

High Weald AONB Unit Report

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Case study report: **Townhouse Farm, Ardingly**

Field Systems in the High Weald

High Weald AONB Unit

March 2017

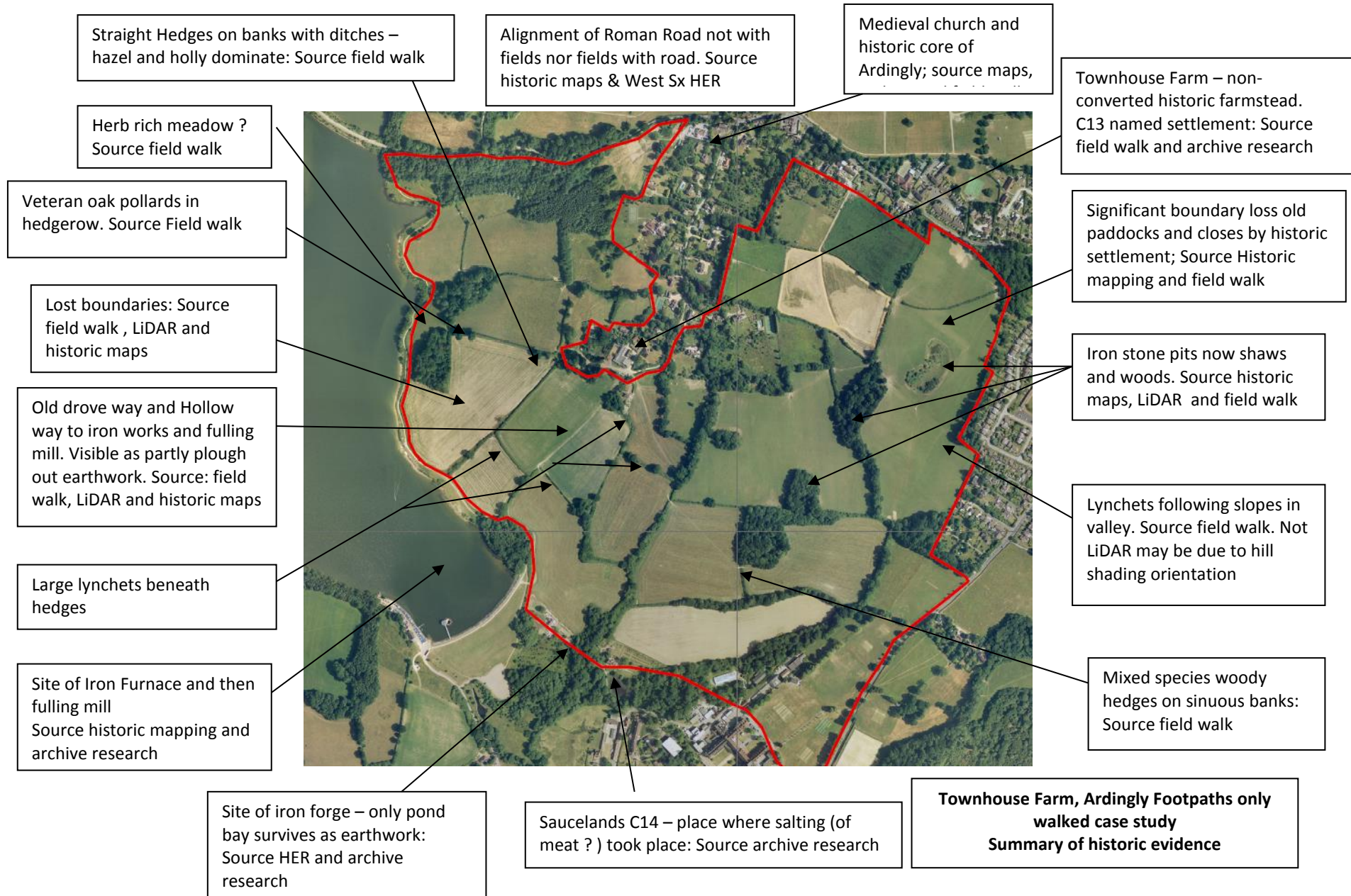


Historic England



The High Weald: an outstanding medieval landscape

Results summary



**Townhouse Farm, Ardingly West Sussex,
Summary of Findings from desk top historic maps and Field walk on public rights of way**

- * No evidence was found of any relationship between the present field pattern and the line of the Roman Road, which suggests that the former had fallen out of use prior to the fields being laid out.
- * The old droveway into Ardingly (a former grazing common) survives as a hollow way and a ploughed out track. It linked the historic core of village to the fulling mill and iron furnace
- * The hedges are on large banks, those crossing the slopes have substantial lynchets in places. The species component is dominated by hazel and holly suggesting that the hedges were managed for browse (see Early Case Study
- * The intensive use of the fields for crops has removed any sign of heritage features such as old plough headlands some lynchets of former field boundaries due survive as ploughed out earthworks
- * The fields to the east of the historic core around the church have been modified, the small valley contains lynchets as well as iron stone pits and stone quarries
- * Townhouse Farm is a historic farmsteads located on a droveway which has not yet been converted to full residential use
- * Some important veteran oak trees in hedges
- * The good footpath network radiating from historic core made access to most of the fields relatively easy

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1. Introduction

Townhouse Farm is located in West Sussex, sitting in between the village of Ardingly to the east and Ardingly reservoir to the West. This site comprised small paddocks enclosed from larger fields, mostly pasture but some arable (under maize which was still being harvested). A map of the extent of the farm — which, as the entire farm was surveyed also illustrates the survey area — may be seen below.



2. Method

This site was accessed by footpaths only. It took two people one day in October to cover the area of Townhouse Farm. Individual forms were filled for each field and a map of the site was annotated using a key.

A further day was spent by a historic environment specialist researching published material and West Sussex Records Office on line material.

As with Earlye Farm, the boundaries and the fields together with archaeological features were photographed to provide a visual record of the site (see the photos below).

Thistly pasture field grazed by sheep



Boundary bank bordering a wood



Individual forms were filled for each field and a map of the site was annotated using a key.

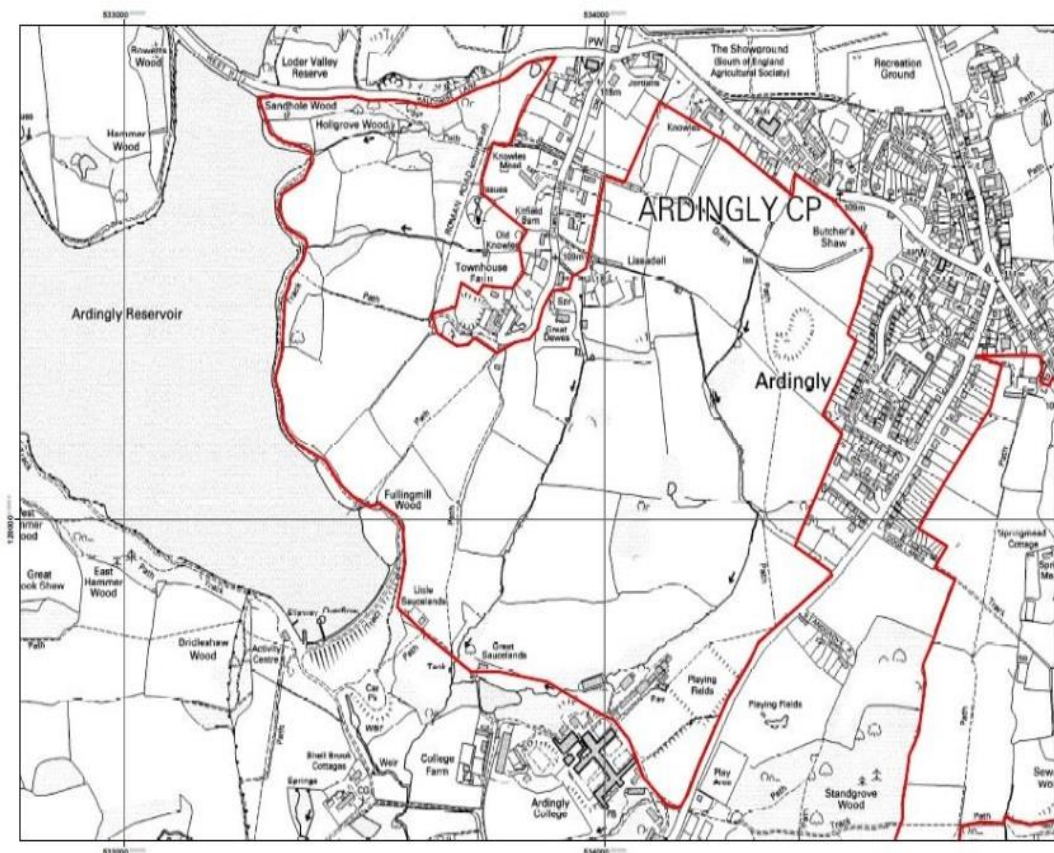
3. Challenges & limitations

The draw-back with this site using footpaths only was that only where the right of way followed a boundary, could it be recorded in full. Elsewhere boundaries were only recorded at the end where the right of way intersected.

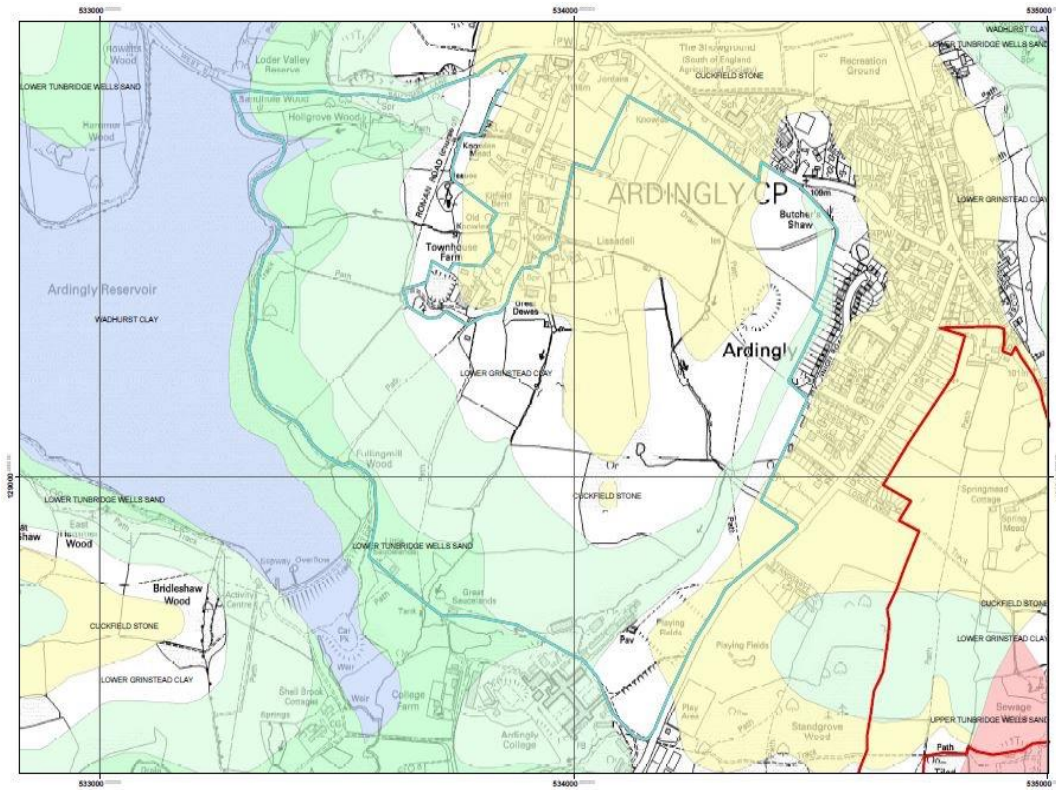
As with the previous two case studies (Benenden and Earlye), the bracken undergrowth hid a lot of the boundary structure, making recording difficult.

4. Modern maps

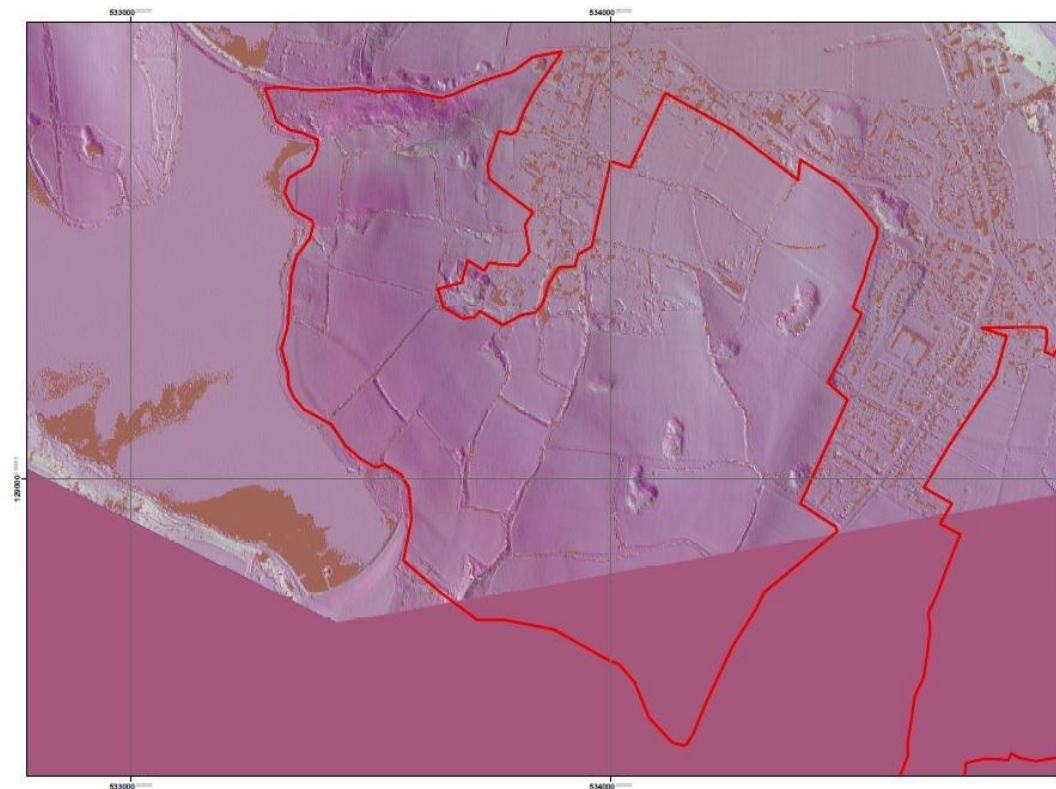
Ordnance Survey 10k



Geology

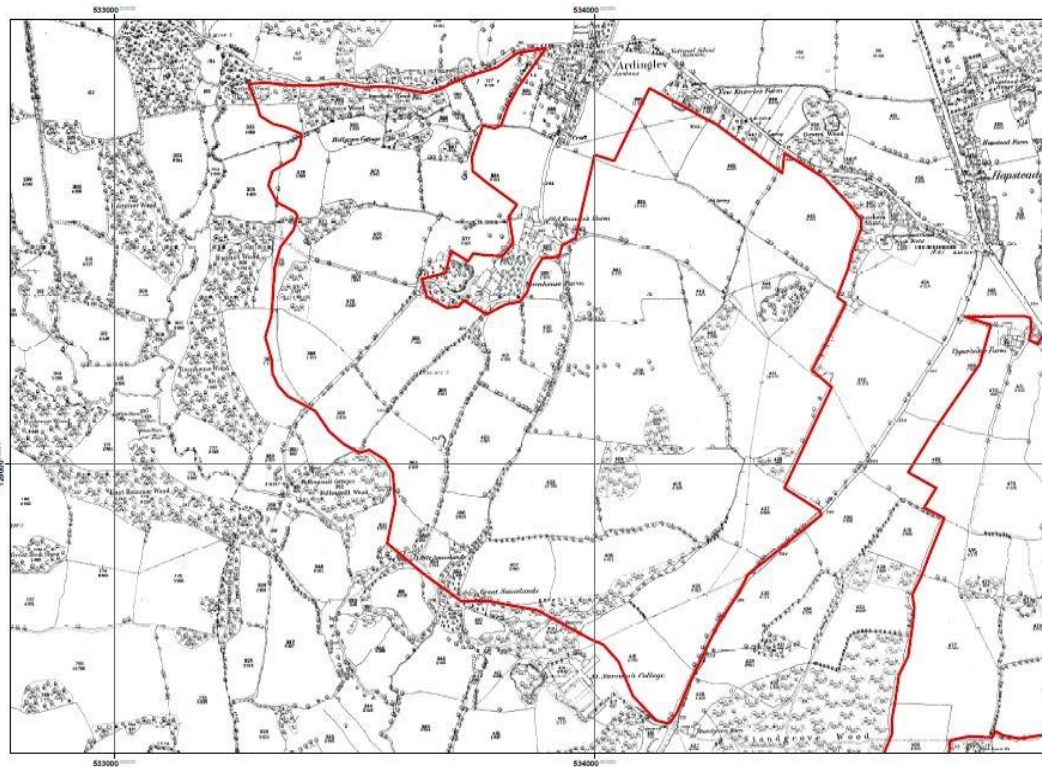


LiDAR

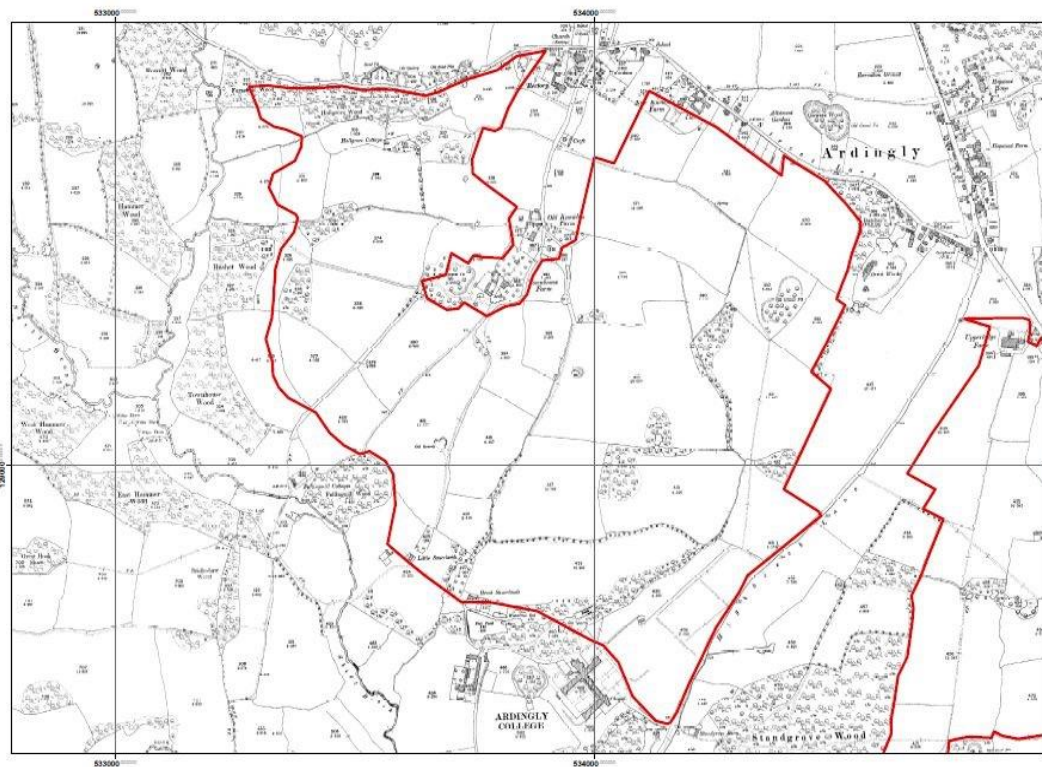


5. Historic maps

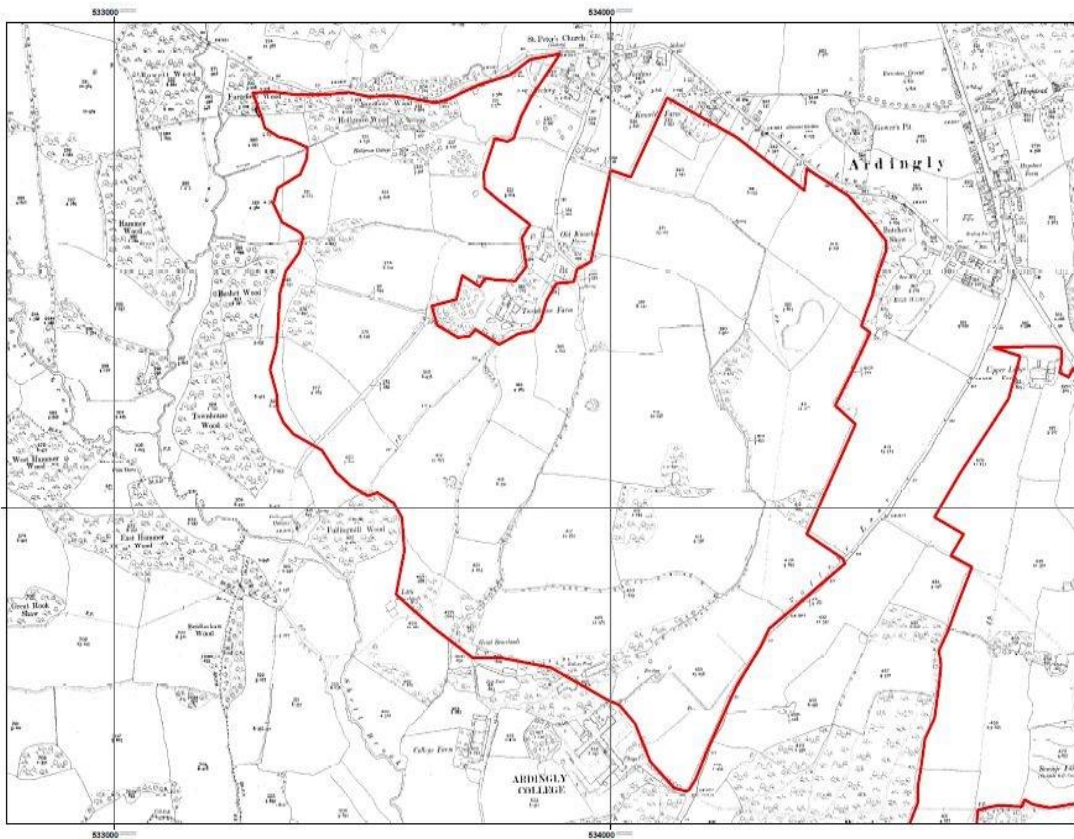
Epoch 1



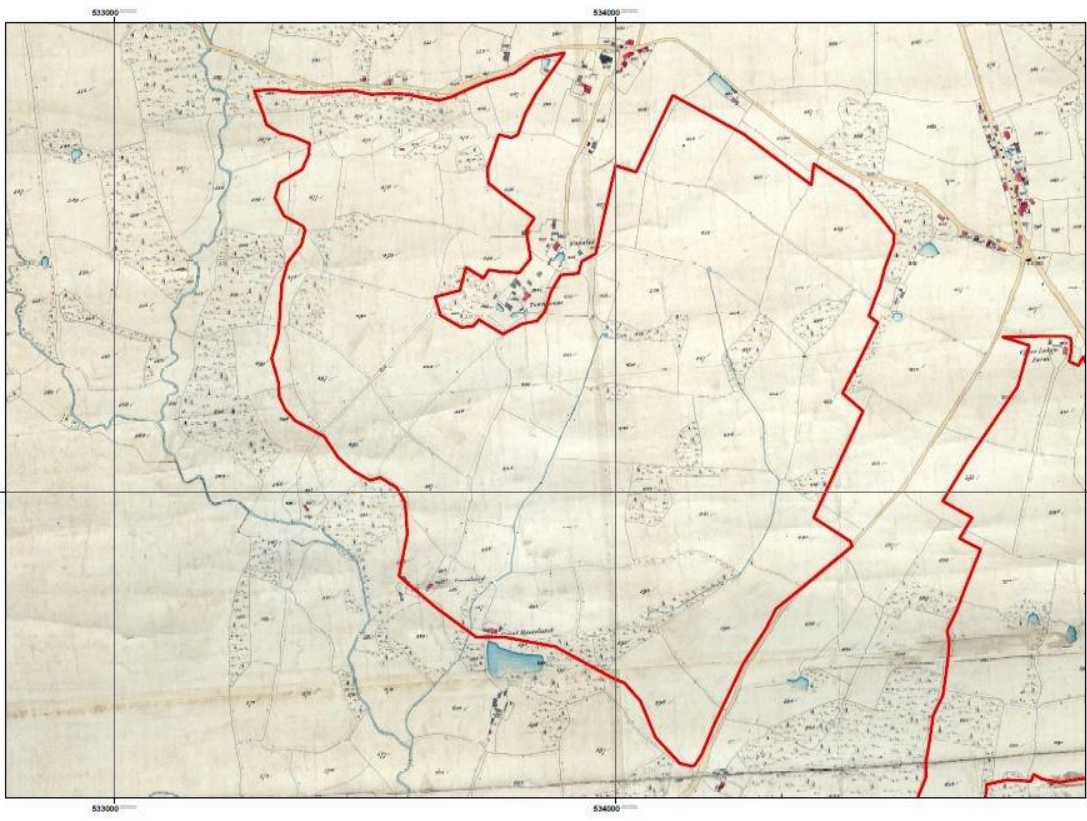
Epoch 2



Epoch 3



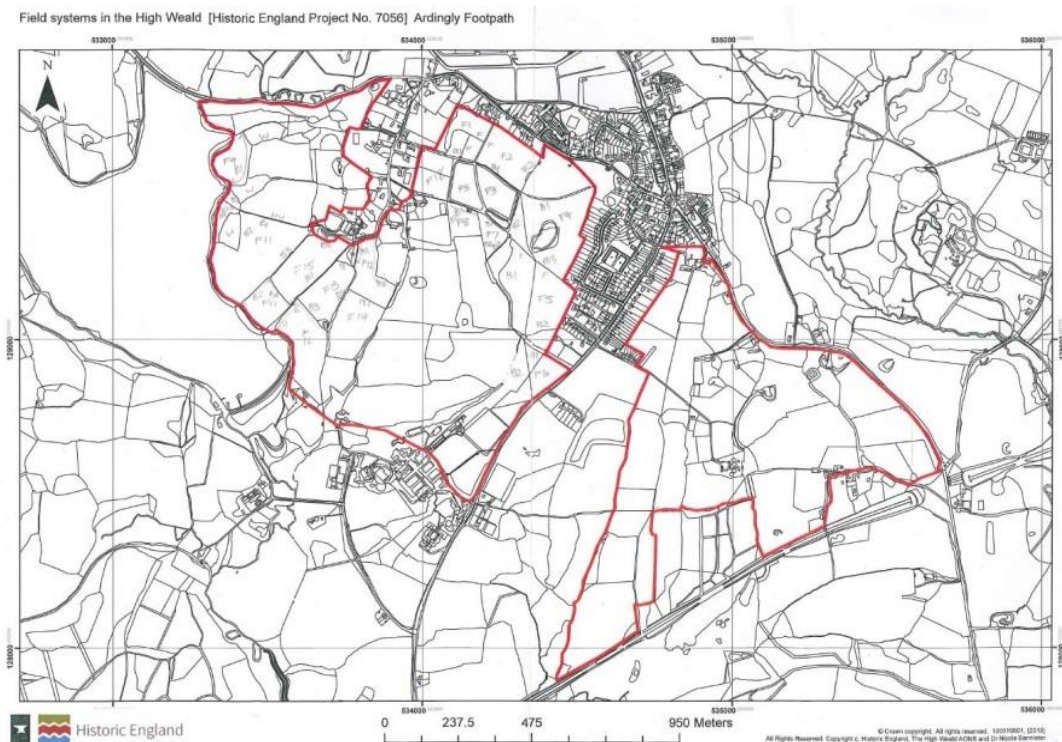
Ardingly tithe



Ordnance Surveyors Draft (OSD)



6. Field survey map & forms



F1

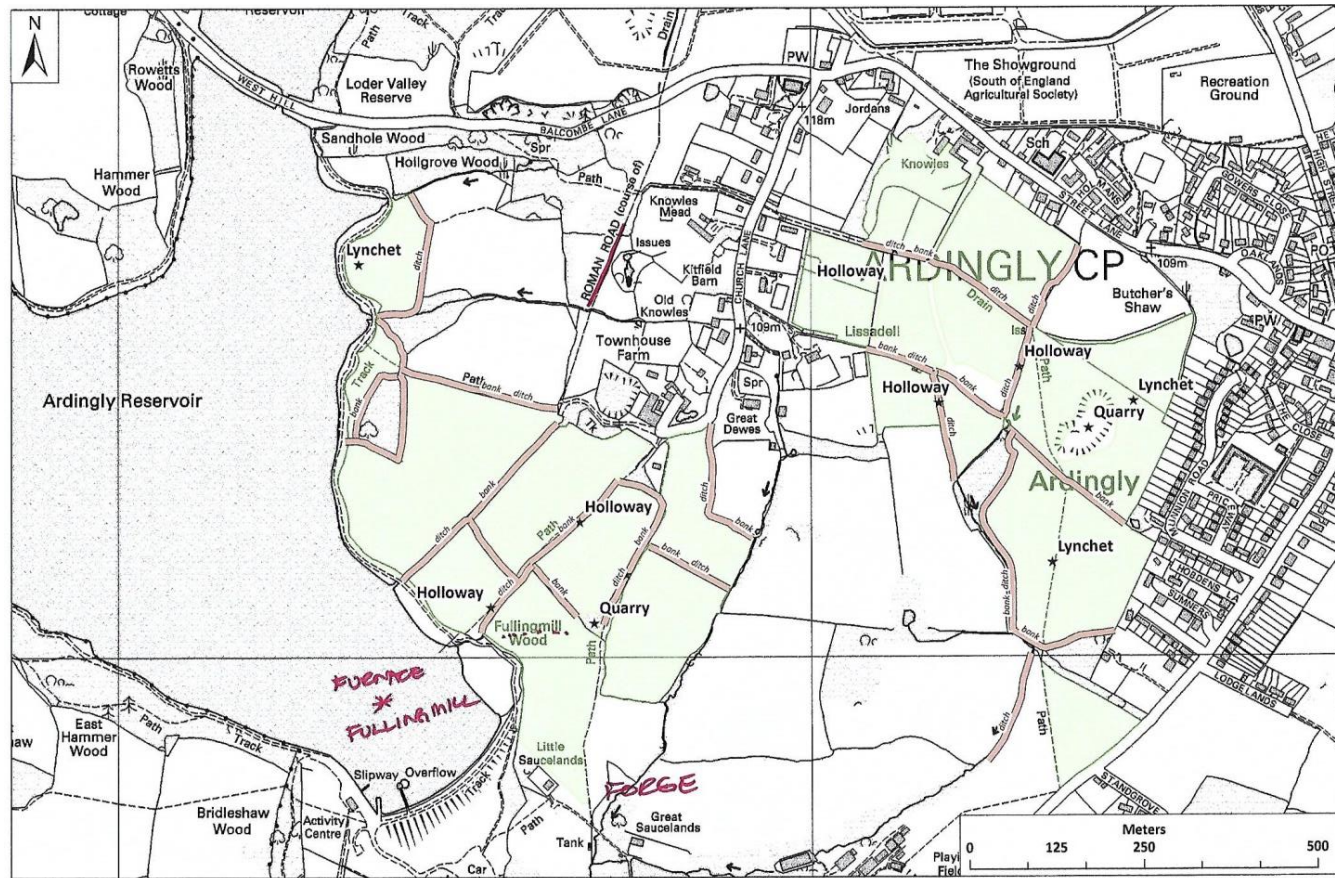
HE 7056 Field Systems in the High Weald
Recording Form - Revised August 2015

| | | Boundary number | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Polygon no. | | B1 | | | | | | | |
| Type | Hedge | | | | | | | | |
| | Hedge with trees | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Wooded Hedge | | | | | | | | |
| | Woodland edge | | | | | | | | |
| | Shaw | | | | | | | | |
| | Stone Wall | | | | | | | | |
| | Stone faced bank | | | | | | | | |
| | Fence | | | | | | | | |
| | Ditch | | | | | | | | |
| | Balk | | | | | | | | |
| | Watercourse | | | | | | | | |
| | Uncertain | | | | | | | | |
| | Function | Agrarian | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Farm | | | | | | | | | |
| Parish | | | | | | | | | |
| Recreation | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Admin | | | | | | | | | |
| Regional Admin | | | | | | | | | |
| Road | | | | | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | | | | | |
| Morphology | Straight | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Curved | | | | | | | | |
| | Sinuous | | | | | | | | |
| | Dog-legged | | | | | | | | |
| | Inverted S | | | | | | | | |
| | Discontinuous | | | | | | | | |
| | Other - specify | | | | | | | | |
| Relationship to adjacent boundary | Boundary No | B1 | | | | | | | |
| | Abutting | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Overlying | | | | | | | | |
| | Overlaid | | | | | | | | |
| | Cut by ditch | | | | | | | | |
| | Gate | | | | | | | | |
| | Other - specify | | | | | | | | |
| | Uncertain | | | | | | | | |
| Relationship to slope | Across slope | | | | | | | | |
| | With slope | | | | | | | | |
| | No slope | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Undulating | | | | | | | | |
| | Uncertain | | | | | | | | |
| Orientation Of boundary | N/S | | | | | | | | |
| | E/W | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | NE/SW | | | | | | | | |
| | NW/SE | | | | | | | | |

7. Results

7.1 Features recorded

Figure 1. Map of features recorded in the field survey



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Table 1. Features recorded in the field survey.

| Townhouse Farm | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Archaeological features | |
| <i>Type</i> | <i>Number recorded</i> |
| Holloway | 6 |
| Lynchets | 3 |
| Quarry | 2 |
| TOTAL | 11 |
| Boundary types | |
| <i>Type</i> | <i>Number recorded</i> |
| Fence | 1 |
| Hedge | 5 |
| Hedge with trees | 10 |
| Shaw | 5 |
| Wooded hedge | 5 |
| Woodland edge | 5 |
| TOTAL | 31 |
| Earthwork features | |
| <i>Type</i> | <i>Number recorded</i> |
| Lynchets bank | 11 |
| Symmetrical bank | 6 |
| Symmetrical ditch | 13 |
| Lynchets ditch | 2 |
| Bank with 'uncertain' symmetry | 3 |
| Ditches with 'uncertain' symmetry | 4 |
| TOTAL | 39 |
| Field shapes | |
| <i>Type</i> | <i>Number recorded</i> |
| Irregular fields | 7 |
| Irregular rectangular fields | 1 |
| Rectangular fields | 7 |

Summary stats:

- 18 individual fields were surveyed at the Townhouse Farm study site
- Therefore, there are $11/18 = 0.61$ archaeological features per field surveyed.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Square fields | 2 |
| TOTAL | 17 |
| Boundary furniture | |
| <i>Type</i> | <i>Number recorded</i> |
| Gate | 1 |
| Markers | 3 |
| Stile | 6 |
| TOTAL | 10 |

8. Archive Report

Introduction

This case study used only the public footpaths to access the fields and from which boundaries were recorded. Only a day has been spent researching the site, using known material, published sources, the on-line archive catalogue and without a visit to the West Sussex Record Office. The summary below highlights the different lines of enquiry which can be pursued to bring together the history of the site.

Early History

The West Sussex HER records the line of a Roman Road from the coast towards London. It passes to the west of Ardingly village and the fields and their boundaries do not show any alignment towards it or the road to the fields.

There is no manor of Ardingly itself; the lands formed part of the Manors of Ditchling and South Malling together with the Manor of Plumpton and the Borough of Lewes, claiming territory as well (Godfrey 1928). Wakehurst to the north however was a manor in its own right.

The name Ardingly means the clearing of the people of Earda (Mawer and Stenton 2001, 251). It is an early folk-name Saxon settlement in the Weald where agricultural estate (which became manors) around the edge of the Weald held grazing pastures. These grazing pastures in turn became settled as farmsteads with a village developing post-conquest.

The area of the case study comprises fields belonging to or three farms, namely – Townhouse Farm and Great and Little Saucelands all of which lay within the Manor of Ditchling and probably originated as yardlands and virgates carved from the former grazing pastures.

Townhouse is first recorded in 1279 as a personal name Alice de la Toune in the Assize Rolls and again in 1327 with Thomas atte Toune in the Subsidy Rolls (Mawer and Stenton 2001, 254). The name tun means a farmstead and possibly an isolated one separate from other settlement (ibid 553).

Saucelands is thought to be first recorded in 1327 with Thomas atte Sauserye again from the Subsidy Rolls. It is thought to mean a place where salting (of meat ?) was carried out in medieval times (ibid 254). The split between Great and Little may be the result of partible inheritance or the expansion of the main farm through the spread of woodland clearance or assarting.

A record of who was holding these farms is recorded in The Book of John Rowe –steward to Lord Abergavenny (Godfrey 1928).

Post-medieval history

Saucelands is located on a stream or small river tributary of the River Ouse which provided power for both an iron furnace and a forge. The furnace was excavated ahead of the building of the reservoir in 1976 which flooded the meadow lands of Saucelands and Townhouse.

The Forge was first recorded in 1571 in the parish registers of Ardingly and operated by Ninian Challenor in 1574 and was still in use in 1695 (BL Add Mss 33156; Cleere and Crossley 2001, 309). The forge was then re-used as a fulling mill as shown on the OS 25" first edition with Milling Mill Cottages and Fullingmill Wood

The site of the furnace is still evident with part of the pond bay forming the road to Great Saucelands. It is recorded in 1597 when Francis Chalenor erected the furnace (Holgate 1927).

Historic Map Evidence

OSDs

The earliest map used is the Ordnance Surveyors Draft Drawings. The map records the fulling mill, Town House, Great Saucelands (as two settlements) and Little Saucelands (un-named). A road links Town House with the fulling mill with a thick shaw linking Town House with Saucelands (this is the line of the stream see below). The fields are shown with the regular radiating pattern that is seen today.

Tithe Map

Great and Little Saucelands are shown as is the cottage by the fulling mill. The field pattern is complete and set within it are small shaws or coppices particularly on the eastern side.

OS Epoch 1 OS 25" First Edition surveyed c.1870 published c. 1890

On the east side the field pattern is beginning to be broken up with the removal of some internal boundaries. The remaining boundaries are shown as thick hedges dotted with trees. A new track is shown running WSW from Town House towards Rushet Wood.

OS Epoch 2 OS 25" Second Edition surveyed c.1870 revised 1890 published c. 1909

The removal of the field boundaries on the eastern side has continued into the twentieth century leaving features like clumps of trees and quarries isolated within the fields. The field pattern to the west has remained intact.

LIDAR

It is useful for this site that the Weald Forest Ridge LiDAR survey extended this far. It shows that the field boundaries are set on top of substantial banks. On the western side there are several large pits and quarries which may have been the source of the iron stone for the iron works. [CHECK with GEOLOGY MAP] On the west side where field boundaries have been removed in more recent times the banks are still visible as is the line of the old hollow way to the fulling mill from Town House.

REFERENCES

Cleere, H. and Crossley, D. 2001. *The Iron Industry of the Weald*. Merton Priory Press.

Godfrey, W.H 1928. *The Book of John Rowe Steward of the Manors of Lord Abergavenney 1597 – 1627*. Sussex Record Society vol 34.

Holgate, M.S. 1927. *Sussex Inquisitions*. Sussex Record Society vol 35.

Mawer, A. and Stenton, F.M. 2001. *The Place-names of Sussex*. The English Place-name Society. Cambridge University Press.

Extracts from

Godfrey, W.H 1928. *The Book of John Rowe Steward of the Manors of Lord Abergavenney 1597 – 1627*. Sussex Record Society vol 34.

Page 6 Borough of Lewes

[In Latin] John Britt 1, 8 & 10 James Item one messuage and one parcell of land in Ardingly.

George Cheeseman one messuage ? in Ardingly ?

Page 50

14th Feb 39 Eliz 1 1596-97. Manor of Ditchling

Fol 30 Tenants with the liberte of the wood in Ardingly

John Pilbeam tenant one messuage and one virgate of land containing by estimation 100 acres called Towneland nup Mascalls

Thomas Challoner tenant? Ind called Sawceland alias Sawceryes, Rceland et Horneland

Page 238 Manor of Plumpton 1597

William Newenham for a tenement and on yard land in Ardingly called Tittinghurst

Cleere, H. and Crossley, D. 2001. *The Iron Industry of the Weald*. Merton Priory Press.

No 58 Ardingly Forge destroyed by reservoir

No 59 Ardingly Forge at Great Saucelands Farm

Primary archives

West Sussex Record Office

The Balcombe Estate TITLE DEEDS ARDINGLY. 1 messuage called Townhouse (80a) in Ardingly described as an iron forge and works from 1661 (Add Mss 44,445) demolished in 1694 (Add Mss 44,456 and also a fulling mill from 1739.

Bond

ADD MSS/44,433 10 Oct 1586

The Balcombe Estate TITLE DEEDS. ARDLINGLY. Annuity of £3 6s 8d arising out of a messuage called Townhouse. Made between John Pilbeam of Ardingly, yeo, son of Ricthard Pilbeam and Richard Cripps of Ardingly.

Conveyance

ADD MSS/44,434 23 October 1700

The Balcombe Estate TITLE DEEDS. ARDLINGLY. Annuity of £3 6s 8d arising out of a messuage called Townhouse. (a) Thomas Cripps of Eatonbridge co Kent yeo and Elixabeth Smith, his mother (b) John Holmden of Oxted co Surrey malster Consideration £65.

Bond

ADD MSS/44 438 5th March 1744

The Balcombe Estate TITLE DEEDS. ARDLINGLY. Annuity of £3 6s 8d arising out of a messuage called Townhouse. Made between Tomhas Saunders of Croyden, co Surrey gent and George Pilbeam of Croyden co. Surrey, tanner.

Settlement on the marriage of Thomas Holmden and Ann Davis

ADD MSS/44, 435 17th December 1726

The Balcombe Estate TITLE DEEDS. ARDLINGLY. Annuity of £3 6s 8d arising out of a messuage called Townhouse. (a) Sarah Cackett of Brasted co. Kent, widowe of John Holmden of Oxted, co Surrey malster; Thomas Holmden of Oxted co Surrey son of

Conveyance (Bargain and Sale) with covenant

ADD MSS/44,436-44,437 1st October 1728

The Balcombe Estate TITLE DEEDS. ARDLINGLY. Annuity of £3 6s 8d arising out of a messuage called Townhouse. (a) Thomas Holden of Oxted co. Surrey malster son of John Holmden (b) Thomas Wakeham of Worth yeo Consideration £77

Conveyance (Bargain and Sale) with covenant

ADD MSS/44,439-44,440 23rd January 1770

The Balcombe Estate TITLE DEEDS. ARDLINGLY. Annuity of £3 6s 8d arising out of a messuage called Townhouse. (a) Thoasm Wakeham of East Grinstead gent son of Thomas Wakeham of Worth (b) Carew Sanders of Croydon co, Surrey gent Consideration £105