

HISTORIC FARMLAND LANDSCAPES OF THE SURREY HILLS SURREY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Introduction to Historic Farmland Landscapes Wotton Village Hall 27th June 2006

How to carry out an initial archive search

Collation of Key Maps of area interested

The first step to undertake is to collate copies of relevant key maps. These are the current OS map with the boundary of the farm/area interested in. Various editions of the OS 6" together with the Tithe map and Award. The OS 6" will show how much the landscape has changed in the past 100 years or so, and the Tithe Map will provide information on owner, occupier and landuse.

Search Key Archives

These are references and archives listed on previous sheet. The parish and manor in which the site lies will aid in searching some of the original archives.

Use of recording forms

To make collection of information easier and ordered, a series of recording forms are given. The objective is to give the full reference, source and details of each piece of archive consulted, so that the 'story' can be ordered and it is easy to refer to what has been looked at and what needs to be. These forms then form your reference material for the research. Where possible obtain photocopies for reference.

Key Places to visit

Surrey History Centre
Surrey Sites and Monuments Record
Local Library
Local Museum
Surrey Archaeological Society

Useful websites

A2A - Access to Archives
The National Archives
English Heritage - NMR
Surrey County Council - Surrey History Centre

What to do with the information

At this stage it is possible 'to tell the story' in the form of a historic summary listing dates and events in chronological order. It is useful to do this to get a picture of how the holding has evolved through time.

The next task is to systematically go through all the maps and annotate a current OS map with those features, which are present on all or most maps and therefore indicate continuity in the landscape. Also to annotate sites where features have gone,

thus indicating areas where change has taken place and try to identify what processes have caused those changes.

This annotated map is then used in the 'field or landscape' to record historic features and sites of historic features in the landscape. The process and method of recording features in the 'field' will be the subject of the third meeting.

Once the archive research has been done and the features recorded in the field, it is now time to bring the two together 'to tell the story of the landscape' and to look at ways of using the 'story' to interpret and present today's landscape. This again will be addressed in the third meeting.