

Council for British Archaeology South East

Newsletter

Issue: 50

Autumn 2018



Council for
British Archaeology
South East

Conference 2018

Structured Deposits: definitions, developments and debates

Saturday 10th November, 2018

Chertsey Hall, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9DR

Since its origins some thirty odd years ago, our understanding of the concept of 'structured deposition' has developed substantially – debates surround not only terminology and definitions, but applications in its use, resulting in a perceived tendency for over-utilization and 'ritual' interpretations in analysis. With recognition of such deposits ever-growing through the work of commercial units and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the contributions of critical and systematic academic attention are increasingly apparent. This day conference brings together research from the prehistoric to the medieval period, revealing new discoveries being made in southern England – and the South-East in particular – and the fascinating insights emerging from projects focussed on the processes of deposition.



Conference Programme

- 0915 Arrival, registration and coffee
- 1000 Introduction to the day
- 1010 The archaeology of ritual and magic
- 1040 Graves as structured deposits? Revisiting Early Bronze Age burial practice in Southern Britain
- 1110 Questions
- 1120 Coffee
- 1140 Hiding in plain sight? Iron Age hoards in the south-east
- 1210 Unusual deposition on Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlements and hillforts in the Thames Valley
- 1240 Questions

Dr Anne Sasson (CBA-SE Vice-Chair
Jon Cotton (SyAS)
Dr Catriona Gibson (Univ Reading)

Rachel Wilkinson (Univ Leicester)
Dr Alex Davies (Univ Oxford)

1250	Lunch	
1330	CBA-South-East Annual General Meeting	
1400	Ritual behaviour in Roman Britain	Prof Michael Fulford (Univ Reading)
1430	Frome Hoard and other coin finds – money for the Gods	Dr Sam Moorhead (British Museum)
1500	Questions	
1510	Coffee and posters	
1540	Abandoned buildings, doorways and boundaries: Anglo-Saxon placed deposits in context	Dr Clifford Sofield (Univ Oxford)
1610	Hoards and emotions in Later Medieval England	Dr Eleanor Standley (Univ Oxford)
1640	Questions	
1700	Close	

Ticket info

£20.00 for CBA South-East and Surrey Archaeol Society members (and students) / £25.00 for non-members

For booking form please see <http://www.cbasouth-east.org/events/cbase-annual-conference/>. For any questions, please email the organiser, Anne Sassin, asassinallen@gmail.com. Please note the programme is still subject to change.

A new Finds Liaison Officer for Surrey

Following the untimely death of David Williams Surrey has a new Finds Liaison Officer and here he introduces himself.

My name is Dr. Simon Maslin and I am the new County Finds Liaison Officer for Surrey, working for the county council on behalf of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. As a professional archaeologist I have considerable experience of identifying a wide range of types of artefacts and archaeological materials gained from fieldwork, access to museum collections, academic research and a life-long interest and love of archaeology.

Since my first dig experiences with the Surrey Archaeological Society nearly twenty five years ago, I have worked on a wide range of amateur, academic and developer-led archaeological projects in the UK and abroad, spanning periods from the Mesolithic to the medieval. For most of the last eight years I have worked for the University of Reading's department of archaeology, most significantly on the major Anglo-Saxon royal site of Lyminge in Kent, which has resulted in several publications.

Alongside this professional work I have been involved with local amateur organisations, running finds sessions and educational outreach activities across the south of England. I believe this sort of grassroots work is essential to promote the interest in and enthusiasm for archaeology which encourages members of the public to report their finds to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Being a life-long resident of the Surrey area, I am well acquainted with the archaeology of the county and have undertaken excavation and survey work at many significant local sites. As the new FLO I am regularly available to finders by appointment at the Surrey History Centre in Woking and will also attend museum finds days, heritage events and detectorist club meetings, where I can provide guidance and advice on finds identification, recording, reporting and the Treasure process.



Professor Henry Cleere 1926-2018

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death on August 24th of Professor Henry Cleere who was Director of the CBA from 1974 to 1991 and is probably better known locally for his extensive work on the Wealden Iron industry. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Call for Volunteers!

The Fifth Continent Project

on Romney Marsh is looking to involve people of all ages in an exciting series of archaeology and heritage projects

Sentinels of the Marsh: A project to investigate the standing, ruined and lost churches of the Marsh

The Hunt for Romney Port: A project to explore possible locations of the port of Old Romney

Landscapes of the Marsh: A project to undertake archaeological surveys of the wider Marsh landscape

Training provided and no previous experience necessary



For more information and to get involved contact
Andrew Mayfield andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk
07920 548906, 03000 413416



ROMNEY MARSH
 — THE FIFTH CONTINENT —



Dawn - From our earliest ancestors to the hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic

On Saturday 3rd November 2018 between 08:45 – 17.45pm CBA Wessex branch will hold their 60th anniversary conference. Speakers will include: Professor Alice Roberts – Tamed – three species that changed our world; Professors Chris Stringer, Nick Ashton, Steve Mithen, Vince Gaffney, and Alistair Pike and Drs Silvio Bello and Matt Pope with updates on work in the Channel Islands, Suffolk, Doggerland and Scotland. Sessions will be chaired by Professor Margaret Cox and Drs Phil Harding and Helen Farr.

Julian Richards with the Young Archaeologists club will entertain with a cameo. During refreshment breaks people can view a number of exhibitions, displays, book stalls, student posters and work by the artist Brian Graham inspired by the emergence of 'human-ness' during the Palaeolithic.

For further information contact Andy Manning by email (a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk) or events@cba-wessex.org.uk

Venue

Highfield Campus, University of Southampton (parking available). Tickets (inc. lunch) £45 for CBAW and **CBA-SE** members, £55 for non-members, £25 for full-time students, can be booked online on the CBA Wessex website

Sussex Archaeological Society

Design and destiny: arts and crafts of the Iron Age

Conference to be held on Saturday 20th October 2018 in the King's Church, Brooks Road, Lewes BN7 2BY. Tickets at £50 per head from <https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/ironage> or from 01273 405737

10:00 Welcome

10:05 What did Celtic art do and why decorate?

10:45 Cause and effect in Iron Age brooches

Dr Caroline Wells

Dr Jody Joy

Dr Sophia Adams

11:25	Coffee	
11:45	Beyond repair: investigating the use, damage and modification of Celtic art objects	Dr Helen Chittock
12:25	Pattern and playfulness: playing with forms and textures in Celtic art	Dr Julia Farley
13:05	Lunch	
14:00	The art of the chariot	Dr Melanie Giles
14:40	A pot of gold: mining ceramic data	Anna Doherty
15:10	Recent Iron Age finds from East and West Sussex	Edwin Wood
15:30	Coffee	
15:50	The craft of the Iron Age helmet: production, function and design	Dr Jaime Kaminski
16:15	Objects of adornment, self-identity and the evolution of social currencies in south-east Britain	Dr John Creighton
16:55	Questions and end	

SHERF 2018: Investigating Life before the Romans

The annual Surrey Historic Environment Research Conference will be held in Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 17, 2018 - 10:00 to 17:00 and will be followed at 16.00 by the Society AGM. A keynote speaker will be Julian Richards on Stonehenge and a programme based largely on prehistoric topics is now complete.

Programme

09.30	Registration
10.00	Chair – Jon Cotton (SyAS)
10.05	Alex Egginton (SCC)– <i>Mapping the past, planning for the future: reviewing Surrey's Areas of High Archaeological Potential</i>
10.35	Tom Lawrence (Oxford Archaeology) – <i>The Mesolithic Hinterland of Surrey</i>
11.05	Tea/coffee
11.35	Julian Richards (Archaemedia) – <i>Stonehenge – old rocks, new theories</i>
12.20	Lunch
13.30	Chair
13.35	Mark Bowden (Historic England) – <i>Recognising evidence for transhumance in early periods</i>
14.05	Matt Pope (UCL) & Chris Taylor (SyAS)– Farnham Palaeo project: <i>The significance of Wey terrace deposits in the British Palaeolithic; The Bury Collection or Farnham palaeoliths from the Wey terraces and its local context</i>
14.35	Tom Dommett (National Trust) – <i>Surrey, Archaeology and the National Trust</i>
15.05	Tea/Coffee
15.30	David Bird (SyAS) – <i>Championing the archaeology and history of Surrey-a research framework for the 21st century.</i>
15.45	Close
16.00	AGM

Tickets at £15 per head can be booked online at www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk or are available from: Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 4SX

Courses at Rottingdean Whiteways Centre

Sussex Prehistory – a 10 week course tutored by Dr David Rudling starting on Wednesday September 26th at 10:30.

We will review the evidence for early humans in Sussex, starting 500,000 years ago and ending in the Iron Age. We will examine changes in cultural development, from hunting and gathering to agriculture and from temporary settlements to established farms. The Sussex data will be viewed in their wider contexts.

Impact of the Normans – three morning sessions from 10:00 – 12:00 led by Simon Stevens which can be booked individually. October 6th – the Bayeux Tapestry; October 27th – Castles; November 17th – Abbeys and Priors

The Saxons – a 10 week course starting 16th January at 10:30 and tutored by Dr Judie English

SOUTHEAST ENGLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE Heritage and Resources in Southeast England

To be held on Saturday 24 November 2018 in Kings Church Centre, Brooks Road, Lewes- Conference Organiser: email anthony.brook27@btinternet.com

08.30	Registration and Welcome	
09.40	The Hastings Coast: where the High Weald meets the Sea	Ken Brooks
10.20	Haunt of the Hippo: Quaternary Mammals of Southeast England	Danielle Schreve
11.00	Coffee and Biscuits	
11:30	The Roman Heritage in Southeast England: Real or Overrated?	David Rudling
12:10	The Roman Military and the Saxon Shore Forts (University of Kent at Canterbury)	Simon Elliott
12.50	Buffet Lunch	
13:10 – 13:40	Performance of South Coast Songs and Shanties	
14:00	The Industrial Archaeology of Sussex	John Blackwell
14:40	Smuggling in the South-East, 1740-1840: Myth or Reality?	Chris Hare
15:20	Tea and Biscuits	
15:50	The Kent Coalfield: Discovery, Development and Closure	Geoff Turner
16:30	Offshore Wind Farms as Renewable Energy	David Shilston

Conference Fee for the day is still only £25, including coffee/tea/biscuits, buffet lunch and Conference publication. Please make your cheque payable to *Anthony Brook* and forward, with name, address, telephone number and email address, to: Anthony Brook, 15, Cambourne Court, Shelley Road, Worthing, BN11 4BQ

A free way to raise money for CBA South-East when shopping online!

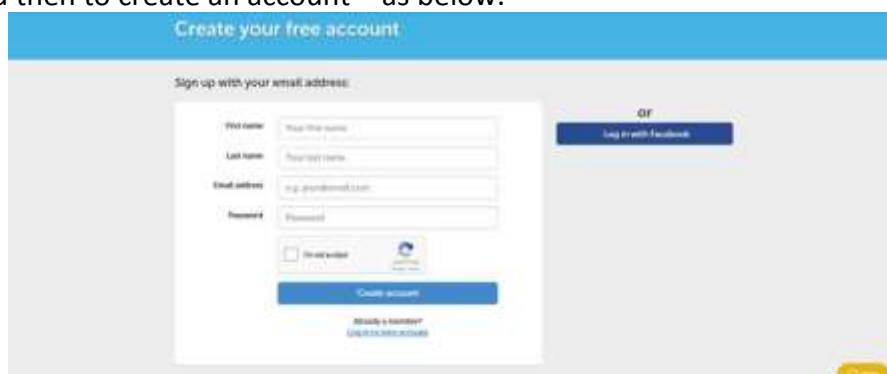
Fund raising on behalf of the Council for British Archaeology South-East, supporting annual Grants to be awarded for scholarly archaeological research in the region, can be as simple as using this fundraising platform - <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/> - and costs nothing more than the advertised purchase price of your online goods.

Here are the steps to do so.

1. This link takes you to their sign-up screen - <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/signup/choose-charity>
2. Enter 'Council for British Archaeology South-East' when asked to select a cause. Then select this cause (as below) when requested.



3. You will be asked then to create an account – as below.



4. Logon to your 'Give as You Live account' when subsequently shopping online, and then search either for an item, supplier or store for your goods – there is a selection of over 4100 stores to choose from.



5. Shopping for archaeology books, for example with Amazon, your purchase will be recognised, and Amazon will then offer (in their case) up to 1.5% of the purchase price to your given charity.
6. Please note, our example of shopping with Amazon, means you are still required to login to your Amazon account.

Oxford Archaeology South's roundups for the South East

KENT

Ashford, M20 Junction 10a (TR 04060 41328) by Lauren McIntyre and Ben McAndrew

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Highways England to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of the proposed M20 Junction 10a, near Ashford, Kent. The evaluation comprised 69 trenches, which were located to investigate anomalies identified during a preceding geophysical survey. A modest number of archaeological features were identified during survey and evaluation trenching, including 36 linear features such as ditches that may be indicative of the past field systems. Seven possible cremation burials were uncovered in Area 4. Two possible palaeochannels were present, as well as one pond. Post-medieval and modern features were concentrated in Area 1: three post-medieval field boundaries were identified where features correlated with boundaries on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. Limited quantities of artefacts were recovered during the evaluation, which has made the dating of most features highly uncertain. A small number of features produced broadly datable artefacts. Datable features were mostly medieval, but also contained residual prehistoric artefacts. A palaeochannel in Area 2 contained medieval pottery. Residual flint found in several features spread across the site most likely relates to an area of prehistoric tool production and use. The geophysical survey, trial trenching, archaeological walkover survey and evaluation trenching provide a robust assessment of the site's archaeological potential. However, the scarcity of artefacts and other evidence limits what can be said regarding the significance of the remains. Further excavation would provide opportunities to improve the currently ambiguous dating and interpretation of many of the features.

M2 Junction 5 Improvements (TQ 8550 6220) by Rebecca Peacock and Alex Davies

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in October and November 2017 around Junction 5 of the M2, Kent. The work was commissioned by Hochtief (UK) Ltd on behalf of Highways England. A 5% sample of the 21.8 hectare site was agreed, comprising 71 trenches. No features of archaeological significance were found south-west of the junction, and only one undated feature to the north-east. To the north-west and south-east, however, there were features and finds of a variety of dates. A relatively large assemblage of flintwork was recovered. The majority of this was of Mesolithic date, and included both material possibly from contemporary features, including a deep pit or shaft, and redeposited in later contexts. There was also widespread flintwork of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. A few sherds of flint-tempered pottery of late Bronze Age or Iron age date were also found in features, but the quantities were too small to date these features with confidence. Some activity of later prehistoric date however clearly took place in the north-western part of the site. Two areas of smelting activity were discovered, one on the north-west, the other on the south-east. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained, a late Iron Age date from the south-east area, and a late Iron Age or early Roman date from the north-west area, alongside pottery of a similar date. One or more furnaces were uncovered as well as a relatively large quantity of metalworking debris. This included slag from non-tapping and tapping furnaces, generally assigned to the Iron Age and Roman periods respectively. A technological transition is therefore apparent at these sites, moving to more effective smelting techniques. The site shares many similarities to two bloomeries recently excavated at Stockbury nearby. Part of the Chatham Land Front defensive line was known to pass through the site. This was built in response to a possible German invasion during World War One. Elements of this complex were discovered during the evaluation, although they do not appear to be well preserved.

Areas of made ground were discovered in the central part of the site at the bottom of the valley. These layers are over 2m deep, and were probably deposited during the construction of the M2.

SURREY

Bishopsgate, Savill Court Hotel (SU 9807 7160) by Robert McIntosh

In September 2017 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Grove Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to the demolition, redevelopment and extension of the hotel. The evaluation comprised four trenches excavated within the extension footprint. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered but the trenches did reveal traces of 20th-century landscaping and disturbance relating to the construction history of the hotel.

Tilford, Islamabad, Phase 2 (SU 8730 4425) by Mariusz I. Gorniak

On the 30th October 2017, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out Phase 2 of an archaeological evaluation on the Islamabad site at Tilford near Farnham in Surrey. The site contained a series of buildings which were built during the Second World War as a camp school. The work was commissioned by Centenary Construction Ltd as part of a joint scheme of historic building recording and archaeological evaluation which formed a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. A five trench investigation (with one trench divided into two) formed Phase 2 of the evaluation programme; seven trenches had been previously excavated during Phase 1 in 2016. No evidence of archaeological activity was recorded during the evaluation and the site was observed to be disturbed and possibly truncated by previous development on the site.

EAST SUSSEX

Polegate, Shepham Wind Farm (TQ 60122 05608) by Carl Champness and Ashley Strutt

Between March and May 2016 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff on behalf of Belltown Power Ltd to undertake an evaluation on high ground overlooking the Pevensey Levels, a former coastal inlet that was reclaimed from the sea. The investigations identified a small assemblage of worked flints dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age, which were recovered in fresh condition, but appeared to have been dispersed through plough action. The material represents prehistoric activity at the edge of the Levels that may form part of a much wider prehistoric landscape within the area.

Two undated ditches were also identified from the same area as the flints. Based on their orientation and character of the fills, these are believed to represent post-medieval field boundaries or drainage ditches. No further archaeological deposits were observed in the other areas of the site. The scarcity of remains identified suggests that the features were within an area of farmland away from any medieval settlement foci. The site is therefore considered to have limited archaeological potential.

WEST SUSSEX

Goddards Green, Burgess Hill (SP 49489 10565) by Tom Black

In June 2017 Oxford Archaeology South undertook a 12 trench evaluation for Glenbeigh Developments Ltd. Previous investigations indicated the potential for prehistoric or Roman remains within the area. A recent geophysical survey did not reveal any signs of significant archaeological remains, but did highlight a series of linear features that were worthy of further investigation.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features and the linear anomalies were shown to be variations in the natural geology, root disturbance or metal anomalies. The evaluation has shown the site to be of low archaeological potential.

Making ones way in the world



Photo by Kathryn Burrington Footpath near Halnaker

Lecture given by the President of Sussex Archaeological Society, Professor Martin Bell, took a critical look at the evidence for early patterns of movement on the Downs and in the Weald and considered to what extent the Ridgeways such as the South Downs Way served as prehistoric routes. It was argued that there is actually rather better evidence for the early origins of routes at right angles to the escarpments, marked in places by hollow ways, these connected contrasting environmental zones and topographies. The significance of some of these routes was recognised by pioneering Sussex Archaeologists such as the Curwen's in the first two decades of the twentieth century but solid empirical investigation of early routeways was then eclipsed by the spurious ideas of Alfred Watkins Old Straight Track in 1925. A project entailing more work on the subject is in the early stages of development.

Foragers and farmers: 10,000 years of history at Hengrove Farm, Staines. Excavations between 1997 and 2012

By Rob Poulton, Graham Hayman & Nick Marples

· SpoilHeap Monograph no 12

· ISBN 978-0-9576509-9-2

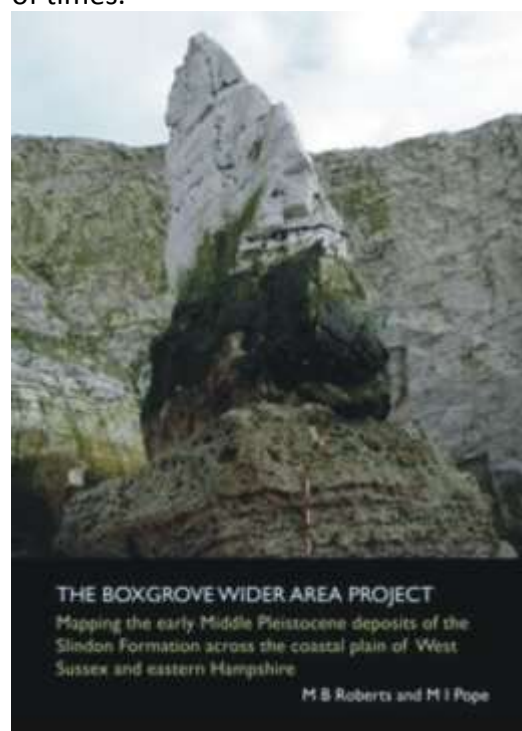
· 331 pages, 176 illustrations

· Price £25 + £3.50 p&p

Available through: www.surreycc.gov.uk/scau

Archaeological work took place between 1997 and 2012 across an area of over 20ha at the Hengrove Farm sand and gravel quarry, near Staines. Several Mesolithic activity areas were identified, the earlier associated with low-lying ground and the later with a more elevated area. Two locations of Neolithic occupation, with water-holes, pits and tree-throws, may have been seasonally occupied in an era of shifting agriculture and complement the discovery of a large house and ring ditch at the adjacent Ashford Prison site.

From around 1500 BC rectilinear fields were imposed across most of the site, although one area remained open, and probably common, land. Three Middle Bronze Age settlements seem likely to be the centres from which the landscape was transformed. Later Bronze Age activity was more dispersed, with seven or more foci. By the Middle Iron Age occupation had become concentrated in one part of the site although just 300m away at the Ashford Prison site was another substantial settlement. The Hengrove settlement continued to develop until, either just before or soon after the conquest of AD 43, a regular complex of stock management enclosures, set within a surviving framework of the Bronze Age fields, was created. This pattern of occupation persisted until abandonment in the 4th century AD. Two Middle Saxon occupation areas include a number of waterholes. The final period of occupation, of Saxo-Norman date, was associated with a boundary that was renewed a number of times.



The Boxgrove Wider Area Project: Mapping the Early Middle Pleistocene deposits of the Slindon Formation across the coastal plain of West Sussex and eastern Hampshire

MB Roberts & MI Pope

Spoilheap Monograph 15

ISBN 978-1-912331-02-4

Pb 193pp, 216 colour illustrations

Price: £30.00

Available from www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse/publications/monograph15

The Boxgrove site is now considered to be one of the most important localities in the world for studying the archaeology, geology and palaeoenvironments of the Lower Palaeolithic, during the early Middle Pleistocene. However, prior to the Raised Beach Mapping Project and results presented in this

volume, the surviving disposition of the marine and terrestrial sediments of the Slindon Formation, which contain the Palaeolithic in situ landsurfaces, was unknown. Although sediments identical to those at Boxgrove had been recorded over a distance of 7km between the Valdoe Quarry and Penfold's Pit at Slindon, the wider distribution of the formation needed to be ascertained and mapped. When completed, the project had mapped the complete distribution, in the form of outcrops and sub-crops, of the Slindon Formation over an east-west

distance of 26km between Westbourne and Arundel, 15.5km of which has the potential to preserve archaeological material in a sedimentary sequence similar to that at the Boxgrove site. The results from the Raised Beach Mapping Project demonstrate conclusively that the sediments of the Slindon Formation formed in a semi-enclosed marine bay formed by two arms of downland situated, on what is now the Coastal Plain, to the south of the current South Downs.

Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon discoveries in Egham and Esher, Surrey

By Nigel Randall and Wayne Weller

· SpoilHeap Occasional Paper no 8

· ISBN 978-1-912331-08-6

· 99 pages, 57 illustrations

· Price £12 + £3.50 p&p

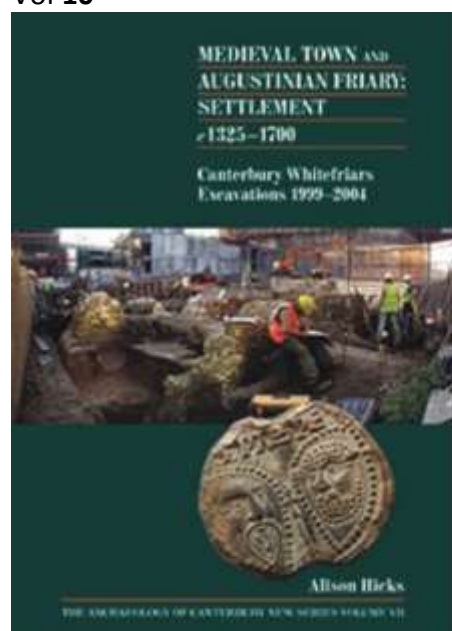
Available through: www.surreycc.gov.uk/scau

The excavations at Cranmere school, Esher and The Avenue, Egham both produced important evidence relating to the later Bronze Age. The Egham site lay immediately adjacent to that of the important excavations at Petters Sports field (O'Connell 1986). In each case ditches forming major land divisions from the Middle Bronze Age, with associated settlement, were discovered. Both have new settlement, including indications of roundhouses, associated with a field system, in the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. An exceptionally large ditch at Egham was previously

the site of the discovery of a major hoard of bronze objects, and the Esher site has also produced a hoard of ingot fragments contained within an *in situ*, Late Bronze Age, pot. At Egham, enclosure or field ditches of probable Late Iron Age date were deliberately backfilled as part of preparations for the building of the London-Silchester Roman road which cut across the site. The work exposed a large roadside ditch along a distance of 45m and a cambered gravel surface to the 16.5m wide road. Both sites have probable sunken-featured buildings. That at Esher is of Early Saxon date, and pottery hints that there was quite intensive and widespread occupation. Pottery of similar date is known from the site at Egham, although the building may be later Saxon. Evidence of early medieval occupation and a Tudor building was also revealed there.

Reference

O'Connell, M, 1986 *Petters Sports Field, Egham, excavation of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site*, SyAS Res Vol 10



Canterbury Archaeological Trust Monograph Series

New Series Vol VII. Medieval Town and Augustinian Friary: Settlement c 1325-1700. Canterbury Whitefriars Excavations 1999-2004
by Alison Hicks (2015)

Softback

A4. 382 pages, 199 figures, 105 plates

Published: 2015

ISBN 9781870545303

Price GB £40.00 (FCAT £32)

The first of four books on excavations in the Whitefriars area of Canterbury, this report describes the development of the Augustinian friary from c 1325 to its demise following the Dissolution. Combining stratigraphic analysis with documentary sources, environmental and artefact assemblages, the book seeks

to illustrate the history of the friary and its immediate environs and gain an understanding of the people who lived and worked there.

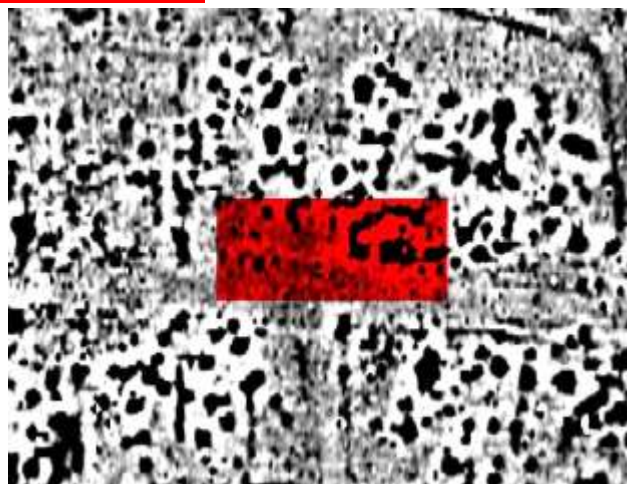
Available from: Oxbow Books (<https://www.oxbowbooks.com>)

Bridge Farm excavations 2018

The 2018 summer season has seen the excavation of the upper layers of the seventh trench to be opened at the intriguing Romano-British settlement site at Bridge Farm, near Barcombe Mills.

Trench 7 is located in the very centre of the area enclosed by the second century double ditch defences and it was hoped that this 45 by 20 metre area over the central crossroads could reveal an important structure. However we always have to remember that this site represents over 300 years of activity and so far we have only been able to penetrate the upper layers of this trench which seem to mainly feature industrial remains. These consist of large pits, areas of fired clay, series of postholes with

large flint packing and deposits with high carbon content. Some of the postholes appear to be in rows suggesting possible rectangular structures. One area was of particular interest as a deposit of fired clay



Location of trench 7 on the geophysical survey



Above - A row of postholes



Right – the possible lime kiln

appeared surrounded by lumps of chalk and Downland flint. The feature had the appearance of some kind of hearth or kiln with the presence of chalk leading us to think that it may be the remains of a simple clamp-type lime kiln. The only previous occurrence

of chalk at the site was in the walls of the well excavated in 2017 but the chalk in this instance could not be argued as a structural element as it was in an obviously fired environment. Lime was used in the Roman period for mixing mortar and plaster as well as a fertiliser for agriculture.

The 15 metre section at the east end of the trench has not been excavated other than for the initial clean back of the whole trench surface which produced a great deal of pottery and an area of road structure at only 200mm below the current ground level. The upper layer of this consisted of flint pebbles and small nodules which had been unsurprisingly disturbed by ploughing but at the eastern end was an under-layer of compressed flint gravels which seemed to form the main base structure of the road. This however was not found anywhere else along the trench at this shallow depth and may have been ploughed and/or robbed out.

Many large pits were found and one in the northwest corner of the trench against the trench baulks proved to be not only multi-layered but very deep. In the end excavation was curtailed for safety considerations until we can remove the spoil heap from this area over the winter so that a larger stepped excavation can take place next year. Most of the pit and postholes discovered were half-sectioned and recorded but still need fully excavating, making a busy time from the very start of next season. The trench has now been covered with black plastic sheeting to keep down the weeds and hopefully lessen the effects of flooding with the more fragile features encased in straw-filled bags against the frost.



A decorated samian bowl sherd



A nearly an almost complete mortarium

Amongst the large and varied assemblage of over 17,000 pottery sherds recovered in 2018 we have seen a greater percentage of fine wares than in previous seasons. This includes a good quantity of samian, some with embossed decoration, maker's marks and scratched graffiti. Close to our possible lime kiln was a pile of black colour-coated white fineware beaker sherds with a number of large amphora sherds nearby. We also had more mortaria sherds than before including one almost complete mortarium in a light buff/cream fabric. Because this is obviously going to be another 2-3 year trench we will have to be patient before commissioning the pottery analysis.

But before then we are hoping to arrange for archaeomagnetic dating of the burnt clay deposits prior to next season providing we can raise the funding. With this in mind we have left these deposits untouched this year as the samples need to be taken from *in situ* features for the method to be successful.

Next year promises another exciting season as we further excavate the features already revealed and work our way carefully down through the layers of the later Roman-period in search of earlier remains.

David Millum, MCIfA, Culver Archaeological Project Deputy Director ©CAP August 2018

Kent Archaeological Society set to begin large-scale month long investigation into multi-period ritual landscape

The Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) is set to begin an intense, month long investigation into a prehistoric multi-period ritual landscape on the Lees Court Estate in Kent at the beginning of September. This follows the recent discovery of a possible mid-Neolithic causewayed enclosure there during a recent evaluation excavation at Stringmans Field on the Estate. This significant feature had previously been identified through aerial images and geophysical survey data. The subsequent excavation revealed a structure around 25 metres in diameter surrounded by a large, deep ditch. Evaluation slots cut into the ditch fill revealed stratified pottery and lithic material, the earliest of which dates from the mid-Neolithic.

The discovery of the feature is the most recent of a number of very exciting finds which have come to light since KAS and the Lees Court Estate began a joint 15-year project in 2017 to archaeologically evaluate the 2,800 ha estate. This included the locating last year of no less than five Bronze Age hoards in close proximity to an unexcavated Bronze Age barrow mound and the mid-Neolithic causewayed enclosure. This is an unheard of amount of such hoards in such a localised area. They were found by the Medway History Finders Detecting Club, with KAS carrying out the rescue excavations and recording of the hoards. They are now being examined by the British Museum, whose Bronze Age Curator Dr Neil Wilkin says:

'It's fascinating that so many large later Bronze Age hoards have been found in close proximity to one another in Lees Court Estate. The hoards are unusual in how they were deposited in the ground and the presence of hundreds of flattish, irregular 'scrap' pieces of bronze. One hoard alone contained 16kg worth of bronze! This type of hoard is very unusual for Kent and raises many questions about their function and role within Bronze Age metalworking and recycling processes. Kent appears to have been a distinctive

region with its own traditions of metalworking and hoarding during the last centuries of the Bronze Age (c.1100 - 800 BC).'

All of these finds, in such proximity, point to a multi-period prehistoric landscape atop the North Downs overlooking Faversham Creek. Located in eastern Kent, one interpretation could be that a prehistoric community used the area as a designated space for gathering people, the treatment of the dead or a point where technological and cultural exchange took place between the Continent and the islands of Britain over many thousands of years.

KAS is keen to encourage volunteers to sign up to join the excavations starting in September. Anyone interested, of any level of competence including beginner, should contact membership@kentarchaeology.org
For further media enquiries please contact:

Dr Simon Elliott 07711 387 084

University of Sussex Archaeology Society

Thursday 18 October at 7pm in Fulton Lecture Theatre B, University of Sussex: Mark Roberts of UCL will speak on 'Boxgrove Revisited'.

Thursday 22 November at 7pm in Fulton Lecture Theatre B, University of Sussex: The Sally Christian Lecture for 2018: Dr Matt Pope of UCL will give the postponed lecture from March on ICE Age research: [On the track of Neanderthals in Jersey: The Ice Age Island Project](#).

Council for British Archaeology – South-eastern Branch

CBA-SE is a branch (Charity No 1047378) of the Council for British Archaeology which aims to advance the public's knowledge of archaeology and history in their local area and to share information across counties.

Committee members 2017/18

Chairman: David Rudling, Vice-Chairman: Ann Sassin Allen, Grants: John Funnell, Treasurer: Steve Cleverly; Secretary: Rose Hooker; Membership Secretary: Shiela Broomfield; Newsletter Editor: Judie English; Webmaster: Phil Stanley; Advocacy / Museums: Rebecca Reynolds; Conservation: Bill Hawkes; Alex Egginton, Elizabeth Blanning and Martyn Allen

Enquiries and Membership: Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD, tel: 01732 838698, s.broomfield@clementi.demon.co.uk

Contacting the Newsletter: if you have news that you think might be of interest to people in the South Eastern region please contact the editor: Judie English, judie.english@btopenworld.com 2, Rowland Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8SW, . Please send documents as email attachments or send discs or hard copy to the above address. Please note that items may be edited due to space restrictions, photographs should be of as high resolution as possible.

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