

Annual conference

This year's annual conference, 'What is new from Commercial Archaeology in the South-East?', will be run jointly with the Sussex School of Archaeology and History on **Saturday 18 November** in person at Kings Church, Lewes, East Sussex, with an online option also available.

Tickets are priced £25 for the in-person conference fee, £20 for CBA-SE members and Sussex School Friends and full-time students; online viewing will be £13. The link for tickets is now available on [Eventbrite](#).

Speakers and their talk titles include:

Andy Hood (Foundation Archaeology): *Excavation of a rather fine pair of funerary barrows at Spelthorne Leisure Centre in late 2021-early 2022*

Hayley Nicholls (Archaeology South-East): *A new lowland hillfort at Chichester*

Jon Baczowski (Chris Butler Archaeological Services): *Investigation of multiperiod site near Pevensy with complicated superficial geology/geoarchaeology*

Paul Wilkinson (Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey): *Watling Street – the corridor (or conduit) for Roman Sacred and Secular power*

Odile Rouard (Thames Valley Archaeological Services): *A new take on a site at Water Lane, Angmering*

Diccon Hart (HB Archaeology and Conservation): *Buildings archaeology and survey*

Mike Allen (Allen Environmental Archaeology): *Environmental archaeology at Isle of Sheppey, Ouse Valley at Lewes*

Letty Ingrey (Archaeology South-East): *Post-excavation of some Palaeolithic sites, including the 'giant handaxe' from the Maritime Academy site*

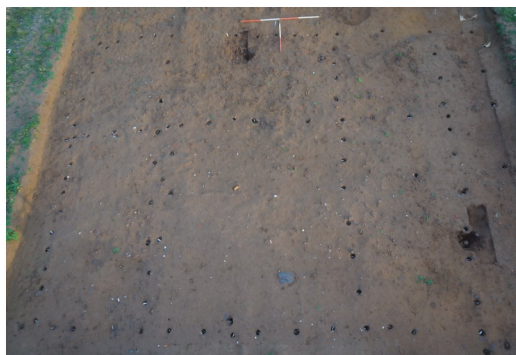
We look forward to seeing you there!

Surrey

Surrey Archaeological Society

For regular updates about SyAS activities and news from other groups your first port of call should be our monthly e-newsletter compiled by our community archaeologist Anne Sassin, available on our website (<https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/enewsletters>). This e-letter is available monthly by e-mail to members and non-members free of charge by contacting the office (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

Our annual summer dig at Cock's Farm Abinger ran during June and July (five weeks in total which is the longest period ever) and interesting results are still being evaluated. This excavation has been running for several years starting with the Roman villa, but going uphill gradually extending back in time. This year's features included a previously unseen six-roomed post-built building, probably earlyish Romano-British, under which was a Late Bronze Age pit containing sherds, some of which had been utilised in one of the building's postholes. Short interim reports of previous years' digs can be found in Surrey's Past (former bulletin), whose backcopies are available on our website.



Overhead of the CFA23 building (left), with the LBA pit in the lower right corner. The LBA pit is shown (right) partially excavated (note the sherds in the posthole).

A total of 18 test pits have also been excavated this year as part of the Society's community archaeology project at Albury Park, investigating the former medieval settlement which was displaced in the early 19th century. The field-work this season provided a good initial overview of the site's development and relationship to historic features within the parkland, including medieval activity along the line of Dog Kennel Lane. Plans continue for 2024 work at the site.



Our website also links you to the [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#) which will be shortly be refreshed with full county coverage of LiDAR data before the end of October, before ground truthing activities recommence in the winter.

The Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework conference is to be held on **Saturday 25 November 2023** via Zoom. The theme is 'Pills, Potions and Poison' and online booking is now available from the [website](#). Our website also has a list of other events including the Surrey Local History Symposium on maps on **Saturday 11 November**, as well as autumn and spring talks, many of which are free and available to all interested in the varied topics.



The Society has been working on the West Horsley Place community project with the Domestic Buildings Research Group, with some geophysics in the grounds having taken place in the spring (see previous e-newsletters for the results). The Society has also been working with DBRG to bring a publication *The Development of Timber Framing in Surrey's Old Buildings* to fruition, which is now available from the DBRG (<https://www.dbrg.org.uk>) or from the Society.

Due to some difficulties with storage space the Research Centre at Abinger has retrieved our collections of journals, and those that are not available online have been brought into the building and are now shelved in the meeting room. This is of some advantage to researchers who can access the journals when they visit rather than arrange for their collection from storage. Unfortunately our Librarian/Administrator will be retiring in November, but the Trustees have appointed a new part-time librarian who will be starting in October to enable a useful overlap.

Surrey County Council Historic Environment Planning team

A few staffing changes have taken place within the team, including the departure of Archaeological Officer Alex Egginton in July. Serena Perez-Storey has just joined the team as a Historic Buildings Officer to support Chris Reynolds and the development of that part of the team's work, and Rob Briggs has recently returned to the HER, following a six-month sabbatical.

Rose Hooker

*(with contributions by Anne
Sassin and Tony Howe)*

Sussex

During the winter months there was as usual a significant decrease in the amount of archaeological fieldwork undertaken by amateur groups in Sussex, but in the spring, summer, and now early autumn there has been much more activity. This report will review some of this activity during the last 12 months. It will also provide updates concerning non-fieldwork matters.

Sussex Archaeological Society

At the Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) the programme of on-line monthly archaeology evening lectures ended in March. Other activities specifically for members included two guided walks by James Sainsbury of Worthing Museum to Arundel Park and to High Down Hill respectively, and several property-based talks and tours undertaken by SAS staff. On **Saturday 2 December** the Society will hold its AGM at Michelham Priory. It also plans to hold on **Saturday 17 February** 2024, at the University of Sussex, a one-day conference to celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2021. This celebration had to be delayed for Covid reasons. In 2023 some of the SAS properties open to the public have operated with reduced days and times, and potential visitors should check first before making a visit.

In November 2022 members received the autumn issue (154) of the newsletter *Sussex Past & Present*, followed by Volume 159 of the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (SAC) in late December. The next SAC volume (that for 2022) is with the printers and should be sent to members in late September. These SAC achievements mean that the very hard-working editorial board, led by Editor Dr Jaime Kaminski, have managed to catch up with the delays caused during Covid. Other good news on the publication front is the recent publication of a new guidebook for Fishbourne Roman Palace. This guide was written by Dr Miles Russell of Bournemouth University.

This year, although SAS has decided “not to increase the annual membership prices for 2023-24”, it will from July 2023 charge those UK members who want to receive a printed copy of SAC 156 an extra £4.95 to cover postage costs (ie in effect an increase in UK subscription costs of 10.5%).

Senior staff changes at SAS have continued, with recently appointed Tim Ridgway (Head of Marketing and Communications), Dan Cook (Property Manager for Lewes and Michelham) and James Brooks (Hon. Librarian) leaving, and long serving Sean Arnold (Barbican House Manager) and all the Lewes and Michelham Priory education staff being made redundant. Annie Wills has been appointed as ‘Interim Head of Operations and Commercial Activity’, and she is assisted by Sarah Tingley and Lee Hurst. Another recruit is Finlay Larkin, who has joined SAS as the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Sussex Finds Liaison Assistant. Sadly, trustee Dr Harriet O’Neill and long-serving ex-trustee Lys Drewett (see separate obituary) died in May and April respectively.



The 'Near Pulborough' gold torc. Photograph: The Portable Antiquities Scheme.

An important acquisition by purchase by SAS is approximately half of an Iron Age gold torc which is of 'local, regional and national significance'. Found 'near Pulborough' by a metal detectorist in 2019, the torc dates to c. 400-250 BC and may pre-date most of the other gold torcs previously discovered in Britain. It has been suggested that this artefact may have been an import from the continent or be of a local form copying European examples.

Readers are reminded that the next consideration of applications to SAS for the 'Sally Christian Archaeology Fund' for the funding of practical training courses, conference fees, etc, for those students/amateurs/non-professionals starting in archaeology is **25 October 2023** – for further details about the fund see www.sussexpast.co.uk.

In May SAS hosted a face-to-face meeting of the Sussex Archaeology Forum at Lewes, and this followed an online meeting of the Forum held in November 2022.

Sussex School of Archaeology and History

The Sussex School of Archaeology and History (SSA&H) had ownership changes in March, with directors Chris and Rachel Butler resigning and Sarah Green becoming a director alongside existing director David Rudling. Also in March, Sarah and David organised another very successful Sussex Archaeology Symposium at Kings Church,

Lewes. This was a hybrid event with online viewers joining those present at the church. Whilst in the longer term the aim is for the School to continue organising online courses and lectures, the next major ‘live’ event will take place at Kings Church (Lewes) on **Saturday 14 October**. In association with Sussex historian Dr Sue Berry, the School will host an archaeology and history conference: ‘The Sussex Landscape Transformed: an overview’. This event will be multi-period, starting with Neolithic Sussex and ending with the 20th century (see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/656143431667>).

Future conferences will include a repeat with some changes of this May’s very popular ‘Shining a Light on the disposal of the dead in the Roman South-East’ conference held by the Roman Studies Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society at Ashted in Surrey. Next year, on **Saturday 23 March** SSA&H in association with the Roman Studies Group will hold a one-day conference at Lewes in Sussex entitled ‘Disposal of the dead in Iron Age and Roman South-East England’. A historical conference for 2024 will be held on **Saturday 12 October**, also at Kings Church, Lewes.

The University of Sussex Archaeological Society

As from October 2023 the University of Sussex Archaeological Society (USAS) will merge with, and become a part of, the Sussex School of Archaeology and History. USAS was founded in 1998 by a small group of part-time students who were studying archaeology at the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), University of Sussex, for the benefit of other students, staff and members of the local archaeology community. Sadly, despite the popularity of CCE and the teaching of archaeology at the university, both came to an end in 2013, but USAS continued and has welcomed anyone who has an interest in archaeology, whatever level that interest may be. During the pandemic the annual lecture programmes became online. This change proved very popular, and so has continued post-Covid. Mainly run by Sarah Green and David Rudling, who are both directors of the Sussex School of Archaeology and History, it now seems more practical to merge USAS with the School. It is intended however to continue the popular online USAS monthly lectures (October to April) under such a banner, and in future to charge viewers rather than to rely on donations to cover expenses (speaker fees, Eventbrite and Zoom expenses, etc).

Recent Fieldwork in Sussex:

New Winchelsea, East Sussex

The Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG) has been undertaking further geophysical surveys of the open areas in New Winchelsea, East Sussex on behalf of the National Trust. Previous surveys using a magnetometer have revealed some of the ‘Quarters’ in the medieval town design. This work has continued with most of the magnetometer surveys completed by April 2023. Selected areas will now be subjected to soil resistivity surveys, particularly around the St John’s Hospital area.

Pett and Icklesham Parishes, East Sussex

Magnetometer surveys have been undertaken by HAARG on two farms, one in each of the parishes. Both sites have in the past produced Bronze Age hoards associated with a waterway. The recent surveys both revealed anomalies which have been identified as banks and ditches. One landowner has consented to future test pitting on his property.

New Coghurst Farm, north of Hastings, East Sussex

Following extensive magnetometer surveys and limited test pitting by HAARG, two 'furnaces' of unknown purpose have been located. As the only artefactual dating evidence is a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery, charcoal has been sent to Belfast for radiocarbon dating. There is also a 20m diameter ring ditch on the farm. HAARG in association with the landowner Cameron Ross (previously of Archaeology South-East) intend to undertake further fieldwork on the site.



The magnetometer survey results showing the ring ditch feature at New Coghurst Farm (above)



One of the 'furnace' structures at New Coghurst Farm (Photograph: HAARG)

The Malthouse, Sompting, West Sussex

During late August and early September 2022, the Worthing Archaeological Society (WAS) carried out excavations in the south-west corner of the field at the Maltings,

Sompting, where it was known that there had been cottages on the East side of Church Lane. Chalk floors were found, and these will be the area of the July dig in 2023. Other discoveries in 2022 comprised a piece of Romano-British flue-tile and finds dating to the late 16th and 17th centuries, including pottery, clay pipes, and a Charles I copper farthing.

Climping beach, West Sussex

Survey work by the Worthing Archaeological Society at Climping in both 2022 and 2023 to monitor storm damage to the beach located two medieval wells (one of timber, the other made of chalk) from the lost village of Atherington.

One of two medieval wells exposed on Climping beach (Photograph: WAS)



Chichester, West Sussex

Excavations this summer in Priory Park, Chichester, led by James Kenny for Chichester District Council in association with the Chichester and District Archaeological Society, have revealed parts of the Norman motte and baily castle ditch and an associated masonry bridge for crossing the ditch. In addition, masonry walls that belonged to buildings of a medieval Franciscan friary that stood on the site were also found. The castle was probably constructed in 1066 or 1067, soon after the Norman Conquest, by Earl Roger Montgomery.



*Excavations in Priory Park, Chichester
(Photograph: CDAS)*

Alfoldean, West Sussex

During the summer of 2022 the Horsham District Archaeology Group (HDAG) had the opportunity to excavate the set-aside portion of a field adjoining Roman Stane Street to the south of the Alfoldean Roman posting-station. The excavation had two aims, one was to investigate probable ditches revealed by geophysics, and the other was to provide experience and training for HDAG members. Two areas of excavation were identified (see Fig 1), one (Trench 1) was designed to investigate a large linear feature which was at an angle to Stane Street, indicating that it may have been earlier than the Roman road. The other area (Trench 2) was located in order to investigate a smaller probable ditch which was perpendicular with the Roman road, indicating that it was likely to be contemporary with the road.

Trench 1 revealed a small 'U'-shaped ditch (Fig 2) perpendicular to the road. It was thus not the feature that the excavators were looking for. However, at the northern end of the excavation, a soil colour change was observed and this indicated a potential ditch at an angle to the Roman road. Trench 1 was then extended, and a larger 'V'-shaped ditch (Fig. 3) was revealed running at an angle to the Roman road; this is likely to be the ditch revealed by the geophysics. Roman pottery sherds were found in each of the ditches and throughout the subsoil. Some small pieces of glass were also recovered, and an initial examination suggests that they are Roman.



Figures 1-3. Alfoldean, West Sussex. Figure 1 (left): The results of geophysical survey both sides of the course of Roman Stane Street, with the locations marked of excavation trenches 1 and 2 of 2022. Figure 2 (top right): The 'U'-shaped ditch in Trench 1. Figure 3 (bottom right): The 'V'-shaped ditch in Trench 1.

The excavation of the smaller perpendicular ditch revealed small sherds of Roman pottery and what looked to be an intersection of several features. With the trench situated on set-aside land and the natural here being a heavy clay, the intense heat of last summer made it very difficult to excavate and distinguish features. The features that were identified were excavated as much as possible.

As no coins were found during the excavation, the dating of features and deposits will need to be determined by pottery analysis. The excavation showed that the main geophysics anomaly is probably not accurately located, and it looks to be about 2m to the south of where it was thought to be.

It is hoped to continue the excavations in 2023 with the aim to characterise all the anomalies found in this part of the geophysics survey results.

Woodmancote, West Sussex

A member of HDAG was contacted by a farmer in Woodmancote, near Henfield and was asked whether the Group could investigate if the Roman road (the Greensand Way), which is known to run through his farm, is suffering from plough damage; the farmer having noticed some flints whilst ploughing. The flints however were not on the line of the Roman road as shown on the OS maps; they being located several metres to the south. In 2018, a geophysical magnetometer survey was undertaken by David Staveley in a field to the east of the area of concern, but on the line of the road as shown by the OS map. No indication of the road could be seen on the survey results. No further investigations were undertaken due to various factors, not least of which was the Covid pandemic. In August 2021, HDAG returned to the site and carried out a series of small test pits running roughly north-south across the area where the farmer had indicated he had been disturbing some flints. Although no hard road surface was revealed, several rough flints were seen.

In October 2021, David Staveley carried out a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the field, and the Roman road was found where the OS map had indicated. A GPR survey was also carried out where the farmer had suggested the road was previously, but nothing was detectable.

*Trench across the remains of the
Roman Greensand Way at
Woodmancote (Photograph & Plan:
HDAG)*



Kent

Kent Archaeological Society – Lees Court Excavation & Curatorial activities

On the curatorial side of the society's work I became the full time curator on 1 June, having previously been working one day a week since February. My main activities this month have been preparing for the end of our excavation at Lees Court Estate. The vast majority of the finds from the site have comprised flint flakes but we have also had prehistoric pottery, animal bone and a spread of metal detected objects that mostly date to the post-medieval period. On 11 June we held a members day to see some of the finds from the site as well as bring along objects that they would like identified. We had around 50 members on the day enjoy tours of the site and I had some great conversations about the finds I had brought along including selected objects from the society's Ozengell Anglo-Saxon collection. A number of finds were brought along including a piece of carved Medieval stone work from Horton Priory, a broken Roman Dressel 20 Amphora (originally from the Medway Heritage Centre), and a number of Palaeolithic hand axes.

Alongside preparing for the end of the Lees Court Estate excavation I have also been focusing my time on the Ozengell Collection. This collection purchased by the society in October of last year numbers around 1700 objects. All of the objects require conservation and so far the first batch has undergone this treatment with Dana Goodburn-Brown and is now on display at Maidstone Museum until December. I have put together the next batch of 10 boxes, out of a total of 55 to receive treatment with Dana. The exhibition at the museum put together through the hard work of Dr Elizabeth Blanning, the staff at Maidstone Museum, and myself showcases the history of the society across five key collections generated by the societies work at Minster-in-Thanel, Hartlip, Ozengell, the Elham Valley pendant, and the Aylesford Gold 'Torcs'.

Lees Court Estate

The excavations at Lees Court Estate ended on 15 July following nearly a month of detailed excavation. The excavation led to more questions than answers with the Long Barrow now thought to not be a barrow, but instead some form of other funerary monument. The ring ditch contained a nearly complete deer skeleton placed along a chalk platform.

Keith Parfitt led the excavation of an extremely large and unusual ring ditch previously identified through aerial photographs and geophysical survey. The ring-ditch enclosed an area 18.75 to 20.25m across internally and 27.25 to 28.25m externally. The ditch is not that accurately laid-out, probably because of the presence of many deep, clay-filled solution hollows across the site. The ditch is mostly between 3.40 and 4.50m wide at the top. It is the depth which is so unusual. This ranges between 1.30 and 2.50m. Naturally, with such a depth to reach we could only bottom the ditch in five 2 metres wide trenches

– not as much as wanted to do but with all the labour involved, it took a very long time to do each cut.

From what we did dig, it would seem that the ditch is composed of individual segments all joined up except at the base. Much struck flint (undiagnostic) was found in the lower fills but hardly any pot. What pot there is looks to be Bronze Age but all is rather small and non-descript.

There was very little within the enclosed area and certainly no graves. However, at the centre two large post pits containing D-shaped posts about 0.95m wide were found. These were set about 2m apart and I take this to represent a timber mortuary structure. There was nothing else in terms of associated features or deposits. The whole thing reminded me of Wayland's Smithy and those other long barrows with mortuary structures below, but I have not come across such in a round barrow – indeed is this a round barrow at all?

Traces of burning and cremated bone located in the upper filling of the ring-ditch on the south-eastern side appeared to mark the site of a cremation event late in the site sequence. Study of the stratigraphic evidence indicated the presence of two successive cremations. The earliest was associated with a small, square timber structure incorporating up-right stakes and the later with a rough, casually laid flint platform. No datable pottery was recovered.

A vast number of flint finds were recorded during the archaeological work all of which is now in the hands of KAS for cataloguing and further research. Metal detected objects were also recorded by a number of detectorists who visited the site. These mostly tell the later Medieval and post medieval occupation of the estate.

Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society

Due to a small committee and having no member currently able to organize fieldwork IOTAS have focused their activities on involving members on other excavations such as KAS' Lees Court Estate, Greenwich Royal Park (IOTAS President Andrew Mayfield is community archaeologist there), and far-flung opportunities such as DigVentures. With their aim being to focus on the archaeology of Thanet and the surrounding area, particularly East Kent, IOTAS have focused their efforts on a program of talks:

April – A talk from President Andrew Mayfield on his recent work at Greenwich Royal Parks

May – A talk from KAS's outreach officer Peter Joyce

Ongoing – Arranging a visit in September to Greenwich Royal Park to see the work conducted by Andrew Mayfield, a couple of visits to Betteshanger Mining Museum for the last week in June, and a visit to Grade I listed St George's Church, Ramsgate in July

Bexley Archaeological Group

Excavation work at the North Cray site has continued since March, on alternate Saturdays at present. Currently two trenches are active, with archaeology from late-19th-early 20th century being revealed. This follows from a churchyard study of All Saints, Foots Cray undertaken during the spring months – a summary report is in preparation for publication. Two formal post-excavation sessions have also been held, primarily for member training.

Bi-monthly talks and lectures have resumed this year as a ‘face-to-face’ format. Recent talks have been held in February (‘All Saints Churchyard Study’, Clare Lodge/Steve Taylor), April (‘Archaeological Ceramics The Basics’, Martin Baker) and June (‘Geology of the Cray Valley’, Anne Padfield). Details of activities for the rest of the year are provided on www.bag.org.uk. Non-members always very welcome.

Current focus for the summer is community engagement and promotion of archaeology locally. To-date, this has involved interactive displays at local libraries with group members present and plans are in place for visits to local schools during the latter part of the year.

Canterbury History & Archaeology Group (CHAS)

CHAS do not engage in archaeological fieldwork nor do they volunteer on other sites. This work is undertaken by CAT and supported by FCAT. The society does have a lecture programme, some of which covers archaeological topics. They will be finalising their lecture programme in the next few weeks for 2023/2024.

The society offers a grant (mentioned in the May edition of the KAS newsletter) that is applicable for individuals researching any aspect of the history or archaeology of Canterbury and its region. Grants information can be viewed at <https://www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk/grants>.

Orpington and District Archaeological Society

ODAS is undertaking a long term research excavation at Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst. They are currently excavating two trenches, one of which is to find out how far a Tudor wall on the West Side of the moat extends. The other is to determine where the edge of the original, medieval, moat is on the west side. This side of the moat was narrowed during the tudor times. The first trench contains pieces of Medieval floor tiles and finds from the 17th century, including clay pipe, pottery, brick and roof tile. The second trench contains Tudor Brick and roof tile as well as pieces of Medieval pottery. See www.odas.org.uk for more information.

Andy Ward

Geophysical surveys at Knepp Castle, 2021–22

In 2021 the Society for Medieval Archaeology awarded a grant to Richard Nevell to fund fieldwork at Knepp Castle in West Sussex. The castle consists of a lone 11m-high wall standing on top of an oval mound (Figure 1); the wall is likely to be the surviving part of a medieval keep or great tower.

With permission from the owner and a Section 42 licence from Historic England, the intention was to carry out gradiometer and ground-penetrating radar surveys over as much of the mound as possible. The author hoped that these methods would reveal surviving archaeology at the castle, possibly establishing more of its arrangement, and establish whether there were traces of burning through the use of the gradiometer. The castle was established in the late 12th or early 13th century, and King John ordered its destruction in 1216 during his war with the barons. Unusually, he specifically ordered it to be burned, so this was an opportunity to test whether that order was followed with minimal intervention. The possible destruction of the site, also referred to as ‘slighting’, elaborates on the author’s doctoral research, completed in 2018, which examined the archaeology of castle slighting in the Middle Ages. It was often linked to elite power and authority.

The author initially believed this to be the first archaeological fieldwork carried out at the medieval castle. Members of the Horsham District Archaeology Group (HDAG) have kindly shared their own research which found that there was some digging at the castle in 1962. E. W. Holden wrote in his diary for that year that a man named Armstrong had been digging at the castle, but it does not seem to have been published and the details are a scant.

The fieldwork was carried out by Scott Chaussée in July 2021 and January 2022. Most of the mound was covered using the gradiometer, while the GPR was largely confined to the summit where the terrain was most suitable. The different methods complemented each other, especially as the presence of a lightning rod on the surviving wall causing significant interference in the gradiometer survey.

Curiously, the summit of the mound was largely featureless (Figure 2); the author had anticipated that the GPR would identify the foundations of the keep continuing to the east, but it is possible that they were robbed out in the 18th century when stone was removed from the site to be reused in road building. Linear features were found extending west from the extant remains, and partly underlying the wall; these features are on a different alignment so likely represent an earlier phase of activity. The gradiometer survey extended down the slopes of the mound and found potential structures on the south side. There was also no significant evidence of burning, indicating that John’s orders in 1216 had not been carried out, or at the very least not to his specification. This is interesting on its own, as it may reflect John’s waning authority

during the conflict with the barons; he similarly gave orders to slight the castles at Chichester and Pevensey, and neither order seems to have been followed at the time.

The surveys accomplished what they set out to do: they identified key areas where archaeological remains survive, and have enriched our understanding of a key event in the castle's history. As is often the way with geophysical surveys, it has raised more questions. Especially, what are the structures on the south side of the mound, and how do the linear features west of the extant remains relate to the castle? Is the structure part of the castle, or could it pre-date the castle?

The results were presented in a talk to the Horsham District Archaeology Group, leading to some very fruitful conversations, not least bringing the 1962 excavation to the attention of the author, and there were quite a few suggestions for further work. Coring might help establish the age of the mound, in the mould of the Round Mounds project which explored some twenty castle mottes and established that some of them had earlier origins. A survey of the tower itself would be worth considering. It is an unusual structure, and a suggestion from the audience that it is a folly is certainly plausible, and could explain why no remains extending to the east were found. I would also be interested in some test pitting around the identified features. There was also enthusiasm from the audience for this idea!



Figure 1 The surviving stone wall is 11m high and topped by a lightning rod

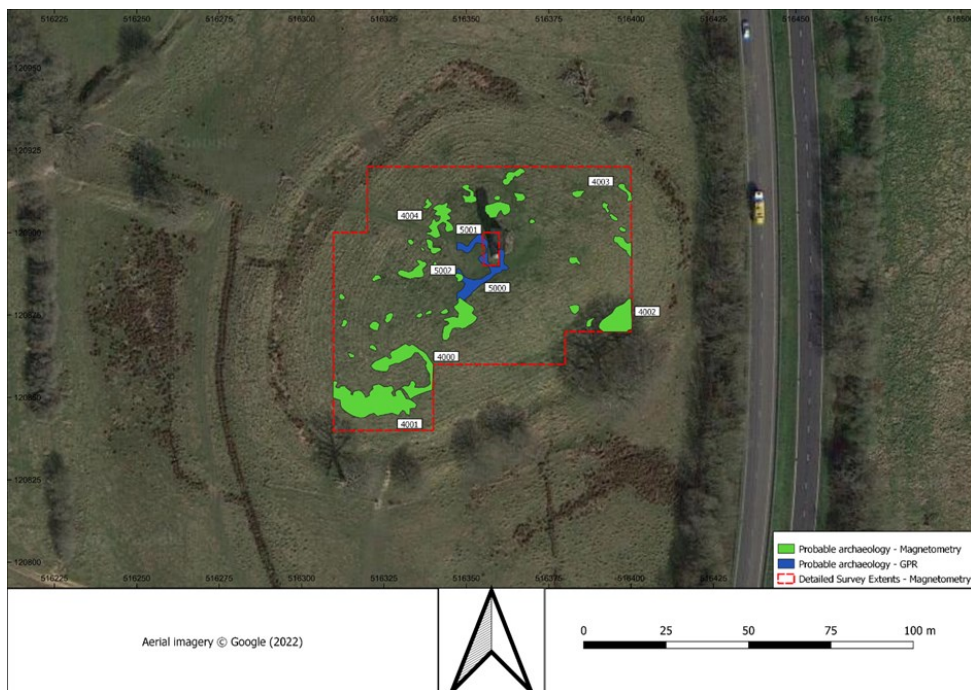


Figure 2 Summary results from geophysical surveys. The central red box indicates the position of the tower.

The work was carried out with kind permission of the Knepp Estate. The castle is located in a rewilding project, so future work likely has to be limited in its nature to avoid disturbing the wildlife. It is the author's hope that the landowners are open to more investigation, that this work represents a first step towards understanding Knepp Castle with more work to come.

Richard Nevell

Lys Drewett (1946-2023)

It is with much sadness that I report that my friend and former colleague Lys Drewett passed away during the night of 4th April 2023. She had been suffering with cancer.

Lys, who was born and schooled in Devon, studied Art at the Leeds College of Art and Design and enjoyed both drawing and making, firing and studying ceramics.

Later, in 1972 whilst volunteering on an archaeological excavation at the Bishop's Palace, Lincoln, Lys met her future husband and boss, Peter Drewett, who subsequently recruited her to be the archaeological illustrator of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit (later known as the 'Field Archaeology Unit' and now 'Archaeology South-East') which he established at the London Institute of Archaeology (now part of University College London). As illustrator Lys spent some of her time on field projects with Peter where she was responsible for producing site plans and section drawings, and also other time 'back in the office' where she prepared site drawings for publication purposes, drew artefacts and pottery finds, and sometimes created artist impression reconstruction images (such as those for the Middle Bronze Age settlement site at Black Patch and the Early Bronze Age round barrow cemetery at West Heath, both in Sussex). To further her interests in the study of archaeological ceramics Lys studied for a BSc in Geology with the Open University, and subsequently used her new skills and the thin-sectioning equipment then held at Barbican House, Lewes, to analyse various sherds of prehistoric pottery. Lys' duties for the Institute of Archaeology more generally included the teaching of archaeological illustration techniques to undergraduate and MA students. Whilst working for the Institute, Lys and Peter were the founders of the now annual Institute of Archaeology 'Prim Tech' course for new undergraduates. Lys accompanied and worked with Peter on many fieldwork projects in Sussex, some in Kent, and others further afield including Wales, Hong Kong, Barbados and the British Virgin Islands. Lys and Peter formed a dynamic archaeological pairing who contributed much to research, training, and community involvement.

After Peter's death in 2013, Lys was for nine years an elected trustee of the Sussex Archaeological Society, and in 2022 she was made an honorary life member. Lys was also a great supporter and helper of the Sussex School of Archaeology and History, and a member of both the Eastbourne and the Lewes archaeological societies. Most recently, last November she was elected Chairperson of the Lewes Archaeological Group, a role that sadly she was unable to undertake. Lys was kind, very generous with her time, a good friend, and devoted to her family. She will be much missed.

David Rudling



Sussex School of Archaeology & History hybrid conference – The Sussex Landscape Transformed: an overview

Saturday 14 October 2023 (10.00-17.00), King's Church, Lewes

Speakers: Dr Sue Berry, Dr Jon Baczkowski, Dr Judie English, Dr David Rudling, Dr Marc Morris, Dr Caroline Adams, Dr Geoffrey Mead

Tickets: £30 (£20 student concessions); £15 online by zoom; further details at <https://www.sussexarchaeology.org/>

Wealden Geological Assembly

Saturday 11 November 2023 (9.00-17.30). King's Church, Lewes

Tickets: £30 (Students £25); further details at Anthony.brook27@btinternet.com

Surrey Local History Symposium – Maps

Saturday 11 November 2023 (9:45-15:30), Surrey History Centre, Woking

Tickets: £15; Programme details and booking from www.surreyarchaeolog.org.uk

Kent Names Conference 2023

Saturday 18 November 2023 (10:00-16:00), Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham

Tickets £20; see <https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/events>

Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework Conference: Pills, Potions and Poison

Saturday 25 November 2023 (10:00-15:00), online

This will be an online event with a theme of the history and archaeology of medicine. Speakers will include Dr Patty Baker, Dr Judie English. Dr Mary Alexander, Lorna Webb and Dr Martin Huggon

Tickets: £5; Programme details and booking from www.surreyarchaeolog.org.uk

Council for British Archaeology South-East

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 2022/23

Chair: Steve Cleverly; Vice-Chair: Anne Sassin; Grants: John Funnell; Treasurer: Steve Cleverly; Secretary: Elizabeth Blanning; Membership Secretary: Shiela Broomfield; Webmaster: Phil Stanley; Social Media Officer: Andy Ward; E-letter: Rose Hooker; Other trustees: David Rudling and Judie English



Enquiries and Membership: Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD, tel: 01732 838698, s.b.broomfield@outlook.com

Contributions for the Newsletter and E-letter

If you have news that you think might be of interest to people in the South Eastern region, please contact us at trustees@cbasouth-east.org. Articles and notes on all aspects of fieldwork and research on the history and archaeology of the region are very welcome. Contributors are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the editor beforehand, including on the proper format of submitted material (please do supply digital copy when possible) and possible deadline extensions. The newsletter is issued twice a year, with the next one intended for Spring 2024.

Events, including lectures, workshops, conferences and fieldwork opportunities, should be sent to Rose Hooker (rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk), our e-letter editor. The e-letter is emailed to all of our members and partnership organisations, and is circulated six times a year.

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