

FOUND IT!

July 29, 2011 farnhamcurator Community Archaeology, Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2011, Finds, Museum Archaeology, PrehistoryAcademia, Accession number, Collection, education, Farnham, flint tools, Frensham, Geography of England, http, Museology, Museum of Farnham, Object, Object-oriented programming, UK, Waverley

I have located some flint tools donated to the museum a number of years ago. No wonder I couldn't find them. They are tiny. They were unearthed near Frensham (just south of Farnham)



and the finder kindly wrote all of the grid references on to the bags. The finder has given a number of other objects to the museum in the past and it is great to have people in the local community donating to the museum regularly and increasing our knowledge of the local area. On this occasion he has donated 23 flint tools. One of my main tasks at the Museum of Farnham is to deal with the 'accessioning backlog'. To 'accession' an object is to formally accept it into the collection and deal with all of the paper work that comes with this process and finally find a home for the object. Quite a few museums have problems with 'backlogs' of objects. This is generally because there are not enough staff hours to deal with the backlog and other things such as events, applying for funding etc. appear more pressing and have solid deadlines which need meeting. If some flint has sat in a corner for a year it can sit in the corner for another year and be totally fine...right? Not really. The longer objects are left in limbo the more chance there is of information about them being lost and objects deteriorating due to poor packaging and an unstable environment.

So on with the paper work, assigning an accession number, taking photographs, recording all of the information about the objects onto a database (we use Past Perfect), recording the same information onto an index card as a backup and finding a home for the object in the archaeology store. Should take some time with 23 to do...