



Planning, Transport
and Environment

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE
PROPOSED ROUTE OF THE LAMBERHURST BY-PASS, KENT (A21)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed route of the Lamberhurst by-pass lies across land which potentially could contain a number of historic and archaeological features. Such features include early water meadows, the Musdicks, in the Teise valley (noted by Mr John H. Moon of Lamberhurst) as well as other possible landscape features lying within the boundaries of the Scotney Castle estate. Sites of the iron industry were established in the vicinity from the post-medieval period (and earlier) and much of the route lies within the likely areas of exploitation. No sites are presently listed for the road corridor (Cleere and Crossley 1985).
- 1.2 The Field Archaeology Unit, Univeristy College London was commissioned by the Land and Property section of Kent County Council to undertake the evaluation of the proposed route of the by-pass. The work was carried out during Spring 1992.
- 1.3 The aim of the evaluation was to locate, identify and carry out basic survey on any archaeological or historical landscape fetures and sites along the proposed route.
- 1.4 The evaluation was undertaken in three parts:
 - a) a review of the documentary evidence;
 - b) a review of the aerial photographic cover of the proposed route;
 - c) a systemataic field inspection of the proposed route.

2. The Documentary Evidence by Mark Gardiner

- 2.1 This assessment of the documentary evidence is based on copies of documents made available to the Field Archaeology Unit by Mr J.H. Moon of Lamberhurst, on articles by Mr Moon and discussions with him. Additional primary sources have not been consulted.
- 2.2 The identification of an Anglo-Saxon settlement site by Mr Moon is based upon a charter of 1077, which is apparently only known from a copy made by J.M. Kemble, presumably in preparation for his Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici (British Library Add. MS. 14907, ff. 19v.-20r.). The document describes the boundary between the dioceses of Chichester and Rochester. The parish of Lamberhurst, unusually, but not uniquely, was divided between the counties of Kent and Sussex before the boundary changes made possible by the Local Government Act of 1894. Among the bounds are a place called Hansfleote, which Moon plausibly identifies with the land called Hanslake in a survey of 1568 (Centre for Kentish Studies U47/42 M12).
- 2.3 The argument that this is an Anglo-Saxon settlement site is circumstantial and depends on the inferred usage of land by seasonal settlements or 'denns'. Moon in discussion has emphasised that the settlement of Hansfleote would have been only temporary and agrees that any remains are likely to be vestigial.
- 2.4 Possibly of greater significance is the site of East Mill, described in 1568 as having formerly stood on Great Brooms (CKS U47/42 M12). Moon identifies this site also with the Hansfleote/Hanslake island. Photocopies of account rolls supplied by Moon mention East Mill in 1323/4 when works were carried out on the sluices at the weir (British Library Add. Roll 71300) and in 1371/2 when major repairs were carried out upon the mill (British Library Add. Roll 71303). Without further evidence, it is not possible to check the location of the water mill.
- 2.5 The evidence for the existence of a system of Saxo-Norman water management for the meadows is also circumstantial and it is improbable that any remains would survive in an identifiable form

3. The Field survey - Methodology

- 3.1 For ease of recording the proposed route was divided into fifteen sections. Each section normally corresponding to present field boundaries (see map).
- 3.2 For each section under arable cultivation a surface artefact collection was undertaken along the route of the road corridor. This collection was carried out by walking two parallel transects, usually 20 m. apart, although some were closer. For example, in Section 1 transects were 16 m. apart. Each transect was divided into 20 m. units lettered A, B, C etc. The finds from both transects were combined by unit for quantification with modern finds being discarded in the field (see Table 1 for summary of these finds). Older finds (summarised on Table 2) will be deposited with the Kent Museum Service.
- 3.3 Although two transects did not cover the full width of the road corridor, it was deemed sufficient to locate any artefact scatters or archaeological sites that might lie within the area of the road. Any concentrations noted might be further studied by more intensive field survey. A fieldwalking record sheet was filled in for each arable section of the route: these form part of the survey archive.
- 3.4 All soils marks in the freshly cultivated fields were noted and sketch-plotted. These were in turn related to any soil marks appearing on the aerial photographic coverage of the area.
- 3.5 Earthworks were sketch-plotted (see map) in arable, pasture and woodland areas. All woodland on the route was carefully checked for surviving earthworks. This was done intensively. Transects were not used in these areas.
- 3.6 All accessible stream and ditch banks within the road corridor were checked for signs of buried archaeological features and/or eroding artefacts.

4. The Field Survey - Results

- 4.1.1 Section 1 consisted of a freshly-sown arable field sloping gently to the south. Thirteen units were walked: A - M.
- 4.1.2 A general scatter of predominantly nineteenth-century material was found along the entire length of both transects within this section. Fair quantities of China, tile and clay pipe were present, much, presumably, originating from manuring from Forstal Farm during the Victorian period. Earlier material was represented by a single sherd dating from the sixteenth to seventeenth century (Unit A) and a broken double-ended ovoid flint scraper (Unit B). Despite careful searching, no other flintwork was located.
- 4.1.3 A noticeable concentration of blast furnace slag was encountered in the most northerly area (Unit M) against the B2162 road. This concentration was restricted to a linear band, approximately 10 m. wide running parallel with the road. It seems likely this material had come from road metalling prior to the road being tarmaced; blast furnace slag was commonly used for road metalling. A brief observation of the field to the north, where the proposed roundabout is to be located, failed to reveal any greater concentration in the slag.
- 4.1.4 Only one earthwork was noted in Section 1. This was a slight ridge running roughly southwest to northeast and cut across Unit E. It is possible this represents an old field boundary which may have been removed within the last 200 years.
- 4.2.1 Section 2 consisted of a well-weathered, harrowed arable field sloping gently to the south. Thirteen units were walked (A - M).
- 4.2.2 A fairly sparse scatter of nineteenth- and twentieth-century material was found along the length of both transects within this section. A slight concentration of blast furnace slag was noted in the north units (A - C), although this probably originated from early metalling of the farm track which borders the field on the north side. two undiagnostic pottery sherds were located (Units F and H). Both were in a fine buff orange sandy ware and are likely to pre-date the eighteenth century and are probably medieval. No further sherds were encountered.
- 4.2.3 Two ridges or terraces were noted crossing Units J and K running in a roughly east-northeast direction, but both soon turned south. The soil between these two ridges is darker than the surrounding ploughsoil. Study of the aerial photographs failed to reveal any further information and the nature of these remains undetermined. It is possible, however, they could have some connection

with the pond which lies to the west, either being an overflow channel or a track, if the pond was originally a quarry.

- 4.2.4 The most southerly unit (M) contained many pieces of broken tile, brick and stone. This concentration ran along the southern boundary of the field where a track is marked on the map. This area is quite waterlogged: the tile, brick and stone being deposited to keep the track passable.
- 4.3.1 Section 3 consisted of a hop field sloping gently to the south. When inspected it was awaiting ploughing and had a fair cover of weeds which slightly hindered surface artefact collection. Enough ground was exposed, however, for a good general coverage to be made. Thirteen units were walked (A - M).
- 4.3.2 A very sparse scatter of modern finds was encountered in this section. No archaeological finds were present with the exception of a few pieces of blast furnace slag (Table 1).
- 4.3.3 A single earthwork was noted; this consisted of a permanent ridge running roughly west-southwest to east-northeast through Unit I. It continued across the field towards the east, running well outside of the road corridor. No corresponding ridge was found in the field to the west, though it could have been ploughed out by deep cultivation there. As with the earthworks in Section 1, it seems that this lynchet-like feature could mark a field boundary removed within the last 200 years.
- 4.4.1 Section 4 consisted of a flat, well-weathered ploughed field bordered by the River Teise on the south side. Eleven units were walked (A - J) with an extra two on the western transect (K - L).
- 4.4.2 This section produced a very sparse scatter of modern material (see Table 1). No archaeological finds were noted.
- 4.4.3 A number of distinct soils marked were present in this field. These consisted of linear spreads of much lighter soil, sometimes corresponding with very slight linear depressions. The lay-out of these soil marks is very clear on the aerial photographic cover for the area (Kent County Council 1967 survey, Run 12, No. 0517) and accordingly they were sketch-plotted. A curving north-south line and straight southwest to northeast line join at about Unit E. These two lines appear on early Ordnance Survey maps of the area as ditched field boundaries. They have since been infilled to create one large field. This seems to have occurred fairly recently (J. Moon, pers. comm.). Other similar soil marks located

on the aerial photographs were present closer to the church: a double dark line running southwest to northeast turns north-northwest as a single line. Presumably these marks were also field boundaries. The date of these boundaries could not be ascertained in the field.

- 4.4.4 The deeply incised banks of the River Teise were inspected for quite some distance either side of the road corridor in order to locate any buried archaeology. Nothing was noted. The river itself contained many early twentieth-century bottles, presumably eroded from a dump upstream. No archaeological finds were present.
- 4.5.1 Section 5 consisted of a well-weathered, drilled arable field bordering the southern side of the River Teise. It sloped moderately to the north. Twelve units were walked (A - L).
- 4.5.2 A curious, circular earthwork was noted on the southern bank of the river to the west of the road corridor. The earthwork is present on the aerial photographs of the area where it shows as a dark soil mark. No archaeological material was present upon inspection. It seems this feature is in fact a filled in oxbow lake or meander of the river. An island is documented here (J. Moon, pers. comm.), as is the site of a medieval water-mill. No trace was found of the mill, if it existed at this location. This, however, is not surprising as medieval mill structures were capable of being dismantled and moved (e.g. Bedwin 1980), or the remains could lie deeply buried under alluvium. Whichever the case, the site lies outside the area to be affected by the road.
- 4.5.3 The transects across this field (A - L) yielded very little. No archaeological material was present.
- 4.6.1 Section 6 consisted of a well-weathered, drilled arable field sloping fairly steeply to the northeast. Seven units were walked (A - G).
- 4.6.2 A sparse scatter of material was located in this section (see Table 1). No archaeological material or earthworks were noted.
- 4.7.1 Sections 7 consisted of an area of coppiced woodland called Piercefield Shaw sloping fairly steeply to the northwest. The northern and southern edges of this copse were bounded by woodland banks lying just inside the drainage ditches. Ceramic land drains were noted within the northern ditch. The western side of the copse was bounded by a small stream flowing northwards towards the Teise. The stream bed and banks yielded no archaeological material.
- 4.7.2 Within the copse itself lay a large quarry (roughly

sketch-plotted on map). There seems to have been two phases of quarrying, the earliest represented by the southern quarry, which, later, gave access to the northern extension. Both quarries took advantage of the steep slope at this point to aid extraction.

- 4.7.3 Other minor earthworks within the copse were probably connected with quarry, being mounds of spoil thrown up during extraction. A check of rabbit holes yielded no archaeological material. The date of the quarry could not be ascertained during the field survey.
- 4.8.1 Section 8 consisted of a very small arable field sloping fairly steeply to the northwest. The field was awaiting ploughing when searched and weeds hindered artefact collection to some extent. A reasonable coverage was, however, possible. Four units were walked (A - D).
- 4.8.2 Very little material was present. No archaeological finds or earthworks were noted.
- 4.9.1 Section 9 consisted of an arable field sloping fairly steeply to the northwest. The field was in a similar condition to Section 8. Eight units were walked (A - H).
- 4.9.2 Very few finds were present. No archaeological material or earthworks were noted.
- 4.10.1 Section 10 consisted of an arable field sloping fairly steeply to the northwest and southwest. The field was in a similar condition to those in Sections 8 and 9. Four units were walked (A - D).
- 4.10.2 Very few finds were present. No archaeological material or earthworks were noted.
- 4.10.3 Separating this field from Section 11 was a broad, wooded boundary. It seemed likely this could represent either a track running up towards Collier's Wood, or an old stream course, or might simply be a shaw.
- 4.11.1 Section 11 consisted of an unweathered ploughed field sloping fairly steeply to the northwest. Seven units were walked (A - G).
- 4.11.2 Very few finds were present. No archaeological material or earthworks were noted.
- 4.11.3 A marked circular soil mark was, however, present. This was located roughly between Units C And D on the western transect. The area consisted of a much darker soil, being a dark grey-brown in comparison with the surrounding light orange-brown plough soil, with a noticeable presence of charcoal flecks and occasional lumps. Where the furrows had been turned deeply, the more orange-brown soil

could be seen to be about 300 mm. below the darker material. This soil mark could represent a grubbed out and burnt tree. However, it seems more likely, particularly when one considers the close proximity of Collier's wood and the local industries in the post-medieval period, that this soil mark could be the vestiges of a charcoal burner's camp or clamp. Another similar soil mark was noted to the east, bordering Collier's Wood. Unfortunately, no datable material was found in association with this soil mark. A post sixteenth-century date would be most likely.

- 4.12 Section 12 consisted of a very small scrubby pasture field. No earthworks were noted.
- 4.13 Section 13 consisted of a pasture field sloping gently to the north. No earthworks were noted within the corridor (but see 4.15.3 below).
- 4.14 Section 14 consisted of a small, level pasture field bordered by the National Trust grounds on two sides. No earthworks were noted.
- 4.15.1 Section 14 consisted of an area of woodland owned by the National Trust, part of the Scotney Castle estate. A previous survey by the Field Archaeology Unit (1987) had already located many landscape features within this area. Practically all of these, however, lie well outside the road corridor.
- 4.15.2 Thick undergrowth and tree felling prevented a close survey of the southern area of the road corridor. Some features were, however, located and sketch-plotted. Most of these consist of slight earthworks apparently of recent date. The majority of the area contained nothing of significance.
- 4.15.3 A large quarry was located to the north, just within the National Trust boundary. Rabbit burrowing had exposed large numbers of early twentieth-century bottles here: the quarry had obviously been used as a rubbish dump this century. No evidence was found of the date of the quarry.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 A re-evaluation of the documentary evidence suggests that Hansfleote was not certainly a settlement site, and, even if it was, the remains of its seasonal usage are likely to be vestigial. It has not been possible to confirm that this was also the site of East Mill, though on topographical grounds Moon's identification seems likely. The site is not threatened by the current intended road line, but if the route was moved further west, it should be assessed and considered for excavation.
- 5.2 The surface artefact survey revealed little evidence of any archaeological activity, either domestic or industrial, with the exception of the possible charcoal burners' camp located in Section 11. That feature appeared to be fairly shallow and may have already been badly damaged by modern agriculture: remains of this kind are slight even when unploughed.
- 5.3 The soil marks in the Teise valley had been caused by the infilling of drainage ditches or field boundaries. Whether these were part of earlier water management could not be proven, even by excavation, as if they had remained in use for a long period, the continued clearance of the water channels would have removed any primary fills. The lack of other soil marks on the aerial photographs, which might be similar ditches infilled at an earlier date, denies the opportunity of locating potential remains. Colluviation and alluvial deposition in the Weald may hide remains of earlier periods under considerable depths of soil (Gardiner 1990, 40). The lack of pottery from the area certainly suggests manuring has not taken place; it is therefore possible that this area has been under pasture for a long period.
- 5.4 The earthworks located along the proposed route, with the exception of the quarries, were fragmented and eroded by modern agriculture. Many of the earthworks area likely to be of fairly recent origin, although their actual date remains undetermined. The quarries at Piercefield Shaw (Section 7) and the Ruffets (Section 13) are more substantial. These two should be considered for more detailed surveying and possible sample excavation to identify the material extracted and their date of usage before work begins on the road construction. Although quarries are a common feature of the High Wealden landscape, they have rarely been investigated (Gardiner 1990, 49-50).
- 5.5 The documentary evidence and field survey do not indicate that other archaeological remains are likely to be present along the currently proposed road line and no further work is recommended in other areas.

References

- Bedwin, O. 1980 'The Excavation of Batsford Mill, Warbleton, Sussex, 1978', Medieval Archaeology 24, 187-201.
- Cleere, H. and Crossley, D.W. 1985 The Iron Industry of the Weald. Leicester.
- Field Archaeology Unit 1987 Scotney Castle, Kent: An Archaeological Survey of the Castle and its Environs (unpublished report for The National Trust).
- Gardiner, M.F. 1990 'The Archaeology of the Weald - A Survey and a Review', Sussex Archaeological Collections 128, 33-53.

TABLE 1

DISCARDED FINDS

| Section | Unit | Post-Med Tile | Post-Med Pottery | Clay Pipe | Slate | Blast Furnace Slag | Post-Med Glass | Other |
|---------|------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | A | 19 | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | Clinker 2 |
| | B | 10 | 6 | 1 | - | 1 | - | |
| | C | 13 | 7 | 5 | - | 1 | - | |
| | D | 14 | - | 3 | - | - | - | |
| | E | 19 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 3 | Brick 1 |
| | F | 22 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | |
| | G | 11 | 1 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | |
| | H | 11 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 2 | |
| | I | 13 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | - | Clinker 2 |
| | J | 16 | 5 | 3 | 1 (Welsh) | - | - | B. Flint 2 |
| | K | 18 | 10 | 5 | 2 (Welsh) | - | 3 | B. Flint 3 Iron 1 Bone 1 |
| | L | 20 | 5 | 7 | - | 2 | 1 | |
| | M | 6 | 4 | 3 | - | 29 | - | B. Flint 1 Lead 1 Iron 1 |
| 2 | A | 12 | 1 | - | - | 7 | - | |
| | B | 14 | 1 | - | - | 14 | - | |
| | C | 2 | - | - | - | 4 | - | |
| | D | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| | E | 10 | - | 1 | - | - | - | Iron 1 |
| | F | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | G | 5 | - | - | 1 (West Country) | - | - | |
| | H | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | I | 7 | - | - | 1 (Welsh) | 1 | - | |
| | J | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | K | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | L | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | Brick 1 |
| | M | 20+ | - | - | - | 2 | - | Brick 10+ |
| 3 | A | 7 | - | - | - | - | 1 | Iron 1 |
| | B | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | C | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | D | 8 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | |
| | E | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | F | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | G | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | H | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | I | 3 | - | - | - | 2 | - | |
| | J | 4 | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| | K | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| | L | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 4 | A | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | |
| | B | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | |

| Section | Unit | Post-Med Tile | Post-Med Pottery | Clay Pipe | Slate | Blast Furnace Slag | Post-Med Glass | Other |
|---------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 4 | C | 7 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | D | 2 | 2 | - | 1 (West Country) | - | - | |
| | E | 1 | - | - | - (Welsh) | - | - | Iron 1 |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | G | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | Iron 1 |
| | H | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | I | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | J | - | - | - | - | - | - | Iron 1 |
| 5 | A | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | B | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | C | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | D | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | E | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | F | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | Iron 1 |
| | G | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | H | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | I | 4 | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| | J | 4 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 1 | |
| | K | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | L | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 6 | A | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | B | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | B. Flint 1 |
| | C | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | - | |
| | D | 6 | 1 | - | - | - | - | B. Flint 2 |
| | E | 6 | - | - | - | 2 | - | B. Flint 2 |
| | F | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | G | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 7 | Woodland - no finds | | | | | | | |
| 8 | A | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| | B | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | C | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | |
| | D | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 9 | A | 3 | - | - | - | - | 2 | |
| | B | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | C | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | D | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | E | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | B. Flint 1 |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | G | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | H | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 10 | A | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | B | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | C | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | D | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 11 | A | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | |
| | B | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | |
| | C | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| | D | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | E | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |

| Section | Unit | Post-Med Tile | Post-Med Pottery | Clay Pipe | Slate | Blast Furnace Slag | Post-Med Glass | Other |
|---------|------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 11 | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | G | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 12 | | | Grass - no finds | | | | | |
| 13 | | | Grass - no finds | | | | | |
| 14 | | | Grass - no finds | | | | | |
| 15 | | | Woodland - no finds | | | | | |

B. Flint = Burnt flint

TABLE 2
FINDS RETAINED

| Section | Unit | Type |
|---------|------|-----------------------|
| 1 | A | Post-medieval pottery |
| | R | Flint scraper |
| 1 | F | Pot |
| 2 | H | Pot |

