

Surrey Archaeological Collections, volume 103, 2021

Abstracts

Excavation of a Roman tile kiln at Dockenfield, 2015, by David Graham and Audrey Graham

In September 2015 trenches were excavated over the site of a late 3rd/early 4th century tile kiln close to the county boundary with Hampshire and about 1km east of the Roman pottery sites in the Alice Holt Forest. This is the first record of a tile kiln operating in or near the Alice Holt Roman pottery industry.

A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age enclosure, a Late Iron Age to early Romano-British droveway and the vestiges of the mansion and kitchen garden at Ember Court, East Molesey, by Wayne Perkins

This report details the results of excavations undertaken in advance of the redevelopment of Imber Court Business Park to residential housing. The excavation revealed evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity in the form of 'background' lithic scatters and residual flint debitage. Both burnt and struck flint were also recovered from post-glacial palaeochannels. The Late Bronze to Early Iron Age was represented by enclosure and droveway ditches, some of which were recut or redefined on slightly different orientations during the Late Iron Age to early Romano-British period. A medieval ditch, dated by 12th--13th century ceramics, was also found. Finally, the north wall of the north wing of Ember Court mansion was uncovered, which dated to the 1790s together with numerous garden features. The mansion was inhabited until 1905 and was demolished around 1919.

Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation at Boxgrove Primary School, Guildford, by Rebecca Lambert

An archaeological evaluation, followed by a controlled archaeological watching brief, was undertaken in 2012 at Boxgrove Primary School, Guildford in order to fulfil the requirements of the local planning authority. The evaluation revealed two prehistoric tree-throw hollows, a cluster of large postholes/pits and a series of previously unidentified colluvial deposits containing prehistoric flintwork and pottery. The watching brief revealed further prehistoric features, including Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age tree-throw hollows containing struck flint and other anthropogenic material, pits of Middle Bronze Age date, and further redeposited scatters of struck and burnt flint.

Quarrying, structured deposition and landscape appropriation in Ewell, by Alexis Haslam and Rebecca Haslam

Recent excavations in Ewell revealed a palimpsest of archaeological remains that date from the Mesolithic to the Middle Saxon period. The first archaeologically identifiable evidence of activity within the confines of the site consists of scattered struck flint of Mesolithic and Neolithic date with more substantial activity occurring in the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age as evidenced by settlement activities associated with a well-organised field system. During the early Roman period, Ewell became the site of a large quarrying industry. That activity, and the landscape in which it took place, were of undoubted significance to the ancient inhabitants of the area, as demonstrated by the presence of a wealth of structured deposits in quarries and ditches that included a large quantity of human remains. The Romano-British people that were responsible for these depositions may have viewed the exercise as a practical undertaking integral to the quarrying process. Knowledge of the importance of this landscape and the earlier features within it appears to have survived into the post-

Roman period when the top of one of the quarries was apparently used as a receptacle for a 'deviant' burial of Middle Saxon date. The results of this excavation therefore add to current understanding of the development of Ewell and its environs from the Late Bronze Age onwards and contribute to bodies of knowledge on several wider topics, including the nature of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pastoralism and settlement on the North Downs, late prehistoric flint tool production, Roman quarrying in south-east Britain, mortuary rites in this region during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, the potential importance of landscape context and the concept of liminality within prehistoric and Romano-British cosmologies and the appropriation of the landscape by a new culture during the Anglo-Saxon period.

Archaeological investigations at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, by Steve Price

Archaeological excavations comprising evaluation and a strip, map and sample investigation, were undertaken by Archaeology South-East (ASE) during June 2011 and October-December 2013 at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath. The excavations revealed evidence of a Late Iron Age or Late Iron Age/Early Roman field system possibly associated with the Roman road directly to the west of the site (now the A22). Rural medieval activity and some evidence of post-medieval sawpits was also discovered. For more information on the finds recovered from the site the reader should refer to the grey literature report (ASE 2014), which is available from ASE on request. The report will ultimately be available online through the Archaeology Data Service website and the site archive will be deposited with East Surrey Museum.

A large group of early Tudor artefacts from Southwark: archaeological excavations on the More London site in Tooley Street, by David Saxby, †Geoff Egan, Beth Richardson, Nick Holder and Fiona Seeley

Archaeological excavation of a large site in Southwark, just downstream from London Bridge and to the north of Tooley Street, produced an important assemblage of Tudor finds, the majority of which date to the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, c 1480--1510. This article reports on the early Tudor artefacts, which included a number of household fixtures, kitchen and table wares, clothing, shoes, evidence of metalworking and other trades, as well as several weapons and fragments of armour. The article also gives a chronological narrative of the site, beginning with some prehistoric features and Roman discoveries (a dated 3rd century AD waterfront), and continuing with medieval features (such as a number of fishponds) and the remains of numerous early modern brick and timber buildings.

Archaeological excavations at 90-106 High Street, Staines-upon-Thames, by Jonathan Butler and Matt Edmonds

Archaeological excavations at the east end of the High Street in Staines-upon-Thames revealed three phases of occupation dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The site lay just to the east of the main town gravel island in an area of marginal and frequently inundated land during the Roman and medieval periods. Evidence of the flooding was encountered with alluvial deposits observed across the site. Both the Roman and medieval activity consisted largely of attempts to drain and utilise this marginal land. During the post-medieval period the site was occupied by a tanyard, which may have had its origins in the 17th or 18th century but had gone out of use by the early 19th century.

Analytical survey of Gravelly Hill, Caterham and Bletchingley, Judie English, John Jennings and Ken Waters

A sketch survey of earthworks on Gravelly Hill, Caterham, and Bletchingley, undertaken by Gwyneth Fookes and the late Peter Gray, showed evidence of multi-period activity; when Caterham School purchased the area they requested a full survey to assist in their land management. These surveys have indicated the presence of at least two phases of field systems, one of which pre-dates emparkment; the generally well-preserved pale of part of the medieval North Park; two lines of military defence works; and both large- and small-scale gravel extraction.

Medieval pottery from Bridgecroft, Mickleham, Leatherhead, by †Stephen Nelson and Judie English

A group of pottery recovered from the bank of the river Mole at Leatherhead included a range of fabrics of separate classification in the Surrey type series, but which include certain similarities and that are probably of contemporary date in the early/mid-13th century. The assemblage is important in indicating the range of types that might be expected on occupation sites of this date. It draws attention to the occurrence of sparsely flint-tempered fabrics in this part of the county and the possibility of a related industry.