

## NOTE

### Sites in the Godalming area investigated by the late George Inwood

After the death of George Inwood an archive of finds, mainly from informal fieldwalking, was recovered from his house and curated by John and Susan Janaway who kindly made it available for study, and, where appropriate, publication.

#### The sites

A number of small assemblages have already been published (English 2018; 2019) together with the excavation of a probable ironworking site in Busbridge in 1947 (but archive labelled as Hascombe; English 2019). Four sites warrant further attention; these are surface collections on a primarily Romano-British (RB) site in Shackleford located when the A3 was being widened, and medieval sites near Rodsall Manor, Puttenham, near Mitchen Hall and on Whirl Hill, both in Shackleford. The location of these sites is shown in figure 1. Fuller details of the pottery recovered is available online (see *Endnote*). Unfortunately, about 10% of the finds had fallen out of the bags and, with no provenance, could not be included in this analysis.

#### A3 HURTMORE/SHACKLEFORD JUNCTION (AREA SU 9468 4529)

In 1979 the Godalming Archaeological Group, led by John Janaway, fieldwalked an area on both sides of the A3 having been alerted to its potential by George Inwood. This section of the A3 was being converted into a dual carriageway, with the addition of a second carriageway to the east of the original road. This resulted in the recovery of RB pottery and tile, and a coin of Magnentius (Æ2 AD 350–1, mint of Trier) found at SU 9470 4525. In 1988 an underpass was created taking the Hurtmore/Shackleford road beneath the A3 and a large amount of spoil piled in the field on the south-east corner of the junction opposite the Squirrel public house. This mound is probably the one referred to below. A small excavation was undertaken, which suggested the RB material had been redeposited during the roadworks (Graham 1988). In 1992/3 further roadworks took place and were the subject of an evaluation (Jones 1991) and George Inwood returned to the site on many occasions, while the disturbed soil was still accessible. He divided the site into areas described on the notes included with the pottery as:

- a) West side of Guildford–Godalming bypass, verge and central reservation, north of site of former junction of road to Shackleford and Elstead (Hurtmore)
- b) East side of Guildford–Godalming bypass. South of junction with road down to The Squirrel and Hurtmore. Field adjoining bypass through which a public footpath runs down to Hurtmore Bottom. Portion of field north of public footpath but other than the north east corner of the field. When I arrived at the site I found that the topsoil had been removed from the field and been piled up into a huge mound at the edge of the field by the junction
- c) East side of Guildford–Godalming bypass. Site of former spoil heap on part of Hewitt's field, south side of junction with road from Hurtmore and The Squirrel

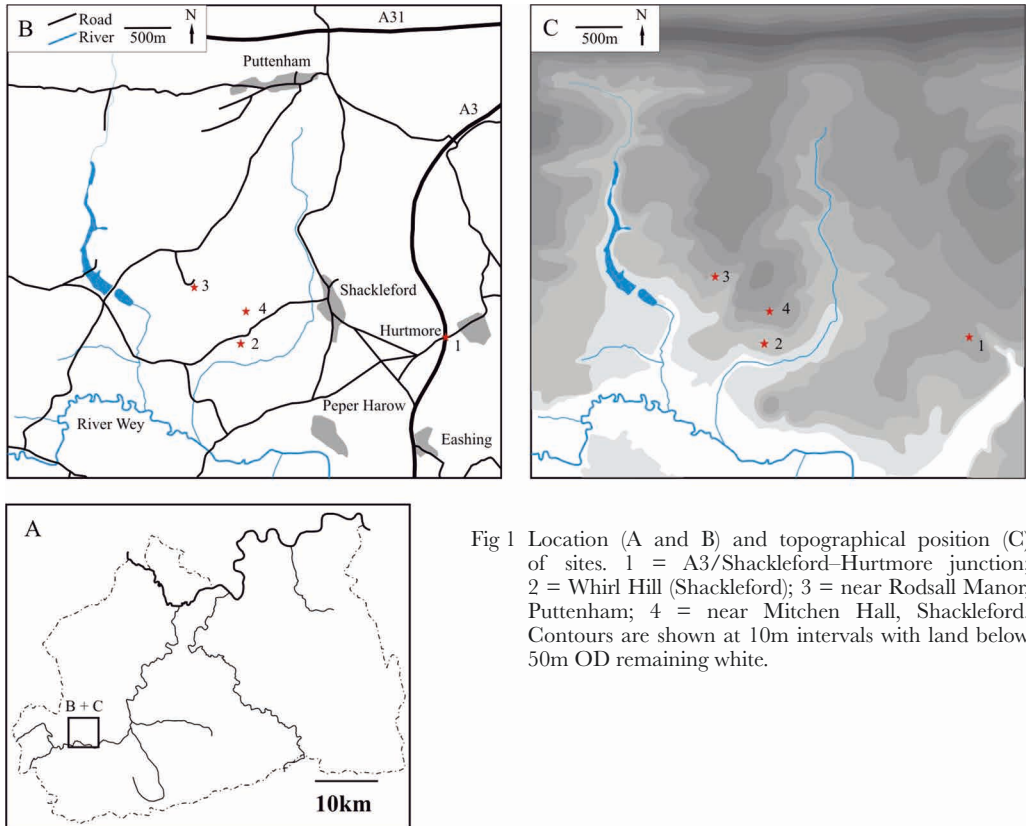


Fig 1 Location (A and B) and topographical position (C) of sites. 1 = A3/Shackleford–Hurtmore junction; 2 = Whirl Hill (Shackleford); 3 = near Rodsall Manor, Puttenham; 4 = near Mitchen Hall, Shackleford. Contours are shown at 10m intervals with land below 50m OD remaining white.

The approximate location of areas (a) and (b) are shown in figure 2; that for area (c) is uncertain but, assuming that the ‘huge mound’ mentioned in (b) was the ‘spoil heap’ in (c), it appears to have been within area (b). Although George Inwood ascribes the ‘huge mound’ to topsoil stripping, a large volume of soil must have been removed to route the Hurtwood/Shackleford road under the A3 and these have been included in figures from the east side of the road. In view of the disturbed nature of the contexts it is unlikely that any differentiation in the range of surface finds necessarily reflects that in any *in-situ* remains.

The prehistoric pottery was assessed by Mike Seager Thomas and the fabric types and dates are derived from Seager Thomas (2008); the Romano-British pottery was identified by the Society’s Roman Studies Group with the help, where necessary, of Louise Rayner and using their present dating parameters; the medieval and post-medieval pottery was evaluated by

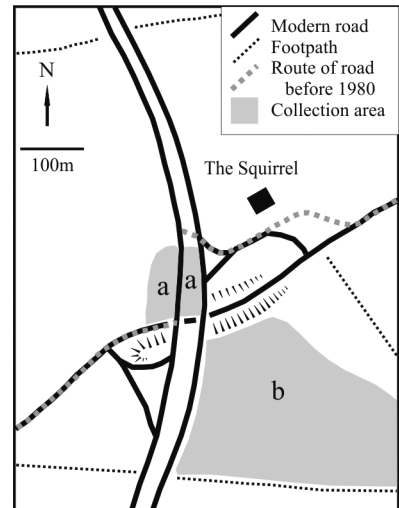


Fig 2 Areas from which pottery was recovered during and after roadworks at the A3/Hurtmore–Shackleford road junction (for description of the locations see text). The exact position of collection area c is uncertain.

the Society's Medieval Pottery Group led by Steve Nelson using identifications based on Jones (1998).

#### *Prehistoric activity*

Lithic material from this site has already been reported (English 2018). Evidence of both blade and flake industries is present in the assemblage but the only diagnostic piece is a leaf-shaped arrowhead datable to the Neolithic period.

The prehistoric pottery assemblage comprises 29 sherds primarily from east of the A3 with four Late Bronze Age sherds from west of the road and the remainder dated to the Middle and Late Iron Ages. Overall the impression given is of a long-lived later Iron Age site that continued in use into the Roman period, with a Late Bronze Age predecessor.

#### *Romano-British period*

The pottery recovered from all the collection areas totals 1007 sherds weighing 8.21kg. The great majority (952 sherds; 7.43kg) is local coarse ware, together with small amounts of Colchester and Verulamium wares and only three sherds of samian pottery, one of which was a considerable portion of a Dr 38 bowl (identified by Professor Martin Millett). The pottery covered the whole of the RB period and some of the sherds recovered were fairly large with a number of modern breaks suggesting that the roadworks probably disturbed *in-situ* remains.

No ceramic building material from this site was found in the assemblage and, while this may suggest an occupation site relatively low in the social scale it is equally possible that, given that he was either on foot or on his bike, George Inwood chose not to collect heavy finds; however, RB tile was recovered during the fieldwalking undertaken by the Godalming Archaeological Group. The site does not appear to be of high status and no signs of industrial activity were found, suggesting it may well represent another of the numerous farmsteads on the greensand around Godalming (Clark & Nichols 1960).

#### *Medieval and post-medieval periods*

Only a relatively small quantity (80 sherds; 583g) of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered but the fabrics represented cover the range of the more common types from south-western Surrey. This clearly indicates activity on the east side of the present A3 from the 11th/12th century (three sherds Saxo-Norman chalk-tempered ware dated to *c* 1000–*c* 1150) to the 18th with a concentration between the 13th and 15th centuries, but the amount is not sufficient to necessarily represent an *in-situ* settlement site. Again, George Inwood's collection policy is unknown and he may have decided not to collect relatively modern material.

#### NEAR MITCHEN HALL, SHACKLEFORD (SU 925 449)

The site is described in George Inwood's notes as lying in 'south east portion of field on the west side of the Bridle Road from Peper Harow Lane (near Headlands) to the Shackleford Cutmill Road. The field lies to the south-east of Mitchen Hall and is just north of the Shackleford–Peper Harow parish boundary'. It is situated on Head deposits overlying the Sandgate Formation and immediately north of a small stream that feeds into the river Wey. The name is first recorded in 1178 as *Muchelehala* – 'the large corner or nook of land' (Gover *et al* 1934, 198; Gelling 1984, 100–10) – and, together with Gatwick, lies within a remote corner of Godalming manor and parish. Shackleford parish was not formed until 1866, prior to this it was a hamlet in a tithing of Godalming (*VCH* 3, 41).

All the pottery collected by George Inwood dated to the medieval period. It comprises 477 sherds weighing in total 2.138kg of which 460 (2.054kg) are of Q2 (AD 1080–1300) and

WW1B (AD 1240–1400) fabrics. While the area from which the pottery was collected, and therefore the density of the scatter, is unknown, George Inwood's description of the location suggests a portion of the field close to an old track and this probably represents a settlement site. By 1419 Mitchen Hall was a substantial dwelling with a hall, a bakery, a well, a garden, granaries and land (SHC: 8979). The position of the pottery scatter, about 100–200m east of the present house, a late 17th century building of coursed sandstone blocks with red brick dressings, suggests that it may represent an earlier site of Mitchen Hall.

NEAR RODSALL MANOR, PUTTENHAM (SU 920 456)

The site is described in George Inwood's notes as lying close to the 'East edge of field south of Rodsall Manor. The field is on the west side of the track which leads from Suffield Lane to the old road from Gatwick to Shackleford'. It lies on greensand of the Sandgate Formation close to its junction with the Folkestone Formation to the east. To the west are the Head deposits and gravels of a stream running southwards to the river Wey.

The earliest pottery recovered is a small RB assemblage comprising 39 sherds (430g) of SAND and PORD fabrics with one sherd that probably comes from an amphora.

Puttenham is not recorded by name in the Domesday Book of 1086 but *Redessolham*, held by Tovi pre-Conquest and subsequently by Odo of Bayeux (Morris 1975), is thought to be Rodsall (Gover *et al* 1934, 210). It has been suggested that Rodsall was soon displaced by a new manorial centre at Puttenham (Rob Briggs, pers comm). The holding is poorly documented for the remainder of the medieval period but is described as a manor in 1508 (*VCH* 3, 52–8). It did, however, have its own open field system (Briggs 2010) but it is not clear that the hamlet which it served was on the same site as the Domesday holding. The present Rodsall Manor House is of late 17th century date with a sandstone block and red brick construction, a terracotta plaque with the inscription 'FW 1680' probably refers to Francis Wyatt who held the manor between 1673 and 1723.

The name of the field from which the pottery was recovered is Pyramids and is the probable site of a holding called *La Purie* (the name Pyramids is derived from the earlier name by augmentation through the Middle English *mæde*, 'meadow') (Rob Briggs, pers comm). *La Purie* is first mentioned as a locative byname, Walter de la Purie in the Surrey Eyre of 1263 (Stewart 2006, 346). The name can be found in the 1332 Lay Subsidy Returns but does not occur in the Poll Tax of 1381 and it may be that this was a short-lived holding that had failed by the late 14th century. If it had been a holding its abandonment would also accord with the growing importance of Puttenham as the parochial centre, with Rodsall remaining as a manor and small hamlet within Puttenham parish. The medieval pottery assemblage (110 sherds, 647g) comprises two fabric types, Q2 and WW1B, dated to 1150–1250 and 1240–1400 respectively. The density of the scatter is again uncertain but probably represents a settlement site; the dates of the recovered pottery would concur with the suggestion from the documentary evidence of *La Purie*. Alternatively, it could represent an early site for Rodsall Manor or, indeed, another, undocumented, settlement.

WHIRL HILL, SHACKLEFORD (SU 926 456)

Whirl Hill is situated on greensand of the Folkestone Formation some 500m south-east of Rodsall Manor, and around the same distance north-east of Mitchen Hall, on a track running from Shackleford to Gatwick and the stream between Cutmill and the river Wey.

George Inwood found pottery in the area from several periods. Lithic finds have already been reported (English 2018) and a small amount of prehistoric pottery (thirteen sherds, 110g), flint-tempered ware in the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition, was also recovered. One of the notes referring to some of the worked flint location as 'Field at Whirl Hill next to and west of a plantation which separates it from the field in which a mass of RB pottery

found. North east corner of field close to west side of plantation. Northern edge of field'. Unfortunately 'masses' of Romano-British pottery could not be identified as having come from this site; only four sherds (2 x SAND and 2 x PORD) were found and the site referred to may be one recorded in 1985 (Surrey Historic Environment Record 2649; SU 9265 4559).

However, the quantity of medieval pottery recovered was considerable (913 sherds; 5.00kg). Although only small amounts of the earliest pottery fabrics were collected it would appear that activity probably started during the 11th century (presence of Q1 (970–1100), SNC (1000–1150) and IQ (1050–1150) fabrics, but the site reached its most intense period of use in the 12th–14th centuries marked by the finding of 589 sherds (3.05kg) in Q2 fabric (1080–1300) and 267 sherds (1.56kg) in WW1B fabric (1240–1400). From the amount of pottery recovered it seems likely that this was an occupation site; again it is not clear whether George Inwood would have collected tile or later pottery, but since no tile and only 26 sherds of post-medieval ceramics were found in the archive the site appears, at face value, to have been a relatively poor, short-lived farmstead, which had failed by the end of the 14th century.

The site lay within the parish and manor of Godalming prior to the founding of Shackleford parish. The name Whirl Hill is found on the OS 25-inch map surveyed in 1871 (Surrey Sheet XXXI), but no earlier records have been found and no earlier settlement name recognised as applicable to this site.

## Discussion

Although the assemblages of prehistoric pottery found at Whirl Hill and the A3 near Hurtmore are small they probably relate to settlements and add to the preferential use of the greensand in Surrey for late prehistoric activity. The proximity of these sites to the possible prehistoric field system on Puttenham Common (Briggs 2017) is notable. Prehistoric activity, mainly evidenced by finds of worked flint and a number of Bronze Age barrows on the greensand at the western end of the Low Weald, has long been recognised (eg Ellaby 1987, fig 3.4; Field & Cotton 1987, figs 4.7, 4.15; Needham 1987, fig 5.6).

However, the area is also known for a number of more visible settlement sites from the Romano-British period (Clark & Nichols 1960) the economies of which were based on farming and on the large Surrey/Hampshire border pottery industry. The A3 site reported here should be seen as a further example.

The three medieval assemblages all appear to relate to expansion of settlement during the 11th and 12th centuries onto agriculturally marginal land necessitated by population increase. The apparent abandonment by the end of the 14th century may be the result of selectivity in George Inwood's collection policy but, if true, represents withdrawal from sub-optimal land either owing to population decrease or an increase in the long-standing trend towards settlement nucleation.

George Inwood collected finds over a period of close to 50 years and, although the lack of information about his collecting policy and the loss of about 10% of the archive due to inadequate storage makes interpretation difficult, his persistence located a number of previously unrecognised sites and extended knowledge about some already on record.

## Archive

It is intended that all finds and the sparse written record of George Inwood's work will be deposited at Godalming Museum.

## APPENDIX

**George Inwood – an appreciation**, by †John and Susan Janaway

We first met George when we were digging a medieval/post-medieval site on The Mint, Godalming in 1975. George leant his bicycle on a fence and watched us for some time before coming in to join us. At that time we had no idea that he had spent so much of his spare time since the 1940s fieldwalking in the area round Godalming. He lived all his life in a small house in Godalming with his mother and father. George never married and was an only child.

George dug with us on several other sites in Godalming and joined the newly formed Godalming Archaeological and Local History Group. He later became Treasurer of the Group. We still had no idea of his fieldwalking.

When George died intestate his administrator had the task of clearing out his house. He found squirrelled away in decaying outhouses and sheds little plastic money bags or paper envelopes containing finds that George had picked up in his spare time from the 1940s onwards. As these had no known intrinsic value, he boxed up the bags and passed them on to us. The administrator also passed to us a small notebook and two diaries covering the period April 1952 to April 1984 in which George noted where he had visited and what flora and fauna he had seen.

**Endnote**

The tables listed below are available on the Archaeology Data Service website:  
<https://doi.org/10.5284/1000221>

Select *Surrey Archaeological Collections* volume 103 and the files are listed as supplementary material under the title of the article.

Table 1 Prehistoric pottery from the A3, Shackleford

Table 2 RB pottery from the A3, Shackleford

Table 3 Medieval and post-medieval pottery from the A3, Shackleford

Table 4 Medieval and post-medieval pottery from near Rodsall Manor, near Mitchen Hall and Whirl Hill

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Susan and the late John Janaway for curating George Inwood's archive and making it available for study, to Mike Seager Thomas, the Lithics Group, the Medieval Pottery Study Group and the Roman Studies Group of Surrey Archaeological Society for assisting in identifying the artefacts. Rob Briggs both shared his knowledge of Rodsall Manor, Puttenham and read and commented on an early draft of this note.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Manuscript sources**

SHC: Surrey History Centre, Woking  
 8979 Lease of part of Michen Hall, Shackleford, its facilities and lands

**Published and secondary sources**

Bird, J, & Bird, D G (eds), 1987 *The archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, Guildford: SyAS  
 Briggs, R, 2010 Medieval agriculture in Puttenham parish (<https://surreymedieval.wordpress.com/puttenham/medieval-agriculture-in-puttenham-parish/> ; accessed 12 September 2020)

- , 2017 Field system earthworks on Puttenham Common detected by LiDAR, *SyAS Bull*, **460**, 15–21
- Clark, A J, & Nichols, J F, 1960 Romano-British farms south of the Hog's Back, *SyAC*, **57**, 42–71
- Ellaby, R, 1987 The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic in Surrey, in Bird & Bird 1987, 54–69
- English, J, 2018 Lithic finds by the late George Inwood, *SyAS Bull*, **471**, 5–10
- , 2019 Pottery collected by the late George Inwood in the Godalming area, *SyAS Bull*, **472**, 7–10
- , 2019 Excavation of a probable ironworking site in Busbridge by the late George Inwood, *Bull Wealden Iron Res Gp*, 2 ser, **39**, 8–13
- Field, D, & Cotton, J, 1987 Neolithic Surrey: a survey of the evidence, in Bird & Bird 1987, 71–96
- Gelling, M, 1984 *Place-names in the landscape*, London: Dent
- Gover, J E B, Mawer, A, & Stenton, F M, 1934 *The place-names of Surrey*, English Place-name Soc, **11**, [1982 reprint], Cambridge: University Press
- Graham, D, 1988 A3 road widening scheme: B3000 intersection to Hurtmore crossroads (SU 944 465), *SyAS Bull*, **230**, 7
- Jones, P, 1991 A3 Milford By-pass, Surrey, Surrey County Archaeological Unit unpubl evaluation rep
- , 1998 Towards a type series of medieval pottery in Surrey, *SyAC*, **85**, 211–38
- Morris, J, 1975 *Domesday Book: Surrey*, Chichester: Phillimore
- Needham, S, 1987 The Bronze Age, in Bird & Bird 1987, 97–137
- Seager Thomas, M, 2008 From potsherds to people: Sussex prehistoric pottery, collared urns to post-Deverel-Rimbury, c 2000–500BC, *Sussex Archaeol Collect*, **146**, 19–51
- Stewart, S, 2006 *The 1263 Surrey Eyre*, Surrey Record Soc **40**
- VCH 3: The Victoria history of the county of Surrey*, H E Malden (ed), London: Archibald Constable & Co

JUDIE ENGLISH