

Archaeology of Imberhorne Farm

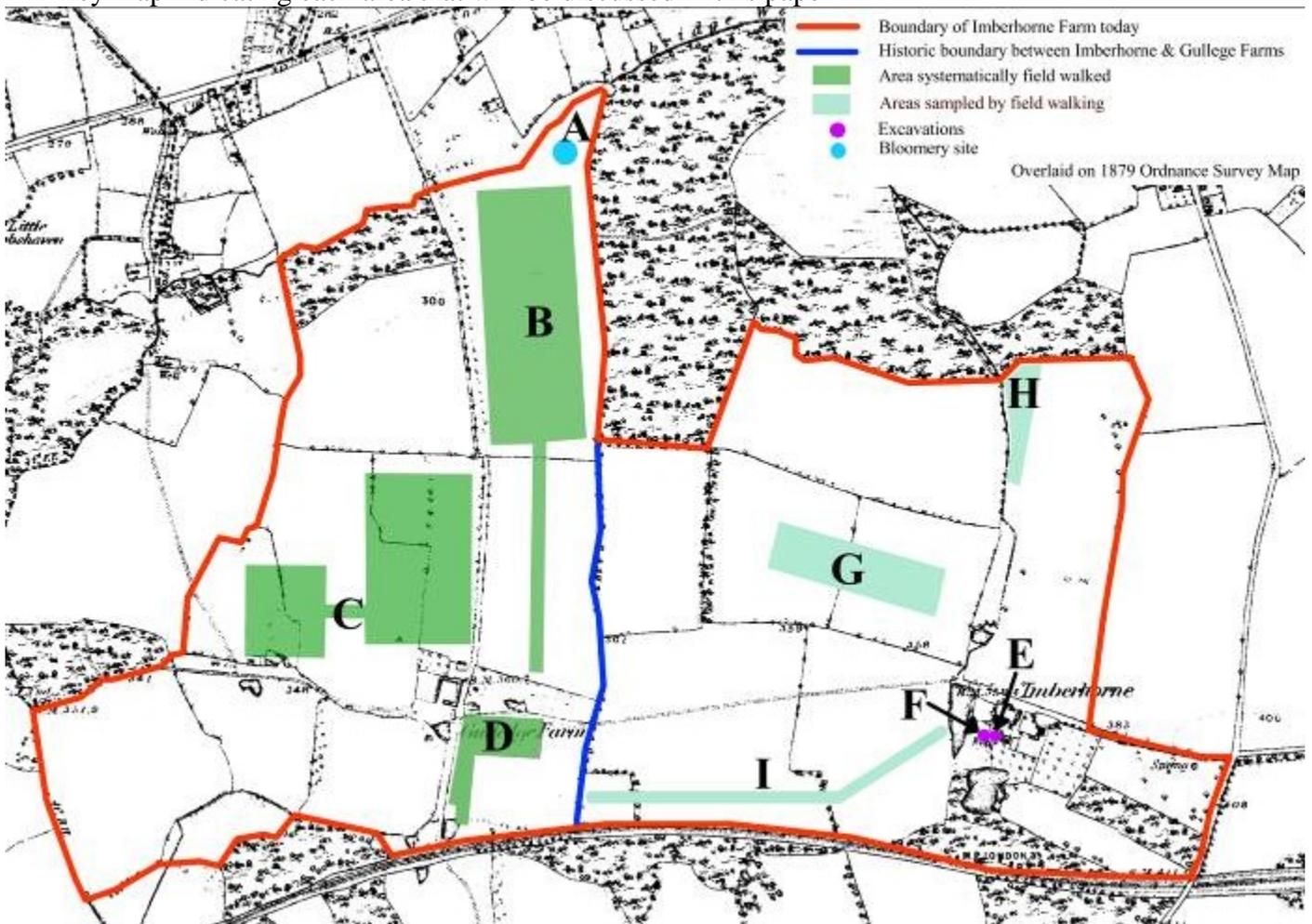
Purpose of the paper

This paper has been written to provide an overview of the archaeology that has been found at Imberhorne Farm, Imberhorne Lane, East Grinstead. The farm lies within the ecclesiastical parish of Felbridge and the Felbridge & District History Group have been investigating its history since 2001. The archaeological work is far from complete but the findings to date are summarised here. This is not intended to be a detailed technical report of the field walks or excavations which will be written up separately to record the finds in detail.

There have been two small excavations of specific sites, but the majority of the work has been completed by field walking. The field walks have generated over 15,000 items that have been catalogued and dated. The speed of processing the finds has limited the land area that could be covered during the years and the field walks to date have only covered 10% of the area of the current farm land.

The finds have provided an alternative approach to uncovering the history of the farm when compared to documentary research.

Key map indicating each area that will be discussed in this paper



Overview of the history of the land

Imberhorne Farm (TQ3724 3840) encompasses the demesne lands of the manor of Imberhorne dating to about 1100, and Gullege (TQ3654 3841), the freehold property of the Alfrey family from c1300, situated at the northern end of the manor of Broadhurst. The two farms came under single ownership in the late 1800s and were merged in 1924 to form what we know as Imberhorne Farm today. The map above shows the historic division between the two farms.

The land of the earlier Imberhorne Farm to the east of the division has been farmed since at least 1580 (see handout 'The Farm at Imberhorne' SJC 05/03) and the map of the lands in the Buckhurst Terrier of 1597/8 shows a dwelling only at the site of the manor house now 1-3 Imberhorne Farm

Cottages. No documents have come to light indicating other dwellings within the land holding of Imberhorne Farm.

Very little is known about the land history of Gullege Farm and the documentary evidence is that in 1841 there were two adjoining farms Gullege Farm and Lyewood Farm later known as Gullege Farm Cottages. Gullege Farm Cottages are shown on early maps just to the north of the track from Gullege to Hophurst in what is now known as Heathy Field.

Metal Detector finds

The West Kent Metal Detector Club has visited the fields of Imberhorne Farm on many occasions. They have provided a list of the metal finds from each of the fields and also donated some of them to the Felbridge History Group, unfortunately until recently they did not record exactly where within each of the fields any items were found. The key finds from each field will be discussed below.

The field walks

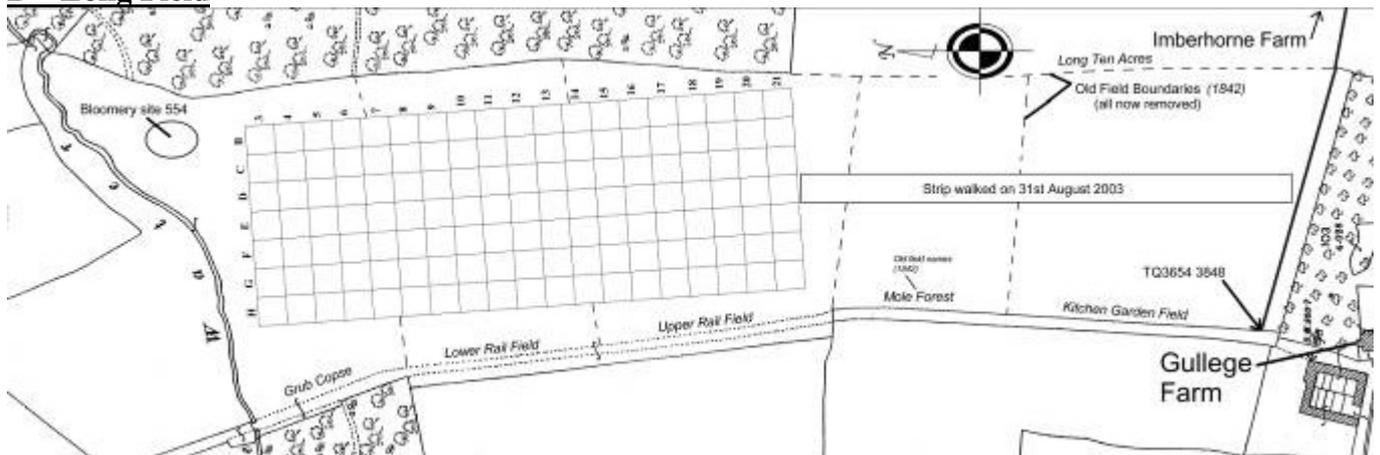
The field walks were undertaken with the landowner's permission and full support to record any archaeological information in an attempt to address the almost complete lack of archaeological research of the area and to gain an understanding of the land use. The walks were made possible through donations made by Brian and Marilyn Emmett, Laura Sansom, Stephonie and Jeremy Clarke and the East Grinstead Society.

A – Bloomery Site

3rd century bloomery site authenticated by the Wealden Iron Research Group and now known as Felbridge Water Bloomery, site no. 554 at TQ 3665 3926.

The bloomery evidence covers a circular area of about 75 ft/22.5m implying that over the years it has been well ploughed out. The location of the site is near the stream in the part of Long Field once called Grub Copse. It is also one of a string of three hearth/bloomery sites, running westward along the stream from this point, that have so far been identified. These range in date from the 1st century at Smythford bloomery TQ359 389 (the furthest westward) to the 3rd century at Felbridge Water bloomery.

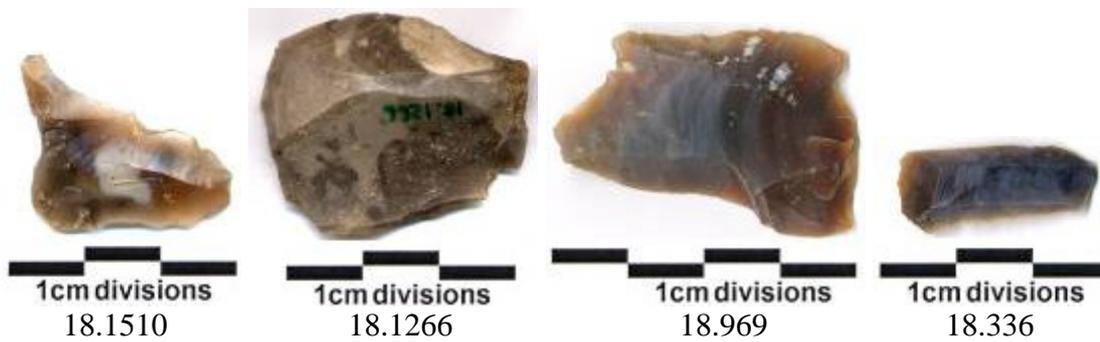
B – Long Field



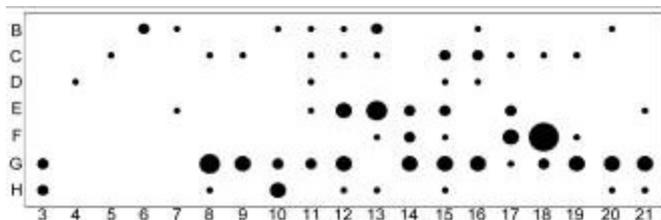
Map of Long Field showing old field boundaries and the grid walked.

The West Kent Metal Detector Club finds from Long Field include coins from the 18th to 20th century's one of which was a George III gold quarter guinea in extremely good condition and no wear dated 1762. Other early artefacts include 16th century brass buckle and a sword belt fitment. The remaining finds cover the period from the 17th to the 20th century.

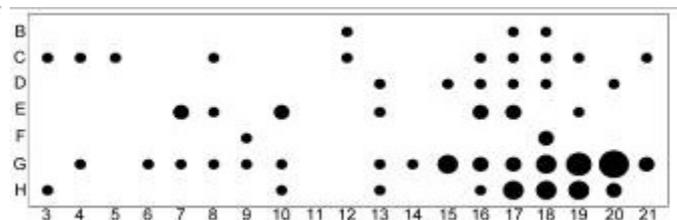
Long Field was walked on 10th May 2003 and 31st August 2003 and has already been covered by a detailed report (FHG Field Walk Report 01). The finds contained 33 worked flints with 3 items dating to the Mesolithic Period the remainder dating to the Neolithic. The flints were concentrated towards the north west of the field.



3rd century style bloomery slag. The concentration profile was unexpected as there was very little found in the northeast of the field closest to the known bloomery site. There seems to be a higher concentration of bloomery slag further south this may have been used as a hard standing associated with a building at some time later or an area where bloomery slag was dumped prior to distribution for some other purpose such as fertiliser, an agricultural practise that operated in the 1930s and 40's.



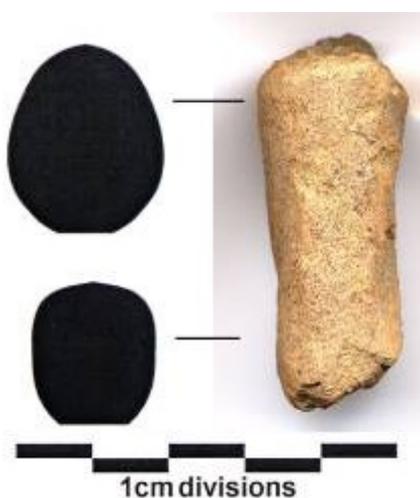
Distribution of Bloomery Tap Slag



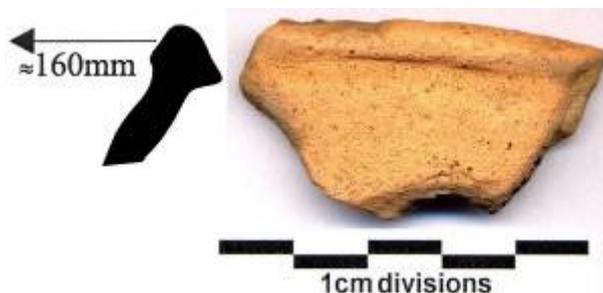
Distribution of Blast Furnace Slag

Blast furnace slag. The nearest blast furnace is Warren furnace in Furnace Wood, TQ 3475 3929, working between the mid 1500's and late 1700's. Any blast furnace slag found in the area must have been imported for a specific purpose, with roadway maintenance or hard standing being the most probable uses. Blast furnace slag differs from bloomery slag in that it is grey/green glassy material whereas bloomery slag looks like solidified molten globules of iron coloured material and is very heavy in comparison with the 16th century slag. This is due to the efficient iron extraction of the blast furnace process compared to the bloomery furnace process. The distribution plot shows a distinct concentration in the southwest corner of the site walked. This does not correlate with the concentration of the bloomery slag implying that the reuses of these materials were separated historically rather than just gathering locally found slag of any period for a single purpose.

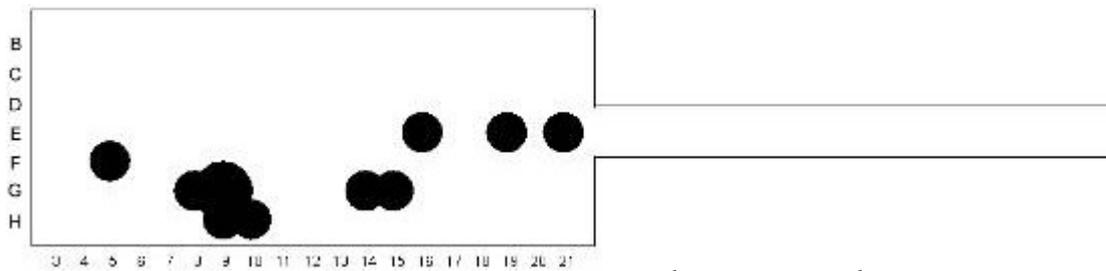
Pottery finds. Since the original report on the field walk was published, the pottery finds have been dated enabling distribution plots by period to be generated. These are shown below.



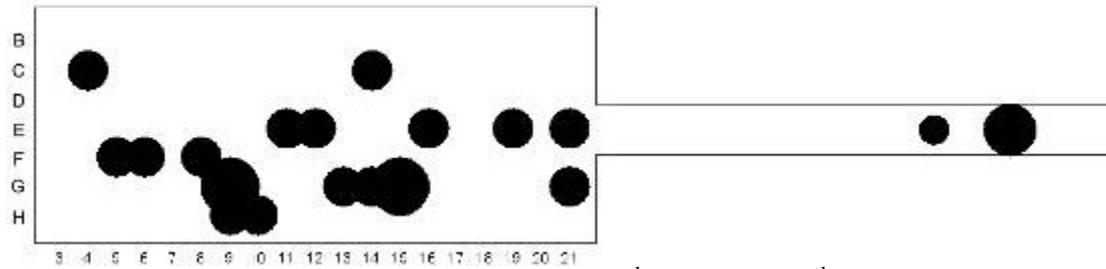
18.115 Pot Handle (mid 13thC-mid 14thC)



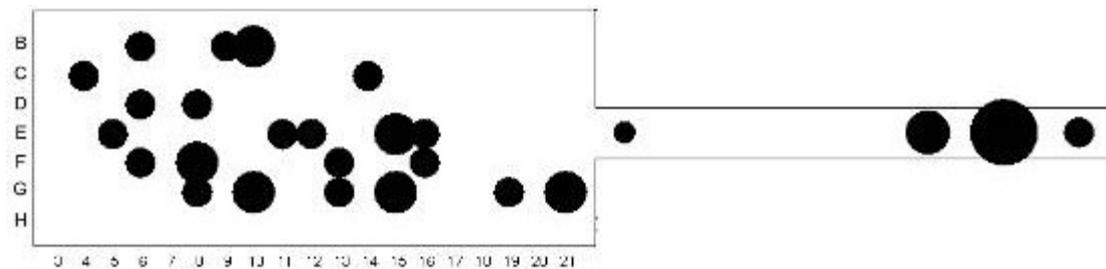
18.564 Small Pot Rim (mid 15thC-mid 16thC)



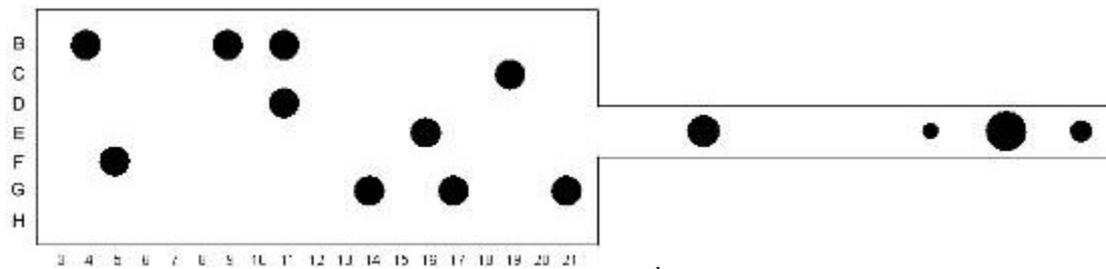
Early medieval pottery (12th century – 13th century)



Medieval pottery (14th century – 15th century)



Post-medieval pottery (16th century – 17th century)

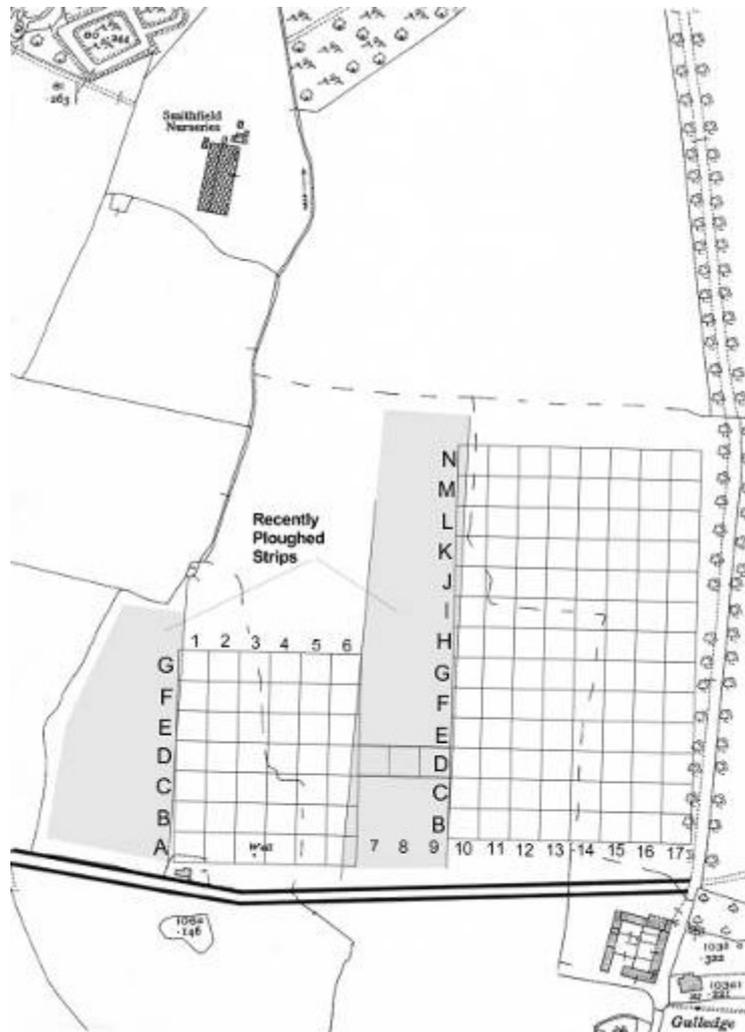


Modern pottery (18th century – present)

Interpretation of the distribution plots concludes that there appears to have been a building located near G9 from the early medieval period which continued to be used into the medieval period but ceasing before the 16th century. This location also had a higher concentration of building debris. The concentrations of pottery are not high enough to suggest that this building was used as a dwelling. In the medieval periods, land usage would appear to have been concentrated towards the north-south trackway (west of Long Field), but by the post-medieval period the pottery scatter is more even across the entire northern part of Long Field. There is little pottery from the modern period and it is very evenly distributed and may have come from spreading of manure or pig swill.

The absence of early medieval pottery in the strip walked in the southern half of Long Field compared to the appearance of pottery at the southern extent of the field in the medieval period may suggest that the occupation of the ridge near where Gullege now stands started in the 14th or 15th century. There is a distinct gap between the pottery finds at the very southern end of Long Field and the finds in the northern half of the field indicating that it is unlikely there was any other occupation within the southern half of the field.

C – Heathy Field



Map of Heathy Field showing old field boundaries and the grid walked in April 2004 (background map is 1954).

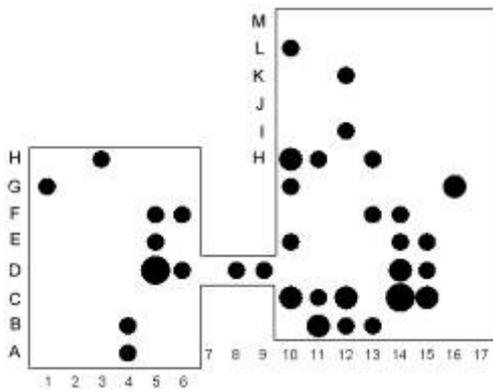
Heathy Field had limited field walking carried out in 1986/7 in the southern end of the field under the direction of Doug Skinner. He found a number of significant finds and his map of finds has been used to relate these to the grid shown above.

Description	Approximate Grid
Worked Flints	B4, B10, F3, E10
Roman burnished pot (1-3 rd C)	D0
Roman black pot shard (1-3 rd C)	B-3
A leg from a bronze cooking pot (12-13 th C)	H1
Lattern spool bowl with fleur de lys (14th C - 15th C)	A10
Bronze spur (broken) (14-16 th C)	B2
Cooking pot handle	D2
Civil War Button (17 th C)	H3
Elizabeth I sixpence, cut in half (16 th C)	E2
Glazed bowl base	H10
Horse harness rings (14-18 th C)	B-2, F15
Lead Token (16 -17 th C)	C12

He concluded that there may have been a medieval dwelling located near grid G2.

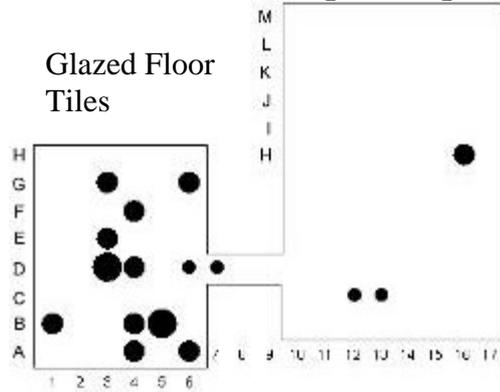
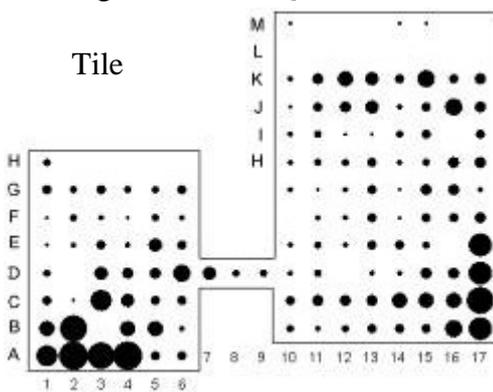
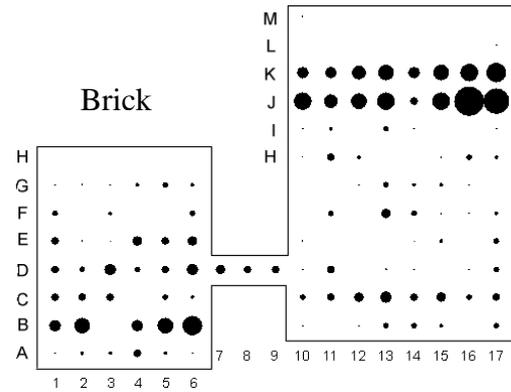
The West Kent Metal Detector Club finds from Heathy Field include one Roman coin from the 3rd century along with another that was too corroded for identification. The remaining coins covering the period from the mid 16th century through to the 20th century with most from the 19th century. Other finds are mainly from the 18th century and later.

Flint. The flint finds were sorted to include only those that demonstrated clear working rather than those that could have been accidental as a result of a plough.



The worked flint distribution is unexpected as it appears to cover an area 200m across approximately centred around D10. Unfortunately the inability to walk rows 7-9 has limited the interpretation but there is a distinct lack of worked flint finds in the north-east or south-west of the walked area. This is in contrast with Long Field where the flint finds were concentrated at the north end of the field against the stream. In Heathy Field there is a concentration on the highest land.

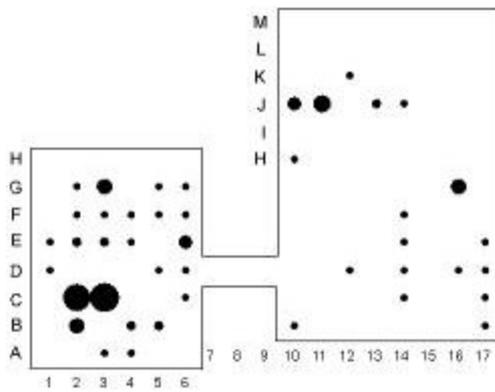
Building Materials. Distribution plots of brick, tile, slate, window glass and glazed floor tiles were produced to try to understand the potential location of buildings using these materials. There appears to have been brick built structures in row J, potentially two one near J16 and another near J12, both of these coincide with slightly higher concentrations of tile. There is also evidence for brick built structures near B2 and near B6 these being 80m apart. Roofing tile is also more concentrated near B2, although the distribution spreads towards A4. There is a large concentration around C17 which is not associated with any significant brick finds. Window glass was found at high concentrations at A2 and a few of pieces were found at J13. Slate was found in high concentrations at A2 with lower level concentrations at K13, A6 and around C17. The scatter of medieval glazed floor tiles (13/14th century) is not clear due to the reduced number of finds (30 in total) but could indicate high status medieval buildings near D2 and B5. A number of these floor tile fragments match to tiles found at the moated site NBR no. TQ 33 NE 8, an early medieval moated site on the south bank of the Felbridge Water at TQ3613 3903 which is at the bottom of the neighbouring field.



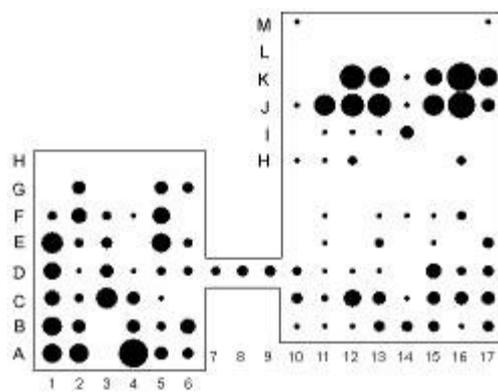
This therefore provides six potential structure locations to be considered:-

- i) D3 medieval floor tile, a little tile and brick.
- ii) B5/6 medieval floor tile, there is some tile, brick & slate near here.
- iii) B2/A2 brick, tile, slate and window glass.
- iv) J16 brick and tile.
- v) J13/K13 brick, tile, some slate and a little window glass.
- vi) B17-D17 a lot of tile & some slate.

Bloomery & furnace slag. The bloomery slag is very concentrated at C2-C3 and rows 1-6 have higher average concentrations when compared to rows 10-17 except for the small concentration at J11. The furnace slag has two distinct concentrations near J/K12 and J/K16, the highest concentration is at A4. Again, similar to Long Field, the concentrations of bloomery and furnace slag do not coincide implying that their use is at different time periods.



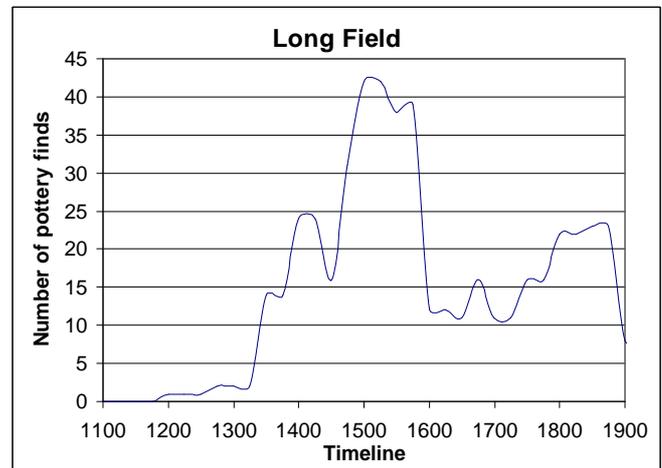
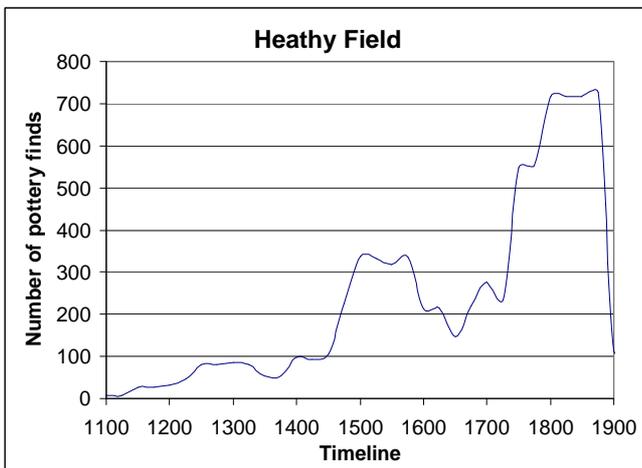
Bloomery Slag



Furnace Slag

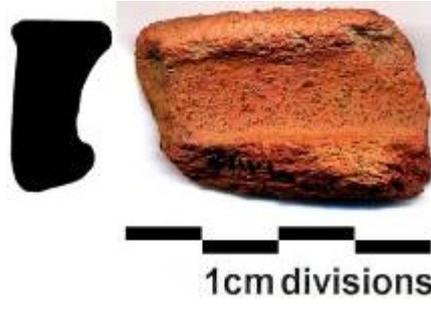
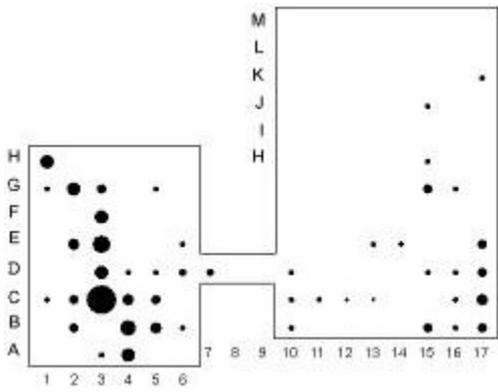
Pottery. The pottery has been categorised into the same four periods as Long Field and the distribution plots and examples of some of the types of finds are shown below. The only earlier pottery finds were the two pieces of Roman period which were found by Doug Skinner in the south west corner of the field outside and on the border of this field walk.

The number of pottery finds from Heathy Field and Long Field can be plotted against their date period to provide the following graphs.



As both field walks covered very similar areas (~148 20m squares), this provides comparative evidence to show for the level of occupation or use of the land and the periods in which this was occurring. Long Field has a peak around the 16th century but the level of pottery finds is only about one tenth of the finds from Heathy Field at the same period. Both fields show continued pottery finds up to the 19th century although 300 times greater levels in Heathy Field which is known to have had an occupied dwelling in the mid 19th century.

It would appear that Heathy Field has been used or occupied continuously from the 12th century through to the 19th century. Long Field would appear to be used from the 14th century, with possible occupation in the 16th century and a rapid decline in the 17th century back to levels that are unlikely to relate to occupation in the walked area. The continuous pottery finds from Heathy Field are interesting as they show no drop during the periods of plague implying that the occupation of this land was not significantly affected. This is unusual as pottery finds often show a decline in domestic activity as a result of major population changes.

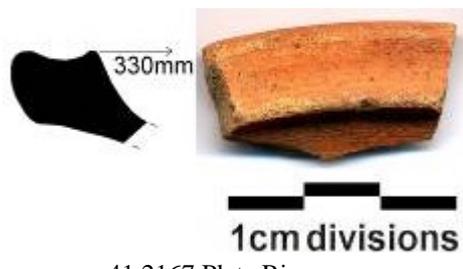


41.1112 Pot Handle

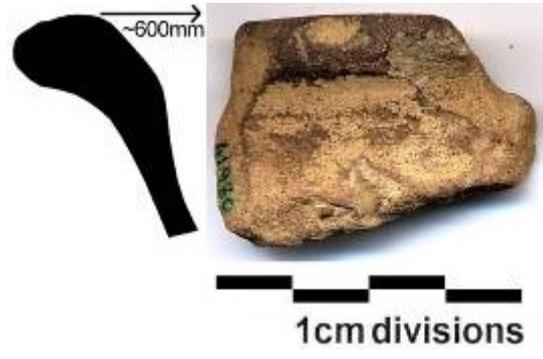
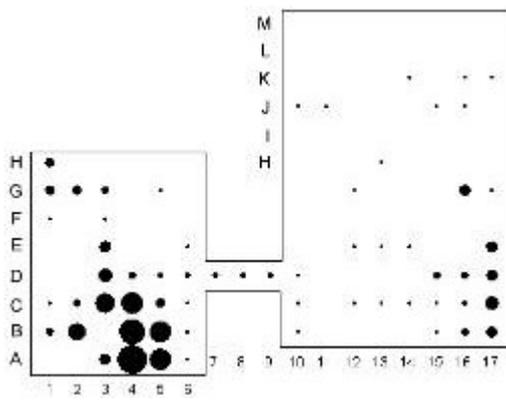


41.1016 Strap Handle

Early medieval pottery (12/13thC)

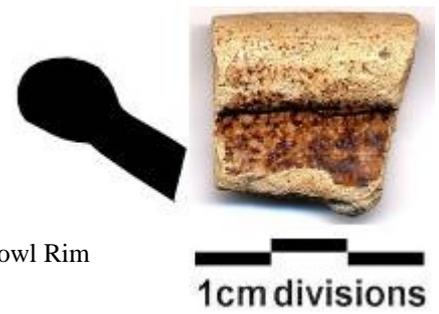


41.2167 Plate Rim

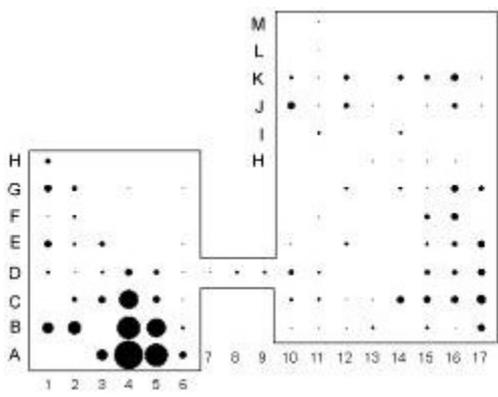


41.980 Cooking Pot Rim

Medieval Pottery (14/15thC)



41.499 Plate/Bowl Rim



41.1585 Raeren Stoneware Jug Rim

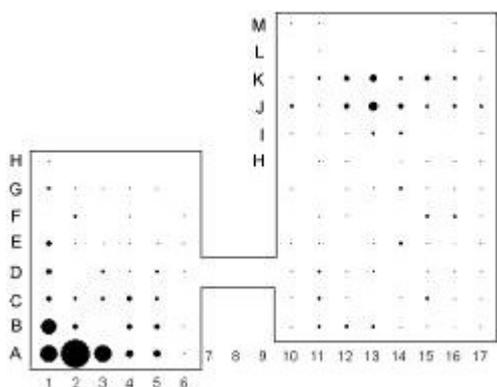
Post-medieval pottery (16/17thC)



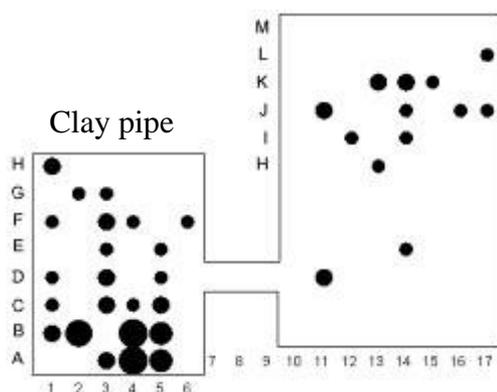
41.2176 18th century Rim



41.2240 18th century bowl rim



Modern Pottery (18thC or later)



Clay pipe

Other distributions. Another distribution that could be linked to domestic occupation was the presence of coal fragments at J/K11 and A2 but nowhere else in the walked grid. The distribution of clay pipe bowls and stems is also worth including at this point as it shows significant differences across the walked area. The clay pipe stems and bowls are found in significant concentrations at B2 and A/B4, but it is the lower density spread across rows 1 to 5 that is significantly different to the area to the east south of row H which only had 3 fragments found. There is also a concentration near K13/14 but not as significant as B2 or A4. Some of the pipe fragments can be attributed to the 17th century but most fragments

are too small to enable reliable dating and thus the clay pipe distribution can only be indicative of different land use/occupation in the post medieval and modern periods. Bottle glass of many different types was found in high concentrations at A2-A3 and at much lower concentrations at J/K11.

Using the pottery to date occupation/use of each of the potential sites of structures listed above gives the following conclusions.

- i) D3 Early medieval through to medieval then ceases.
- ii) B5/6 Medieval through to Post-medieval then ceases.
- iii) B2/A2 Modern period only.
- iv) J16 No significant domestic activity, possibly some medieval/post-medieval usage.
- v) J13/K13 No significant domestic activity, possibly some post-medieval/modern usage.
- vi) B17-D17 No domestic activity, usage from early medieval-post-medieval periods.

As shown on page 5 the map evidence shows a well in cell A3 and a building just south of grid A1 present in 1954. The East Grinstead tithe map of 1842 can also be overlaid onto the grid but the cartography is poorer making exact positioning difficult. It shows that there were two buildings one near B3 and the other near A3. The 1861 sale plan for Gullege shows the southern of the buildings on the tithe and a new building to the west south of grid A1. This sale plan also shows significantly

more detail including the location of small enclosures at the east end of this new building. These



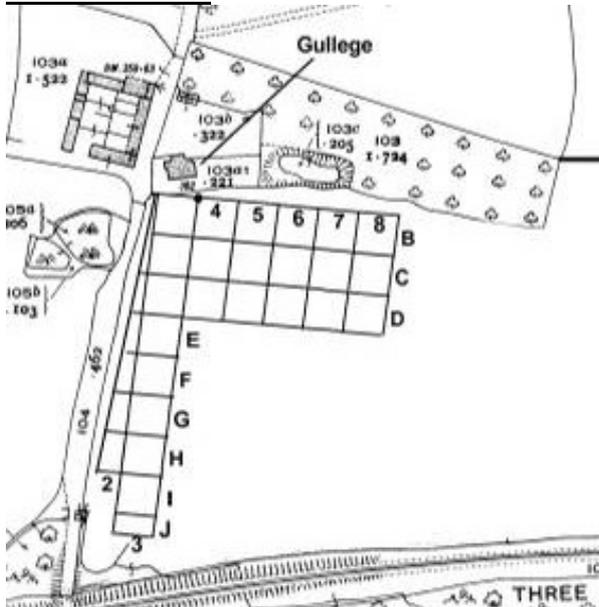
two buildings are those referred to as Gullege Farm Cottages previously known as Lyewood Farm. The early maps and sale plan do not indicate any other buildings within Heathy Field except for a small barn in the south east corner of the field against the track which is south of grid B17.

The modern pottery and building material finds at B2/A2 are likely to be the demolition spread of the building south of A1 and any small outbuildings that may have been associated with the property.

The investigations of the southern half of Heathy Field have therefore identified at least four other sites of buildings that could not be identified from the available map evidence. The dating of the pottery has also provided likely periods of use for each of the buildings providing a greater understanding of this area of the current field dating back to the 12th century.

West end of Heathy Field from the 1861 sale plan overlaid with grid and current footpath position

D - Brick Field



Map of Brick Field

The east-west trackway past Gullege was on the south side of the house in the 19th century and would have been near/in row B of the walked grid. There are a number of clay extraction pits in the vicinity of Gullege and Brick Field would appear to be so named in the 1841 sale because of the large quantity of bricks present within the field.

Brick Field is the far west end of what is now known as Gullege Field which stretches all the way from the farm complex at the east to the trackway at the west end of Gullege house. The West Kent Metal Detector Club has found a number of items in Gullege Field although it has not been possible to ascertain how many of them have come from the 'brick field' part. These finds included a number of significant coins; Edward I silver 1/4d (1272-1307), Edward II silver 1/2d (1471-1483), Elizabeth I silver 1d (1560-1561) and Elizabeth I silver 2d (1590-1592) along with many coins from the 17th to 20th century. Other significant finds included a copper alloy 16th century double loop spectacle buckle and a 15th/16th century sword belt hanger.

Mr & Mrs Lightburn who live at Gullege have also found a number of items within the garden of the property mainly 18th and 19th century but also including a Hans Krauwinkel Jeton (c1572) and a stone spindle whorl both pictured below. Within Brick Field they have found a cobalt blue glazed half brick.



Brick field was walked in February 2004 but the walk was called off after a short while due to extremely heavy rain, this significantly reduced the number of grid squares walked to the 23 shown on the map above.

Brick fragments were not collected during this field walk due to the extremely high concentrations present within the grid. However a number of whole bricks were found and are sized similarly to those in the chimney of Gullege. There were also cobalt blue glazed brick fragments again matching to the original colour of the glazed bricks in the Gullege chimney. The highest concentrations of bricks were observed near grid G2/3. The presence of many distorted bricks or wasters makes it unlikely that the bricks are the remnants of a demolished building but that this is the location of the kiln that manufactured the bricks to build the chimney in the late 16th century.

Due to the limited number of grids walked, the generation of distribution plots does not provide good evidence for interpretation as the background concentrations in adjacent parts of the field cannot be used for comparison.

Pottery finds. There were two pieces of earlier medieval pottery found, these were a rim and a strap handle fragment dating from the mid 13th to mid 14th century (40.322 grid E3 & 40.348 grid F2). Seven shards were found dating from the late 14th century to the mid 16th century (example is 40.13 a rim dated from mid 15th century to mid 16th century).



Nineteen pieces dated to the period mid 16th century to end of the 17th century with 114 shards from the modern period. The later period pottery shards are mostly found in rows B-D with the highest concentrations in row C.

It is clear that much further work is required on the full extent of Gullege Field to be able to draw any further conclusions on the land usage or any potential occupation sites.

E - Well excavation at No.3 Imberhorne Farm Cottages

The excavation was carried out on 27th June 2003 by Martin Bastone with assistance from members of the Felbridge History Group. Martin has provided the write up for this summary.

Introduction: The purpose of this limited excavation was to enable the group to learn something about the well at the rear of the cottage garden. It was assumed that the well was the most recent of several wells likely to have been created in the garden over several hundred years. Dating evidence for this well was sought in addition to discovering something about the design, relative cost and materials used. A small trench was hand dug to one side of the well. This trench measured 60 by 80 centimetres. The longest side being against the well surround, which was squared off.

Site history: No.3 Imberhorne Farm Cottages contains a false hammer beam timber frame constructed in 1428. The west end of the current cottage is most probably the spere separating the open hall from the cross passage with the service end (now lost) extending towards the location of the well. The ground level west of the cottage appears to have been lowered as the original sill beam of the 1428 structure is over 1m above the current ground level and the foundation blocks would suggest that it was originally constructed to be less than 30cm above the ground level.

Geology: Matrix consists of a clay mix, Red, grey and white in colour. Inclusions of sandstone, mortar and charcoal. Below 50cm depth there is a more consistent brown soil with fewer finds. None of significance. 55cm below reference point is a clay mix which is red/yellow in colour. This was first noticed at 30cm level at about 35cm from the well edge. This appears to be imported from local ponds and is quite distinctive. Its likely purpose was to help retain the water at a level where sandstone is more common.

Finds: See drawing (not to scale) the well is above the top of this drawing.

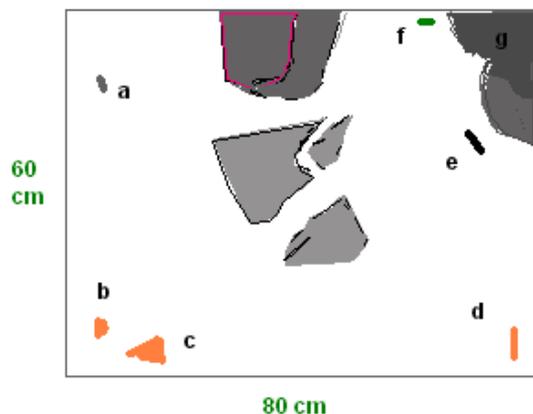
- a. Fragments of thin yellow glass. (Located 35-40cm below reference point)
- b. Pot rim. (35cm below ref. 10cm out from either adjacent edge)
- c. Tile fragment. (35cm below ref. 26cm from lower left corner. 10cm from bottom edge).
- d. Pot sherd with handle. Offset brown/yellow glaze (18th century). (40cm below ref. 6cm from edges of lower right corner).
- e. Charcoal. (40cm below ref. 10cm from right edge, 22cm from top edge).
- f. Brass brooch pin. (35cm below ref. 20cm from right edge, 10cm from top edge).
- g. Concrete.

Note: The reference point is ground level adjacent to lower left corner of trench.

A fragment of clay pipe bowl was also found on the spoil pile (From 45cm level) this was identified as an 18th century type.

The stones of the well itself are distinctly curved and this is a relatively expensive method of building a well. The stone is local sandstone. About 25cm below reference level at the well side it was noted that small blocks of sandstone approximately 20cm long supported the upper concrete edging. A small fragment of glazed brick was also noted.

Conclusions: The well has obviously been repaired in recent decades and slightly built up. The sandstone blocks indicate wealth. The few finds would seem to indicate that the main work of sinking the well was carried out sometime around 1800. Clay has been imported from a local pond and applied to the outside of the stone blocks.



F - Midden excavation at No.3 Imberhorne Farm Cottages

The excavation was carried out on 29th May 2004 by Martin Bastone with assistance from members of the Felbridge History Group.

Introduction: The purpose of this limited excavation was to identify if a midden or rubbish dump could be found associated with the medieval occupation of the site. The site selected was the rear boundary of the cottage garden against the farmland as it had been in the 19th century. The garden boundaries have changed in the 20th century such that this excavation now lay in the farmland rather than the residential garden. A 1.2m wide trench was mechanically dug up to the current west boundary of the garden. The trench was excavated and extended until no further disturbance of the ground could be detected.

Site history: The history of No.3 Imberhorne Farm Cottages has been discussed above.

Finds: A collection of bottles, china and household debris was found starting at a depth of 40cm below the adjacent ground level. This debris was removed and a number of the finds were retained for later identification and dating. The trench was deepened until natural geology was reached and then extended into the field but no other items were found that pre-dated c1800. The excavation of a rubbish dump provides a significant number of large fragments or even intact items as compared to the fragmentary nature of field walking finds. These larger finds allow a picture to be built up of the peoples lives in the area at the time, what they were eating, drinking and therefore potentially the lifestyle that they led.



Blount-Jerningham Dinner Set

These fragments of pottery represent pieces of a dinner set. There are fragments of a gravy boat, plate and condiments set. All of them are identically decorated and the plate and the gravy boat have a coat of arms for the Blount-Jerningham family. Edward Blount married Gertrude Jerningham in 1834 and this set must have been manufactured during or after that year to have their joined coat of arms. Edward Blount started living at Imberhorne Manor (now the location of Campbell Crescent) in 1878, therefore these items are likely to have been dumped in the 1900's.

There were also a number of stoneware bottles found, again dating to the late 19th century/early 20th century, the one pictured at the back on the right is a blacking bottle that would have

contained Boot & Harness blacking or Stove Polish these were made between 1800 and 1910.

There were also a very large number of glass bottles found including those pictured below; Van Smikren, LWD (milk bottle), Shippams (paste pot) &



UD (United Dairies milk Bottle). The milk bottles are both 1/3 pint. Along side the glass and pottery were a lot of animal bones all of which showed butchery and are likely to be the remains of joints of meat. The vast majority of the pottery is early 1920's with a few pieces from the 1930's. It seems likely that the midden in this location was started in the early 1900's and continued to be used until the mid 1900's.





Collection of typical items from the midden trench including pottery, clock weight, Bakelite switch holder & glassware

G- Lucerne

Lucerne was field walked 21st September 2003 in an area in the southern half of the field as shown on the key plan in page 1. This was not an intensive field walk and was therefore not using a grid. The purpose of the field walk was to see what typical items were on the surface in this part of the field.

The finds included a lot of tile fragments (66) and a few brick fragments (9) but not as many as seen in association with a demolished building. There were 9 items of bottle glass and 26 pottery finds all of which were 19th or 20th century. Lucerne Field has not been fully investigated, but the only finds are from the modern period.

H - Cow Field

Cow Field was walked over in one small section in September 2003 when this section had been ploughed over whilst the rest of the field was still covered with grass. This brief investigation produced 18 items of pottery with 2 fragments dating to the 16th century and the rest from the 18th century through to the 20th century.

The West Kent Metal Detector Club has search within Cow Field on two occasions and their finds include a silver Edward IV 1d (14thC) and a possible Roman coin the remaining coins being from the 19th and 20th centuries. The other metal finds mainly date to the 19th century

The northern end of the field contains visible levels of bloomery slag on the surface and whilst a centre of concentration could not be found, further investigation is necessary to try to understand why such levels are present and whether there is any concentration profile.

I - Gullege Field

A strip of Gullege Field was walked in October 2003, this found 22 fragments of pottery all of which dated to the modern period.

The West Kent Metal Detector Club finds from Gullege Field were discussed in the Brick Field section as it was not possible to determine which part of Gullege Field they came from.

Texts of all Handouts referred to in this document can be found on FHG website; www.Jeremy-Clarke.freeserve.co.uk
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