



Planning, Transport  
and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A259 Pevensey - Bexhill	Details Archaeological Assessment
Road Number A259	Date
Contractor John Samuels	
County East Sussex	
OS Reference TQ 60	
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# **A259 PEVENSEY - BEXHILL**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

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**Final Report** together with supporting maps

**Appendix 1.** Extracts from the Sites and Monuments Record

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## **1.0. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1.** John Samuels Archaeological Consultants were appointed as sub-consultants to Derek Lovejoy Partnership to undertake the archaeological assessment of the proposed A259 Pevensey-Bexhill improvement.
- 1.2.** The Study Area was approximately 700m either side of the existing A259 from Haven Roundabout to the junction with the Bexhill and Hastings Western bypass (see Fig. 1).
- 1.3.** Most of the area is part of the Pevensey Levels, a large flat open landscape of reclaimed marshland rising fairly steeply at the eastern end of the A259 just beyond the Lamb Inn.

## **2.0. METHOD**

- 2.1.** Relevant information was obtained from East Sussex County Council's Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and analysed (see Appendix 1).
- 2.2.** A search was made for any relevant maps in East Sussex County Records Office and copies of maps obtained for analysis (see Appendix 2).
- 2.3.** Lists of relevant aerial photographs were obtained from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and the University of Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography.

- 2.4.** A rapid walk-over survey of an area approximately 50.00m either side of the proposed route was undertaken in August 1992 to identify known sites on the ground and to indicate areas suitable for more detailed fieldwork such as surveying, intensive fieldwalking, geophysical surveys, paleoenvironmental sampling or trial excavations.
- 2.5.** A visit was made to Lewes Museum to see if any further relevant information was available.
- 2.6.** Informal discussions have been held with East Sussex County Council's Archaeologist and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage on the method of assessment and its results.

### **3.0.ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1.** All of the available archaeological information has been analysed, plotted and an assessment made of the impact of the proposed road scheme based upon the requirements of DOE Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 and best archaeological practice.
- 3.2.** East Sussex has an established history of archaeological research through the Sussex Archaeological Society which is reflected in its well-maintained Sites and Monuments Record.

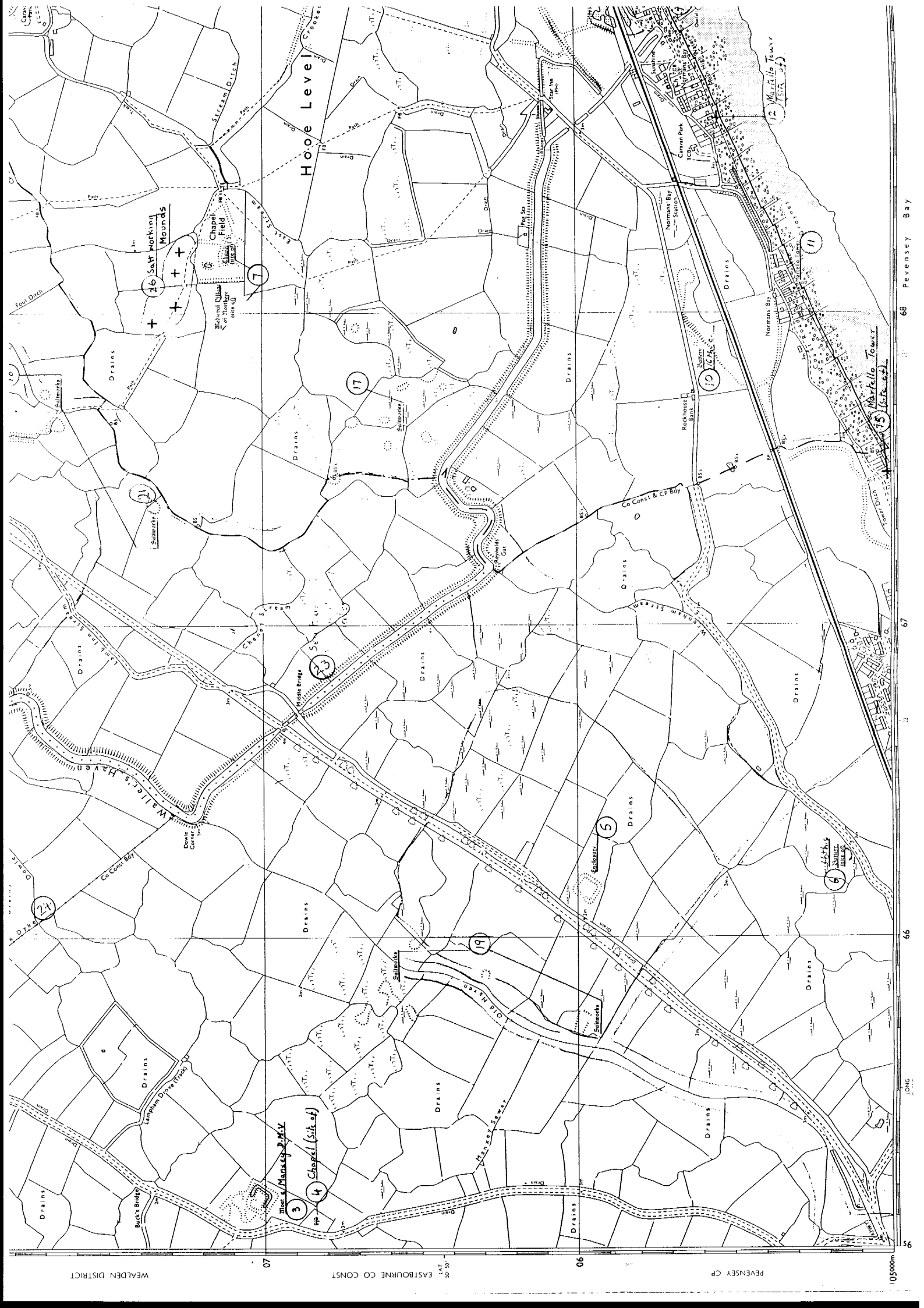
- 3.3.** The Pevensey Levels is an area of marshland which has been reclaimed since the medieval period and its present pattern of drains, fields and roads was established by the early 19th century. This process has been well described and discussed by Salzmänn, 1910 and Dulley, 1966 (see Appendix 4). The only major alteration in the area since then has been the replacement of the Old Marsh Road by the present A259 in the 1930's.
- 3.4.** The Sites and Monuments Record identified eight sites of archaeological interest. Two of these, Manxey and Northeye, are deserted medieval villages and are both Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Both occupy slightly higher ground and consist of substantial earthworks. Another earthwork (SMR 529) adjacent to the south side of the Old Marsh Road had been described as a moat but is thought to have been a sheep enclosure of medieval or later date. All of the other recorded archaeological sites are areas of medieval salt-panning which consist of irregular low mounds.
- 3.5.** No further archaeological features are recorded on any of the maps examined and the rapid walk-over survey failed to identify any other sites of interest.
- 3.6.** Aerial photography does not appear to have identified any further sites of archaeological interest.
- 3.7.** None of the sites identified (see Fig.1 and Appendix 1) will be affected physically or visually by the proposed road scheme.

**3.8.** There is no requirement for further archaeological evaluation.

**3.9.** The possibility of new sites being found when road construction commences is low and, by raising the road on an embankment, the damage to any buried site is minimised.

Dr. John Samuels BA, PhD MIFA

Wednesday 23rd September, 1992









## **Appendix 1**

### **Extracts from East Sussex County Council's Sites and Monuments Record**

SMR 526 : Homestead including moat and enclosures - Site of Manxey DMV

SAM 209

Grid. Ref: TQ65140702

Description :

At TQ 6514 0702 there is an area raised slightly above the general level of the marshes. On this is a large well-preserved moat, with some enclosures and a pond (clearly contemporary) adjacent on the north.

This was discovered and surveyed during field investigation.

The moat is shown and described as 'Pound' on Richard Budgen's map of 1724, and the field in which it is situated is called 'Pound Field' on the Pevensey Tithe Map of 1838. 'Pound' may refer to a later use.

The features are in Manxey Level and the raised area probably represents the original 'Mannic's Island' (see EPN Sussex II 444-5).

A Chapel at Manxey is well authenticated and its site has probably now been established some 200m SSW of the moat (see Sussex 69 NE 4). It is also recorded that a messuage and 12 acres and 1 rood of land 'in Haylesham and Manaksey' was granted to Michelham Priory in 1341 (a), and that in 1405 Robert de Mankesey granted 60 acres of land, with all the buildings on it, to provide a chaplain for the chapel (b).

In a 16th C. Rent Book two messuages are mentioned at Manxey (c). The features described probably represent the site of the manor house at Manxey and buildings and earthworks connected with it.

A homestead moat and associated earthworks, now under pasture, as described by Authy 1. The moat is rectangular and part-waterfilled, measuring overall c.84.0 m NW-SE by c.62.0m transversely, with arms 12.0m wide, which are cut into the higher NW side to a depth of 2.0m, but reduced on the lower SE side to c. 0.5m where it is retained by an outer bank. Disturbed ground on the NW side of the enclosed area indicates the probable site of a house (2).

The associated earthworks suggest a typical small DMV with sunken trackways and enclosures.

Published survey (25" revised).

There may be a direct connection between the desertion of the homestead moat and probable DMN and the decline of the salt workings from the 13th C onwards situated c 600.0m to the SE (3).

- References :
1. A. Clarke, 24.2.60 and C.F. Wardale 2.3.60
    - a. Sx. A.C. VOL 6 (1853), P. 37
    - b. Sx. Rec. Soc. vol. 46 (1942-3) pp 319, 363, 376
    - c. Sx. A.C. vol 45 (1902) pp. 147-179
  2. PAS 9.4.73
  3. NK 10.5.73

SMR 526 : St. Mary's Chapel (site of)

Grid Ref : TQ 65090684 A

Description :

Mankeseye, a chapel dedicated to St. Mary annexed to St. Nicholas's Church, Pevensey. In 1455 Thomas Colbrond quit claimed to Chichester 60 acres of land called Shmiehopp or Churchelond which Robert de Mankesey formerly granted, with all the buildings on it, to Herculando (sic) de Bourbon, Pope's merchant and his heirs on condition of his finding a chaplain to serve the chapel. At that date (1405) it was apparently a chapel of ease of Pevensey.

(TQ 6509 0684) 200m. SSW of the moated site (TQ 60 NE 3 q.v) in a field called 'Church Acre' on the tithe map for Pevensey dated 1838, there are indications of a former building.

The evidence consists of a roughly rectangular raised platform measuring approximately 23m by 11m by 0.3m in height and orientated nearly E-W. A faint scatter of building debris occurs in mole-hills and probing reveals traces of foundations. (2)

The field-name and dimensions and orientation of this building, together with its close proximity to the moat, leave little doubt that this is the site of Manxeye Chapel.

The site of Manxey Chapel is as described in Authy 2, though the building platform has been reduced by cattle to a less regular shape. No building debris was visible. Published survey (25") correct (3).

- References :
1. C.F. Wardale 2.3.60  
a. Sx. Rec. Soc. vol. 46 (1942-3) pp 319, 363, 376  
(A Chichester Cartulary)
  2. A. Clarke 24.2.60
  3. PAS 9.4.73

SMR 527/528 : Medieval saltworking site.

Grid Ref : TQ 658065 A

Description :

Mounds, probably connected with early Md saltworkings, are visible on Pevensey Marsh centered TQ 658065. See TQ 60 NE 17 (for type site) (1).

The saltworking site is marked by a group of 6 irregular mounds (including a fragmentary mound at TQ 65730600).

They measure up to 70.0m in length and c 1.6m high and are composed of desalinated silt with an absence of any datable material. Some mounds show signs of disturbance and some have been incorporated into Md sea defences.

No information on Tithe Maps. Surveyed at 1 : 2,500. (2).

In common with other saltworking sites on Pevensey Marshes and elsewhere in Sussex, the mounds occur fairly close to higher habitable ground. In this case the homestead moat and possible DMV of Manxey (TQ 60 BNE) is c 600.0m to the NW and the decline of the salt industry from the 13th century onwards may have resulted in the abandoning of the settlement. (3)

- References :
1. Sx AC 104 1966 26-29 plan (A J F Dulley)
  2. PAS 11.4.73
  3. NKB 10.5.73

SMR 529 : Enclosure (?) Pound (TQ 6615 0597) Moat (G.T) Earthwork (G.T)

Grid Ref : TQ 66150597 A

Description :

This earthwork is situated on the Pevensey marshes SE of and parallel to the Pevensey-Bexhill road (A.259).

It is near-square on plan with sides measuring internally 52.0 m in length. The enclosed area, featureless and raised but slightly above outside ground level, is surrounded by a very shallow ditch part-waterfilled when visited but probably dry for most of the year.

The original entrance, a slight causeway, survives in the NW side, and there is a minor mutilation in the centre of the NE side.

This feature is not a homestead moat. It would appear to be an enclosure (or pound ?).

AM Survey correct. (3)

The earthwork is described by Authy 3, and is at present under rough pasture. It was probably a sheep enclosure, post-dating the embanking of Waller's Haven c 1340; the land before that date was subject to frequent inundations by the sea. (4).

Published survey (25") revised.

- References :
1. O.S. 6" Prov. EDN
  2. O.S. 25" 1909
  3. A. Clarke 24.2.60
    - a. 'The Inning of Pevensey Levels' Sx. A.C. Vol.53 (1910) P. 60. (L.F. Salzman)
  4. Sx AC 104 1966. plan (A.J.F. Dulley)

SMR 530/531 : Medieval saltworking site

Grid Ref : TQ 679080 A

Description :

Mounds, probably connected with early Md saltworking, are visible on Pevensey Marsh, centre TQ 679080. See TQ 60 NE 17 for type-site.

The saltworking site is marked by a group of 10 irregularly-shaped mounds (including a detached mound at TQ 67380734) in pasture on reclaimed marshland. (1)

They measure up to 40.0m in diameter and c 1.5m high, composed of desalinated silt with an absence of any datable material. Some mounds show signs of disturbance and some have been incorporated into Md sea defences and embankments. No information on Tithe Maps (2)

Surveyed at 1.2500

In common with other saltworking sites on Pevensey Marshes and elsewhere in Sussex, the group of mounds occurs close to rising ground, in this case to the N and SE. Northeys DMV is about 600.0m to the SE and its desertion may be a direct result of the decline of the salt industry due to marsh reclamation from the 13th c onwards. (3)

- References :
1. Sx AC 104 1966 26-29 plan (A.J.F. Dulley)
  2. PAS 11.4.73
  3. NKB 10.5.73

SMR 532 : Mound - possible salt extraction site

Grid Ref : TQ 673073

Description : Mound, probably associated with early M saltworkings (1).

References :        1.     SxAC 104 1966 26-45 (A.J.F.Dulley)



SMR 533 : Deserted Medieval Village of Northeye and Chapel of St. James (site of)

SAM 421

Grid. Ref: TQ 682070 A

Description :

(TQ 682 070). Northeye, a limb of the Cinque Port of Hastings from temp. Henry III with a chapel dedicated to St. James (deed of endowment dated 1262), is not mentioned in Domesday but as it was a manor of Bexhill it is possible that one of the two churches mentioned at that place in the Domesday survey applies. The town had apparently ceased to exist by the time of Charles II and it is last mentioned as a manor in 1828. (a)

It is not noted in Beresford's list of Sussex desertions. (b).

The site of Northeye and its chapel is indicated by the field-name 'Chapel Field' and its associated earthworks (c) which are typical of a deserted village. This is confirmed by the evidence of early cartographers who show and describe the ruined chapel at this point (d) Turner's evidence for the site is conflicting and it is clear that he has confused Northeye and other minor desertions in the locality (for possible earlier site TQ 60 NE 8) (e).

An excavation here in 1952 revealed the possible foundations of the chapel (f) but MS notes on the excavation barely support the supposition (g)

The site of the deserted village of Northeye is indicated by the usual sunken roads, buildings sites and enclosures which are visible in the area of 'Chapel Field'.

AM Survey amended.

The remains of Northeye DMV, situated at YQ 682071 on an island of Wadhurst clay c. 10.0m above the area of the surrounding marsh, generally as described by Authy 1. Only the earthworks within Chapel Field are extant; the rest of the surrounding works have been reduced by ploughing to amorphous banks and ditches.

The site of the chapel, at TQ 6823 0710, on the highest part of the island, is marked by disturbed ground indicating past excavation, first in 1939 by L. Beasley of Normandale School, when flint walling and ashlar dressings were exposed, and then in 1952 (See Authority 1). (3).

- References :
1. C.F. Wardale 1.3.60
    - a) VCH. Vol.9 (1937) pp 120-3
    - b) 'The Lost Villages of England' 1954 pp 387-8 (M.W. Beresford.
    - c) C.S. 6" 1928-40
    - d) Norden's Map of the E.Sussex dated 1724.
    - e) Sx. A.C. Vol. 19 (1867) pp 1-35 (Rev.E. Turner)
    - f) MS Notes and plan, WC Woodhouse O.S.
  2. C.F. Wardale 1.3.60
  3. PAS 4.4.73

**Appendix 2**

**Relevant Maps from East Sussex**

**County Council's Records Office**



Christopher and Greenwood  
1825 Survey

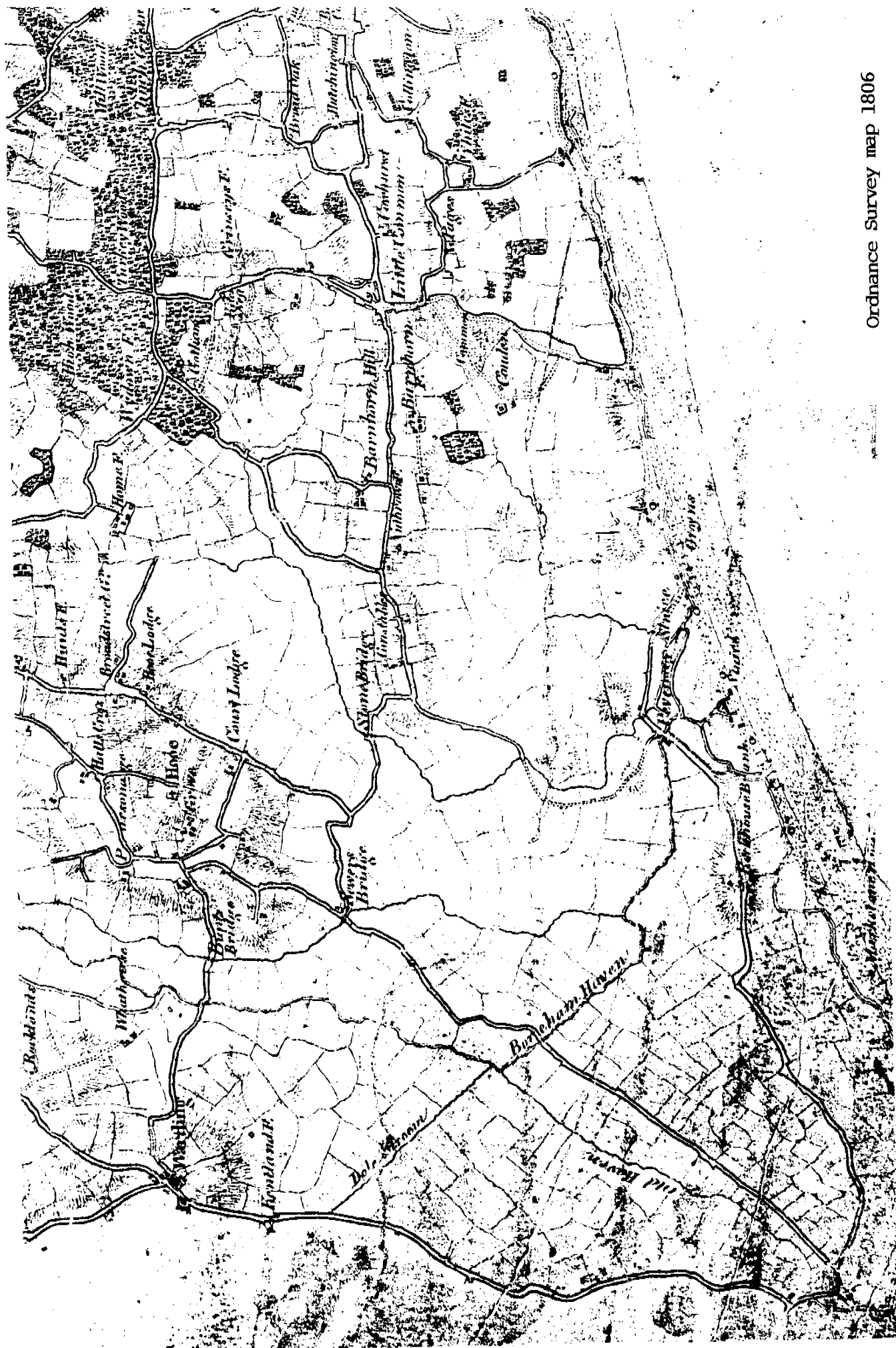
scale one inch : one mile



1st Edition Ordnance Survey map

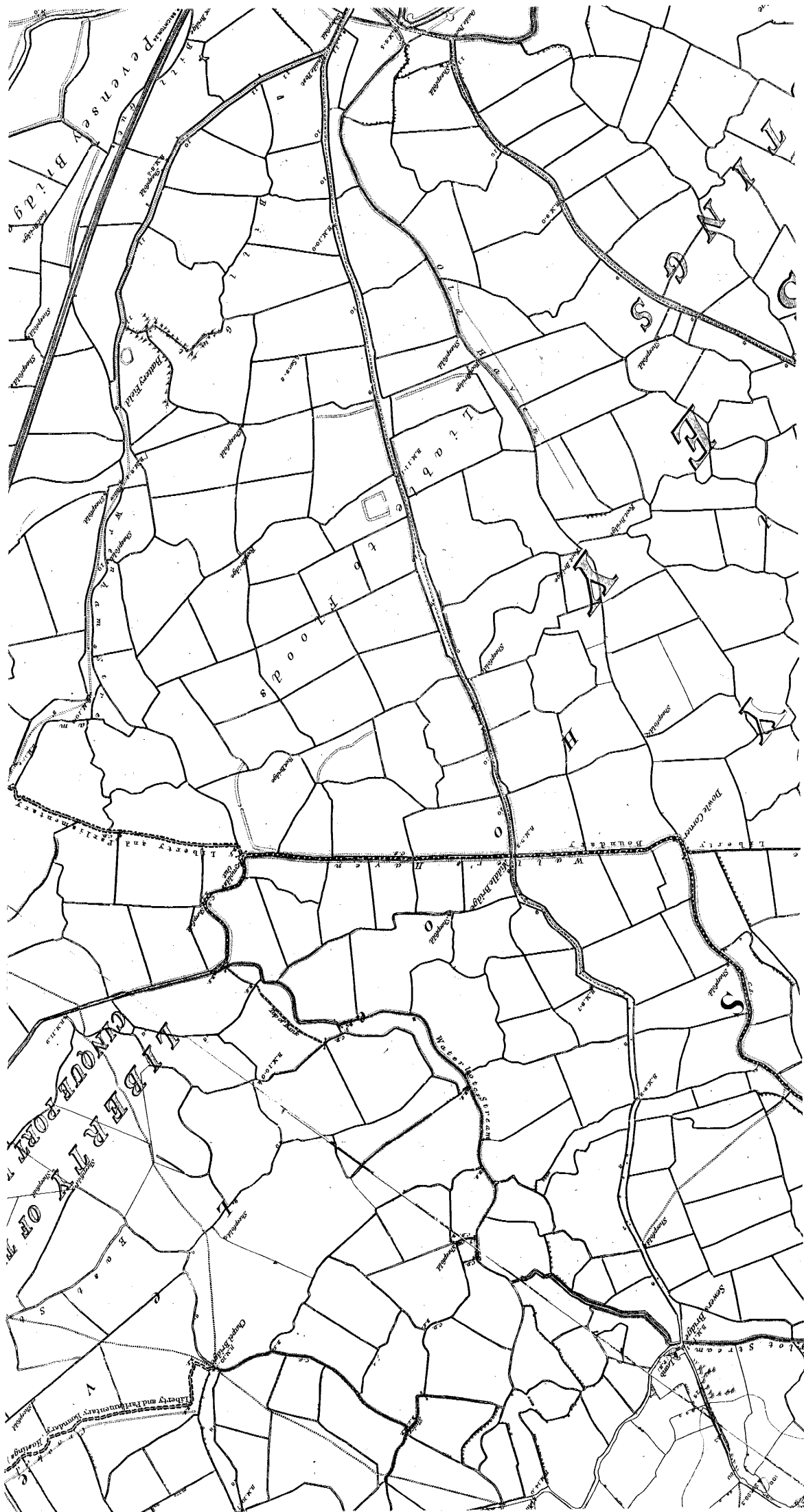
Published 1831, railways  
inserted 1884

scale one inch : one mile



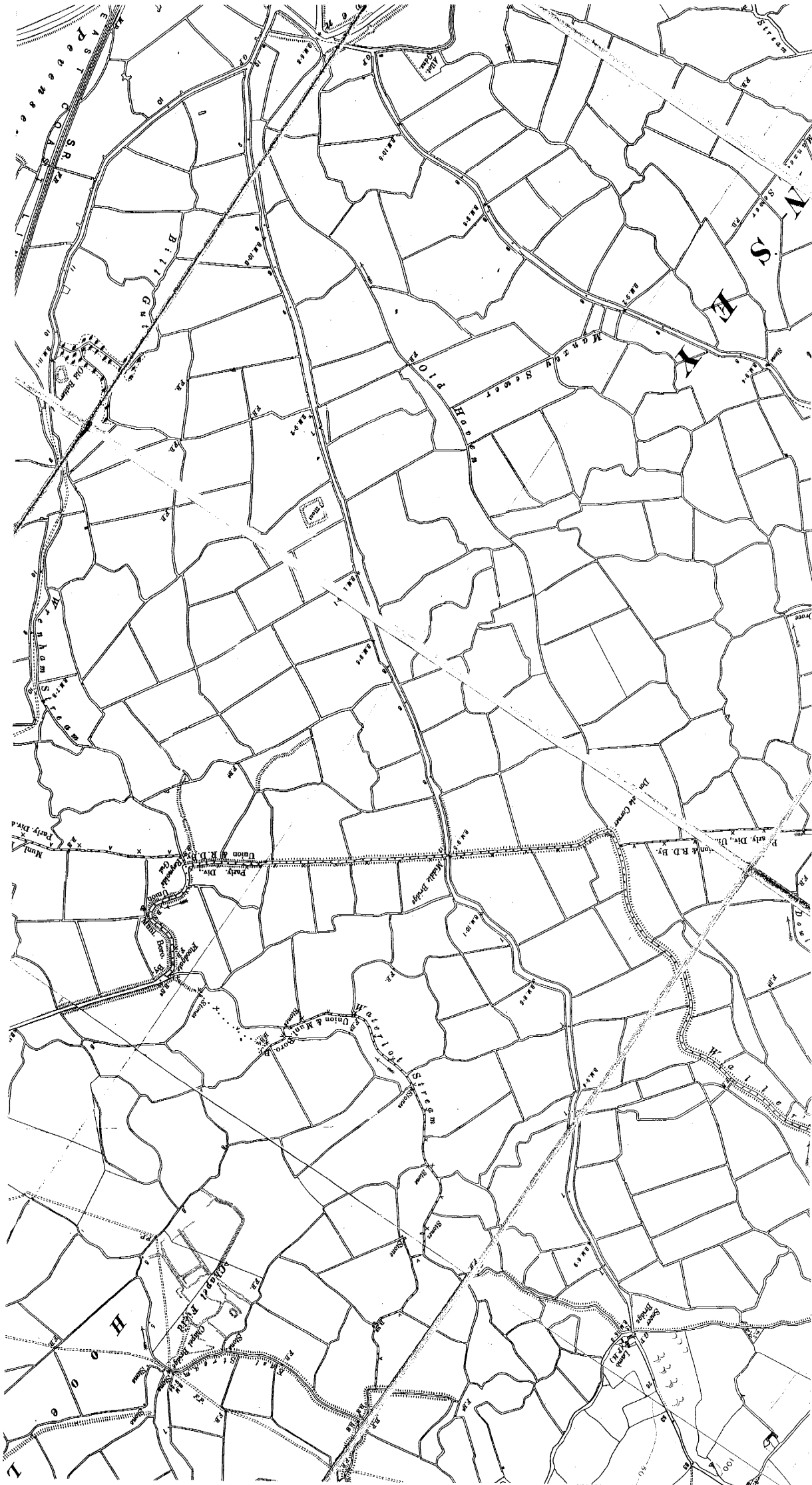
Ordnance Survey map 1806

Scale Two inches : one mile



1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map  
1873 - 1876

Scale six inches : one mile



3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map  
1928-31  
Scale six inches : one mile

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Relevant Articles**

**The Inning of Pevensey Levels by L.F. Sulzmann**

**The Level and Port of Pevensey in the Middle Ages by A.J.F. Dulley**



**The Inning of Pevensey Levels  
by L.F. Salzmänn**

**Sussex Archaeological Collections  
Vol 53, 1910 pp 30 - 60**

**The Level and Port of Pevensey in the Middle Ages  
by A.J.F. Dulley**

**Sussex Archaeological Collections  
Vol. 104, 1966 pp 26-45**