

Farnham is a community with a rich and unique past, much of which we know about from the work of archaeologists and historians over the years. Although its designation as a craft centre is recent, its history of industrial and artistic traditions – whether the Roman pottery industry, medieval tile-making or Georgian and later Victorian hop production which dominated the area – has much earlier origins and is just one of many aspects which sets Farnham apart.

A few of the artefacts or sites which lie beneath our feet:

Badshot Lea Long Barrow

During chalk-quarrying in the 1930s, a Neolithic (c.4000-2200 BC) long barrow – the only one of its type in Surrey – was discovered at Badshot Farm. The barrow was about 42 metres in length and would have originally been a chamber – probably for burial – covered by a mound.



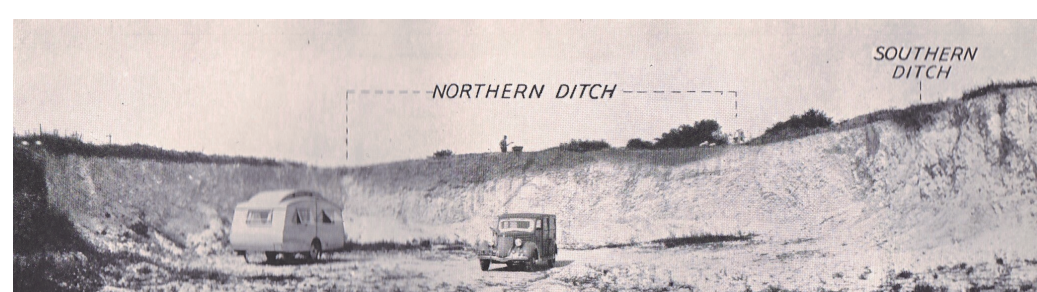
Leaf arrowhead and polished axe, just two of many artefacts from the excavations (© Surrey Archaeological Society, Photos by Anne Sassin)



A similar long barrow at West Kennet, Wiltshire



Excavation of southern barrow ditch (Photo by Alexander Keiller)



Frensham Roman ritual site

In a rare case where a 'treasure map' led to an archaeological discovery, a site map and coin collection were found in an attic in the 1970s, leading to a 1st-2nd century AD ritual site at Frensham Common.

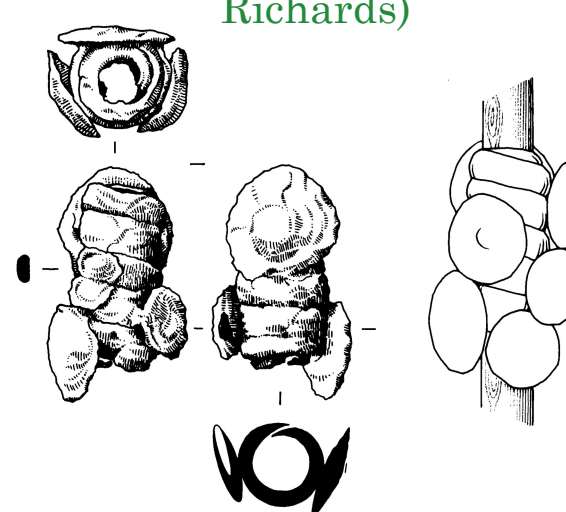


The miniature pots – some only 2cm in diameter – were analysed and found to contain traces of cannabis and oil (Photo by David Graham)

Bronze bindings for a possible sceptre found at the site (Drawing by Jo Richards)



Excavation of pots, which were found upside down in pits and surrounded by coins, spearheads and other objects (Photo by David Graham)



Firgrove Saxon huts

Saxon weaver by Victor Ambrus



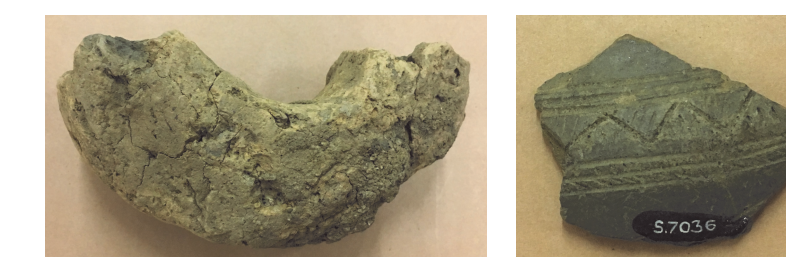
Excavation at the Firgrove pit in 1924 – near the Station – uncovered the only known early Saxon (6th-7th century) site in Farnham, where a series of sunken huts were found. The presence of loom weights in these structures indicates that weaving was an important activity at this time.



Reconstructed huts at West Stow, Suffolk (Photo David Graham)



Saxon sherd and loomweight from Farnham (© Surrey Archaeological Society, Photos by Anne Sassin)



Excavation of Firgrove hut, which appears to be about 4 metres in width (Photo by E Borelli)

Medieval tile kilns

In the 13th century both tile and pottery kilns were distributed around town and at Farnham Park, supplying local sites like the Castle and producing wares which were traded far and wide.



The Borelli Yard kiln – excavated in the 1980s – produced a variety bricks and roof tiles c.1215 (Photo David Graham)

Borelli tile-maker by Victor Ambrus



Excavation of kiln at Farnham Park (Photo by David Graham)



Mother Ludlam's Hole

Mother Ludlam by Victor Ambrus



The local cave near Waverley where the 17th century witch – Mother Ludlam – is reputed to have lived



Learn more about the fascinating history of our town and the hidden heritage below our feet by exploring the Museum of Farnham, Farnham Castle and other local sites. Visit www.farnham.gov.uk for more information, including links to the town's informative guides and leaflet series.