

SURREY'S PAST

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Note from the Editor

By Anne Sassin

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of *Surrey's Past*, only its second issue since the change in format. There are several excellent research pieces featured in this edition, as well as highlights of upcoming events, both of which I'm sure will be of interest to our members. For other up-to-date news on the Society's activities and other work around the county, please be sure to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter.

Many thanks to Rob for his editorial help, and to our members for both their feedback and contributions of material. I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer ahead, whether doing fieldwork or simply relaxing, and that you have a chance to take in some of the fascinating local heritage on our doorsteps.

Welcome to new members

By 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
Ann Bowden	Guildford	
Lynn Butteriss	Redhill	Roman and Industrial Archaeology
Sharon Bylenga	East Horsley	
Rosemary Carter	Teddington	Roman Archaeology; Romano-British bone hairpins
Scott Hawkins	Camberley	Everything earlier than Late Medieval
Tyler Kelly	Egham	Classical Archaeology, Ancient History, Bioarchaeology
Iain Pullen	Dorking	
Julie Simonelli	Ash Vale	
Paul Sinclair	London	
Raphaella Sinclair	London	
Subeer Suri	Ashford	
Richard Williams	Frensham	

There will be three issues of *Surrey's Past* per year, and one more in 2022. Next issue: copy required by **19 September** for the October issue.

Issue no:	Copy date:	Approx. delivery:
492 October	19 September	17 October

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 possible deadline extensions and the proper format of submitted material (please supply digital copy when possible and images in JPEG or similar image file format).

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Cocks Farm Abinger: 2021 excavations (part 2)

By Emma Corke

The following is the second part of an interim report on the 2021 excavations at Cocks Farm Abinger, where the Society has been investigating the surroundings and antecedents of Abinger Roman Villa since 2010. Please refer to *Surrey's Past* 490 for Part 1, and also previous issues for past years.

I must begin with a correction to Part 1. Fig 5 showed a post and posthole then thought to be probably part of Roundhouse 3 (RH3). The post has now been radiocarbon dated to 1499-1600 or possibly a little later. This does not mean that RH3 is of that date; this posthole was always seen to be different in character from the others and also slightly out of alignment with them. It does mean that the date of RH3 is uncertain, though the lack of any Roman material in any of the postholes strongly suggests that it is prehistoric, while a concentration of flint-tempered, probably Bronze Age pottery on its north-east periphery may not be irrelevant.

A small area of burnt material on the west side of RH3 was dated even later: post-1671. Activity in this area of the site from the Medieval onwards seems to have been continuous if not intensive, with

postholes, animal burials and burning, but the nature of the activity is probably less clear for this period than any other. It is known that recent excavations have been on or near a very long-standing land-holding boundary.

An important implication of the date of the fallen post is that the current ground level of at least part of the flat top of the hill is highly misleading for earlier periods. It seems likely that it was about 30-40cms lower for most of history. There is a good deal of evidence for this for the Roman period, and now for early post-Medieval. Is it also true for prehistory? If so, that might considerably change how we see some features, in particular the Early Neolithic ones. Food for thought.

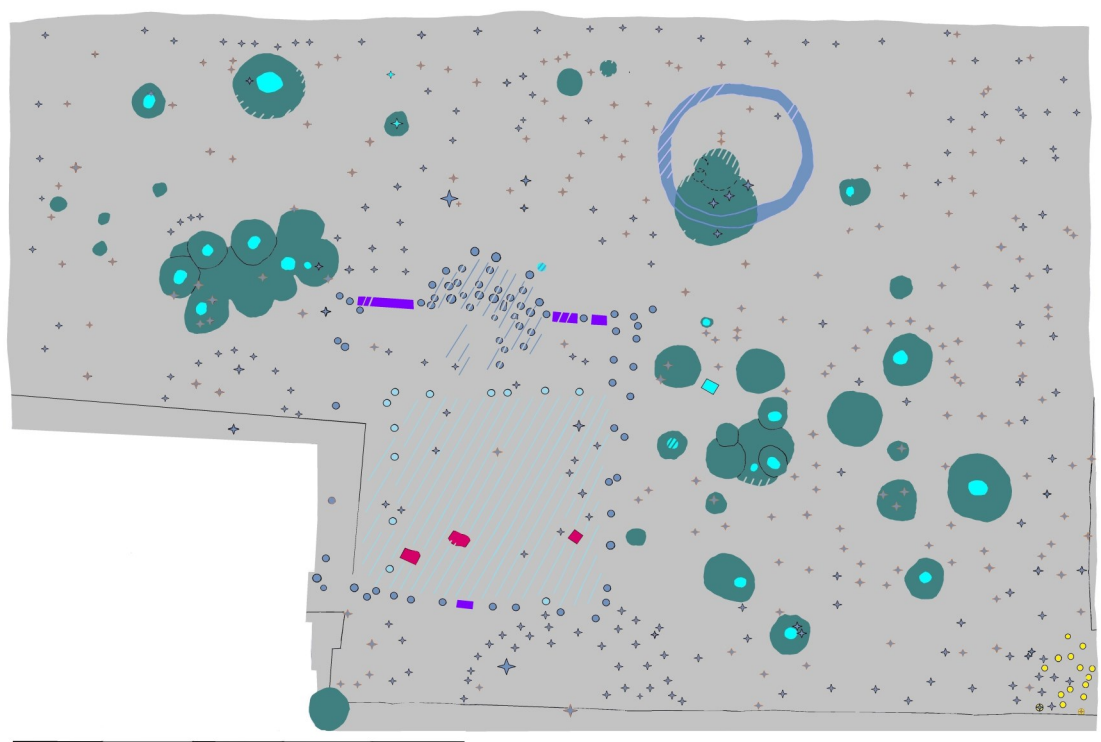
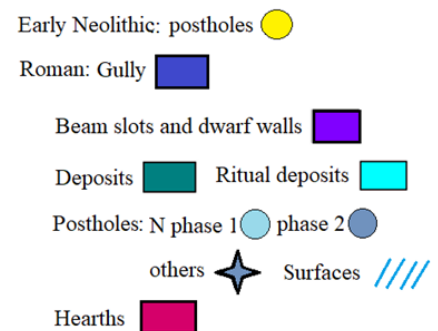


Fig 1 Plan of trench 30.
The scale has 2m sections.

This report is mainly concerned with trench 30 (Fig 1). It was 24m (E/W) x 16m (N/S), with an area 9m x 6m in the SW corner unexcavated as it had been within T19. To the south it overlapped T28 by 2m, and it was bordered largely by T28 to the east (see issue 490 Fig 1). Its northern and western edges were determined by the lack of anomalies on the magnetometry, but the fact that Roman boundaries were found to run a little within the trench on all four sides is down to luck as much as judgment.

These boundaries consisted of fences, with posts generally spaced a little over 1m apart. The eastern boundary had two parallel continuous lines, presumably of different dates, but on the northern side the line, although running the full length of the enclosure, had parallel sections rather than a

continuous line. Of course this might be more than one phase with some postholes not being found, but they were looked for, and it may be that this was one phase, with intentional narrow gaps (see Fig 2). The western and southern sides had single continuous fence-lines. Posts were missing in the southwest and none had been identified in T19 (though they could have been missed; it was thought at the time that this corner might have been over-machined). If the enclosure was (as seems likely) originally rectangular, its southwest corner must have been cut into by the northeast corner of the large probably late Roman double boundary ditch. In the southeast corner of the enclosure were a few shallow postholes belonging to the ‘Abinger Anomaly’; they almost certainly mark the original extent of the Early Neolithic feature (see issues 486 & 490).

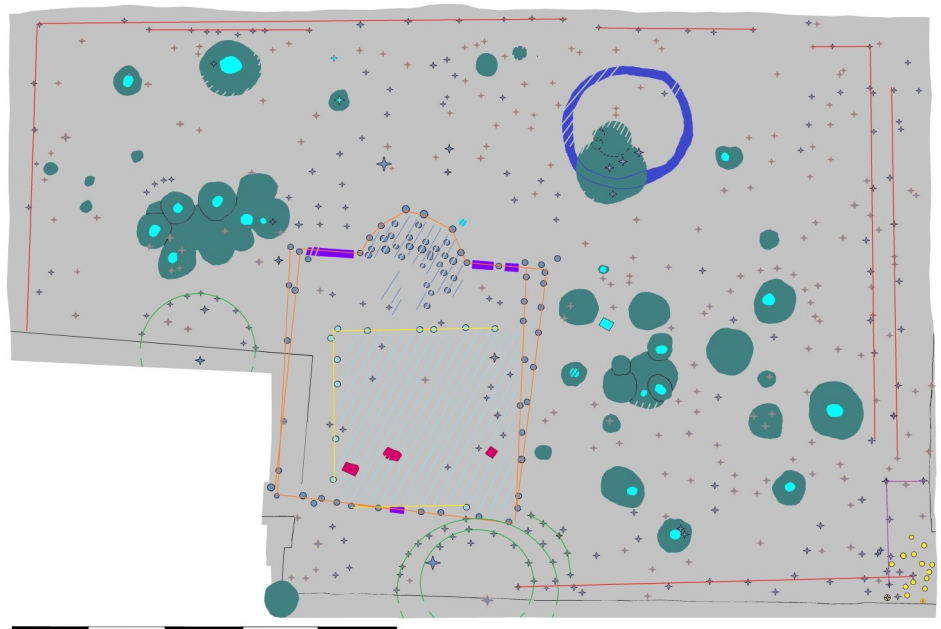


Fig 2 T30 plan with some interpretation

Fig 3 The western part of T30. The deeper-cut areas in the southwest had been largely previously excavated in T19. Note the slot across part of the gully. The roundhouse on the southern edge of the trench is not yet fully excavated, nor are a good many postholes.



Near the southern boundary, and slightly closer to the western than the eastern one, was a building (building N, Fig 4). Two main phases were identified, with the later showing signs of a re-build on a marginally different alignment.

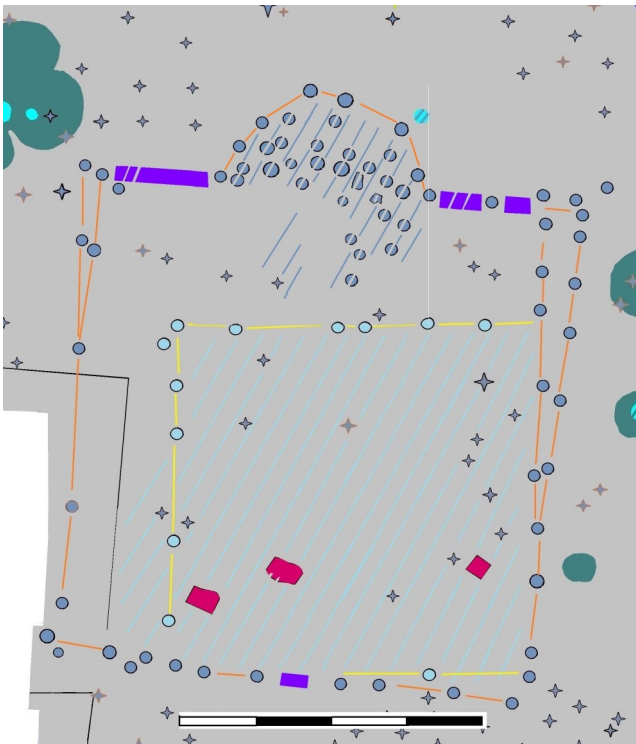


Fig 4 Building N. The west wall of the later phases lay within T19, and some postholes had probably been lost to slots there. Scale: 1m

The first main phase was a rectangular post-built building with its walls parallel to the boundaries (*pale blue circles*). It was floored with plates of ironpan, laid horizontally. This was on natural sand almost everywhere except along the northern edge where it overlay *in situ* ironpan. Two small sondages were dug in this floor, and both found postholes; their function is unknown but they evidently must belong to something that pre-dated (this phase of) the building. In the southern part of the floor were three areas, originally square or rectangular, of ironpan plates laid vertically; the upper parts were very heavily burnt (*magenta on plan*). These were evidently hearths, made very much as Medieval hearths were made with vertical tiles. The intense burning at the tops strongly suggested that the top of the floor as seen was the true floor surface, or very near it (Fig 5).

The second phase was a larger building (*darker blue circles*), entirely enclosing the first except that its southern wall overlapped that of the first phase. It

was on a different alignment. One sub-phase is 3 degrees further towards the northeast, the other 6. It is worth noting that the second is due (true) north. This was post-built on the east, west and southern sides, with the posts much closer together on the southern (this could be the result of a re-build). In the centre of the southern wall was a larger gap between posts with a slot packed full of ironpan, which is likely to be a doorway. The northern wall consisted of posts with beam-slots between them.

In the centre of the northern wall was an apse. This had a surface of closely-packed ironstone, in some places up to three stones thick (see Fig 10, right hand side). Among the ironstone were occasional pieces of flint and prehistoric pottery (mostly Early Neolithic, no doubt deriving from the nearby Abinger Anomaly). The stones must have been either brought in or come from earlier features, as ironstone (unlike ironpan) is not found *in situ* here. There were many holes in this surface; they showed that the stones were placed on a layer of loose sand overlying natural sand with a very uneven, cut into surface. At first these holes were thought to be postholes, as many were circular, but the discovery of others of very irregular shapes, and the fact that the surface stones seemed to have been entirely robbed from the southwestern area of the apse (leaving a surface similar to that under the stones elsewhere), means that it is possible that all the holes were the result of robbing and none ever held posts. Because of the doubt, they are drawn with lines through them in the figures.

Fig 5 Hearth A. The stones to the west are part of the flooring, with some burnt stones dragged from the hearth (by a plough?). The vertical stones of the hearth extended downwards 10cms or so.



As already mentioned, there were many magnetometry anomalies within the enclosure, and these turned out to be areas of fine red (presumably burnt) sand (*dark blue-green in figs*). They were circular, with many inter-cutting. Those excavated turned out to have small, quite steep-sided bowl-shaped pits at their centres (*light blue-green*). The pits were often partly lined with (unburnt) stones and contained almost pure fine red sand. Around the pits were very shallow rings of this sand mixed with coarser yellow (natural) sand (Fig 6). It is thought that these rings may be the result of spreading of the pitfills by later ploughing. Some of the pits had apparently deliberately placed flints or other objects on their lips, while most were associated with small postholes, some in concentric circles or part circles around them. It may be that all once had such postholes, but due to the inter-cutting many could have been lost.

CFA SECTION 672
PIT 30230 NNE ELEVATION
SCALE 1:10

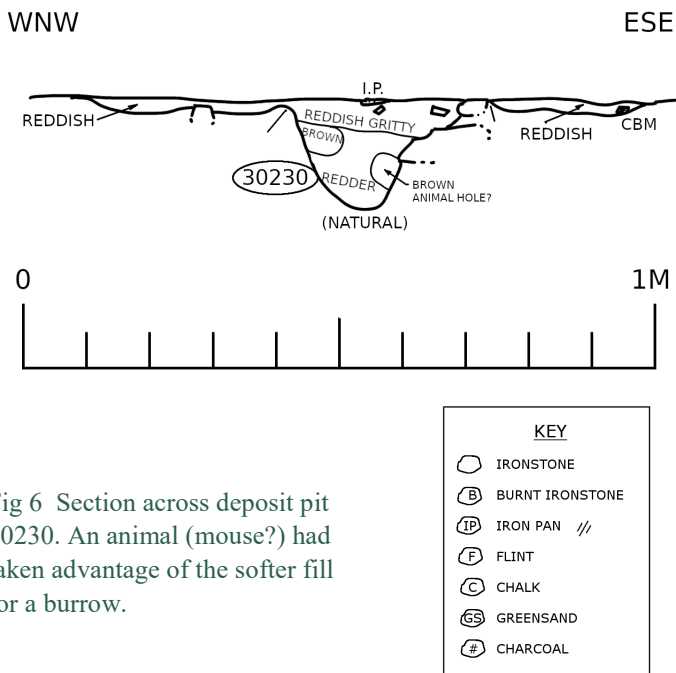


Fig 6 Section across deposit pit 30230. An animal (mouse?) had taken advantage of the softer fill for a burrow.

By far the most elaborate of these pits was a small rectangular cist (40cm x 27cm, c20cm deep) (Fig 7). It had a sand base, with vertical walls lined with several layers of large flat pieces of ironstone and pieces of broken imbrex. It was capped with a piece of tegula and a piece of highly-burnt flagstone which covered the entire top surface (it was now laminated into fragments). Over this it is seems likely that a complete imbrex had been placed (like a roof);

pieces of this were found in place while others were found nearby. The fill of this cist was the same as in the other pits: fine red sand. Unlike those however, there was no shallow ‘halo’ of red sand around the cist, probably because the coverings had kept it in place.

To the northeast of building N was a feature of several phases. The latest was several postholes with highly-burnt ironstone packing. Around them ran a small circular gully (*royal blue in figs*); the circle was 3.5m to its outside edges, while the gully itself was a maximum of 30cm across and 8cm deep. Its northern part, which must always have been shallower, was only visible as the turbated sand beneath its base. The southern was filled with the same red sand as the pits, and more of the same was in and around the postholes. They and some of the gully had been cut into similar red sand, and a deposit of more was found in a slot dug into the circle (see Fig 3). This all added up to far more red sand than seen in all the rest of the enclosure, and it is possible that all the deposited sand may have been burnt here before deposition. None was seen on or near the three hearths within building N.



Fig 7 Cist

Some charcoal was found in the surface of the natural sand at the base of the slot below some of the red sand. This was radiocarbon dated and gave the astonishing date of 8792-8622 BC. The charcoal must of course be residual; whether it relates to the already-known Mesolithic activity on the site or is the result of a lightning strike is anybody’s guess.

Two exceptionally large postholes were found within the enclosure, one north of the apse, one south of building N to the east of the probable doorway. They did not appear to be part of any structure and may have been ‘totem-pole’ like in function. Other postholes were found that formed (half of) a multi-ringed roundhouse (RH4) that partially underlay the southern wall of building N (Fig 8). Finds suggest that RH4 is a Roman building, although they are not conclusive. Another part circle in the western part of the enclosure must have been missed in T19. This might also have been a (very small) roundhouse but is perhaps more probably associated with a deposit of red sand. Other postholes were also seen whose function is not clear; in particular there appear to be straight and curved lines of posts to the north of the building. It is possible that some may have formed an outer apse of the same width as the building, enclosing the stone-filled one. However, the number of postholes here means that a game of join-the-dots can come up with a great many pictures with no sort of conclusion being possible. It does seem however that there was some sort of structure here, especially clear on the northwest side of the apse.

So what does this all mean? It seems clear that all of the little pits and their fills of fine red sand are ritual;

Fig 8 Roundhouse 4. Note stones along line of postholes on the west (*left*). The large posthole has presumably destroyed some of the inner circle, and the south wall of building N some of the outer.



the cist cannot be anything else. That makes the sand a ritual deposit; what it was and why it was deposited is a mystery. It is hoped that analysis may give some answers, as it may be that something organic such as oils was burnt as an offering with the sand. It is also possible that there was once something more solid buried, even bone survives extremely badly on site so anything like meat or fruit would have left no trace.

We have seen nothing like these deposits outside the fenced enclosure, and this must be an area devoted to ritual activity. This points to building N being a shrine – something that was suspected the moment that we realised that it is apsed. Comparison with shrines at other villas is therefore useful. Figs 9 and 10 compare those at Rapsley (Hanworth 1968) with Abinger. Evidently the apse at Rapsley is complete and undamaged, whereas the Abinger one has been heavily robbed, and Rapsley also has a drain, so that it may once have supported something that held water (highly unlikely at Abinger), but the general shape and dimensions are certainly similar (both plans have 1m scales). Due to the robbing, we do not know the shape of the southern part of the Abinger apse; it might be a complete circle, or rectangular as at Rapsley. The design of the rest of the shrine is also not dissimilar, with an east/west stone(based) wall, and the others all post-built. Even the large posthole north of the Abinger apse seems to have a parallel at Rapsley.

Another interesting comparison is with Beddingham, Sussex, where a square earlier shrine had a later apse added. However this is entirely stone-built, at least at ground level. Probably coincidentally, the Beddingham shrine is placed almost due west of a prehistoric circular area respected by Roman buildings, much as the Abinger one is (Rudling 1998).

While there is no proof that building N is a shrine, and other interpretations (such as a mausoleum) are possible, it seems certain that this prominent site overlooking the villa and the Tillingbourne valley below was once a place devoted to ritual and ceremony with a building at its heart.

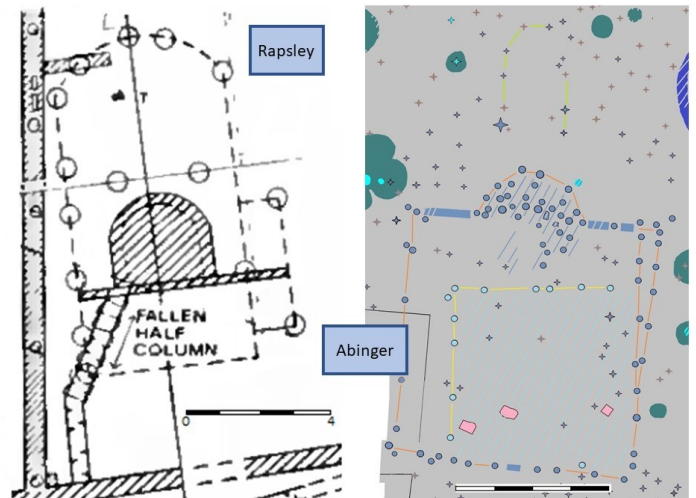
References

Hanworth, R, 1968 The Roman villa at Rapsley, Ewhurst, *SyAC*, **65**, 1-70 (part plan opposite p5, plate VIa)

Rudling, D, 1998 The development of Roman villas in Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, **136**, 41-65

Fig 9 (right) Plans of the shrines at Rapsley and Abinger

Fig 10 (below) Photographs of the shrine apses at Rapsley and Abinger



Rapsley

Abinger



(a) THE SHRINE, BUILDING 5, VIEWED FROM SOUTH.



In search of Clandon Park's brickmaker

By **Rachael Chambers**

Clandon Park is a Grade I early 18th century red brick mansion situated between Guildford and Leatherhead. It was commissioned by Thomas, 2nd Baron Onslow (1679-1740), and designed by the Italian-born architect Giacomo, or James Leoni (c1686-1746). The house was given to the National Trust by the Onslow family in 1956. There has been a great deal of research on its history and people over the years, but without a comprehensive body of documentation this has been more challenging than at comparable historic houses, leading to significant knowledge gaps.

The devastating fire of 2015 was undeniably a tragedy, but the National Trust (NT) has been taking every opportunity to deepen understanding of all aspects of this special place as plans are developed for its renewal. This paper focuses on the bricks made for the house and is just one of many current research enquiries being led by NT curators. In stripping back the fine outer layers of the interiors, the fire has revealed previously unseen and inaccessible evidence which, along-side material analysis and documentary research, has enriched our knowledge of the house and its construction enormously.

The external facades, made from carefully chosen bricks of red (dark and light), purple and orange hues, are the most fundamental part of Clandon's architectural character, and reveal the skill of both the brickmakers and bricklayers of the 1720s and 30s (Fig 1 & cover image). The high-quality external bricks are now easily accessible from the scaffolding that protects the house, allowing a renewed appreciation for the fine rubbed brick arches, rusticated quoins and thin penny struck mortar joints. Historic brick specialist and bricklayer Emma Simpson has compared the quality to that seen at Kensington Palace.

Cover image The fine gauged brickwork at Clandon Park © National Trust Images/Andrew Shaylor (right)

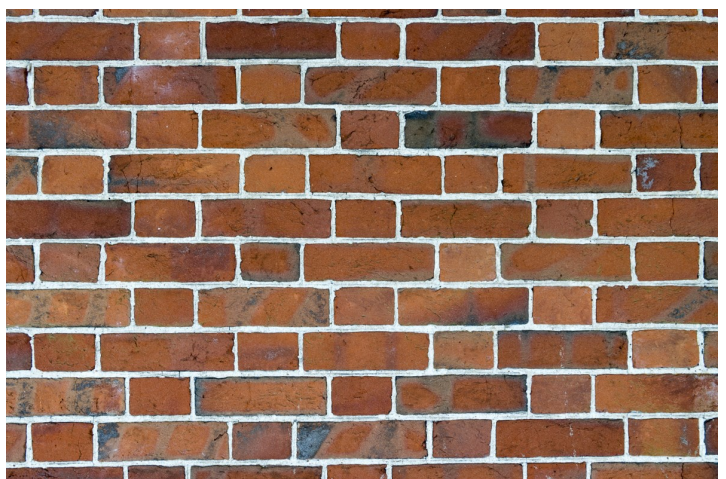
The now visible structure of the internal walls has revealed extensive reuse of materials, particularly at lower levels. The thin Tudor or Jacobean bricks, most likely reused from the demolished house that pre-existed the current structure, form sections alongside later 18th century bricks.

To understand Clandon better, and to repair and conserve as sensitively as possible, further research was required to determine where the clay came from, and who may have had a hand in the making of Clandon's many thousands of bricks.

Clay would have likely been sourced as close as possible to the building site, as the ease and cost of transportation was a key consideration. Our starting point was a search of local historic maps. National Trust Archaeologist James Brown supported research by carrying out a desk-top assessment within a 7-mile radius of Clandon. This included LiDAR scans, to look for cuts of land or ponds large enough to have been clay pits (Figs 2 & 3).

Compared with the Onslow family's land ownership, this work gave a good understanding of brickmaking activity near Clandon. A number of the plotted brick fields and kilns were considered further, including those owned by the Onslow family in Guildford, and those owned by the Luck family at Merrow.

Fig 1 The various colour bricks and fine mortar joints on the external facades at Clandon Park © National Trust Images/Andrew Shaylor



Several of the Onslow family's tenants were brickmakers. Research next turned to brickmakers local to Clandon who were active in the 1720s and 30s. We were generously assisted by Iain Wakeford's research on Surrey brickmakers, which was supplemented by National Trust volunteer Mark Butcher. This provided a list of names to investigate further, including that of Thomas Chitty of Send, and his son John.

Using archival material held at Surrey History Centre, it was found that the Chitty family had worked as brickmakers in Send since at least 1662, when one Thomas Chitney junior was recorded as building a brick kiln on the highway leading from Guildford to Ripley. Unsurprisingly this was seen as rather inconvenient to those wishing to use the road, which prompted it coming to the attention of the authorities.

In the Surrey Quarter Sessions papers of the 1720s, the name Chitty appears several times, along with many others, often linked to brickmaking offences brought against them (Fig 4). Quality control of brickmaking was under increasing scrutiny; there had been a recent act of Parliament 'to prevent abuses in the making of bricks and tiles'. The ominously named 'Searchers of Bricks and Tyles' were employed to enforce regulations, who could be

local and perhaps known to those they were investigating. One of the 'Searchers', George Morer, was a bricklayer from Reigate who had petitioned for the post in 1727.

John Chitty was prosecuted for 'not turning his earth for bricks and tyles before the first day of February last' in 1727 and Thomas Chitty was prosecuted for 'making ten thousand bricks under size since easter last' in 1728. Brickmaking was seasonal: clay would be left over winter to cure, and then moulded in the spring. Not turning brick earth in time may have been seen to have implications on the quality of the clay.

Amongst the sessions papers is a letter to a Mr Pawley, dated 13 February 1727 (Fig 5). It describes how Thomas Chitty:

has worked for me severall years, and is my servt [servant] in the making of those bricks att a contract per thousand, I finding feuell and other necessarys to burn them, having supplied me for five years last part 100,000 per ann and the kiln is my own.

Fig 2 1m LiDAR imagery of Send brick pits © Environment Agency and/or database right 2020. All rights reserved (right)

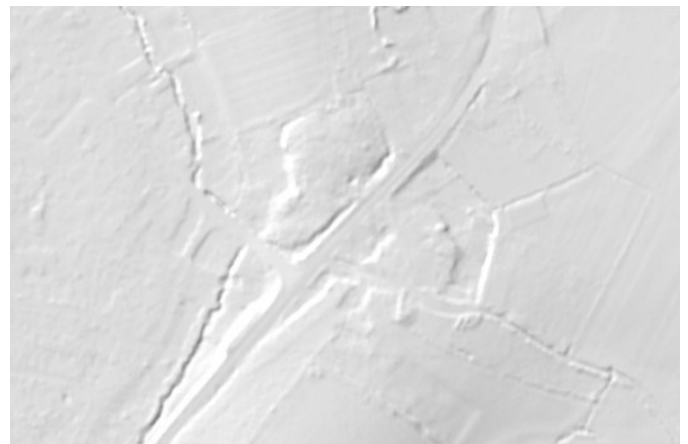
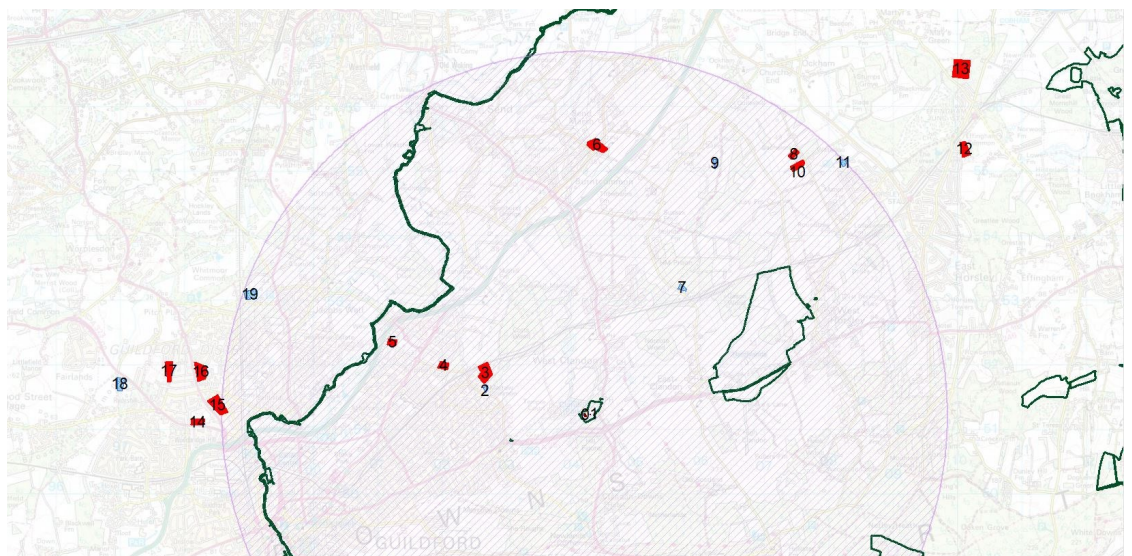


Fig 3 Map plotting cuts of land large enough to have been clay pits. (In red: brick fields on 1888 OS Map; in blue: triangular cuts or ponds that look like typical clay pits) © National Trust Images/James Brown (below)



Romano-British and Medieval pottery from Rushett Farm, Wonersh and Great Wildwood, Alfold

By Judie English

Medieval settlement in much of Surrey, and, indeed, the rest of south-east England, took a dispersed pattern. There were few villages on the chalk downs, London and Weald Clays, or the superficial, Eocene sands of western and northwestern Surrey and western Sussex. Instead, individual farms and small hamlets developed, the ebb and flow of which can be difficult to trace through documentary evidence. Scatters of pottery located during fieldwalking may be their only legacy; recently the Surrey Archaeological Society's Medieval Pottery Study Group has been examining some assemblages collected by Robin Tanner in Outwood and this author around Cranleigh, both areas in the Low Weald, and this note reports two of the latter.

Both of us have also recognised scatters of Romano-British pottery, usually fairly small amounts but sufficient to suggest some form of minor settlement.

Rushett Farm, Wonersh

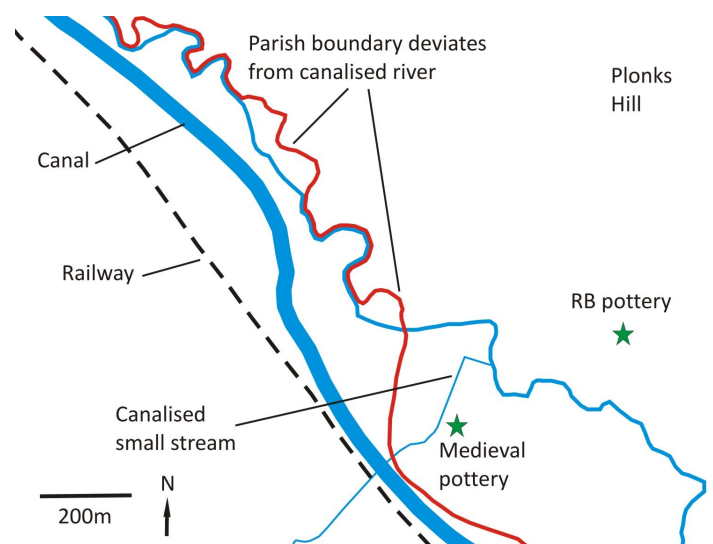
Fieldwalking by Iain Williams and this author during the 1980s located small scatters of Romano-British (RB) and medieval pottery close to the Bramley Wey (also known as Cranleigh Waters) in Wonersh. Both sites lie at 40m OD on River Terrace Gravels: the RB site is on to the east of the stream at TQ 032 423; the medieval on the west at TQ 028 425 and, historically, in a 40 acre (a) or 16 hectare (ha) area detached portion of Dunsfold parish.

Although this is only a small assemblage, no medieval pottery was found in the surrounding area, and the scatter probably represents an activity focus. The valley of the Bramley Wey is known nationally for the concentration of place-names containing the Old English element *-ersc*. It is now recognised that the word describes land under arable use in an area generally better suited to grazing (Cole 2000). Within the Bramley Wey valley most of the place-names containing this element are situated on patches of river gravel, and these may denote early

permanent settlements when much of the Low Weald was used for grazing, originally in common, but then with parcels held in severalty. The lack of documentary survival in Surrey means that dating the stages in this process is problematic. At Haywards Heath (West Sussex) activity may have started as early as the 7th century AD but the first evidence of any structures is dated to the 12th century (Margetts 2017), and at Broadbridge Heath (West Sussex) permanent, fairly high-status settlement was present by the 10th / 11th to 12th century (Margetts 2018, 315). The pottery from Rushett Farm falls within this latter date range and suggests that it represents one of the settlements within the Late Anglo-Saxon-period estate of Bramley with its three pre-Conquest churches at Shalford, Wonersh and Hascombe (Blair 1991, Fig 9).

However, a note of caution needs to be sounded. The site is close to the Wey and Arun Junction Canal, in an area where both the Bramley Wey and a small drainage stream have been canalised at an unknown date, and to the route of the Guildford Horsham railway line – this degree of disturbance may mean that the pottery scatter is not exactly *in situ*.

Location of pottery scatters at Rushett Farm, Wonersh



Great Wildwood, Alfold

Development of a golf course at Great Wildwood Farm in 1990 caused a considerable disturbance to a 75ha area which included the surrounds to a moated site and supposed pillow mounds (Surrey HER Monument 691). Fieldwalking at the time resulted in the recognition of a probable bloomery site associated with pottery dated pre-1050–1250 (English 2002). The aim of this note is to provide an analysis of the remaining pottery recovered.

The site lies on Weald Clay partially overlain by a narrow band of alluvial deposits on either side of the small stream which forms the southern leg of the moat. The name ‘La Wylwode’ is mentioned in a deed of 1294/95 (Giuseppi 1903) and in 1313 it was held as part of the demesne of Albury Manor; the area remained as a detached portion of Albury parish until the late 19th century. A survey of 1327 describes ‘*XL acr boscis querci ni cujus pastura val p vs et non plus pro umbra arborum*’, “40 acres of oak woodland which is not for pasture, valued at 5 shillings and not more for the shade of the trees” (SHC 1322/4/56). The comment that the pasture was of low value because of the shade of the oak trees suggests that, perhaps unusually for the area, the land could not be used as wood pasture. Settlement is first mentioned in 1391 when a grant of the soil and wood of Wildwood excepted the moat, grange and manorial rights (Manning & Bray 1809, 71).

The pottery was found in an area approximately 60m x 60m outside the moat and centred at TQ 0500 3539. It is recorded that ‘In 1804 the present owner [Richard Skeet] cleaned out this moat, and dug up mud to a depth of four feet [1.22m]; at the bottom were found various broken pieces of household kitchen ware’ (*ibid*, 71). It may well be that the pottery came from this, or other moat-cleaning episodes, rather than any structure outside the moat. It also seems likely that this exercise underlies the presence of mounds listed as pillow mounds.

The pottery recovered indicates occupation earlier than the first known mention of the place-name in 1294/95 and of structures in 1391. The pottery may not, of course, be typical of that which might be found on the island of the moat, but it appears to indicate settlement probably in the late 12th / early 13th centuries continuing into the 15th / 16th

centuries. The present Great Wildwood Farmhouse is a timber framed building dating to the late 16th century and may conceivably be the replacement manorial *caput* in use after the moated site had been abandoned.

Both these sites produced Surrey Medieval Type Series code Q2 as the predominant pottery fabric and this pattern is also seen from several of Robin Tanner’s sites in the Low Weald at Outwood. This seems somewhat strange given that production of this ware is thought to end in the mid-13th century (Jones 1998), a time of high population rather than settlement abandonment. It may be that less of the succeeding fabrics, whitewares in the west of the county and Earlswood type in the east, were either used or discarded; or that locally-made Q2 was more available than wares from larger industries and survived in use to a later date. Or had socio-economic changes during the 13th centuries tended to encourage a degree of settlement nucleation, and so these sites had become partially abandoned?

All the pottery described here was identified by members of the Medieval Pottery Study Group, to whom I am most grateful.



Great Wildwood moated site as shown on the OS 25" map, Surrey sheet XLVI.2, published in 1897

Fabric	Earliest date	Latest date	Rushett		Comments	Wildwood	
			Sherds	Weight (g)		Sherds	Weight (g)
SAND	43	400	27	252	Forms 2V, 9H & 4		
AH	43	400	1	10			
BB2	120	250	1	14	Mica-dusted		
AH	250	400	2	19			
AHFA	250	400	1	8			
S2	pre-1050	1250				49	263
Q2	1150	1250	72	513		175	1834
GQ2	1150	1250				3	30
Q2 chalk	1150	1250				1	12
WW1B	1240	1400	50	297			
WW1A	1240	1550	2	38		38	349
FOQ	1250	1500	6	51			
OQ	1250	1500	4	20		16	248
WW2	1350	1500	2	8			
RWW1B	1400	1550	3	103			
PMRE	1480	1600	1	7			
BORDY	1550	1700	1	5			
PMRE	1580	1900	15	213			
RBOR	1580	1800	1	11			

Table of number of sherds from Rushett Farm and Great Wildwood by fabric (codes refer to Surrey Roman and Medieval Type Series)

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SHC 1322/4/56

St Andrew's Church, Cobham: some thoughts on the tower

By David Taylor

The tower of St Andrew's is the oldest surviving part of the church. In the past it has been broadly referred to as 'Norman' with a suggested date of c1150 (Walker 1960). However, when viewed from the outside, it is clear that it was constructed in at least two phases with the octagonal spire being added even later (Fig 1). This indicates a longer chronology and possibly that it was constructed earlier than the middle of the 12th century.

A visit by the Surrey Archaeological Society

In August 1866 members of the Society made a visit to Slyfield, Great Bookham; St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon; St Andrew's Church, Cobham; Foxwarren, Wisley, and Byfleet Manor House (SyAS 1869). At Cobham a paper was read to the visitors by the vicar, the Reverend E. H. Loring, under whose ministry the church had recently been enlarged by the addition of a new north aisle a few years earlier.¹ When describing the tower, Loring explained:

[It] is built of rubble three feet six inches in thickness, and standing on the surface of the ground without foundation, has two floors, in the first of which is one window, and a deep square recess, the use of which is unknown.

The second chamber of the tower, in which the bells are hung, is the more finished of the two, having stone corbels supporting the wall-plate on which the spire stands, and in each of the four walls a window, divided into two compartments by a central shaft and having a bold moulding round it.

A report of this visit, published in the Surrey Advertiser, concluded that, at the end of the Cobham visit:

... the reverend gentleman then adjourned to the churchyard to discuss with some brother archaeologists whether the tower walls had ever



Fig 1 (left) St Andrew's tower, north side



Fig 2 (right) Recess in east wall of tower

been coated with plaster or not, and to ascertain, if possible, the purpose for which a recess in one of the tower chambers had been constructed.²

Sadly, any discussion regarding the 'recess' was not reported and seems to have been overtaken by the appetites of the flesh in the form of a free lunch in the local school provided by Charles Buxton MP for 'about 150 ladies and gentlemen' and described as 'an excellent dejeuner'!

Revisiting the 'recess' and other early features of the tower

The recessed feature which puzzled Loring is still visible today in the east wall of the tower, although access to it is now somewhat restricted by several iron girders that were inserted to support the mechanism of a clock that was installed in 1893 and provide additional support for the bell chamber above. All this makes close examination of the recess difficult. It is approximately 2 feet high and 3 feet wide (60cm and 90cm respectively) (Fig 2).

A contemporary newspaper report regarding the installation of the clock states that, 'In fixing the new dial it was necessary to remove a window in the

west side of the tower, and place it in the south side'.³ This small, internally splayed, single window survives, albeit in heavily restored state, and can still be seen on the south side of the tower (Figs 3 and 4). A drawing of the church of c1870 clearly shows the tower with the west window *in situ* before the installation of the clock (Fig 5).



Figs 3 & 4 Former tower west window now on south side



Fig 5 St Andrew's church from the southwest c1870 showing former west window *in situ* (SHC 90431/34/1)

Closer examination of the tower has resulted in some rethinking of the dating of its various stages of construction. The internal tower arch, which provides access to the nave, appears to date from when the upper masonry phase of the tower may have been heightened. This arch has a number of deep grooves on its western side (Fig 6). There has been repeated speculation that these are the result of bell ringers sheltering in the nave when the tower was un-roofed, although this seems most unlikely given that the tower would have to have been effectively ruinous with no internal flooring. The western, exterior, tower door is probably 15th century but has a small window above it identical to that formerly on the floor above.

A set of sketches of the church dated 1852 shows the north side of the church together with several smaller drawings of the windows (Fig 7). The jambs and heads of all four belfry openings are recessed behind the main wall. The sketches of these four 'Norman' belfry openings are interesting because they appear to be of a simpler design than what can be seen today, suggesting that they were 'restored', possibly when the clock was installed and the west window moved. It may be of significance that in these sketches the east opening is shown with a slightly more elaborate capital than the other three. Additionally, the present nave roof slightly overlaps the bottom of this window (Fig 8).



Fig 6 Interior of tower arch showing deep grooves

Referring to the belfry openings at St Andrew's, Professor John Blair has commented, "those paired lights under a single larger arch look pretty Romanesque to me, which isn't to say that they couldn't have been built before 1066, but one would be hard-pressed to prove it. Personally, I prefer the term 'overlap' for this whole group of buildings, since it defines a building-boom that is best dated c1040-1100 without too much reference to the Conquest."

An above ground chapel?

So, what does all this mean and what was the purpose of the 'recess' noted during the Society's visit in 1866? Was it an altar niche? If it was, could this indicate that the lower stages of the tower are earlier than previously thought and pre-date the present nave?

Dr Michael Shapland, who has made an important study of tower naves (Shapland 2019), has drawn

my attention to Helen's, Skipwith, North Yorks., which has evidence of a first-floor room in the tower with a 'shallow oblong recess' which has been interpreted as the frame for a devotional artwork of some sort or the reredos for an altar (Hall *et al* 2008). Of Cobham, Dr Shapland comments it is "interesting that the eastern window is more elaborate than the other three. [It] implies this was not just a belfry, [and] is support for the theory of an above-ground chapel here." Professor Blair has pointed me to the church of St Mary, Brook, Kent which has a room on the first floor of the tower traditionally known as the 'Priest's Room', used as accommodation for priests from Canterbury coming to administer the manor of Brook.⁴



Fig 7 St Andrew's Church 1852 (SHC 69361)



Fig 8 Tower east side showing slight overlap of nave roof on belfry opening

Chertsey Abbey and Cobham

The manor of Cobham was formerly owned by Chertsey Abbey. The Abbey developed a farm, or grange, on the site of the present Cobham Court which stands less than a mile from the parish church. If there was an 'above-ground chapel', was it created for members of the monastic community visiting Cobham?

Is the 'recess' in the eastern wall of the tower evidence of a former altar and an 'above-ground chapel' lit by a narrow window that was formerly in the west wall? Can the dating of the lower part of the tower be pushed back a hundred years from that which has been formerly? And, perhaps most intriguingly, could the tower have originated as a free-standing 'tower nave'?

I am very grateful to John Blair, Rob Briggs, Martin Higgins and Michael Shapland for their patience in dealing with my many questions and for sharing their thoughts. I should be pleased to receive any further thoughts concerning the tower and the mysterious 'recess'.

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Notes

¹ A full article on recent discoveries relating to the enlargement of St Andrew's in the 19th century is to be published in *Surrey History* later this year

² *The Kentish Gazette*, Tuesday 21 August 1866

³ *Surrey Advertiser*, Saturday 11 November 1893

⁴ The tower is Skipwith is believed to be 11th century and that at Brook early 12th century

The Rankine Palaeolithic Collection in Farnham Museum

By **Martin Rose**

Since 2018 a small group from Surrey Archaeology Society (SyAS) has been analysing the Palaeolithic collections of two collectors from the last century held in the Farnham Museum store. This material consists of boxes of flints, the vast majority of which can be classified as Acheulean hand axes. Chris Taylor led the analysis of the Henry Bury collection, while I led the analysis of the William Rankine collection. Chris is preparing a detailed paper for the Surrey Archaeology Collections, which will cover the Bury material and any Rankine material with reasonable provenance. This short report provides a summary of all the Rankine Palaeolithic material. It is intended to provide a factual record rather than draw any major conclusions.

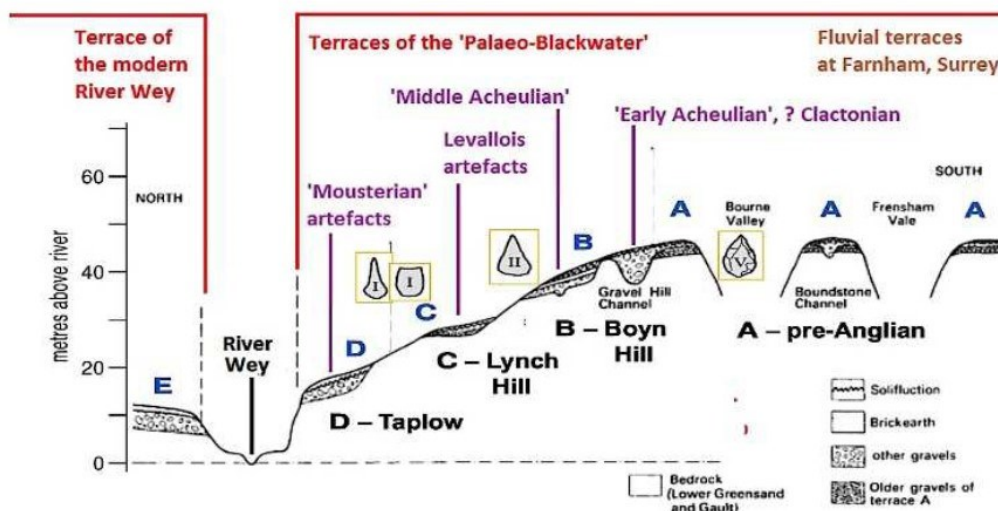
William Francis Rankine (1877-1962) was an important amateur archaeologist in the Farnham area contributing many articles and papers to SyAS; an obituary can be found in Lowther 1964. Rankine is described by Conneller (2021, 10) as ‘the leading Mesolithic fieldworker in Southern England’. Having completed the analysis of his Palaeolithic material, the group has begun to analyse his Mesolithic collection, but it will be a year or two before that is complete.

The Farnham terraces are an important location for Palaeolithic material. The flints were mainly collected from gravel quarries in the first half of the

20th century. Many of the quarries have subsequently been developed as housing. Only rarely was any supporting bioarchaeological material collected. Although this reduces the archaeological value of the finds they still remain important, and if there is provenance linking them to a particular quarry, they can be linked to a river terrace and an interglacial period. Five river terraces have been identified in Farnham (A-E). ‘A’ is the oldest at the top, while ‘E’ is close to the current River Wey and dated to the Mesolithic (Oakley 1939; Bridgland 2018). Terrace A is considered to date from around 500,000 years ago (Marine Isotope Stage, MIS 13). The material found in terraces B to D correspond to warmer periods during the Ice Age when Britain was linked to the continent and the climate was suitable for groups of hominins to survive (Fig 1). The names Taplow, Boyn Hill, etc refer to reference terraces considered to be the equivalent age in the Thames valley.

It seems likely that Terrace B dates to MIS11 or around 400,000 years ago, while Terrace C MIS9 or around 300,000 years ago. This would correspond to the time Neanderthals are thought to have first arrived in Britain and to the early stages of the development of the Levallois lithic technology. Terrace D probably dates to after 60,000 years ago.

Fig 1 Cross section through the Blackwater / Wey terraces at Farnham, showing Palaeolithic material that characterizes certain levels (Bridgland 2018, updated from Wymer 1999). Note the river Wey captured the headwaters of the Blackwater between the formation of terraces D and E.



Methodology

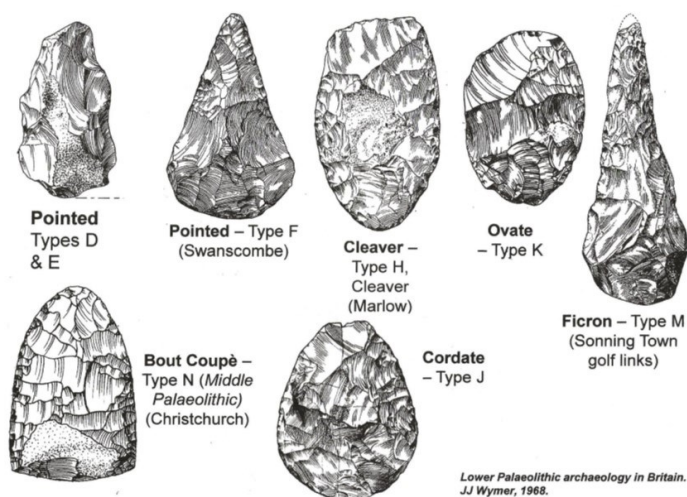
The Farnham archive contains over 50 boxes of material labelled Rankine. Of these, 14 contain primarily Palaeolithic material. A total of 340 Acheulean stone axes and other flints have been analysed. The axes were grouped using Wymer's (1968) typology in order to categorise the flint axes (Fig 2). In addition to the Acheulean axes, there are a number of other worked flints. Some of these may be Levallois type, but no distinctive Levallois cores have been found. The team were unable to confidently distinguish between axes produced using the Levallois prepared core technology and those made on a conveniently sized flake. Levallois axes and prepared cores are found in MIS 9 but become dominant in MIS 7 following the MIS 8 cold period.

There are also some other tools made on flakes. A few items from the boxes are identified as from a latter period in prehistory or are considered to be natural. There were also two hammerstones used to make the flint tools and two pebbles.

Axes types D and E are not separately distinguished; D are defined by Wymer as relatively crudely made, while E are less than 10cm in length but are also often irregular in shape. The distinction between the two types is therefore fairly arbitrary.

The hand axe was in use for at least 500,000 years in Britain and types D/E, F, K and J occur throughout this period of the Palaeolithic, although in varying quantities. Cleavers (H) and Ficrons (M) are particularly associated with MIS 9 (Terrace C) but not earlier. The group also recorded any axes with a distinctive S twist. This is a recognised axe shape

Fig 2 Wymer Palaeolithic Axe Types (Wymer 1968)



variation associated with the MIS 11 period, Terrace B (Pettitt & White 2012, 168).

The dimensions and weight of each item were recorded along with colour, degree of rolling and any other distinguishing features (e.g. percentage of cortex, cracking) onto an excel spreadsheet.

Findings

Of the total of 340 items analysed, all but two were considered to be from the Farnham region and about 60% were recorded as coming from an identifiable quarry or other location. About 40% were therefore either unprovenanced or came from a location not specific enough to allocate to a terrace. Three examples are provided below to demonstrate the contrast in size and quality of the axes (Fig 3).

The provenance of a flint is only attributed if the location is written on the flint or the whole box is clearly labelled to a pit. A number of other flints have writing that suggest a location but do not specifically identify it. For example, a few are labelled 'Borreli'. He was the owner of Stoneyfield pit and gave his collection to Rankine (Rankine 1955), but only if there is other evidence that the flint came from that pit has it been attributed to it.

Fig 3 The first axe (*right*) is a D/E type from Gr Austins Pit (Terrace A/B), weight 163g; the second (*lower left*), from Wrecclesham area but no clear provenance, is also a D/E despite being finely made, weight 67g (was it for a child or some delicate work?); the third (*lower right*) is a large F-type axe also from Terrace A/B, weight 951g (this was initially thought to be a Ficron but comes from too early a terrace). Photograph by the Author from the Farnham collection.



Two pits, Snailslynch and Stoneyfield, provide about 70% of all the flints that can be provenanced.

Five possible Levallois axes were recorded, but four came from terraces where no Levallois technology would be expected. Eleven possible axes with an S twist were recorded; six came from Terrace B (five from Stoneyfield), suggesting at least a small proportion of axes from this pit had that particular trait. Two S twist axes were unprovenanced.

The two possible Ficrons are probably large F type axes. The four possible Cleavers are from Terrace C

pits, where they would be expected to be found.

Discussion

It is important to note two caveats before considering the results of the analysis. The stone tools recorded in the tables are by the nature of their collection a selected sample. They would have been mainly found by workers on the sites and given to Rankine directly or obtained by him from other collectors. Not all the material was first collected by Rankine; for example there is reference on some flints to O'Farrell, who collected earlier than

Table 1 Summary of data

Source of Flints	Farnham Gravel Pits etc	Probably Farnham area; no clear provenance	Dorset	Sussex
Palaeolithic	196	132	1	
Probably Post Palaeolithic	4	6		1

Table 2 Detail on axes by Wymer types and the other material analysed, which reflects what was recorded on the spreadsheet. Subsequent review suggests the two items labelled M (Ficrons) were from too early a pit and therefore were large F type axes.

Type	D/E	F	K	J	J or K Unclear	M	H	Uncertain due to damage	Total
Axe	55	108	17	61	7	2	4	16	270
Axe on Flake									17
Palaeolithic Flake									29
Flake probably post Palaeolithic									10
Axe post Palaeo									3
Pebble									2
Hammerstone									2
Natural									4
Unclear damaged									3

Table 3 Summary of material by location and terrace for those flints that can be provenanced. The Ridgeway is a long road that spans both Terrace A and B, while material from Great Austins pit could be either A or B. There are two Snailslynch pits, Snailslynch Upper pit (Terrace C) and Lower Snailslynch Farm (Terrace D), though at this stage, it is not possible to confirm which of these the flints came from.

Terrace	Location	D/E	F	K	J	H	M	J/K	Axe on Flake	Flake	Too broken or unclear	Other	Total
A	Boundstone				1								1
A	Bourne Pit				5								5
A	Ward's Pit		2										2
A	Shortheath	1	5		5								11
A/B	Ridgeway		2	1						1			4
A/B	Great Austins / W of Mavins Road	1	7		1		1		1				11
B	Stoneyfield	13	24	5	13		1	7	8	6	7	4	88
Total A/B	Total	15	40	6	25	0	2	7	9	7	7	4	122
%		12%	33%	5%	21%	0%	2%	6%	7%	6%	6%	3%	
C	Crow's Pit Menin Way					1							1
C	Farnham Grammer School / Morley road		1	1	1	1							4
C	Wakeford's pit	1	1		1	1				1			5
C/D	Snailslynch	18	14	1	8	1			5	7	1		55
D	Patterson's		2		1								3
D	Weydon Pit /Searle road		1	1	1				1				4
D	1 axe/flake from 6 different pits/locations		3		2					1			6
Total C/D	Total	19	22	3	14	4	0	0	6	9	1	0	78
%		24%	28%	4%	18%	5%	0%	0%	8%	12%	1%	0%	

Rankine before the First World War. Inevitably this introduces a bias in the material collected, although whether this favours the collection of the larger and finer tools is difficult to assess.

Many of the axes have been heavily rolled, probably spending time in water, and were stained various shades of brown. It is likely that erosion processes that produced the various terraces resulted in downslope mixing of axes from different ages. Terrace A and B are quite close together in some places for instance. As a result, if only a few axes are recorded in a Terrace B-D pit, it is difficult to be confident it was originally knapped on that terrace.

Two pits provided a significant number of worked flints and therefore justify additional analysis, although it is hoped the flints from the other pits can contribute to overall picture of the Farnham Palaeolithic. The dates of the Stoneyfield and Snailslynch pits are at least 100,000 years apart; the later pit, Snailslynch, has more D/E type axes and less Ovates but both contain all the most common Wymer types.

What does stand out is the large variety in the tools classified as hand axes. At one extreme there is a cleaver (Wakeford's Pit) with dimensions of length 234mm, maximum width 114mm and maximum thickness of 56mm, weighing 1.6kg. At the other is a small roughly made axe from Snailslynch (length 87mm, maximum width 47mm, maximum thickness 32mm, weighing 0.127kg). This wide variation in the basic axe design supports the view that 'within archaic hominin societies the power of individual agents to express themselves through technology may have been strong, but their power to change the overarching structure of the Acheulean was limited' (Pettitt & White 2012, 171).

The items on display in museums tend to be the classic pointed or rounded axes rather than cruder D/E. However, this classification of axe type, often with significant percentage of cortex left on, occur in significant numbers making up c20% of the total Acheulean axes. This may reflect the fact that there was plenty of available flint, allowing axes to be quickly knapped for a specific function(s) and then discarded. Alternatively, it could be related to the nature of the flint nodules or skills of the knapper. As the majority of axes are not clearly identifiable to a terrace, it is impossible to allocate the unprovenanced ones to any of the specific periods when Britain was occupied by early hominins.

Conclusion

As said at the beginning, it is not the intention in this report to carry out any detailed statistical analysis or draw any major conclusions. The Rankine Palaeolithic collection adds to the weight of evidence from the Bury collection and other flints from the Farnham area that the Farnham terraces are an important location for Palaeolithic material over hundreds of thousands of years, not just in Surrey but nationally.

The flints were uncovered at a time when systematic archaeological excavation was rare. There is still therefore much that could be learnt about the terraces if the opportunity occurs to carry out new geoarchaeological investigation in an area not previously disturbed by gravel pits.

I would like to thank Rose Hooker, Chris Taylor, John De Prey, Pam Taylor, Katy Ayers, Kevin Sloane, John Peters and anyone else who I have forgotten for their hard work in analysing the collection and producing the spreadsheet of results.

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A papal bulla from Guildford

By Simon Maslin

This finely preserved example of a medieval papal bulla, or seal, was found at Compton near Guildford in Surrey and recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) as SUR-D520A7. It is named to Pope Innocent III (1198-1216), one of the most powerful popes of the era. The obverse read INNO/CENTIVS/PP III and the reverse displays the heads of St Peter (*right*) and St Paul (*left*), facing inwards and separated by a small central cross patonce, with legend SPASPE ('Saint Paul and St Peter') above. There are slots on the upper and lower edges for a ribbon which would have attached the bulla to a document.

A bulla like this was affixed to a document issued by the papacy in order to demonstrate its authenticity to the recipient. The associations with important church documents and the papacy often resulted in these objects being subsequently destroyed to decommission documents or modified for re-use as amulets or in another apotropaic fashion. This example has suffered none of these fates and remains intact and in remarkably good condition.

Beyond its intrinsic interest, this find has a potential local historical connection, being directly contemporary to the First Baron's War (1215-1217), a time when nearby Guildford castle was a royal possession and the scene of dramatic events. The named pope on this bulla, Innocent III, was notably

the pontif to whom King John turned in his attempts to annul Magna Carta and oppose the barons' demands in July 1215. He dutifully proved to be a supporter of John's royal cause and condemned the original charter signed 'under duress' at Runnymede. Following this annulment of this iconic agreement the civil war intensified, and on 6 June 1216 Prince Louis of France invaded with the support of the rebel English barons in a concerted attempt to unseat the King. The French army advanced across Surrey, arriving at Guildford on 8 June. The castle surrendered to him immediately, apparently without conflict and was briefly occupied by the French – an episode which saw it suffering damage and partial demolition. Across the rest of the country the war dragged on for a year and a half before Louis, having lost the support of the English barons, was finally defeated at Lincoln in May 1217.

Despite this historical context, the nature of the document to which this bulla was attached will of course never be known and we can only speculate as to the identity of the individual or establishment to which it was originally sent. It nevertheless offers a glimpse of a dramatic period and an interesting example of how a metal-detected stray find, when properly recorded and documented, can directly connect to wider historical events within the area in which it was found.

SUR-D520A7 – a bulla of Innocent III from Guildford © Surrey County Council



Society seeks a new treasurer

By Mike Edwards, SyAS Treasurer

The Society's Articles of Association limit the time anyone can hold the office of Treasurer of the Society to eight years. As a result, the current Treasurer will resign on or before the 2024 Annual General Meeting and the Society is looking for a replacement.

In addition to being a trustee of the Society the principal roles of the Treasurer are to manage the Society's finances, prepare an annual budget and prepare and submit the annual set of final accounts to the Society's Independent Examiner for inspection and then report the results to members of the Society at the AGM. The Treasurer also chairs the Society's Investment Committee.

Anyone interested in this position should have a reasonable degree of accounting knowledge and experience in putting together a set of accounts. However, if that sounds a little daunting bear in mind that the Treasurer has excellent support from two very capable people. First, there is our

Administrator, who manages the day to day accounting and makes the entries from the bank statements into the Sage electronic accounting system. Secondly, there is an external accountant who manages the payroll and the Sage accounting system, provides any financial reports from Sage that may be required and produces the draft annual accounts for review by the Treasurer that provide the basis for the submission of a final set of accounts to the independent examiner. The independent examiner is also available for technical advice when needed.

Anyone interested in taking on this role would shadow the current Treasurer to get a much clearer understanding of what is involved.

This is a worthwhile voluntary position at the heart of the Society and, if you are interested, please let me know or email the office (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

Research Committee grants

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 and Old Park in 2021 and post-excavation for Ashtead, 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, such as work on the historic excavation at Lightwater and to enable a report on the more recent Hatch Furlong dig to commence. Godalming Museum was also assisted in the purchase of the important Elstead coin hoard.

Scientific analyses are also specifically covered by funds from the Bierton-Slade bequest which has recently funded radiocarbon dating for the Abinger excavation.

Applications are considered throughout the year and the Committee's 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 office for details.

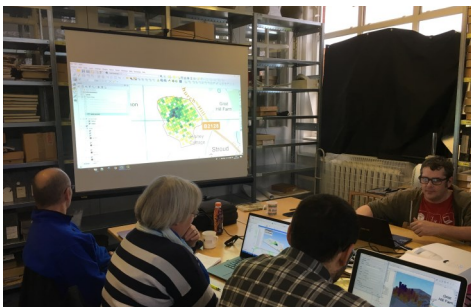
Environment and Climate Change Commitment

By Emma Coburn

At last year's Council Strategy Meeting held in April 2021, there was general agreement that Surrey Archaeological Society should do what it can to minimise the impact it has on the environment and climate change. The discussion was wide ranging and engaging, highlighting the importance of this theme. Whilst progress is being made, the following activities were highlighted as areas where improvements can be made: Buildings, Meetings, Excavations, Publications and Processes.

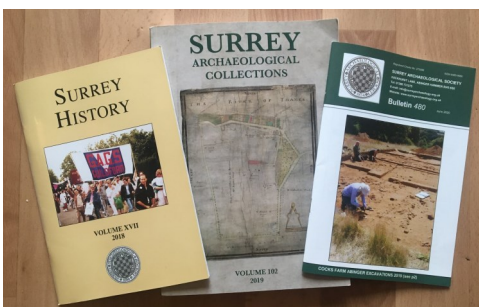
As a Society, I would like to invite each group and committee to bring climate change and the environment into focus and see how environmentally conscious changes can be building blocks for reducing the total impact the Society has.

Our priority areas were identified as:



Buildings

Events
(including
Transport)



Publications

I would love to hear about your existing activities, current commitments, and potential ideas!

Representing the Society, I am a member of the Surrey Climate Commission Outreach Group. For more information go to About Surrey Climate Commission (www.surreyclimate.org.uk/about-surrey-climate-commission). I hoped to introduce their initiative to develop a Climate Map. What map? An interactive, searchable map of the whole of Surrey showing all climate groups, ventures, and actions. The Commission wants to develop an easy-to-access facility for everyone to use. The climate groups map will appear on the Surrey Climate Commission website for all to use and share (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdAypbYtQLAUn76_6RMNMkUjEi7KdqnX_TY3giTLKYsH-qxw/viewform).

Would you like to contribute or know of a group that would?

Email contactus@surreyclimate.org.uk for more information.

Surrey Climate Commission

By opening up the conversation about our collective commitment to reduce the impact we have on the environment across Surrey, we can share innovative, inspirational ideas and approaches.

A celebration of the life of Beryl Higgins 1928 -2022

By **Nikki Cowlard***

Beryl Higgins, architect, local historian and archaeologist, was born in Streatham on 7 May 1928, but grew up in Surbiton, an only child. The family home backed onto a wild area with a stream and this is where Beryl developed her love of wild-life and, in particular, birdwatching. This fascination continued throughout her life, as did her love of sailing. Beryl's teenage years in Surbiton had allowed her easy access to the Thames, where she was able to develop her love of sailing, first with the Sea Rangers, and then by picking up crewing jobs at local sailing clubs. Later she helped run the local Guides in Brockham, became a qualified senior sailing instructor and the South-East regional boating advisor for the Girl Guide Association as well as running regular training courses at Desborough Sailing Club in Shepperton.

Towards the end of WWII Beryl started her training as an architect at Kingston, and after graduating as one of the first female architects in this country, she worked for London County Council at County Hall, where the 'London Eye' is now located. Her work there was quite diverse and ranged from designing a boxing ring to drawing up plans for a complete old people's home. Here she met her future husband, John, who was a fellow architect.

John and Beryl were married in 1957 and moved into a new house at Long Meadow in Bookham. Three sons, David, Martin and Nigel, came along in due course and, in need of more room, the couple bought an overgrown plot called High Bank in Brockham that was occupied by a dilapidated 1920s bungalow. Since they were both architects, John and Beryl designed their own 'dream house' and Beryl lived there until the end of her life. Beryl sadly lost her husband in 1974, leaving her with three young children to raise. Despite this unexpected burden, she continued to maintain the house and half-acre garden single handed, as well as engaging in a bewildering variety of activities, including opening the garden occasionally as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Beryl was a familiar sight around

Brockham and, in later life, was known as either the 'bird lady' or the 'bike lady' (cycling around the village or into Dorking to do her weekly shopping). Fashion was never an interest of Beryl's, being a follower of 'make do and mend', and likewise cooking was not her forte, generally being distracted by something more interesting. Always ready for a challenge, even in her 70s, she set out to learn how to ring church bells so she could ring in the new millennium, which she did.

Although she gave up work to look after her children, Beryl's architectural training continued to be of use and she was involved in the design of a new extension for Dorking Museum. For many years she sat on the planning committee of the Dorking



Beryl at home, May 2013

and District Preservation Society, providing weekly comments on local planning applications within Mole Valley and judging entries for the ‘Best Development’ award. She worked on the first conservation plan for Deepdene Gardens, some 30 years before the Deepdene trail was finally created – she always had vision and foresight. Similarly, she also recorded Clarendon House in Dorking as part of a successful campaign to save the building and prevent a planned relief road through the heart of Dorking. Her greatest contribution was probably to the Surrey Domestic Buildings Research Group, where she photographed, made measured drawings of and wrote reports on a huge number of old buildings across the county, many of which were timber framed. This utilised her architectural training, whereby she was able to not only understand the construction of the buildings but was also able to prepare plans and elevations of them for the reports. Most recently she coordinated the computerisation of details from the recordings of thousands of Surrey buildings, which now form the core of an embryonic national database.

Beryl carried out a survey of the monumental inscriptions in the churchyard of St Michael’s, Betchworth in 1980, and also rescued the Betchworth Tithe Map from being discarded (she spotted it by the bins outside the vicarage!) – it is now in the Surrey History Centre. She traced historic maps of Betchworth (1634) and Dorking (1649) and did a lot of work relating them to the surviving buildings, including researching the owners and land holdings. Beryl also helped with the recovery of historic documents from Attlee’s warehouse in Dorking (also now in SHC), and prepared reconstruction drawings of lost buildings such as Chart Park and Lonesome Lodge, contributing to books on both buildings as well as one on Gadbrook Common. She helped establish the Meg Ryan local history archive in the Hamilton Room at Betchworth, and some of her many archive reports, drawings and other research notes are held there (you can find them by searching the index at www.betchworth-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/catalogue-for-mr-room-website.pdf).

In addition to her local history work, Beryl also played an active part in studying the archaeology of the area by taking part in local fieldwork projects, collecting worked flints from her garden, and through being the local secretary of Surrey Archaeological Society for many years. She also helped on archaeological excavations underneath the old Tithe Barn next to Brockham church (and wrote the historical background for the published report), on excavations in advance of the sand pit extensions behind the telephone exchange in Betchworth, and on digs at North Street / Church Street in Dorking under Vivien Ettlinger.

These paragraphs can only give a flavour of Beryl’s life and achievements; for those who knew her she was a loving mother and grandmother, unassuming, generous with her time and always willing to help. Her energy and joy in her family and home, and in her wide ranging and lifelong interests, are things we can only hope to emulate.

* Edited by Nikki Coward from Higgins family reminiscences shared at Beryl’s memorial service



Beryl digging at Betchworth Tithe Barn, 1968

Lecture meetings

Please note that lecture details, in particular venues and format (ie online or in-person), are subject to change. It is recommended that up-to-date information be obtained from the individual organisations before attending.

4 July

‘The Royal Observatory at Abinger’ by Graham Dolan to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

‘Brookwood Cemetery’ by Jenny Mukerji to Woking History Society at Maybury Centre, Board School Road, Woking at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

5 July

‘Egham Past – High Street to Egham Hill’ by Richard Williams to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

6 July

‘Nonsuch Park’ by John Phillips to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

28 July

‘West Horsley Place: a house and its history’ by Joy Davis to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

1 August

‘The art of variety (Music Hall)’ by Brian O’Gorman to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

3 August

‘The Calico people of the Wandle’ by Mick Taylor to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

5 September

‘The string of pearls – villages from Nutfield to Westerham’ by Bob Evans to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

‘Place names’ by Tony Painter to Woking History Society at Maybury Centre, Board School Road, Woking at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

6 September

‘Elsie and Marai go to war’ by Malcolm Stewart to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

7 September

‘The Portable Antiquities Scheme – role of the Finds Liaison Officer and the Treasure Act’ by Simon Maslin to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

12 September

‘Saving Kew and Old Deer Park... and other adventures – the W H Hudson story’ by Conor Jameson to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

14 September

‘Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens’ by Moira McQuaide to Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall, High Street, Ripley at 19:30.

20 September

‘Surrey on film 1914-1953: a community in peace and war’ to Albury History Society at Albury Village Hall, Albury at 20:00, plus Zoom relay when possible. Visitors welcome: £3

29 September

‘History of the Basingstoke Canal’ by Roger Cansdale to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

3 October

‘Droughts, deluges and dust-devils: 350 years of weather in SE UK’ by Ian Currie to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

‘The life and loves of Ada Lovelace’ by David Taylor to Woking History Society at Maybury Centre, Board School Road, Woking at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

4 October

‘The RNLI “innovation and imagination”’ by Colin Brown to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

5 October

‘Variation in Ewell’ by Alicia Grant to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

10 October

‘John Hamilton, architect of Kew’s Parades’ by Stephen Bartlett to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

12 October

‘Refurbishment of Clendon Park’ by Margaret Taylor to Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall, High Street, Ripley at 19:30.

18 October

‘Postal Services in Surrey’ by Michael Miller to Albury History Society at Albury Village Hall, Albury at 20:00, plus Zoom relay when possible. Visitors welcome: £3

Heritage Open Days

A HOD event at the Society's offices in Abinger will take place on **Thursday 15 September**. This will coincide with an AARG working day, with other groups invited to set up displays. The library will also be open to browse, with free admission for members and non-members alike. Please get in touch with info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if you wish to participate.

Cobham medieval graffiti study day

On **Saturday 10 September**, the Medieval Studies Forum will be running a study day on medieval graffiti at St Andrews parish church, Cobham as part of Heritage Open Days. This will involve a detailed talk and tour of the church by Dr David Taylor, followed by a recording session of the various graffiti inscriptions within the church.

MSF members will have first priority at booking, with other spots opened up if available. More information on details will be made available soon.

Medieval Studies Forum pottery study day

On **Saturday 1 October** at East Horsley Village Hall, the Medieval Studies Forum will be hosting a study day on medieval pottery, covering topics from the clay used, the techniques of pot making, the identification of pottery found in excavation and the impact on the people of medieval society.

Confirmed speakers include Duncan Brown (English Heritage), Jacqui Pearce (MOLA), Lorraine Mepham (Wessex Archaeology), Mark Eller and Lyn Spencer. The Society's President will also pay a tribute to the late Steve Nelson.

Further details, including the application form will be circulated to members of the forum and then posted on the Events page of the Society's website when the programme is finalised.

CBA-SE annual conference

On **Saturday 12 November**, CBA-SE will hold its annual conference in Canterbury, this year jointly with the Kent Archaeological Society. The theme will be on agriculture, industry and trade in the Roman South-East, with talks covering a range of recent work and discoveries in all three counties. A full programme will be available soon, but for now, please save the date.

SHERF 2022

On **Saturday 26 November**, the Society will host its annual Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework (SHERF) conference, this year on the theme of 'Defensive structures: symbols of power?'

This will be an online conference, held via Zoom, with a range of speakers, including Barney Harris on linear earthworks, Krysia Truscoe on oppida, Stuart Brooks on Anglo-Saxon burhs, William Wyeth on timber towers, Peter Mills on Civil War defences and Paul Ferris on WW2 defences.

A full programme and booking information will be available soon, but for now, please save the date.

Disposal of the dead in Roman SE England conference

The Roman Studies Group will hold its bi-annual conference at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on **Saturday 6 May 2023**. The conference aims not only to discuss evidence uncovered for death in the Roman period in the South-East and how it differs from continental practices, but also to explore what might account for the millions of dead not seen in the archaeological record. Whilst the speakers and timetable have yet to be confirmed, the line-up will include John Pearce of King's College London, who will give the keynote talk on 'The general character of the funerary world'.

Booking information will be available later in the year.

For further events taking place around the region, please follow the Society's e-newsletters. To be placed on the mailing list, email info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.