



Case study Report: **Little Scotney Farm**

Field Systems in the High Weald

High Weald AONB Unit

March 2017

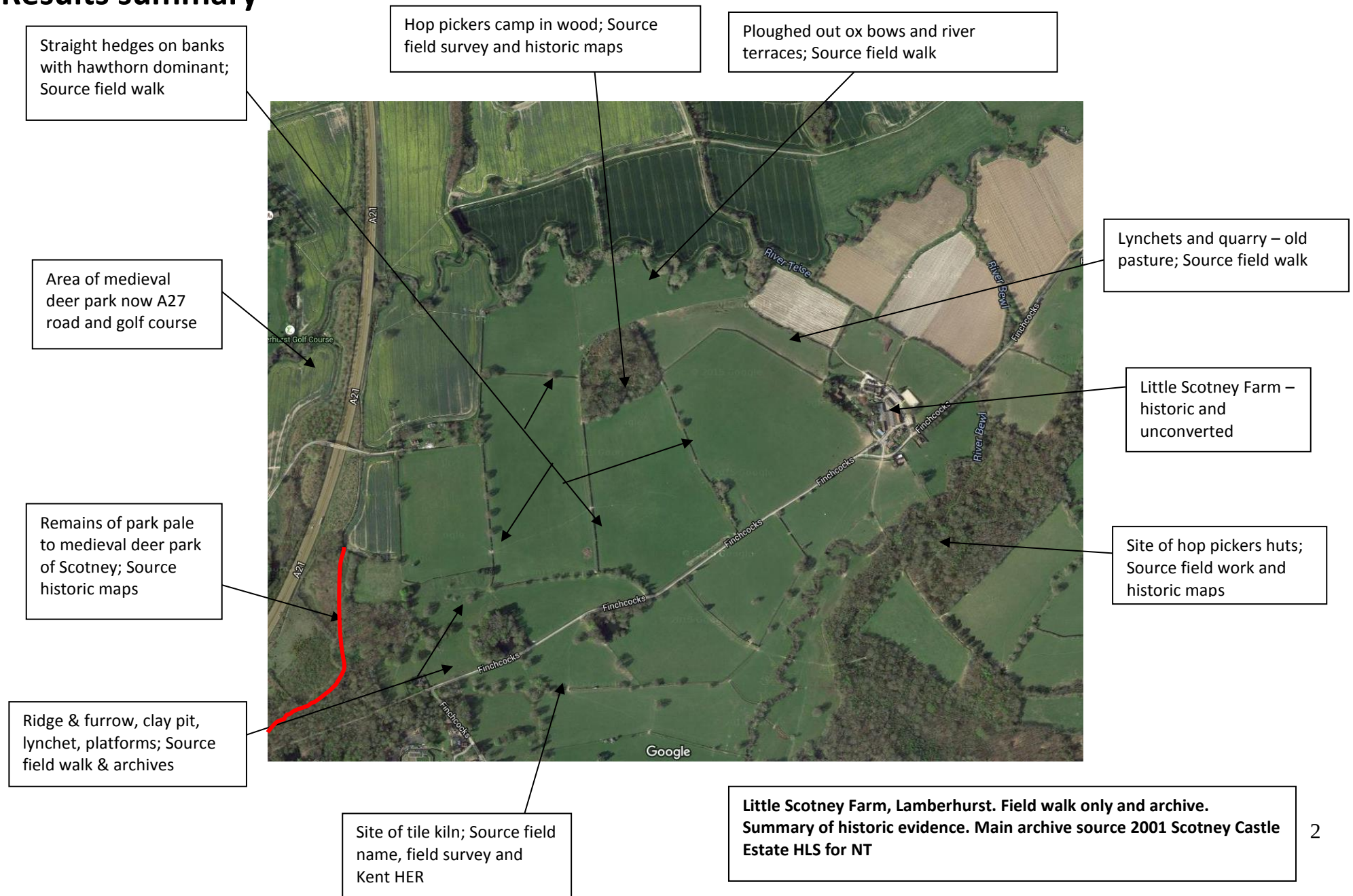


Historic England



The High Weald: an outstanding medieval landscape

Results summary



Little Scotney Farm, Lamberhurst. Field walk only and archive. Summary of historic evidence. Main archive source 2001 Scotney Castle Estate HLS for NT

Little Scotney Farm, Scotney Caste Estate, Lamberhurst

Summary of findings from field survey – non-specialist using survey forms against Level 3 Historic Landscape Survey

- * small irregular fields next to Colliers Wood contain ridge and furrow, platforms, lynchets and quarry; source field survey
- * regular field pattern of rectangular fields with straight hedges on banks with silted ditches, some internal boundaries removed in C19
- * C18 map of 1757 shows these boundaries as sinuous. Present species composition of an enclosure type hedge suggesting re-layout of fields
- * Little Scotney Farm – historic medieval farmstead unconverted. In C19 and C20 was a centre for hop-growing.
- * Field names from Tithe reflect land use Cold Mills by the river suggest cold land, Upper and Lower Dammy indicated where damsons grow (perhaps in hedges); Thistly field self-explanatory

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1. Introduction

Little Scotney Farm comprises part of the National Trusts Scotty Estate, and is located in Kent within the parish of Lamberhurst. The farm is predominantly pasture (cattle and sheep) with some hops. 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

The whole farm (a total of 19 fields) was covered in three days in October by one person walking the site on foot. In addition the area to the west of the Iden Green Road was also recorded using footpaths only. This area was chosen because of its relationship with the extant Roman Road but also because it has been identified as a potential site for development. Some photographs were taken to provide a visual record of the site.

Field view with cattle grazing in foreground and raised trackway towards valley bottom



Covering the whole farm meant that every boundary was viewed on both sides, except for the farm ownership boundaries.

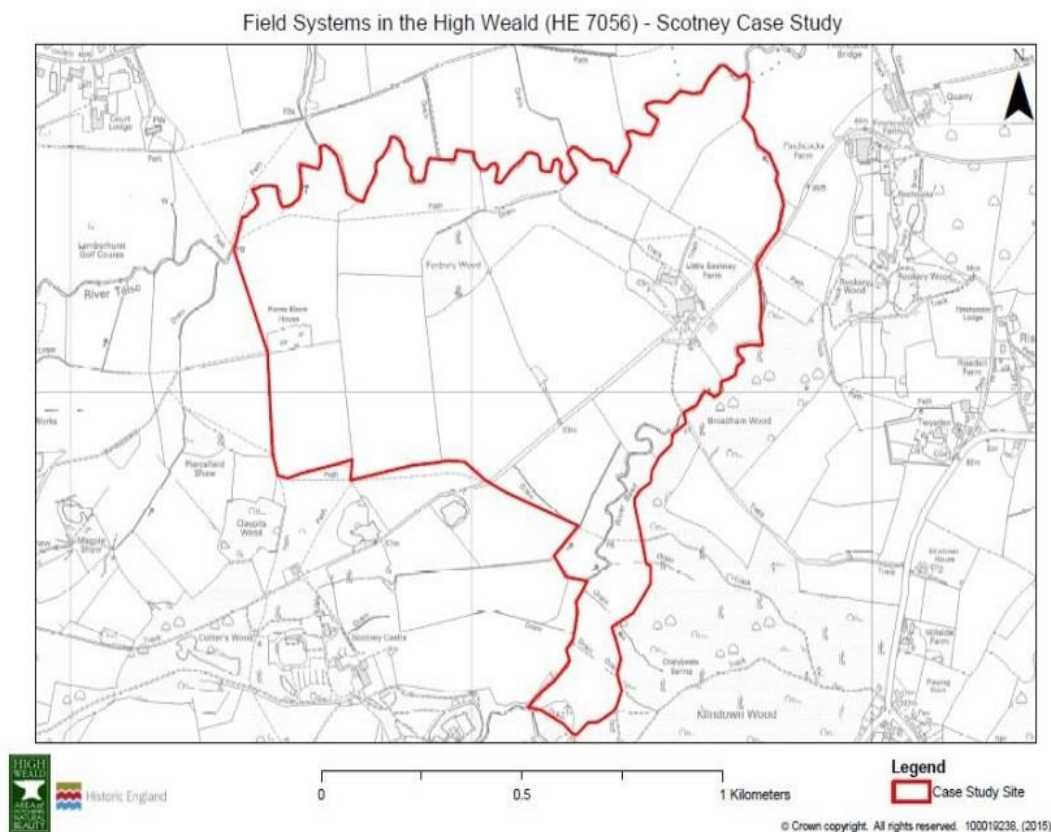
Individual forms were filled for each field and a map of the site was annotated using a key.

3. Challenges & limitations

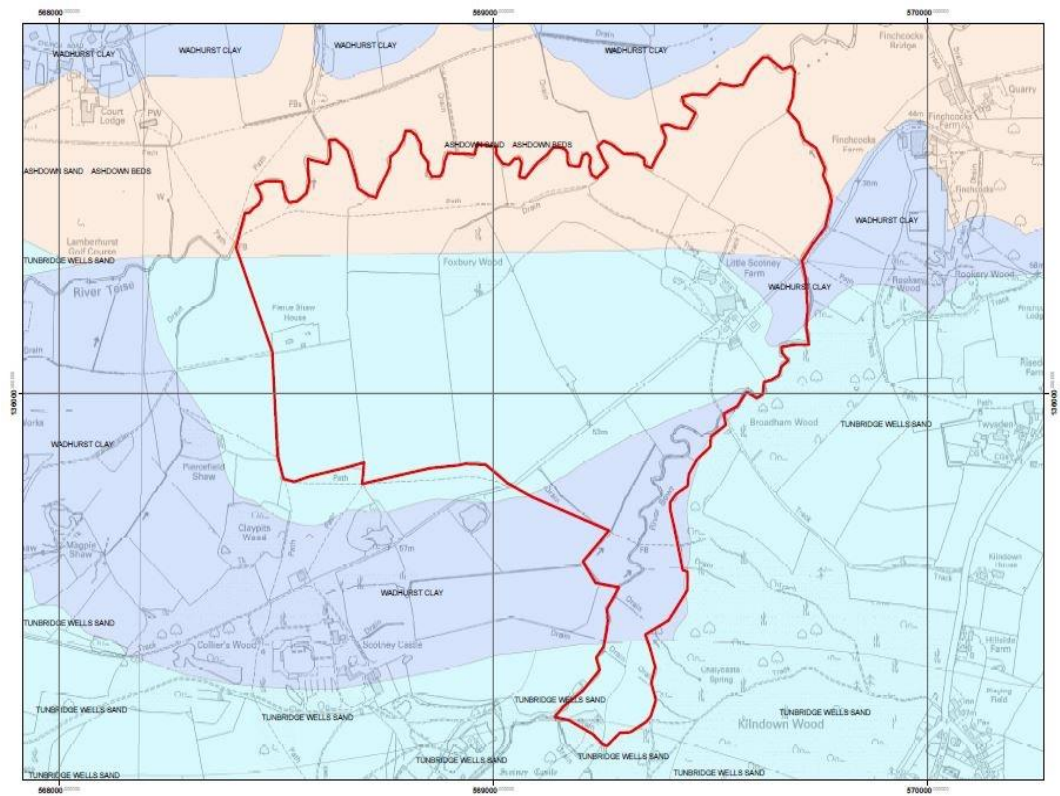
The main challenge with this survey was identifying and recording historic features without the benefit of expert knowledge. Although the Field Systems inter who undertook the survey had an academic background in landscape history, many of the features encountered in these surveys (apart from obvious banks, ditches and pits) are subtle and require expert interpretation in order to identify them.

4. Modern maps

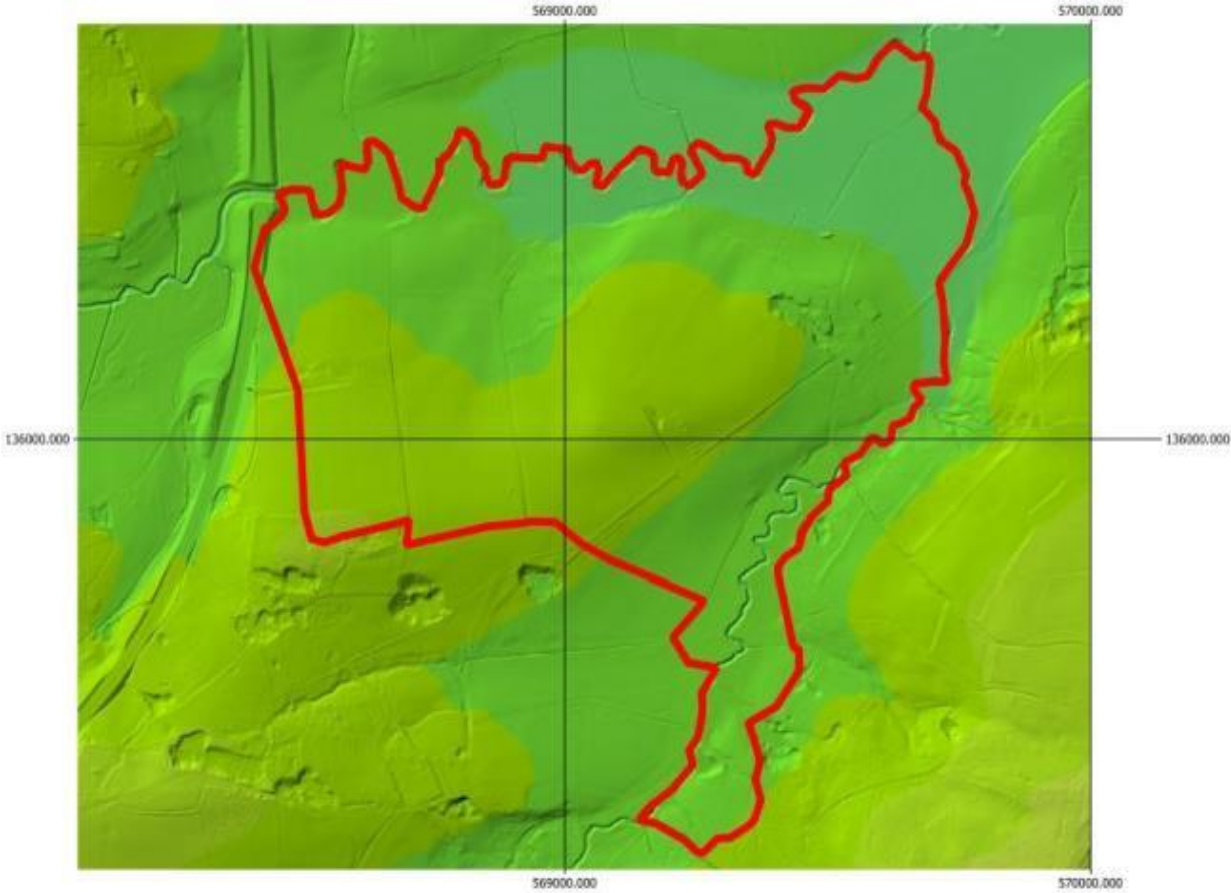
Ordnance Survey 10k



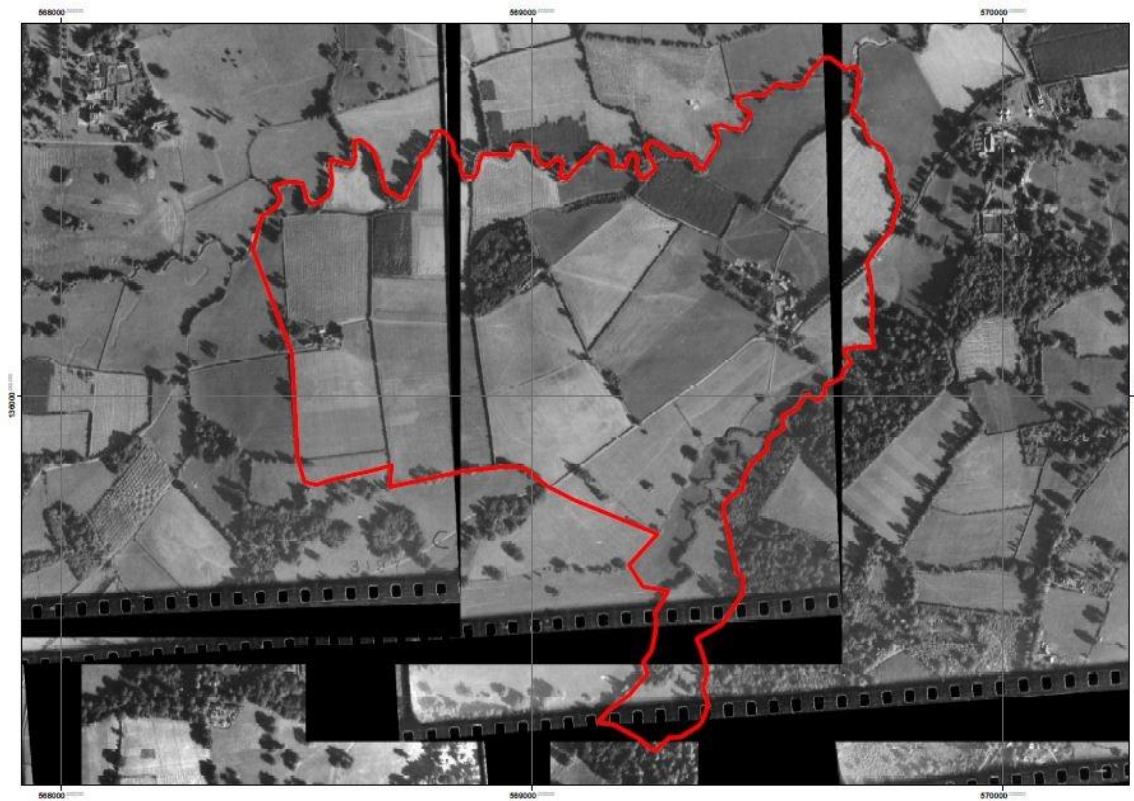
Geology



LiDAR

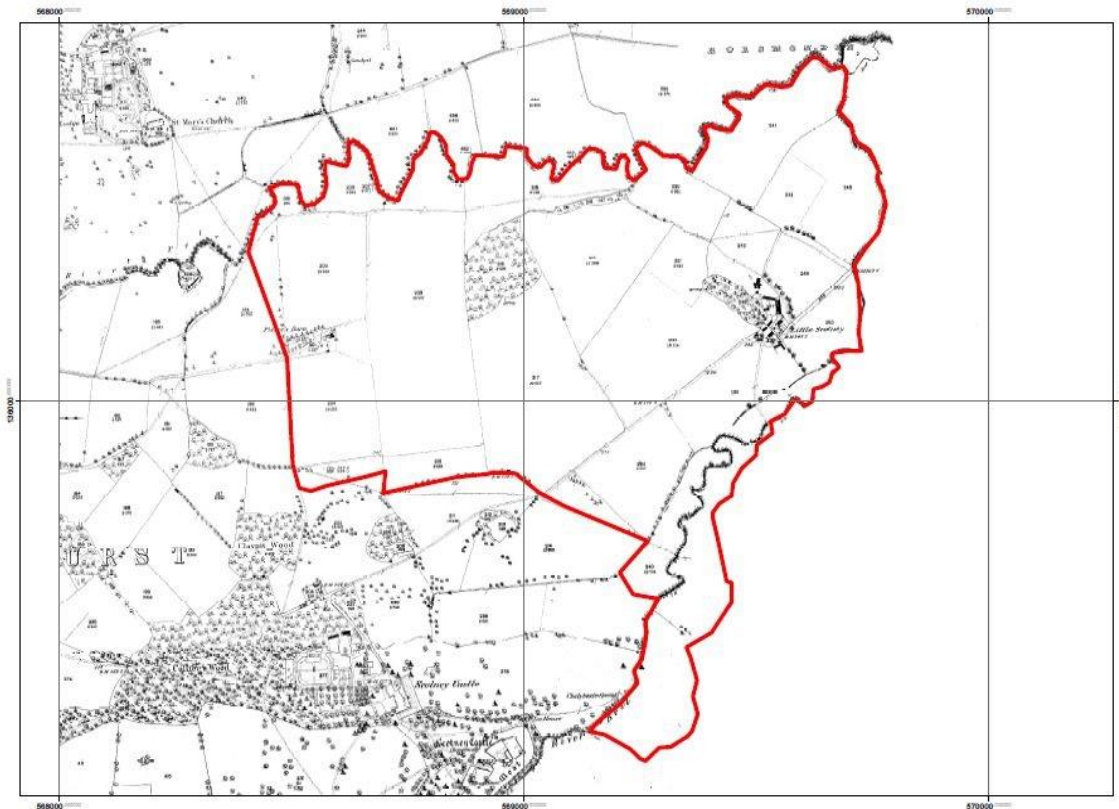


1940s aerial

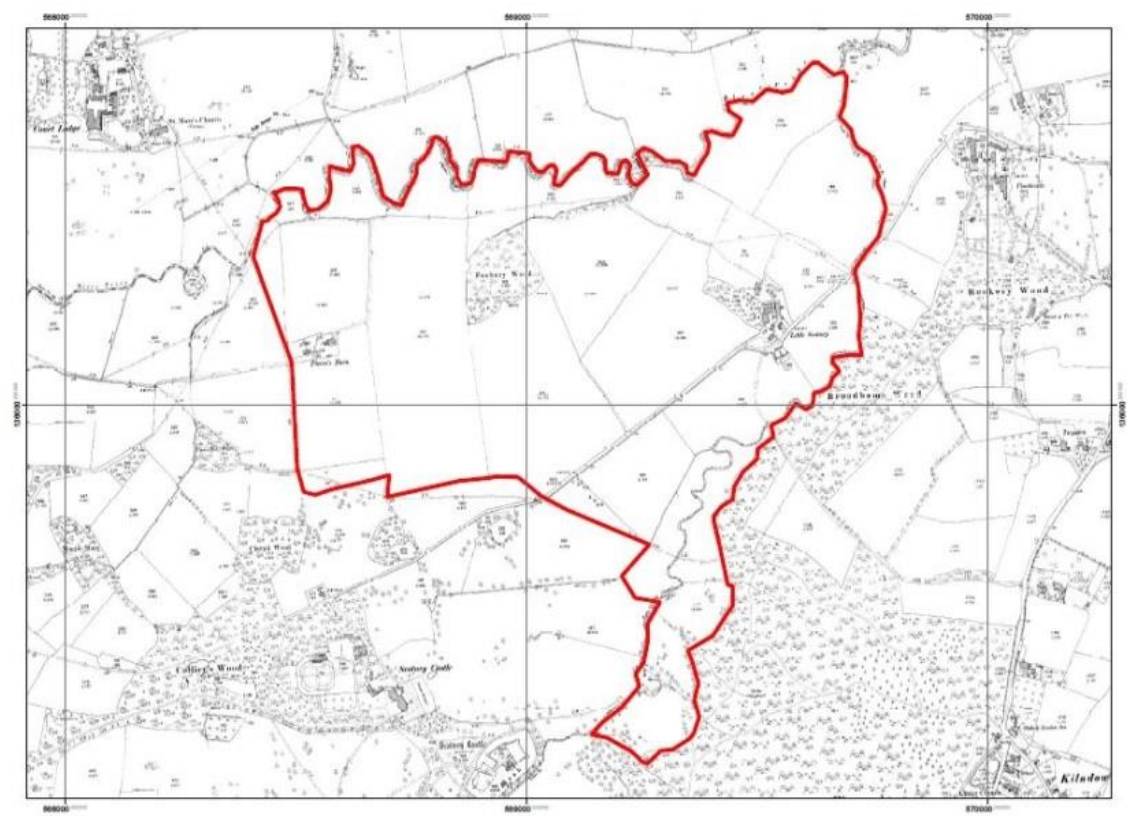


5. Historic maps

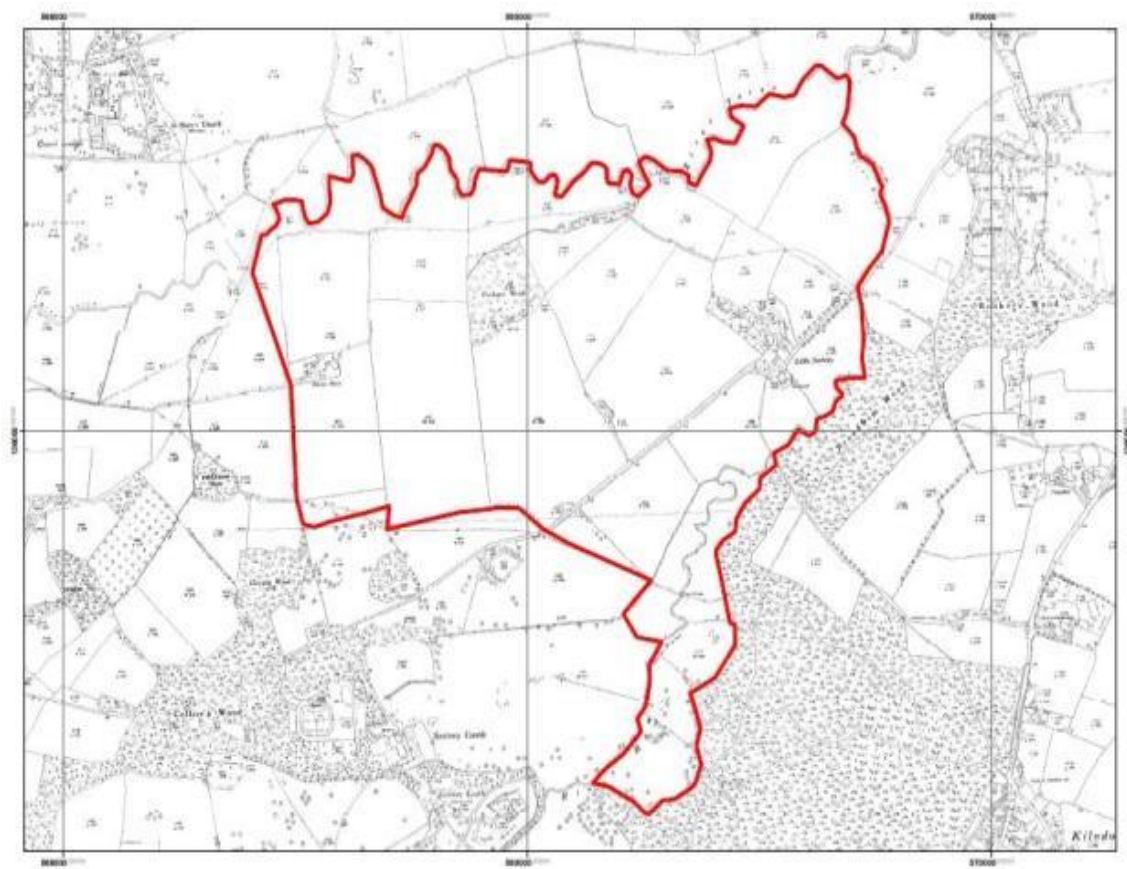
Epoch 1



Epoch 2



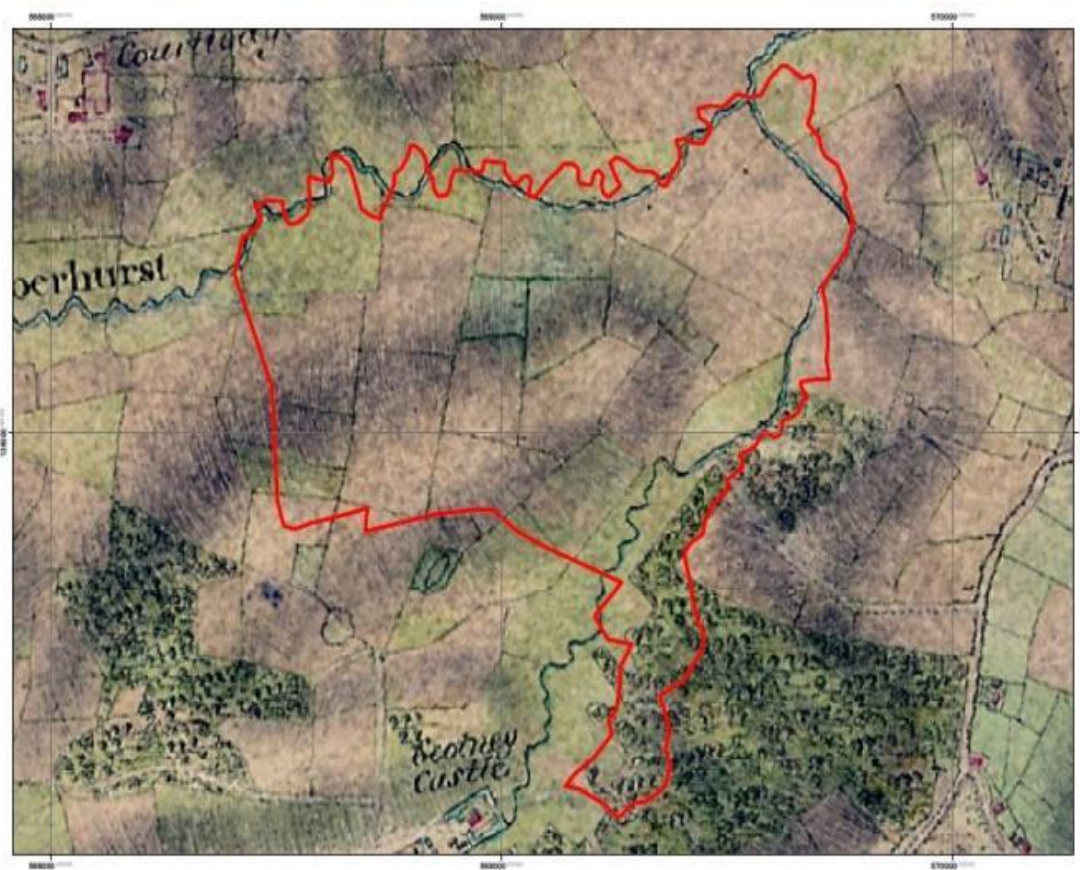
Epoch 4



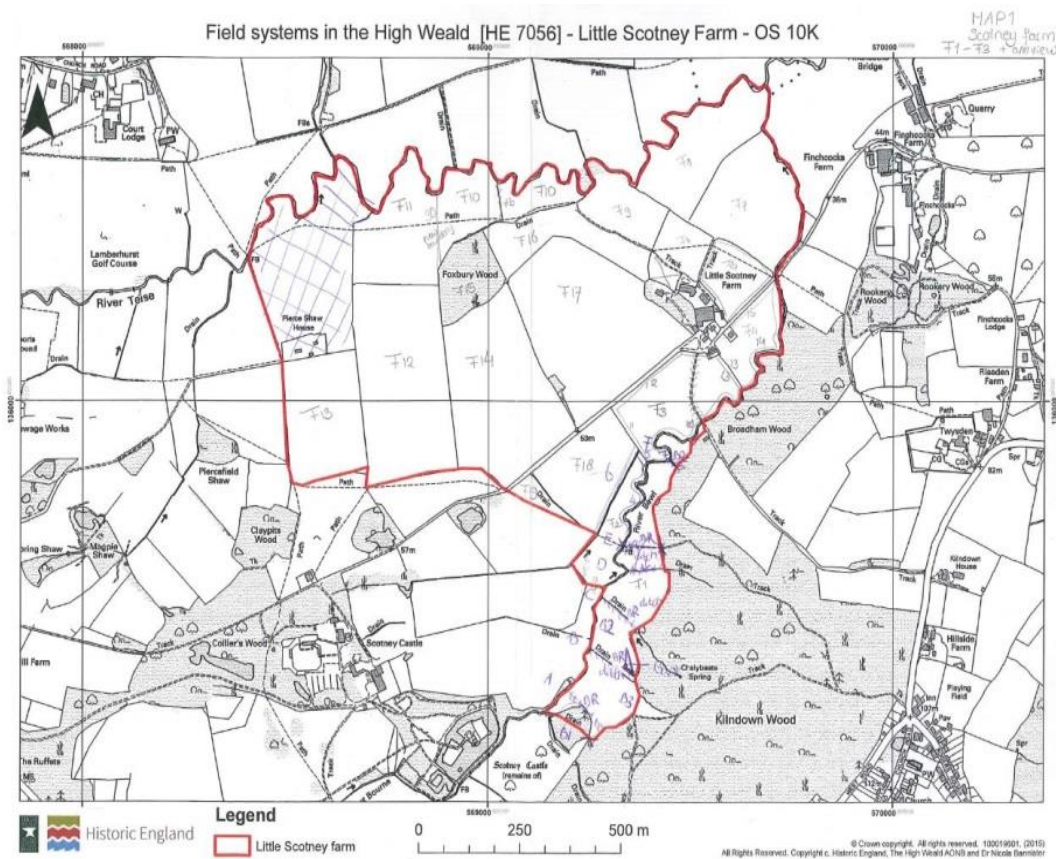
Lamberhurst tithe



Ordnance Surveyors Draft (OSD)



6. Survey map & forms



map 1
zie kaart

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

FIELD ATTRIBUTES		CASE SITE REFERENCE	POLYGON NO	SURVEY AREA	CIVIL PARISH	DISTRICT	COUNTY
		F3		Scotney	Lamberhurst	Tunbridge Wells	Kent
SHAPE	Rectangular	Square	Irregular	Irregular square	ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH	Curved/inverted 'S'	Other - Specify
SIZE - visual	Small	Medium	Large	Very large			
SIZE - numerical	Present Day Ha		Present Day Acres		Historic - Tithes A-R-P	Historic - other	
ORIENTATION of Field shape	N / S	E / W	NE / SW	NW / SE	Hanging from road	Ridge	Watercourse
PHYSICAL	Geology						
	Soils	5701	Curston				
	Topography	Ridge top	Valley sides	Valley bottom	Whole valley	Other - specify	Degree of slope
	Hydrology	Stream	River	Canal	Artificial channel		
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	Irregular straight boundaries			HLC Revision		
HISTORIC ARCHIVE SOURCE		Owner		Occupier		Land use	Area
PHOTO REFS							

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

		Boundary number									
Polygon no.		10	11	12	13						
Type	Hedge		X								
	Hedge with trees		X								
	Wooded Hedge										
	Woodland edge										
	Shaw										
	Stone Wall										
	Stone faced bank										
	Fence			X							
	Ditch										
	Balk		X								
	Watercourse	X									
	Uncertain										
Function	Agrarian	X	X	X	X						
	Farm			X	X						
	Parish										
	Recreation										
	Local Admin										
	Regional Admin										
	Road										
	Other										
Morphology	Straight		X	X	X						
	Curved										
	Sinuous	X									
	Dog-legged										
	Inverted S										
	Discontinuous										
	Other - specify										
Relationship to adjacent boundary	Boundary No	5	-	-	-	-					
	Abutting										
	Overlying										
	Overlaid										
	Cut by ditch										
	Gate										
	Other - specify	adj									
	Uncertain	-									
Relationship to slope	Across slope	X		X							
	With slope	X	X		X						
	No slope										
	Undulating										
	Uncertain	X									
Orientation Of boundary	N/S										
	E/W										
	NE/SW	X		X							
	NW/SE	X	X		X						

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7. Results

7.1 Features recorded

Figure 1. Map of features recorded in the field survey.

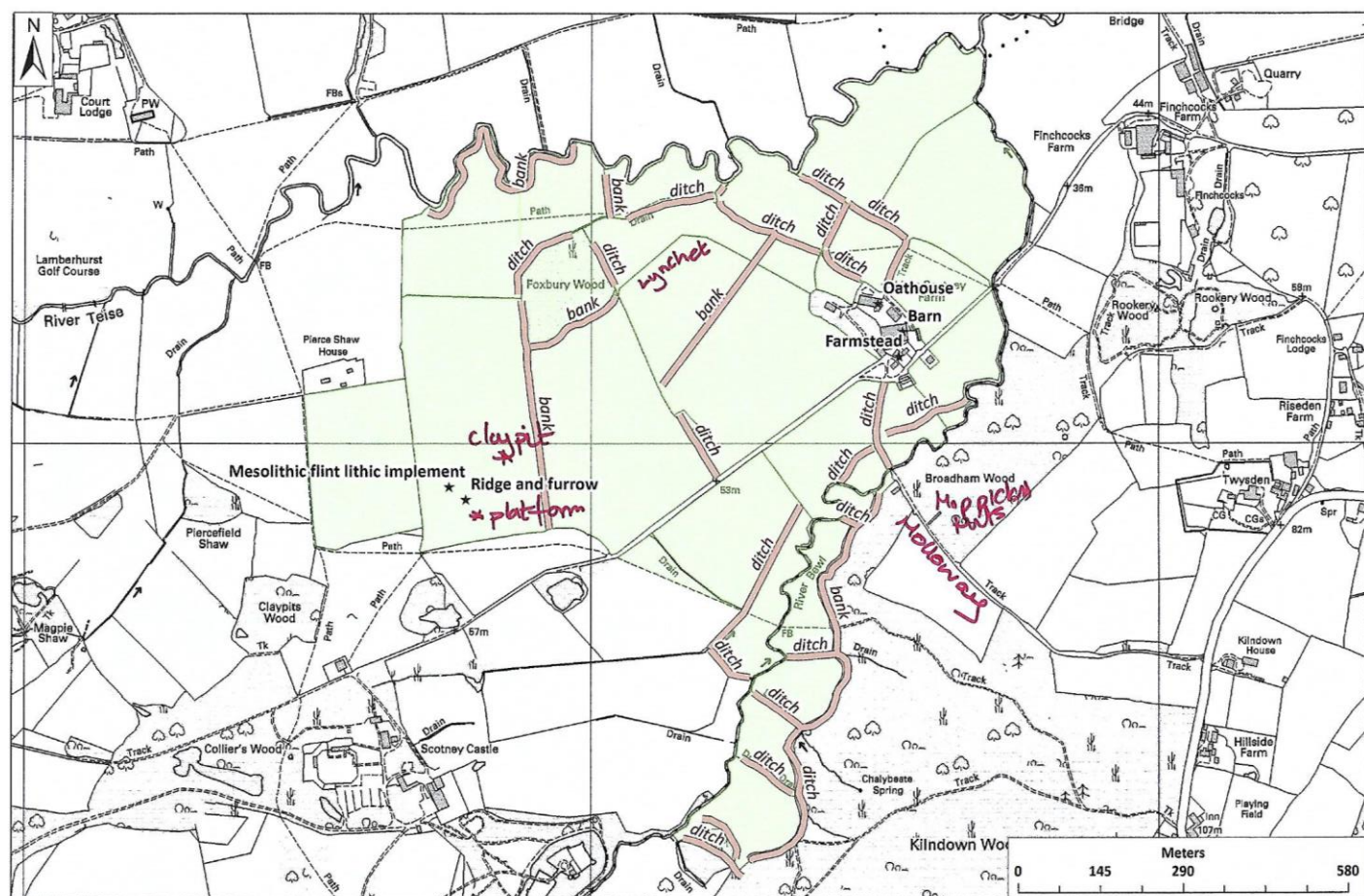


Table 1. Features recorded in the field survey.

Little Scotney Farm	
Archaeological features	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number recorded</i>
Ridge and furrow	1
Mesolithic flint lithic implement	1
Outhouse	1
Barn	1
Farmstead	1
TOTAL	5
Boundaries	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number recorded</i>
Ditch	3
Fence	19
Hedge	24
Hedge with trees	7
Watercourse	11
Woodland edge	8
TOTAL	72
Earthworks	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number recorded</i>
Symmetrical bank	3
Asymmetrical bank	3
Symmetrical ditch	10
Asymmetrical ditch	9
Ditches with 'uncertain' symmetry	4
TOTAL	29
Field	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number recorded</i>
Irregular fields	3
Irregular rectangular fields	9

Summary stats:

- 19 individual fields were surveyed at the Little Scotney Farm study site
- Therefore, there are $5/19 = 0.626$ archaeological features per field surveyed.

Irregular square fields	4
Rectangular fields	2
Square fields	1
TOTAL	19
Boundary furniture	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number recorded</i>
Gate	33
Stile	4
Bridge	2
Culvert	1
Unknown	2
TOTAL	42

8. Archive research

Introduction

For this case study no new archive research was undertaken. A detailed Level 3 Historic landscape Survey of the Scotney Castle Estate was undertaken in 2001 by N. Bannister on behalf of the National Trust (Bannister, 2001). The three volume reports are the source of the archive this for this site.

Early History

Little Scotney farm lies at the confluence of the River Teise and the River Bewl, within the parish of Lamberhurst. Lamberhurst belonged to the barony of Leeds (castle). This area formed part of the Jutish common of the lathe of Hollinbourne and out of which were carved for dens or swine pastures which were acquired by the manor of Ulcombe held by Count Eu from the Archbishop of Canterbury. The four dens were probably Courthope Crowhurst Ewehurst (from count Eu ?) and another unidentified one and covered the confluence of the Teise and Bewl together with Bewlbridge and Lamberhurst Down. The rivers formed the boundaries between dens of different commons and became important boundaries for the subsequent development of the manors and the parishes.

The lands of Little Scotney farm lay within the manor of Scotney Courthope which in the C12 belonged to the Eu family. Sir Peter de Scotney (heir of the family) held ½ a knights fee as lord of Courthope by free service of his arms of the Manor of South Malling (Redwood and Wilson 1958, 117). This knight's fee is later described as 80 acres of land and a mill, held in return for suit of court (i.e. attending the manor court) and the wardship and marriage rights when due). The manor of Courthope was apparently settled at this time not only with custumal but also free tenants, who took their name from the place where they resided. A William de Courthope held one furlong of freeland consisting of 40 acres, as did Peter de Curtehope. They could also graze pigs in the common woods. In return these freemen had to provide accommodation for the Archbishop and his men when they travelled through the Weald (from Canterbury to South Malling) and also to accompany the Archbishop through ther wood of the weald from Curtehope to Cranbrook. This suggests that travelling through the weald was a dangerous business which attack not only from wild animals but also from outlaws.

The Manor of Scotney Courthope passed from the Scotney Family to the Grofhursts. It was then inherited by the Ashburnhams who raised the status of the manor, by building the moat and crenellating a castle c. 1378-9. The manor was then sold to Robert Chichele and then by marriage to the Darell family when a widow of the Chicheles married John Darell of Calehill in Little Chart. (for full details See Bannister 2001 vol 1, 20).

There are few records for the landuse history at this time of the area of Little Scotney, but it is likely that the lands formed part of the 80 acres of land (arable) recorded for Peter de Scotney, as well as meadows and pastures.

Post-medieval History

At some point between the C13 and the C18 the area of Little Scotney Farm became part of the adjacent Finchcocks Estate which was purchased by Edward Hussey III in 1863-4 from his friend Richard Springett. He built many of the farm buildings there in c. 1873. The farm was described in 1869 when it was in hand as being in a good state of repair. There is only a small proportion of arable land the remainder is principally pasture and meadow land with a fair proportion of hops. (KHLC U1776 E12). Part of its land was farmed with Twisden 33 acres. In 1811 Little Scotney comprised 167 acres (KHLC U1006 T102).

There are several historic maps which cover this area, including several estate maps.

Boundary Survey: Results

A detailed species boundary survey was undertaken as part of the 2001 Historic Landscape Survey. The boundaries number B8 – B20 cover most of the area farmed from Little Scotney.

To the north east along the valley of the Teise, the fields are regular in shape with straight boundaries. It appears that the field pattern has undergone some form of reorganisation subsequent to the clearance of the den pastures for farmland. A clue to this process can be gained by comparing the C18 maps by William Clout 1757 and those of the Tithes 1840. The former maps show boundaries which are more sinuous. It appears that the hedgerows may have been grubbed and replanted in straight lines whilst still retaining the overall field shapes. The botanical and physical structure of the hedgerows tends to support this, with little evidence of many species indicative of a woodland origin. The bank and ditch profiles if present are small and regular. The shrubs show little evidence of laying or coppicing, which might be expected in older boundaries. The species composition does not reflect a woodland or ancient origin, more like an enclosure hedge planted with a more mixed species composition. It is possible that pre C18 boundaries comprised small sinuous woody shaws and that with the new technological developments in agriculture in the early C18 and C19., the shaws were grubbed and replaced with conventional hedges. The process of removing shaws was observed in Kent by Furley (1871).

[Compare this with results from Case Study]

REFERENCES

Bannister, N.R. 2001. *Scotney Castle Estate Historic Landscape Survey*. Unpublished report for the National Trust 3 vols.

Furley, R. 1871. *A history of the Weald of Kent in two volumes*. John Smith London.

Redwood, B.C. & Wilson, A.E. ed. (1958) *Customs of the Sussex Manors of the Archbishop of Canterbury*. Sussex Record Society. Vol 57, 30, 117.

U1776 E12 1869 Report as to the state of the Farms, Buildings, Woods on the Scotney Castle Estate, the property of Edward Hussey esq.

U1006 T102. Little Scotney Farm 167a and Twinned Farm 62a in Goudhurst for year by Edward Hussey 1811 and Guardians of Edward Hussey 1821.

U409 P48 1828 after map of 1757 of Scotney Castle Estate.