



Case study report: **Benenden by footpath**

Field Systems in the High Weald

High Weald AONB Unit

March 2017

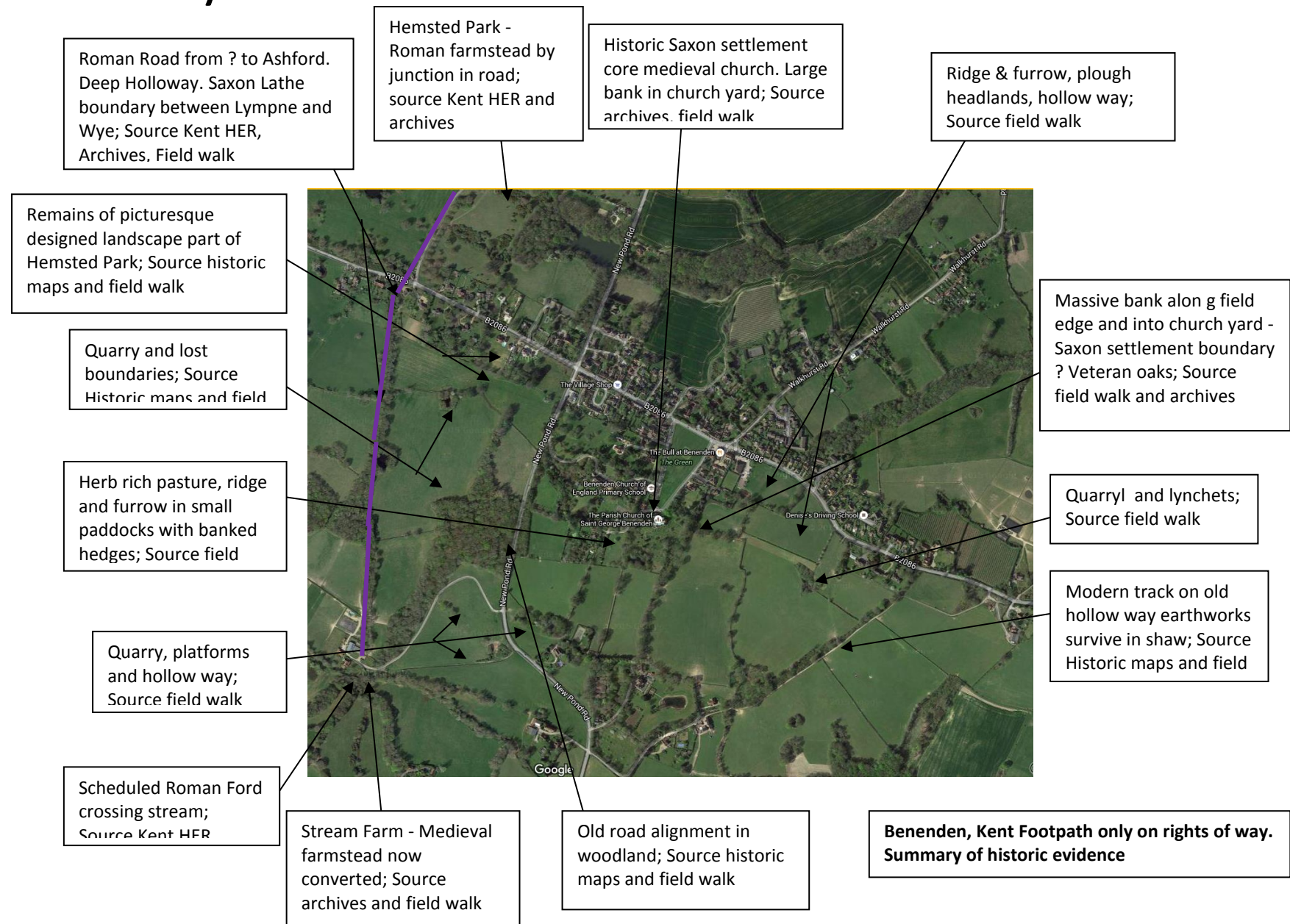


Historic England



The High Weald: an outstanding medieval landscape

Results summary



Benenden, Kent
Footpath Assessment with some detailed archive research

- * Fields orientated to line of Roman Road, some internal boundaries removed
- * Hedge mixture of hazel, holly with hawthorn of other woodland species, on banks or lynchets with silted ditches
- * Around church, fields altered but large banks suggest Saxon territory boundary close to church, ridge and furrow, plough headlands and hollow ways in the small fields close to the main ridgeway road
- * Character of a woodland landscape with a settlement
- * At north end by Roman road is evidence of designed landscapes with conifer trees and large trees in hedges and in gardens, part of C19 extension of *Hemsted Park

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1. Introduction

The Benenden footpath survey area is located in Kent south of the village of Benenden. The area surveyed is predominantly sheep grazed pasture. The red line on the map below does not define the boundary of the survey area, but the footpath route walked in order to access the fields and undertake the surveys.



2. Method

This case study method was selected to explore the degree to which features could be recorded for a given area from footpaths alone. The area to the west of the Iden Green Road (adjacent to Woodside Farm) was chosen because of its relationship with the extant Roman Road and because of its vulnerability to development pressure.

A further day was spent by a historic environment specialist researching published material and seeking information from known local historians.

The boundaries and the fields together with archaeological features were photographed to provide a visual record of the site.

View of a field on the edge of the village of Benenden



Ridge running through a pasture field near Benenden



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

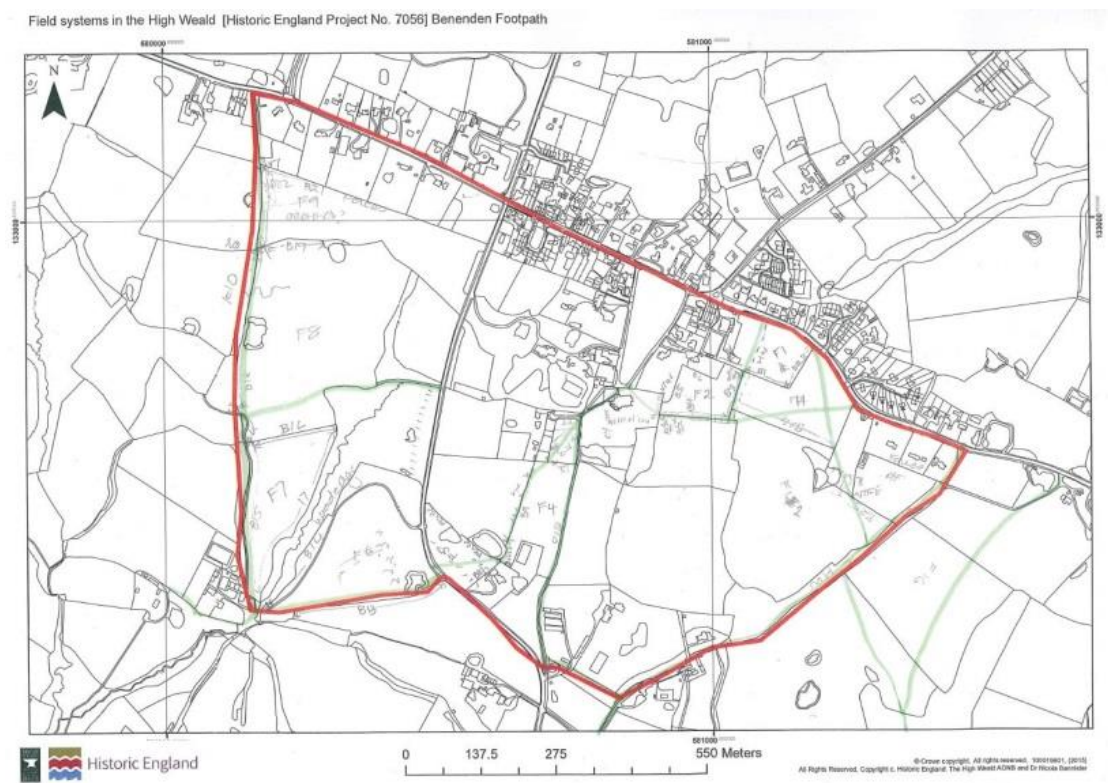
3. Challenges & limitations

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.

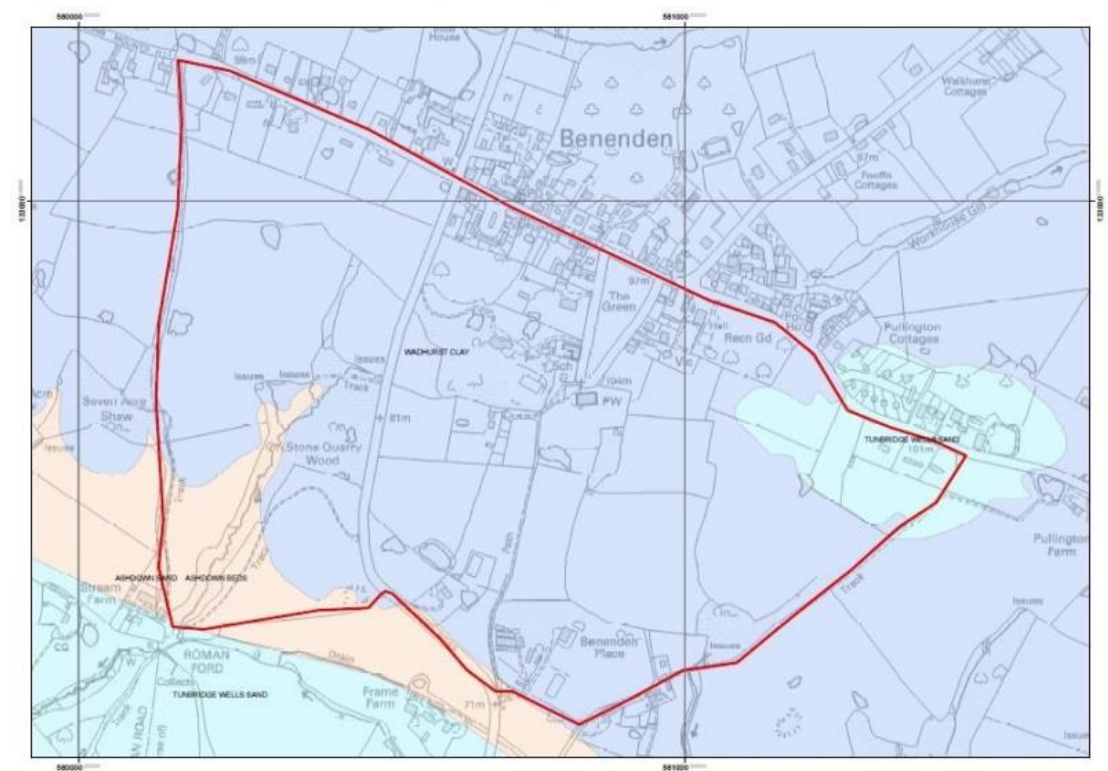
There was no LiDAR data available for this site, making the identification of archaeological features following field survey more difficult.

4. Modern maps

Ordnance Survey 10k

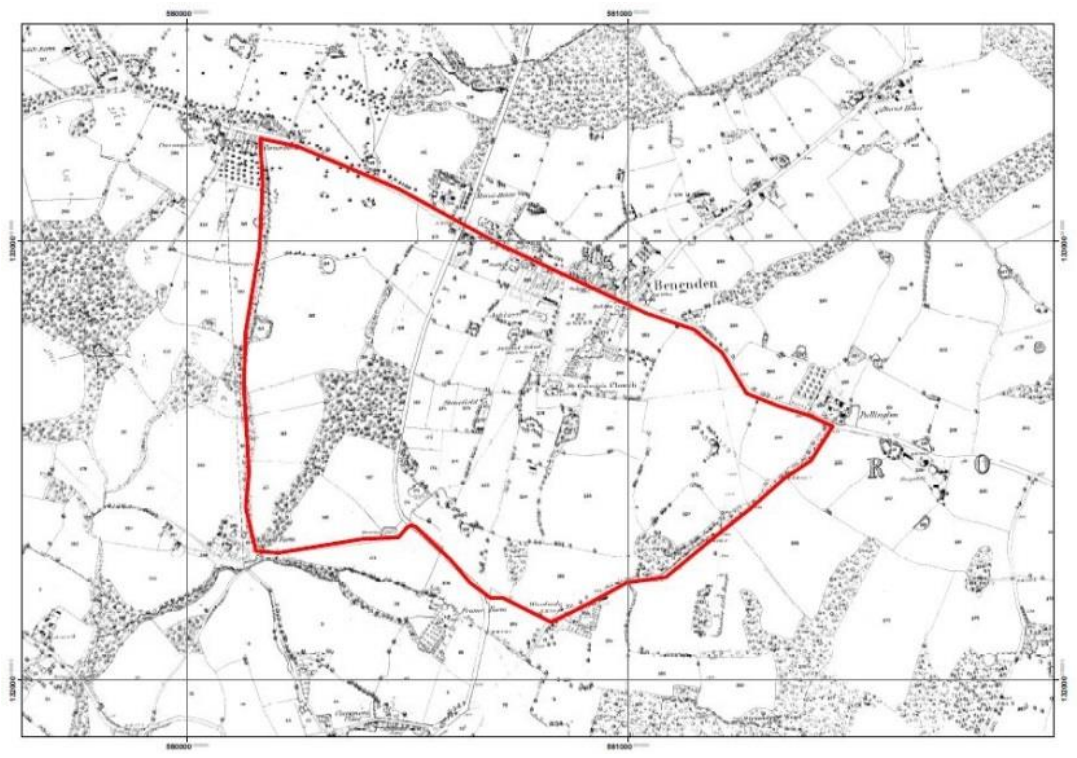


Geology

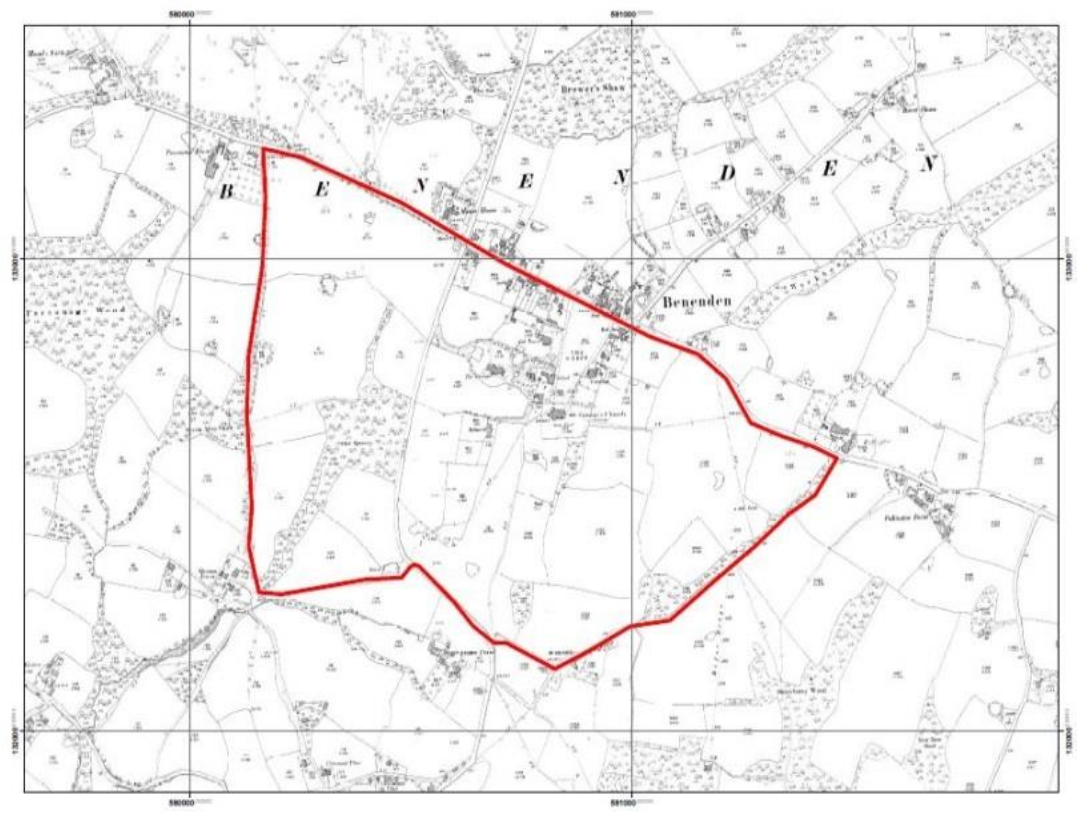


5. Historic maps

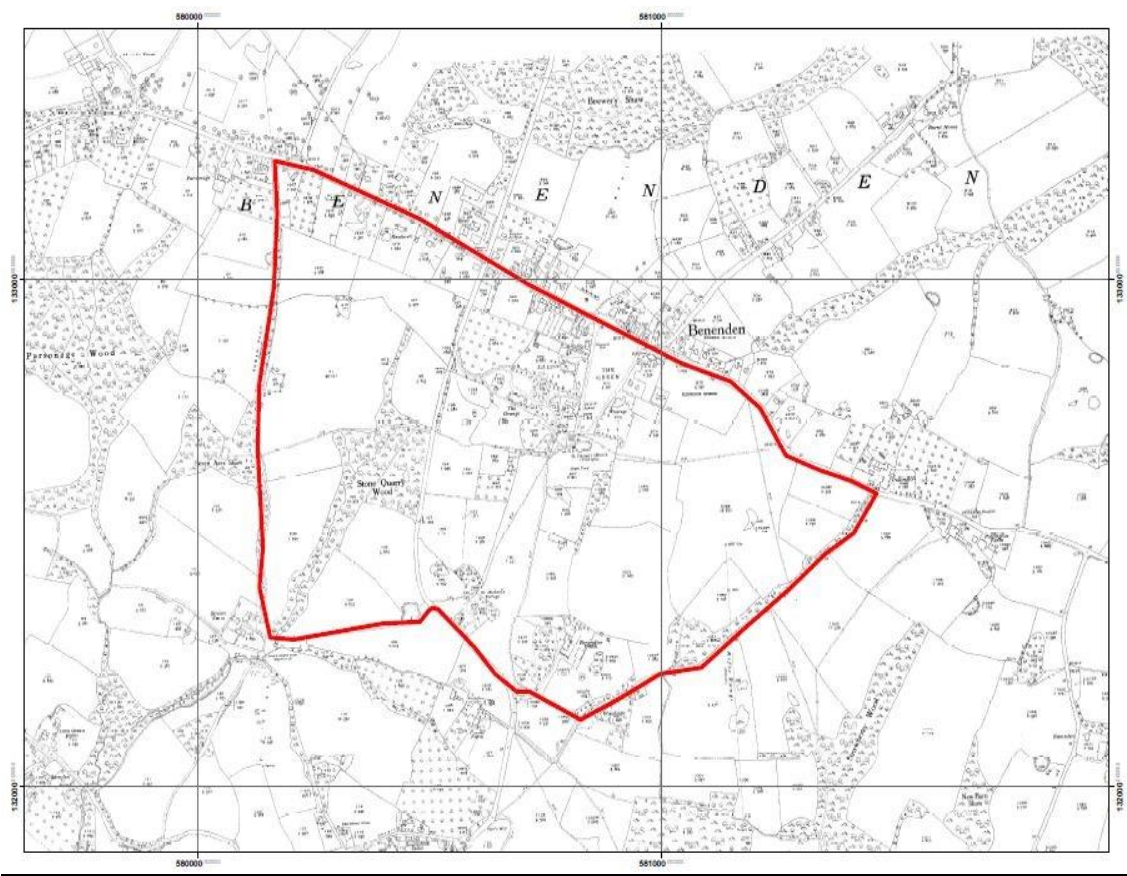
Epoch 1



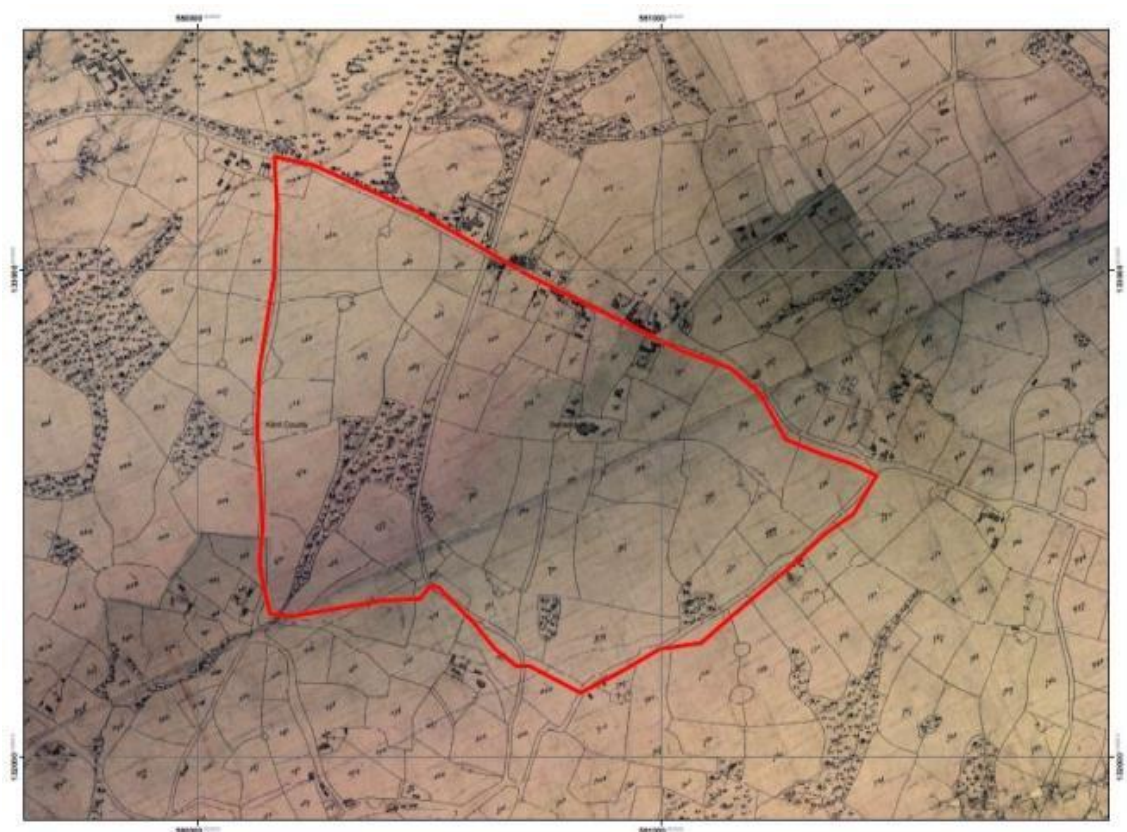
Epoch 2



Epoch 4



Benenden tithe

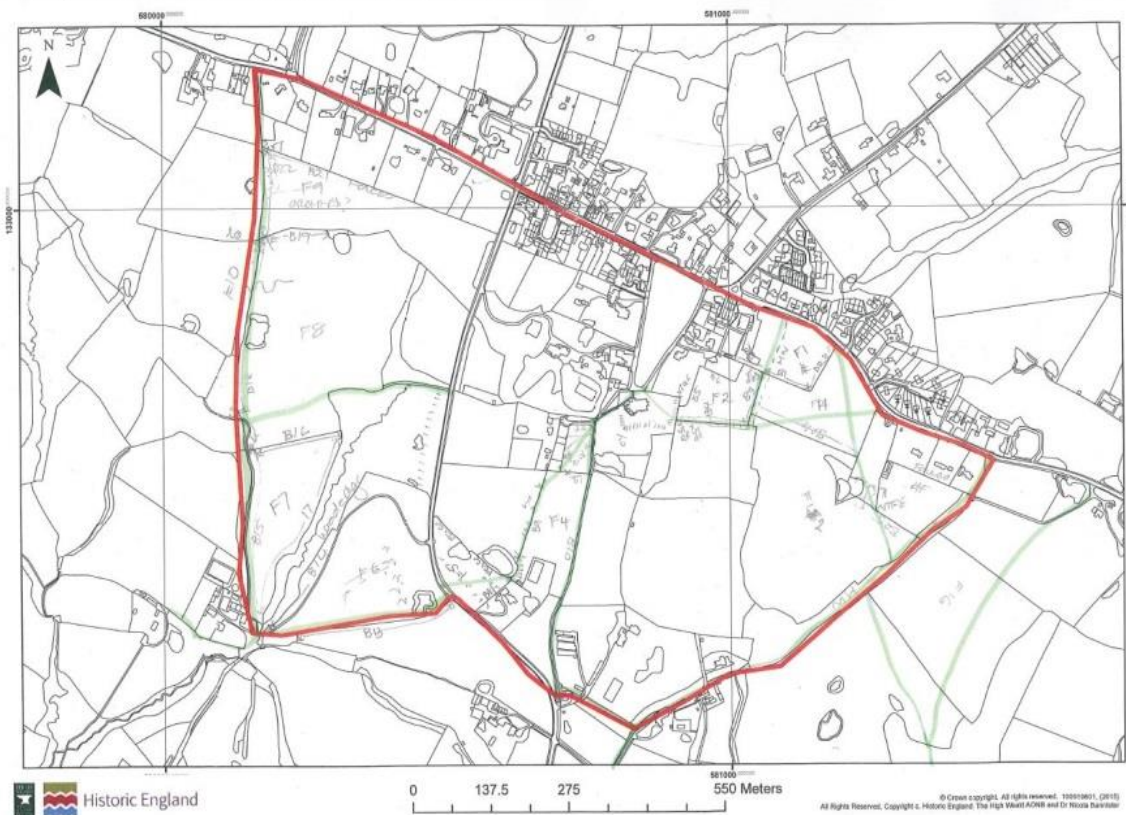


OSD



6. Survey map & forms

Field systems in the High Weald [Historic England Project No. 7056] Benenden Footpath



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

FIELD ATTRIBUTES

CASE SITE REFERENCE		SURVEY AREA	Benenden Footpath	CIVIL PARISH	Benenden	DISTRICT		COUNTY	
POLYGON NO	F1			FIELD REFID		ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH	Benenden		
SHAPE	Rectangular	Square	Irregular	Irregular rectangle	Irregular square	Curved/inverted 'S'	Other - Specify		
SIZE - visual	Small	Medium	Large	Very large					
SIZE - numerical	Present Day Ha		Present Day Acres		Historic - Tithe A-R-P		Historic - other		
ORIENTATION of Field shape	N / S	E / W	NE / SW	NW / SE	Hanging from road	Ridge	Watercourse	Settlement	Other
PHYSICAL	Geology								
	Soils								
	Topography	Ridge top	Valley sides	Valley bottom	Whole valley	Other - specify		Degree of slope	
	Hydrology	Stream	River	Canal	Artificial channel	NA			
FIELD NAMES	Historic names								
	Present names								
RATIONALISATION		Boundary Loss			Boundary Gain				
ARCHAEOLOGY	Name of feature + HER REF NO	Position in field - middle	Position in field - corner	Position in field - Side	Position in field - All	Relationship to boundary	Cut by	Adjacent to	Part of boundary
	HLC								
	HLC Type				HLC Revision				
HISTORIC ARCHIVE SOURCE		Owner		Occupier		Land use		Area	
PHOTO REFS									

F1 B2 B23

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

Historic	Pollard													
Management	Stubbed													
	Coppiced													
	Laid													
	Flailed	✓												
	Hand trimmed													
	None							✓						
Modern	Flailed	✓		✓				✓						
Management	Coppiced													
	Laid													
	Uncertain													
	None			✓										
Species	0 - 3							✓						
	4 - 6	✓		✓										
	+ 6													
	Thorn sps dom	✓		✓				✓						
	Woodland sps													
	Mixed													
	None													
	Key Species	CM PFA		QR				CM LFP						
Biodiversity value	High													
	Medium			✓				✓						
	Low	✓												
	Uncertain													
Cross ref with meadow survey														
Earthwork	Bank	✓		✓				✓						
	Size - Width													
	0 - 1.0m													
	1.0 - 3.0m	✓		✓				✓						
	+ 3.0m													
	Size - Height													
	0 - 0.5			✓				✓						
	0.5 - 1.0m	✓												
	+ 1.0m													
	Profile A/S/L	S		S				S						
	Ditch	NA		✓				✓						
	Size - Width													
	0 - 0.5m			✓				✓						
	0.5m - 1.0m													
	+ 1.0m													
	Size - Depth													
	0.0-5m			✓				✓						
	0.5m - 1.0m													
	+ 1.0m													
	Profile A/S			?				?						
	Silted			✓				✓						

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

Polygon no.		Boundary number									
Type		B1		B2		B23					
	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	B2		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										

F1
B2
B23

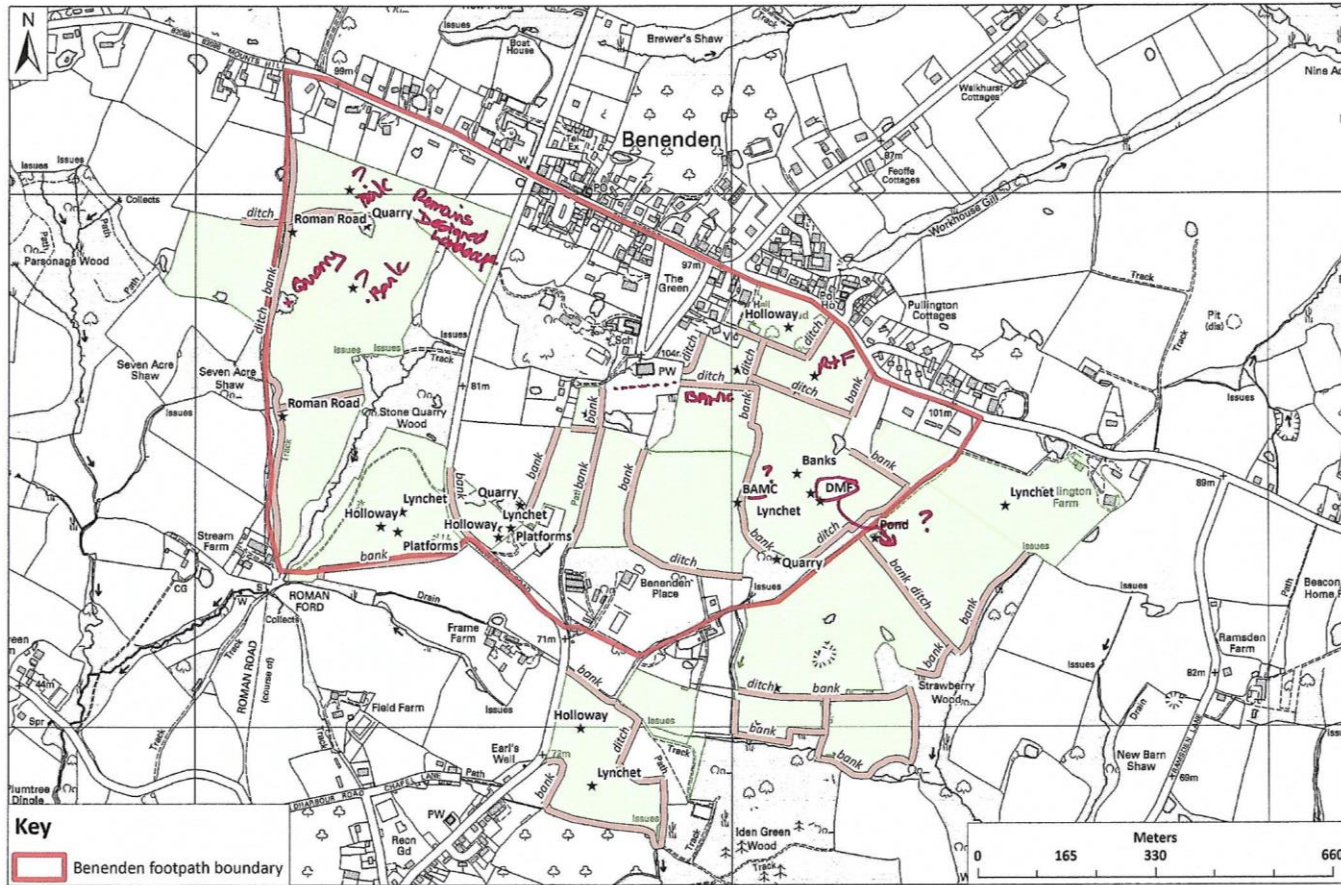
HE 7056 Field Systems in the High Weald
 Recording Form - Revised August 2015

Furniture	Gate			✓								
	Stile	✓			✓							
	Markers			✓x2								
	Stock watering											
	Creeps/smoots											
	Other - specify											
	None											
Notes				AR x2	narrow hedge separate W of road							
Photo refs												
Sketch Profile												

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.

Benenden Footpath	
Archaeological features	
Type	Number recorded
Bank	1
Holloway	3
Lynchet	2
Platform	2
Plough headland	1
Quarry	2
Ridge and furrow	1
Roman Road	2
Unknown	4
TOTAL	18
Boundary types	
Type	Number recorded
Fence	1
Hedge	11
Hedge with trees	4
Woodland edge	8
Uncertain	2
TOTAL	26
Earthworks features	
Type	Number recorded
Asymmetrical bank	
Lynchet bank	2
Symmetrical bank	13
Symmetrical ditch	9
Bank with 'uncertain' symmetry	3
Ditches with 'uncertain' symmetry	3
TOTAL	30

Summary stats:

- 12 individual fields were surveyed at the Benenden Footpath study site
- Therefore, there are $18/12 = 1.59$ archaeological features per field surveyed.

Field shapes	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number recorded</i>
Irregular fields	5
Irregular square fields	1
Rectangular fields	2
Square fields	3
TOTAL	11
Boundary furniture	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number recorded</i>
Gate	6
Marker trees	4
Stile	10
Veteran tree	1
TOTAL	21

7.2 HLC enclosure types and field sizes: a statistical analysis for the Kent parishes of Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Hawkhurst and Benenden

A statistical analysis was carried out to investigate whether there's a difference in size between a certain field type and the rest of the fields in the area of four parishes in Kent: Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Hawkhurst and Benenden. Furthermore we ran a calculation on average field sizes for both the parish of Frant and the four parishes of Kent, which is a considerably larger area. The results are compared in this short report.

7.2.1 GIS data preparation

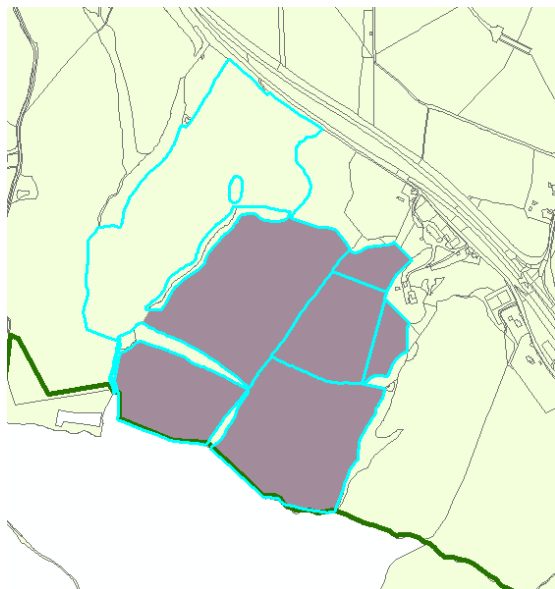
The two main GIS datasets used for the analysis are:

- Revised version of Kent HLC, which only covers the four parishes of Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Hawkhurst and Benenden
- Sussex HLC
- MasterMap data

Both HLC datasets were created by unionising individual MasterMap polygons. This means that the HLC data shows polygons that are groups of merged individual fields. However, to be able to do the analysis we have to go one step back again and acquire the individual MasterMap polygons again. This was done by extracting the individual polygons from MasterMap that were located within a certain HLC field type (e.g. all MasterMap polygons within aggregate assart field type) for both the parish of Frant and the four Kent parishes. As Kent HLC seems to line up with Mastermap correctly and Sussex HLC does not (possibly since a more recent version was used), the same procedure as the Frant parish was carried out to select and

extract all HLC types and Mastermap polygons situated within these HLC polygons. However, some MasterMap polygons covered a larger area than the actual HLC polygon did. So after selecting and extracting the MasterMap polygons, some polygons had to be split and the outlying parts were deleted (Figure 2).

Figure 2.. Selected (blue) MasterMap polygon overlaps HLC (purple) polygon, but also covers an area which is not part of this particular HLC type. Such polygons had to be split.



All Mastermap polygons within the parish boundaries of Frant and within the Kent HLC extent were selected and exported as a separate shapefile. This Mastermap data was next filtered and cleaned up, because we don't want to use polygons in our calculations that are for example built areas, woodland, etc. This could be achieved by using the Metadata guidelines of the field boundary data:

(Y:\HWAONB GIS data\Internal Data\Key Components\Master Files\Character component metadata\Unit outputs\Metadata\Field & Heath)

This document states that the codes 10111 and 10056 (which represent natural environment and general surface) were selected from the field 'FEATCODE' and the rest of the polygons were removed from the attribute tables. Then a selection based on polygon size was applied and the polygons smaller than 1000 m² were removed from the table. Also polygons with size over 20 000 m² were removed. In addition, all features containing the word 'trees' in the field 'DESCTERM' were removed. This was done to ensure that only polygons that are most likely to be fields remained.

CALCAREA	CHANGE	DESCGROUP	DESCTERM
26.113	2004-08-04 Position	General Surface	
128.006488	2004-08-04 Position	General Surface	
14144.019064	2004-08-04 Position	Natural Environment	Coniferous Trees; Coppice Or Osiers; Rough Grassland; Scrub

Next, all HLC field types within the parish boundaries were selected by attribute from the Sussex HLC and/or Kent HLC and exported as a separate shapefile Y:\HWAONB GIS Data\Working\Tessa2015\Data\Frant_HLC_MasterMap_extractions.

Then, all individual Mastermap polygons within each field type were selected with the 'Select by location' tool. The selections were checked and corrected manually. These selections were exported as a shapefile as well. The Mastermap polygons were manually checked to see if every polygon was an actual field and no built up area or wooded area. This wasn't done for Kent HLC however, as this would take too much time.

7.2.2 Present day average field size: Kent parishes

The results for the Kent parishes are shown in table 1. If we then calculate the average field size with exclusion of modern field amalgamations, the average field size decreases from 2.24 ha to 2.10 ha.

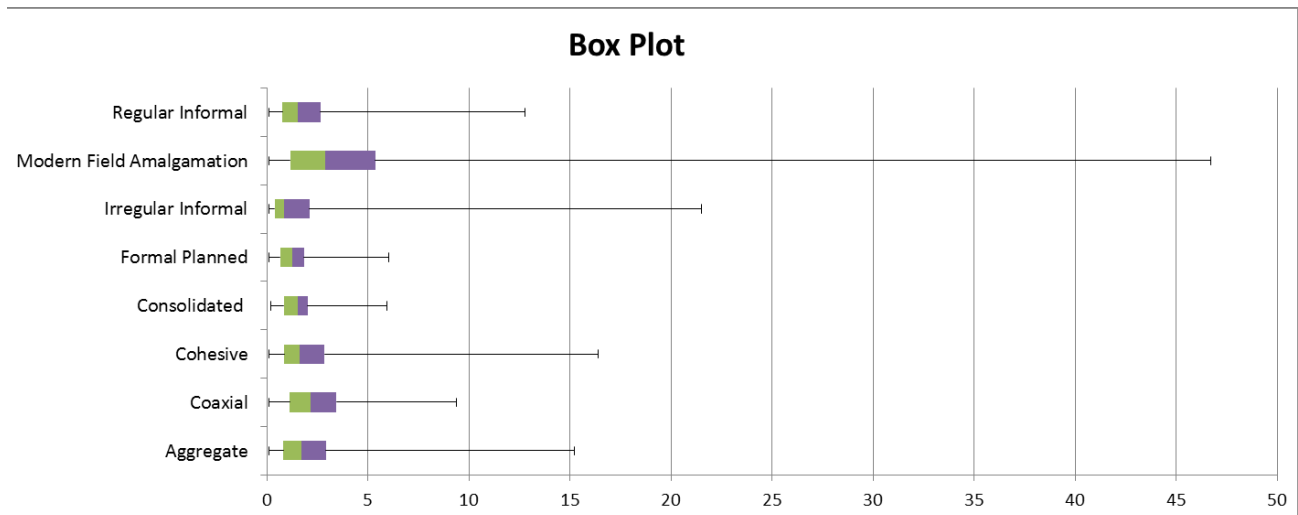
Table 2. Kent parishes present day average field sizes per field type and % of fields of total area of enclosures within these four parishes.

Parish	HLC Field type	Average size (ha)	Total area (ha)	Number of polygons	Field type % of total area of fields
Kent parishes	Aggregate assarts	2.2430	998.15	445	19
	Cohesive assarts	2.5300	172.04	68	3
	Coaxial fields	2.1505	858.06	399	16
	Consolidated strip fields	1.7248	50.02	29	1
	Formal planned	1.5138	139.27	92	3
	Irregular Informal	1.7461	130.96	75	2
	Modern field amalgamation	3.9984	2155.11	539	41
	Regular informal	2.0395	795.39	390	15
Sum			5299	2037	
Average		2.24			
Average area of all fields but modern field amalgamations		2.10			

7.2.3 Mann-Whitney U Test for two independent samples

To investigate if the field sizes for each different HLC field type are significantly different from each other a statistical analysis was carried out. The values of every different field type are graphed into histograms to see how the data are distributed. The data were also plotted in box plots to enable quick visual assessment regarding distribution (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Distribution of field sizes by HLC field type.



Assumptions of normality are in this case quite unrealistic as the boxplots and histograms have shown that our data is not normally distributed. This box plot shows us how our data is distributed and show the symmetry of our data, which is often a sufficient substitute for normality. As all box plots are not particularly symmetrical, we can't assume normally distributed data.

As it is not restricted by any assumptions about the nature (e.g. distribution) of the population(s) from which the samples have been taken, the Mann-Whitney U test is a good alternative for our data analysis (Ebdon 1977, 57-58). In our case, the populations of which the samples are drawn are:

1. Aggregate assarts– or any of the other field types - of Kent HLC within the High Weald boundaries.
2. The rest of the field types of Kent HLC located within the High Weald boundaries: coaxial fields, cohesive assarts, consolidated strip fields, formal planned fields, irregular informal fields, modern field amalgamations and regular informal fields.

With this test we are trying to find out whether there is a significant difference between the size of aggregate assarts and all other types of fields within the extent of the Kent HLC within the High Weald boundaries. Our null hypothesis is:

H_0 = the average value of each different field size are not different from each other.

In other words: There is no difference between aggregate assart field size and the overall mean of the rest of the field types except aggregate assarts. Our alternative hypothesis is:

H_1 = the means of the different field sizes are significantly different from each other.

The test was carried out by installing the Real Statistics Resource Pack for Excel 2010 (<http://www.real-statistics.com/free-download/real-statistics-resource-pack/>). Using the Real Statistics Excel functions, all parameters could be easily calculated, as listed in table 1. Since it is a two-tailed test: test against a non-directional alternative hypothesis: $H_1 : X \neq Y$. So the value of U needed to be calculated for the test is the smaller of U_x and U_y .

It should be noted that in the Mann-Whitney U test the null hypothesis can only be rejected if the calculated value is *less than or equal to* the critical value at the chosen significance level (Ebdon 1977, p.

61). The outcomes are either to reject our null hypothesis and thus to accept our alternative hypothesis or vice versa. This means that there is a significant difference between the size of aggregate assarts and all other HLC field types or the other way around. The same calculations were carried out for the different field types of which the outcomes are:

Table 3. Mann-Whitney U test results.

Field type	Field type size is significantly different from the overall	
	Yes	No
Aggregate assarts	Yes	
Cohesive assarts	Yes	
Formal planned fields	Yes	
Irregular informal fields	Yes	
Modern field amalgamations	Yes	
Regular informal fields	Yes	
Coaxial fields		No
Consolidated strip fields		No

8. Archive research

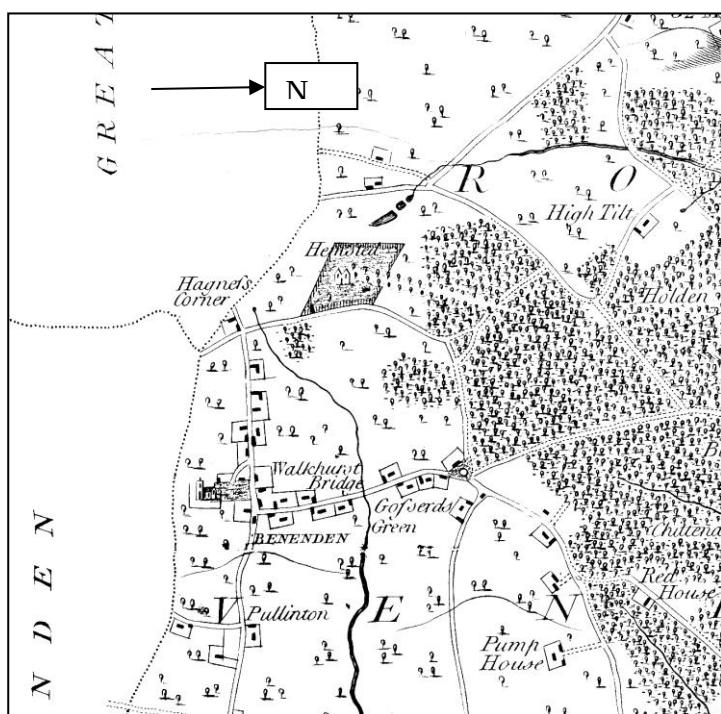
Benenden is a medieval village situated on the edge of the High Weald AONB. Settlement in the parish dates back to the Roman period. The landscape of Benenden village and the surrounding parish has been shaped by the processes of human interaction with environment over thousands of years to create the historic landscape character we see today. A Bronze Age palstave axe was found at the site of Benenden Hospital indicating human activity here over 3000 years ago. The Hospital lies close to an old routeway following one of the high ridges that characterise this part of the High Weald.

Evidence at Farningham Farm in the adjacent parish of Cranbrook has been found for Roman ironworking organised by the “Classis Britannica” or the Roman Fleet. There is recorded evidence for Roman settlement at Hemsted the junction of two Roman Roads, one from Rochester and one from Ashford the RB settlement at Westhawk Farm to Hastings. However it was in the Early-medieval period [AD 450 – D 1066] that the landscape of Benenden began to take on its present character.

The Weald was divided into large ‘commons’ attached to Jutish agricultural estates in north and east Kent. The commons were used for seasonal grazing but were gradually broken up into dens or swine pastures attached to the parent manors on the periphery of the Weald. Eventually temporary farmsteads became permanent ones taking their names from the ‘dens’ and enclosing fields from the swine pastures in order to cultivate. The name Benenden, like nearby Biddenden is a ‘folk-name’ meaning the *swine pasture for the Bynni people* (Wallenberg 1934, 347). These folk names represent an early phase of Saxon settlement in the Weald probably 6th to 8th century AD (Witney 1976, 70-71). Benenden belonged to the Manor of Bilsington in the common of the lathe of Lympe. Hemsted (or the ‘homestead’ Wallenberg 1931, 341) lay within the common of the lathe of Wye. Again this is an early recorded den and indicating early established settlement, possibly a continuation of the Roman settlement on the junction of two Roman roads. The division between the lathes was continued when the lathes were divided into hundreds with the boundary between that of Rolvenden and Selbrittenen traversing the area south of the ridgeway road.

The den of Benenden (which developed into the village of Benenden and its immediate environs) is thought to have been a large swine pasture located in what was to become the middle of the parish and centred on

the cross way between the east-west ridgeway route (along which the medieval village developed) and the north-south Rochester to Hastings Roman Road (Pollard and Strouts 2005, 57). A church, recorded in Domesday Book, was founded in the den of Benenden before 1066 to provide spiritual welfare to the scattered farmsteads across the parish. Before 1066 it was held by a Saxon Osgard from King Edward. The fact that Benenden manor is a rare example of a Wealden settlement recorded in Domesday suggests that it was already fairly independent of its parent manor on the outskirts of the Weald and thus well-settled. Small farmsteads would have been established as the land was enclosed from the wood and wood pasture. The medieval village of Benenden grew up around the church which became the focus for ecclesiastical and secular activity, in particular fairs and markets. The church was appropriated as part of the possessions of nearby Combwell Priory (in Goudhurst) before 1370 (Hasted 1797, 182).



Edward Hasted, an early commentator on the Kent landscape describes the parish as being situated *mostly on high ground, much more so than most of the adjoining country, which consequently makes it more pleasant.... the northern boundaries of it.* (Hasted 1797 173). He also refers to this junction of the Roman Road with the ridge way route as 'Hagner's Corner'.

In the medieval period the village of Benenden comprised a small scatter of farmsteads and cottages, along the ridgeway route, with a cluster around the church and green. Apart from some estate buildings and modern small-scale infilling, the village of Benenden has remained little altered over the centuries. To the east of the village is the old Manor of Benenden. In the C12 it became the practice to construct

water-filled moats around the main manorial farmstead and both the manor for Benenden and Hemsted were moated. Most were not only a status symbol but were constructed as a supply of fish as well as a form of local defence, during periods of political instability.

Surrounding these small farmsteads were the fields, paddocks, meadows and woods. To the south of the ridgeway road these fields have remained fairly intact, but to the north the gentrification of Hemsted manor, begun with the enclosure of the deer park in the Tudor period followed by the landscaping and enlargement of the park in the C18 and C19 has swept away the medieval fields to replace them with a designed landscape.

Footpath case Study Area

This includes an area which is being considered for housing allocations [SALLY Check ?].

It is into this historic medieval landscape of small wooded hedged fields, gill woods and small scattered farmsteads that a large-scale housing development is proposed as part of Tunbridge Wells Site Allocations Development Plan Document. The site called Latters Toll is located in the area of medieval fields to the south of the ridgeway route. Here the fields respect the Roman road coming up from the south, suggesting that they were enclosed when the road was a prominent and well-used landscape feature. To the west and located closer to the village is the present road from Iden Green. This route follows the higher ground and cuts across the field patterns as it reaches the ridgeway route. Witney suggests that this a medieval drove which developed closer to the village in order to service the community. The map evidence and field evidence suggests, that this route is C17 or early C18 in origin and was laid out when the condition of the old Roman route had become too difficult to pass. Today it is a deep hollow way which would have been

impassable in winter. The route was altered again in the mid C19 when Hemsted Park was enlarged. From the mid C19 the small fields were gradually enlarged by the removal of some of the internal boundaries, the north-east field was landscaped and planted to ornamental trees when the carriageway from the park and lodge were constructed to provide a continuation of the picturesque landscape for those coming in and out of the southern entrance of Hemsted Park.

The medieval fields, have a formal layout close to the settlement but those close to the woodland edges are more irregular suggesting they were later clearance from the woodland. Parsonage Wood is wet and contains stone diggings within it. ? Shaw is also a wet gill wood, but with extraction pits and old banks running through it.

Apart from some loss of internal boundaries and the realignment of the north-south roads, this area of Benenden has remained little altered. The area is close to the centres of medieval and earlier settlement associated with the Roman and Saxon routeways. Settlement has always been small-scale and dispersed along the routes and this historic character remains today.

The Roman road then became the alignment of a lathe boundary between the two Saxon agricultural estates of Wye and Lympne (Pollard and Aldridge 2008). Settlement in Benenden is small-scale and the present village is aligned along the ridgeway route extending from the church to the east.

The historic landscape character of this area is essentially of a palimpsest of small medieval fields aligned and respecting the Roman and ridgeway roads, overlain by a post-medieval road, and with C18 stone and marl extraction, and C19 gentrification.

Between 1777 and 1840 at the north end of this area, some of the field boundaries were removed to create an instant park land effect. This appears to have coincided with the realignment of the park entrance on to the ridge way road away from Manor Farm. The objective being that as people accessed Hemsted Park from the ridge way road, a parkland vista was seen on both sides, essentially extended the designed landscape into the wider farmed landscape. The alignment of the 1777 boundaries is visible on OS Epoch 1 as lines of mature trees, the parkland vista developed with additional tree planting. Today remains of these parkland trees (surviving conifers mostly) can be seen in the gardens of the ribbon-development of the village along the road. By circa 1860 many of the internal boundaries in this area had been removed as part of the wider claim by the park on the landscape.

The route of the foot-path site included on the east side part of Woodside Farm (see below) but on the west the fields which abutted the line of the Roman Road through Benenden. The footpath route crossed the lands which historically formed part of Frame Farm, Ginders (Farm) [Is this Woodside today ?] belonging to the Rev. D Curtis and Benenden Manor Farm (which became part of the Hemsted Estate in the C18 and was owned in circa 1840 by Thomas Law Hodges). Full details of the fields are given in the accompanying terrier to the 1777 Estate map by Joseph Hodkinson (KHLC P20/27/1 & P20/27/2). The terrier was only partly transcribed by E. Pollard. A full transcription is needed to accompany the Estate Map.

Edward Hasted gives a brief account of the ownership of Frame Farm in his History and Topographical Survey of Kent (Vol VII, 174). Francis Motley Austen was the owner in 1797.

Woodside Farm – field recording of boundaries

Woodside Farm is a relatively modern farm created from lands which formed part of the Hemsted Estate in the C18. They were tenanted as part of Dingledden Farm and the smaller farm of Owletts.

Woodside is a modern appellation. However Owletts probably means land or place where alder trees grow (Field 1989, 158). Dingledden is a much older place – a den or swine pasture in the lathe of Lympne

belonging to the Manor of Aldington (Pollard and Strouts 2005). It is a folk name 'inga' which suggests an earlier Saxon settlement part of the first wave of colonisation of the Weald (Witney 1976, 196). It is identified in 1226 in the Assize Rolls as *Tenelyngden* (Wallenberg 1931, 62; 1934, 348). The Anglo-Saxon Charter of AD 785 records woodland at *dun ualing daenn* and grazing rights at *daening daenn* as part of a grant of land at Ickham and Palmstead in Kent (Sawyer 1968, No 123 & 1614.).

Hasted does not mention it in his account of Benenden which suggests that as a place it may have already been part of the Hemsted Estate ? A more detail research of both the Hemsted archives and the manorial records for Aldington would provide further information.

Woodside Farm comprises regular enclosures aligned along the ridge way route and also to routes from this one south towards the valley. These fields have been reorganised in modern times and today several of the NW-SE aligned hedges are modern replacements (as part of Countryside Stewardship) to these older alignments. At the southern end there are smaller assart fields enclosed from woodland the remains of which occupy gill valleys.

Owlets Farm

Part of Woodside Farm is the site of Owlets Farm which survives as the field name Howletts

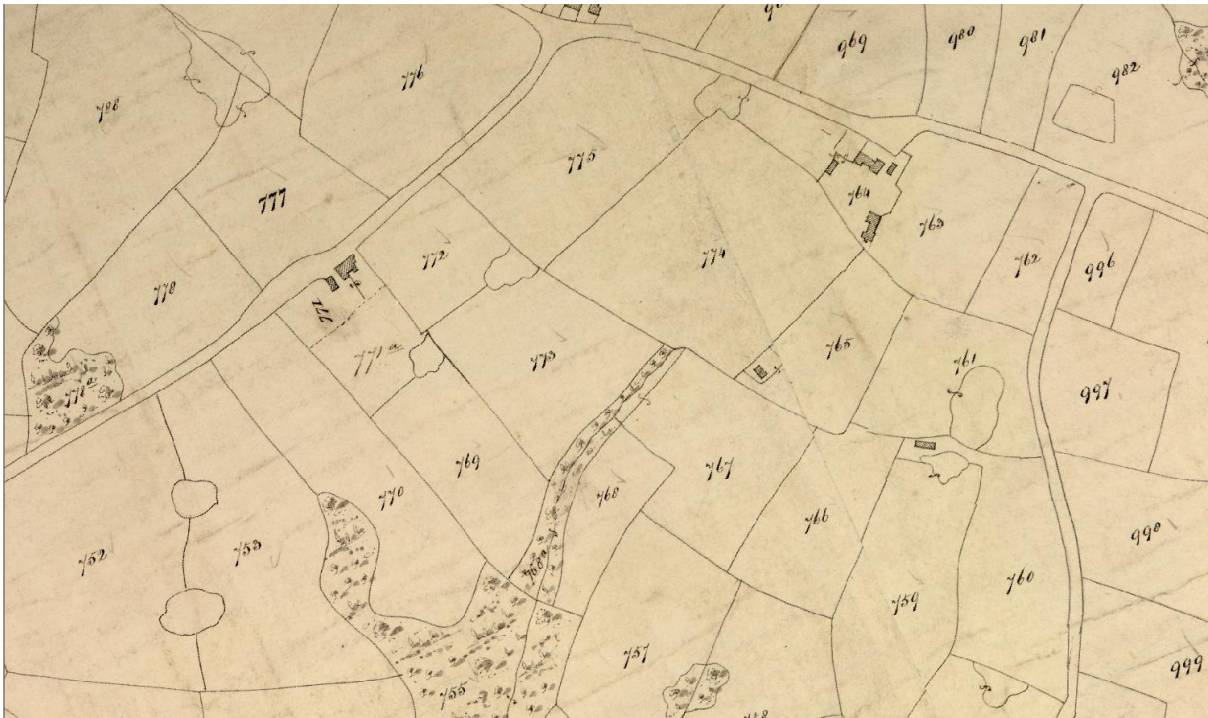
The deserted farmstead of Owlers Farm was set within a small group of regular enclosures (which are listed as O9-O15 in the Terrier for the 1777 map). The only one named is o-14 Hop Ground. These fields are shown on the Tithe map. Owlet's House is described as house and garden (771) owned by Thomas Law Hodges and leased by Mary Santer. The fields 772-775 with 769 are also owned by Thomas Law Hodges and leased by Thomas Neve who farmed Pullington Farm located on the ridgeway road.

By c. 1860 the buildings at Owletts had been removed along with the internal boundaries of the small fields creating several large fields. This process had taken place across the fields which formed part of Pullington Farm suggesting the adoption of modern cropping in the mid to late part of the C19. By the 1940's, all the east west aligned hedges in this area had been removed and replaced with fences (RAF AP 1946), which in turn were replanted as part of a Countryside Stewardship agreement. The hedges are characterised by a high diversity of mixed shrubs (the standard hedging mix) planted straight into the ground with no bank or ditch.

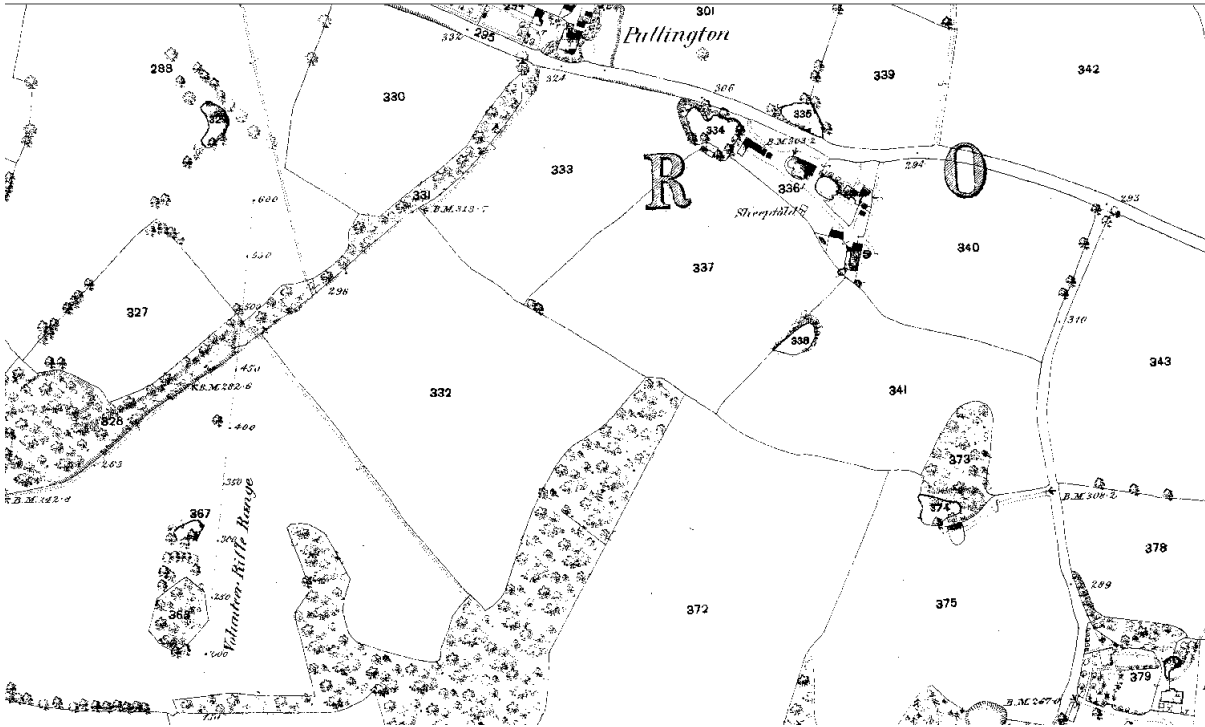
The site of Owlers Farm in 1777 [KHLC P20/27/1]



Tithe Map – site of Owlets Farm



OS Epoch 1 Site of Owletts Farm



RAF Aerial Mosaic circa 1946 [Kent HER – Kent County Council]



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