

Surrey Archaeological Society

Medieval Studies Forum Newsletter

No.14 May 2018

Welcome to another edition of the MedForum Newsletter. Not for the first time, its publication has been somewhat delayed, but there is a lot going on in the following pages, with contributions from members and non-members of the Forum, which hopefully goes at least some way towards compensating for the gap since the previous edition.

It is no accident that three of the pieces are about moated sites, in Effingham, Chobham and Worplesdon. In recent times, it has seemed that every year brings the publication of new research on one or more moated site in Surrey, and they must certainly rank among the most common types of medieval monument still to be encountered in the county (albeit in some parts more often than others). Two out of the three pieces have been published elsewhere, but it is still satisfying to be able to bring them to the attention of a different audience, and moreover to set them alongside one another so as to permit comparison of forms, known histories and interpretations.

Richard Curtis Selley's note on the moat in Greatly Wood also underscores the value of LiDAR data as a new means of non-intrusive yet still insightful analysis of moated sites. There have been several contributions to Surrey Archaeological Society publications in recent years based on insights gained from LiDAR data, not to mention larger national and international projects that have made the news headlines. More and more LiDAR data is being made freely available to the public at ever higher resolution (although coverage in Surrey is patchy – consider yourself lucky if you live or research the east or north of the county!), and this will surely lead to yet more discoveries being made and announced in the coming years. However, proper analysis of the data requires a level of familiarity with the relevant software, skills that take time and/or specialist instruction to acquire. It is hoped, therefore, that some Forum members are inspired to access training opportunities (if they have not done so already), such as the two recent LiDAR day schools in Leatherhead organised jointly by CBA South-East and Surrey Archaeological Society.

The Newsletter concludes with a few notes, plus notices of new publications and forthcoming events. This time around there is only a single annexe to the Newsletter, written by the editor, exploring some old and new ideas about the origins and evolution of Kingston upon Thames as an early medieval centre of royal power and assembly. The piece as presented here is in a somewhat unrefined and sprawling state, but I hope you persevere with it, as it appraises most of the known details of Kingston's rich early medieval history, which recently has been the subject of some important new research that may have escaped the notice of many. For all its length, however, the essay ultimately serves to show that, in

common with all of Surrey's medieval towns, many fundamental elements of Kingston's medieval archaeology and history still await convincing explanations.

All being well, the next Newsletter will appear before the end of the year. As always, we are on the lookout for contributions from readers. These can be original pieces on any medieval topic (and not necessarily limited to Surrey) or things previously printed in local society publications that are considered to be of interest and value to a wider audience. And just because this issue is something of a "moats special" does not mean this invitation excludes pieces on moated sites — medieval Surrey had a lot of them after all!

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EFFINGHAM'S MEDIEVAL MOAT: MORE MUSINGS

Richard Curtis Selley

This is an embellished excerpt of a talk 'Control of Geology on springs, roads & civilisation in Effingham and adjacent parishes' given to the Effingham Local History Group (ELHG) on 26th October 2015, subsequently printed in the Bulletin of the Effingham Local History Group Number 8 of March 2016. The piece is copyright the author.

A moated site deep in Greatlee Wood encloses the remains of a hall house that may have been the manor house of 'Effingham-La-Lee'. The site is registered by Historic England as Scheduled Monument No. 397486. As there may, however, have been as many as five manors within Effingham Hundred identifying the manor for any specific hall house is an exercise of Byzantine complexity (V. White *pers. comm.* 25/11/2015).

Greatlee Wood moated hall was excavated in the 1950s (Ruby and Lowther 1953). A recent article by Shepherd (2014) in the *Bulletin* of the ELHG summarizes Ruby and Lowther's work and gives an excellent account of the written history of the site. It is not proposed to recapitulate the earlier publications here, except in so far as to set the context of the additional research described in this current article. Effingham (*Epingaham* AKA *Dirtbam*) was described in Domesday Book (1086). According to pottery recovery in the 1950s excavation, Greatlee Wood moated hall was occupied up until about 1320-30.

Briefly, the moat encloses an area of about 0.4 of a hectare that contains the remains of a rectangular building some 20 metres by 10 metres. The moat has a single causeway on its southern side. The site was classified by Ruby and Lowther (1953) as a fortified manor house. Even allowing for 700 years of natural infilling, the original moat could not have been an impressive defensive feature. An alternative purpose is discussed below.

The site is shown symbolically in the 1:50,000 O.S. map. The 2008 1:25,000 O.S map shows the site in more detail and indicates that the moat is still filled with water along its south-eastern side. In the middle of the last century the moat was a popular venue with the local youth for ice skating.

The object of the present article is to muse on the curious location of the moated manor house, and to provide additional information on how the moat was maintained.

The choice of site location is interesting. A moat could not be constructed on the permeable sandy soil of the Lambeth Group within Effingham village, or on the fractured permeable chalk on its south side. The moat is cut into impermeable London Clay between the headwaters of two unnamed streams that flows northeast to join the River Mole at Downside. These streams provided the only surface water in the area that could be used to fill a moat round be it for defensive or ornamental purposes.

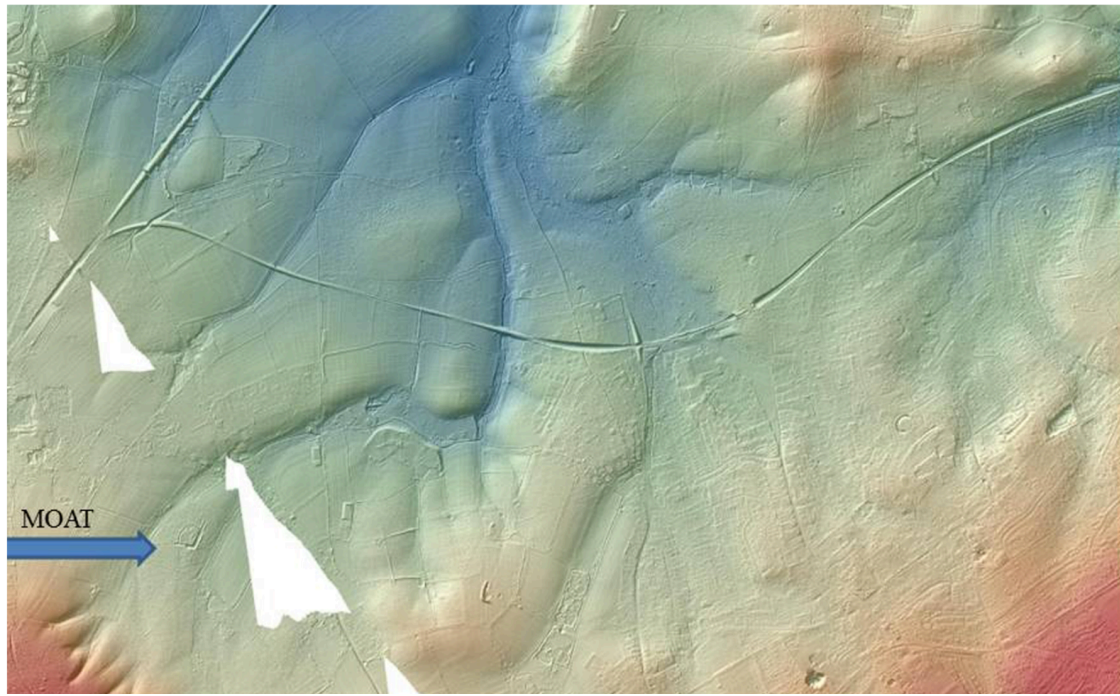


Figure 1. LiDAR image of northern Effingham showing the location of the moat. Downtown Effingham is to the south off the bottom of the image. © Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2015.

Google Earth reveals nothing of the moat. This is not surprising as the site is totally tree covered. Though, with the eye of faith, a lineation in the foliage on the south-eastern side of the moat can be seen. LiDAR imaging of the site, however, reveals several previously unknown and noteworthy features. LiDAR (also written LIDAR or LADAR) is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser beam and analysing the reflected light. LiDAR enables the imaging of features beneath tree cover. It is an extremely powerful tool in modern archaeology, having been used to discover previously unknown towns, roads and other features beneath forest cover around the world. Figure 1 is a LiDAR image showing the regional setting of the moat between two streams. Figure 2 is a close up LiDAR image of the site. It is at once apparent that the south east side of the moat is far more deeply excavated than the rest. Furthermore there is an extension to the north east beyond the main ditch. Several contemporaneous Surrey moated halls appear to have had adjacent fish ponds (Turner 1987). Perhaps such was the purpose of this more extensive excavation. Figure 2 also shows a clearly defined enclosure, butting against the south side of the moat almost as big as the moat itself. Perhaps this was a paddock for horses or cattle?

There is a clearly visible leet, canal or ditch connecting the northwest stream to the moat. Figure 3 shows a close up image of the feature and a topographic profile along it. This shows that it is essentially horizontal, though some infilling has occurred over the last 700 years. The canal could have been cut to allow water to flow into the moat, or alternatively for surplus water to drain from the moat. It is unlikely to have been the latter. If the canal was designed to drain water from the moat it would have been cut in the northwest part of the moat and perpendicular to the slope to allow maximum drainage. Leets connecting streams to moats, either to drain or fill them have been identified in other contemporaneous Surrey moated halls (Turner 1987). It has been suggested that the moats around such medieval halls such as Send and Effingham-La-Lee were not serious defensive structures, but more in the way of status symbols (Turner 1987). They were thus analogous to the water features, hot tubs, decking, swimming pools and barbecues of modern gardens.

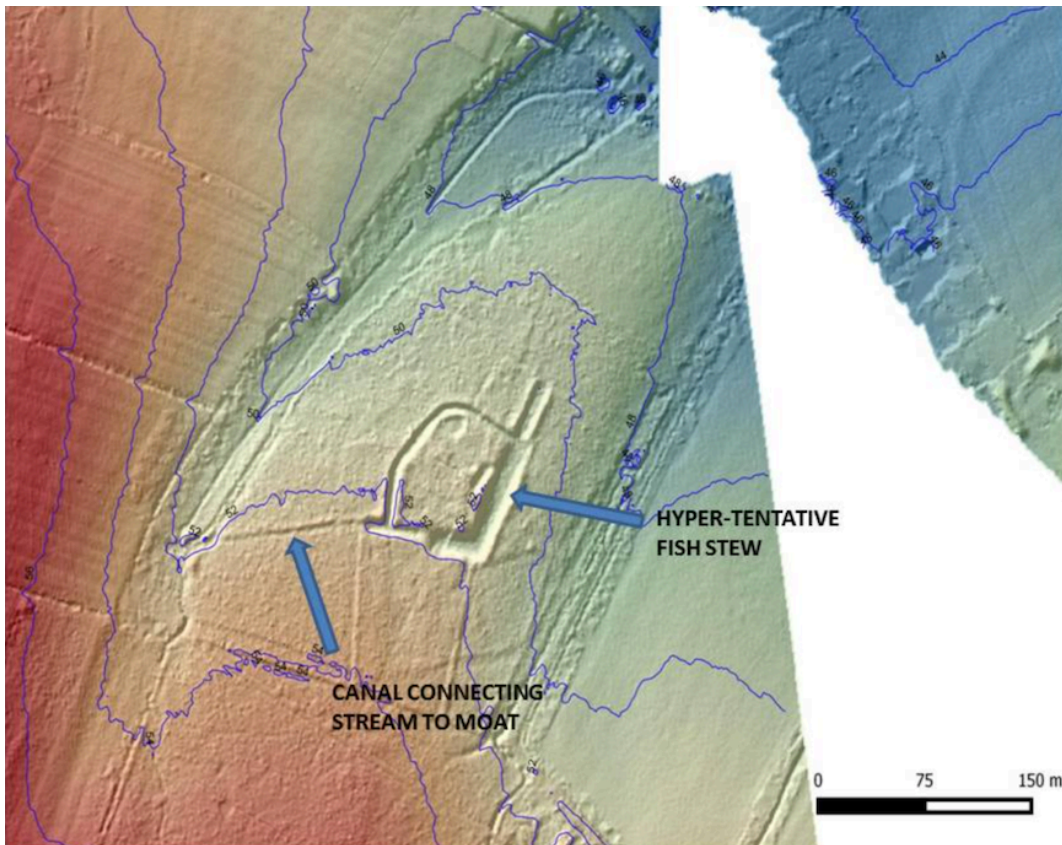


Figure 2. LiDAR image close up of Effingham moat showing features hyper-tentatively identified in this article. Contours at 2m intervals © Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2015.

Effingham moated hall is remarkably similar to the moated site at Send recently described by Savage and Savage (2015). Send moat was also cut into impermeable London Clay and fed by adjacent streams. Excavations of the moat have yielded 12th- to 14th-century artefacts broadly coeval with Effingham's moat. Unfortunately excavation of the area within the Send moat is inhibited by an early 20th-century piggery.

It would be interesting if these speculations about the Greatlee Wood site by an enthusiastic amateur could be followed up by further excavations interpreted by better informed archaeologists.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The LiDAR images were kindly processed by Dr Alex Davies. Richard Savage FSA kindly reviewed the manuscript and made many helpful suggestions to improve it. Vivien White helpfully confused the author with an introduction to the many manors of Effingham.

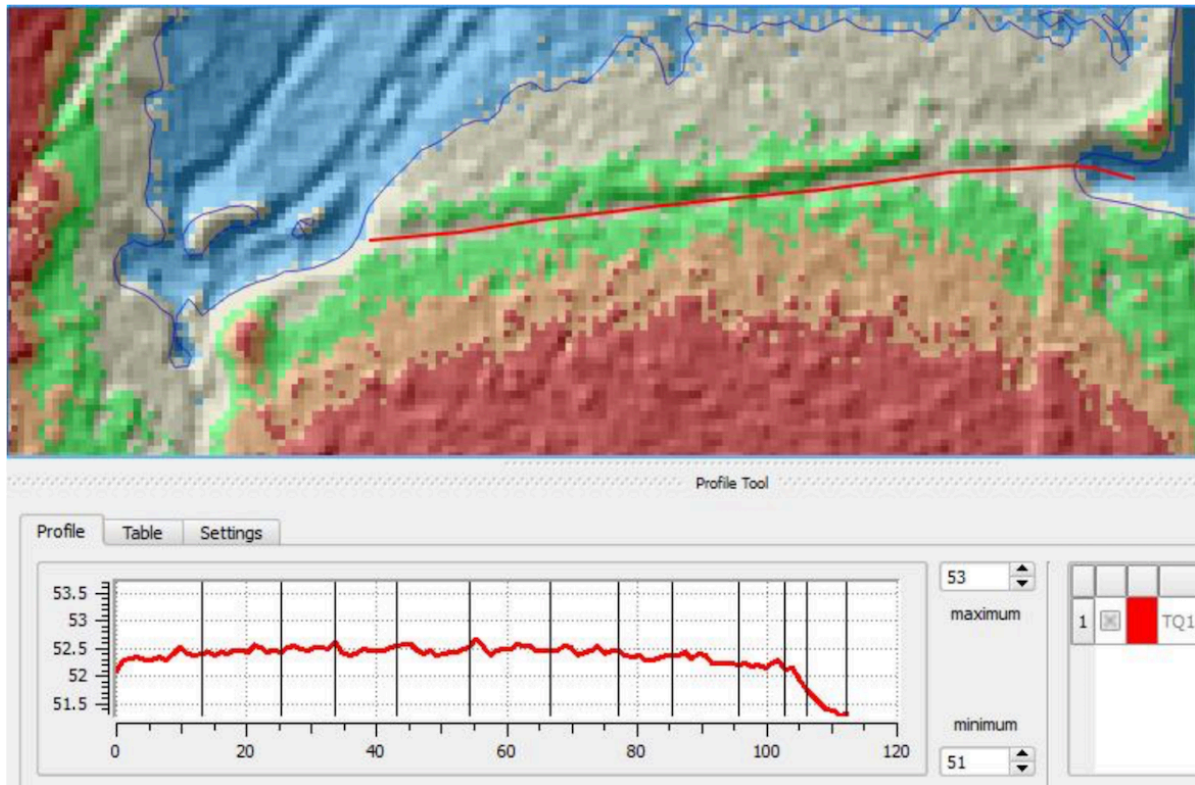


Figure 3: LiDAR detail and topographic profile of the leet connecting the stream to the moat. Contours at 2m intervals
© Environment Agency copyright and/or database right 2015.

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CHOBHAM MANOR

Phil Stevens

The following is a version of 'The revised story of Chobham Manor' as researched by Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust, members of the Young Archaeologists' Club and U3A Archaeology in 2015. It was printed in the Surrey Heath Local History Club Newsletter Number 31 of February 2016.

Chobham, according to its name, was an Anglo-Saxon settlement – “Ceabba’s *hām*”. It was granted to Chertsey Abbey by Frithuwald in the early 670s. St Lawrence’s Church was stone-built in Norman times; it is reasonable to suppose that it replaced a wooden Anglo-Saxon structure. It holds the high ground of gravels between the North and South Bournes. The South Aisle and Lady Chapel are the earliest surviving parts of the building, produced in about 1100. The Lady Chapel has 'elbow beams' in the roof which are unique.

It is known that the first vicarage at Chobham was not by the church, and was a moated site. William Dagelyngworth was the first listed vicar of Chobham (1324–30). He lived in the “*same mansion* [in which] *all the vicars of the said church* [had] *been accustomed to live*” at Clappers Corner, sanctified in 1330 by Abbot Rutherwyck and augmented in 1427 (*VCH* 3, 419). It remained the official vicarage until *circa* 1800 when it was replaced by a building on the opposite side of the Bagshot road (and subsequently by another house further to the west).

The right of burial in a graveyard next to St Lawrence’s Church was first granted to the villagers by Pope Honorius in 1216 in an agreement made through the Bishop of Winchester, Peter de Rupibus, with the Abbot of Chertsey (Chertsey Cartularies, Part 3, 350 no. 634). This saved to the mother church of St. Peter of Chertsey the great tithes (of corn, grain, hay and wood) from all the parishioners according to the custom of the diocese of Winchester, and rendered to the Sacristan of Chertsey 20s and six pounds of wax yearly in recompense for obventions and oblations which the Church of St. Peter of Chertsey was wont to receive for burials. This was subsequently reduced to 10 shillings and 6 lbs of wax.

Mills were not listed in Godley Hundred in the Domesday record. In a charter of 1259 (Chertsey Cartularies, Part 1, 4 no. 6), Pope Alexander IV confirmed the possessions of the monastery of Chertsey, including mills in the manors of Chertsey, Thorpe, Egham and Chobham. Abbot John de Rutherwyk constructed a new mill called ‘*Hurst mylle*’ on the North Bourne in Chobham in 1307, the 1st year of his prelacy (Chertsey Cartularies, Part 3, 281 no. 477). He was the first accredited builder of the mill which ground on, although not continuously, into the 20th century.

The remaining question is where was the manor house? Most frequently in nucleated medieval villages manor houses are found in the centre. In Chobham there are no visible remains, but the Cartularies do give a clue. They state that: “*the venerable father Abbot John de Rutherwyk in 1307 caused running water to flow round the manor [house] of Chobham*” (Chertsey Cartularies, Part 3, 281 no. 477; underlining added).



Figure 1: An artistic reconstruction of Chobham village in c.1300 by Phil Stevens, with the moated manor house conspicuous in the foreground © Surrey Heath Local History Club

However, in third volume of *The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* (1814), Manning and Bray claimed that “*Abbat John de Rutherford, amongst many other improvements [of Chertsey monastic estates], planted and enclosed a wood here [in Chobham], and brought running water round the Manor-house from the great pond called Gracious Pond ...*”. They believed that Chobham Park House, an 18th century farmhouse, was built on the site of the original manor house and hunting lodge where the abbot had been accustomed to hold court, and which had been bought by Henry VIII from the Abbot in 1535. This interpretation has been repeated continuously. The *Victoria County History* for Surrey accepted it, as have all subsequent Chobham historians, including Robert Schueller and Joy Mason.

However, the Chertsey Cartularies do not link Gracious Pond with the manorial moat. It was most likely constructed as a fish pond by and for the monks (John Aubrey at the end of the 17th century commented on its excellent carp). And the only known documented reference to a moat at Chobham Park is in the notes of Henry VIII’s ‘Clerk of Works’ in 1542 about the making of a pair of stairs “*going forth of the kitchen down to the moat*”, found by Robert Schueller in the Loseley Manuscripts. This could have been filled by water draining from the rising ground to the west as can be seen from the present drainage system, but such a process would not have created “*running water round the manor house*”.

According to Manning and Bray, Henry VIII’s mansion stood on the left of the road from Chobham to Chertsey, where there is now a farm house: “*the sight [sic] within is very visable, double-moated; one very near the house, the other very large and deep, about ten rods further out; both are traceable, though nearly dry*”. A double moat! – a very unusual feature for a monastic manor house, hunting lodge, or a farm. Documentary evidence or historical reasons for such a feature are entirely lacking. Manning and Bray in their were positive and

described Gracious Pond as a sort of header tank for it, despite John Rocque's map of 1768 not showing a stream flowing from the pond.



Figure 2: The present large farmhouse on the site of the 'double-moated' royal mansion © Surrey Heath Local History Club

At present, water from Gracious Pond would have to cross another stream and flow uphill, rising by a height of approximately two metres to reach the probable line of this old moat. There is now no visible evidence for a moat close around Chobham Park House, but a resistivity survey by Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust found evidence of a moat at the front of the platform on which the present house stands.

Visits to the site by Surrey Heath Archaeological Trust in 2003 failed to identify surface features to back up the observations made by Manning and Bray. A selective resistivity survey in the least disturbed areas did not identify any evidence for an outer moat and only appeared to confirm the owner's understanding of where the inner moat had been close to the house. The Trust could not find an alternative site for the house using resistivity and there is no dispute that the Georgian farm was on the site of Chobham Park House.

Chobham Park, however, was a later creation. After the Forest Charter of 1217, reissued in 1227 by Henry III, which removed Surrey from the restrictions of forest law, the Abbot of Chertsey established a hunting lodge at Choham which was later also used as the Abbot's Court House. A park developed as a manorial adjunct. Parks tended to be 13/14th century features and, particularly in Surrey, were linked with the limitations on royal forests. Moats were also fashionable at this time. There are references to the abbot holding court at Chobham Park in 14th century and by 1432 the manor court was being held there regularly (Chertsey Cartularies, Part 3, 350 no. 634). This hunting lodge and deer park were good enough for Henry VIII to covet and buy from the abbot in 1535 – two years before the dissolution of the monastery.

If Abbot John's "flowing water" was not round Chobham Park, the question is where was it? The obvious place to look is on the course of a stream which could provide flowing water – the North Bourne. Equally, since Choham had become a nucleated village, probably in the 12th century, one would assume that the manor house would have been within that area. Abbot John built Hurst Mill there. Whether the building of the mill by Abbot John was associated with the making of water to flow round the manor house is interesting. Was it the leet that took water round the manor house? It is ob-

vious that the waterways for the two work together and make the control of the water flow easier. Excess of water could be drained off by the leet both before the mill pond and from the mill pool immediately before the mill. The construction of an “earthen wall” around the manor house of Chobham in 1329 by Abbot de Rutherwyk would have been understandable because of flooding which still persists. Earthen walls were also built round fish stews. Whatever the reasons for making water flow round the manor house this is the only site where one can see evidence for it happening. If the leet wasn’t flowing round the manor house, what was it doing?

By the 1980s the area within the leet, apart from the section owned by the Benham’s where the mill had been, had become a wilderness. Earlier it had been an orchard and garden area with a grotto and water features owned by Choham House, once a half-timbered Tudor house and then rebuilt as an Edwardian mansion. This subsequently was divided into Chobham House East and West with the more elegant eastern section maintaining ownership of the land on the southern side of the North Bourne. The lack of right of access limited the ability to sell this land when no longer in use, hence the wilderness.



Figure 3: Chobham House East and West, on the site of the Tudor-era Chobham House © Surrey Heath Local History Club

The problem was finally resolved when the owners of the properties backing onto the wilderness (Frogpool House and Frogpool Cottage on the south side of the Leet and Chobham House West on the north) were offered the opportunity of extending their gardens across the leet and the Bourne and so clearing or at least tidying up the wilderness. This development made it possible to check whether John de Rutherwyk’s manor house was next to his new mill, the only space available in the relatively newly organised nuclear village. A CORS (Currently Occupied Rural Settlement) project was established, funded by a Root and Branch grant involving YAC Central Southern England Branch, Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust and Camberley U3A Archaeology group, with the support of Surrey County Archaeology Unit. The results from three pits (2, 3 and 6) made a very strong case for occupation in this area between 1200 and 1540 being associated with an original manor house of Chobham. Presumably when the buildings ceased to function as a manor house in the time of Henry VIII, they were put to new uses until being cleared away in the 19th century. As with the mill, this area formed part of the estate sometimes called in title deeds the Manor of Aden, and passed eventually to Mr. Benham.

The abbot or Henry VIII decided that the manor house and lands in the centre of the village were surplus to requirements and sold them off as the manor of Aden. The first reference we have to a new owner is John Danaster who died seized of the manor of Aden in 1540. Questions have been raised as to the nature of this manor, but it would have been titular without judicial rights. A half-timbered house, Chobham House, was built on the north side of the river and lasted until the present Edwardian house, now divided in two, replaced it.



Figure 4: Chobham village by Edward Ryde in 1865 © Surrey Heath Local History Club

Evidence of domestic pottery for the period from 1200 onwards is in all probability the most we could expect to recover from the site of the manor house. This and the obvious channels carrying water round the site confirm the claim that this is indeed the site where Abbot John de Rutherwyk made water to flow round the manor house. It would also tend to confirm the idea that the village had a nucleated pattern from that time.

Giuseppi, M S, and William Hudson (eds.), 1915 *Chertsey Cartularies. Part I*, Surrey Record Society, 5 (London: Roworth and Co. for The Surrey Record Society).

Giuseppi, M S, and William Hudson (eds.), 1933 *Chertsey Cartularies. Part III*, Surrey Record Society, 34 (Frome and London: Butler and Tanner for The Surrey Record Society).

Manning, Owen and William Bray, 1814 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey. Volume 3* (London: J Nichols).

[?] Powell, Dorothy L, 1911 'Chobham', in H E Malden (ed.), *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3* (London: Constable and Company), 413-19.

A much more detailed account of the supposed moats at Chobham Park, water flowing around the original Chobham Manor, and the results of further test pits dug at the moated vicarage site, can be found in Phil Stevens' new book Chobham's Hidden History. It covers the history of Chobham from Anglo-Saxon times to the 17th century, with a lot of illustrations to accompany the text. Priced at £10, it is available to buy at the Surrey History Centre.

THE FROSBURY MOAT

Rod Wild

This note is taken from the script for a short talk given to the Medieval Studies Forum of the Surrey Archaeological Society, 21st March 2015. It was revised August 2017. Accordingly it is cryptic, rather than an academic paper.

The moat at Frosbury Farmhouse, Gravetts Lane, Worplesdon (NGR: SU 9697 5197) was included by Dennis Turner in his provisional list of moated sites in Surrey under ‘Certain and probable sites’ (1977, 93). Just an L-shaped pond remains.

The House



Figure 1: Frosbury Farmhouse from the east © Rod Wild

Frosbury Farmhouse was timber-framed originally, dendro-dated to 1552. Chimneys were added in 1622, and the porch in 1639. The porch was built by Richard Budd, who was an important local person. He was a mayor of Guildford, a freeman of the town and a magistrate, but was a staunch Parliamentarian and was ‘thrown out of office’ for refusing to sign the Oath of Accession on the enthronement of Charles II.

Despite its association with a moat, Frosbury is just an “ordinary” farmhouse, not a Bodiam or an Ightham. Apparently this was not unusual, with moats having been constructed on occasion for manor houses and other higher status houses in the countryside. The moat predates the house. We know from Philip Gorton’s documentary research that there was an earlier house, and also from the abundance of re-used timbers from an earlier crown-posted house.

The Moat

It is shown on Google Maps satellite imagery and in Bing 'Bird's Eye' view (see below). It is significant that the field just to the west marked on the Tithe Map of 1838 was called *Moat Meadow*. This influenced Turner in his belief that it was not some more recent folly or decorative item.



Figure 2: Frosbury Farm and moat as seen in Google Maps Satellite view

The moat is now an L-shaped fragment, 40m long by 5m wide, mostly along the south side of the house, but it was once full length along the west side, as attested by Tithe Map and on-the-ground evidence. This western part is now filled in with chalk. To the front (east) side, there is room for it before the road, but no surface evidence. Turner thought it would have been a complete rectangle, though simple L-shaped moats were sometimes constructed. The north side is now covered with more modern farm buildings, so, if it did encircle the house, any evidence has been lost.

The feeding ditch from a stream (Stoney Brook on old maps) remains and, at about 100m, is quite long. It still almost works in wet weather, even though it is silted up. (A pipe remains under the entrance from the road.)

Restoration

The remaining part has been dug out, lined with butyl, and planted with water lilies and ornamental reeds. It was edged with coir rolls. These will eventually rot, but not before the reeds planted in them are well established.



Figure 3: Frosbury Farm and moat as seen in Bing Bird's Eye view; note the large new pond in the field to the south

Points from the Forum

The above-mentioned Forum meeting included a half-day on Surrey moats, and included the following points.

PURPOSE

Many later moats were not defensive. They were more a matter of fashion or status. Perhaps they had practical uses – it is said they were used for fish. At Frosbury, the moat would have been useful for bringing water to the farmyard (though we know there was a well close to the north side of the house for domestic purposes). Another possible purpose could be to deter rabbits, as kitchen produce was often grown close to a house. (The back lawn at Frosbury was a vegetable garden in the early 20th century.)

At Frosbury, there are two large, old yew trees, visible in the figures above. They sheltered a privy, on the edge of the moat. (Yews are well suited to such a purpose, being excellent shelter trees and their dense root mass supposedly having a purifying property.) So it may be that the moat had a sewage function of some kind, and even some kind of synergy with fish keeping has been suggested.

Whatever the purpose of the moat, it was quite an undertaking, so not a passing whim, and surprising to find it at a quite simple farmhouse.

DATING

Elsewhere in Surrey, a number of moats have been dated by means such as resistivity, magnetometry or excavation finds. Some are 12th century but most are of the period 1200–1325, so a date for the Frosbury moat in this period is quite likely, supporting the contention that it is an ancient site.

When the larger lake was being excavated in the field, a mysterious timber was found, standing vertically and buried well down in the soil. It is still preserved in the farmhouse and has been tree-ring dated, admittedly very approximately and hesitantly, to the period 1351–1400. There is also clear evidence of some kind of structure in the stream at the western corner of the field. There are bricks there, which could be for a bridge, but we call this place Mill Corner. Could it have been a simple undershot mill? The Frosbury site would seem to have been of some importance as long ago as the 13th or early 14th century.

Oliver Rackham

I have recently found an interesting section on moats in Oliver Rackham's *The History of the Countryside* (1986, p 360 *et seq*). He confirms that they were 'démodé' by 1325. He comments: 'Anyone who has dug so much as a post hole in boulder clay, where moats are most numerous, will appreciate the immense investment of labour'. Frosbury is not on boulder clay, but the clay here is nonetheless very heavy once below the top soil.

What was their purpose? Rackham quotes C. C. Taylor (1972) as arguing persuasively in support of the belief that moats were status symbols. The Middle Ages were full of symbols, from forests downwards, that went with particular classes of people. Moats were introduced to defend royal and noble castles; they descended to the manor houses of the gentry and the houses of ordinary farmers. The common yeoman could not aspire to the battlements or his own gallows or dovecote, nor could he afford a park, but he could afford a moat. Just as battlements were to descend the social scale right down to many Victorian terrace houses, so even the villagers of a place like East Hatley in Cambridgeshire (to use the example given by Taylor) had each his own moat. This interpretation also explains three-sided moats: status mattered less at the back.

Rackham, Oliver, 1986 *The History of the Countryside* (London: Orion Publishing).

Taylor, C C, 1972 Medieval Moats in Cambridgeshire, in P J Fowler (ed.), *Archaeology and the landscape* (London: John Baker), 237–49.

Turner, Dennis, 1997 Moated Sites in Surrey: a provisional list, *Surrey Archaeological Society Collections*, 71, 89–94.

NOTEBOOK

Forthcoming work on the Chertsey combat tiles. Exciting times are ahead for those interested in the famous decorated floor tiles (of *circa* 1250) from Chertsey Abbey. Prof. Amanda Luyster, of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, is at work on a book project, tentatively entitled *English Visions of the East: Henry III, the Crusades, and the Cosmopolitan Culture of Display in Thirteenth-century England*, in which the Chertsey combat tiles feature prominently. The book's overall argument addresses the idea of the East in medieval England, and the Chertsey combat tiles, well-known but incorrectly-interpreted, feature as a significant case study. Prof. Luyster has kindly provided the following statement about her project:

‘These finely-drawn but fragmented floor tiles are among the most admired in England, and their pictorial subject, which I show to be the Crusades, was deeply meaningful both for medieval viewers and for today’s scholars and interested public. Nearly all of these mould-made tiles were discovered at Chertsey Abbey in Surrey, but scholars agree that the original moulds were likely a royal commission, probably for Henry III and Eleanor of Provence at Westminster Palace (Alexander and Binski 1987, Eames 1980). Previous scholarship has identified Richard Lionheart, the twelfth-century English king, and Saladin, sultan of Egypt and Syria, as well as Samson and the lion in this series of tiles, concluding that the scenes depict a “series of famous combats” (Eames 1980). My study reevaluates the floor’s import: rather than a “series of famous combats,” I demonstrate that it acts as an allusion to Crusading deeds accomplished in the East, portrayed in the light of English victory.

‘As an initial stage of my project, I propose a major intervention in the documentation of the tile corpus, taking advantage of recent technological advances in digital image reconstruction as well as the analysis of fragmentary texts. Furthermore, the Latin inscriptions that originally accompanied the tiles have not previously been integrated into their study, largely because the inscriptions are fragmentary and difficult to interpret. However, new digital tools in textual analysis, which can help to reassemble broken pieces of text (known as n-grams), enable me to propose new and convincing readings of these fragmented texts. Using my photographic documentation from the British Museum and elsewhere, then, I will digitally reconstruct the fragments of each of the 12 roundels, and then coordinate all 12 roundels with their texts and foliate surrounds, in order to produce the first reconstruction of the floor’s program. My preliminary analyses of the tiles’ iconography and fragmentary Latin texts show that only those two famous combats were present; the rest are generic scenes of knights, lions, and Saracens. The Samson combat helps to identify the terrain as the Holy Land, and the accompanying lion combats should be viewed within a lengthy history, extending back to Sassanian times and known in both Byzantine and Islamic contexts, of lion hunt imagery as a metaphor for military conquest. The Chertsey combat scenes therefore evoke the Holy Land as a context for the Crusading deeds of Richard the Lionheart.’

Alexander, J J G, and Paul Binski, 1987 *Age of Chivalry: Art in Plantagenet England, 1200-1400* (London: Royal Academy of Arts).

Eames, Elizabeth S, 1980 *Catalogue of Medieval Lead-Glazed Earthenware Tiles in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, British Museum*, 2 volumes (London: British Museum Publications).



Prof. Luyster examining one of the Chertsey combat tiles

Article on The Hayworth, a vaccary in the Sussex Weald. Understandings of the Weald in the High Middle Ages took a significant leap forward with the publication in the journal *Medieval Archaeology* of an article centred on the excavation of an 11th- to 13th-century farmstead site, set within an oval-shaped enclosure known as the Hayworth, near Haywards Heath in Sussex. What makes this farm of particular significance is that displays clear signs of having been a vaccary, or specialised cattle rearing farm. It is the first such site in Lowland England that has been excavated and reported, making the article valuable from an archaeological perspective, as well as inspiring the strong suspicion that analogous sites await discovery in the Surrey Weald (not least perhaps at Vachery near Cranleigh). But it is all the more impressive for the way it integrates historical, place-name, and palaeoenvironmental evidence into the analysis, allowing the Hayworth to be set within a variety of landscapes, be they physical, linguistic, or academic. The identification of the Hayworth as an ovoid enclosure dovetails with (and, frankly, should have made reference to) Judie English's important work on early Wealden enclosures, inspired by her identification of one at Rumbeams in Ewhurst (English 1997). All the same, in a region whose landscape history remains so incompletely understood, rigorous interdisciplinary studies such as this can have a major positive impact.

Margetts, Andrew, 2017 *The Hayworth: A Lowland Vaccary Site in South-East England*, *Medieval Archaeology*, 61:1, 117–48.

See also Judie English, 1997 *A possible early Wealden settlement type*, *Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report*, 12, 5–6.

Surrey's earliest recorded archaeological discovery? A friendly challenge to readers to use their knowledge of the county's medieval documentary sources to try and best the following record of an "archaeological" find — as distinct from artefacts found in archaeological contexts of a particular date but of significantly earlier origin — made within its historic bounds.

Going through the published edition of the 1235 Surrey Eyre in the course of research last summer, I came across a case centred on the alleged discovery of a piece of ‘treasure’, namely ‘a certain part of a certain sword’ (*quandam partem cuiusdam ensis*), by one William le Seler. William had been “digging” in Dorking parish when he was alleged to have found this object. Initially, he did not come to the Eyre, but when he did he ‘denied that he found any treasure’ (*defendit quod nullum thesaurum invenit*). In the absence of any further evidence, the jurors were forced to state that they simply did not know if William had found what he was alleged to have found. Interestingly, William later ‘came and made fine of half a mark’ (*finem fecit per dimidiam marcam*), perhaps indicating that he had found something after all.

Assuming William le Seler did find part of a sword, it begs the question of how old was the artefact in question? Just because it was recognised to have come from a sword does not mean it was necessarily a 13th-century item. Indeed, it could well have been of considerable antiquity by the time William dug it up. A reasonably well known example of an early sword found in the historic county area is the Late Bronze Age sword found in 1952 close to the River Mole at Charlwood (Lowther 1957). Even pushing the clock back almost 800 years, the discovery of an intact prehistoric sword would be exceptional. The emphasis placed by the legal account on only part of a sword allegedly being found recommends that we should think in more limited terms, whilst still working on the presumption that the object was of sufficient size and distinctive form as to allow it to be recognised as coming from a sword. Closer to the truth may be a more recent metal-detected find, a much-corroded iron trilobate sword pommel, from the Ewell/Cheam area (Williams 1999, 179, 181; PAS number [SUR-9EABD4](#)). Comparison with the standard typology suggests this is an example of a Petersen Type 2 pommel, belonging to the 8th and early 9th centuries (see Peirce 2002, 17–18).

In the absence of the object itself, all this is of course speculation, but the date and content of the record is not. So, for now at least, 1235 is the benchmark for what I contend to be Surrey’s earliest recorded “archaeological” discovery. But perhaps someone reading this knows of an earlier relevant record, published or otherwise, that can beat it and thereby claim the title?

[?] Lowther, A W G 1957 A Late Bronze Age Sword from Charlwood, *Surrey Archaeological Collections* [*SyAC*], 55, 122-23.

Meekings, C A F, and David Crook (eds.), 1983 *The 1235 Surrey Eyre, Volume 2 — Text, translation and notes to text*, Surrey Record Society, 32 (Guildford: Surrey Record Society).

Peirce, Ian, 2002 *Swords of the Viking Age* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press).

Williams, David, 1999 Some recent finds from Surrey, *SyAC*, 86, 171-97.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Rob Poulton, *The moated medieval manor and Tudor royal residence at Woking Palace: Excavations between 2009 and 2015*, SpoilHeap Monograph, 16 (Woking: SpoilHeap Publications, 2017). ISBN 978-1-912331-03-1. Price £15.

Arriving a little over two years after the end of the final season of excavation, this is the full report on the important archaeological investigations carried out at the site of Woking Palace, established by Alan Basset in the wake of being granted the manor of Woking by Richard I. The results of the excavations show the development of the palace and the arrangement of its constituent parts. Much smaller trappings of the elite lifestyle were also discovered: Sussex marble stonework and patterned floor tiles, and faunal remains that evidence the consumption of swan and deer, some of the latter coming from the adjacent hunting park. The report also sets the archaeological testimony in its historical context, from prior to the establishment of the palace, through its connection to leading late medieval royal figures like Lady Margaret Beaufort, to its eventual demise and near-total demolition at the hands of Sir Edward Zouch after 1620. All in all, this is an important and rewarding publication, and one that maintains SpoilHeap's exemplary record of producing high-quality reports in a comparatively short period of time from the end of digging.

The book can be bought from the Friends of Woking Palace + £3.50 post and packing – see <http://www.woking-palace.org/publications.html> for further details.

Alan Bott, *A History of the Churches of Puttenham, Seale, Wanborough and The Sands* (Puttenham and Seale: The Friends of Puttenham Church and the United Benefice of Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough, 2017). No ISBN. Price £10.

Alan Bott has written an extraordinary number of Surrey churches histories, and his latest one might just be his most ambitious project to date; a combined history of not one, not two, but four churches in the south-west of the county. Three of them — Puttenham, Seale, Wanborough — have medieval origins and retain medieval fabric to varying degrees. Taking a century-by-century approach (at least so far as the evidence permits), Bott discusses the surviving medieval architectural features of each church, then turns his attention to the various fixtures and fittings, as well as documentary records. As with his previous works, the book is lavishly illustrated, and gathers together an impressive number of 18th- and 19th-century illustrations of the church buildings that are so often our sole authority for lost early features (none more so than in the case of Seale, drastically altered from its essentially medieval form during a heavy 19th-century restoration). For those with an interest in the fabric and furnishings of Surrey parish churches, this new publication will surely be a must-have for their bookshelf.

The book is available to buy from the four churches. A copy is held at the SyAS Library.

NEWSFLASH! Hot off the press and available to buy for the very reasonable price of £5 (+ £1 postage and packing if collection in person from the Society's library at Abinger is not possible) is the new, expanded version of the Medieval Pottery Studies Group's guidebook to the medieval pottery of Surrey. Readers wishing to buy a copy of this publication are advised to consult <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/a-guide-to-the-saxon-and-medieval-pottery-type-series-of-surrey> for further instructions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Ceramic Building Material Day School

Saturday, 26th May 2018 – 10:00 to 16:00

Leatherhead Institute, Leatherhead KT22 8AH

Led by Ian Betts (Museum of London Archaeology), this course will cover the main types of building material used in south-east England during the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The day will consist of presentations, followed by ‘question and answer’ and ‘show and tell’ sections.

Note: This is a rescheduling of the day school from its original April date. It is jointly run by CBA South-East and Surrey Archaeological Society.

Booking is through the CBA South-East website: www.cbasouth-east.org/events/

FORTHCOMING MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM MEETING

Some Surrey Medieval Churches – a study day

Saturday, 9th June 2018 – 09.30 to 16.30

A full day of visits, with talks, around some of Surrey's finest medieval churches; including Compton, Wanborough, Shere and Wotton.

Further details will be circulated to members of the Medieval Studies Forum and posted on the SyAS website.