



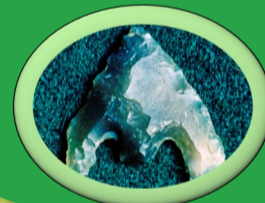
The Late Prehistoric period is generally seen as the transitional era from the Stone Age to the coming of the Romans (AD 43), mainly comprising the Bronze and Iron Ages.

The early Bronze Age is closer to the Late Neolithic in many practices, although burials underground earthen mounds, known as round barrows, are a particular development which is prominent in the area's surrounding heathland. Although flintwork does continue, the development of metalwork is perhaps most characteristic of the period, which can be seen in the many ritual deposits of bronze weapons and ornaments likely associated with the local barrows. From about 1,500 BC, field systems and open settlements developed, with round-houses becoming the main form of domestic building, and by the end of the period, organisation into tribal territories began.

By the beginning of the Iron Age (around 700 BC), farms, homesteads and roundhouses were now scattered across the landscape, and hillforts – such as at Caesar's Camp, Farnham or St John's Hill, Worldham – attested to elite control of the tribal territories. These centres served multiple functions, from marketing and exchange to livestock movement, and animal husbandry and agriculture were particularly important aspects, with much of the forest cleared by the end of the Iron Age period. The mining of iron ore – which was used in the making of both tools and weapons – also characterises this era, as does the introduction of coinage by the 2nd century BC, attesting to the overall wealth and thriving industry which no doubt appealed to the Romans who would come to set their sights on the island.

2,500 BC - AD 43

Late Prehistoric Farnham



Hidden Heritage

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



Farnham & District Museum Society



FARNHAM INSTITUTE CHARITY

BRONZE AGE

The extraction of usable metal from oxidized iron ores was much more difficult than copper and tin melting, as iron requires specially designed furnaces, before forging took place. The iron could be strengthened however it reheated with charcoal, as the carbon content was transferred to made of iron/bronze to strike an image, or by pouring the molten metal into moulds. The images were varied (e.g. horses, wheels, spirals and wheat sheafs), with a mix of metals – mainly gold, but also silver and copper – used.

Copper was the first metal to be created into tools – in the 'Copper' or Chalcolithic Age (4500-3500 BC) – before it was discovered that additives like tin created a harder alloy. Bronze – typically 90% copper and 10% tin alloy – was cast in the Early Bronze Age, and its lower melting point made it slower to set and easier to pour into moulds. By about 1000 BC (later Bronze Age), lead was also included, making the alloy even stronger.

Moulds for artefacts (in this case a sword) are placed on the clay hearth and heated by bellows to the appropriate temperature (1000°C); meanwhile, the molten bronze is heated in a crucible and then poured into the moulds, where after about an hour it can be chased and polished to remove imperfections © James Dilley



Evidence for crafting with metal in the Farnham area in the Bronze and Iron Age is not as certain as other periods, as the only artefacts so far discovered are of the finished items – coins or axe-heads – rather than the furnaces and tools such as crucibles which would indicate local manufacturing.

Metal-working

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.farnhammuseumsociety.org.uk
- The Farnham Society - farnhamsociety.org.uk
- 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
- Butser Ancient Farm - www.butserancientfarm.co.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

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IRON AGE

2400 BC - Elements of the Beaker culture arrive from the continent, including new burial rites, objects and technology such as copper and gold metal-working. 2300 BC - Amesbury Archer dies near Stonehenge. 2200 BC - Bronze is first made by mixing copper and tin and gradually replaces stone as the main material for tools. 2200-1600 BC - Wessex Culture and period of elaborate barrows and ceremonial landscapes. 1800 BC - First industrial-scale copper mines are dug in Ireland and Wales. 1500 BC - Flat-grave cremation appears, alongside open settlements, the laying out of fields and round-houses. 1500-800 BC - Lighter 'socketed' axes appear and prove to be effective wood-working tools. 800 BC - First hillforts began to be built. 800 BC - Iron-working techniques reach Britain. 200 BC - Gold and bronze smiths create highly skilled decorative objects (e.g. Battersea Shield and Waterloo Helmet). 150 BC - Coins developed amongst elite of SE England. 100 BC - Iron bars began to be used as tokens of wealth. 55-54 BC - Julius Caesar made two expeditions to Britain as part of his Gaulish campaign. 50 BC - Large oppida settlements such as Silchester and Colchester begin to emerge. AD 1 - South-east Britain was controlled by powerful leaders with close contact with the Roman Empire. AD 43 - Britain invaded by Roman Emperor Claudius.

Some further sources

Darvil, T. (2010) *Prehistoric Britain* (Routledge World Archaeology).
 Hunt, R. (2002) *Hidden Depths: an archaeological exploration of Surrey's Past*
 Oakley, K.P. et al. (1939) *A Survey of the Prehistory of the Farnham District*
 Parker Pearson, M. (1993) *Bronze Age Britain* (English Heritage)
 Pollard, J. ed. (2008) *Prehistoric Britain* (Blackwell Studies in World Archaeology)

Historic England publications (many intro guides as online PDFs) - historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/
 Surrey Prehistoric Group - www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/groups/prehistory/ (includes lithic reports and fact sheet)

Timeline

The Late Prehistoric period

Want to learn about



Danebury Hill Fort, Hants, c. 550-100 BC

the Late Prehistoric period?

The prehistoric period in Britain is such a substantial length of time – almost 100,000 years – that it is difficult to visualise some of the more complex themes and cultural changes which took place very gradually over time. The last two thousand years of prehistory – largely the Bronze and Iron Ages – can be easy to generalise, and many important developments – besides merely the introduction of metallurgy – also took place, although these are often overlooked at the expense of the Stone Age and Roman era either side. Looking at Late Prehistory in the primary curriculum helps develop a good chronological understanding of British history however, laying the foundations for later periods covered in Key Stage 2. It is also a great way to focus on object-based learning through its wealth of visual and artefactual material, and depending on the activities chosen, lessons can also easily tie into Art, Drama and English work.

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

- Historic England's educational resources - historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education
- BBC Teach Iron Age Britain - www.bbc.com/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-iron-age-britain-animation/z42d7nb
- Ancient Craft Three Age Experience - www.ancientcraft.co.uk
- Schools Prehistory and Archaeology - www.schoolsprehistory.co.uk
- Young Archaeologists' Club - www.yac-uk.org

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

Compare objects of stone, iron and bronze, discussing the pros and cons of each

Activity ideas:

Create Celtic designs (replicate artefacts from 3D material such as cardboard where you can)



Design and build an Iron Age roundhouse (model or 'playhouse' size)

Layout a timeline (to scale!) of the prehistoric period up to the modern day



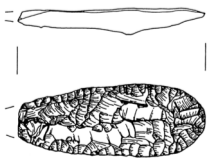
Late Prehistoric Farnham

2,500 BC - AD 43

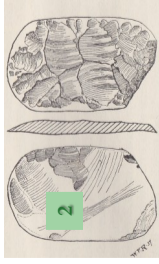


Bronze Age flint implements

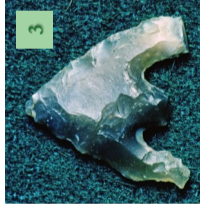
Although material from the Early Bronze Age in the Farnham area is rare, the number of flint objects from this period – which were common and continued in use despite the invention of metallurgy – suggests more sites did once exist, possibly destroyed from centuries of later cultivation.



1 Early Bronze Age plano-convex flint knife found in 1936 on Burnt Hill (© A Graham)



2 Polished knife from the Ranges barrow site, near Bricksbury Hill, which has since been destroyed by gravel digging (A Survey of the Prehistory of the Farnham District © Canon O'Farrell)



3 Barbed and tanged arrowhead found east of Frensham, like many collected as surface finds in the Tilford and Frensham area (Photo by D Graham)

Bronze Age barrows

Burial mounds known as round barrows are one of the site types which are assumed to have once been common in the region, with a small number dated from the flint implements found nearby. There is evidence for a group of bowl barrows – the most common form of round barrows – at the Ranges, near Bricksbury Hill, Charles Hill, east of Crooksbury, and Frensham Common, amongst other sites.



4 Aerial photo of ploughed-out barrow in the landscape (flints) and restoration of barrows in 1996 on Kings Ridge, between the Great and Little Ponds on Frensham Common (Photos by D Graham)



5 Trench section from Warren Hill barrow, Frensham Common, showing its alternating bands of white sand and leafy organic material (Photo by D Graham)



6 Heathland barrow at Thursley Common, once assumed to have been a natural sand dune, where excavation revealed its turf construction, environmental evidence showing it had been made in a clearing, and a possible pit burial (bottom right) (Photos by D Graham)



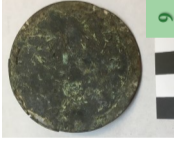
7 Early/Middle Bronze Age vessel from Dippetball, possibly a burial furnishing (A W G Lowther)



8 Urnfield (cremation cemetery) from Stonesfield-Snailsynch, where several bucket urns were found, the largest (right) in situ in the gravel pit and later reconstructed (© Surrey Archaeological Society (SyAS), A W G Lowther)



9 Snailsynch bronze disc, possibly a belt ornament from burial (© SyAS)



10 Late Bronze Age cremation with urn found inverted over the remains in 1930 during gravel digging at Junction Pit, possibly once covered by a barrow mound (A W G Lowther)

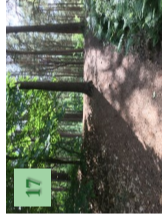


8 Late Bronze Age penannular ring from Cromdall (Photo by B Wood)

Iron Age earthworks

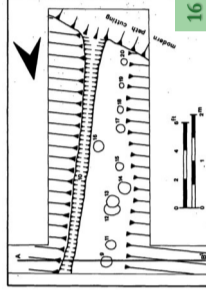
One of the monuments we most associate with the Iron Age are earthworks known as hillforts, which first appear from the 9th century BC but become more common by the 6th c. They usually consist of a rampart and a ditch and are regarded as communal centres of permanent occupation, able to be defended in the instance of war.

Though prominent, the area's hillforts are dated by their form alone, rather than any finds.

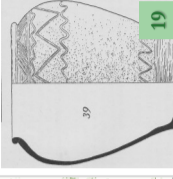


17 Bank and ditch of the single-bank (univallate) Soldier's Ring, Crooksbury

16 Rampart and ditch at western end of Caesar's Camp, whose excavation in 1970 revealed its phased change from single to multi-vallate form and features such as a palisade (© N R Hall, Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society)



18 Iron Age burial urn from Stonesfield pit, containing calcined bones (© SyAS)



19 Belgic pottery from the Bourne Mill Spring site (A W G Lowther)



20 Iron Age brooch from Fairfield (Drawing by A Graham)



21 Iron Age banjo enclosure (and Bronze Age cross-dyke) at Ichen Wood, Hampshire (Photo by D Graham)

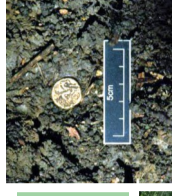
22 Artist's impression of Iron Age settlement at Tongham showing various roundhouses and ditched enclosures (© Surrey County Archaeological Unit)



Belgic gold coins

In terms of artefacts, the Iron Age coinage struck from precious metals are certainly the best known from the area, in particular the gold coins known as staters. The earliest coins are thought to not have been used as currency but rather as items to be exchanged between the local rulers or even buried in the ground as gifts to the gods.

The largest hoard from the area is from north Farnham and consisted of nine Gallo-Belgic gold staters, the first two of which were found by a detectorist in the 1980s and the remainder during the small-scale excavation which followed.



23 Excavation of gold staters from the Farnham area (Photo by David Graham)



24 Gold stater of Atrebat type B and dating to 55-45 BC, showing an abstract head of Apollo (left) and dismounted horse over an eight-spoked wheel (right) (Photo by David Graham)

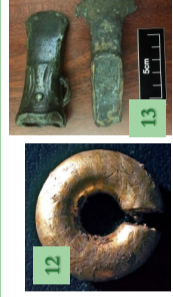
Late Bronze Age hoards

Objects of bronze – the material from which the period gets its name – are known from a handful of hoards and stray finds in the area, most of which are late in date. Unlike those of the Bordon area, the Farnham hoards are small and lack evidence for ingots.

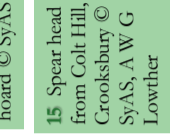
11 Early flat axe from Bagmoor (Photo by D Graham)



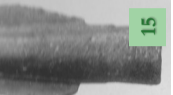
13 Socketed and palstave axe from the Crooksbury Hoard, found in 1857 (© SyAS)



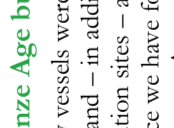
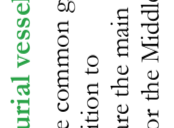
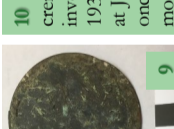
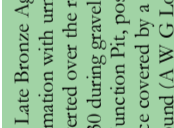
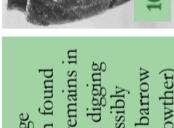
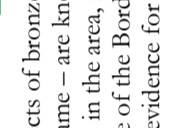
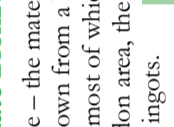
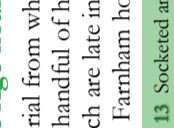
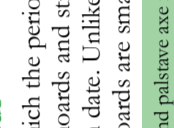
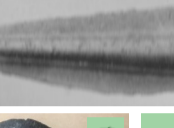
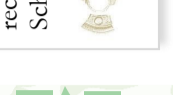
14 Hankley Common hoard (© SyAS)



15 Spear head from Colt Hill, Crooksbury (© SyAS, A W G Lowther)



12 Late Bronze Age penannular ring from Cromdall (Photo by B Wood)



Metal Detecting
If undertaken responsibly, detecting can make important contributions to our archaeological knowledge. Detectorists are reminded that it is illegal to trespass – remember all land has an owner! – and to record finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and their local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO). For more on the Code of Practice, see www.finds.org.uk

