Council for British Archaeology South East

Newsletter
Issue: 54
Autumn 2020

Unique carved Roman timbers compensate for cancelled 2020 excavation

Due to the Covid pandemic the Culver Archaeological Project has reluctantly had to cancel this year's summer excavation and training course at the Bridge Farm Roman settlement site at Barcombe Mills, near Lewes, East Sussex. It is now planned to return next year with the aim of completing the investigation of the central area of the defended settlement.

But a season without digging does not signify a period of inactivity; indeed the lack of a dig has given more time for much needed post-excavation analysis and report writing with a full practical report on Trench 5 expected to be available on the project website, www.culverproject.co.uk, in the autumn. Trench 5 was excavated in 2014 to target 13 circular anomalies in a rectangular formation seen in the geophysical survey results of 2011. These proved to be the large post-pits of a substantial building, most likely an aisled warehouse as it was located in a meadow close to the river (**Fig. 1**).

To the team's surprise each waterlogged post-pit contained the remains of a post and new evidence suggests that one revealed the rarest finds so far from the entire site. These were the ogival carved ends of two timbers used as post- packing which subsequent research by Roman timber specialist, Dr Damian Goodburn, has suggested to be unique in the corpus of Roman-period timbers found in Britain (**Fig 2**). The larger, SF 5.42 is 460mm long by 185mm by 105mm whilst the smaller is 250 mm long by 90mm by 150mm (**Fig.3**).

Fig. 1: a conjectural reconstruction of the building

Dr Goodburn could suggest only one roughly similar timber from Marston Park, Bedfordshire. Any carved timbers from this period are rare but structural timbers with carved ends were unknown from Britain and these timbers are especially interesting as they probably formed part of the roof of a high-status building; virtually all other timbers of this period, found mainly at sites in London, Carlisle and Vindolanda, are from the base of structures.

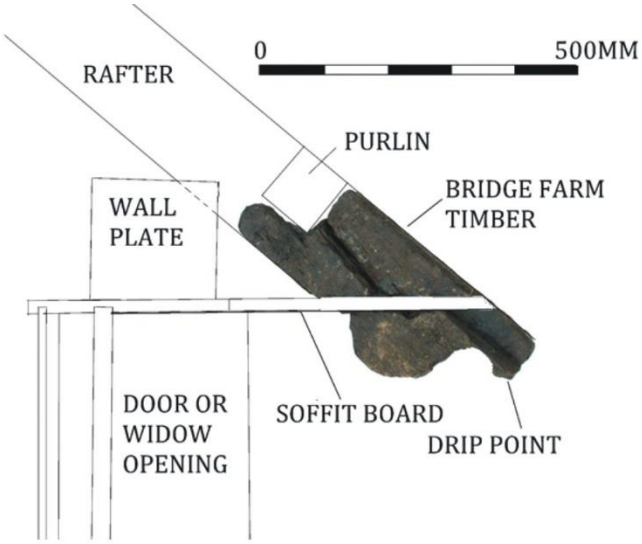
Very little is known of Roman-period roof construction in this country so we can only speculate as to what these timbers represent but the larger of the two had a 25mm wide oblique groove which pointed to a rafter-end interpretation (**Fig. 3**). If this groove was the housing for a horizontal board, such as a soffit at the eaves, then the timber would be orientated at around 40° (**Fig 4**). The timber appears to have been cut across a halving joint which may have housed a purlin running along the length of the roof. The groove being on one side only suggests that the horizontal board was in a specific location probably over a wall opening such as a window or full height doorway.

It is hoped that wider exposure of the timbers and the rafter hypothesis will bring forth further comparanda and/or interpretations. In the meantime the timbers have been fully recorded and secured in the project archive after conservation by Durham University

Fig. 2: project director, Rob Wallis, with the smaller carved timber (2014)

Fig. 3: the ogival carved timbers from post-pit 9 (*scales in 10 & 100mm divisions)*

Another packing timber from the same post-pit has revealed valuable information about the wooded environment and timber conversion practices in the local area during the mid-late Roman period. Timber SF 5.79 is an obliquely sawn end of a large rectangular, hewn, oak beam 380mm long by 250mm by 225mm. Goodburn's assessment shows that it was cut from the knotty crown end of a medium sized oak. The obliquely cut end was cut with a cross-cut saw whilst the other end was rapidly axe cut and still bares clear marks of a 75mm wide blade, a common axe size for the Roman period. The felled tree was 'bucked' at the highest possible point in the crown where four major branches met. The evidence of the four hearts means the woodworkers at the felling site were struggling to cut the longest timber possible out of the parent oak (**Fig. 5**) **implying that it was a fairly open grown tree and that long timber was generally not easily available in the vicinity. Similar multiple hearts are seen in later medieval timbers in Southeast England but are rare in the large Roman London corpus. Whilst this timber has 60 annual rings the grain was too distorted to be suitable for dendrochronological dating.**



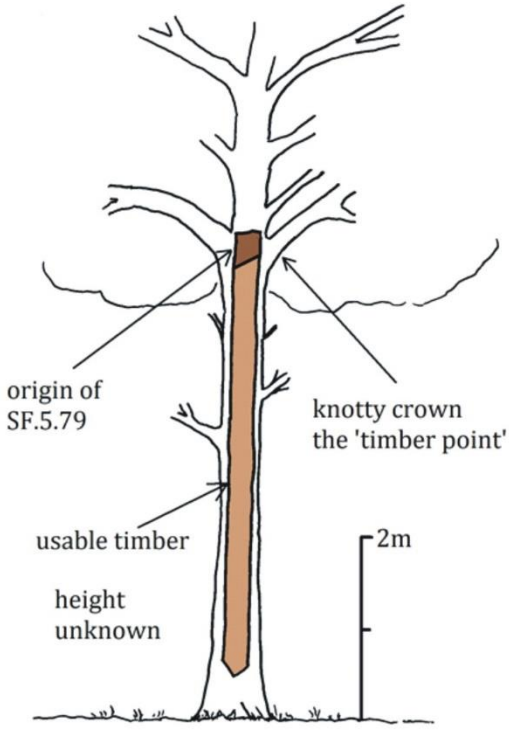


Fig. 5: conjectural sketch of beam end SF.5.79 within the parent tree

Although the assemblage of Roman-period timber lifted from the Bridge Farm site is small by national standards, it does shed important light on the form of otherwise unknown timber architectural details, local treescapes and heavy woodworking practices. None of the timbers examined was straight grained and narrow ringed as would be the case if from large 'wildwood' trees that are often evidenced in other assemblages of Roman structural woodwork from Southeast England. This implies that the treescapes in the vicinity of the Bridge Farm settlement were of various forms of more open managed woodland

This runs parallel to similar evidence from the London region where large wildwood timber is much less common from the mid second century as the landscape becomes more intensively managed.

David Millum with major extracts from Dr Damian Goodburn's timber assessment (2020)
(david@culverproject.co.uk)

CBA-SE Lecture and AGM

This year's AGM will take place virtually on Thursday 8 October at 20:00, following a special lecture by Dr Matt Pope on 'The Boxgrove People: Adapting to Climate Change on the Edge of the Early Human World' which will begin at 19:00. This talk is free but a donation to Sussex Archaeological Society Celebrating 175 years appeal would be welcome - https://sussexpast.co.uk/please-donate-now
The AGM and lecture will take place via Zoom video conferencing (usable either in your web browser, or via a downloadable app). We are inviting all of our members to attend the online AGM and lecture, and are opening up the lecture to the general public as well. The link below is available on our website:
http://www.cbasouth-east.org/events/cbase-annual-conference/
**Registration in advance is required in order to attend the meeting and should be made on the evening

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkd-urqj4rHNw4zub5MVu7djCPskdaaGTH

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and information for how to join the meeting.**

St Catherine's Hill, Guildford

A landslip caused by heavy rain in March exposed a small cave cut into the sandstone of St Catherine's Hill, Guildford. The ruined remains of a small chapel, built in the 14th century and possibly a chapel of ease, sit on top of the hill. Standing between the river Wey, where there was a ferry crossing from the medieval period until the 1960s, and the old Portsmouth road, St Catherine's was the site of a four day fair.

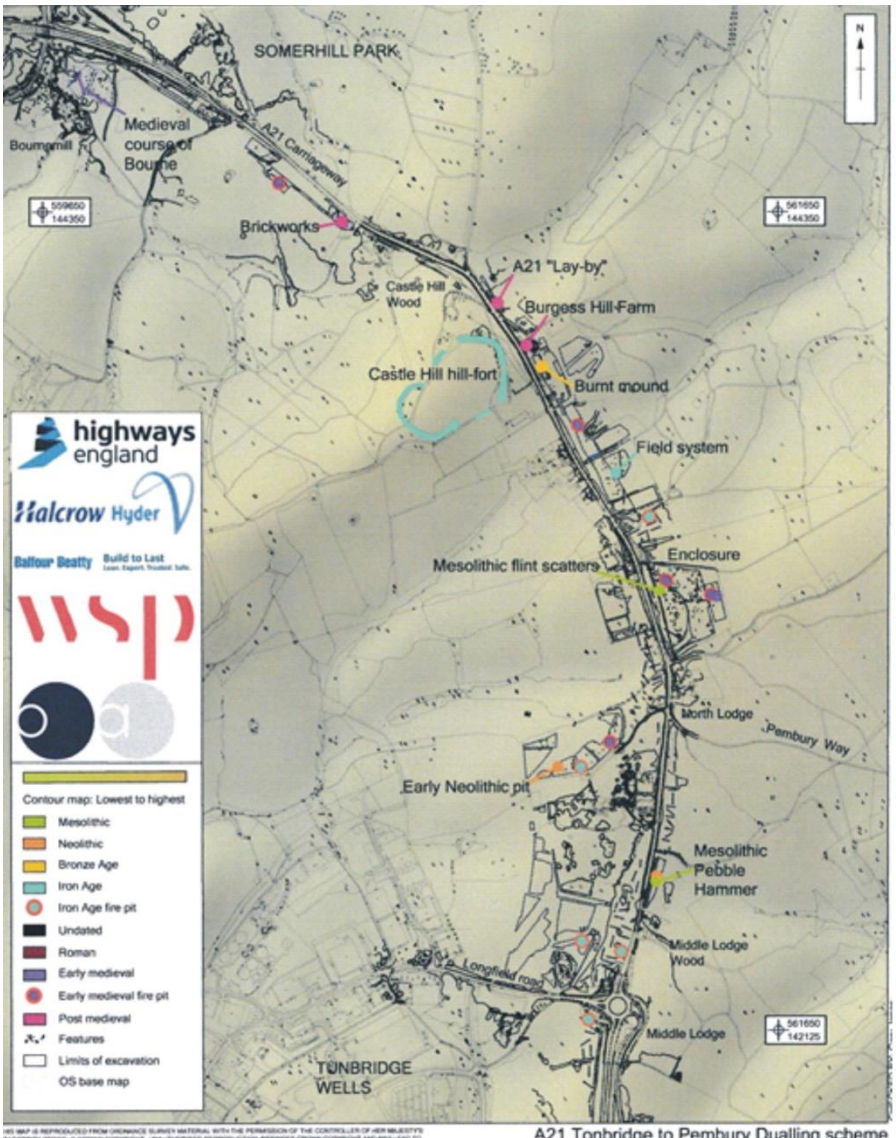
The cave appears to have been truncated when the railway tunnel on the London / Portsmouth mainline, was built in the 1840s but no record has come to light. As exposed, it varies from 0.3 to 0.7m high and has a number of carvings into the soft rock. These include a number of niches, one of which was set within a Gothic arch and a cross. Initials and, possibly, other writing, was found, particularly on the ceiling, and parts of the cave were covered with black dust, thought to derive from smoke from burning candles or tapers.

Suggestions for its use include a medieval shrine or a hermitage.

A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling scheme, Kent by Tim Allen

Archaeology on this 4km road widening scheme, which involved the stripping and recording of over 20ha., took place between October 2014 and August 2017. The work was carried out by Oxford Archaeology on behalf of Balfour Beatty, who was Principal Contractor for Highways England. Technical Assurance and Site Supervision was provided by HHJV, the designer was WSP, and the archaeology was also monitored by Kent County Council Archaeological Services.

The principal discoveries are shown in Fig. 1. Earlier prehistoric results comprise several Mesolithic flint scatters (the largest little-disturbed) and an isolated pebble hammer of possibly similar date, a middle Neolithic pit, a widespread but sparse spread of other struck flints and a middle Bronze Age burnt mound with two rectangular pits. There was no evidence of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age activity, but In the middle Iron Age, and broadly contemporary with Castle Hill hillfort adjacent, a circular ditched enclosure some 50m across was dug on a plateau 1.5km to the south, with traces of a former house enclosure inside, and occasional pits and ditch boundaries to the north. Associated finds were very few. Scattered along the scheme south of the hillfort circular shallow features with *in situ* burning and oak charcoal suggest exploitation of the wooded landscape, possibly representing charcoal production. The ditch of the circular enclosure was still partly open in the Roman period, but there were no finds.



A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling scheme showing areas examined and principal discoveries.

In the medieval period a further scatter of circular features burnt *in situ*, this time with predominantly beech or birch charcoal, was found spread all along the scheme, with a cluster of irregular pits or tree-throw holes. These probably indicate a resumption of charcoal production for local industries based in Tonbridge. Environmental evidence from a medieval channel of the Bourne downstream of Bourne Mill suggests that this was a period of woodland clearance, and also indicated that Bourne Mill was occupied from at least the 12th century AD. An article providing further details of these discoveries will appear in *Archaeologia Cantiana* in due course.

In the post-medieval period the northern half of the scheme belonged to the Somerhill estate, and an estate farm was established at Burgess Hill in the early 19th century. This was recorded prior to demolition to make way for the road, and a barn has been re-erected at the Weald and Downland Museum. At much the same time an estate brickworks was established to serve the properties belonging to the estate, which continued in private hands in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, before being demolished just before WW2.

The history of the development of the main structures of the brickworks is given by historic maps, and the surviving remains included two circular well-preserved pugmills, a making shed and six drying sheds or hacks, and three brick

kilns, one of them preserved 3m high. An Oxford Archaeology monograph on the post-medieval remains is in preparation.

Cocks Farm Roman villa, Abinger, Surrey

The first record of a villa at Abinger, sited on Sandgate Beds in the Tillingbourne valley, came in the late 19th century with minor excavation by TH Farrer allowing Charles Darwin to use an exposed floor to measure the rate at which worm casts were produced, and a drawing of part of a suite of rooms was published (Anon 1878, 20). The exact location was lost, but the gales of 1987 felled a large conifer and Roman structure could be seen in the root plate. Three years excavation, 1995-1997, under the directorship of the late Steve Dyer uncovered a range of rooms including one with a nine panel mosaic. Activity started in the late 1st century AD and continued through to the late 4th. This work remained essentially unpublished but as a result the site was scheduled.

More recently the Surrey Archaeological Society has returned to Abinger and, under the direction firstly of David Bird and then of Emma Corke, has investigated the surroundings of the villa. The results show activity, not necessarily continuous, from the Mesolithic period through to the modern day. The lack of tree throw holes over the considerable area excavated, with the exception of the line of a Medieval lynchet, suggests any gap in activity was insufficient to allow the growth of mature trees.

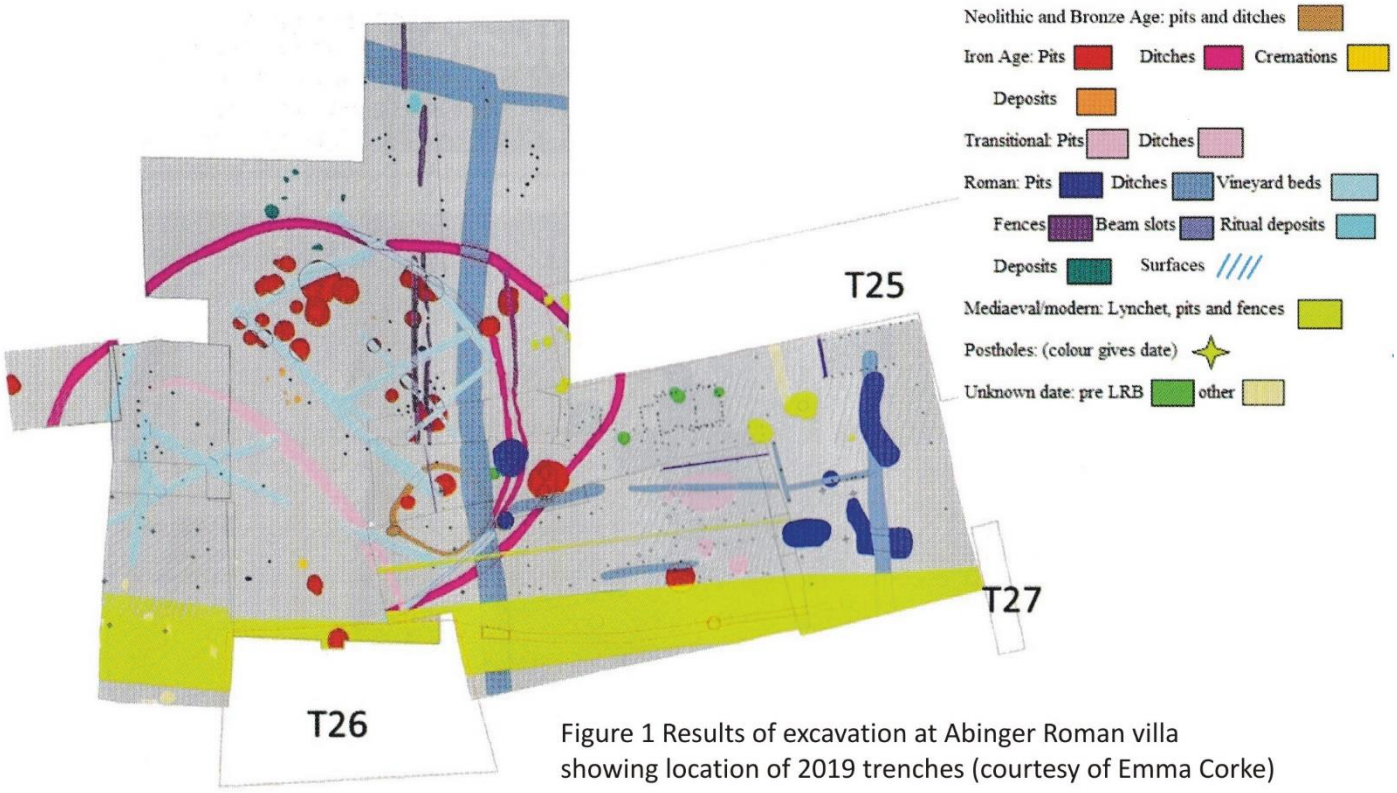


Figure 1 Results of excavation at Abinger Roman villa showing location of 2019 trenches (courtesy of Emma Corke)

Mesolithic activity is evidenced by a number of microliths, including both Horsham and obliquely-backed points, and microburins together with a large number of blades and some blade cores – the south-facing slope above the stream many have provided a suitable environment for a winter camp.

Neolithic flintwork, including a ground axe fragment, is complemented by a small assemblage of Grooved Ware, some of which was found close to the base of a pit with charcoal dated to 2496-2338 cal BC (85.2% probability). In the fill above the pottery were a number of worked flints, some apparently placed, including four microdenticulates, and a spherical fossil sponge which rattles from material in the hollow interior. The fill also contained burnt and unburnt ironstone and burnt clay, apparently from an oven dome. This pit was located within a roundhouse but the siting is almost certainly coincidental and the latter is more likely to be of Bronze Age or Iron Age date. A tree throw contained Mortlake Ware pottery but the accompanying radiocarbon date suggests redeposition, however two pits

underlying the ironpan produced Neolithic pottery and a C^{14}date of 3106-2917 cal BC (90.3% probability), the earliest date from the site so far.

A number of features have produced Bronze Age pottery, mainly in residual contexts, but a ditch and a probable barrow attest activity during the period, adding to the known sites of Weston Wood (Russell 1989) and Barnfield East (Hooker *et al* 2014; Winser *et al* 2018). A roundhouse with postholes cut into the 10cm thick ironpan and deeply below it, since post packing below the pan would not have been possible, was probably also of Bronze Age date. A fence, with the posts also cut through ironpan was closely associated with this roundhouse, and a second fenceline has been excavated this year.

During the Iron Age the top of the hill seems to have been surrounded by a ditch presumably enclosing a settlement, one of very few known from the area despite the presence of the Middle Iron Age Holmbury hillfort and the later examples at Felday and Anstiebury. At the latter site grain storage pits suggest arable production in the area.

Knowledge of the immediate environs of the villa has been vastly increased. A probable large, aisled building (Building B) had a much smaller, two-roomed building (Building E) to one side of the entrance and adjacent to both was a laid surface with postholes which may represent a small shed. A further building (D) had post-built long walls and a beam across one of the short walls whose slot had been carefully cut into an underlying iron pan, outside was a roughly square, stone covered courtyard. Building D was of several phases, possibly starting with the small 'annexe' at the north-west corner, but then expanding over earlier pits and with a part at least having a well laid floor of iron pan and hardcore. Building F was of a late phase and overlay an early Roman ploughsoil. and a similarity in alignment between buildings D, E, F and G (only partially excavated), together with adjacent fences suggest a major reorganisation possibly contemporary with construction of the late, grand wing of the villa. A limekiln presumably producing lime for mortar or possibly lime-washing has been dated to AD 55-216 (95% probability). The villa, particularly in its late phase, was of considerable luxury and it appears that it had its own vineyard set within the major boundaries of what seems to be the 'kitchen garden' rather than within the main field system and with an accompanying beehive. It would seem to have been large enough to provide wine (and dessert grapes?) for the villa's inhabitants, but not for sale. Possible slurry pits, fence lines and field boundaries characterise a long-lived working farm attached to the villa.

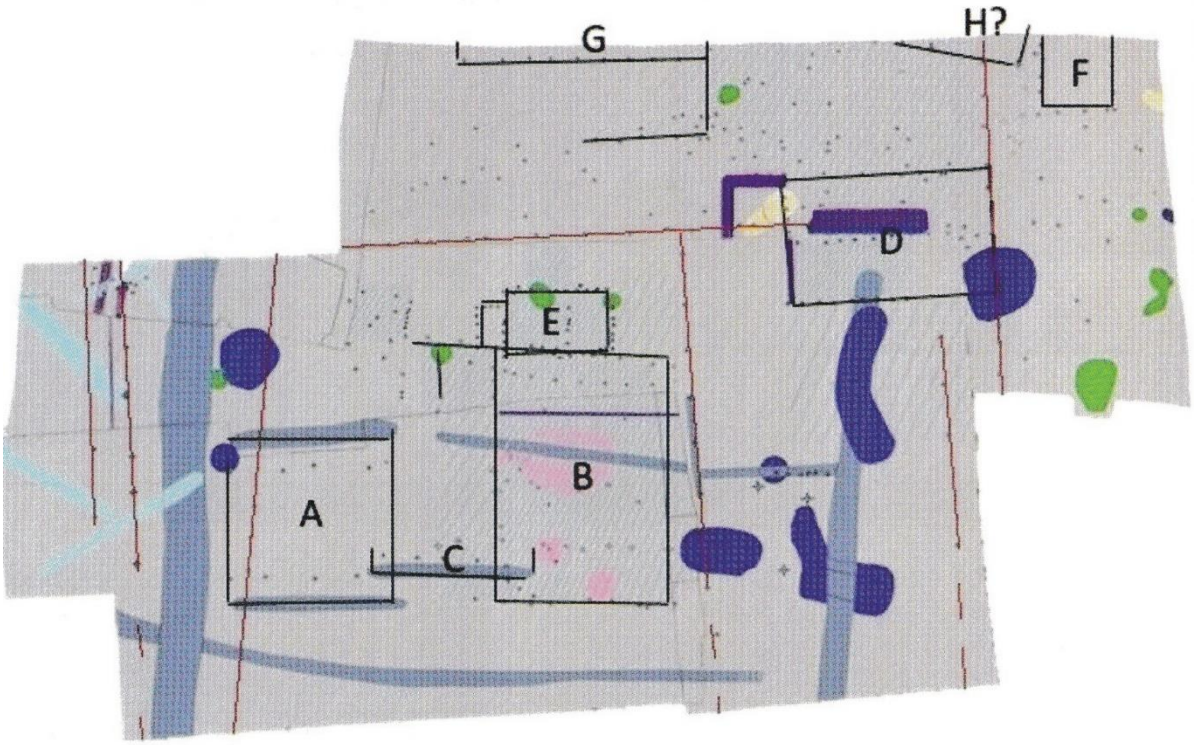


Figure 2 Outline of the Romano-British buildings in the area adjacent to Abinger villa. The majority of the postholes are thought to be Roman but the function of many is unclear - they may have been small buildings such as field shelters or simply tethering posts

Anon 1878 Recent discovery of the remains of a Roman Villa at Abinger, Surrey, *The Builder* **36**, 19-20

Bird, D Sequential notes in Surrey Archaeological Bulletin issues 416 (August 2009), 422 (August 2010), 430 (December 2011), 435 (October 2012), 445 (June 2014), 450 (April 2015) and 460 (February 2017)

Corke, E Sequential notes in Surrey Archaeological Bulletin issues 461 (April 2017), 468 (June 2018), 474 (June 2019), 480 (June 2020) and 481 (August 2020)

Dyer, S Sequential notes in Surrey Archaeological Bulletin issues 296 (October 1995), 305 (October 1996), 307 (December 1996) and 320 (May 1998)

Hooker, R, Seager Thomas, M & Winser, K 2014 Results of fieldwalking at Barnfield East, Abinger *Surrey Arch Coll* **98**, 201-205

Russell, MJG 1989 Excavation of a multi-period site in Weston Wood, Albury: the pottery, *Surrey Arch Coll* **79**, 3-51

Winser, K, Waters, K, English, J & Field, D 2018 Landscape investigation on the Surrey greensand: fieldwork at Abinger and Holmbury, 1985-9, *Surrey Arch Coll* **101**, 173-193

Judie English with oversight by Emma Corke

Saxon and Medieval Finds at Ovingdean, East Sussex by John Funnell

Ovingdean is a mixture of housing and farmed lands located to the east of Brighton (TQ35550360). It is in a small valley running from the South Downs down to the coast. The name Ovingdean is derived as being land owned by Ofingas, a Saxon tribe taking its identity from its leader Ofa (Glover 1997). After the Norman conquest Ovingdean was held by Godfrey De Pierpoint. The church is dated to the 11th century and is located on a small plateau on the west side of the valley. It is of flint and mortar construction, and has a number of Saxon features. In the field immediately north of the church cemetery is a field called Hog Croft. In this field are a number of earthworks that form an enclosure, with banks on the west and north sides and a steep descent to the east.

Drone photograph of the site at Ovingdean

From 1986 to 1999 the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society conducted a number of geophysical surveys at Hog Croft. The images revealed a number of rectangular features suggesting buildings, with other areas of high resistance possibly being floors or hard surfaces. Local historian John Davies thought that the structures could be associated with a medieval manorial complex. From 2002 to 2008 the Society conducted a number of small scale excavations to investigate the anomalies revealed in the geophysics. In 2002 five test trenches were sunk and revealed a collection of ditches, post holes, flint constructed walls and a well. One feature proved to be a very large pit filled with large flint nodules, mortar and masses of fire-cracked flint. At the end of that season a small additional trench revealed what appeared to be a tiled floor, with many sherds of 12th and 13th century pottery and 15 whelks shells in a cluster on the surface.

The team returned in 2004 and 2006 for more test trenches and revealed more ditches and a series of large rectangular post holes, some with post pipes still in-situ. The tiled 'floor' proved to be the upper fill of a large ditch containing a complete medieval storage pot. The same location produced an arrow head, a dagger chape and a gold gilded buckle inscribed 'Amore'.

The Young Archaeologists at Ovingdean

In 2009 BHAS decided it was now time to investigate a possible house or structure located close to the cemetery wall, and located just north of the church. These excavations revealed a building 11.5 metres long and 7.5 metres wide, with walls over a metre thick. There appeared to be a door cill in the north wall and traces of windows at an odd level in the south wall. The interior had a floor of large grey/blue beach pebbles. A small sondage was sunk to a depth of 1.4 metres, indicating the presence of a cellar or underfcroft. A series of sections revealed a compact chalk floor almost 2 metres below the beach pebble floor. The building had a lower cellar with an entrance in the north/east corner. The cellar contained 15 articulated animal skeletons. The remains included sheep/goat, dog, some horse and a ferret. There was also medieval pottery.

The majority of the cellar contained the remains of the building upper walls, consisting of large flints and mortar, pushed into the cellar during demolition. It was obvious that the beach pebble floor was from a later period. A thin channel had been hacked through the early walls possibly for a timber framed structure.

From 2014 to 2017 BHAS returned to Ovingdean for a final season of digging. A large area was opened up in the north/east section of the enclosure measuring 13 metres square. This revealed numerous post holes, ditches and even more 'floor' surfaces. The upper fills contained mainly 12th and 13th century pottery, along with animal bones, marine shells and more medieval arrow heads. Below one flint wall a lower fill revealed more post holes. Part of a later medieval wall was found to be constructed over a second well, which produced a good many oysters shells and a little pottery. From the post holes, and beam slot gullies a number of rectangular structures could be observed, all located below the later medieval layers. A small number of late Saxon pottery sherds were found, and a bone gaming piece.
It is possible that a Saxon settlement was removed when the lands passed into Norman hands. The site is extremely complex with numerous ditches and post holes going in various directions. It was planned for the field to be scheduled to protect it from possible house building projects, but Heritage England have requested further investigations to produce a better understanding of what is hidden beneath Hog Croft field. BHAS are planning to return to Ovingdean in the not too distant future.

Glover J. 1997 'Sussex Place Names, their origins and meanings' Countryside Books, Newbury, Berkshire

Brighton Young Archaeologists Club

Brighton Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) is open to everyone aged 8-16 years. We get involved in all sorts of activities, including visiting and investigating archaeological sites and historic places, trying out traditional crafts, taking part in excavations, experimental archaeology and lots more. Brighton YAC is based at Brighton Museum , where we have access to the wonderful Elaine Evans Archaeology Gallery. Occasionally our sessions may be held at other venues depending on planned activities. The club usually meets once, a month on the last Saturday, from 10.30 am-12.30 pm.

A team of volunteers runs the club and all our leaders are DBS checked. We charge a joining fee of £10 then £1 per session. Due to a limited number of spaces you must be a member before you are able to join a session.

If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the team using the details below.
contact: Odile Rouard email: brightonyac@gmail.com

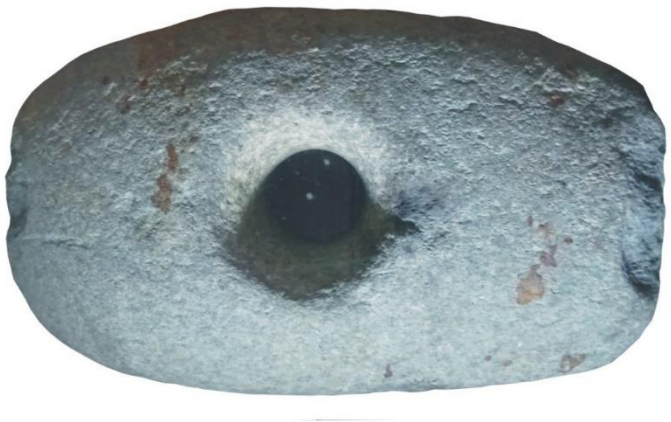
The Low Weald in prehistory

The Low Weald, the clay vale between the greensand of Kent, Surrey and Sussex is a difficult area for prospective archaeology – clay is not the best geology for geophysics, tree cover and restrictions around Gatwick prelude aerial photography. Until recently the relative lack of urban development has meant that professional input through PPG16 and its successors has been minimal. As a result, our archaeological knowledge is biased towards the chalk of the North and South Downs, and the light soils of the greensand, the sands of the High Weald and the coastal plain. The view developed that the Low Weald was heavily tree covered and only minimally utilised between the end of the Mesolithic period and the intensification of iron working at the beginning of the Roman occupation.

It is unlikely that any major monuments remain undiscovered, although it is worth remembering that Felday hillfort on the greensand of Surrey, not the most self-effacing of site types, was not recognised until the 1980s (Field 1989). Recent work in the area around Petersfield Heath has highlighted the number of small barrow cemeteries on low lying land in the valley of the Western Rother, and it may be that other areas would repay similar exploration.

The amount of worked flint from the post-Mesolithic periods found during field walking gives a clue of the possible density of prehistoric utilisation. Robin Tanner's work over many years in Outwood, Surrey is a telling example. He has walked about 300ha land and located no fewer than one Palaeolithic, 50 Mesolithic, 29 Neolithic and 13 Bronze Age concentrations of flint, together with several Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery scatters. Neolithic ground axes attest woodland clearance and sarsen maceheads and axe hammers, generally considered objects of status, are among the more unusual finds. Were these really all hunting parties?

Clusters of barbed and tanged arrowheads have been found near Faygate and Robin has collected 34 in Outwood. Finds fieldwalking and minor excavation at Brinsbury, south of Billingshurst, included 90 barbed and tanged arrowheads and four daggers – both these types dateable to the late Neolithic / Chalcolithic / Early Bronze Age transition at a site also used during the Mesolithic period (Dave McOmish pers comm). So what was going on there? A training establishment for the manufacture of barbed and tanged arrowheads, more usually associated with burials, deep in woodland? Or, more likely a ceremonial centre of some type.



Palaeolithic twisted ovate biface and Neolithic sarsen axe hammer from Robin Tanner's collection from Outwood

One of the first excavation sites to tell a different story was at Gatwick Airport where Framework Archaeology investigated an area due for development (Wells 2005). A substantial roundhouse, set within an enclosure, had been constructed in a previously cleared grassy landscape with oak, hazel, ash and beech in the vicinity. Small amounts of cereal pollen may represent production in the area or processing of grain brought in from elsewhere. A further large ditch with banks on either side may have been a boundary defining pastoral zones, but could have been intended to drain the site, which is on the Mole floodplain. The author suggests seasonal usage, presumably associated with summer grazing, but the roundhouse seems more than a herdsman's shieling and the possible need for drainage may hint at winter activity.

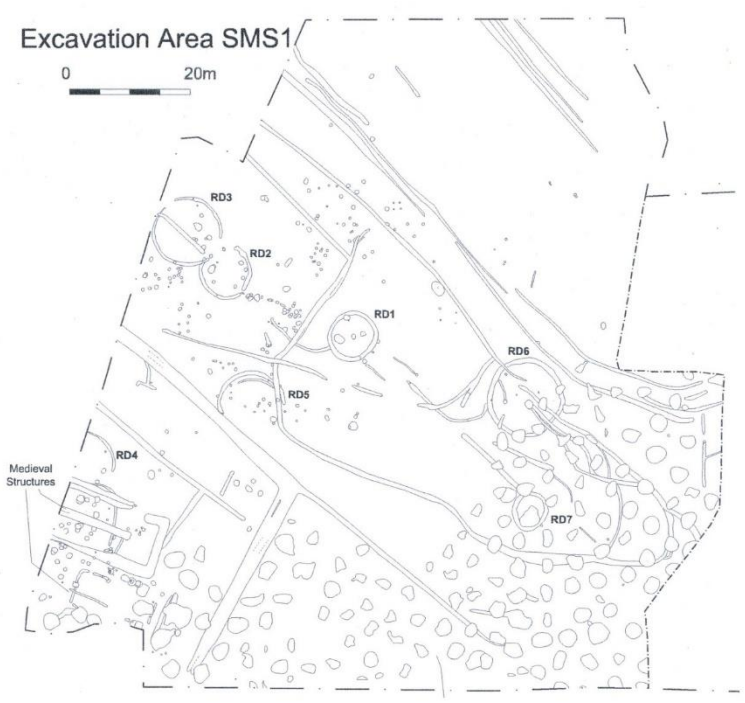
Transhumant grazing by the Bronze Age has been suggested along a north / south track from the North Downs towards the Low Weald at Bletchingley in Surrey (Marples & Poulton 2019, 179-180). Use of the Low Weald by those living on the South Downs or the West Sussex coastal plain has also been studied in terms of an early genesis for

north / south routes more usually ascribed to the Saxon period (Bell 2020, 219-239). One possible purpose for the construction of cross dykes was to provide visual markers for 'permitted' passages through the South Downs, particularly of relatively easy routes up the steep scarp slope (Lea *et al* submitted).

At Burgess Hill an unenclosed Middle to Late Bronze Age settlement and possible burial cremation pit and a large number of clay loom weights suggest a pastoral economy (Wallis 2016).

Large scale housing development has shown that the Gatwick findings were no anomaly. At Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath, near Horsham, work by Archaeology South-East exposed a landscape in which activity started in the Mesolithic period (Margetts 2018). Worked flint found over most of the site, together with a burnt hazel shell dated to 8550-8290 cal BC attest the earliest activity on site. The Neolithic period was represented by a light scatter of worked flint including a finely made disc scraper, and a few sherds of possible Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware. Evidence of Bronze Age activity was limited to a few sherds of pottery and a charcoal-filled pit dated to between the 13th and 11th centuries BC, a similarly dated square feature associated with a cemetery area and a few sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. After an apparent hiatus during the Early Iron Age extensive utilisation of resources by the inhabitants of a series of Middle Iron Age roundhouses and a succession of long-lived enclosures. with an apparent emphasis on stock management. After a further gap, at least within the confines of the site, more enclosures and paddocks, a large water-hole, pits, a pair of conjoined square barrows and trackways spanned the Late Iron Age / Early Roman transition. On a nearby site further work in advance of housing partially filled the early hiatus at Wickhurst Green when a round house dating to the 5th or 4th century BC was excavated (Taylor, 2017).

One major unknown is the early development of the Wealden iron industry. A very few sites have been dated to the prehistoric period and the majority of those were in use during the Late Iron Age. A bloomery at Hawkhurst has recently been radio-carbon dated to the Middle Iron Age (Simon Stevens pers comm) and other early sites include Raithlin Road, Broadfield (Crawley) and Birchen Lane, Lindfield (Haywards Heath) both with 4th century BC dates.



Probably the most exciting series of sites for Wealden archaeology are those around Horley (Surrey) where large scale housing developments have taken place on the floodplain of the Mole. Much of this work is not yet published but a picture of intensive and extensive pre-Roman activity has emerged. Land to the north-east of Horley produced worked flint of Mesolithic and Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age date, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead. Middle / Late Iron Age activity in the form of at least four roundhouses together with pits and other features together with a loom weight and pottery sherds (Swift 2009). The presence of cereal grains and seeds from species often associated with arable farming may hint at a part of the economy of the site.

Work over further large areas around Horley has produced a small number of Middle Bronze Age features and a small series of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pits and a single ditch. However, the Middle Iron Age / Late Iron Age is when certain evidence of settlement occurred and this continued into the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (Tom Munnery pers comm). The excavation plan (reproduced courtesy of Archaeology South-East) shows the complexity of a small portion of the area excavated.

It is surely unlikely that Outwood, Gatwick, Broadbridge Green, Burgess Hill and Horley are anomalous. Rather the exploitation of the Low Weald, probably variable in intensity, should be considered the norm throughout prehistory from the Mesolithic period onwards.

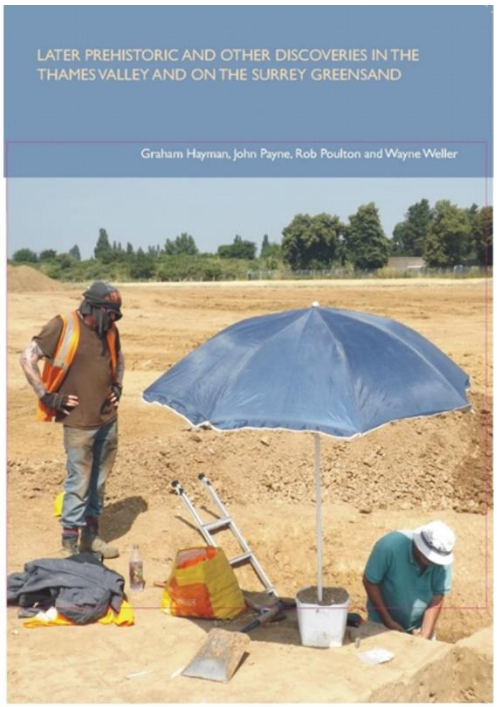
Bell, M. 2020 *Making one's way in the world*, Oxbow Books

Field, D 1989 Felday, Holmbury St Mary: an earthwork enclosure of the 1st century AD *Surrey Archaeol Coll* **79**, 99-116
Lea, D, English, J & Tapper, D submitted Smart ways through the downs: cross ridge dykes as markers of prehistoric transhumance routes across the South Downs, Sussex, UK
Margetts, A 2018 Wealdbæra: *excavations at Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath and the landscape of the west central Weald*, SpoilHeap Publications Monograph Series **18**
Marples, N. and Poulton, R. 2019. *Prehistoric and early medieval landscapes at North Park Farm, Bletchingley, Surrey*. SpoilHeap Publications Monograph Series **21**
Swift, D 2009 *A post-excavation assessment and updated project design on excavation on land at north-east Horley, Surrey*, Archaeology South East Report No **2009002**
Taylor, A 2017 Early to Middle Iron Age occupation north of Old Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex, in: J McNicoll-Norbury, D Sanchez, A Taylor, F Thompson & S Wallis (eds) *Archaeological investigations in Sussex: prehistoric and Roman features in Selaey, Worthing, Angmering and Horsham, and medievao occupation in Hailsham, Horsham and Crawley,* Thames Valley Archaeol Serv Occas Paper **17,** 41-47
Wallis, S 2016 *Middle / Later Bronze Age occupation at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex,* TVAS Occasional Paper **9**
Wells, NA 2005 Excavation of a Late Bronze Age enclosure site at Gatwick Airport, 2001, *Sussex Archaeol Coll* **143**, 47-69

Judie English (Editor's indulgence given that this is my last issue!)

Local books

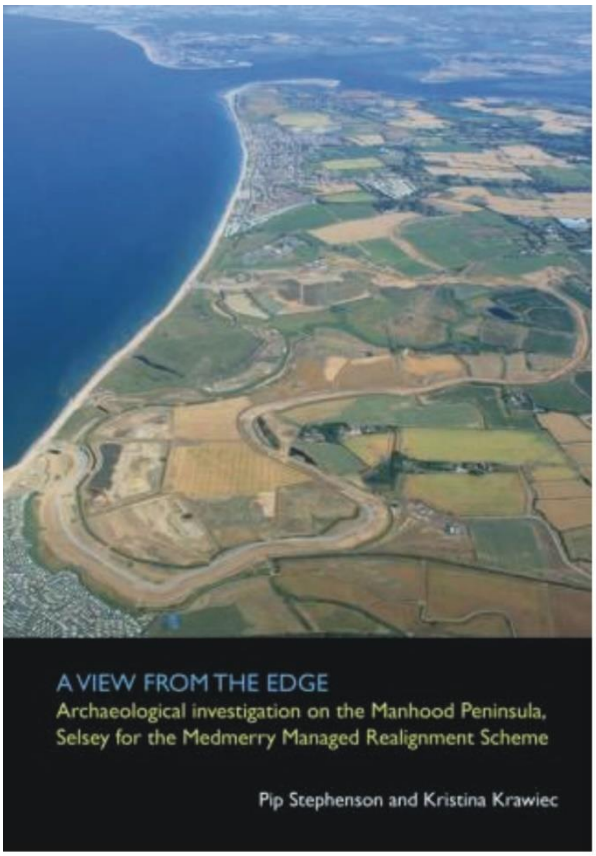
Later prehistoric and other discoveries in the Thames Valley and on the Surrey Greensand by Graham Hayman, John Payne, Rob Poulton and Wayne Weller
SpoilHeap Occasional Paper no 12 - ISBN 978-1-912331-14-7
150 pages, 66 illustrations. Price £12 + £3.50 p&p
Available through: www.surreycc.gov.uk/scau



The excavations at sites near Bedfont, Chertsey and Nutfield all produced Late Upper Palaeolithic and / or Mesolithic flintwork, with the substantial quantity at Nutfield suggesting a 'persistent place' in the local landscape. Bedfont had an early Neolithic pit and Late Neolithic features were identified at all three sites, with Nutfield producing a rare pit with Beaker ceramics.
These features suggest the occasional presence of essentially mobile communities, but in the Middle / Late Bronze Age each site shows the imposition of an ordered landscape. At Bedfont it is clearly a co-axial field system with trackways, and waterholes, but, interestingly the latter are lacking in Nutfield, where the field system is the first confidently identified on the Surrey Greensand. Domestic activity is indicated at all sites but at Chertsey a unique rectilinear enclosure, with a small enclosure within, may be for ritual or sacred use.

Only Nutfield had Iron Age settlement, with roundhouses set within a substantial enclosure ditch. Its use may have extended into the earliest Romano-British period, when at Bedfont trackways were added to a still functioning Bronze Age field system and at Chertsey new fields were laid out. Only Chertsey produced a few Saxon sherds, in the same area as a medieval moat, while at Nutfield there is evidence of medieval assarting and a pillow mound (rabbit warren).

Rectilinear enclosure at Church Lammas, Chertsey and Neolithic stone axe from Nutfield



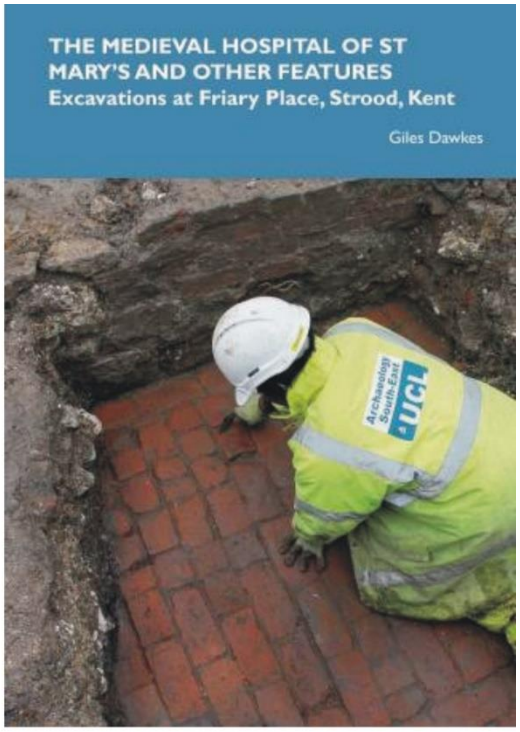
A VIEW FROM THE EDGE: Archaeological Investigation on the Manhood Peninsula, Selsey for the Medmerry Managed Realignment Scheme
Pip Stephenson and Kristina Krawiec (2019)

Between 2010-2013, the Environment Agency undertook the managed realignment of the coastline at Medmerry. The project is the largest open-coast flood relief scheme undertaken in Europe and impacted on upwards of 60ha of landscape with rich archaeological potential. The opportunity for archaeological research offered by the scheme has provided a window into the evolution of this distinctive coastal landscape from the earliest period of archaeologically visible human settlement in the Bronze Age through to the modern era.

The geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental programme produced a significant sediment archive, an important contribution to the study of the Manhood Peninsula. Important prehistoric archaeology was uncovered including a Mesolithic flint assemblage, partly from an in situ knapping site, and five burnt mounds, radiocarbon dated to the Early-Middle Bronze Age transition, recorded in probable lagoon-edge locations. These are succeeded by Middle Bronze Age settlement and more widespread Late Bronze Age activity, with two settlements within a localised co-axial field system. Historic period remains include Saxon settlement, with boundaries of possible building plots, and a series of wooden structures within the estuarine or lagoon silts, including major conserved wooden structures of 13-14th century date, interpreted as several phases of large fish weir. Detailed recording of six pillboxes and two gunnery range buildings, together with a large assemblage of expended ordnance, allowed for a detailed consideration of the coastal defences installed during World War II. Cost £40. Available from louise.rayner@ucl.ac.uk

A series of reports are available from **Thames Valley Archaeological Services** and some local examples include:
Occasional Paper 9 - Middle/Later Bronze Age Occupation at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex - £5
Occasional Paper 17 - Archaeological Investigations in Sussex: Prehistoric and Roman features in Selsey, Worthing, Angmering and Horsham, and Medieval occupation in Hailsham, Horsham and Crawley - £7
Occasional Paper 28 - Archaeological Excavations on sites of Bronze Age Iron Age occupation in Kent, 2014-2016 - £7
Occasional Paper 31 - Further Burials in the Guildown Saxon Cemetery at Guildford, Surrey - £7
Occasional Paper 36 - Middle Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age occupation at The Paddocks, Nutbourne, Chichester, West Sussex - £7
Monograph 11 - Archaeological Investigations in Surrey, 1997-2009 - £15
More details from: http://tvas.co.uk/publications.html

THE MEDIEVAL HOSPITAL OF ST MARY'S AND OTHER FEATURES: excavations at Friary Place, Strood, Kent by Giles Dawkes (2020)



The archaeological investigations at Friary Place, Strood, Kent, identified four main periods of archaeological activity from the Late Bronze Age to the 19th century. The most significant findings were evidence of Bronze Age and Roman salt working, a Roman and early medieval palaeochannel and saltmarsh deposits, the remains of the medieval hospital of St Mary, and 17th-century and later post-medieval buildings. In addition, a moderate assemblage of finds and environmental evidence was recovered. The archaeological investigations at Friary Place, Strood, were undertaken between November 2007 and May 2012. The site is located to the east of the centre of Strood and to the north of the High Street, which was the focus of medieval settlement. The medieval hospital of St Mary lay to the immediate north of the High Street. Remains of the hospital buildings were predominately identified during archaeological excavation in 1966, and these lay within and to the immediate south of the ASE investigations.

Four main periods of archaeological activity from the Late Bronze Age to the 19th century were identified. The Bronze Age and Roman archaeology was fairly limited and comprised mainly of land division features, such as ditches and enclosures, but with some possible indications of salt working. The salt working may have been associated with a Roman and early medieval palaeochannel and saltmarsh deposits, although no in situ salt-working features were identified.

The excavation also uncovered further remains of the medieval hospital of St Mary and 17th-century and later post-medieval buildings. The keyhole nature of these investigations has limited interpretation of the masonry remains but did succeed in revealing numerous walls, floors and a masonry drain built on the same orientation as the hospital chapel. An articulated adult skeleton found laid out in the base of a medieval ditch represents a highly unusual burial for this period. Of the later 17th-century buildings, little is known of their complete form, but one was used as a timber workshop and survived until the 18th or 19th century. Cost £10. Available from louise.rayner@ucl.ac.uk

The Selhurst Park Project, Middle Barn, Selhurstpark Farm, Eartham, West Sussex 2005-2008. By George Anelay, with contributions from Martyn Allen, Mike Bishop, David Bone, Neville Haskins, James Kenny, Mary Lewis, Andrew Payne, Cynthia Poole, Jane Timby and Mariangela Vitolo. Oxbow Books, Oxford & Philadelphia. 2019. Pp. x + 140, illus. Price: £40.00. ISBN 9781789251166 (paper); 9781789251173 (ebook).

This monograph reports on the Selhurst Park Project which comprised various types of archaeological investigations at Middle Barn in Sussex, 8 km north-east of Chichester and 500 m from Roman Stane Street. The fieldwork, which was undertaken from 2005 to 2010 as a research and volunteer project, was designed to investigate an area of features identified as lynchets, fieldways, a 'banjo' enclosure and several linked sub-rectangular enclosures which were discovered as crop marks during aerial reconnaissance in 1976. The excavations and surveys revealed further information about these features and resulted in them being more precisely interpreted and dated as parts of a Middle Iron Age (MIA) to early Roman farmstead comprising two main enclosures and an associated field system. Important discoveries included four pits (three IA and one Roman) containing structured deposits. The project is important regarding the study of continuity and change during the Iron Age and Roman period on the Sussex Downs.

The report, which is well illustrated, is in seven sections. After an 'Introduction', the second section reports on the geophysical surveys. The next chapter provides information regarding the excavations and discoveries made. Trench 1 completely exposed the 'banjo enclosure' crop mark anomaly, but this proved not to be of 'banjo' type. Instead, the enclosure was defined by a 'D' shaped ditch with a single entrance. It is assigned on radiocarbon and pottery dating to the MIA (4th-2nd centuries BC). Afterwards it may have been used as a stock enclosure. Despite the

discovery of finds of a domestic nature at this enclosure, only two man-made features, both postholes, were identified within it. The excavator, George Anelay, suggests that these may have been parts of a roundhouse, possibly either central supports or from a porch.

Trench 2 exposed most of the southern enclosure complex. Sub-rectangular in shape, this was formed of four linked sub-enclosures (A-D), each defined by drainage ditches. The need for drainage was due to the impermeable clay capping of the chalk across the site. In one corner of Sub-enclosure A was a smaller enclosure (E) bordered from the rest of A by two ditches with an entrance way between. Anelay postulates that two of three postholes found within Enclosure E may have been associated with a structure. Much more substantial evidence for a subsequent dwelling was found in the centre of Sub-enclosure A. This comprised a semi-circular house platform terraced into the chalk and edged by an irregular gully, 9 m in diameter. It is uncertain whether this gully formed a wall-slot or was for drainage. At the back of the gully, and cut into its inner edge, were two neonatal burials. Finds from the terrace included pieces of fired clay (perhaps from an oven) and pot sherds indicating an early Roman date. In a later chapter (page 131) Anelay notes that this roundhouse, and also any other structures at Middle Barn, would appear to have been constructed in a way 'that utilized only the most shallow-buried of posts, since no trace remained of any holes cut into the chalk bedrock'. A similar lack of obvious structural features has been noted at other downland sites (eg Bullock Down near Eastbourne) and generally the nature of Romano-British farmstead dwellings on the Sussex Downs remains uncertain and a priority for future research.

Sub-enclosure B contained eight pits of varying dates and sizes. Two adjacent pits (2064 and 2066) are MIA and contained structured deposits which have been interpreted as being associated with large-scale feasting, probably on two separate occasions. The pits contained similar numbers of the main domestic animals, and both yielded sherds of pots which may have been deliberately broken as a ritual activity. Other finds included the remains of other domestic animals, wild animals, birds, plants, frogs/toads, plus burnt flints, a loomweight and part of a quernstone. The evidence of butchery marks indicates that animal body parts, such as a horned cattle skull and attached neck, could have been displayed at a feast, whilst skinning marks may suggest that skins and pelts were used as gifts or for exchange. A third pit (573) yielded a very different finds collection from those in Pits 2064 and 2066; the bone assemblage being much smaller and mainly burnt, and the pottery assemblage much larger and of Middle-Late Iron Age date. It also had two carefully layered basal fills composed of much burnt grain and wood ash respectively. Other finds included chalk weights, part of a quernstone and large pieces of fired clay from an oven which may have been used to dry corn. Anelay suggests that the contents of this pit may relate to arable production rather than meat-feasting.

The artefacts and ecofacts from Pits 573, 2064 and 2066 thus provide examples of structured deposits in Iron Age pits, a widespread practice that J.D. Hill highlighted in 1995 (*Ritual and Rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex*, BAR British Series 242). The significance of the Middle Barn pit deposits, including a possible Roman example (see below), is further discussed in Section 6, 'Behaviour and Beliefs', which also considers three human burials; the two neonates in Sub-enclosure A, and an inurned adult cremation from the upper fill of a ditch (Sub-enclosure D). The latter possibly dates to after the settlement was abandoned. Also found in an upper ditch fill only three metres from the cremation, was a 'placed' Roman pottery beaker containing a copper-alloy ring. Although Anelay suggests that this 'ring burial' may be a 'cenotaph burial', it could be a rite of termination.

A group of five probably Roman pits was also discovered in Sub-enclosure B. One pit (513) is possibly of special interest. It yielded various artefacts and ecofacts, including quernstone fragments, and relatively large amounts of burnt chaff from its basal fill. The basal deposit compares to those in Pit 573 and may thus also be a special deposit associated with a 'harvest-orientated event'. Sub-enclosures C and D were only partially excavated, and their functions are uncertain, possibly for the management of stock.

Sections 4 and 5 include the finds reports. The pottery assemblage is especially important as it spans a long period of apparent settlement continuity (MIA to early-mid-2nd century AD) and helps to fill a gap in the local sequence. Other finds include two Iron Age gold coins, part of a horse bridle bit, and fragments from a Roman Imperial-Gallic type helmet cheekpiece (early 1st – early 2nd century AD). Deposition of the cheekpiece, recovered from a backfilled ditch of Sub-enclosure A, could post-date abandonment of the site.

The final section, 'Overview', provides a summary of the archaeology investigated at Middle Barn. Initially habitation may have been in the northern enclosure, whilst feasting activities took place to the south. Later habitation may have moved first to Enclosure E and later to the centre of Sub-enclosure A. It is suggested that the settlement may have been abandoned in the early 2nd century AD in order to relocate to a newly built villa site to the south. The Middle Barn farmstead is then discussed with regards to various aspects of Iron Age and Roman Sussex more generally.

This publication makes an important contribution to the study of later Iron Age and early Roman archaeology in Sussex and beyond. Reviewed by Dr David Rudling

ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR OF ROMAN SITES IN THE NORTH OF BRITAIN

Thursday 10th to Thursday 17th June 2021 Baxter Hoare Travel in association with the Sussex School of Archaeology will be running a fly (from Gatwick) and coach (from Edinburgh) tour of various archaeological sites in the north of Britain. (N.B. originally this tour was to happen in June 2020 but had to be postponed). The main emphasis is Roman and especially the two famous Walls built under the emperors Hadrian and Antoninus Pius respectively. Sites/places to be visited include: Berwick-on-Tweed, Lindisfarne (Holy Island), South Shields, Wallsend, the Great Northern Museum (Newcastle), Housesteads, Corbridge, the Temple of Mithras, Chesters, Vindolanda, Tullie House (Carlisle), Maryport, Melrose, Bearsden, Rough Castle, and the National Museum of Scotland (Edinburgh).

Prices start at £1349 per person, based on 2 sharing and include: return scheduled flights from Gatwick to Edinburgh; 7 nights bed, breakfast and evening meal accommodation in at least 3 star accommodation; services of the tour leader (Dr David Rudling, FSA) and a professional guide (Laura Rhodes) and entry fees where appropriate; transportation by air conditioned coach; ATOL and ABTA protection.

To book your place or get more information please contact Baxter Hoare Travel, 61 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YF; Telephone 0207 407 5492 or Email: events@baxterhoare.com and ask about the Hadrian's Wall Tour. A more detailed itinerary leaflet is available. There is the possibility to extend your stay in Edinburgh (if interested in this option please ask for further details).

Courses at Rottingdean Whiteways Centre

ZOOM courses

M6 An Introduction to Social Anthropology (20 weeks) Tutor: Dr Jonathan Newman. Monday 1430-1630 Fee: £84 (1 term) or £160 (2 terms) We will examine different ways that people worldwide see and understand the world. The course asks students to take a look at how they have come to see and understand their own world. These are classes for explorers who want to see much more of the world without necessarily leaving their home. Learning takes place through lively discussion as we unpick anthropological perspectives using students' own personal observations and thoughts.

F36 Landscapes of SE England (8 weeks – No half term: Starts Friday 2 Oct at 1000-1200. This is a change from the printed prospectus). Tutor: Dr Geoffrey Mead. Fee £67

South East England has some iconic landscapes, such as the South Downs and Seven Sisters, but others are less well known and understood, the North Kent marshes, Surrey heaths, the Kentish Weald and Dungeness. We look at the geography, geology and history of these and others.

Courses at the Centre

W22 English Coins and Tokens, c AD 600-1971 Tutor: Dr David Rudling Wednesday 1030-1230. 5 weeks - Sep 23 to Oct 21. Fee £42. This course will explore the history of the use of coins and tokens in England from c. AD 600-1971. We will consider the range of metals, shapes, sizes and weights that have been used. We will also explore what the images and lettering on English coins and tokens can tell us about history, material culture, propaganda and famous individuals known to history. Illustrated throughout, the course will also involve the inspection of actual coins. This course is suitable for historians, archaeologists, coin

collectors, metal detectorists, and those interested generally in English history.

W23 Introducing Archaeology: Part 2 Survey Tutor: Dr David Rudling. Wednesday 1030-1230. 5 weeks - Nov 4 to Dec 2) Fee £42. Part 2 of this course (Part 1 – Survey – was held in the autumn of 2019) will introduce students to

Archaeological Excavation and Post-Excavation, Dating Techniques, and Archaeology by Experiment. We will explore how the results of archaeological fieldwork are made available to both specialists and the general public. There is no need to have attended Part 1 of this 2-part course.

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 2019/20

Chairman: David Rudling, Vice-Chairman: Anne Sassin Allen, Grants: John Funnell, Treasurer: Steve Cleverly; Secretary: Rose Hooker; Membership Secretary: Shiela Broomfield; Newsletter Editor: Judie English; Webmaster: Phil Stanley; Lynn Cornwell, Ed Dickinson, Alex Egginton and Elizabeth Blanning

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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. 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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