

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:

Bronze Age barrows

Burial mounds known as round barrows are assumed to have been common in the area in the Early Bronze Age (2200-1600 BC), particularly in the surrounding heathland.



Barrow on Thursley Common, where excavation revealed its construction from turf (Photos by David Graham)



Alternating bands of sand and organic material from Warren Hill barrow, Frensham Common (Photo David Graham)

Dockenfield Roman tile kiln

In addition to pottery kilns, a large tile kiln of 3rd-4th century date was uncovered on the edge of Alice Holt, which largely produced *tegulae* – overlapping roof tiles – probably intended for a wide-ranging market.



Tile from Dockenfield kiln (Photo David Graham)



Excavation of tile kiln at Dockenfield, which first came to light from the extensive number of 'wasters' in the field and was dated to the late 3rd-early 4th centuries from associated pottery (Photos David Graham)



Origins of St Andrews

The earliest historic reference to Farnham dates to a charter of AD 685-688 when Caedwalla of Wessex gave 60 hides of land to build a *monasterium* – minster or 'mother' church – in the area. Although this first church would have been of timber, foundations of another likely Saxon church were found during excavations of St Andrew's floor.



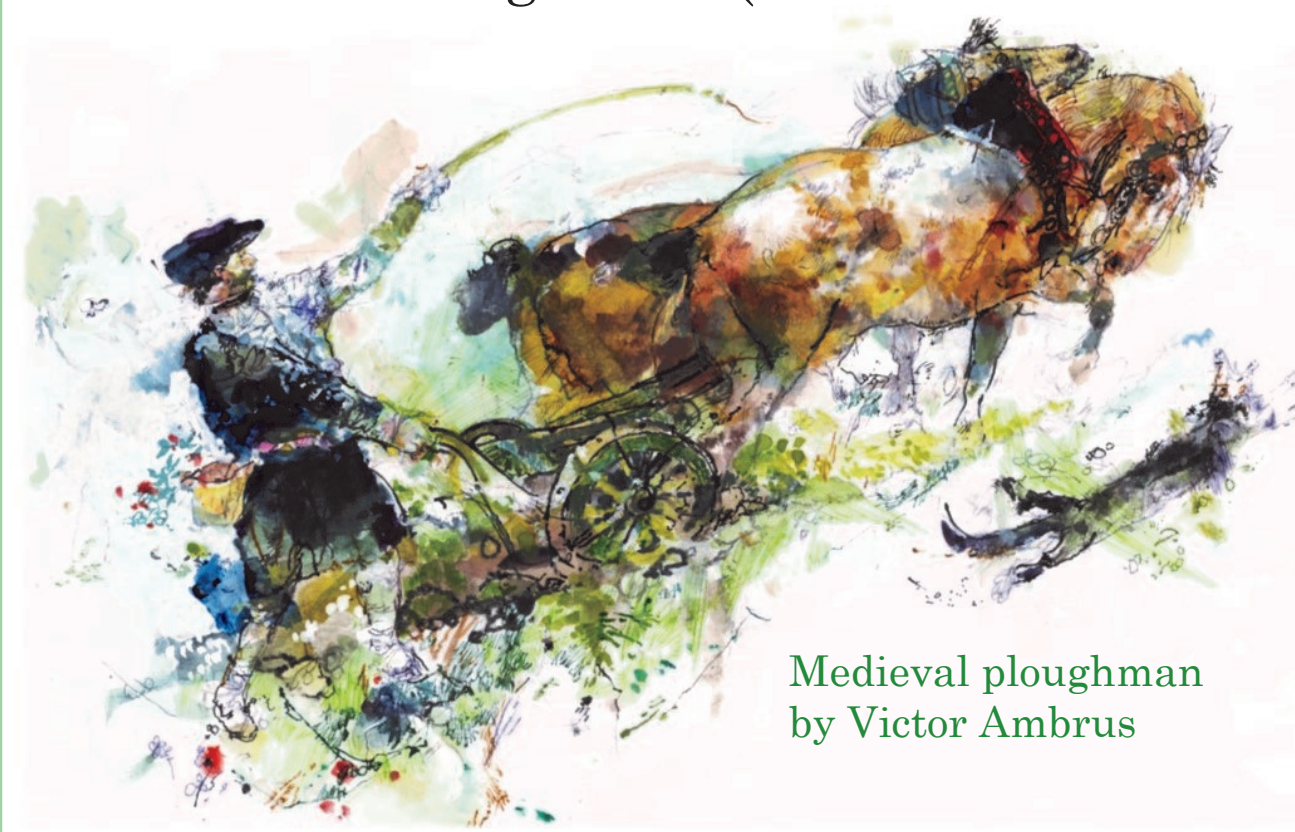
Floor and chalk footings in north aisle of earlier – possibly 10th or 11th century – church at St Andrews beneath the Norman 12th century foundations (© Surrey County Archaeological Unit)

Route north from Longbridge turning sharply west towards St Andrews (Map by David Graham)

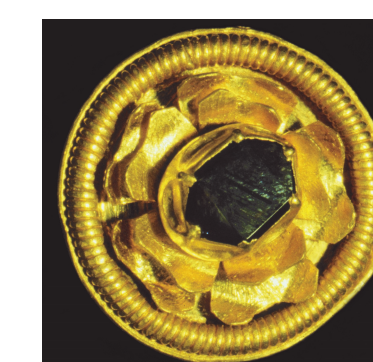


Agriculture and game

14th century tax returns indicate how much Farnham's wealth relied on agriculture – particularly from the wheat and wool trade – with the local parkland also providing hunting ground (at least for the elite).



Medieval ploughman by Victor Ambrus



Tudor rose hat pin, possibly lost while hunting in the park (Photo David Graham)



Medieval ridge-and-furrow field system east of the Avenue in Farnham Park (Photo David Graham)

Farnham at war

The effects of global war in the 20th century saw major changes on the Home Front, including threats from air raids and an increased need for food and munitions production, the latter role which many women stepped in to fill.



Home Guard spigot mortar and associated 'Molotov cocktail' excavated in Farnham park (Photos David Graham)



First 'two minute silence', Castle Street, May 1916 (© Museum of Farnham)



Second World War factory worker at Crosby Doors by Victor Ambrus



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.