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Cocks Farm Abinger 2020

Emma Corke

Due to COVID, the plans made for CFA20 had, of course, to be revised. However, we were able to dig a 35.5x13m trench. The rule of six and social-distancing of course applied, and no equipment could be shared. A separate team processed the finds once they had undergone 72 hours of quarantine. The much reduced personnel-numbers obviously extended the season: a rotating team of six excavated for six weeks, after which two or three continued (with some short breaks) to dig and record over the following ten weeks.

The long season was also due to this area turning out to contain particularly concentrated and complex archaeology; possibly because we were for the first time entirely on the flat top of the promontory. (See earlier Bulletin reports for location and previous results). We uncovered seven/eight buildings or part-buildings, four pits of which three were tree-throws, two hearths, two/three eaves-drip gullies, and three fence-lines. 550 postholes were excavated, and others seen (or suspected) but not dug.

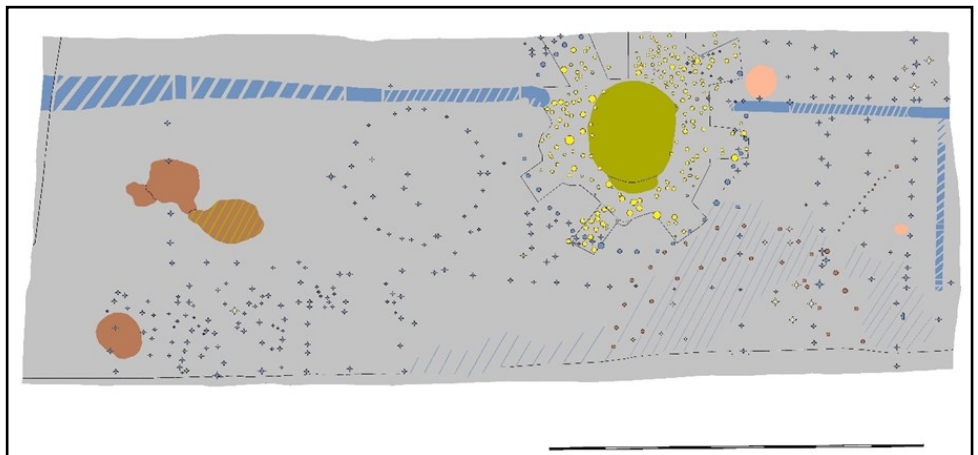


Figure 1: plan of T28. The scale shows 2m divisions.

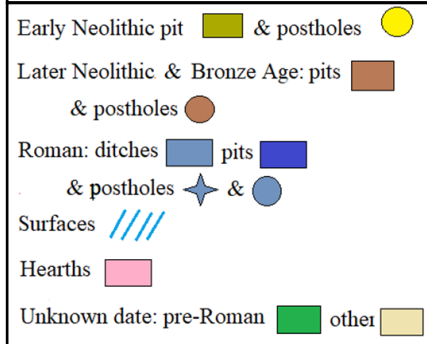


Figure 2: key for figures 1, 3, 5 & 6.

A shallow circular feature of very burnt ironstone about 1.3m in diameter was probably a hearth, although very little charcoal was found (in Fig 1 it is pink and towards the NE corner of the trench). The charcoal was C14 dated to AD 591-660; this is the only certainly Saxon feature found to date. More burnt ironstone was found in the area above and around the feature.

The trenches to the south of T28 had uncovered a number of post-built Roman buildings and courtyard surfaces, together with fences and other boundaries, adding up to several phases

of farm or other working buildings. As expected, these continued into T28. Here, however, (presumably due to greater erosion of the hilltop) plough damage had gone deeper into the buildings and, unlike further south, there was nothing remaining of floors and only shallow remains of sub-floors.

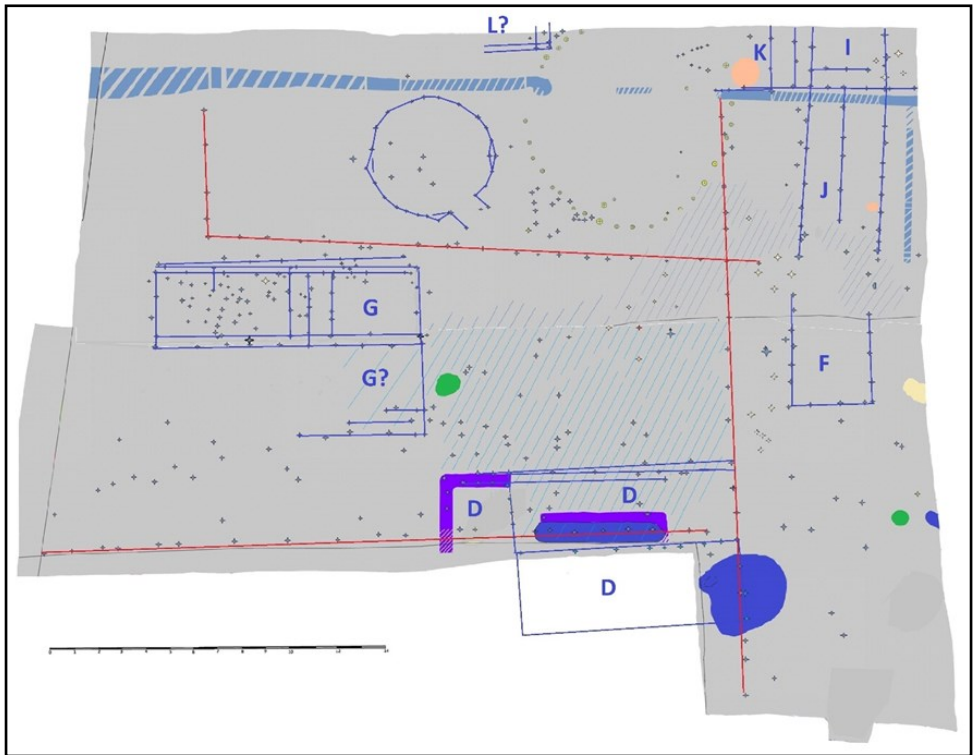


Figure 3: Roman features in T25 and T28. Red lines connect fence postholes, blue lines building postholes.

Fig 3 shows these features in T28 and T25 (to the south of T28). It is obvious from the plans that most of the buildings seem to be built on similar designs; they are all about 3.5m wide, although of very varying lengths. Does this tell us something about woodland management at the time? Some buildings have two rooms of this width side by side (D and the eastern part of G). Also, clearly, many of the buildings have several phases with successive walls in virtually the same position (see especially the north walls of buildings G and D). There are also internal divisions and features, which included a curious V-shape of substantial postholes within building G. A similar feature was seen to the west of building K, but of much smaller postholes. Their function is not known – any suggestions are welcome.

The buildings to the south of T25 did not fit the 3.5m pattern; they were far more varied in size and building-style. This also applies to the postholes in the buildings' construction, which were more uniform in size and shape in the more northerly buildings. This may mean that the buildings are of different dates or that they had different uses (or both).

Building J had an eaves-drip gully (striped blue in Figs 1 and 3). It was about 1.2m from the (long) east wall, a distance that suggests that the building was thatched. There was no gully on the west side; here stones had been laid to form a (now very disturbed) courtyard surface. There was a small internal hearth close to J's east wall (pink in Figs). Another eaves-drip gully was found south of I (and/or K). It was within J, so whatever building the gully belonged to was not contemporary with J, but there was no indication which came first. This area was confused not only by the Saxon hearth, but also by a square of four

posts with overlying charcoal near the NE corner of the trench. One of these posts was (surprisingly) C14 dated AD 1722-1814. It is hoped that excavation to the north here will help in understanding buildings I, K and L.



Figure 4: overhead photograph of roundhouse 2, south at top. Note larger and better-packed doorposts, and the two porch postholes. The internal postholes were similar in style to the wall-postholes: their use is unknown.

Fig 4 shows roundhouse 2 (also visible on Fig 3), which was 5m in diameter. The packing of these posts showed that the building was Roman as it contained tile and Roman pottery. The roundhouse is presumably early in the sequence of Roman buildings. The posts were small, only 9-14cms in diameter; the two doorposts were a little larger and much more strongly packed.

T28 also contained the northern half of roundhouse 1. This was double-walled, with the outer wall having a diameter of 9.5m. Many of these posts were in an area of exceptionally hard and thick ironpan, and the builders had clearly found it difficult to break into. The postholes were often very shallow, slightly out of line, or with alternative or extra posts nearby. As with the postholes seen in T25, there was nothing (no organics) to definitively date the building; however a few contained flint-tempered pottery in either fill or packing, and more had struck flint. In some cases flint blades or flakes were lying vertically as if

they had been placed against the post. No Iron Age pottery was found within or over the roundhouse (and no Roman or later finds in any posthole). It is therefore thought that the building is almost certainly Bronze Age.

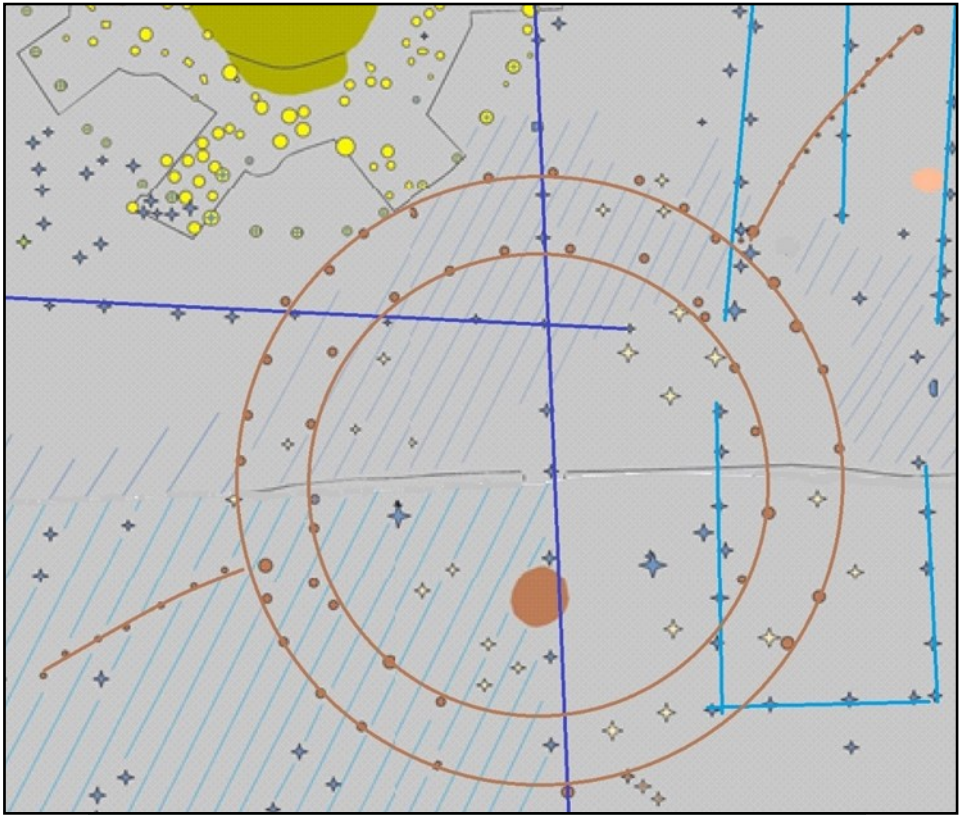


Figure 5: plan of roundhouse 1. The thin horizontal black line is the division between Ts25 & 28.

Evidently associated with this building was a curving line of very small posts about 15-30cms apart, running NE from the outer wall. This wattle fence terminated in a rather larger post. A similar line was seen in T25, though here the posts were a little larger and further apart. Presumably these fences divided the area around the roundhouse into sections used for different purposes.

Three tree-throws were found in the western half of the trench (brown irregular shapes in Fig 1). All had Roman material in their top 10cm or so, but none below, suggesting that they were pre-Roman in date. The one beneath building G and the western one of the pair to the north of G were quite shallow; the first had few finds in its lower fill, but the second held a considerable amount of flint, both struck and not. The other, the eastern one of the pair north of G, contained 26 sherds (137gms) of prehistoric pottery, as well as some struck flint. The pottery has not yet been examined in detail, but it is probably all Neolithic. There was one small piece of charcoal, C14 dated to be post-Mediaeval. The lack of any Roman material in the lower fills, combined with its presence throughout the upper fills, means that it is thought that this charcoal must be intrusive, and this tree, like the others, dates to the prehistoric.

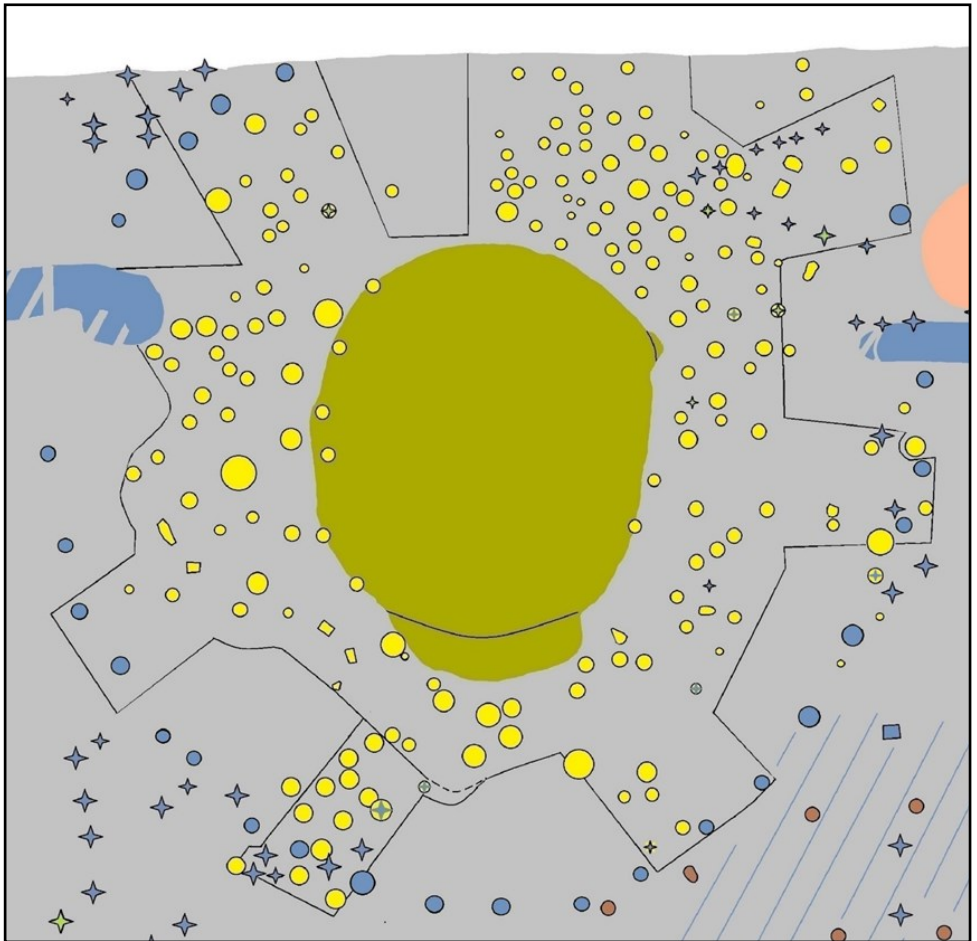


Figure 6: plan of the Early Neolithic features (the 'Abinger Anomaly')

The magnetometry had told us that there was a major pit in T28: it is the olive-green oval in the Figs. As everywhere in the trench, Roman material was found in its upper layers, but beneath that the only finds were flint-tempered pottery and struck flint. The pit was 4x3.4m in plan and 1m in depth. Its fills were lenses of finds-free natural and a much darker, finer-grained probably hearth-derived material. This contained small pieces of charcoal and one from the base of the pit was C14 dated 3811-3701 BC. This Early Neolithic date matched the pottery, which was Plain Bowls, and the flints, which included a laurel-leaf. In total, there were 135 sherds (625gm) of pottery from the pit fills.

Around the pit was a zone of closely-packed postholes (yellow circles in Figs); more pottery and flints of the same types were found here. 182 postholes were excavated belonging to this feature in 7 radial slots; evidently there must have been more in the areas between the slots. The area around the pit had been lowered to a horizontal surface before the posts were placed, and the postholes were usually not apparent until this surface had been reached. The slots and other areas dug to this surface's level are edged with black lines in Fig 6. For many reasons which I will not go into here, as it involves

complicated and detailed arguments, it seems certain that these postholes and various features associated with them are the same date as the pit. Postholes and pit have been christened the 'Abinger Anomaly' as a convenient way of referring to them.



Figure 7: 'laurel-leaf' from pit-fill. Nearly all the flints found had broken tips.

About 2.5m out from the pit-edge was a ring of posts that were visible at a higher level (blue circles in Figs 1 and 6). Many of these contained Roman material. The implication is that the Abinger Anomaly was still visible in Roman times, 3,600 years or so after it was created. I think that the most probable explanation is that the whole feature was covered with a mound; the posts' function may have been to support the material forming the mound, which if taken from the area surrounding the Anomaly would have been loose sand and small pieces of ironpan. If unsupported, this would have washed away in no time.

The implications of this idea are important and potentially change our ideas of the site as a whole. A mound on this prominent point of the landscape could explain why people kept returning to this point. To remind you: we have pits C14 dated 3106-2917 BC, 2496-2338 BC, 1893-1741 BC, and a probable cremation 1005-840 BC. There is also the probably Bronze Age roundhouse 1. The Iron Age enclosures and pits have not had much C14 dating, but the earliest date for a pit-fill is 549-401 BC, and pottery suggests that there may well have been continuous occupation from then (and very possibly before) right through the Iron Age and Roman Britain. The Saxon date of the T28 hearth, and an earlier



Figure 8: overhead photograph of the Abinger Anomaly. South at the top.

find of Saxon pottery probably associated with an area of stones, now suggests that occupation continued into the early Mediaeval period, while the find of two coins of Stephen in the lynchet shows that the field was still in use then, even though there were apparently never any buildings on the promontory in the Mediaeval or at later dates.

Many thanks are due to the hard-working and enthusiastic team on site, and also to the finds team who had to work largely 'blind' with no communication between them and the digging team. While I am grateful to everyone I must mention especially Elvin Mullinger, who not only drew an extraordinary number of cross-sections of postholes, but then digitised them, the pit-sections and the main Anomaly plan. John Felton also digitised plans. Nikki Cowlard as usual managed the logistics with great efficiency. David Calow turned up for weeks on end and excavated hundreds of postholes (31 in one day was the record – I couldn't keep up with the recording). Jon Cotton provided invaluable expertise and encouragement (and named the Abinger Anomaly). Due to Covid restrictions, very little post-excavation work on the finds has been possible; it is hoped that we may be able to start to catch up with this over the next few months.

Cocks Farm Abinger fieldwork 2021

A month's excavation at Cocks Farm Abinger is planned to take place again this year between 26 July and 24 August. Depending on Covid restrictions, we hope to have places for approximately 20 diggers and a finds team. Spaces will be limited, and priority will be given to Society members. Please email Nikki Cowlard (nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com), Volunteer Co-ordinator, to express interest.

A Roman well in Mitcham

David Bird

I have been pursuing completion of a report on an excavation at a site known as Mitcham Grove and gathering information relevant to its earlier history with much assistance from Peter Hopkins and Christine Pittman. The site is adjacent to the western side of Mitcham Bridge and the well-known Anglo-Saxon cemetery is nearby to the north. Somewhere in the general area is a suggested Roman 'posting station' usually said to be at Merton (Bidder and Morris 1959, 51-2; Bird 2004, 43). I had not previously registered the reference to a Roman well in Mitcham (Bidder and Morris 1959, 52), which is of interest not only for its own sake but also for its implications.

Thanks to Christine's tenacity we can add very useful details from the *Croydon Advertiser* for 1882, in the form of a letter dated 4 July 1882, sent by Robert Garraway Rice from 'Bramley Hill, Croydon, Surrey' (cutting in the Merton Local Studies Centre; LP74, shelved at L2(283)MIT "1883"). Under the heading 'An interesting discovery at Mitcham', Garraway Rice offered 'notes respecting the discovery of an ancient earthen vessel, etc., on the premises of the Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Light and Coke Company, at Mitcham'. 'Hearing that an urn of black ware had been discovered, enclosed within oak planks and several feet beneath the surface', he visited and gathered information from the secretary and manager of the company, one Benjamin Green.

He discovered that men excavating a tank for a large gasholder had 'found in the clay, about 20 feet from the surface, some rough oak planks forming an enclosure filled with clay and within it was the earthen [sic] vessel above-named, which Mr Green was fortunate enough to secure ... It is said that the bones and skull of a dog, and the horns of a goat were found with the vessel, but these were unfortunately thrown away. The oak planks (ten in number) are in a fairly good state of preservation, and measure about 3 feet 6 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 2½ inches in thickness, and they are halved out at each end in the shape of the letter L, evidently for fitting into one another, and thus forming a square wooden chest or cist'. Garraway Rice was expecting from the original description that the pot might be a cinerary urn in a burial cist, but having seen the planks he was 'inclined to think that the planks once formed part of the steining of an ancient well, long since filled up – which derived its supply of water, as do other old wells in the parish, from the gravel above the clay'.

Garraway Rice at first thought the pot was Roman but eventually settled on mid-17th century because of the condition of the wood, 'although I must at the same time admit that the vessel has many characteristics of the Upchurch ware of the Roman period'. In his letter he described the pot as complete, 'it having received no other damage than two small holes made by the workman's pick' and 'two small pieces broken off the rim'. 'The vessel is made of a very hard and highly burnt dark slaty-coloured clay; it is unglazed, and resembles on the surface the modern blue Staffordshire paving bricks. It is of spherical shape but flat at the bottom, and measures 10¼ inches in height, and 10½ inches at the widest part. The aperture at the top, which is about 3 inches across, terminates in a rim, measuring 4¾ inches extreme diameter... It has been carefully "thrown" on the wheel, the marks of the turning, especially near the top, being clearly visible; the thickness throughout is about a ¼ of an inch'. It was 'entirely devoid of ornamentation'.

This sparked a response from one J Harwood (of 5, Broad-green [sic], Croydon), dated 8 July 1882, saying that he had 'inspected the articles found; the vase is a fine specimen of the Romano-British Upchurch (Kent) Pottery, having all the characteristics of this well-known ware, combining great elegance of form with excellence of potting, and, in addition, having the peculiar grey-black colour produced by its being "fired" in a smother-kiln'. He added that 'The planks were very probably the lining of an ancient well, and as they were

discovered at a depth of 20 feet embedded in the stiff London clay, which, I am informed, formed a compact mass *above* them, they may have been in their late position for many centuries, as the clay resists the entrance of air and water, the two agents of change.' (J Harwood is not a name known to me but he clearly had some knowledge of Romano-British archaeology. It would be interesting to know more about him; perhaps he was related to the W R Harwood who was the Society's local secretary for Mitcham around 1882 according to *Collections* volume 8 (1883)).

It should be noted that Garraway Rice is to be trusted in terms of his record, as the very nature of his letter indicates. The late Eric Montague demonstrated that he had a strong Mitcham connection and described him as 'an enthusiastic and knowledgeable antiquarian, and member of both Surrey and Sussex Archaeological Societies' (Montague 2005, 86-8; I owe this reference to Peter Hopkins). Garraway Rice evidently accepted in due course that the vessel was Roman (as shown by a letter of 1921 (Bidder and Morris 1959, 52)) and in 1933 he bequeathed it to the British Museum.

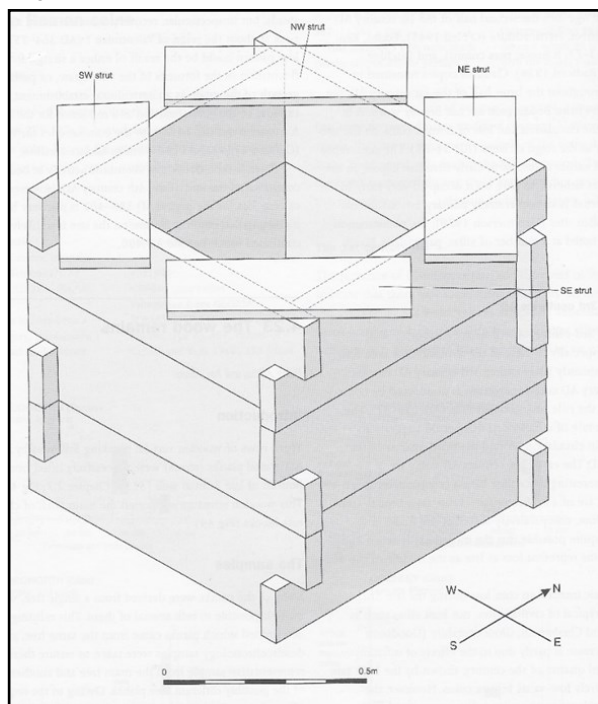


British Museum on-line catalogue (1933.0406.164) of pottery vessel from Mitcham bequeathed by Robert Garraway Rice.

The pot is not easy to parallel exactly from the usual sources. I consulted Paul Tyers who thought a date in the earlier Roman period was likely and noted (from the photograph) a similarity to a vessel from Ospringe (Pollard 1988, 143), although that vessel has a neck cordon, as do others that are similar. He also pointed out that the 'two small holes made

by the workman's pick' in the original report could be deliberate and ancient and reminded me of a relevant paper by Mike Fulford and Jane Timby (2001). They note many examples of complete pots with deliberate piercings; in their survey, jars were most frequent at Silchester (42%) and very often came from wells or pits. It is interesting that the examples they illustrate (*ibid*, pls 9-10) include several pots rather similar to the Mitcham vessel in being globular. They discuss a variety of explanations as well as the usual ritual one and make a strong argument that considerable care is needed to create a hole after firing without breaking the pot (*ibid*, 296). It is reasonable to accept that a workman's pick would have shattered the Mitcham pot rather than making two small holes, so deliberate piercing in the Roman period must be the most likely explanation.

It also seems likely that Ralph Merrifield's ritual of termination (1987, 48-50) remains the best explanation in the Mitcham case, especially in view of the dog skull and bones and the 'horns of a goat'. Dogs are very common finds in these circumstances. Given the known association of dogs and antlers in some local placed deposits (Bird 2008, 79-80), might the 'horns' have been pieces of antler in fact?



Reconstruction of the Beddington well (from Adkins and Adkins 2005)

A well at the Beddington villa (Howell 2005, 42-4) had complete and semi-complete pots and a horse's skull in the lower fill. That well had three courses of timber found in situ at the bottom and then a round stone-built structure above. The timber structure matches Garraway Rice's description of the Mitcham well more or less exactly, and the Beddington well was also cut into clay underlying the gravel. It was apparently not as deep – 2.91m, so perhaps about 10 feet, although the Mitcham depth may have been exaggerated. Interestingly, the fill included clay 'similar to that from the bottom of the well pit'.

The well at Mitcham could be very significant in terms of understanding the nature of the associated settlement. Very similar wells are also known in Southwark and at Culver (eg Bird 2004, 68, fig 26 and Millum

2018, 78-82). The oak frame at the latter site seems to have been set on some large blocks at the very bottom and a circular stone lining rested on the planks, as at Beddington. The dimensions of the frame were probably similar in all of these cases (the scale on Millum 2018, fig 7.19 is surely a mistake). This other evidence suggests that there should have been a stone lining above the box frame at Mitcham. It is unlikely that this was not noticed by the workmen if it was present, so given that the area lacks building stone, could it be that the well was robbed of its lining when it went out of use? It may be noted that the upper levels of the lining at Culver were apparently removed by stone robbers (Millum 2018, 79).

It seems that wells of this type are more likely to have been associated with higher status 'Roman' settlements, such as the examples noted above. Given the interest shown by those involved in the Mitcham find we might be able to rule out a villa; Garraway Rice would have picked up any hint of a stone-founded building nearby. A well in a roadside settlement would seem more likely, especially as we know that most buildings in such settlements in our area are likely to have been surface-built wooden structures without



Roman well at 117-138 Borough High Street Southwark. Photograph courtesy of Pre-Construct Archaeology.

tiled roofs, leaving little archaeological trace (Bird 2004, 67-8). This is true later on even in Southwark: 'The extent of settlement indicated by proxies such as coin evidence, pottery and burials of a late date ... is simply not matched in the structural evidence for buildings encountered archaeologically' (Ridgeway et al 2019, 191; cf 169, 175). Although there should still be pits and pottery scatters these were rarely recorded until recently, unless there happened to be an antiquary present (thus Colonel Bidder is our only source for many of the local finds in Mitcham and note in Garraway Rice's letter that 'Mr Green was fortunate enough to secure' the pot). It is noteworthy that several of the roadside settlements now being found are in areas that are just fields (eg Flexford and Culver), and these sites are only being understood because of geophysical survey. Actual excavation would only give a good enough picture over a long period of time.

Perhaps therefore we should be looking for the roadside settlement in this area. There are scraps of rather limited evidence (most of them noted in Miller and Saxby 2007, 10-11). This includes ditches, burials, pottery and a perhaps significant number of coins (500-600 ranging across the Roman period), with a few extra discoveries of residual Roman pottery (including at Mitcham Grove). Three inhumations at Short Batsworth, east of the current course of the Wandle, have recently been published (Montague 2017), but a nearby set of 12 unfortunately have not. They are about 700m to the south of Merton Priory (sites 10 and 11 on the useful map in Miller and Saxby 2007, 10) and maybe 500m west of the well. An area with more than ten inhumations is noteworthy as they are in general not common in Surrey and burial groups are rare. They might well be taken to imply the presence of a larger settlement.

We might note that the main course of the Wandle should have been well to the west at this time, cutting outwards along the outside of the great bend (see Miller and Saxby 2007, 10). That could place most of the known finds to the east of the Roman-period river, at least of its principal course. We might also note that the site inside the bend calls to mind places like Alfoldean and Culver (where there are several river crossings). A 'Blacklands' field name may also imply the former presence of a long-lasting settlement (Montague 2008, 3) and we also have the clue of the place-name Wicford, which Gelling is happy to accept as one of her 'Wickham'-type names, derived from a (Roman-period) *vicus* site (1997, 247; but see Hopkins 2020, 10-11). There is even a hint at a bath-house from finds of 'Roman brick, tile, wall plaster, [and] *opus signinum* ...' in later features at Merton Priory (which site could have been east of the main river at this time), and a ditch with 2nd-3rd century pottery that might hint at an enclosure like those at Hardham and Alfoldean on

Stane Street to the south, and at Culver (Montague 2008, 144).

This speculation also raises interesting thoughts about the proximity of the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (with its Roman objects) and the course of Stane Street, strangely absent from the results of the Merton Priory excavations. As Saxby puts it 'The road is *projected* to continue in a straight line under the site of the medieval Merton Priory and thence on to Morden (Saxby 2008, 334, my italics).

Although this must all be speculative, it is possible that our well might be an important clue to the location of a missing posting station. A more detailed treatment of this theme is planned as part of the publication of the Mitcham Grove excavation.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful for assistance on the local information from Christine Pittman and Peter Hopkins, and Paul Tyers for advice on the pottery vessel.

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Pottery from a Romano-British iron production site in Busbridge excavated in 1947

Judie English

Creation of a drive and garden to a new house, Badger's Rake, in 1947 located a scatter of Romano-British pottery and led to an excavation by Dr Nichols, then honorary curator of Godalming Museum, and George Inwood (Anon 1949). Finds from the excavation, only it would appear the 'best bits', were deposited in Godalming Museum and are entered on the Surrey Heritage and Environmental Record (SHHER) including Bronze Age pottery (SHHER 2223), 'iron cinder' (SHHER 2224) and 1st to 4th century Romano-British pottery (SHHER 1797). After the excavation Mr Inwood returned to the site and collected further pottery which, together with his notebooks, was recovered after his demise by Sue and John Janaway. This archive has been published (English 2019) and the aim of this note is to provide identifications, undertaken by members of the Roman Studies Group, of the sherds, all of which are rims unless stated otherwise, which were deposited at the time of the excavation. Only two trenches are mentioned in George Inwood's notebook, A and B; the contexts may relate to these trenches but that is not certain. The first accession number given is on green paper labels and the second is inked on the individual sherds.

No Bronze Age pottery was seen, but three worked flints – (237, B980.349), (231, B980.553.2) and (B980.553.1) and a single piece of calcined flint (233, B980.203) were recovered. The 'iron cinder' comprises 452g smelting (tap) slag and a piece of heavily slagged bloomery furnace lining.

No (1)	No (2)	Context	Fabric	Form code	Date range	Weight (g)	Comments
235		D	CBM				2 pieces
235		D				2	Quartz, grog tempered rim
239	B980.338		SAND	2V	43-400	71	
240	B980.550	F	CBM			119	Possible Late RB tile
243	B980.155	D	OXID	4//5	43-400	15	Base
244	B980.340		AHFA	2	250-400	16	Cordon
245	B980.303		AHFA	2	250-400	19	Combed, white slip
247	B980.174	D	SAND	2	43-400	22	
248	B980.140	D	AHFA	2T	250-400	45	
249	B980.161	B	AHFA	4M	250-400	62	
250	B980.139	B	GROG	4M	250-400	23	
251	B980.310	B	PORD	2W	300-400	44	
252	B980.175	C	GROG	Jar	50BC-400	57	
254		B	SAND	7	43-400	75	
255	B980.550.1	B	SAND		43-400	25	Base
256	B980.322	A	PMR		1580-1900	137	Base
257	B980.282		AH	9H	43-400	22	Sieve base

259	B980.107		OXID	4	43-400	4	OXRC?
263	B980.163	C	OXID	2	43-400	29	
264	B980.224	B	SAND	5J	43-400	37	AH? White slip
1849	B980.154	D	SAND	9H	43-400	34	5 sherds - sieve
Unlabelled	B980.165	A	SAND		43-400	11	
Unlabelled	B980.376.6	C	AHSU	5J	43-160	34	
Unlabelled		B	FINE	4H	120-300	10	
Unlabelled		B	AHFA	4M	250-400	11	

Table abbreviations: PORD – Porchester D, OXID – oxidised ware, SAND – sand tempered, GROG – grog-tempered ware, AHFA - Alice Holt Farnham, AHSU – Alice Holt Surrey, OXSU – oxidised Surrey, OXRC – Oxfordshire Red Coated ware

Surrey's palimpsest of historic road patterns: north-south roads by Reigate. Part I – Routes north out of Reigate

Jan Burbridge

In response to Gavin Smith's interesting article in *SyAS Bulletin* 484, I would add a few comments. Being a resident of Reigate, I am in the fortunate position of still being able to 'gad-about' locally. As part of a project, I have looked into the deep history and prehistory of Banstead and its wider setting in Surrey. I have walked the hollowed Fort Lane south from the J8 M25 roundabout towards the 19th century fort, and its continuation south down Reigate Hill which parallels the modern road, but which was once its predecessor. Old maps make clear that this southerly route was the continuation of Chipstead High Road/Blackhorse Lane which, prior to the construction of the motorway, was not diverted but ran straight across the 'roundabout' and continued as Fort Lane. Where it crossed the turnpike (A217), there used to be a pub: the Black Horse, from which the modern lane takes its name.¹ This route is almost certainly the Reigate to Croydon Road referenced. An alternative section, perhaps stimulated by stone-quarrying, now forms the footpath along the base of Quarry Hill, curving up to form the top part of Wray Lane. Both were superseded by the present main road which lies between the two, formed as part of the turnpike developments of 1755,² and which gave us the present A217. A new stretch was 'punched' through from the top of Reigate Hill to Lower Kingswood, which pretty much ignores older field boundaries and tracks.

However, to return to the alignment north of the M25 roundabout I would draw attention to the map of potential pre-historic land divisions which Blair proposes (see below).³ The alignment north from the Junction 8 roundabout over the M25 on Reigate Hill which Gavin mentions is identified by Blair as a possible pre-historic land boundary, continuing southwards down the rough alignment of Wray Lane, and northwards through the 'Canons' area of Banstead, and ultimately flanking Kingston to its east. It is possible to see from old maps how much of this route ran through land which was quite 'liminal': scrub, heath and late enclosure – in fact much of it still does – rather than linking significant centres. I used to take the bus to school in Reigate in the days before the M25 was built, and approached Reigate Hill on the A217 from the north. At a point about where the lorry lay-by on the left presently sits, the road did a slight 'wiggle' as it traversed what must once have been a substantial bank – substantial enough that the road-builders had not sufficiently flattened



Pond and track marking the probable Hundredal boundary alignment at Gatwick Farm, high on the downs north of Reigate Hill (left), and the 'wiggles' where the A217 traversed a substantial bank (right)

it, and the bus took a great lurch, which we school children rather enjoyed.

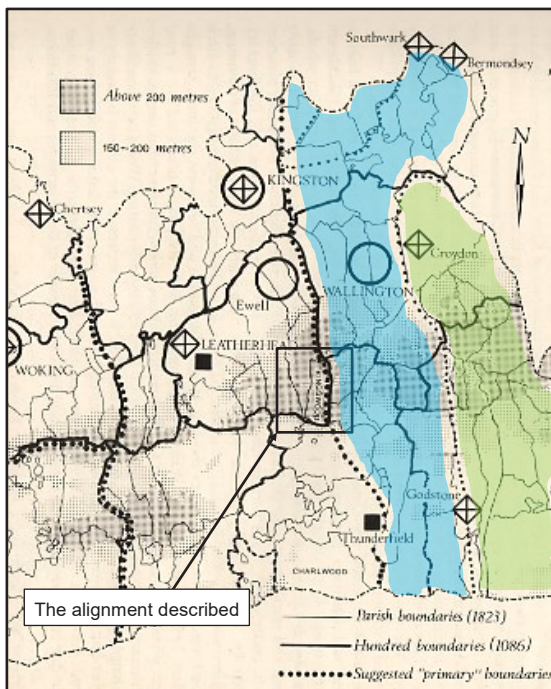
I have walked the full length of this alignment north from the M25, up past the Well House pub into Kingswood and Canons. There is nothing about it which provides clues that it was once a route-way of particular significance – no raised causeway or 'agger', and no particular wear or hollowing either, except a very short section leading down a steep incline to the Well House pub. Green Lane is a suggestive name, but no part of it perfectly tracks the alignment, though a section is very close. Hooper, in his description of the turnpike Act of 1755, does make mention of improvement of the road from *Sutton* to Reigate; this must surely have been a precursor for the A217 and the alignment in question, or at least the part which may coincide with Potters Lane, Banstead (the A217 from Banstead crossroads to Tattenham Way) may well be a candidate.

However, it does seem likely that the alignment was more significant as a boundary than a major route. Local 'boundary' names can be identified; 'Chipstead' and 'Chiphouse' denote a market, frequently held at boundaries, as were their associated fairs. Just east of the alignment is 'Fairfield' and 'Fair Lane'. To the north, the 'Canons' area just south of Banstead contains one of the oldest names recorded in the area – Summerfield, or 'Suthemeresfelda' in a charter of purportedly c.727 (though mostly fabricated in its surviving form) – which may mean 'south-boundary-field'. On its east was 'Markfurlong Lane'⁴ – 'mer' and 'mark' being boundary words.

At some very early point in the life of the church (perhaps late 7th/early 8th century) Blair postulates a possible 'lost' archiepiscopal estate at Croydon, a possession of Canterbury with the estate carved out in the border lands between Kent and Surrey, and with the kingdom/county boundary lying at some times to the east of it and at some times to the west, although he stresses the paucity of information. The eastern part of Banstead was still within Wallington/Croydon Hundred at Domesday, and this may reflect the enduring influence of an ancient period of administrative inclusion within the possessions of Croydon (perhaps even a Roman estate). It is therefore possible that during the formation of the earliest Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, the 'Kentish' control of territory may, at times, have pushed as far west as the alignment in question. It was almost certainly the Hundredal boundary of Copthorne, and it remains the parish boundary between Kingswood and Chipstead/Gatton. This does not of course, preclude it from being a route-way as well;

many Roman and other era roads have also been used as boundaries. However, it does not betray any characteristics which suggest it as a candidate for the main road to Kingston for a period of any duration. It is also worth stressing the absolute obscurity of the Kingswood hunting estate up until early modern times, with no evidence for centres stimulated by a major routeway.

With regard to the Kingston Road, I would propose the most likely candidate to be that also mentioned by Gavin Smith: the route up Colley Hill (once known locally as Kingston Hill⁵). I would contend that it began life as what is now Nutley Lane, (though meandering via Underhill Park Road and holloways still showing on the Victorian maps as elongated depressions) commencing directly from the heart of the medieval market place of Reigate. This route continued as Gavin's 'chalk path', up Kingston Hill (Colley Hill), along the ridge for a short distance west. Then, rather than venturing in the direction of Burgh Heath, I would suggest it followed the western boundary of Banstead Parish across Walton Heath to Walton on the Hill (thus taking in both of Walton's Roman Villa sites), and thence, via Tattenham Corner and Longdown Lane to the Kingston Road at Ewell. It is worth quoting Wilfred Hooper: "Another route [he has just described the road to Croydon] led off by Nutley Lane and Colley Hill, or Kingston Hill as it was formerly called, across Walton heath. Each of the two last routes involved a steep climb by a narrow deep-sunk track up the face of the Hill, which must have been impassable for wheeled traffic though, according to Glover, they were used as ways to Croydon and Kingston until the road up Reigate Hill was turnpiked."



Blair's prehistoric land division of Surrey (dotted lines), plus estates (blue and green) perhaps once part of Kent.

The old Croydon Road would also have commenced at the centre of medieval Reigate, being the route of the present London Road/A217 north from the castle and joining the routeway we have already discussed. It is interesting to note that the barbican to Reigate Castle (entrance and armed guardhouse) is positioned to the north-west of the castle grounds, guarding the junction which represented the confluence of these two routes, rather than the market place or High Street route.

¹ Interestingly there is also a Black Horse Pub as one leaves Reigate going west, a quite ancient White Horse Pub to Reigate's east at Linkfield Street and a White Horse Pub leaving Reigate to the south at Woodhatch, as Gavin Smith mentions (latterly The Angel)

² Hooper, W. 1945, *Reigate; Its Story Through the Ages*, Ch. VI

³ Blair, J. 1991, *Early Medieval Surrey*

⁴ Now Holly Lane

⁵ W. Hooper, op.cit.

Mary Alexander's piece on 'St Catherine's Hill' (SyAS *Bull* 484) concludes that the hill may not be the ancient 'sacred place' we assumed it to be, and that Richard de Wauncey the vicar of St Nicholas in Guildford, perhaps built its hilltop chapel some time around 1300 to tap passing visitors or Shalford fair-goers for cash. Notwithstanding, on the basis of associated place-names and folklore, I suggest the opposite conclusion. This wider evidence seems to suggest a longer bout of cultural continuity. This interpretation appears to be in agreement with that of Michael Shapland of Archaeology South-East, in his excellent discussion of the cave shrine recently revealed at St Catherine's, and on the history of the hill as a fair site and arguably ancient meeting-place.¹

The place-name evidence

It is worth adding a few extra pieces of evidence, though they are admittedly inconclusive. *The Place-Names of Surrey*² cites from the Pipe Rolls *capella S' Katerine* (1202) and *capelle Sancte Caterine* (1230), which if referring to St Catherine's Hill would mean de Wauncey rebuilt an existing chapel here; however, David Calow³ argues that these references are to a chapel within the castle at Guildford. St Catherine's parish name Artington (*Erdinton*, 1172; *Hertindon*, 1191; *Erdington*, 1279; 1336; *Herdyndon*, 1336; *Ertynndon*, 1356; etc.) might be a rare early *-inga-dun* name of the type arguably found in Surrey only³, at Chessington (*Chissendon*, 1129-35; *Chessingdone*, 1279; etc.), Tillingdown (*Tillyngedon*, 1296-1300; etc.) in Tandridge parish, and an apparently identical *Hartingdon* (*Hertindon*, 1206; *Hurtyngdon*, 1252; etc.) which was a manor in Kingston upon Thames on rising ground by Coombe.⁴ Conceivably this is '(religious)? community on the hill', equivalent to the 7th-century 'oratory' of *Osingadun* cited by Bede in his *Life* of St Cuthbert. If so, the prefix might be *heort/heorot*, 'hart, stag', arguably a totemic indicator which recurs in some early religious names including Hartlepool (*Heruteu*, Bede; *Herterpol*, c.1180).⁵ Such thoughts would be in conformity with Shapland's notion of an extant pagan site, Christianised. This is an attractive model, though it has to be said that the very variable place-name evidence for each of the cited names is ambiguous: Artington for example may not have had an initial 'h', nor a linking '-inga-'.

Both Michael and Mary further mention the associated name 'Drakehill (Dragon Hill)'. *Drakehull* (1318) and *Drakhulle otherwise cauled Katheryn hill* (1521) likewise are cited in *The Place-Names of Surrey*. The latter authority agrees with the interpretation 'dragon', cross-referencing Dragberry Field (*Drakebergh*, 1384) in Merstham and Drakelow (*Dracan hlawen*, 942, 'the dragon's mound') in Worcestershire. Michael cites the modified Dragon's Hill beside Uffington White Horse. These possible parallels do suggest shared origins in pagan late Antiquity at the latest. *Beorg* and *hlaw*, both usually 'barrow', imply cultural significance.

Folklore

Dragons combined with a medieval hill-top chapel might suggest continuity from pagan hill-top worship. However, talk of dragons unavoidably brings to mind 'folklore'. There seem to be two or three stances regarding folklore, a subject otherwise avoided by most modern scholarship. Either one assumes it is 'ancient', 'pagan' and to do with our remote 'folk' (one thereby risks being labelled a sentimentalist); or it is all Victorian romanticism anyway; or one takes the view expounded by historian Ronald Hutton⁶ that the puritan Commonwealth finally killed off any lingering Catholicism, and that our few bits of 'surviving' folklore, folkdance and ceremonies are an invention of the late 17th-century Royalist revival. This last perspective lacks logic. It is unlikely puritanism achieved a clean sweep amongst 'the folk'; secondly, there would have been old folk who remembered the

the old ceremonies; thirdly, any late 17th-century updating is likely to have been based at least loosely upon an original.

John Aubrey, ‘the first English archaeologist’ – perhaps also the first anthropologist – who passed this way in 1673-4, a decade after the Commonwealth ended, cited folklore associated with St Catherine’s.⁷ He reports a local legend that sister giantesses astride respectively St Martha’s and St Catherine’s hills threw their hammer to each other whilst about their building chapels on each hill-top. Does this imply ancient hill-top structures? Or is it all nonsense? One does not have to believe in champion sisters, however, to think that perhaps Surrey folk regarded the two hills as special. It comes as no particular surprise then that a fair used to be held on St Catherine’s Hill, and that it was the custom ‘lost in the obscurity of time’ that ‘youths and maidens’ met on St Martha’s Hill on Good Friday and ‘indulged in music and boisterous dancing’ (*The Times*, 18 April, 1870).⁸ The question is: why on St Catherine’s and St Martha’s hills? Cultural continuity from ancient paganism is not a ridiculous possibility.

Paganism

Mary appears to accept that St Martha’s Hill probably was a pagan site adapted to Christianity. In practice, both St Catherine’s and St Martha’s show evidence of Bronze Age occupation.⁹ That St Martha’s isolated hill-top church (*S.Marthe*, 1224; *Momarte extra Gildeford*, 1273; *Seynt Martha in Martyr hill*, 1510; etc.) is ancient is suggested by its otherwise unique medieval dedication: arguably either ‘martyr’, or else Welsh *merthyr* as used in churches housing relics, of similar meaning.¹⁰ Equally, by its adjacent farm Tyting, whose unsuffixed *-ingas* name I interpret elsewhere as associated with mid-7th-century ‘royal’ proto-minsters at the heart of proto-hundreds (in this instance conceivably the fore-runner of the Guildford extra-hundredal area).¹¹ Woods (see note 8) reports a 6th-century pot found atop St Martha’s Hill. Manning & Bray cite a record of 1463 mentioning ‘pilgrims’ to the church of St Marth’s.¹²



A final thought then, on changing fortunes: our picture shows the sad state of St Martha’s in 1785. The St Martha’s we know and love today is, to quote Nairn & Pevsner¹³, ‘almost rebuilt by Woodyer in 1848-50, using the old materials where possible ... very impressive’. St Catherine’s chapel, by contrast, is today heading towards becoming a ‘dangerous structure’.

Marthas Hill, Surry, by RB Godfrey, published 1785

Notes

¹ Available on www.youtube.com under *Enter the dragon: Medieval Cave Shrine at St Catherine’s Hill with Michael Shapland*

² Gover, J.E.B, et al, 1934, *The Place-names of Surrey*, English Place-Name Society 11, p. 186

- ³ Calow, D, 207, 'St Catherine's chapel, Guildford', *SyAC* 100, pp. 1-30
- ⁴ *Place-Names of Surrey* (see note 2), pp. 62, 72, 184, 336 and (under *dun*) 342-3. On Hartington, see Manning, O. & Bray, W, 1804, *History and Antiquities of Surrey i*, p. 404; cited in *Victoria County History*, Surrey, vol. 3, pp. 501-16, footnote 92 (available at: www.british-history.ac.uk, *vch*, *surrey*).
- ⁵ Ekwall, E, 2000, *The Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names*, Oxford Press, p. 222
- ⁶ Hutton, R, 1994, *The Rise and Fall of Merry England: The ritual year 1400-1700*, Oxford
- ⁷ Aubrey, J, 1718, *The Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* (republished 1975, Kohler & Coombes, Dorking); cited in Parker, E, 1950, *Highways and Byways in Surrey*, Macmillan, p. 92
- ⁸ Cited in Winton, I, 1990, 'The earthworks on St Martha's Hill', *Caerdroia* 23, pp. 14-18
- ⁹ Bishop, MW 1971, 'The non-Belgic Iron Age in Surrey', *SyAC* 68, p.1-30. For St Martha's, see Woods, E.S., 1955, 'The earth circles on St Martha's Hill, near Guildford', *SyAC* 54, pp. 10-46.
- ¹⁰ As suggested by Morris, J, 1959, 'Anglo-Saxon Surrey, A gazetteer of Anglo-Saxon Surrey', *SyAC* 56, pp. 142-3
- ¹¹ Smith, G, 2008, '-ingas and the mid-seventh-century diocese', *Nomina* 31, pp. 67-88. Shapland's concept of Woking and Godalming as a pair of traditional folk areas of which St Catherine's was on the boundary, may be challenged; it follows John Blair (*Early Medieval Surrey*, Alan Sutton/SAS, pp. 12-13), but ignores the included -ingas sites Tyting, Eashing, *Bintungom* (Crooksbury) and *Getinges* (Cobham).
- ¹² Manning & Bray, *ii*, p. 119; cited in *Victoria County History*, Surrey, vol. 3, 1911, p. 106, footnote 40
- ¹³ Nairn, I & Pevsner, N, 1962, *The Buildings of England: Surrey*, Penguin, p. 135

Annual Symposium Summaries

Christine Pittman, Lyn Spencer, Martin Rose and Nigel Bond

This year the symposium was split over two half-days, as a result of being an online event.

The first presentation was from Dr Anne Sassin on the Kent LiDAR project. She discussed how the public can assist in the identification of areas of potential archaeological interest using the new web portal for archaeology in the Darent Valley. She provided an explanation of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology and explained the differences between the Digital Surface Model and the Digital Terrain Model. Hill Shade visualisation was also compared with Local Relief Modelling (LRM). The Kent Portal currently covers an area of 193km² using a resolution of 0.25m. The system is hosted in the Historic Environment Records Open System (HEROS), which is a data management system that holds both the LiDAR data and map data in layers. Each record has space for additional information and other images. The LiDAR images can reveal earthworks, quarries, settlements, and other features, but 'groundtruthing' is often required to confirm their interpretation. It is hoped that there will be a similar Surrey Portal in 2021 using Environmental Agency data.

Chris Taylor then spoke on the distribution of the Mesolithic adze/axe over Surrey's geology and their diversity in form. The Mesolithic was a time of great change – it became 10 degrees warmer, flora and fauna disappeared/appeared in response and Britain became an island. The adze/axe was a new implement, made from flint, and mounted on an antler, with a wooden sleeve. The 1977 gazetteer of Mesolithic adze/axe finds in Surrey has been updated with records from private collections, SyAS publications, museum accessions, PAS finds and HER. The distribution of finds, while relevant for

statistical analysis, can be subject to bias – hotspots become hotter as people return to look for more artefacts; sandy soil and wooded areas with dense undergrowth can create difficult visual backgrounds; private lands and agricultural and military areas are often inaccessible; and urban areas, once built over, no longer provide searchable ground. The concentration of finds has been matched to the geology of Surrey, which can be divided into the bands of alluvium gravels & sands (20%), Bagshot beds (11%), London clay (10%), chalk (10%), gault clay (2%), lower Greensand (16%) and Weald clay (19%). When mapped, these figures could represent locations of settlement and gatherings. Work has not yet been carried out on determining the source of the material used for the adzes/axes to compare this with find spots.

Dr Michael Shapland from Archaeology South East (ASE) described his work on the cave that was revealed by a landslide near Guildford. The feature on St Catherine's Hill was at the base of a twenty-foot sandstone cliff. Dr Shapland worked with Network Rail to access the cave. The feature was heavily eroded and may have been much larger and more elaborately carved in the past. It had niches carved into the rock and evidence of heavy sooting. Some of the features were modern but older marks included a Calvary Cross and a 'Marian' mark. The cave may well have been a medieval wayside shrine or hermitage. Dr Shapland discussed the wider landscape and mentioned other hermitages in England including Bridgenorth in Shropshire and Royston Cave in Hertfordshire. St Catherine's Hill is a prominent feature in the landscape and its role as a meeting place in the past was discussed.

The final talk on the first day was Catherine Ferguson on 'The call of the desert in medieval spirituality: hermits and anchoritism'. The idea of a life lived apart from society, spent in contemplation and prayer is common to all religions and cultures, and our words 'monk', 'hermit' and 'anchorite' all come derive from ancient Greek. However, there is a difference between the hermit's life lived alone and remote from others, and the life of an anchorite, whose role was well defined and who followed strict rules of behaviour and lived in an enclosure or cell, but still in contact with others. Information for researchers is scattered and sometimes difficult to read, and the intentions of some anchorites may have been misunderstood or mis-interpreted, so the numbers may be wildly inaccurate: in 1914, Clay suggested 1000 anchorites in 750 sites in the UK; in 1985, Warren said there were 780 anchorites in 601 sites; and in 2019 Jones thought numbers should be 50% more than Clay's figures.

It has been suggested that hermits were mostly male; they lived an unstructured life, were of a lower status in the community, even outsiders, worked alone and begged for food and other support. Anchorites may have been mostly female; they supported themselves and were therefore possibly from a higher social status, and required the Bishop's formal authorisation to follow strict guidelines, rites and rituals. There are churches in Surrey with signs of possible anchorite cells and squints in Dorking, Leatherhead, Compton, Shere and Sheen. Further building analysis and archaeology are needed to add to the research in written records. The Reformation brought an end to this way of life in the formal sense.

For Part 2, Emma Corke provided an update on the 2019 and 2020 (Covid safe) excavations at Cocks Farm, Abinger. Four trenches were opened over these two years. T26 and T27 focused on understanding the relationship of between various Medieval, Roman and Iron Age ditches. These provided useful clarification, but the main trenches were T25 (2019) and T28 (2020). The trenches were adjacent to each other and demonstrated the use of this site through much of pre-history and into the Roman and Saxon period. The most extensive features were parts of seven rectilinear Roman farm-yard building and a presumed early Roman roundhouse, along with associated fence posts and evidence of ploughed fields. However, there was also a large Early Neolithic pit

and associated post holes of varying sizes with what appeared to be a ring of Roman post holes around it. This suggests it may still have had some significance into the Roman period. The pit was dated to between 3811 and 3701 BC. In addition, a tree-throw produced Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware and separate pit within a later roundhouse including Later Neolithic Grooved Ware. The roundhouse was double ringed but had no dating material; it may have been Bronze or Iron Age. Perhaps the most surprising find was a Saxon hearth dated to 591-660 AD, the only evidence of some sort of Saxon occupation found in several years of excavation.

Rebecca Haslam, Project Officer at PCA, described evidence for structured deposition in pits and quarries found in 2015 at the Nescot College Animal Husbandry Centre in Ewell. Rebecca's talk focussed on the Roman and Middle Saxon period finds from this multi-period site. Earlier work has shown, during the Roman period, at least 22 'ritual shafts' and quarries were dug near the dip-slope spring line at Ewell. Many of these show evidence of selective deposition. The 2015 excavation added a further ten quarries. Quarry 1, a large chalk and flint quarry nearly 12m x 11m x 4.7m deep, is particularly noteworthy. It had been backfilled in three events during the late 1st to early 2nd century AD, the events separated by sufficient time for vegetation to grow between the successive layers of fill. The finds from the fills included coins, disarticulated human bone and substantial quantities of animal bone, mostly dog bone. There were also the 70% complete remains of an older woman above the first fill, which may have been curated for some time before burial. The smaller quarries were located close to the termini of ditches, one being a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age ditch recut in the Roman period. There were also Roman burials associated with the ditches and a Middle Saxon (6th century) burial in Quarry 3. Such liminal places, it seems, attracted quarrying, pitting, selective deposition and burials.

Professor Martin Bell presented his recent research on prehistoric and early historic routeways of the Weald and Downland in South East England. He argued that routeways, including waterways (both riverine and coastal) are an under-investigated area in archaeology. Our landscape is to a significant extent structured by movement of both people and animals. Regular repetitive movement through the landscape is an important part of our memory and is passed down through generations. Dating the origins of these routeways such as the South Downs Way or Pilgrims way is problematic. For example, the South Downs Way is a deeply incised holloway in some places and barely identifiable in others. Evidence of a Saxon cemetery at Alfriston on the junction of the South Downs Way and a north-South route suggests it was in use by this time, but there is little evidence for it being prehistoric in origin. Martin suggested the Thames was the main east-west routeway in prehistory rather than the various ridgeways. He argued that north-south droveways were particularly important both for communication and for transhumance, providing routes to move livestock to rich coastal salt marsh grazing in spring and summer, as well as providing routes through the North Downs to the Weald. There is evidence for this sort of transhumance from the Bronze Age, and therefore the routeways we see today, often as walking paths, are possibly of prehistoric origin. An important example is at Lyminge (Kent) where there is an Anglo-Saxon palace and monastery linked to deep holloways with lynchets on the upslope. One of these lynchets included Iron and Bronze Age pottery at the bottom, molluscs dated to the Roman period in the middle and Medieval evidence towards the top. This evidence was supported by dating. This demonstrates both the long use of the holloway and that it predated the Saxon settlement to which it linked.

Simon Maslin, Finds Liaison Officer for Surrey and East Hampshire, gave his annual update for the PAS in Surrey for 2020. Pandemic restrictions have required a complete change in the FLOs' work practices: face-to-face meetings to review finds have no longer been possible and so work has had to move on-line. Despite the challenges, 532 small finds were recorded by the PAS from Surrey in 2020, down from 749 in 2019, but, as always, providing fascinating insights into life in the county through time. The Prehistoric

finds include a Neolithic flint, a small Bronze Age founder's hoard, a potentially nationally important Iron Age anthropomorphic vessel mount and eight Iron Age coins including three potins. One of the Roman finds is a rare Republican bronze *tremis* (1/3 as). The distribution of the small number of similar coins suggests Late Iron Age links to the continent via the Thames valley. A copper alloy Roman terret such as would be used on a chariot implies that a suitable road existed in the Betchworth area. Medieval finds include parts of horse harnesses and dress accessories, some carrying the arms of major families including the Warenes or Gattons and Zouches. Post-medieval finds provide evidence of transport, the economy, communications and social life. An early 19th century livery badge carries both arms and dating evidence, allowing it to be assigned to the household of a named individual. A 107 Overseas Winnipeg infantry battalion cap badge demonstrates that these First Nations Canadians passed through the county during the Great War.

After a lively Q&A session, Tim Wilcock thanked all the speakers, Rose Hooker for organising and Anne Sassin for the interval slide show, and brought the meeting to a close. Thank you to Tim and all others who contributed to making these two half-day Zoom Symposium sessions so enjoyable. The talks were extremely interesting and covered a wide of range of subjects and periods. All were clearly presented and the sessions were very efficiently managed by Tim.

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 membership application form.

If you have any questions, queries or comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me on 01306 731275 or info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Mark Cocks	East Horsley	Roman History and Archaeology
Andrew Fullard	Peaslake	Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods
Isabel Lewis	Fetcham	
Thomas Matthewson	Hambledon	Prehistory; Palaeoecological Archaeology
Amanda Needham	Dorking	Roman History and Archaeology
Elizabeth Needham	Dorking	Roman History and Archaeology
Nigel Randall	Castle Rising	Romano-British period and Industrial Archaeology
Agnieszka Szajna	Dorking	Roman, Anglo Saxon, Celtic
Alan K Taylor	Ash	Pre-Roman, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Industrial, Building History, Old-English Language
Nicholas Truckle	Salisbury	Early Medieval
Gregory Wales	Chipstead	Metal Detectorist, Portable Antiquities Scheme, Local History

On Friday 12th February 2021, Ernest Black of Colchester died in hospital of Covid and underlying illnesses, just two days after his 70th birthday. Born at West Ham, Ernest grew up in Thames Ditton in Surrey and went to Kingston Grammar School before reading Classics and Ancient History at Wadham College, Oxford, and then studying for a Masters degree in the History and Archaeology of Roman Britain at Keele University. A professional career teaching Classics at school level followed, starting in Durham, then moving to Brentford, before ending at Colchester in 2011.

Professor Martin Henig, one of Ernest's tutors at Oxford, has informed me that Ernest chose school teaching as a profession because he thought that it 'would allow him to have more time for research'. Indeed, both during and after retiring from teaching, Ernest spent most of his leisure time investigating, without excavating, various aspects of Roman Britain, especially in the South-East. He used site reports and other literary sources, and primary sources (finds) with regards to the study of Roman tiles which were a particular interest of his, especially roller-stamped flue-tiles. He was a prolific author about his discoveries and conclusions and published in various county and national journals and conference proceedings. He also produced two important British Archaeological Report volumes, the first in 1987 (BAR BS 171) on *The Roman Villas of South-East England*, the other in 1995 (BAR BS 241) entitled *Cursus Publicus, The infrastructure of government in Roman Britain*. Of particular relevance to the archaeology of Surrey is a note that Ernest had published in our Collections for 1985 (volume 76, pages 140-142) on the Farley Heath sceptre-binding, and a co-authored (with Ian Betts and John Gower) corpus of relief-patterned tiles in Roman Britain (*Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 7, 1997).

Ernest had a sharp mind and looked at the archaeological evidence very logically. In addition to his own major achievements, he was always very generous with his knowledge, help and encouragement. He will be much missed, and we have lost an important scholar of Roman Britain.

Research Committee grants

Rose Hooker

The Research Committee would like to remind all members that grants are available for Surrey projects and are available to Society groups with no budget and to external groups with limited resources. Society excavations such as Abinger 2020 and Charlwood in 2019, and post-excavation for Ashted, Abinger and Flexford have been funded. Surveys, documentary research, training and scientific analyses are all suitable for consideration and have been supported by Society grants in recent years, as have outreach projects such as Finding Farnham and Hidden Heritage.

Scientific analyses are also specifically covered by funds from the Berton bequest which has recently funded C14 dating for the Abinger excavation.

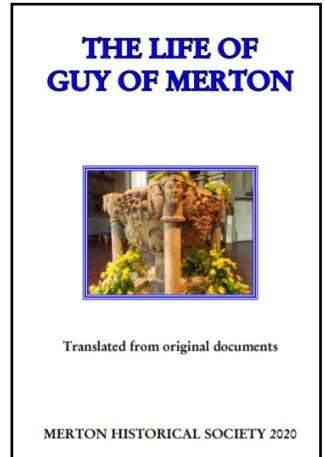
Applications are considered throughout the year and the committee decision is final. Details and an application form are available on the website or from the office.

The Surrey Industrial History Group also manages a grants fund for suitable projects. Please contact them through the website or from the office for details.

The Life of Guy of Merton – a review

Peter Balmer

Merton Priory was Surrey's richest monastery by the end of the Middle Ages. It was also among the earliest dozen or so Augustinian foundations in England (exact dates for some can be difficult to pin down), from a total of some 200 that survived at least into the later 15th century, including four other priories in Surrey. Many were founded in the 12th century, a process that, as this pamphlet shows, Merton played a part in. The extensive excavations of the priory site were published by MOLA in 2007 (reviewed in volume 95 of the *Collections*), but Merton Historical Society's publications have shone light on other aspects of the priory's history. *The Life of Guy of Merton* is a useful addition, telling the story of an early canon of Merton, who played a role in the conversion of older houses of secular canons into Augustinian priories. Its publication follows that of *A Priory Founded*, containing translations of original documents relating to Gilbert of Huntingdon, the founder of Merton Priory.



The Life of Guy of Merton is published in parallel Latin and English texts, in a new translation by Katie Hawks and Keith Penny, with an informative introduction by the former. It takes the form of a letter written by Rainald, one of Guy's contemporaries as a canon of Merton, addressed to a certain Ralph, but probably intended for wider readership.

It is an interesting story. Guy was an Italian with a background directing schools and probably as a distinguished scholar, who came to Merton for reasons that are not clear. He is portrayed as humble and ascetic. Despite his apparent wish for a more devotional life, he was sent by William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester, to convert the secular college of Taunton to the Augustinian rule, a task in which he was only partly successful. He is said to have been loved by the poorer inhabitants of the town, but not by the richer inhabitants. The *Life* is closer to being a hagiography than a historical record, and it is impossible to be precise about the events being described. Although the church at Taunton is said to belong to the Bishop of Winchester, it is not said that he was also the lord of the manor and the town. It is also not clear whether the decision to move the priory to a new site outside the town's defences was made in Guy's time or slightly later. Guy was glad to return to Merton, although shortly afterwards he went to Bodmin, again to convert a secular college, but this time probably at the invitation of the dean, and with a more successful outcome. He died following a fall from his horse on his way to discuss various matters with the Bishop of Exeter, and was buried in the cloister of Exeter Cathedral.

In sum, this short pamphlet makes a useful contribution not just to the history of Merton Priory, but also to the history of the development of the Augustinian order in England.

The Life of Guy of Merton, Merton Historical Society, 2020, pamphlet, 32pp, 3 illustrations, ISBN 978 1 903899 80 9

Available at £2 + 70p postage from the Publications Secretary, Merton Historical Society, 57 Templecombe Way, Morden, Surrey SM4 4JF (or contact the Publications Secretary at publications@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk).

Runnymede Explored

Hannah Potter



Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) are thrilled to announce they will be working with the National Trust to deliver the archaeology aspect of Runnymede Explored, the National Lottery Heritage Funded project. SCAU Community Archaeologist Hannah Potter will be working as the Project Archaeologist for the next 2.5 years, developing opportunities for volunteer and community groups to get involved and enhancing the Trust's knowledge and understanding of the history and archaeology of the site at Runnymede and Ankerwycke.

It is over 800 years since feudal barons forced King John to seal Magna Carta at Runnymede, on the banks of the Thames, near Windsor. This "Great Charter" established the principle that everyone is subject to the law, even the King. It also guaranteed the rights of individuals, including the right to justice and the right to a fair trial. Magna Carta remains one of the world's most important and influential documents and Runnymede is widely acknowledged to be the birthplace of modern democracy. On the opposite bank of the river, Ankerwycke is home to the remains of a Benedictine priory and a famous ancient yew tree, said to be 2500 years old.



Priory ruins at Ankerwycke

Now, thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, through Runnymede Explored, the National Trust are transforming the way people experience this historic place, through improved access to and around the site; inspiring visitors through newly created interpretation and outdoor areas, and engaging with the local community at Runnymede and Ankerwycke. Archaeological fieldwork and events will be carried out at the site throughout the project.

Exploring Magna Carta – Free Virtual Talks

15 June 2021 marks 806 years since Magna Carta was sealed at Runnymede. As part of the Runnymede Explored project, two free talks on the evening of Tuesday 15 June (17:00 -16:45) offer an introduction to the Magna Carta and what life was like in Surrey at the time. The first talk will be given by Mike Page, the County Archivist of Surrey and is titled 'Runnymede, Magna Carta and All That'. The talk will consider the background to the events of 1215 and the subsequent history of Magna Carta and will briefly examine the place where it happened, as reflected in records at Surrey History Centre. The second talk will be given by Rob Poulton, Senior Archaeological Advisor at SCAU, and will focus on 13th century Surrey landscape and society. See www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents.

Volunteering Opportunities

There will be numerous upcoming volunteering opportunities, including excavations, geophysics, finds processing, sorting museum archives, talking to site visitors, and archive research, throughout the summer. These will be open to all, and no previous experience is necessary. If you are interested in any of the listed roles, or would like to get involved with the project in any other ways, please email: Hannah.potter@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Medieval Studies Forum – always looking for members!

Surrey Archaeological Society has a long history of exploring subjects linked to history and archaeology, and over the years the ways in which it follows these interests have evolved. Whatever your particular interest, you are likely to find a group or groups in which to pursue it. Over the next few issues the Bulletin will be asking the various groups to (re-)introduce themselves and provide brief details of their activities.

What is the MedForum and who is it for?

The MedForum is a group within the SyAS for those interested in the many and wide-ranging aspects of the Medieval period, which given that history rarely fits into neat periods, we loosely define as from the end of the Roman period to Tudor times. It is a relatively new group – founded in c.2007.

Any member of the Surrey Archaeological Society interested in any of the many and varied aspects of the medieval period is the simple answer. Current members interests include the local, regional and wider aspects of buried archaeology, artefacts, history as revealed by (and interpreted from) documents, medieval landscapes, standing buildings, rural settlements, town development, society and governance, religion, agriculture and industry. We take the broadest definition of 'local' which incorporates the modern county and also south London, as far as Southwark, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.

What does the Forum do?

We aim to be a meeting place for those researching the medieval period and to that end hold two all-day meetings of talks and discussion a year, usually based on a theme, plus a study visit to somewhere in Surrey or a neighbouring county. Talks have been given by both outside speakers and members of the Forum who have presented their research. We are able to connect those carrying out research on similar topics for the interchange of ideas. More recently our normal pattern has inevitably been disrupted and



some of our talks have been online. These have attracted considerable interest, and it is possible that online talks will feature in our future mix of meetings. We are also keen to encourage both individual research and group projects. Among the latter, following the success of a recent online meeting is the setting up of a project to catalogue medieval graffiti in Surrey churches.

How do I join and what does it cost?

The Forum does not have a subscription for membership but only charges a small fee for each meeting to cover outside speakers' expenses, the cost of halls and tea/coffee. To be a member, it is only necessary to be on our mailing list by contacting the Membership Secretary, Pamela Savage via e-mail at Medforum@hotmail.co.uk. We try to limit paper communications, but if you prefer that method, please contact the Society's office at Abinger, marking your letter 'fao Medforum'.

The SyAS monthly e-newsletter

As most of our membership will know, we are now communicating with our members and partners via a monthly e-newsletter – in addition to the *Bulletin* – which is emailed out to all on the mailing list. The e-newsletter is a useful way to engage in more regular communication, highlighting some of the events such as conferences and lectures, training sessions, fieldwork opportunities and occasional news items which may be of interest. Back issues will also be available on the website.

The Council have recently taken the decision to reduce the number of printed newsletters – ie what is currently the *Bulletin* – down to four a year from 2022, making it a quarterly publication (more on this development soon), though by offering a monthly newsletter in between, we will still be able to keep in touch and provide updates, as needed.

Please be sure to update your email and other contact information with Hannah (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) in order to be able to receive this correspondence. Anyone can sign-up to be placed on the mailing list, whether or not you are a member.

We are always looking for interesting events or items to include. Please email the *Bulletin* editor with any suggestions.

DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS

There will be three further issues of the *Bulletin* in 2021. To assist contributors, relevant dates are as follows:

	Copy date:	Approx. delivery:
487	28th June	1st August
488	13th September	17th October
489	8th 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 28th June for the August issue

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