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**SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

**BULLETIN**

Number 124

February 1976

Edited by Nancy Cox, "Karm", 108 Westfield Road,  
Mayford, Woking GU22 9QP

**EXCAVATION NOTICE**

EGHAM BRIDGE: (TQ 01907185),  
and MANOR FARM: (centred at TQ 015714)

Director: David Longley

At the time of going to press, excavation was due to start on these sites which are expected to produce evidence from the BRONZE AGE onwards. Work will probably be carried out on five days of the week including week-ends, and VOLUNTEERS WILL BE VERY WELCOME INDEED. Please contact D. G. Bird at Castle Arch (Guildford 32454).

**VISIT**

**Wednesday 24th March — Visit to Lincoln's Inn**

Arranged by Captain M. A. Wilson, RNR

- 10.30 a.m. Assemble at Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields. Conducted tour of Museum followed by a ramble round the Fields to view some of the old houses.
- 2.15 p.m. Assemble at the Lincoln's Inn Field gate of Lincoln's Inn. Conducted tour of the Inn. If time permits a visit will also be made to St Mary-le-Strand Church.

Lincoln's Inn Fields are behind the east side of Kingsway. If fine, picnic meals can be taken in the Fields, where there is a refreshment kiosk.

Tickets (members 20p, visitors 25p, students half price and accompanied children free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0QL.

**New members from 1.11.75**

E. A. Kernthaler, MSc, 82 Pine Hill, Epsom KT18 7BQ.

P. J. Dickinson, Danesfort, 2 Gong Hill Drive, Lower Bourne, Farnham.

Mr and Mrs W. G. Goddard, Coombe End, 75 Coombe Road, Farncombe, Godalming GU7 3SL.

M. Titchiner, 24 North Place, Guildford.

Miss J. Stewart-Smith, South Park Farm, South Godstone RH9 8LF.

Mr and Mrs Lavers, 25 Tower Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, Middx.

Mrs M. M. Oswald, 3 West Street Lane, Carshalton.

Miss E. P. Humphreys, 41 Salisbury Road, Godstone RH9 8AA.

L. Draper, North Brow, Ballsdown, Chiddingfold, Godalming GU8 4XJ.

H. G. A. Robinson, Heathlands, 53 College Ride, Camberley GU15 4JX.

T. A. L. Rosser, 29 Howard Road, Coulsdon.

## IMPORTANT PUBLICATION

The Department of the Environment has published a 16-page Report by a Working Party of the Ancient Monuments Board Committee for Rescue Archaeology entitled "Principles of Publication in Rescue Archaeology". Copies are available, free, from Mr A. Martin, Room 315, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, W1. (No copyright restrictions).

The following summarises the Report's recommendations:

### Principles of Publication

1. Objective, a synthesised description of results. Original records to be preserved.
2. Lengthy discussion should be published elsewhere than in excavation reports.
3. Interim reports of major excavations should receive financial support.

### Subsidiary Data

4. DoE should organise dissemination of subsidiary data, such as specialist investigations.
5. Museums accepting finds should accept excavation records.
6. Where records cannot be housed locally they should go to the National Monuments Record.
7. Computer methods of storage are encouraged.

### Publication

8. Reports should appear in established series or journals.
9. Economy to be sought by effective editing.
10. Offset-litho reproduction of typescript acceptable for shorter reports only.

### Publication Media

11. Major reports should be offered to the Soc. Ants. Research Report series.
12. Series of DoE monographs should be expanded.
13. More flexible arrangements for DoE grants for publication needed.
14. Major reports in fascicule form may have advantages.
15. National societies should issue minor reports, with financial assistance.
16. Continuing and increased financial support recommended.
17. CBA proposals should be supported.
18. Only ephemeral or popular reports outside established series.
19. Profits from popular publication might support definitive reports.

### Other Matters

20. DoE to give editorial advice.
21. Members of editorial committees should receive honoraria.
22. Further financial support required.
23. CBA needs more money to support publication.
24. DoE should establish its own archaeological journal.

(R. W. McDowall)

The Hon Editor asks all intending contributors of archaeological articles to the Collections or the Research Volumes to take note of the above, and would stress very strongly the advantages of consultation at an early stage of preparation for publication.

## **Ashtead and Leatherhead: A Possible Roman Field-System**

**TQ 16905866/TQ 16905700**

**TQ 17705840/TQ 17505740**

**TQ 18205880/TQ 18045775**

Research on medieval Leatherhead and Ashtead has revealed the apparent remains of a field-system consisting of six roughly regular 2300-foot squares, respected to a striking degree by the medieval roads, boundaries and land-units and possibly connected with the Ashtead Roman villa.

Research is continuing, and it is hoped eventually to produce a report for publication. (W. J. Blair)

(Further details are contained in an initial report which has been deposited at Castle Arch.)

## **Dorking: Excavations at Burford Bridge and Juniper Hill**

During training week-ends in 1953/54, three locations were chosen for trial excavations to be carried out across the supposed line of Stane Street, as follows:

**Site A. (TQ 17155210).** Between A24 and B2209, north of Burford Bridge. In 1953 this was rough ground bordered by trees.

A north/south mound approximately 50cm high and 6m wide, which was visible on the surface, was sampled, but there was no trace of road metalling, and at approximately 1m a level surface of what seemed to be natural river gravel was found. There had been much recent disturbance.

**Site B. (TQ 17801534).** Brow of Juniper Hill, where two low north/south ridges 6m apart suggested the boundaries of a possible roadway.

The top of what appeared to be the natural chalk was exposed at approximately 30cm. The north/south ditches proved to be approximately 30cm deep, but the area between them showed no evidence of metalling or of use by wheeled traffic. Auger sampling along the possible line of the Roman road on the brow of Juniper Hill failed to reveal any concentration of stones which could have been road metalling.

**Site C. (TQ 17401531).** Hollow way on Juniper Hill where the old way is parallel to the modern bridle path.

Excavation across the hollow way revealed at approximately 50cm a small area of level surface of chalk blocks laid directly upon the natural chalk. Above it was about 6cm of chalky silt, and, above the silt, a layer of coal and modern pottery.

The hollow way was apparently either deliberately cut and floored at this point with hard chalk blocks, or it was re-surfaced with chalk blocks after a hollow way had been eroded in the hillside. There was no evidence of when this had taken place. (John A. Alexander)

(Note—the above has been condensed from a fuller report which has been deposited at Castle Arch).

## **Hascombe: (TQ 004386)**

The fourth and final year of the limited programme of research on the three Surrey Greensand hill-forts of Anstiebury, Holmbury and Hascombe was devoted to the most westerly site, Hascombe, with excavation being carried out from the 5th July to the 2nd August, 1975.

During May, Mr A. J. Clark carried out gradiometer scanning of the area immediately behind the defences and of the interior, so locating ten anomalies. An inconclusive resistivity survey was carried out across a low

mound outside the defences, and the track running parallel to them, in case an outer defence system was present.

### **The Defences**

Excavation was largely devoted to an examination of the defences, which were shown to consist of a single bank and ditch. A low mound outside the ditch proved to be a natural feature, utilised by the builders; some disturbance in the natural surface on the crest of the mound hinted at possible chevaux de frise but further investigation disproved this. The rampart was found to be 24ft (7.2m) wide and 4ft (1.2m) high above the old ground surface. It was composed largely of sand with occasional pockets of heavy rubble, and a single post-hole, 6in (15cm) square, appeared 13ft (3.9m) back from the front of the rampart on the south side of the trench; it was contained within the rampart core and its isolation suggests a marker post. No finds were recorded from the rampart material, but a thin occupation layer on the tail yielded decorated Late Iron Age sherds and a baked clay sling-shot. The ditch was V-shaped, cut into the natural rock to a depth of 7-8ft (2.1-2.4m) and a width of approximately 20ft (5.7m); the vertical height of the present rampart crest above the ditch bottom was 13ft (3.9m). It is clear that originally the rampart was faced with stone, since a massive rubble layer (as noticed by Winbolt SAC XI 78-96) was a consistent feature of the ditch filling. The revetment seems to have collapsed, whether deliberately or accidentally, in two phases: the first was a mass of heavy rubble on a thin layer of primary silt, above which came a fairly thick layer of stony sand, followed by the second, less massive, rubble layer. A few sherds from the base of a pot in coarse gritty ware were recovered from the surface of the primary silt.

### **The Entrance**

Before excavation the out-turned side-banks showed as mounds 4ft (1.2m) high, approximately 30ft (9.1m) wide and the same distance in length. One noticeable feature was a depression at the junction of each bank with the front of the main rampart, the reason for which was not apparent but thought possibly to represent the later addition of the banks to the rampart terminals.

One of Winbolt's trenches had removed the centre of the entrance to a depth of c. 2ft (0.6m); an undisturbed portion at the west end indicated that a substantial stone layer, presumably the metalling of a track, had originally existed there. Beyond the limits of Winbolt's trench appeared a solid mass of rubble rising towards the crest of each side-bank, the solidity of which at first suggested deliberate pitching. However, stripping of the rubble facing the track of both north and south side-banks revealed a revetment in each case, approximately 5ft (1.5m) back from the rubble edge and 20ft, (6m) apart. The width of the side-banks, as defined by the revetments, can be calculated at c. 16ft (4.8m), and the core consisted of sand. Time did not permit the tracing of the revetments to the rampart terminals, but there was a suggestion that they were curving inwards to make a narrower gap at the entrance proper; further work is clearly necessary to determine whether this is so and if any structural evidence survives for a possible gate.

The section through the south side-bank cut into the depression where the bank met the rampart. Within the core of the bank there appeared an approximately rectangular dark fill, 15in (37.5cm) deep and 12in (30cm) wide, set on stone, presumably to be interpreted as a massive timber baulk

blocking the track. If so, this may mean that there was no more sophisticated gate arrangement, but again this is a point for future investigation.

#### **Magnetic Anomalies**

Of the ten anomalies located seven were investigated archaeologically. Of these, four which lay on or in close proximity to the tail of the rampart produced little more than evidence of slight burning, but anomaly 3, close to the south-east angle of the defences, proved to be a sub-rectangular rock-cut pit, the filling of which produced pottery, a fragment of a triangular loom-weight, and fragments of a bee-hive quern. Anomaly 2, approximately 100ft (30.4m) into the interior and on the line of the track leading from the entrance, proved to be a shallow oval feature filled with black soil relatively devoid of finds but sealed beneath a stone layer largely composed of quern fragments. Anomaly 5, on the same line but 80ft (24.2m) further into the interior, consisted of a kidney-shaped rock-cut pit, whose filling contained pottery, quern fragments, and on the bottom of the pit a substantial layer of carbonised grain and charcoal. Unfortunately time did not permit the pit to be traced to its full extent, but it is hoped to return to complete the investigation of this feature.

#### **The Finds**

More finds were recovered than in previous years, in particular from anomaly 5. In general they conform to the material from Anstiebury and Holmbury: sling-stones, bee-hive querns (it now becomes important to locate the source of these), and Late Iron Age pottery of characteristic Wealden type—piriform jars with bead rim and moulded base, decorated with straight or curved incised lines demarcated by small oval or circular stab-marks; one striking point is the close family resemblance between the decorated pot from the Holmbury ditch in 1974, and one virtually complete jar from the pit filling of anomaly 5 at Hascombe. To this material may now be added the loom-weight fragment and two complete, and fragmentary baked clay sling-bullets, confirming both the interpretation of the pebbles from the three hill-forts and indicating the way in which their defences were planned. They may also throw light on the 'gallon measure' of baked clay sling-bullets found in Derry's Wood, 4½ miles (7.24km) NNE of Hascombe (SAC XXII (1909), 199) of which a few examples are in Guildford Museum.

#### **Summary of results 1972-75**

It is now possible to offer answers to some of the questions which the three hill-forts pose:

a. the ceramic evidence places all three in the Late Iron Age, and it is hoped that radiocarbon dating may eventually show whether they are the response to tribal unrest or a major external threat such as the Caesarian landings of 55 and 44 BC.

b. to the extent that pottery is now accepted as a cultural indicator, all three sites have 'Wealden' affinities, extending eastwards into Kent and southwards towards the Sussex downs.

c. structurally, the three represent a single building episode; Anstiebury and Holmbury are bivallate, giving a broad band of defences related to the use of the sling, while Hascombe, although univallate, adapted a natural feature for the same purpose and the sling evidence is even stronger.

d. their use was apparently short-lived: Anstiebury was probably unfinished, Holmbury shows little evidence of occupation, and only Hascombe shows any degree of possible settlement (and this requires further proof). All

three provided evidence of demolished defences and at Hascombe the entrance seems to have been slighted. Broken querns at Holmbury and Hascombe suggest a forced evacuation, and for the context of this we return to a.);

e. the grain from Hascombe and the quern fragments will, it is hoped, provide some information on the economy of the region.

(F. H. Thompson)

Note: This has been condensed from a fuller report which has been deposited at Castle Arch.

#### **Leatherhead: Bank of River Mole (TQ 16425535)**

Following the finding in the river bank of a rim sherd which was identified as possibly Romano-British, other finds were made in a limited area. These were approximately 100 small sherds (including a piece of mortaria; a piece of sieve; and a rim fragment of third/fourth century type); and small fragments of tile and bone.

In addition, a coin was found which has been identified as common copper coin of Constantine the Great wearing a laureate wreath on the obverse side, and a conception of the "Glory of the Army" with two soldiers holding spears and shields with two legionary standards between, on the reverse side.

The adjacent field has since been observed for crop markings and other signs, but nothing has been seen. Fragments of roof tile are scattered on the field, but these could be medieval or later.

(G. T. L. Elmore)

#### **Morden: (TQ 25556710)**

Since the report made in 1974 (Bulletin 111 Recent Publications) further sherds of Romano-British, and of later pottery, have been found in gardens in Glastonbury Road. Investigations will continue. (W. J. Rudd)

#### **Reigate: Flanchford (TQ 235480)**

Following the discovery of a Mesolithic site on the Lower Terrace gravels of the river Mole, an excavation was carried out by members of the Holmesdale Archaeological Group and the SAS in advance of deep ploughing.

Trial trenches showed that the mass of Mesolithic material was contained in the present ploughsoil which, however, overlaid an undisturbed thirteenth century level. A few flints, apparently in situ, sealed in iron pan below the Medieval layer indicated that only the periphery of the site was preserved and that the focus had been disturbed and dumped on the field in relatively recent times. It is significant that the concentration of flints is situated adjacent to the millpond which is believed to have been excavated in the sixteenth century.

To the west of the main flint scatter two firepits 3m apart, were found. Both contained a mass of charcoal, stones and sherds of mid thirteenth century pottery. Similar sherds were concentrated close to the pits.

Converging lines of flint, gravel and chalk, 30cm in width, and enclosing the pits, when sectioned, revealed entrenchment to the terrace gravel. The fill contained a few pieces of brick, tile and (?) eighteenth century pottery. The trenches were probably dug for drainage purposes as this part of the field is noticeably more water retentive.

Finds from the excavation and previous fieldwork included a tranchet axe and several microliths mainly of scalene, triangular and rod forms, indicative of a very late phase in the Wealden Mesolithic. The splayed cutting edge of a finely polished flint axe, probably Bronze Age, was also found.  
(R. Ellaby)

#### Recent Publications

- Anon. St James's Church, Park Hill (1975). Clapham AS Occasional Sheet. No 332.
- Bourne Society Local History Record XV (1975). 20p from local booksellers or 25p from 17 Manor Avenue, Caterham CR3 6AP.
- Bone, Mrs V. A. (1975). 1875-1975 Gresham Primary School, Sanderstead. (Illustrated history of School). 40p from the Headmistress.
- Bourne Society (1975). A History of Coulsdon. Bourne Society Bulletin 82, 6.
- Blackman, M. E. (1975). Hilington House, Walton-on-Thames. (Notes from various catalogues of sale etc. from 1925 until demolition in 1965). Walton & Weybridge LHS Dial Stone No 63, 5-6.
- Barker, D. (1975). Notes on possible route of Roman road. Egham-by-Runnymede HS No 88, 1,2,3.
- Cluett, D. (1975). Sutton Scene. A Brief History of the London Borough of Sutton. (Excerpts from longer history by same author already published). Noted from Bourne Society Bulletin 82.
- Davis, Dorothy. Christ Church School, Virginia Water (1975). Carta IX. Egham-by-Runnymede HS No 88.
- Langham-Carter, R. R. (1975). The French Royal Tombs at Weybridge (including additional work on inscriptions, position of tombs, and family tree of Orléans family, by M. E. Blackman, J. W. Lindus Forge and J. S. L. Pulford). Walton & Weybridge LHS Monograph No 24.
- Michell, R. (1975). The Parish of Beddington in the year 1837. (Illustrated). Published by Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington AS to mark EAHY 1975. Copies may be obtained from Mrs M. Oswald, 3 West Street Lane, Carshalton, price 50p plus postage 20p.

#### Surrey Record Office and Guildford Muniment Room—Opening Hours

Surrey Record Office (Dr D. B. Robinson, 01-546 1050 Ext 3561)	
Monday-Wednesday & Friday	9.30 a.m.— 4.45 p.m.
Thursday	1.45 p.m.— 4.45 p.m.
*Saturday, 2nd & 4th in month— by appointment only	9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Guildford Muniment Room (Miss G. M. A. Beck, Guildford 66551)	
Monday	Closed
Tuesday-Friday	9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. 1.45 p.m.— 4.45 p.m.
*Saturday, 1st & 3rd in month— by appointment only	9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

\*Saturday bookings must be arranged by 12.30 on the preceding Thursday.

The Search Room is closed on Bank Holidays and the Saturdays preceding Bank Holidays.

Especially at Guildford Search Room seating space is limited, and shortage of staff may sometimes make it impossible to produce documents without notice. To avoid risk of disappointment, please write or telephone before coming. It is essential to do so for Saturday visits.

Neither office is open for telephone calls on Saturday.

## ADVANCE NOTICES

### CONFERENCE: RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE SOUTH-EAST 1975

(being arranged by the South-East Rescue Archaeology Committee)

Saturday, 24th April

Venue in Bromley

Speakers including Kevin Crouch, Alec Down, Peter Drewett, John Hampton and Brian Philp will talk about recent excavations in Surrey, Sussex and Kent, and a guest speaker, Mrs Margaret Jones will talk about her very important excavations at Mucking, Essex. Further details will be published in the next Bulletin.

### LOCAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, 16th October

Dorking Halls. Subject: Surrey Gardens

### MEETINGS

#### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 11th, 8 p.m.

THE HISTORY OF STAINES. W. F. S. Hamblin to Esher District LHS. Dittons Library.

Wednesday 11th, 8 p.m.

TRANSPORT IN LEATHERHEAD. J. G. W. Lewarne to Leatherhead & District LHS. Red Cross Hall, Oaks Close, near Leatherhead Station.

Wednesday 11th, 8 p.m.

EXCAVATIONS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, PUTNEY. J. Slade to Wandsworth HS. West Hill Library.

Friday 13th, 8 p.m.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE RIVER WANDLE. P. Harris to Merton HS. Lecture Room, Morden Library.

Thursday 26th, 7.30 p.m.

BEDFORD PARK. Miss W. M. Heard to Clapham AS. St Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, SW12.

#### MARCH

Wednesday 3rd, 8 p.m.

CHANGING ATTITUDES TO CONSERVATION. Miss P. Cunnington to Nonsuch AS. Glyn Hall, Ewell.

Friday 5th, 7.45 p.m.

SAMIAN WARE AND ITS DERIVATIVES. M. Millett to Farnham & District MS. Council Chamber, Farnham Locality Office, South Street, Farnham.

Saturday 6th, 3 p.m.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN SURREY. D. G. Bird to Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington AS. Darby & Joan Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

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Next issue of Bulletin—March. Copy required by 5th February. Please note that there will be issues in April and May, but none in June.