

AD 1483

AD 1399

AD 1154

AD 1135

AD 1066

Historic England and publications (many intro guides as online PDFs) -
Hunt, R. (2002) *Hidden Depths: an archaeological exploration of Surrey's Past*
Heahcer, P. (2009) *A History of Farnham Park*
Fitzcane, R. (1935) *Middleton Farmham: everyday life in an Episcopcal Manor*
Dyer, C. (2001) *Everyday Life in Medieval England: Landholding, church and settlement before 1300*
Blair, J. (1991) *Early Medieval Surrey: landholding, church and settlement before some further sources*

Unlike earlier pottery kilns, medieval tile kilns were more sophisticated. A rectangular furnace provided insulation and supported, with arched fire-boxes - furnace chambers - supporting the oven.
Surrey castles constructed New towns and villages widespread
Historic English and publications (many intro guides as online PDFs) -
Yard (N) (2011) and (n.d.) Pegeen's
Borelli (Lef) (2009) *A History of Farnham Park*
Heahcer, P. (2009) *A History of Farnham Park*
Fitzcane, R. (1935) *Middleton Farmham: everyday life in an Episcopcal Manor*
Dyer, C. (2001) *Everyday Life in Medieval England: Landholding, church and settlement before 1300*
Blair, J. (1991) *Early Medieval Surrey: landholding, church and settlement before some further sources*

Tudor defeating Richard III at Battle of Bosworth AD 1455-1485 - Wars of the Roses, ending with Henry VII
AD 1476 - Caxton's first printing press in England
AD 1415 - Henry V defeats French at Agincourt
AD 1387 - Chaucer begins Canterbury Tales
AD 1381 - First wave of bubonic plague ("Black Death")
AD 1348 - Hundred Years War
AD 1337-1453 - Battle of Bannockburn
AD 1312 - Suppression of Knights Templar
Runnymede
AD 1215 - Signing of Magna Carta, which is sealed at
murdered
AD 1170 - Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, is
Stephen and Empress Matilda vying for throne
AD 1135-1154 - Period of civil war ("Anarchy") with King
AD 1128 - First Cistercian house in Britain at Waverley
AD 1100-1120 - New towns and villages established
c. AD 1096 - Oxford University is founded
AD 1095 - Pope Urban II calls First ("holy") Crusade
AD 1085-1086 - Great Domesday Survey is undertaken
AD 1077 - Bayeux Tapestry is completed
AD 1066-1150 - Period of castle building in Surrey
defeats Harold at Hastings
AD 1066 - William of Normandy lands at Pevensey and
defeats Harold at Hastings

The Saxon Period

Want to learn about



Guildford Castle, Surrey,
built soon after AD 1066

the Medieval period?

Although the medieval period is not a topic which is usually looked at in-depth until Key Stage 3, it is an excellent period to introduce early on, even in Key Stage 1 primary curriculum. This stage in history education is when significant events on a national scale – such as the Norman Conquest – are addressed, which the transformation of the country through the introduction of castle fortifications, Romanesque architecture and planned nucleated settlements attest to. At the younger level, castles and knights are certainly the most appropriate and relatable subject, and lessons can expand to incorporate aspects of daily life – domestic conditions, health and medicine, industry, social relationships – as well as military technology which is the usual focus for castle studies. In addition to Art and Drama, the wealth of documents for this period ties particularly well to English work, leaving a range of lesson options available.

Suggested sources (a good internet search will result in more!)

Historic England's educational resources - historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education
BBC Hands on history - www.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/
British Library - www.bl.uk/the-middle-ages/teaching-resources
The National Archives - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/sessions-and-resources/
Young Archaeologists' Club - www.yac-uk.org

Local loans boxes are also available from the Museum, Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey County Archaeological Unit



Tile-making

Find out more about Farnham's unique past



The Museum of Farnham is an accredited and award-winning museum situated within the Georgian Grade I-listed Willmer House. Within its local studies library and stores it holds the largest collection of archives from the area, and it runs temporary exhibitions and events throughout the year, including the regular lecture series organised by the Museum Society.

www.farnhammaltings.com/museum



Much of what we know about Farnham's early past comes from the work of local archaeologists in the Surrey Archaeological Society, who run fieldwork and heritage outreach projects in the Farnham area, including the community dig Finding Farnham.

www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Other links

Farnham & District Museum Society - www.farnhammuseumociety.org.uk
The Farnham Society - farnhamsociety.org.uk
Farnham Castle - www.farnhamcastle.com
Surrey History Centre - www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre
Surrey Heritage (Exploring Surrey's Past) - www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk
Wrecclesham History project - wreccleshamhistory.wordpress.com
Hale History project - www.halehistoryproject.co.uk
Rural Life Centre - rural-life.org.uk
Guildford Museum - guildford.gov.uk/museum
Curtis & Aldershot Military Museum - www.hampshireculture.org.uk

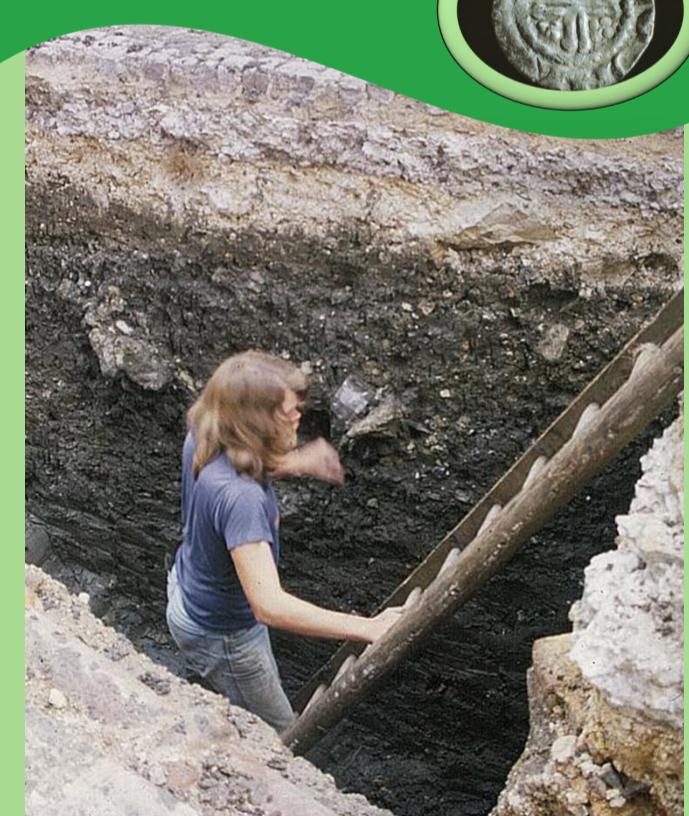
For more information, images and pdfs of leaflets visit
www.farnham.gov.uk/hiddenheritage



farnhamofficial
Published by Farnham Town Council
and devised and designed by Anne Sassin © 2019

AD 1066 - 1485

Medieval Farnham



Hidden Heritage

A local archaeological & heritage guide to Farnham's buried past



Farnham & District Museum Society



Medieval Farnham

AD 1066 - 1485

Rise of Farnham Castle

Archaeological work on Farnham's castle keep was begun in 1958 by M W Thompson, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, when the masonry foundations of a square tower set within a mound of marlstone were revealed. The large hole still seen today is the central shaft which was then excavated to the original ground surface in order to try to get a sense of the medieval levels.

These tower foundations and mound were interpreted as the first castle and were a variation on the motte-and-bailey type. Though initially dated to around 1138 and the reign of the Henry de Blois (Bishop of Winchester), reassessment – including from geophysical survey of the inner bailey ditch in 1987 – suggest the site was a country house under the previous Bishop Giffard (1100-29), before later being fortified under de Blois.

As with many 'Anarchy' castles, Henry II had replaced in the next 50 years by the present surrounding shellkeep. Construction soon after began on the buildings of the Bishop's Palace – marking a shift from communal to private accommodation – and by the middle of the 14th century the castle was fully fortified.

The brick four-storey Fox's Tower was built between 1470-75 by Bishop Waynflete, making it Farnham's first use of brick and an expensive show of wealth.

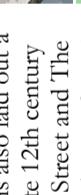
 5 Aerial photo of castle, showing shell keep (left), and Fox's Tower (right) (Photos by D Graham)

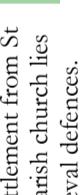
 4 Medieval 'Surrey whiteware' from Farnham Castle (Photo by D Graham)

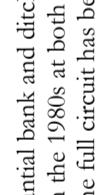
 2 1960s photo of well shaft cut into tower's masonry foundations and reconstruction of tower set within the mound (Photo by M W Thompson, redrawn by A Graham)

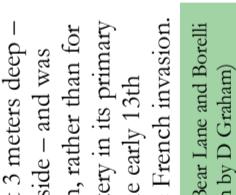
 1 Plan of Farnham Castle set within the curtain wall and standing upon the bank of the surrounding ring-work, with the probable inner bailey ditch seen in the south-east corner of the range (N Rail)

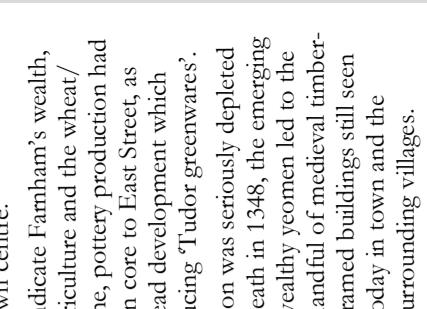
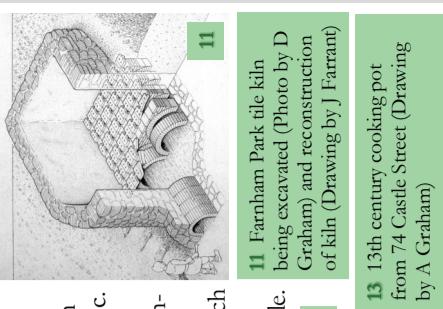
 3 Norman pillar from castle chapel (Photo by D Graham)

 7 Section of ditch at Bear Lane (Photo by D Graham)

 8 Ditch section at Borelli Yard (Photo by D Graham)

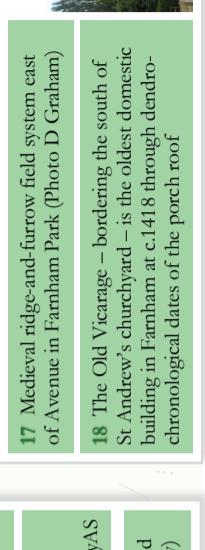
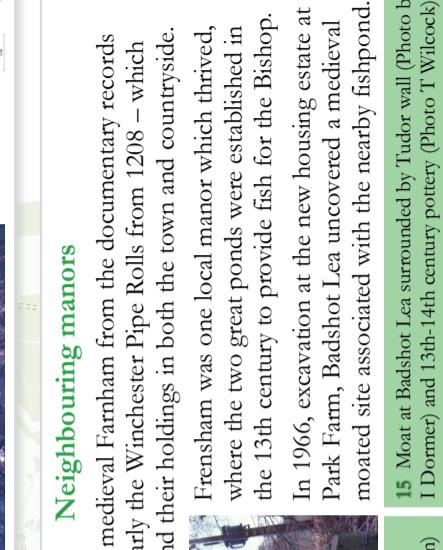
 6 Plan of Farnham, with excavated sites at Bear Lane and Borelli Yard and inferred course of town ditch (Plan by D Graham)

 14 Plan of Farnham's infirmary, showing foundation wall of column bases (left) and copper book boss depicting Our Saviour (right) © SyAS (Surrey Archaeological Society)



Pottery and tile production

Other major medieval sites within the town comprise pottery and tile kilns – mostly 13th century – which supplied both the town and wider area. Pottery kilns were discovered on Park Row and at 74 Castle Street, both of which produced the distinctive 'Surrey whiteware' which was well known across the region.



Neighbouring manors

Much is known about medieval Farnham from the documentary records that survive – particularly the Winchester Pipe Rolls from 1208 – which identifies occupants and their holdings in both the town and countryside.

Frensham was one local manor which thrived, where the two great ponds were established in the 13th century to provide fish for the Bishop. In 1906, excavation at the new housing estate at Park Farm, Badshot Lea uncovered a medieval moated site associated with the nearby fishpond.

Waverley Abbey

Waverley – the first Cistercian monastery established in Britain – was founded in 1128 on the flood plain of the River Wey, and by 1201 most of the buildings were badly flood-damaged. The abbey was rebuilt – and completed in 1278 – and it is this period to which the surviving buildings date. A hospital was added to the site a century later, but by 1536 it was dissolved in the Dissolution. The complex was excavated from 1890-1903 and is now under the care of English Heritage.

Town expansion (and decline)

In 1993, excavations of the museum garden at Willmer House on West Street revealed a long sequence of intensive occupation starting in the late 12th century. As the site lies well away from the core of town, ribbon development seems to have occurred at an early date both to the east and west of the historic town centre.

Tax returns of 1336 indicate Farnham's wealth, largely due to local agriculture and the wheat/wool trade. By this time, pottery production had moved out of the town core to East Street, as seen with the Woolmead development which uncovered kilns producing Tudor greenwares. Although the population was seriously depleted following the Black Death in 1348, the emerging wealthy yeomen led to the handful of medieval timber-framed buildings still seen today in town and the surrounding villages.

New planned town and ditch

The medieval town can still be traced today in the surviving street plan and property boundaries, many of which date back to the medieval burgage plots. In addition to the castle, Bishop de Blois also laid out a formally planned new town in the late 12th century which essentially consisted of Castle Street and The Borough. This shifted the core of settlement from St Andrew's, which explains why the parish church lies outside both the town and the medieval defences.

These defences consisted of a substantial bank and ditch earthwork, which has been traced – through excavations in the 1980s at both Borelli's Yard and Bear Lane – at three points from which the full circuit has been reconstructed. The ditch was 10 meters wide and almost 3 meters deep – possibly with an earth bank on its inside – and was likely used as a boundary for taxation, rather than for keeping intruders out. Based on pottery in its primary fill, it was certainly in existence by the early 13th century, possibly coinciding with the French invasion.

Waverley

Waverley seal c.1310, showing Our Lady with the Holy Child and a rose bush © SyAS

Old Vicarage

12 Encastis 13th century tile patterns from the abbey © SyAS

Waverley

Undercroft of frater (refectory) belonging to the lay brothers (Photo by D Graham)

Waverley

Excavation for the Museum's Garden Gallery and medieval pottery recovered from well (Photos by D Graham)

Waverley

Excavation of monks' infirmary, showing foundation wall of column bases (left) and copper book boss depicting Our Saviour (right) © SyAS (Surrey Archaeological Society)

Farnham

Plan of Farnham, with excavated sites at Bear Lane and Borelli Yard and inferred course of town ditch (Plan by D Graham)