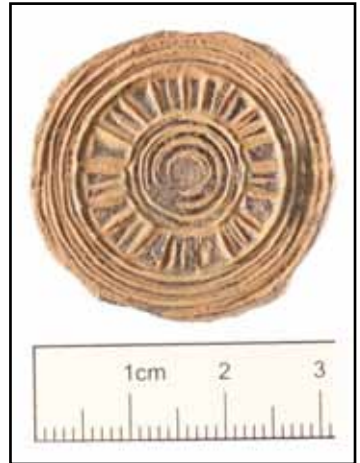


Figure 9: SF168

## Medieval carvings discovered in landslip at St Catherine's

*Archaeology South East*



Gothic niche or shrine (*Archaeology South East*)

A small cave outside Guildford with medieval carvings – considered to be a medieval shrine or hermitage with links to the nearby church of St Catherine – has been recently investigated by a team of archaeologists from Archaeology-South East. The discovery was made following a landslip in December by a team of rail workers carrying out repair works on behalf of Network Rail. The shallow sandstone cave survives to head height but may once have been much larger, with only a small section surviving the digging of the railway, which cut through the hill in the early

1840s. The historic buildings team from Archaeology South-East had to abseil in to record and analyse the cave, which is currently protected by security and off limits to any visitors due to its extremely dangerous condition.

The carving and engraving, believed to date to the 14th century, includes the principal Gothic shrine or niche which is 0.7m high and decorated in inscribed dots with a Calvary cross nearby. There are a total of around seven or eight further niches and evidence of carved initials and other inscribed markings. Black deposits on the cave ceiling may be sooting from lamps and the remains of two suspected fire-pits were also uncovered in the cave floor. A 3D model for the cave can now be found at <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/cave-with-medieval-gothic-shrine-fa794db5dc854f708da12f65967670ab>.

Work is currently under way to analyse soot and charcoal found inside the cave, which will hopefully tell us more about how and when it was used. A more detailed note will appear in (hopefully) the next *Bulletin*, now that post-excavation is able to resume.

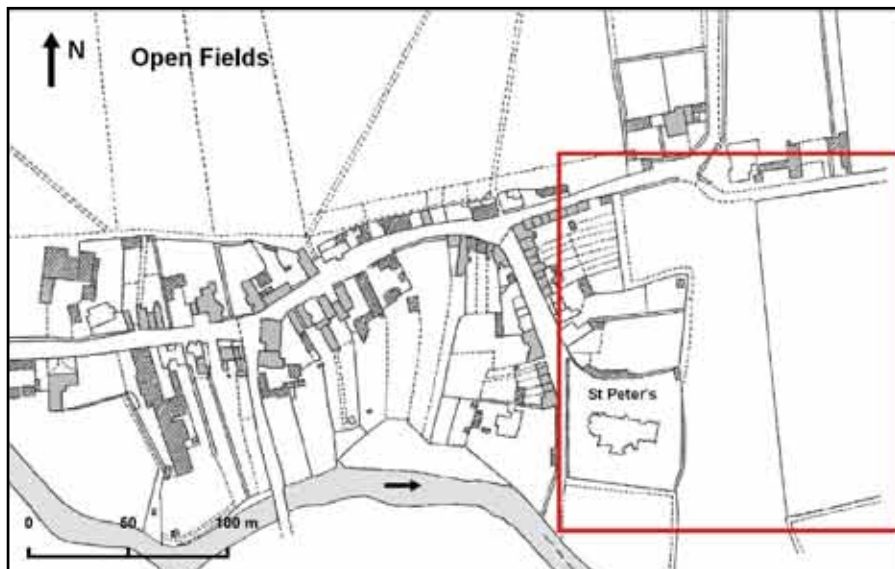


Figure 1: Old Woking in 1840 by the late Ken Bewsey, based on the Tithe Apportionment Map of 1840, the red box indicates the area shown in more detail in fig 3.

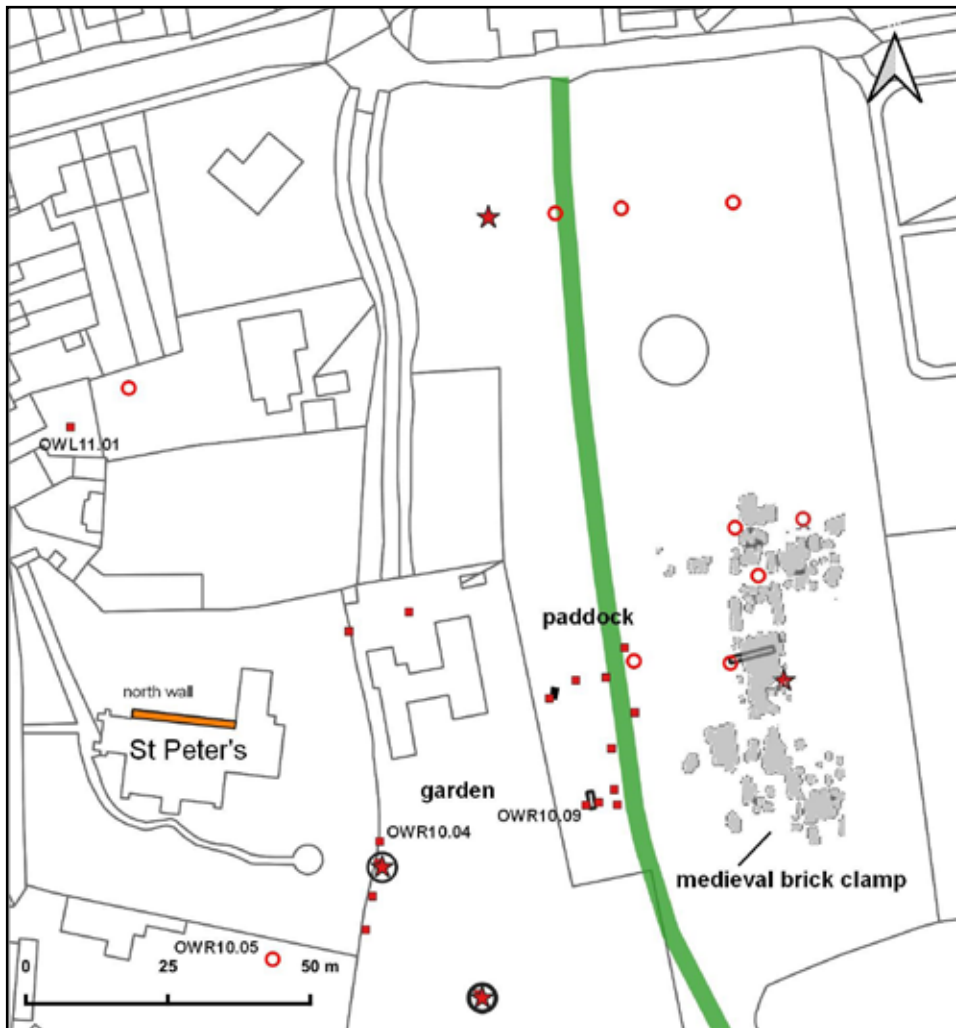
For much of the 20th century, continuing into the first decade of the present century, visitors to St Peter's Church in Old Woking were told by enthusiastic guides that the many tiles and panels of tiles built into the face of the west tower and the walls of the south aisle were of Roman origin and indicated the antiquity of this religious site (the church having been founded in the late 7th century). More recently it has become clear that the panels of thin tiles in question, no matter how venerated, had been installed in a major renovation of the fabric of the church in the 1880s.

One of our first acts on being asked in 2008 to consider running a test-pitting programme in Old Woking to explore the development of the settlement from its earliest beginnings to 1840 (see Fig.1) was to visit St Peter's. There, in a stretch of about 14 metres of the much-rebuilt external north wall of the early 12th century nave, we found 26 pieces of probable Roman tile (mostly 'brick' with thicknesses ranging from 31mm to 44mm, plus a few probable *tegulae*). Many of these were incorporated low down as a levelling course above the lowest layer of ferricrete blocks (see front cover and Fig.2). A year later the owner of Rosemead, immediately to the east of the churchyard (Fig.3), consulted the authors about some substantial sherds of CBM including two *tegulae* found during horticultural works in her paddock (Fig.4). These were of similar fabric to some of the presumed Roman tiles in the nave wall. A visit to the



Figure 2: Roman tiles laid above the lowest layer of ferricrete blocks in the north wall of the 12th century nave.





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**Legend:**

- ★ Roman pot
- No Roman pot
- Roman CBM
- ⊛ Roman CBM and pot
- evaluation trench
- ▬ former park pale
- ▭ magnetometry survey 2009

Figure 3: The eastern side of the medieval settlement showing the relationship of Rosemead to St Peter's church and the medieval and Tudor deer-park pale. For clarity not all interventions are accompanied by their site codes.

horticultural works within the paddock revealed further fragments of Roman CBM amid and adjacent to spreads of 18th and early 19th century pottery sherds. Hence the first test-pits of the Old Woking Settlement project were dug in 2010 in the paddock and garden of Rosemead to investigate the interrelationship of the finds from the previous year. An interim report of this and other aspects of the test-pitting project was published in the Bulletin (Savage & Savage, 2016).



Figure 4: Examples of Roman CBM from Old Woking

We returned to Rosemead and a neighbouring property to dig four further test-pits in 2018 to try to answer outstanding questions and again in 2019 to dig a further eight test-pits as part of the Society's expanded Community Outreach project, followed by two test-pits and an evaluation trench at an adjoining property. In 2019 a resistivity survey conducted by the Old Woking team identified, in very dry and difficult conditions, the former course of the medieval and Tudor park pale (created no earlier than 1200) surrounding Woking Palace as it crossed the site, thus confirming that the remains of brick clamps, found by magnetometry survey in 2009 (Savage, 2010), lay inside the Park (see Fig.3). The proposed dating of the brick clamps to the 15th/early 16th centuries has now been supported by the finding of heavily heat-affected late medieval pottery close to them.

The rest of this article sets out and examines the evidence concerning the Roman domestic pottery and Roman CBM found across the medieval settlement in order to address the question of whether the Roman CBM came from a Roman building beneath the settlement (whether a dwelling, bath-house or possibly a mausoleum) or was brought to the site for the rebuilding in stone of the Saxon church in the 12th century. The nearest known Roman settlement of any size to Old Woking lies at 'The Furzes' on the banks of the River Wey 650 metres to the southeast (Hawkins, 1984). Only a small percentage of the assumed area there was excavated. The building excavated at 'The Furzes' was rectangular with earth-fast timber posts. Large quantities of domestic pottery were found in the area, spanning all four centuries of the Roman period, including Samian from the first two centuries and Overwey (Portchester D) from the fourth. Small amounts of Roman CBM, including combed box flue tile, were also found.

A total of 48 m<sup>2</sup> of test-pits and evaluation trenches were excavated as part of the Old Woking settlement project. The test-pits were excavated by hand, in 10cm spits with all excavated material passed through 10mm by 10mm sieves to ensure consistency of retrieval, following the Currently Occupied Rural Settlement ("CORS") methodology (Lewis, 2007). Across the entire settlement we recovered only 7 sherds of Roman domestic pottery, weighing in total 126g, five of which (weighing 105g) came from Rosemead. The majority were heavily-rolled and redeposited in levels dating to Tudor or later periods. The largest sherd (tentatively Alice Holt or Overwey) weighed 64g with sharp unrolled edges; it was found in proximity to two pieces of Roman CBM and a small rolled Roman sherd but all four pieces may have been redeposited after 1500AD. Leaving aside the largest sherd, the six small and rolled sherds might imply a very low level of manuring the fields with no domestic dwellings within the Old Woking settlement area. As a result of the findings from the test-pits dug in 2011 and 2015 there have been two developer-funded excavations in the settlement, PCA at the White Hart (150 High Street) and SCAU

at 134 High Street with no sherds of Roman domestic pottery found in over 50 m<sup>2</sup> of excavation (machined and trowelled but not sieved).

An eighth sherd, handed to the authors in 2011, was said to have come from the garden of 146 High Street some years ago. The sherd was kindly identified by Joanna Bird as a piece of late 1st century Samian from Southern Gaul; it is decorated with a moulded relief showing what are believed to be the boots of two gladiators. This may well have arrived in Old Woking as a 'curated' piece at any time, possibly from the RB occupation site at 'The Furzes' where similarly early Samian pottery sherds were found.

Despite the use of metal-detecting during excavation of all the test-pits and evaluation trenches, no Roman coins or other Roman metalwork have been found across the medieval settlement area or the Rosemead garden and paddock.

The 46 pieces of Roman CBM excavated from test-pits and evaluation trenches, as well as chance finds from horticultural works, weighed an aggregate of 8.1kg, with 39% of this coming from the paddock at Rosemead, 8% from the front yard of Rosemead and 47% from the garden at Rosemead (see Fig.3). The remaining 6% of Roman CBM excavated from within the settlement included a single piece of brick (fractured during excavation) in the test-pit in the garden of Lea Cottage in Church Street at a depth of between 70 and 80cm, above the top of the deposit of Saxon animal bones. This is one of only two pieces of Roman CBM from the archaeological interventions which have a mortared face, suggesting it had been reused as a floor tile during the medieval period. No other Roman CBM pieces from Old Woking show any signs of mortar.

### **Roman CBM from the paddock at Rosemead**

The 3.2kg of Roman CBM from the interventions east of the modern house (including the finds from annual digging of the vegetable patches) was dispersed amongst large quantities of medieval, post-medieval and modern CBM as well as large quantities of flint nodules, 'foreign' stones (i.e. stones not from NW Surrey), small amounts of residual pre-historic and medieval pottery and larger amounts of post-medieval pottery, dating from 1550 through to about 1830. The Roman CBM included six pieces of tegulae (1,129g), one piece of imbrex (67g) and four pieces of combed box flue tile (228g) with the remaining pieces all being 'brick'/tile smaller than a bessalis, so it cannot be determined whether these came from any of the larger sizes of Roman brick/tile. Within this was found a small broken block of Mayen lava (64mm x 66mm x 45mm; 290g) with a smooth surface on one face. This may be a fragment of a millstone imported from the Rhineland during the Roman, Saxon or Medieval periods and when broken used for paving, as has been seen elsewhere in England (see e.g. Parkhouse, 1997).

It seems that the deposition of this material respected the line of park pale, lying immediately west of (that is, outside), the medieval/Tudor deer-park. Although the Great and Little Parks were de-parked around 1630 (Young & Savage, 2017) it is not known how long the remains of the Park Pale remained visible as eroded banks/ditches in this area. However, the lands within and immediately outside the Park Pale at this point remained in separate occupation until 1887 when they were finally combined (*pers comm*, Joanna Mansi).

In test-pit OWR10.03 Spits 2 to 4 contained a layer of medieval /post-medieval brick and tile fragments, together with the majority of the pottery recovered from this test-pit, which dated from between 1550 and the Victorian era. Below the potential demolition layer in Spits 2 to 4, Spit 5 contained 9 fragments (888g) of Roman CBM, with no medieval/post-medieval CBM and only 3 sherds of Post-Medieval Redware. Natural gravels were reached at 65cm. The 3m by 1m evaluation trench OWR10.09, dug close to OWR10.03, failed to illuminate the circumstances in which the Roman CBM had been deposited.

Instead it showed a shallow pit dug into the gravel terrace which was filled with a mixture of medieval/post-medieval and Roman CBM and many 'foreign stones'. The pottery from the lowest layer of this pit was restricted to dates between 1550 to 1800. It is possible that this pit had been dug to extract gravel for building purposes shortly before it was re-filled with whatever was lying around. Similar pits have been seen at Woking Palace, dug in the centuries following the demolition of the Palace in c.1630, for the extraction of sands and gravels.

### **Roman CBM from the front yard of Rosemead**

Drainage and other groundworks in 2010 showed this area to contain large amounts of CBM, particularly of fragments of post-medieval and 19th century paving tiles (including two virtually complete red 'Quarry tiles'). Included within this later material were two fragments (661g) of Roman brick/tile. It is thought likely that a large piece of Roman tile (1,983g) – possibly from a lydion – found in 2017 close to the surface in the south of the garden with a large quantity of 20th century glass, had come from the front yard area at some point in the past 25 years.

### **Roman CBM from the garden of Rosemead**

The most intriguing find in this area came from the fourth test-pit, dug in the first season of the test-pitting programme in 2010 (OWR10.04).

This test-pit, together with test-pit OWR10.05 in the adjacent curtilage known today as Whisperings, was dug to examine the late Dennis Turner's hypothesis that the present east and south walls of St Peter's churchyard follow the lines of ditches forming the enclosure boundary of the original late 7th century church and its ancillary buildings. It is known that the predecessor of the east wall – the boundary between the churchyard and Rosemead – was constructed in brick in 1681 to replace the previous wooden pale (Churchwardens' Accounts, SHC). The high south wall separating the churchyard from Whisperings (the former glebe lands known as Parsons Mead) was not constructed until 1885 (Edward Ryde's diary, SHC). Prior to that, the earlier boundary was shown as a bank with hedge and trees (and possibly a ditch) in a painting by G Prosser between 1820 and 1850 (reproduced in Crosby, 2003). From excavations in 2010 and 2019 it is now thought that this southern bank (and any associated ditch) was created between 1100 and 1240 (Savage & Savage, forthcoming).

The test-pit OWR10.04 adjacent to the eastern wall of the churchyard was dug through particularly loose and silty soils, with very little pottery below 40cm. In spit 5 (40cm to 50cm below the surface) were three sherds of post-medieval redware, one sherd of tingle-glazed ware and a lightly worn coin of Charles II, preceding the date the wall was constructed in 1681. Spits 6 and 7 had small fragments of CBM but no pottery; by this depth the fills were distinctly wet. Spit 8 contained one sherd from the 15th century and one from the 12th century. There was no further pottery below this spit. However, Spit 11 contained 3 substantial fragments of Roman tile/brick (weighing 263g, 237g and 153g respectively) and a 5,800g lump of Tertiary saliceous cemented sandstone – from a sarsen rather than NW Surrey heathstone. By this stage water was seeping out of the north wall of the test-pit and flowing away though the south wall of the test-pit. Natural sands were reached at the bottom of Spit 12. Although no ditch edges could be discerned within the test-pit the experienced digging team felt that they were excavating a ditch fill. Considering the artefact sequence recovered we concur, even though the eastern edge of such a ditch could not be discerned in that test-pit or subsequently in test-pits OWR18.11 and 18.12. The sequences in these two test-pits, sited closer to the River Wey and only just above the present-day floodplain, are complex, apparently showing periods of flooding

and redeposition of riverine silts. Analysis is still in progress on the final test-pit OWR19.20 where two large pieces of Roman CBM and two Roman pot sherds lay at considerable depth with high and late medieval sherds in the same three spits. Above that there was around 50cm of post-medieval dumping, probably to raise the lower part of Rosemead's garden out of the floodplain in the late 19th century.

## Summary

The combined evidence from test-pits OWR10.04 and OWR10.05 suggests that some Roman CBM was brought to the site in the 12th century for the rebuilding of the Saxon church in stone. We cannot tell whether the significant concentration of Roman CBM found in the paddock at Rosemead represents part of the material brought to Old Woking in the early 12th century for building works or whether it arrived much later. If brought to Old Woking in the 12th century the un-mortared Roman CBM in the paddock may come from the discarding of surplus or unusable material, subsequently disturbed by activities over following centuries.

## Acknowledgements

In addition to the acknowledgements in Bulletin 458, we should like to add our thanks to the Old Woking post-ex team for all their hard work and support in the preparation of this report and to Ian Betts for expert advice on the CBM from Old Woking and to Mark Eller for his geological advice both on-site and during the post-ex period and for identification of 'foreign stones'.

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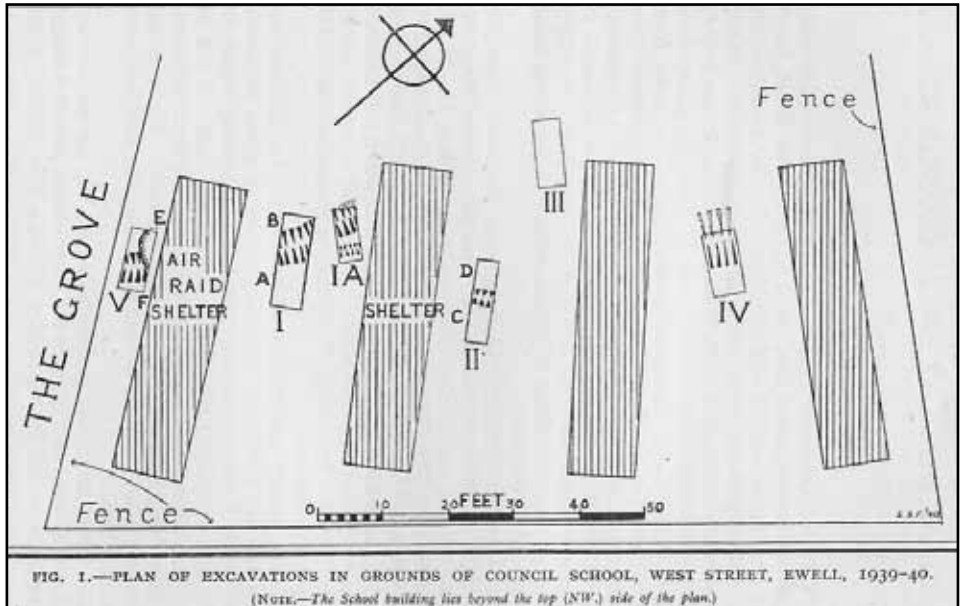
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Front cover image: Roman CBM in Old Woking

## Ewell Grove School

David Bird

Nowal Shaikley's recent report (2019) on excavations at Ewell Grove School draws fresh attention to an interesting site and raises new questions. She notes earlier work on the site (Frere 1943; Pemberton and Harte 2011) and that 'contradictions between the trench location plans for each phase of work could not be completely resolved' but manages a reasonable compromise while establishing the likely outline of part of a Roman-period sub-rectangular enclosure of some size.



Site plan from Frere 1943, 46, fig 1

There is in fact an argument that precedence should be given to Frere's plan rather than the 2011 version. He was, after all, actually on site when the air raid shelters were being constructed and his later excavation took place when they were in being (Frere 1943, 45-8). It is hard to believe that he would not have noticed that something was wrong with his plan if the two eastern shelters had come together as markedly as indicated on the 2011 plan, on which they are shown as almost touching at their northern end (Pemberton and Harte 2011, 230, fig 2). It is also worth mentioning that when the Roman Studies Group visited Paul Booth's excavation on a site in Dorchester on Thames some years ago, Paul commented that he had been surprised by the accuracy of Frere's planning. He had been able to locate the earlier trenches by use of a plan that had been made in the middle of a broad expanse of allotments with no fixed points and had found that it was almost completely accurate.

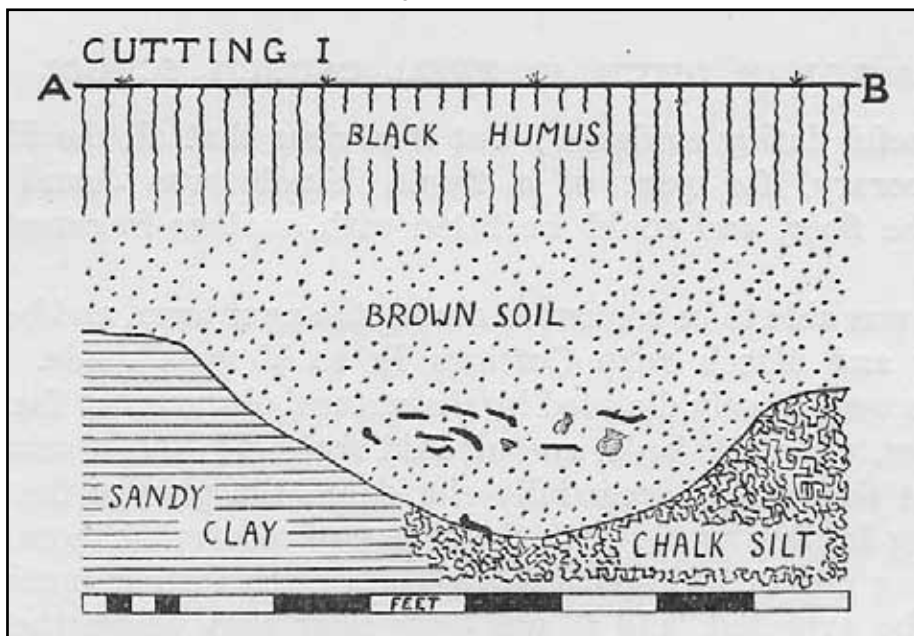
It is not made clear in the 2011 report why the shelter plan was revised and it certainly looks unconvincing. It has not been possible to check any large scale maps of the area for the relevant dates but although not made specific it seems reasonable to assume that this was attempted by the authors of the two more recent notes, as in both cases such maps if they existed would have been readily available close at hand. A 1945 aerial photograph on the Google Maps site is not of very good quality but it seems to show lines of trees which can only make sense as marking the gaps between the shelters. As such, for what it is

worth, these tend to support Frere's plan. It is also clear that there were problems with the planning of the excavation in the 1970s: '... it should be noted that there is some uncertainty as to the exact location of the 1970-72 trenches' (Pemberton and Harte 2011, 228, caption to fig 2). That being so, surely the same could apply to the plan of the shelters, and to the relationship between the 1940 and 1970-72 trenches.

Such problems should not be a matter for surprise: weekend digging over a lengthy period of time with constantly changing personnel creates difficult site conditions and can be awkward to manage. It is not made entirely clear in the report but there are likely to have been several different site directors or supervisors over the years – probably several of those mentioned as 'of great assistance in producing the final archive' in the acknowledgements (Pemberton and Harte 2011, 255).

It seems evident from the plans that the 1970-72 excavations must one way or another have overlapped with some of Frere's trenches. Indeed, some trenches were 'abandoned when they were found to coincide with fill from the 1939-40 excavations' (Pemberton and Harte 2011, 228-9), while it is noted for trench D4 that it 'intersected Frere's cuttings I and Ia'. Unfortunately the plan does not make clear how it did this (*ibid*, 231-2 and fig 5). It seems possible that a failure to recognise Frere's backfill may help to explain the very strange suggestion that a bank was created in order to dig a ditch into it. The early gully G1 is said to have been 'backfilled and banked up to prepare for it [the digging of the large later ditch]', while two post holes 'found along the northern side of the gully ... appear to have been revetment stakes placed to prevent this embankment from slipping'. The 'embankment' is layer LD5, around 0.7m deep (*ibid* 2011, section 231-3 and fig 6).

Recent experience at Abinger and Ashted has shown just how difficult it is to recognise traces of earlier trenches on the ground, even those dug only a year before. At the Ewell site this would have been compounded by the nature of the long-running weekend dig, the difficult mixed subsoil and the much longer period of time between excavations.



Western section of cutting I from Frere 1943, 47 fig 2.

None of this need challenge the existence of the ditched enclosure postulated by Nowal Shaikhley. Frere's ditch section is more or less a match for the ones found later on the line. It is therefore interesting to consider the purpose of the enclosure. It has been suggested that the larger ditch at Ewell Grove 'seems to have marked the boundary of the settlement, for no substantial Roman features have been found to the west' (Pemberton and Harte 2011, 246). But the new discoveries show that the ditch is part of an enclosure that is separate from the main settlement, most of which lies to the east.

Frere found several more or less complete smashed pots in parts of the main ditch (Frere 1943, 45, 48 and 59: 'several vessels could be largely restored from fragments, and these fragments were seldom widely separated'; 'large fragments of samian and even almost complete dishes'). He suggested that the finds implied a nearby building (*ibid*, 59) which may be correct, but the nature of these finds also calls to mind re-deposition of offerings in boundary ditches of temple complexes (eg at Tabard Square in Southwark: Killock et al 2015, 245-7). We might therefore consider the intriguing possibility that the ditches mark the temenos of a temple site near the source of the Hogsmill. In turn this might add a little more weight to the argument that there was a wider religious aspect to the Ewell settlement, associated with the all-important spring (Bird 2002; 2004, 147-50), which has been reinforced by recent discoveries at the Church Meadow excavation (see eg Cowlard 2015). The suggestion has been rather airily dismissed (Killock et al 2015, 258) but without full consideration of the evidence, especially in the light of our limited overall knowledge of Ewell where archaeological excavation has been largely small-scale. It is worth pointing out that the Tabard Square complex itself was unknown until recently.

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## King post roof at Place Farm, Bletchingley

Nicholas Riall

A note published on the internet by the Surrey Archaeological Society in 2019 stated that the roof of Place Farm, Bletchingley had been surveyed in March 2009, and dated through dendrochronology to 1547.<sup>1</sup> The roof, which features king posts, was said to be, "the earliest example of this roof type in the country by more than half a century and demonstrates that the gatehouse was remodelled rather than rebuilt in the 18th century as suggested in the listed building description."<sup>2</sup> This is incorrect. There are several other roofs that are earlier, all dated by dendrochronology.

The earliest king post roof is to be found at St David's cathedral, Pembrokeshire that was sampled in 2008 and dates to the mid-1530s, but is somewhat different to roofs made in the following decades.<sup>3</sup> Next in the current sequence comes the roof over the Council chamber in the Queen's House, in the Tower of London, sampled in 2015.<sup>4</sup> This produced a tree-ring date of 1538-9, which is in accord with documentary evidence that suggests



building work in 1540. Closer in date to Bletchingley are the roofs at Lacock abbey. Here the three ranges of the outer courtyard all feature king post roofs, making this site the most impressive of the group. Tree ring dating in 1989 and analysis of the structure suggests a sequence of building works with the East range earlier than the North range, these dating to 1544-47.<sup>5</sup> The west range roof, moved in the later 16th or earlier 17th century, has not been sampled but it is hoped will be when circumstances permit.<sup>6</sup> A fourth kingpost type roof in Lacock is to be found in Porch House, on the western edge of the village.<sup>7</sup> There are other kingpost type roofs but none of these have been dated using dendrochronology.

Place Farm is the surviving fragment of Bletchingley Place, which was a large country manor house of the dukes of Buckingham, until the attainder and execution of Edward Stafford, the 3rd duke, in 1521. The estate then became Crown property. Following her brief marriage to Henry VIII, Ann of Cleves was given the use of Bletchingley Place, one of several large houses provided to her in the summer of 1540, following her 'dismissal' from court. Her use of the house came to an end in the spring of 1547, when she was required to leave Bletchingley and given Penshurst instead. This seems to have been a political move by Edward VI's council, with Bletchingley now occupied by Sir Thomas Cawarden, the master of revels and tents – a more significant office than the name suggests, as he was responsible for the logistics of supplying tents and transport to the king's armies. The tree-ring date of 1547 also suggests that it was Cawarden who undertook a programme of renovation at Bletchingley Place, that probably included the spectacular chimney piece now to be found in Reigate Priory museum.



*Kingposts in the roof over the East range of the outer court, Lacock Abbey*

*A king post roof system comprises a timber roof truss consisting of two rafters and a tie beam with a central vertical post (a king post), running from the centre of the tie beam to the apex, and usually two diagonal struts. The rafters 'support' the kingpost, creating tension from the tie beam upwards, which enables the kingpost to 'lift' the tie beam. A major advantage to installing king post roofs was that this permitted the use of ceilings underneath, and the provision of storage or accommodation in the attics.*

## Notes

- 1 Moir 2009
- 2 <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/place-farm-place-farm-road-bletchingley>
- 3 Miles pers comm and see *Vernacular Architecture*, 39, 2008, 142-3.
- 4 Miles and Bridge 2016; the author is grateful to Dr Alden Gregory for providing copies of the reports on work undertaken on this building, and for his comments on parallels to Lacock.
- 5 Howard 1989
- 6 The roof of the west range now covers the Abbey barn, which houses the Fox Talbot Museum and the National Trust's reception area for Lacock Abbey.
- 7 For Porch House, see: 'Porch House, C15 House, Lacock', online report at <https://heritagerecords.nationaltrust.org.uk/HBSMR/MonRecord.aspx?uid=MNA140625>

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## Potins and the Iron Age in Surrey

Simon Maslin

Surrey is a region which during the Iron Age (c800 BC – AD 43) sat on major fault lines of tribal identity, with powerful groups such as the Atrebates (Hampshire), Regni (Sussex) and Catuvellauni (north of the Thames) variously incorporating bits of the county area into their territory as their power waxed and waned. To the east, the Cantiaci / Cantii (after whom Kent and Canterbury are named) were the major group. This region was heavily influenced by continental cultures on the periphery of the early Roman world which resulted in the Cantii producing the first coins actually made in Britain, known as *potins*, between the mid 2nd to the mid 1st century BC.

This word "potin" is of French origin and used to describe coins cast in clay moulds from a copper alloy with a high tin content. This would have made the coins shiny and silver-coloured when new – occasionally some examples turn up which retain this colouration (e.g. SUR-BB9339) – however by the time they get dug most now have a characteristic black patina from tin oxidation. They would have been cast in strips which were then cut into separate coins and as a result often retain characteristic cut edges from the



A flat linear potin from Surrey, SUR-BB9339 © Surrey County Council

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runlets which joined them together (Mack, 1975: 3). The moulds themselves were made using “master” matrices of copper alloy which were cast with the design for one side of a coin in high relief and pressed into the clay. A rare example of one of these (albeit for a different type of continental style potin) has been found a few miles west of the Surrey border in Hampshire (SUR-08FD05).

The designs of the majority of potins found in England derive ultimately from coins produced in the Greek colonial Mediterranean city of Massalia (modern Marseilles) in southern Gaul in the late 4th century BC. These coins featured a head of Apollo on the obverse and a charging bull on the reverse. They were originally imported from the continent (e.g. SUR-1FB22D) and later locally copied in the mid 2nd century BC, in the form of what are known as “Thurrock” types, which adhere closely to the original design (e.g. SUR-7FF6E7). Later forms, known as “flat linear” types, greatly simplified this design into deep abstraction, ultimately reducing the head of Apollo to a circle, with a line for the neck and crescents for the eyes and the bull to a trapezoidal arrangement of lines (e.g. SUR-1DBC1E).

We actually don't know what these coins were called by the people who made them, or what they were worth in fiscal terms, but they are generally only found in south east England, which probably reflects the limits of the political and economic influence of the Cantii themselves. Sitting very much within this sphere of influence, Surrey now has 69 examples of these coins recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database ([www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)) and they comprise a distinctive component of the county's Iron Age archaeological heritage. In fact, aside from the Cantiaci heartlands of Kent, the Thames estuary and East Anglia, Surrey has produced more of them than almost anywhere else in the country. They have been found in various places, typically in areas along the chalk dip slopes of the North Downs, where contemporary settlement activity is known to have been concentrated (Bird and Bird, 1987: 142).

It is clear that the role of coins in the Iron Age was quite not as we understand them today and it is likely that potins served a range of functions from monetary transaction (perhaps in quantity by weight), to use as political tribute, maintenance of social power structures and as votive objects with a religious function (Holman, 2016: 16). Archaeologically, they are known from hoards, as isolated finds and from settlement sites, usually as residual finds with no clear context. Occasionally however they turn up in securely stratified sequences which gives us a clue to their dating and sometimes they are found deposited at the base of pits as intentional acts of sacrifice, which perhaps gives us something of an insight into their role. This is seen at several sites in Kent (Holman, 2016: 10).

At Abinger in Surrey three coins were found associated with late Iron Age grain storage pits, at least two of which clearly seemed to be placed deposits; a fourth was also found incorporated within a cremation burial. These associations are important to both understand the role of the coins and the nature of the sites, offering scope for interpretations of behaviours surrounding food storage as well as mortuary ritual. With such evidence we can begin to envision the deposition of potins forming part of a range of practice involving various different aspects of life in the settlement.

As well as occupation sites, Surrey is distinctive for having a number of intriguing, rare and very important late Iron Age / early Romano British rural shrine sites (Wanborough, Farley Heath and Titsey) where activities included the intentional deposition of huge numbers of coins in the early 1st century AD (Bird, 2004: 151). This makes the distribution of potins particularly interesting to study across the county, as in some cases they may represent an earlier manifestation of this type of depositional activity, a century or more before the Roman invasion and on different types of sites.

No regional synthesis of the specific economic use and social role of these coins in south east England has yet been attempted. Despite this, an increasing body of site-based evidence is becoming available which may one day allow us to place these coins within a more refined context of Iron Age culture, economy and belief. As a part of this process, data recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme will doubtless play a huge role in answering some of these questions.

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*Abinger potins: SF 56 (top), a Curved Bull ABC 150, found with the cremation, and SF 84 (bottom) from the base of a pit*

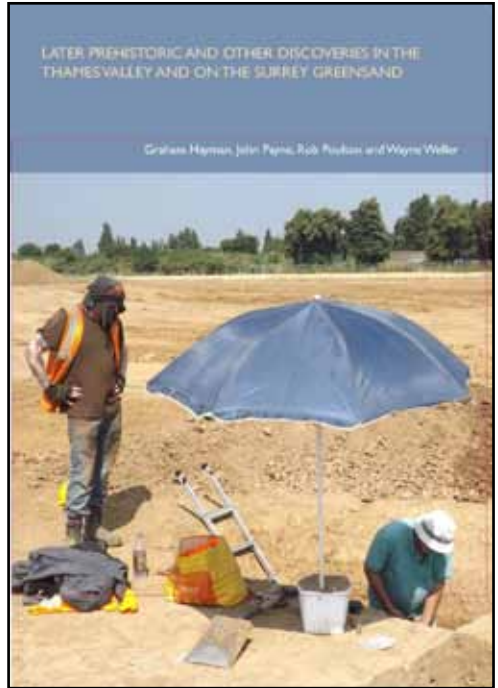
## Later Prehistoric and other discoveries in the Thames Valley and on the Surrey Greensand

Rob Poulton

The excavations at sites near Bedfont, Chertsey and Nutfield all produced Late Upper Palaeolithic and/or Mesolithic flint-work, with the substantial quantity at Nutfield suggesting a 'persistent place' in the local landscape. Bedfont had an Early Neolithic pit and Late Neolithic features were identified at all three sites, with Nutfield producing a rare pit with Beaker ceramics.

These features suggest the occasional presence of essentially mobile communities, but in the Middle-Late Bronze Age each site shows the imposition of an ordered landscape. At Bedfont it is clearly a co-axial field system with trackways, and waterholes, but, interestingly the latter are lacking in at Nutfield, where the field system is the first confidently identified on the Surrey Greensand. Domestic activity is indicated at all sites but at Chertsey a unique rectilinear enclosure, with a small square enclosure within, may be for ritual or sacred use.

Only Nutfield had Iron Age settlement, with roundhouses set within a substantial enclosure ditch. Its use may have extended into the earliest Romano-British period, when at Bedfont trackways were added to a still functioning Bronze Age field system and at Chertsey new fields were laid out. Only Chertsey produced a few Saxon sherds, in the same area as a medieval moat, while at Nutfield there is evidence of medieval assarting and a pillow mound (rabbit warren).



Church Lammas enclosure



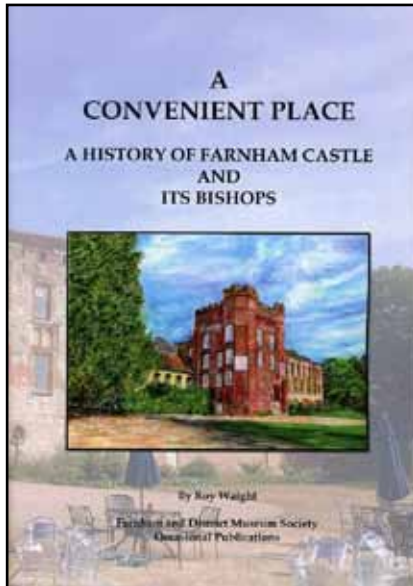
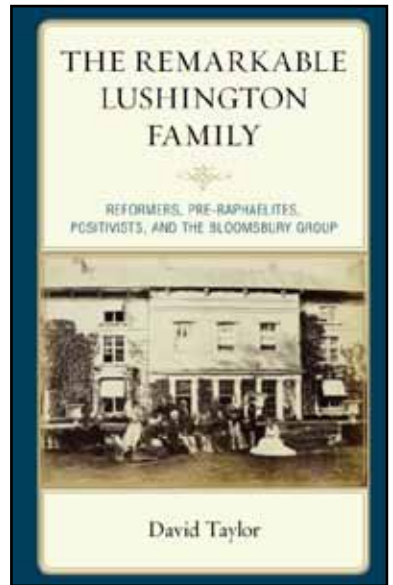
Neolithic stone axe from Nutfield

## The Remarkable Lushington Family

*David Taylor*

Drawing on previously unpublished archival materials, this book spans three generations of the Lushington family. It investigates their personal histories through the themes of social, artistic and cultural history. The author analyzes the Lushington family's relationships with well-known figures such as Lady Byron, Queen Caroline, and members of the Bloomsbury Group. Most important, this study examines Lushington family members' roles within larger trends, including abolitionism, the Pre-Raphaelite movement and Positivism.

Currently available through bookshops or through Amazon. Price: £75



## A Convenient Place: A History of Farnham Castle and its Bishops'

*Roy Waight*

This book is a review of the extensive data available on a bishop's castle that has been in continuous use for over 800 years. The book covers both the physical development of the site over the centuries and the historical events associated with the building and the Bishops who were responsible for and used it. The occasionally fractious relation of the castle to the developing town of Farnham is also described.

The author describes the development of the diocese of Winchester from Saxon times and summarises the life and impact on the castle of each of the Bishops. Continuous use of the Castle and two incidents of 'sighting' has meant that

extensive rebuilding, adaptation, improvements and extensions have been carried out since the original Norman motte and bailey were built. The author has drawn on a large number of available records, including the translated Winchester pipe rolls and archaeological investigations at the site, to untangle the puzzle of what was built and when and also who ran what. Diagrams and illustrations are used to show the altering layout and appearance.

Currently available from the publishers, Farnham and District Museum Society, by contacting [p.minett2@btinternet.com](mailto:p.minett2@btinternet.com) at a launch price of £10 (while the initial print run is available). Waterstone's Farnham and the Museum of Farnham with also stock copies, where prices will vary.

## Surrey Industrial History Group Lectures Autumn 2020

SIHG does not plan to hold any physical meetings this year. However, we are arranging to present online talks which would be free to attend and open to all. We are currently contacting potential speakers and expect to be able to construct an exciting programme. Information will be posted on our website, [www.sihg.org.uk](http://www.sihg.org.uk), as it becomes available. Details will be sent to members of the mailing list. At present the list only contains SIHG members who have registered their email address. If you wish to be sent an individual copy of these details, please send Bob Bryson, SIHG Chairman and Programme Co-ordinator, an email at [meetings@sihg.org.uk](mailto:meetings@sihg.org.uk), stating your SyAS membership status, and he will add you to the list.

## SHERF 2020: Our Heritage, Our Future – Volunteer Archaeology in Surrey and Beyond

This year's SHERF on Saturday 28 November will be themed around the important issue of volunteer archaeology and look at a variety of successful community archaeology projects both in Surrey and within the wider south-east. The programme is led by Dan Miles of Historic England and Anne Sassin of SyAS, with other contributions including Hannah Potter (SCAU) on the Witley Camp excavations, Andrew Mayfield (Kent County Council) on his work in NW Kent, Helen Johnston (Thames Discovery Programme) and James Brown (National Trust).

The cost and venue are to be confirmed. The conference will either take place at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall or online via Zoom video conferencing. More details will be supplied in the next couple months (and certainly by the time of the October bulletin) as the situation becomes more clear. Please check the website for updates and for booking info.

## Opening up the Society

*Nikki Cowlard*

As the country starts to open up we can look forward to getting the Society back to something more like normal but this can only be done as long as we continue to follow the law and government guidelines. Each stage will have its own risks and challenges, whether it is a Society meeting or conference, a Society excavation, an activity at Abinger or elsewhere, a trip or any of the many other things we do.

For the time being the trustees will need to approve each proposed Society activity that falls under government guidelines on a case by case basis.

Many of our members may be reluctant to take part in Society activities unless they can see that they can do so safely. No activity will be approved unless the trustees have approved the protocol on how it will take place and how any risks have been properly assessed and procedures carefully designed.

A more detailed letter explaining the procedure for groups and individuals to resume activities is included in this bulletin.

In the meantime I would like to thank you for your support for the Society and hope you and your families and friends stay safe.

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## New members

Hannah Jeffery

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society. I have included principal interests, where they have been given on the application form. If you have any questions, queries or comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me on 01483 532454 or [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Jonathan Craig	Godalming	General Archaeology
Mr R Crookshank	Farnham	Local and Medieval History
Sophie Garrett	Guildford	
Andrew Jones	Ripley	Artefacts and Archives Research Group, Conservation, Metal Detecting, History
Sally Jones	Ripley	History

## DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS

There will be two more issues of the *Bulletin* in 2020. To assist contributors relevant dates are as follows:

	Copy date:	Approx. delivery:
482	14th September	17th October
483	9th November	12th December

Articles and notes on all aspects of fieldwork and research on the history and archaeology of Surrey are very welcome. Contributors are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the editor beforehand, including on the proper format of submitted material (please do supply digital copy when possible) and possible deadline extensions.

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

**Next issue:** Copy required by 14th September for the October issue

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