

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

Introduction

The following historical timeline covers human settlement and activity from the prehistoric period to the 20th century, and also touches on the influence of social and cultural change, and individual people, on the historic environment in the District.

The timeline is split into specific sections to cover the following:

- The Weald
- Prehistoric activity and settlement
- Roman activity and settlement
- Saxon activity and settlement
- Medieval activity and settlement
- Post medieval activity and settlement
- Historic Farmsteads
- Major local industries
- Other trades and industries
- Transport
- Military history
- Famous and notable local figures

The Weald

Wealden District lies within the 'Weald', and includes two landscape areas: the High Weald, and the Low Weald. The name 'Weald' is derived from the Old English weald, meaning "forest". In the Anglo-Saxon period, the area had the name Andredes weald', meaning "the forest of Andred", the latter derived from Anderida, the Roman name of present-day Pevensey. The area is also referred to in Anglo-Saxon texts as Andredesleage, where the second element, leage, is another Old English word for "woodland".

Many important fossils have been found in the sandstones and clays of the Weald, including, for example, Baryonyx and Iguanodon teeth. The famous scientific hoax of Piltdown Man was claimed to have come from a gravel pit at Piltdown near Uckfield.

Archaeological evidence from the Prehistoric periods suggests that, following after the Mesolithic Period which was dominated by hunter-gatherer communities, sections of the population had begun to settle and farm the landscape during the Neolithic Period. This resulted in clearance of sections of the forest, especially the less dense woodland on the South Downs, and this clearance and expansion of farmland continued in earnest into the Bronze Age, with large sections of the Low Weald probably cleared of trees.

With the Iron Age Period came the first use of the Weald as an industrial area. Wealden sandstones contain ironstone, and with the additional presence of large

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

amounts of timber for making charcoal for fuel, the area was the centre of the Wealden iron industry from then, through the Roman times, until the last forge was closed in 1813. The East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER) records 87 positively identified Romano-British iron production sites in Wealden District, 3 of which are Scheduled Monuments.

The entire Weald was originally heavily forested. According to the ninth century Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the Weald measured 120 miles (193 km) or longer by 30 miles (48 km) in the Saxon era, stretching from Lympe, near Romney Marsh in Kent, to the Forest of Bere or even the New Forest in Hampshire. The area was sparsely inhabited and inhospitable, being used mainly as a resource by people living on its fringes. The Weald was used for centuries, possibly since the Iron Age, for transhumance¹ of animals along droveways in the summer months from the Low Weald into the High Weald.

While most of the Weald was used for transhumance by communities at the edge of the Weald, several parts of the forest on the higher ridges in the interior seem to have been used for hunting by the kings of Sussex. The pattern of droveways which occurs across the rest of the Weald is absent from these areas, such as within Ashdown Forest, however, there is potential evidence that later high medieval use of the forest has obscured earlier use for transhumance, as recent LiDAR² survey shows large numbers of what could be animal tracks/transhumance routes.

The forests of the Weald were often used as a place of refuge and sanctuary. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle relates events during the Anglo-Saxon conquest of Sussex when the native Britons (whom the Anglo-Saxons called Welsh) were driven from the coastal towns into the recesses of the forest for sanctuary, viz; "A.D. 477. This year came Ælle to Britain, with his three sons, Cymen, and Wlencing, and Cissa, in three ships; landing at a place that is called Cymenshore. There they slew many of the Welsh; and some in flight they drove into the wood that is called Andred'sley." The same warband is then recorded capturing the Roman fortress at Pevensey and slaying all the inhabitants.

Until the Late Middle Ages the forest was a notorious hiding place for bandits, highwaymen and outlaws.

Settlements on the High Weald are widely scattered. Villages evolved from small settlements in the wood clearings know as felds and leah, thus place names like Mayfield and Uckfield. These early settlements, which were often connected by manorial ownership to other settlements on the Downs and Low Weald, were typically four to five miles apart; close enough to be an easy walk but not so close as to encourage unnecessary intrusion. Few of these settlements are mentioned in the Domesday Book, probably because they were subordinate to the main manorial

¹ Transhumance is the action or practice of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle, typically to lowlands in winter and highlands in summer.

² LiDAR is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analyzing the reflected light and is commonly used to map terrain. Lidar has many applications in the field of archaeology including mapping features beneath forest canopy, and providing an overview of broad, continuous features that may be indistinguishable on the ground.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

estate. However, indications of wealth and status appears after the Norman conquest at places like Wadhurst whose population was of a sufficient size by the mid thirteenth century to be granted a royal charter permitting a market to be held.

During the early medieval period much of the Weald was used as summer grazing land, particularly for pannage by communities living in the surrounding areas. Many places within the Weald have retained names from this time, linking them either to owners, such as Chiddingly: “the woodland clearing of Citta’s people”, or the specific location in the landscape, such as those at Northeye, Rickney or Manxey denoting the former ‘eyes’ or ‘islands’ in the Pevensy marshes.

Permanent settlements certainly existed from an early date in the medieval period, but significant settlement in much of the Weald developed much later than in other parts of lowland Britain. It is likely that there were fluctuations in settlement, such as with the influx of migrant workers during the height of the late medieval iron industry when there were as many as one hundred furnaces and forges operating by the later 16th century, employing large numbers of people; and associated with the hop industry in the 19th and early 20th century, when large numbers of people travelled to the area in late summer to pick the hops.

The first major expansion of settlements in the Weald occurred with the arrival of the railways in the mid to late 19th century. This brought easily accessible transport to the masses, increased the opportunities for trade, brought in cheaper building materials, and also led to the arrival of the first tourists to the area, such as to the new Spa town in Crowborough, which became known as ‘Scotland in Sussex’.

Further expansion of the settlements in the Weald has taken place in the mid and late 20th century and into the 21st century due to its easy access to London by road and rail, the attractiveness of the landscape, and its proximity to the sea.

The following information relates specifically to the historical development of Wealden District from the prehistoric era, through to the 20th century.

Prehistoric Activity and Settlement

Due to a low level of past archaeological excavation targeting prehistoric sites in the District, activity from this period is not fully understood. There is evidence from finds of flint tools of extensive early activity in the area, including with the Palaeolithic Period (c.500,000 to c.11,000 years ago) finds from the surviving glacial river terrace gravels.

The main access to the landscape would have been by rivers such as the Ouse and Cuckmere. It is also likely that some of the historic ridgeway routes leading across the Weald were formed in the Prehistoric periods such as the Newenden to Wadhurst ridgeway (now the B2087) and the Oldham (Ightham) to Cross in Hand trackway that partly follows the route of the current A267.

After the ice ages, the warmer period that we are in now saw dramatic rising sea levels and significant changes to the environment, with the development of forests

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

and marshes. In this fertile landscape, rich in wild resources, Mesolithic ‘hunters and gatherers’ thrived and there are numerous recorded Mesolithic sites from rock shelters in the High Weald near Eridge, to camp sites adjacent to rivers and marshes, for example south-east of Hailsham.

Evidence of later prehistoric activity in the area is also mainly represented by spot finds, including Bronze Age pottery sherds, worked flints and stone tools. On the Pevensey Levels, there is both an early prehistoric land surface buried by alluvium as a result of rising sea levels after the end of the last ice age as well as potential for evidence on the original ‘island’ or ‘eye’s in the march, as well as evidence of an extensive buried Neolithic and Bronze Age land surface surviving as peat deposits. Within the alluvium, buried peat deposits, and on the former islands, there is the potential for important organic remains such as timber trackways, platforms, boats and even “bog bodies.

The District also has sites which evidence the changes that took place around 4000BC during the transition from the Mesolithic way of life to the Neolithic, when monuments were constructed, farming developed and pottery and other technologies became more sophisticated. This is witnessed by the existence of long barrows (elongated earthwork burial mounds), for example those located just within the South Downs National Park at Long Burgh Alfriston and flint mines such as those surviving by the Long Man at Windover Hill³.

The transition to the Early Bronze Age, when metals first began to be used, is represented by nationally important sites such as the late Neolithic / early Bronze Age settlement at Belle Tout near Birling Gap⁴ and the period as a whole by a range of burial sites (round barrows) and evidence for rural settlements and a farmed landscape across the parishes in the south of the district. The evidence for prehistoric farming is strongest on the Downs, but increasingly, evidence for prehistoric field systems, settlement and burials is being found in the Low Weald, and into the High Weald. Recent development around the towns of Maresfield, Uckfield and Hailsham, for example, has provided evidence for later prehistoric farming and settlement. On Ashdown Forest and in the north of the District there are recorded Bronze Age barrows and enclosures.

The first evidence of the industrial use of the area comes from the Iron Age, when iron ore extraction began in the Weald. Iron Age ironworking sites have been found, for example, at Sandyden (Mark Cross) and Frant, together with ironworking evidence at Saxonbury hillfort, which dates to the Late Iron Age. Also discovered is a Late Iron Age pottery assemblage believed to represent an occupation site in Eridge Park.

Two Iron Age hillforts are located within the wider High Weald landscape, at High Rocks to the north west of Frant, and Saxonbury to the south, as well as sites on Ashdown Forest. During this later Iron Age period, there is a noticeable shift in the location of hillfort construction from the South Downs to the High Weald (such as Garden Hill near Hartfield), probably representing a need to defend the rich iron ore

³ Within that part of Wealden covered by the South Downs National Park Authority.

⁴ Within that part of Wealden covered by the South Downs National Park Authority.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

deposits and processing sites, but also perhaps reflecting a new wealth and status being generated by these miners and smelters.

Significantly, some modern settlements in the District have evidence for almost continuous occupation from the early prehistoric periods through to the present day. One particular example is Selmeston, where an early settlement site from the Mesolithic period is located to the east of Selmeston Church. Excavations have revealed Mesolithic storage pits and abundant quantities of flint tools and burnt flint nodules used for cooking. There was also evidence of Neolithic occupation, and later occupation evidence from the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano British, Saxon and medieval Periods. The Street, running north-south through the village, is likely to be an ancient Drove road linking the South Downs with the High Weald to the north and is evidence of the seasonal agricultural use of the landscape.

This demonstrates the rich archaeological potential of the District, which is as yet relatively unexplored. Ongoing research is demonstrating that the District has a particularly important resource of Mesolithic sites, the understanding of which in the future will contribute to local, regional and national studies.

Roman Activity and Settlement

Roman occupation within the District commenced in A.D.43, although the influence of Rome was probably seeping into the lives and culture of the native Britons well before the invasion, with East Sussex probably forming part of a pro-Roman tribe known as the 'Atrebates'.

Abundant evidence for Roman occupation in Wealden District ranges from spot finds of pottery and coins, through to excavated remains of settlements and roads, and to the impressive remains of the late Roman fortress at Pevensey. The Romans formalised and improved the existing road network, constructing links from Pevensey along the Greensand Way to a Roman town at Barcombe on the River Ouse in the west and through into the High Weald and onto London, providing an important link to iron working areas of the District, such as at Blacklands in Forest Row. Lesser roads have also been recorded, such as at Selmeston, running along the base of the South Downs, from Arlington through to the Ouse Valley. It is thought the Roman Road turned towards the South Downs and ran south along The Street and then returned west along the present day route of the A27.

There have been numerous discoveries of Roman iron workings in the District, with a number around Wadhurst, Mayfield and Eridge Park in the High Weald. Further iron working sites and a tile kiln have been recorded near Hartfield around Garden Hill and close to the Lewes to London Roman Road. Many of the sites in the eastern section of the Weald were under the control of the Roman navy the Classis Britannia.

There is some evidence for Roman Villas and estates in Low Weald landscape, the most probable being at Ripe and Chalvington. Here, the current field boundaries and roads form a grid pattern similar to the formal Roman estates found in Italy. Known as a 'centuriation', the fields in this area have produced significant quantities of

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

Roman artefacts and evidence of at least two villa buildings. It is very likely more villas existed, many of which may now be buried under modern villages, especially those at the foot of the South Downs. The discovery of a Roman bath house building with the Iron Age hillfort at Garden Hill, near Hartfield, indicates that the production and export of iron was also an income to match the status of the rich agricultural landowners building the villas.

The best known Roman site in the area is 'Anderida', the Roman name for Pevensey, and the associated Pevensey Castle. Pevensey is situated on a spur of sand and clay, about 10 metres (33 ft) above sea level and in Roman times this spur was a peninsula that projected into a tidal lagoon and marshes. A small river, the River Ashburnham, runs along the north side of the peninsula and would originally have discharged into the sea near Pevensey Bay, but is now largely silted up and replaced by a series of medieval water channels. The lagoon extended inland as far north as Hailsham and eastwards to Hooe. This large bay was gradually cut off from the sea by shingle, so that today's marshes are all that remain behind the shingle beach. By the 4th century the south and east of the province of Britannia was under frequent attack from marauding barbarian tribes: including the Jutes and Saxons. To counter these attacks the Romans built a total of eleven forts between Essex and the Isle of Wight, now known as the *Saxon Shore Forts*.

The Roman fortress at Pevensey, built between AD250-280, was named Anderitum. The earliest stone remains on the site date from the Roman period, including the outer bailey wall of the medieval castle. Locally made Roman bricks were also used in the construction of the fort. The sea washed over what is now Pevensey Marshes, surrounding the fort on three sides, so that ships were able to sail right up to the walls. There is evidence that a port and settlement was located at Westham prior to the fortress being constructed.

Saxon Activity and Settlement

After the Roman army left Britain, the province was more vulnerable to raiding and later migration by Germanic tribes known as Saxons, Angles and Jutes. The traditional view was that in the early 5th century AD, Saxons, possibly led by a war lord called Ælle, began to colonise East Sussex, including taking control of the Roman fortress Anderitum (Pevensey), and by the 7th century the Kingdom of the South Saxons, later called 'Sussex' had formed.

A number of very early Saxon cemeteries have been discovered in southern section of Wealden District, such as at Selmeston and Winton Street, Alfriston⁵, suggesting the focus for settlement was on the rich agricultural land of the South Downs. However, scientific analysis of human remains from Saxon cemetery sites such as St Annes Road, Eastbourne⁶ is indicating a more complex story of integration between small numbers of migrants into an indigenous population which quickly adopted the culture of the incoming Germanic people.

⁵ Within that part of Wealden covered by the South Downs National Park Authority.

⁶ Within the adjacent Eastbourne Borough Council area.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

The occupation of the Weald during this period is poorly understood, but hints of industrial activity and occupation have been found on Ashdown Forest and at Boreham Street. During the later Saxon period, many of the modern settlements in the District began to develop, some of whose populations began to construct the parish churches that survive today, such as the one at Arlington.

The District also contains many hamlets and farms, a number of which originated during the late Saxon and early Norman period. These developed on the high ground along the ridge top routes and would have originally been small clearings in the forest of the Weald or small farms and settlements on the higher ground on the edge of the floodplain to the south of the District. Many were satellite settlements to larger manorial centres on the richer agricultural land of the South Downs, and resourced material such as wood and wild game from the Weald and grazed livestock there in the summer months. Thus, many of the medieval estates had land on various geological and topographic regions, each of which produced a different resource or opportunity. The large estates were owned by the ruling classes and the church, and an example is that of the Archbishop of Canterbury's extensive manor of South Malling, - around Lewes, Mayfield, Wadhurst and Malling in Kent.

When William the Conqueror invaded Sussex in September 1066, he was able to land apparently unopposed at Pevensey and set up a base within the remains of the Roman fortress at Pevensey Castle; Harold Godwinson the new Saxon king having marched north to meet the Norwegian invaders.

After the conquest of Southern England, Robert de Mortain (William's half-brother) was granted the Rape of Pevensey (an area of land roughly covering what is now Wealden District) and quickly used Anderida as the base for building his castle. It is likely that he also instigated the formation of a new town, called Pevensey, outside its eastern gate. St Mary's Church at Westham outside the western end of the castle is claimed to be the earliest Norman church in the country.

Pevensey became an important port, known as one of the 'Cinque Ports' and quickly became one of the most important settlements in Wealden District. Land access to the town and castle continued to use the old Roman road network, with no apparent construction of major new routes happening until the post-medieval period.

Medieval Activity and Settlement

Landscape

The medieval landscape character of the High Weald (considered to be one of the best surviving coherent medieval landscapes in northern Europe) is distinctive through the dispersed historic settlement pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and late medieval villages, largely sited on ridges within the landscape, linked by ancient route ways (now often roads and rights of way) in the form of ridge top roads and a dense system of radiating drove ways, often narrow, deeply sunken and edged with trees and hedgerows and wildflower-rich verges and boundary banks.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

The relatively few nucleated villages and small towns are usually sited alongside the main routes through the Weald. Many of these types of settlements developed as trading centres, associated with non-rural industries, and in several examples it is clear that the market was the original feature, later accompanied by a church.

Within the Low Weald, there is a strong sense of an anciently settled and farmed landscape, with farmsteads (often of medieval origin) set in landscapes originally enclosed in the medieval period and then successively reorganised. The historical pattern of field enclosure and assarting⁷ from woodland remains mostly intact.

The key characteristics of the historic built environment in the Low Weald, pertinent to Wealden, are isolated farmsteads often occupying ancient sites (some moated), and these, intermixed with villages, form the predominant settlement pattern. Many of the dispersed manorial farms and market settlements have developed into today's villages and hamlets.

The current landscape of the Pevensey Levels was formed by the reclamation work started by local religious houses in the medieval period. The relative permanence of the ditches and the continued pastoral use makes parts of this landscape a remarkable survival of a medieval field system in a lowland context and some drainage channels and sea defences are relatively unchanged since medieval times.

The key characteristics of the historic built environment of the Pevensey Levels are identified to be low density, dispersed settlements, comprising mainly a thin scattering of farmsteads on medieval sites, away from main centres of population, with settlement on the slightly higher ground surrounding the levels, such as around Hooe.

Churches, markets and fairs

Evidence of medieval settlements and trade in the District is represented by the many early churches, markets and fairs. The list of early churches in the District in the table below (13th century or earlier) represents settlement across the entire District. Other earlier churches also existed that have subsequently been rebuilt, such as the early chapel that is documented at Frant.

Church	Date	Listing Grade
The Parish Church Of St Pancras, Arlington	Saxon	I
The Parish Church Of St Michael And All Angels, Little Horsted	Norman	II
The Parish Church Of St Andrew And St Mary, Fletching	Norman	I
The Parish Church Of St Peter And St Paul, Hellingly	Norman/Early English	I
The Parish Church Of St Bartholomew, Maresfield	11C (c.1080)	I
The Parish Church Of St Peter And St Paul, Wadhurst	12C	I
The Parish Church Of St Mary The Virgin, Willingdon	12C	I
The Parish Church Of All Saints, Church Road, Herstmonceux	12C	I

⁷ Assarting is the act of clearing forested lands for use in agriculture or other purposes.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

The Parish Church Of St Margaret, Isfield	12C	I
The Parish Church Of St Thomas A Becket, Framfield	13C	II
The Old Parish Church Of St Margaret, Buxted	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Oswald, Hooe	13C	I
The Parish Church Of All Saints, Church Road, Laughton	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Mary, Church Lane, Ninfield	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Mary, Church Street, Hartfield	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Dunstan, High Street, Mayfield	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Denys, Rotherfield	13C	I
The Parish Church Of All Saints, Old Heathfield	13C	II*
The Parish Church Of All Saints, Waldron	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Bartholomew, Chalvington With Ripe	13C	I
The Parish Church, Chiddingly Village, Chiddingly	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Nicolas, Church Lane, Pevensey	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Mary, Warbleton Village, Warbleton	13C	II
The Parish Church Of St Mary Magdalene, Wartling	13C	I
The Parish Church Of St Mary, High Street, Westham	c.1300	I

Markets and fairs were important trading events or institutions that met at regular intervals. Many of them were held at towns, but they were also held at a range of other settlements. In terms of function, however, it is often difficult to distinguish a small town from a non-urban settlement with a market or fair.

After the Norman Conquest, it is clear that the right to grant markets and fairs was considered to be a royal franchise, although this does not appear to have been comprehensively asserted until around 1200. In England royal grants of markets and fairs are known to have been made from soon after the Norman Conquest onwards. Generally, these grants from the king took the form of charters. Many markets and fairs certainly existed before the period of recorded grants: these were held by custom and are described as prescriptive.

By 1200 there was a network of markets and fairs in England that was dense and highly developed and from this time anyone who wanted to set up a market or fair had to secure a royal grant, which gives us documentary evidence of these early markets and fairs. The number of markets and fairs granted rose sharply in the thirteenth century, declined after the mid fourteenth century and remained low in the fifteenth century.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

Usually a market was held once a week, on a set day. Before c.1200 many markets were held on Sunday. This was the day that people gathered together at churches to worship: Sunday markets appear to have developed out of these regular assemblies. Markets were held at a set place: obviously it was important that buyers and sellers knew where to turn up. Older Sunday markets were often held in and around churchyards, conveniently near the church. During the early thirteenth century there was a movement against these Sunday markets and against trading in cemeteries. This may be part of the reason why many early marketplaces are located in front of the church, possibly gravitating here from the churchyard itself, and it is thought that the earliest site for a market in Wadhurst is in front of the church.

Throughout the District from the medieval period onwards there is evidence of local markets and fairs. Many of the markets have endured for centuries, although they have all but died out now. A number of market and fair charters were granted in the District in the 13th-15th centuries, the earliest being Pevensey market and fair, which were granted in 1207 by King John. A summary of the fairs and markets granted is provided below:

Town/village	Market granted	Fair granted and annually held	Monarch
Alfriston ⁸	1406	1406, 1 May	Henry IV
Framfield		1314, 7 July	Edward II
Frant	1297	1297, 1Nov	Edward I
Hailsham	1252		Henry III
Heathfield	1234	1316, 3 April	Henry II, Edward II
Maresfield	1332	1301, 24 Aug	Edward I, Edward III
Mayfield	1261	1261, 19 May	Henry III
Pevensey	1207	1207, 29 Aug	King John
Rotherfield	1318	Recorded 1376, 9 Oct	Edward II
Uckfield	1220	1253, 29 June	Henry III
Wadhurst	1253	1253, 29 June	Henry III
Willingdon	1301	1301, 15 Aug	Edward I

Many of the market places can still be identified through place name evidence and wide spaces, often along the High Street and close to the church. Hailsham has held a market charter since 1252 when it was granted by Henry III and is now the only livestock sales in the county. This market continued until the 17th century when it ceased for a time until it was re-established in 1786. By the middle of the 19th century, Hailsham had become one of the largest markets in the country and drovers accompanied their cattle from as far afield as Wales. The market was held in the High Street and the focus of the town was Market Square. In 1862 the Hailsham Cattle Market Co. Ltd was formed to provide a new cattle and livestock area and in 1868 new facilities were constructed in Market Street, where the market continues today.

⁸ Within that part of Wealden covered by the South Downs National Park Authority.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

A fair was held once a year and was almost always associated with a religious festival, generally a saint's day. The date of the fair was expressed in terms of that feast, although many fairs were held over several consecutive days. Like a market, a fair was normally held at a set place. Urban centres almost inevitably had at least one fair; many had several, held at intervals through the year. Fairs were sometimes held outside the physical limits of the town, where there was space for large gatherings of people and animals.

Most of the local fairs took place on an annual basis and some of these were related to the agricultural industry, such as the sheep fair at Selmeston, and others were held by the Lord of the Manor, such as that at Withyham. The Heffle Cuckoo Fair was originally held in Cade Street and dates back to 1315 when the Bishop of Chichester obtained a grant from Edward II for an annual fair and a weekly market to commemorate St Richard, a former Bishop of Chichester. It was a livestock trading show and produce market with all the accompanying fun fair events. The last of these traditional Cuckoo Fairs was held in Cade Street in 1914, although it now forms part of an annual craft fair and procession in Heathfield. The former fairs and associated fair-fields are part of the social and cultural heritage of the District and are also likely to be rich in archaeological deposits.

Manors

After the Norman Conquest, the 387 manors in Sussex that had been in Saxon hands were replaced by just 16 heads of manors or 'tenants in chief' who were the representative of the King. Only two of these lords were English, the remaining manors being given to Norman Lords by William the Conqueror.

Sussex was of great importance to the Normans, particularly due to the fact that Hastings and Pevensey were on the most direct route for Normandy. Because of this, the county was divided into five new baronies, called rapes, each with at least one town and a castle. This enabled the ruling group of Normans to control the manorial revenues and thus the greater part of the county's wealth. William, the Conqueror gave these rapes to five of his most trusted Barons. Wealden lies within the Rape of Pevensey which was given to Robert, Count of Mortain, half-brother to the King. The Rape of Pevensey had 19 hundreds, which had the principal function of the administration of law and the keeping of the peace. The manors were tenanted out to supporters who maintained the land and kept the peace through manorial courts.

Over the medieval period, manors changed hands or were amalgamated into larger land holdings. This is demonstrated clearly by Sir Thomas Sackville, made Lord Buckhurst by Elizabeth I, who acquired the Manor of Withyham c.1569 and by the end of the 16th century he held seventeen manors in total in northeast Sussex. The size of his holding led to the survey of his lands and compilation of the Buckhurst Terrier and accompanying maps.

Later in the medieval period, many of the large manors were split into smaller areas and a good example is the Manor of South Malling, which contained Buxted. The great manor of South Malling, which was granted to the archbishops of Canterbury before the Norman Conquest and remained in their possession, until the 16th century, stretched from Lewes Bridge up to the Kent border at Lamberhurst. In the

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

16th century, the manor was then broken up into three new lordships – the manors of Ringmer, Framfield and Mayfield. Buxted formed part of the manor of Framfield. Two independent manorial islands existed within Buxted – a manor of Shodwell, controlling land in the region of High Hurstwood, and the manor of Buxted itself. This division of land would have had an impact on settlement growth and the way in which land was used along with associated human activity and will therefore, have impacted on the development and significance of the historic environment within the District.

The major landowners within the District have had a substantial role in the evolution of settlements and activity in the landscape from the medieval period right through to the Victorian period.

Ashdown Forest

Ashdown Forest was part of the Andredswald, described by Saint Bede the Venerable (c.672-735) as *'thick and inaccessible; a place of retreat for large herds of deer and swine'*. The area was not necessarily heavily wooded, and would have consisted of a mixture of heath, woodland and other habitats, and seasonal grazing may have taken place from quite early times

Ashdown Forest as a distinct entity did not appear to exist before the Norman Conquest, nor is it mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, and the first recorded reference to it by name is in 1100-1130, when Henry I confirmed the right of monks to use a road across the forest.

The Forest Area was part of lands awarded to Robert, Count of Mortain (half-brother to William the Conqueror), but with two important provisos, that the King could keep the deer and hunt whenever he desired, and that the inhabitants, later known as 'Commoners', could continue to use it in their customary way. The land was subject to 'Forest Law', which protected the animals that the King would hunt and the vegetation that provided the animals with food and cover. The Forest area was delineated in medieval times by a Pale - a wooden fence built on top of a soil bank, with a ditch on the Forest side of the fence, to create an effective restraint for deer. The Pale was breached by a number of gates, such as those at Colemans Hatch Gate, Newbridge Gate, Chuck Hatch Gate, Fishers Gate and Friar's Gate. These names are still in use today and the line of the medieval pale can still be traced within the landscape and is an important archaeological feature.

The Forest changed hands many times, and entered into the ownership of the Queens of England at the time of Eleanor. The Forest transferred ownership again in 1372 to John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster and son of Edward III, and became known as the Great Park of Lancaster. On his death, the ownership of the Forest reverted to Henry IV, son of John of Gaunt.

The Forest changed hands many times between this period and the later 17th century, when area was divided into common land in the vicinity of villages and farms, and areas for 'inclosure and improvement.' This would have affected the way in which local people would have been able to use large areas of the Forest.

By the 19th century, the Forest land not subject to common land was owned by the De La Warr/Sackville family, and transferred to East Sussex County Council in the

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

1980s⁹.

Moated sites

There are a number of early moated sites in the District, providing archaeological evidence for medieval occupation, including that at East Hoathly, which has been interpreted as a moated farmstead; and that at Waldron, which appears to have been the site of a late medieval hunting lodge.

Early Buildings

Apart from the churches already mentioned and that were built of stone, the local medieval building material was almost exclusively timber, used in conjunction with lime, wattle and daub, and probably thatch as a roofing material, with later replacement by tiles. There were only few very high status late medieval brick buildings, such as Bolebroke Castle, near Hartfield.

There are, therefore, a significant number of timber-framed buildings in the District, some of which date from as early as the 13th century, but with the majority appearing to be 15th or 16th century and later. The term 'Wealden House' is often used as a generic description. The plan form, timber frame techniques and architectural detailing of these buildings can be used for dating purposes, along with other techniques such as dendrochronology, in order to help understand their national and/or local significance when considering development proposals.

Post Medieval Activity and Settlement

Manors

Although there had been an initial country house movement after the dissolution of the monasteries, in Wealden, the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries saw a boom in the building of large country dwellings in planned parks. Associated with the large dwellings were normally lodge houses or gate houses, estate cottages, and planned farmsteads. There are several good examples in the District, including Sheffield Park, Hammerwood Park, Heathfield Park, Eridge Park, and Shernfold Park.

In 1766, the land and house at what is known today as Heathfield Park was purchased by Lt-General George Augustus Eliot who in 1775 was sent to command the garrison of Gibraltar and on his return to England in 1787 was raised to the peerage as Lord Heathfield of Gibraltar. Eliot owned the house until his death in 1790 and it was renamed Heathfield Park after him in 1791 by his successor Francis Newbery. Newbery hired the eminent landscape designer Humphrey Repton to landscape the park and as part of the design he had an ornamental tower of 3 storeys erected to commemorate the successful defence of Gibraltar by General Lord Heathfield (Eliot), now known as the Gibraltar Tower and which remains a local landmark today.

Repton also designed landscapes in the District at Sheffield Park; Kidbrooke Park in Forest Row; Buckhurst Park in Withyham; and at Bayham Abbey which partly lies within Wealden, on the border of Sussex and Kent.

⁹ History of Ashdown Forest courtesy of www.ashdownforest.org

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

The movement for large new houses brought eminent architects into the District. In the late 18th century, an example is the building of Sheffield Park House, which was designed by Architect James Wyatt for the first Lord Sheffield. He also designed the gate lodges. Both Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton had a hand in designing the parkland. An early 19th century model farm was constructed to serve the large house and associated land.

In the late 19th century, the famous architect Edwin Lutyens, who often worked in tandem with the garden designer, Gertrude Jekyll, worked in the District, as evidenced by The Hooe in Willingdon, and Buckhurst Park at Withyham.

Philanthropic Movement

The influence of the large landowners often extended beyond their great houses and parkland and there are examples of the 19th century philanthropic movement in the District.

Charles Richard Blunt owned Heathfield Park in 1819 and was an enlightened owner. The wall he built around the Park in 1833-1836 was undertaken in part to provide local jobs and he also loaned the parish money to pay poor relief and helped fund sixty people from Heathfield and twenty six from Waldron to emigrate to the United States during 1830 and 1831. Blunt's record as a reformer won him a seat in Parliament for Sussex, which he held until he died in 1840. He also took a keen interest in the National School which opened in Old Heathfield in 1819.

In 1792, when the second Earl of Abergavenny (1755-1843) decided to make Eridge the family seat, a designed landscape park was laid out. He intended Eridge to be a model village and estate and rebuilt the cottages in a distinctive estate style, often with the letter 'A' incorporated prominently on the front elevation. His son and grandson continued this philanthropy, expanding the village in the distinctive style and providing a church for the settlement.

National schools

The dramatic social, political and economic transformation of the Industrial Revolution served to reveal the utter inadequacy of England's educational provision for the masses. A number of reports highlighted the deficiencies and called for more and better schools. One such report looked at 12,000 parishes in 1816, and found that 3,500 had no school, 3,000 had endowed schools of varying quality, and 5,500 had unendowed schools of even more variable quality.

To fill the gaps, and to provide for England's newly-industrialised and (partly) enfranchised society, various types of school began to be established to offer some basic education to the masses.

The type of school most commonly found in the District are those that began as National Schools, founded in the 19th century by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education. The aim of the National Society was to establish a National school in every parish of England and Wales. The schools were usually adjacent to the parish church, and named after it. These schools were founded in many hamlets, villages and towns in the District in this period and provided elementary education, in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England, to the children of the poor.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

In the early period of these schools, attendance was not compulsory and a fee had to be paid to attend. However, the Forster Elementary Education Act 1870 required partially state-funded board schools to be set up to provide primary (elementary) education in areas where existing provision was inadequate. The schools remained fee-charging, but poor parents could be exempted. The Act meant that compulsory attendance at school ceased to be a matter for local option, as children had to attend between the ages of 5 and 10, with exceptions such as illness, if children worked, or lived too far from a school.

The National Society responded to the creation of the new board schools by raising £10 million and almost doubling the number of its schools to 12,000 in 15 years. The Elementary Education Act 1880 tightened up school attendance laws and made school compulsory between the aged of 5 and 10. The 1891 Elementary Education Act 1891 was the first to introduce law that elementary education was to be provided for free and in 1893 the school leaving age raised to 11.

Many of the National Schools were closed or handed over to the school boards in the late 19th-early 20th century. During the 20th century the remaining National Schools became voluntary aided or voluntary controlled primary schools, funded by the state but still able to promote the teachings of the Church of England. These schools can still be seen in most villages, towns and even the smaller hamlets, although some of these school buildings have ceased to be used as schools and have been converted to houses or other uses. The schools are an important part of the social and cultural history of the District, and are often designed to exacting standards and in distinctive styles, making them prominent buildings in the streetscene.

Farmsteads

Along with the significance of the development and evolution of settlements within the District, another particularly defining feature is the survival of historic farmsteads within the High and Low Weald landscapes and, to a certain extent, on the Pevensey Levels.

Historic England identifies that historic farmsteads and their buildings are a prominent contributor to regional distinctiveness and landscape. To promote better understanding of the character of farm buildings at a broad landscape and regional scale, a series of Regional Farmstead Character Statements have been written, outlining the development of farmsteads within each of the 159 National Character Areas (NCAs) in England. This information can be used to help identify designated and non-designated historic farmsteads in the District and better understand their historic development and significance, as well as any potential threats through change and redevelopment.

The three NCAs within the Wealden District Council area are the High Weald, the Low Weald and the Pevensey Levels and the following information provides specific details on the development, planform and significance of historic farmsteads in each of these particular landscape areas.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

High Weald

Key Characteristics

- Very high densities of historic farmsteads.
- Many farmsteads retaining pre-1750 buildings set within a landscape predominantly of medieval origin, this close association being highly significant.
- Small farmsteads with loose courtyard plans or dispersed plans.
- Barns, often aisled to at least one side and with hipped roofs.
- Buildings for cattle including covered yards in the western High Weald.
- Oast houses, unconverted examples retaining internal fittings and farmsteads retaining a range of structures associated with the hop industry being rare and significant.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- A high density, by national standards, of pre-1750 and pre-1550 buildings.

Farmstead types

- The small farmsteads of the High Weald often only required a farmhouse and a combination barn which could house both cattle and the corn crop. These buildings could be set close to one another or the barn could stand in a nearby close.
- As with much of South East England, loose courtyard plans, typically with one or two detached working farm buildings standing around a yard area, is the most common plan form.
- Small L-plan steadings with a barn and later cattle shed attached at right angles are also widespread.
- Dispersed plans are a major characteristic of High Weald farmsteads. Such plans include clusters of buildings with little or no evidence for planning in their arrangement and plans where buildings are ranged alongside a wide route-way leading into the farmstead.
- Many farmsteads have 'multi-yard plans' where there are a number of separate yards reflecting the careful management of stock. Such plans can be sub-divided into those where the yards are largely dispersed and detached from one another and those where the yards are mostly grouped together.
- Larger regular courtyard plan farmsteads are mainly found in the western part of the High Weald where estates developed farmsteads in the 19th century, creating full courtyard plans, some E-plans and steadings with covered yards.
- Linear plans and Attached L-plans with a barn attached to the farmhouse are rare but not entirely absent from the character area.

Building Types

- Medieval timber-framed houses, including Wealden houses, survive on a high proportion of farmsteads.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

- Barns, typically of 3-5 bays, were often aisled to at least one side resulting in low eaves-lines, emphasising the mass of the roof over walling. The earlier barns of the area, dating from the 15th and 16th centuries tend to be unaisled. The majority of barns in the area are of 17th or 18th century date. Hipped roofs are characteristic. Many barns retain evidence – either in partitions or in evidence for lost partitions - for being combination buildings in that they housed both animals and crops.
- Granaries were rarely required on the smaller farms where grain could be stored in the farmhouse or in a loft in the barn. On larger farms the granary was often incorporated with the oast house or above a cart shed. Granaries pre-dating the 19th century are rare and significant.
- The importance of cattle on High Weald farms is reflected in shelter sheds and cow houses, although these are mostly of 19th century date. These may be found added to an earlier barn or detached and associated with individual yard areas. In the later 19th century some larger farms, particularly those in the western part of the area, provided large covered yards for cattle. Some yards would have been used for the working oxen that were widely used for ploughing.
- Stables are typically small buildings, usually brick-built, and mostly date from the 18th or 19th centuries.
- Oast houses are a highly characteristic building type, particularly on the northern side of the High Weald. There are very few oasts in the area west of Ashdown Forest. Most oast houses date from the late 18th and 19th century although there are some older examples built within earlier barns. Only a small number of unconverted oast houses survive. Farmsteads that retain unconverted oast houses, early to mid 20th century hop buildings and features such as hop-pickers huts are highly significant.
- Field barns were once a common feature, particularly in the southern part of the Weald east of Ashdown Forest. Over 2/3rds of these buildings have been lost from the landscape. The surviving field barns are an important remnant of a once widespread building type. Most probably date from the 19th century but it is possible that some barns are earlier. Few are listed.

Low Weald

Key Characteristics

- Very high densities of historic farmsteads.
- Many farmsteads retaining pre-1750 buildings set within a landscape largely of medieval origin.
- Many small farmsteads with loose courtyard plans.
- Regular courtyard plans concentrated in the area immediately west of the High Weald.
- Dispersed Multi-Yard and Regular Multi-Yard plan farmsteads.
- Barns, often aisled to at least one side and with hipped roofs.
- Buildings for cattle including covered yards in the western High Weald.
- Oast houses concentrated along the northern arm of the Character Area, unconverted examples retaining internal fittings and farmsteads retaining a range of structures associated with the hop industry being rare and significant.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- Much of the Low Weald, together with the High Weald is remarkable in a national context for the high numbers of farmsteads that retain early, pre-1750 buildings.
- The north part of this character area in particular has a major concentration of pre-1550 barns.
- These farmsteads are set within a landscape of fields and woodland that largely took its present form in the medieval period.
- The close association of these early farmsteads and landscapes is highly significant.

Farmstead Types

- There is a mixture of farmstead plan types across the area.
- Small loose courtyard plans are the most common plan form encountered in the Low Weald.
- Small L-plan steadings with a barn and a later cattle shed attached at right angles are also widespread. Loose courtyards with an L-plan element are mostly concentrated in the west of the area.
- Regular U-plan courtyards, mostly of the mid-late 19th century, are a strong characteristic of the farmsteads of the western part of the character area where some full regular courtyard, E- and F-plans and covered yards, are also often found. Beyond this part of the character area the larger regular plan types are rarely encountered.
- Dispersed plans are a characteristic of Low Weald farmsteads although not to the same extent as in the High Weald except for the in the northern part of the Character Area where there are similar densities to the adjacent part of the High Weald. Such plans include clusters of buildings with little or no evidence for planning in their arrangement and a limited number of plans where buildings are ranged alongside a routeway leading to the farmstead. The density of dispersed plans falls markedly towards the western part of the character area.
- 'Multi-yard plans' where there are a number of separate yards reflecting the careful management of stock are a major characteristic of the Wealden landscape, including the Low Weald. Such plans can be sub-divided into those where the yards are largely dispersed and detached from one another and those where the yards are mostly grouped together (Regular MultiYards). The distribution of Regular Multi-Yards is concentrated in the south-eastern and northern sections of the Low Weald.

Building Types

- Medieval timber-framed houses, including Wealden houses, survive on a considerable number of farmsteads.
- Barns, typically of 3-5 bays, were often aisled to at least one side resulting in low eaves-lines, emphasising the mass of the roof over walling. The earlier barns of the area tend to be unaisled. Hipped roofs are characteristic. Many barns retain evidence for being combination buildings in that they housed both

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

animals and crops. The concentration of pre-1550 barns in the north of the character is a particularly significant feature. The majority of barns in the area date from the 17th and 18th centuries.

- Granaries, either free-standing buildings on staddle stones or forming part of combination buildings such as granary/cart sheds are relatively uncommon. It is probable that grain was stored within the farmhouse or in a loft in the barn. A small number of granaries date from before 1700 but most are of 18th and 19th century date.
- Oast houses are a building type highly characteristic of the Low Weald, particularly on the northern side of the Weald where some large oast houses are found. Most date from the late 18th and 19th century although there are some examples of older oast houses built within earlier barns. Only a small number of unconverted oast houses survive. Farmsteads that retain unconverted oast houses, early to mid-20th century hop buildings and features such as hop-pickers huts are highly significant.
- The importance of cattle on Low Weald farms is reflected in shelter sheds and cow houses. These may be found added to an earlier barn or detached and associated with individual yard areas.
- Whilst oxen were often used for ploughing stables for working oxen have rarely been identified. Any surviving examples of stabling for oxen would be highly significant.
- Pigs were a key feature of the farming economy and pigsties would have been common to most farmsteads. Small stone or brick-built pigsties, including 19th century examples, are becoming increasingly rare.
- Field barns were once a common feature but many have been lost from the landscape. The surviving field barns are an important remnant of a once widespread building type.

Pevensey Levels

Key Characteristics

- Low density of farmsteads, mainly small loose courtyard or L- and U-plans.
- A number of farmsteads that originated as monastic grange farms.
- Farm buildings predominantly of 19th or 20th century date.
- A small number of farmsteads retaining buildings dating from pre-1800.

Farmstead Plan, Buildings and Dating

- This is an area with a low density of surviving farmsteads, very few of which retain buildings pre-dating 1800.
- Many of the sites of the lost farmsteads have been subsumed within the urban development of Eastbourne and Langney.

Farmstead Types

- As with much of South East England, loose courtyard plans, typically with one or two detached working farm buildings standing around a yard area are the most common plan form.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

- Small L-plan and U-plan arrangements with a barn and a cattle shelter shed attached at right angles were found on some farmsteads and outfarms.
- There are few large regular courtyard plan farmsteads but there are a small number of regular 'multi-yard' plans which reflect the management of stock.
- A small number of dispersed plans with little or no evidence for planning in their arrangement are found in the area.

Building Types

- Barns are not a strong feature of the Pevensey Levels landscape given the predominance of cattle in the farming of the area.
- A few timber-framed and solid-walled barns are found in the area, especially on farmsteads at the fringes of the area.
- Cattle buildings consist of open fronted shelter sheds and enclosed single storey cow houses, typically of 19th century date.
- Outfarms and field barns were once a common feature but many have been lost from the landscape. Single buildings with an attached yard were typical but there were also some small L- and U-plans. The surviving field barns are an important remnant of a once widespread building type.
- There are a small number of oast houses within the character area.

Major Local Industries

Wealden Iron Industry

There is a substantial archaeological, landscape and built legacy within the District relating to the Iron Industry within the Weald over the past 1000 years.

Iron has been smelted in Wealden landscape for over 2000 years due to the fact that the Wealden geology of sands and clays yielded the iron ore, as well as the stone and brick to build the furnaces. In addition, there was plenty of woodland to provide fuel and streams and valley to ensure water power for the bellows and hammers of the forges and furnaces.

There are two main periods of iron making in the Weald dating from the Roman, and later Tudor/Stuart times, but there is some evidence of Iron Age iron working sites.

In the Roman period, ironmaking was conducted using small clay bloomer furnaces.

The height of the iron industry in the area was predominantly in the 15th to 17th centuries when the Weald was the foundry of England. This influence dominates the present landscape in the form of hammer ponds, furnace sites and evidence of charcoal-burning. Charcoal was used to heat the iron ore to a high enough temperature to smelt the iron, as it burns at a higher and more constant temperature than wood. The hammer ponds were a series of water containment features, at a higher level than the furnace, and the water power was used to turn water wheels to work the bellows used to keep the burning charcoal at a high temperature and to power the tilt hammers.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

In the reign of Henry III, the iron industry in the County of Sussex was required to provide the king with 30,000 horse shoes and 60,000 nails. By 1496, continental ironmasters from Pays de Bray, northern France, were employed to operate a water powered blast furnace in the area, establishing the first English blast furnace at Newbridge in the Ashdown Forest.

The local iron industry had a significant impact on the local Wealden economy and the local landscape, with demand for armaments generated from successive wars with European forces. At its peak there were 36 ironworks within 10km of Wadhurst alone, with local families owning and operating furnaces and forges predominantly in the late 16th and early 17th century.

One other result of the iron industry was wealth and the many of the large iron master's houses constructed in this period remain within the District, along with iron grave slabs within the Parish Churches. The most notable is Wadhurst Church, which contains 31 iron grave slabs dating between 1617 and 1799.

The Wealden social composition of small farms with multiple-occupation work-forces also involved in the iron industry, allowed for a seasonal cycle of skilled workers.

The ironmaking industry within the Weald died out by the end of the 18th century with water shortages hindering production, increased foreign imports and increased national competition for more efficient coal powered ironworks.

There remains a rich local archaeology relating to the industry, including the hammer ponds, sites of furnaces, slag from the smelting process etc, the iron master's houses and the influence the industry had on settlements through the requirement to employ so substantial a workforce within this period.

Hop Industry

Another local historic industry of note is hop growing, which was introduced first by Flemish settlers in the 16th century, before becoming more prominent in the 18th and 19th centuries. Hops were brought back from Flanders in 1533, and had become a major industry by the nineteenth century. Previous to this England had been reliant on hops from Europe, but once they had the expertise, the small enclosed fields of Kent and Sussex provided the opportunity to try out this new crop and grow it alongside the main livestock farming. The local supply of wood for poles, milder southern climate and suitable sandy slopes ensured that this region became the dominant supplier of hops.

Hops are the ingredient that adds bitterness to beer and hop growing became probably the biggest industry in East Sussex in Victorian times. Every September the plants were ready to be picked and casual workers from Kent, London, Sussex and East Anglia would come to the County to work in the hop gardens for 6 weeks. Once the hops were picked, they were dried out in oast houses and sold to the breweries. The most visible remains of the industry are the oast houses dotted around the High and Low Weald landscape within the District. These oast houses were often added to the more historic medieval farmsteads as the farming industry changed to embrace hop growing and drying. Hop growing reached its peak in the 19th century,

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

with many farms having a 'hop garden' and building their own roundel to dry hops for the local or London market.

Wealden has a significant number of oast houses surviving which comprise a barn building with at least one attached kiln. The remaining kilns are predominantly round, but there are also examples of square kilns in some locations. The pyramidal or conical kiln roofs with the white cowls on top are prominent in views across the landscape. Many of these buildings are now converted to residential use, but some few remain unconverted and are particularly important for recording the built form and associated ancillary fittings which may remain.

Brick and tile works

The local building vernacular provides evidence for the production of bricks and tiles in the local area. Many buildings from the post medieval period are brick with tile-hanging and tile roofs and there is a consistency in the materials used that suggests that were being sourced locally. In addition, many of the boundary treatments around the towns and villages such as Wadhurst, Frant and Hailsham, include brick walls, attesting to the local availability of the bricks, which would otherwise have been an expensive boundary treatment.

The local clay geology provided the raw materials for brick and tile production, whilst the availability of wood and industrial heritage of the area in iron furnace works naturally lends the area to brick and tile manufacture. The variety of local products relates to the properties of the different clay and brick earth/loams available in the area; softer clays being used for plain roof tiles, decorative tiles and terracotta mouldings, as well as pottery in some areas; and harder loams used to make bricks. Red bricks are characteristic of the area due to the iron oxide in the clays and loams, which also produces the black flecks on some of the local bricks where the iron oxide burns in small concentrations during firing, but paler and buff bricks are also made from local clays and loams with a higher chalk content, such as Gault clay bricks and where chalk has been added to lighten the bricks and/or fired in a reducing atmosphere.

The Romans were the first to produce brick and tile in the area, with bricks being locally produced for the construction of Anderida/Pevensy Fort. A Roman tile kiln has also been excavated near Hartfield and some of the early churches in the District also incorporate reused Roman brick and tile, for example Arlington Church.

The Saxons did not build in brick, using wood instead and the use of tiles was revived following the Norman Conquest when tile works were created by the monastic houses for their own use. These are documented at Battle Abbey, which also had a tile kiln at Snape near Wadhurst in the 14th century; at Michelham Priory, which was also producing bricks, as attested by small 14th century bricks in the walls of the building; and also at the Archbishops Palace at Mayfield, which was selling a small amount of excess tiles.

The first building to be built entirely of brick in the area is Herstmonceux Castle, built in the 1440s by Sir Roger Fiennes using his own kilns. Following this, New Place (now Whitefriars) was built in the 1470s and Old Buckurst was built by the Sackvilles at Withyham in the 1480s, incorporating brickwork. The surviving 15th century

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

gatehouse at Bolebrook Castle is also brick built, as is the Dacre Chapel, added to Herstmonceux Church in the 15th century.

Bricks continued to be expensive and the preserve of the rich and were often used sparingly on otherwise timber-framed buildings. For example, a brick tower was built at Laughton Place in the 16th century adjacent to the timber-framed house. During the 17th century the wealthy Wealden ironmasters began lining their blast furnaces with bricks to withstand the intense heat and early maps often show brick related field names adjacent to iron working site. The prosperity of the ironmasters was largely responsible for the building of high-status large houses in the District from the later 16th century, often incorporating brick. Halland House in East Hoathly and the new house of the Sackville family in Hartfield were built at this time.

Permanent brickyards began to be set up to supply bricks and tiles for house building rather than just the temporary kiln set up next to specific building projects. The popularity of bricks gradually increased throughout the 17th, 18th and early 19th century when many houses were rebuilt or substantially altered. The brick kiln and clay pits were often set up on the edge of Commons and the greatest concentration is on the Weald Clay belt from Hailsham in the south to Horsham in the north.

Population growth, resulting in a demand for housing and cheap labour for growing industries, saw increased production and use of bricks in the 19th century, further increased by the arrival of the railway to the area in the mid-19th century and abolition of the brick tax in 1850. This is especially evident in the towns and larger villages, such as Hailsham, Uckfield and Mayfield, where the familiar rows of Victorian brick terraces and villas grew up around the earlier core. Brick buildings and walls dating to the later 18th and 19th century are also evident in the smaller villages around the District.

The railways allowed the movement of bricks from the area to supply the markets in London to the north and Eastbourne, Brighton and Worthing to the south and further brickworks grew up along the railway lines to take advantage of these markets, for example Hailsham. The railways themselves also required vast quantities of bricks for tunnels, cuttings, viaducts, stations and other buildings.

By the late 19th century brickmaking had been mechanised and production was on a much larger scale, making machine made bricks at large brickworks. However handmade bricks were still being made in the smaller brickworks. Production of bricks declined in the area in the earlier 20th century with increased competition and price drops from over-production. Many of the smaller works closed, exacerbated by the opening of the large and mechanically efficient Sussex Brick and Estates Company, which produced 20 million bricks annually. However, many of the larger brickworks survived or reopened after WWI and enjoyed success from the demand for housing and shortage of building material after WWI and WWII. This continued until the increased use of breezeblocks and concrete in the 1950s.

There are no remaining working brick or tile works within Wealden District, but there is a rich archaeological resource, with many locations shown on the earlier Ordnance Survey maps. Some associated ancillary buildings, such as worker's cottages, remain in areas in the District.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

Rope making

Rope making was a local industry in Hailsham from the beginning of the 19th century and gave Hailsham the title of 'String Town'. It was started by Thomas Burfield in 1807 as a cottage industry and there were several Rope Walks around the town where rope was manufactured and then brought to Burfield's premises in the High Street. As the industry grew, a bespoke factory was constructed on South Road, of which there are still some buildings remaining today. A former employee of Burfield started a rival rope maker, Green Bros, in Summerheath Road, and for many years the two businesses provided the main employment in the town.

The hangman's rope was reputedly made in Hailsham and during the two world wars, tents, camp beds and even canvas decoy hurricane planes were manufactured for the war effort at the rope works. Today, although the original Burfield rope making site is no longer in use for that purpose, rope making continues in the town at Marlow Ropes.

Salt making

There is evidence to suggest that salt making was an important occupation on the Pevensey Levels at the initial stages of the economic exploitation of the marsh in the Saxon period. The Domesday Book (1086) records that the edges of Pevensey Marsh reputedly supported 100 salt works at that time. It is highly likely that evidence remains on the edges of the Pevensey Levels for this important early industry.

Other Trades and Industries

Windmills

There appears to be evidence for the erection of around 50 windmills in the District from the 18th century to late 19th century, although some of these windmills are likely to be replacements of earlier mills on the same site that collapsed or burnt down. Only 6 windmills survive in their original locations and in an unconverted state, 4 of which are in working order. The remaining structures have either been lost completely or have been converted to domestic use in the past with significant change to their structures and appearance, resulting in significant loss of historic fabric, including sails and mill machinery. Of the 6 windmills that survive unconverted, 4 are earlier post mills and 2 are later tower mills.

The Post Mill was probably the first type of windmill to be built. The main body or 'buck' of the mill is built around a centre post on which it pivots so that the mill can turn into the wind and respond to the wind direction. The post is supported by cross trees, originally resting on a wooden trestle (Nutley is an example) and later the trestle was protected by a brick roundhouse under the buck (Windmill Hill being an example). This type of mill was common until the 19th century when the more powerful tower and smock mills replaced them, of which there are examples of both types in the District.

The masonry tower mill was introduced to provide large and more stable sources of power and in contrast to the post mill, only the cap is rotated rather than the whole body of the mill. These types of mills could be constructed taller with large sails and could be operated at lower wind speeds. The smock mill is a later development of

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

the tower mill, where the tower is replaced by a wooden framework, called the "smock." The smock is commonly of octagonal plan, though examples with more, or fewer, sides exist. The lighter construction in comparison to tower mills made smock mills practical as drainage mills as these often had to be built in areas with unstable subsoil. One further mill survives that was previously located at Westham, but has been moved to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in West Sussex. This was an example of a hollow post mill.

Wind power was obviously a significant asset in the District due to the topography and the proximity to the sea and prevailing south westerly winds. Their significance in relation to the industrial heritage and social history within the District is clearly substantial and the preservation and maintenance of the remaining un-converted mill buildings of particular importance. There is also a rich record of lost or converted mills which can provide additional evidence for the historic environment record in the District and offer opportunity for archaeological investigation through development¹⁰.

Watermills

There is evidence for at least 33 watermills in the District, but only 13 mill buildings appear to survive relatively intact, of which two are in working order. The other 10 surviving watermills are either in an empty or derelict state, some with or without their machinery, or have been converted to dwellings.

The majority of the watermills appear to have been for flour production, but some were sawmills or later mills for producing animal feeds. It appears that the majority of parishes within the District had at least one watermill, and these were a mixture of sizes, with some having undershot wheels and some overshot. Where mill buildings no longer survive, there is potential for significant archaeology, relating not just to the remains of the building, but the water infrastructure, including the mill ponds and the leats with associated sluices for directing the water over or under the waterwheel¹¹.

Gas works

There are a number of gas works shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps of the District, but unfortunately, very few structures associated with this late 19th century industry remain and those that do are therefore particularly significant.

One local example of a former gasworks is at Heathfield, where natural gas was discovered by accident at the end of the 19th century. In its heyday, the Heathfield gasworks produced some 15 million cubic feet a day and provided the railway station with lighting until the 1930s. Unfortunately, the operation never proved commercially viable and no evidence remains for the industry today. It is interesting to note that a medallion was struck to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra – one side portrayed the Royal heads, and the other side was the inscription 'Heathfield, Sussex, 1902. Natural gas first used for light and power'. Another example was at Eridge, a gasometer was built in the Estate Yard in 1869, and gas manufactured there provided Eridge Castle with lighting until the coming of electricity in 1921. The yard is located to the north of Eridge Green on the road adjacent to the entrance to Eridge Park and is now used as small industrial units, but

¹⁰ <http://www.sussexmillsgroup.org.uk/index.html> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_windmills_in_East_Sussex

¹¹ <http://www.sussexmillsgroup.org.uk/index.html>

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

a chimney and possible buildings associated with the gas works still remain on the site.

Cottage industries

Within each settlement and Parish, cottage and service industries sprang up to serve the local population.

Some of the earliest local industries would have been blacksmiths and tanyards.

Each village would have had a blacksmith for providing and repairing basic domestic and agricultural implements; for shoeing horses and repairing carts etc. The actual smithy building is often lost, but the accompanying blacksmiths accommodation adjacent often survives. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, the site of the blacksmiths often became the car repair garage and petrol station, as at Selmeston.

Tanning was also important in the District throughout the middle ages and into the 19th century. This industry was normally confined to the outskirts of settlements (due to smell) and adjacent to water courses. Tanyard Farm in Underhill, Maresfield, is an example.

The leather products from the tanning industry were then used within other cottages industries in the District, from glove-making, to tack and saddle making. Wadhurst was one of the leather industry's Wealden centres in the mid-16th century. The area was well suited to this process as the market and surrounding farms ensured a supply of hides and the oaks that were abundant in the Weald had a particularly high tannin content. Water was also available for the process, which required soft water for the tanning stages.

Another particularly important and specific local industry to Wealden for at least the last 200 years is trug making. Herstmonceux was an important local centre and trugs are still made in the vicinity today. The word 'trug' is derived from 'trog', an Anglo Saxon word meaning wooden vessel or boat shaped article. Trugs were originally used for measures or scoops for grain or liquid but are more generally used as a type of basket for containing articles, particularly useful for gardening. Trugs are made from sweet chestnut, which is used for their frame, and thin boards of cricket bat willow.

By the 19th century, the census' can provide an idea of the variety of small cottage industries and services within settlements in the District. For example, the Kellys Directory entry of 1882 notes that Boreham Street had its own Post Office, a Public House, The Misses Ladies School, tailors, saddlers, miller, bootmaker, butcher, grocer and draper and a hair dresser (reference: Kelly's Directory of Sussex, by E. R. Kelly, M.A., F.S.S., published by Kelly & Co, 51 Great Queen Street, London WC in 1882). At Withyham, , the 1882 Kelly's Directory of Sussex shows that within the wider Parish there were a variety of commercial tradespeople, including: blacksmiths; wheelwrights; shoe and boot makers; shop keepers and drapers; wine and spirit merchants; millers; a coal merchant, farms, surgeon and saddler. Within the village itself the 1881 census lists the most common occupation was farm

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

labourer. The other occupations listed were: smith; draper, grocer and post master; Rector; coachman; gardener; innkeeper; and school teacher.

This demonstrates a snapshot of the significance of the rich social history relating to service industries within settlements, the remains of which may survive within buildings, particularly shop fronts and plan forms, or within ancillary buildings within the curtilages of domestic buildings.,

Worthy of note as a local industry are the Harmer plaques found throughout the District. Jonathan Harmer was the son of a Heathfield stonemason, who used his skills as a potter to enhance his father's gravestones. Jonathan created a method of attaching terracotta plaques to gravestones or tombs, which has enabled some of them to last for 200 years. The method he devised was to cut the outline of the terracotta into the stone, then cut about 3/4 inch deeper into the stone creating a cavity. The terracotta plaque of the same or slightly thicker depth was made, then the plaque was glued into the cavity using a mortar. He took over the family firm in 1799, and from then until around 1840 he added these unusual terracotta bas-reliefs to a large number of local grave stones. The plaques came in seven main varieties including baskets of fruit and flowers, urns with horn handles, cherubs and figure groups representing Faith, Hope and Charity. They were made in various colours, too, the red versions originating from a local claypit at Heathfield Park and the paler creams and buffs from further afield.

There are many many examples of his work in the Wealden area, including: Cade Street (6), Chiddingly (1), East Hoathly (2), Old Heathfield (1), Hailsham (1), Hellingly (3), Herstmonceux (8), Mayfield (5), Wadhurst (1), Waldron (2), Warbleton (2). His work can also be found in other parts of East Sussex, and into Kent.

Transport

Drove roads and ridgeways

The earliest routes were the drove roads for animals from the Downs into the Weald and the ridgeway routes, and more details are provided earlier in this document. Evidence for these routes remain within the District landscape and in some cases are still in use for modern transport.

Navigable rivers

There were originally several navigable routes along rivers in the District. These included the River Cuck, up to Arlington and various navigable streams and rivers within the Pevensy Levels area. There is evidence for a Romano-British port on the River Cuckmere to the west of Arlington; and at Boreham Street, just to the south of the village, along Boreham Lane is an area known as Puddledock. This denotes the area of a wharf on the river going out to sea two miles south of the confluence of the Nunningham Stream and the Ash Bourne. This part of the river was navigable by large, seagoing vessels, permitting the movement and trade of iron, corn, timber and ironwork.(reference: Wartling Past & Present, Wartling Parish Local History Group 2009) Ships could dock here until 1645 and the wharf was still visible until as recently as 1930.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

It is likely that further evidence may be discovered for navigable water routes in the District, particularly due to the proximity of areas of the District to the coast.

Railways and their influence on settlements and activity in the District

The railways arrived in the District from the mid-19th century, with the earliest line being that between Polegate and Hailsham, opened in 1849, particularly to serve the livestock market in the town, as well as passengers. The line was later extended through to Eridge in 1880 and was called the 'Cuckoo Line'. There were also lines between Tunbridge Wells and East Grinstead, and between Lewes and Eridge.

The remaining operational railway line is from Uckfield north, through Buxted, Crowborough and Eridge and on to London (opened in 1868), but the link between Uckfield and Lewes no longer exists. The other railway lines in the District fell under Dr Beechings axe in the 1960s, and the Cuckoo Line is now a national cycle trail and footpath called the 'Cuckoo Trail, and the line between Tunbridge Wells and East Grinstead is similarly used and named the 'Forest Way'.

However, infrastructure from these disused lines still remains including in most areas the line of the track bed, which in two instances are now national cycle ways. Other infrastructure including railway bridges, some signal boxes, and railways stations survive and their architecture is often specific to location and the particular railway line, and therefore can be particularly locally distinctive. A good example is the railway station at Mayfield which has particularly decorative architectural detailing.

With the advent of the railways and easier travel, alternative industries sprang up in the late Victorian period in the District. One example was widespread industry in chicken-fattening. Trains would bring in chickens for fattening from all over and take them away when they were ready. The chickens were fattened in their gardens, and would be put on a cramming machine to fatten them up with a mixture of sour milk, ground oats and rendered down fat. Men would do the plucking and the women did the stubbing (pinching out the beginnings of new feathers). As this activity expanded, it spawned a range of related activities such as corn and seed merchants, carriers and suppliers of equipment and machinery, as well as the increase in the production of cereals and hops. This industry started in the 1860s and finished around 1960 when broilers were introduced. (Reference: Heathfield.net) There remains evidence around the District for the built infrastructure serving the associated industries.

The railways also transformed settlements in the District, leading to a building boom. Particular examples are Heathfield, which was transformed from a tiny settlement called 'Tower Street' to a large village; the construction of New Town in Uckfield; the building of large Victorian and Edwardian villas in Mayfield; and a significant expansion of Hailsham. The domestic building industry of this period benefited from the new money arriving in the towns from the arrival of the railways, the easier access to building materials, and even tourism in the north of the District, with visitors bringing money into the economy of the emerging spa town of Crowborough. There are significant areas of built form remaining from this period within the settlements particularly affected by the railways that demonstrate important architectural detailing. These buildings are particularly at risk from complete loss through redevelopment, or erosion of detail through loss of architectural

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

features, which, through cumulative change, will erode the character and appearance of these parts of the settlements and lead to a loss of interpretation of their evolution.

Roads

The Wealden roads were notoriously bad, no doubt exacerbated by the movement of heavy materials associated with industry, and the roads throughout the District began to be improved and some became turnpikes from the mid-18th century. These were roads owned by land owners and a toll had to be paid to pass through individual sections of road, towards maintenance and upkeep. A number of tollhouses, now private houses, still survive along the former toll roads in the towns and villages around the District, although there is evidence from the Tithe Maps and early Ordnance Survey maps that many of these buildings have now been lost through later road widening schemes. There is likely to be archaeological evidence remaining for these lost buildings.

Also associated with the turnpikes were the 18th and 19th century coaching inns, of which a number survive in the District, including: The Chequers at Maresfield; the former Shelley Arms, Nutley; and The Maiden's Head, Uckfield.

Military History

Roman fort of Anderida and the Norman fortification of Pevensey Castle

The earliest military history in the District relates to Pevensey and the influence of the Romans and Normans, as discussed earlier. Interestingly, the military importance of the castle was also acknowledged in the 20th century when in 1942 small additions were made to Pevensey Castle for the defence of Britain, when it became a lookout over the channel for German aircraft during World War II.

Canons and Gunpowder

In the medieval period, the Iron Industry in the Weald provided cannon and ammunition for wars, and later also gunpowder, as evidenced by the powdermill at Maresfield.

Napoleonic War

There is evidence of the influence of the Napoleonic War in the early 19th century in the District, including the Martello Towers, Baracks and Army Camps.

The Martello Towers are small defensive forts first built in the South East of England during the Napoleonic War between 1805 and 1808. The round structures followed a standard plan, though varied in size. A typical South East Martello would be about 45 ft* (13.7m) in diameter at base and up to 40ft* (12m) tall. The masonry walls were built of brick and rendered with lime mortar externally, and were up to 13ft thick. Inside there were two main floors, the lower floor housing supplies and a powder store, and the first floor the men's quarters and officer's quarters. A single Martello housed between 15 and 25 men; a garrison of up to 24 men and 1 officer. The internal floor area of both floors was 1300 sq ft. Towers 60-63 were constructed in the Pevensey Bay area and three remain, now converted to dwellings.

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

There is evidence for an army barracks from this period in Hailsham. Constructed in 1803, the barracks were built to quarter troops intended to man the Martello towers which defended the Pevensey area from the French. The Barracks were closed after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. The officer's houses remain as evidence, along with the Grenadier Inn.

During the Napoleonic Wars an army camp was established at Waterdown near Frant village, extending to the crossroads of the Eridge-Tunbridge Wells and Frant-Groombridge roads. In 1793, 18 soldiers from the camp were buried in Frant Churchyard after contracting smallpox.

In addition to the militia, which was compulsory service, various East Sussex landowners raised volunteer regiments during the Napoleonic Wars, paid for out of their own pockets. The North Pevensey Legion was raised by the Earl of Sheffield of Sheffield Park, which had a company based in Frant led by Sir John Macpherson and another at Eridge led by George Nevill.

World War I and II

The influence of the First and Second World Wars on the historic environment in the District is substantial and includes locations of military camps; airfields; pill boxes and tank traps; a radar station; as well as the evidence for bomb craters in the landscape and the impact of bombs on the built environment, leading to substantial rebuilding in settlements. Due to its location on the south coast, the District was also important in the World War II defences of the country. Part of the GHQ Stop line network passes through the District and the stop lines were intended to halt the German advance should the invasion of Britain have taken place. The stop lines comprised pill boxes and continuous anti-tank obstacles, both of which are still evident throughout the Wealden landscape.

The Pevensey Levels were the location for one of the large radar defence stations in World War 2. In the mid-1930s, the Air Ministry established a programme of building radar stations around the British coast to provide warning of air attack on Great Britain and this network of radar stations was called Chain Home. Pevensey faced south for attack across France from Germany and was in the right position for the Battle of Britain.

As first built, RAF Pevensey covered a considerable area of the Pevensey Levels, now Pylon Farm, but the transmitters and receivers were housed in sandbagged wooden huts with 90' guyed wooden masts and a mobile generator. Later, the operations blocks were given a much higher level of protection against attack and were constructed of brick, built on the surface but surrounded with a traverse and topped with a six foot thick shingle filled concrete sandwich roof. Shortly after completion the blast from a German bomb dislodged several tons of shingle, some of it falling into the receiver building. RAF Pevensey was one of the original 20 Air Ministry Experimental Stations.

As originally planned there should have been four 360 foot steel transmitter towers spaced 180ft apart and four 240ft wooden receiver towers in a rhombic pattern set at a distance from the transmitters. RAF Pevensey was short lived and by December

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

1945 the station was described as 'caretaking'. As the station was not required for the post war rotor radar programme RAF Pevensey was offered for sale by public auction in Battle (Sussex) in November 1958. The inventory of buildings and equipment offered for sale included: brick sectional timber and handcraft buildings, 350 foot steel towers and water towers. The contents of the buildings included diesel engines, electrical equipment and all fittings, steel and timber doors and windows, air ventilation systems, fuel and water tanks, sewage pumps, electric motors, tubular wall heaters, RSJ's, baths, sinks and power cables.

Today, very little above ground evidence remains for RAF Pevensey and the area will be a rich future archaeological source for the activity during World War 2.

Military camps

Maresfield Park became a military camp for the duration of the Great War and it became a training camp for Kitchener's new armies and a riding school for yeomanry units and housed 10,000 men in 1914. It was used by Canadian forces in 1917/1918 and in 1921, the Royal Corps of Signals was formed here.

Maresfield continued its connection with the military after the end of the Great War, and in World War II a large army camp was established in the vicinity of the current Ashdown Business Park to the west of the village. King George VI inspected troops at Maresfield on the eve of D-Day. The association with the military finished in c.1985 when the army camp was closed, but housing developed as married quarters for soldiers remains at Queen's Drive and in the southern part of Parklands.

Heathfield Park was requisitioned and turned over to the Army, with the Gibraltar Tower being used as a look-out post and had a firing range close by. From the summer of 1941 Canadian troops took over the responsibility for the defence of the area. From early in 1944 Sussex was one of the areas where troops were concentrated for the launch of the invasion to re-conquer the continent. At the end of April the Heathfield Park became the HQ for the Guards Armoured Division and 5,000 men of the Worcesters were also billeted there.

During World War II the house and garden at Sheffield Park became the headquarters for a Canadian armoured division, and Nissen huts were sited in the garden and woods.

Military and Auxillary Hospitals during World War I

Home hospitals were formed under the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem to care for troops injured during WWI. Before the conflict even began, suitable properties were identified that could be used as temporary hospitals if war broke out. On the outbreak of war both the Joint War Committee and the War Office were inundated with offers of accommodation. It was the Committee's job to sort through these 5,000 offers to find suitable buildings. They included anything from town halls and elementary schools to large and small private houses. Large numbers of public and private buildings (often large houses) were turned over for use as small hospitals, most of which operated as annexes to nearby larger hospitals (the majority of the larger military hospitals in the county were in Brighton). They were staffed by members of the local Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), who were trained in first aid and home nursing and local

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

volunteers, and local examples in the District included: Shernfold Park, Frant; Hill House, Wadhurst; Claytons, Mayfield; and the Red Cross Hospital, Hailsham and Beech Green Hospital, Withyham¹².

War memorials

There are a large number of war memorials in the District relating to different conflicts predominantly within the 19th and 20th centuries. The memorials do not just take the form of the large monuments erected in settlements to commemorate those lost in the first and second world wars, but to smaller church monuments, village halls, village greens, and personal memorials such as gates and plaques on other types of buildings and structures. The memorials relate to people with strong historical association to the places in which they lived and are therefore, a significant cultural and social historical record.

Air Fields

There are several older air fields in the District, which are significant to the early history of aviation and that of the Second World War, and are therefore of particular historic importance locally.

An early airfield is that at Bellhurst in the Parish of Wartling. In the grounds of the house was the landing strip for the Eastbourne Aviation Company. Founded by Bernard Fowler in 1909, the company had a flying school and built planes at St Anthony's Mount, Eastbourne with the seaplane factory at The Crumbles, Eastbourne.

The Deanland airfield was planned as an Advanced Landing Ground in order to provide support for the D-Day Landings on 6th June 1944. Construction was started in the Spring of 1943, and the first aircraft to take to the air on D-Day flew from Deanland, providing top-cover over the Omaha and Gold beach-heads.

Famous People and Notable Local Figures

Introduction

There are a number of notable people and historical figures of both national and local importance, that are linked with the District and whom have had an impact on the significance of the historic environment, and social and cultural history. The following is intended as a snapshot to demonstrate the influence on the historic environment and social history of different types of individuals from Royalty, landowners, craftsmen, artists, writers and designers, and is by no means considered to be a definitive list.

Historical Figures

Both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I were visitors to the District. Henry VIII is purported to have visited Bolebroke Castle outside of Hartfield with Anne Boleyn, and Elizabeth I visited Eridge Castle and the Archbishop's Old Palace at Mayfield.

¹² <http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/Who%20we%20are/History%20and%20archives/List%20of%20auxiliary%20hospitals%20in%20the%20UK%20during%20the%20First%20World%20War.pdf>

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

The persecution of the Protestants in the reign of Mary I touched upon people living in the District. Six people from Mayfield were martyred, four of whom were burned at the stake in the village, the other two died in Lewes; and one person from Warbleton, who was also executed at Lewes. Memorials to the martyrs in the two villages form part of the local historical significance of the area.

In the 15th century, Jack Cade, the leader of the 15th century rebellion that bears his name, died in a garden at Cade Street, being shot with an arrow by the Sheriff of Kent. Jack's body was taken to London and his head fixed to a pike on London Bridge. A pillar at Cade Street commemorates the event.

There are also connections in the District to the first permanent English colony in North America. Robert Hunt, vicar of Heathfield from 1602 to 1606, sailed as chaplain with the 1607 expedition to settle the colony of Jamestown, Virginia, 13 years before the Pilgrim Fathers set sail in the Mayflower, and so became the first Christian minister to preach in America.

Another notable former resident is Lieutenant-Colonel John By of Shernfold Park, in Frant. In August 1802 John By went to Canada, where he was involved in repairs to the Cascades bateaux canal on the St Lawrence and superintended the construction of four Martello towers for the defence of Quebec. In 1826 he designed and constructed a military canal between the Ottawa River and Lake Ontario, safe from attack by the Americans. The town which grew up around his headquarters, originally named Bytown, was renamed Ottawa after the union of Upper and Lower Canada. The Rideau Canal is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

An important local figure in the late 18th century was Thomas Turner who lived at East Hoathly. Turner wrote a diary which is a unique chronicle of the village life of a shop keeper in that period.

Landowners

Due to the large manorial estates within the District, many notable families have had an influence over the historic environment throughout the centuries, including the Sackvilles of Buckhurst, related to the Tudor/Elizabethan Royal Family; the Earls and Marquesses of Abergavenny of Eridge and Kidbrooke Park; the Pelham Family of Laughton; the Dacre-Fiennes of Herstmonceux; the Gage Family of Firle; and the Duke of Devonshire and Lord Burlington; who owned large tracts of land in the south of the District.

Crafts people

The iron industry has had a substantial impact on the historic environment in the District and the ironmasters were local prominent figures of the late and post medieval period and owned large properties. In Wadhurst Parish, for example, the ironmasters included John Barham, Nicholas Fowle and John Legas, along with their families and descendants. The Barhams and Fowles were already established landowners in the Wadhurst area before the iron boom, whereas John Legas moved to the area from the North and started out as a clerk at a furnace he later owned. John Barham and his descendants owned local forges and furnaces from 1561 until the mid-17th century; Nicholas Fowles operated a local furnace and forge in the mid-

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

16th century; and John Legas and his partner William Harrison operated forges and furnaces in the early-mid 18th century.

Many of these local prominent figures involved in the iron industry have left their mark on the settlements in the District and outlying area through the houses that survive and the worker's houses built to support the industry. In many of the local churches, there are memorials to the Ironmasters by way of unusual iron grave slabs.

Listed among notable residents in the District is the cartographer Richard Budgen. In 1723 Richard Budgen published 24 maps as loose sheets that had been engraved by John Senex of Shropshire entitled "*An Actual Survey of the County of Sussex divided into Rapes Hundreds and Deanries. In which the exact longitude and atitude of all the remarkable places are determined from observation. Also an accurate delineation by and measurement of the sea-coast, roads and the rivers so far as navigable*".

In the 19th century, George Smart, a local tailor in Frant, was popular with those visiting from Tunbridge Wells spa town. He exhibited cloth decorated with animals, birds and grotesque figures, and some of his fabric pictures still survive and show local scenes in the background, such as the houses surrounding Frant Common and the church.

Writers

The District has been associated with writers, particularly in the 19th and early 20th centuries, including: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who lived in Crowborough, and A.A. Milne.

In 1925, A.A. Milne purchased Cotchford Farm, Hartfield, which was to become his home and that of Christopher Robin Milne. Milne is most famous for his two Pooh books about a boy named Christopher Robin, named after his son, and various characters inspired by his son's stuffed animals, most notably the bear named Winnie-the-Pooh. The fictional Hundred Acre Wood of the Pooh stories derives from Five Hundred Acre Wood in Ashdown Forest where the Pooh stories were set. Popular tourist locations at Ashdown Forest include: Galleon's Lap, The Enchanted Place, the Heffalump Trap and Lone Pine, Eeyore's Sad and Gloomy Place, and the wooden Pooh Bridge where Pooh and Piglet invented Poohsticks.

Artists and photographers

Two particularly famous artists are linked to the District. Joseph Mallord William Turner is known to have painted in Sussex, and produced paintings of the Vale of Heathfield and Wadhurst. Pablo Picasso was also a visitor to Farley Farm in Muddles Green, Chiddingly in the early 20th century and examples of his work are within the house today. The house and gardens are full of surrealist paintings and sculptures.

There are also two photographers of note who lived and worked in the District. Edwin Isaac Baker, who lived in Hailsham in the second half of the 19th century, set up a photographic studio at his bookstore premises in the High Street and was a

A timeline of historic settlement and activity in Wealden

prolific photographer, who took a large amount of photographs of Hailsham and the local area. His photographic record is a valuable resource in understanding the significance of the historic environment in this area.

Lee Miller was born in 1907, in the USA and lived at Farley Farm from 1949 until her death in 1977. She is perhaps best known for her photographs during the end of the Second World War. In 1944 Miller joined up with Time Life photographer David E. Scherman, following the US forces to Europe twenty days after the D Day landings. As a photojournalist and official war correspondent with the US Army, Miller documented key moments of the war such as the Liberation of Paris and the meeting of US and Russian troops on the river Elbe. Miller's photographs of the Buchenwald concentration camp brought the horrors of the holocaust to the American public when they were published in US Vogue in June 1945. While in Germany Miller was billeted in Hitler's secret apartment in Munich and famously took a bath in his bathtub. She also photographed his house Wachenfeld at Berchtesgaden ablaze on the eve of Germany's surrender¹³.

¹³ <http://www.farleyfarmhouse.co.uk/Default.aspx>