

Felbridge & District History Group

Imberhorne Farm Archaeological Field Walk Report of 10th May 2003

Brief Summary of events

Members of the Felbridge & District History Group and students of Imberhorne School, with the help of several volunteers, under the direction of amateur archaeologist Martin Bastone, carried out the field walk at Long field, Imberhorne Farm, East Grinstead, to establish evidence of any archaeological activities within the bounds of the farm. The resulting finds confirmed that the area has seen human activity from the Mesolithic period through to the modern day with particular concentrations relating to the medieval period and 15th to 16th century.

Introduction

Imberhorne Farm (TQ3724 3840) encompasses the demesne lands of the manor of Imberhorne dating to about 1100, and Gullege (TQ3654 3841), the freehold property of the Alfrey family from c1300, situated at the northern end of the manor of Broadhurst. The limited archaeological research that had been carried out suggested prehistoric activity and medieval settlement in the field west of Gullege Lane, based on the presence of worked flints and localised domestic finds. The field walk, the first of a planned programme of field walking, was undertaken with the landowner's permission and full support to record any archaeological information in an attempt to address the almost complete lack of archaeological research of the area and to gain an understanding of the land use. The walk was made possible through donations made by Brian and Marilyn Emmett, Laura Sansom, Stephonie and Jeremy Clarke and the East Grinstead Society.

The field covered by this report is called Long Field being in excess of 50 acres and with the resources available, the decision was taken to walk only the northern half of the field. The field itself is 'L' shaped, the widest section at the southern end, then running between trees on the east of the field and tree lined Gullege Lane, heading towards the Felbridge Water at the northern end.

Long Field is made up of a strip of what had been five fields in 1842, being part of Gullege Farm, in the manor of Broadhurst, with the addition of one field to the southeast, once part of the demesne lands of the manor of Imberhorne. The purchase of Gullege Farm in the late 19th century by Sir Edward Blount, then owner of Imberhorne Farm, joined the lands of the manors of Broadhurst and Imberhorne, and although the house at Gullege was later sold off, the lands of Gullege remain part of Imberhorne Farm.

From the East Grinstead Tithe of 1842 we can identify the names of the five fields that belonged to Gullege, heading from the house known as Gullege to the stream, they were Kitchen Garden Field, Mole Forest, Upper Rail Field, Lower Rail Field and Grub Copse. The name of the latter field implies that at some time before 1842 this section had been wooded. The field that has been incorporated from what was Imberhorne Farm to create the 'L' shape of Long Field as it is known today, was called Long Ten Acres. This field adjoins Kitchen Garden Field and Mole Forest, and over the years all the hedgerows have been removed to create a single field of approximately 53 acres.

Gullege Lane, the trackway running north/south to the west of Long Field is believed to be either on, or very close to, the route of the Whapple Way referred to in a survey of the Bounders of the Hundreds of the Duchy of Lancaster in the Rape of Pevensey (1579). Map evidence suggests that until the mid 19th century there was at least two buildings in the field to the west of Gullege Lane, and another building to the south of Gullege, making this area a small hamlet and not the isolated house that it is today.

Previous archaeological research in Long Field

Previous archaeological research in Long Field consists of limited field walking carried out in 1986/7 in the southern end of the field under the direction of Doug Skinner, visits by the West Kent Metal Detectors on 1st October 1995, 7th December 1997 and 30th August 1998, and a 'Sunday afternoon stroll' on 4th February 2001 when a chance discovery of a bloomery site was made by two members of the Felbridge & District History Group.

Previous finds from Long Field

Flint cores and microliths dating to the Neolithic period found near the site of the bloomery.

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

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

Coins ranging from the Georgian period through to the early 20th century.

Two coins of note are:

George III gold quarter Guinea dating to 1762, found at TQ 3707 3893.

Napoleon III silver 20 centime dating to 1866.

General Artefacts

An assortment of buckles and buttons, including military and livery buttons, ranging from the 16th century to the 20th century.

Victorian harness buckles and brasses.

Lead sack seals and tokens.

Lead musket balls.

Piece of lead from a leaded light.

Assortment of china and pottery shards, mostly Victorian.

Pieces of lime, implying that the field has seen numerous dressings of this as a fertiliser over the years.

Chalk inclusions that may have been brought in with burnt chalk from a limekiln as quick lime used as fertiliser from the mid 18th century.

Sandstone shale.

Method of Walking

In preparation for the field walk, a map of Long Field was produced and divided into a grid format seven rows wide, (east/west), B-H, and nineteen rows long, (north/south), 3-21. This grid format was then transferred to the field itself using 2m canes to create 133 boxes, 20m square.

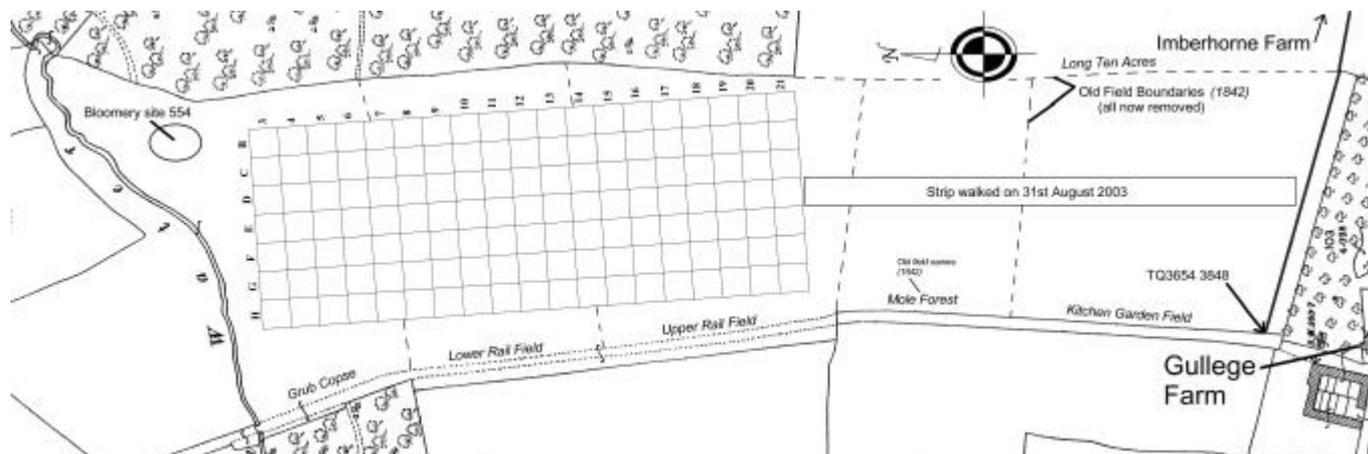


Fig. 1. Map of Long Field showing old field boundaries and grid walked.

As the majority of the walkers were novices the rule was 'If in doubt, pick it up', because materials like flint and chalk could only have been brought there as they are not indigenous to the area and it is difficult to distinguish between sandstone and some of the coarse pottery so it was better to pick it up for later examination than leave it behind, and any evidence of charcoal could indicate human activity. To ensure uniformity in walking, each walker was issued with an instruction sheet for the method of walking. The method of walking adopted was for a group of 10 to 15 people to assemble at the northern end of the field at the beginning of one of the marked up rows. Each row was 20m wide and the walkers spread out evenly across its width, walked slowly up the field, keeping together, and picked up any objects on the surface that might be man made or alien to the area. Every 20m in the upper left corner of the square there was a plastic bag marked with its grid reference attached to a cane into which all items they had all picked up were put. The walkers then continued until they got to the end of the marked row. The walkers then returned to the northern end of the field to restart another row. After a row had been walked it was marked at the bottom of the field so the walkers knew which ones had been done.

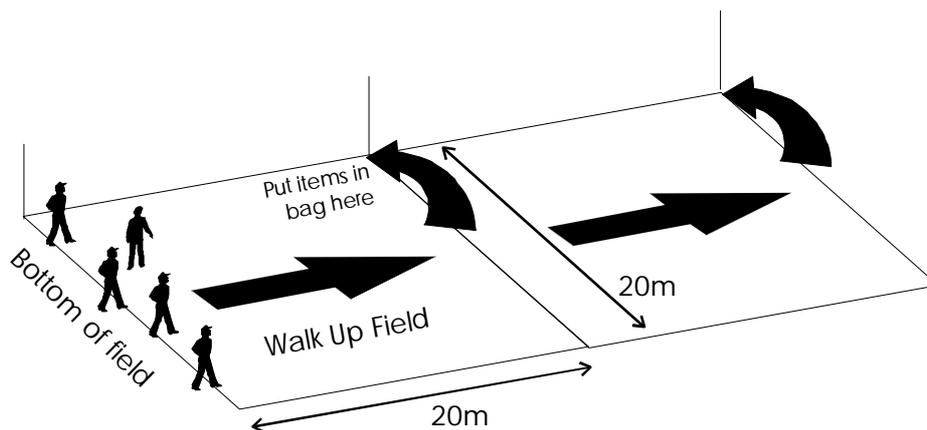


Fig. 2. Method of walking

After each row of squares had been walked, metal detectors were allowed into each walked square and any finds were also put into the bag in the upper left corner of each square in which they were found so that they joined the items that had been found by the walkers. Although the weather was kind, the condition of the field was not ideal for walking as it had not been ploughed since winter 2001/2, only harvested in 2002 and then left fallow so there was a fair amount of vegetation beginning to grow by May 2003.

Cleaning and Cataloguing the Finds

Some finds were washed on site, one bag at a time to prevent contamination with other finds. When clean the finds were placed on sheets of newspaper marked with the grid reference square number. The newspaper was then folded up and placed back into the original bag, checking that the bag was still identified with the grid reference square number. The bulk of the finds were cleaned over the following two weeks away from the field walking area. When dry, the items were sorted, numbered and entered onto the computer, one square at a time. In all over 5000 finds were recorded, of which only 1166 could be considered real finds.

Rows G and H were walked first by two separate teams starting at column 3 and moving to 4, 5 etc. It is evident from the illustration below showing the number of finds from each square, that enthusiasm for picking up everything was high at the beginning of walk leading to a much greater number of items from the first 4 squares (G3, G4, H3 & H4), mainly lime fragments, bloomery debris and beach pebbles. The right hand illustration shows the same grid but with the lime, bloomery debris and pebbles removed showing a more even collection rate per square independent of when each square was walked during the day.

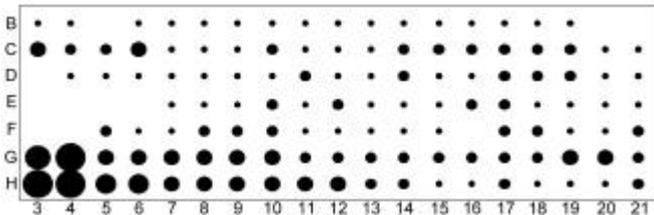


Fig. 3. Total finds per square

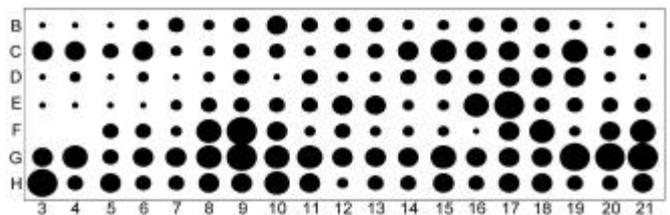


Fig. 4. Finds per square (excl: pebbles, lime & bloomery debris)

Note: the scale of these plots differs due to the adjustment affecting the total number of items present.

After cataloguing, advice was sort from the overseeing archaeologist, Martin Bastone, to determine which pieces of flint were worked or natural, he also looked over the pottery shards to determine approximate age. The advice of Jeremy Hodgkinson of the Wealden Iron Research Group was sort regarding the finds relating to the iron industry. The thickness of all tile fragments was measured (where possible) and recorded pending viewing by a tile expert.

Geological Finds

Sandstone:

The site yielded vast quantities of sandstone including shale, iron streaked, and red in colour indicating that it had been roasted as part of the bloomery process.

Most of the shale found in Long field was sandy yellow in colour with small organic type markings similar to that found on the surface of silt in ponds suggesting this may have been the surface of a lake or swamp bottom from pre-history that has since solidified. This is indicative of the area as Imberhorne Farm sits on a belt of Tunbridge Wells Sand in the Weald, with Weald clay to the north and Wadhurst clay to the south. For the first 20 million years of the Cretaceous period, the Weald was part of a vast fresh water-to-brackish swamp or lake. Rivers drained into the area bringing with them deposits of iron oxide leached from the soil, mud, silt and sand. These became compressed to form layers of clay, siltstone and sandstone. At the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago, subsidence of part of the Wealden area caused an uplift of the Central Weald. This emerged above sea level during the Tertiary period, some one million years ago. Subsequently water has eroded the surface of the Weald and its rivers and streams have transported the debris of weathering out to sea exposing, as in the Imberhorne area, layers of sandstone and seams of iron ore.

The seams of exposed iron ore attracted iron working and after the removal of the iron-rich sandstone, the first process was to heat it in a fire and when cool break it into small pieces for easier iron extraction in the bloomery process. The consequence of heating sandstone is that it turns a deep red colour, so to find burned sandstone suggests that an early iron industry existed in the area, confirmed by the discovery of the Felbridge Water bloomery.

Lime fragments:

The site yielded a substantial amount of lime fragments used as fertiliser from the mid 1700's through to the present day. To date there is no evidence for the site of a lime-burning kiln on the farm, which is unusual, as most major farms possessed at least one. A fragment of limekiln lining was found but this may have been brought in with the lime. The presence of lime fragments indicates that the soil has been enriched over the years suggesting long-term arable use. The distribution of lime fragments was consistent over the whole of the walked section, implying that the entire area has been treated similarly over the period since liming was introduced and thus no area has been laid to meadow significantly longer than any other area.

Chalk inclusions:

The site yielded 221 pieces of chalk inclusion having been imported with the lime.

Flint:

The site yielded some flint, which is not indigenous to the area, implying that all flint found on the farm has been imported either with the burned chalk for liming the field or for tool making. The majority of the flints were obviously pebbles/stones that had been damaged by ploughing but some showed clear signs of being worked and are included as archaeological finds.

Archaeological Finds

Worked Flints:

The site yielded 33 pieces of flint that showed signs of being worked, these included 19 flint flakes and 3 cores, bi-products of tool making, as well as 11 examples of worked flints. Of the cores and flakes, two of the cores and one flake date to the Mesolithic period, the remaining flakes, core and worked flint dating to the Neolithic period. A breakdown of the worked flint reveals, 7 blades, 2 scrapers, 1 boring tool and 1 piece of flint showing signs of working. Mesolithic flints can be distinguished from Neolithic flints to some extent in that flint was considered a more precious commodity in the Mesolithic period, with larger pieces being discarded in the Neolithic period that would have been worked further in the Mesolithic period. The biggest concentration of worked flints was found at the northwest end of the field near the stream.

The flint is principally black/dark grey in colour with some examples showing a mottled, lighter grey colour or having a brown tinge to them. Imberhorne Farm is situated half way between the North and South Downs so it is unclear from which set of Downs the flint would have been brought in from, but with the evidence of flint flakes it would suggest that the flint was brought in and worked on site.

Interesting worked flint include:

Flint core, Mesolithic, cat. no.18.897

Found in grid reference H 4

This core has a small section of cortex (the chalky outer crust found on flint) in place that is relatively thin and weathered. The flint is a dark grey/black colour nearest to the underside of the cortex fading to a mottled pale grey colour towards what would have been the interior of the flint.

Flint core Neolithic, cat. no.18.1647

Found in grid reference D11

Appears to be a broken tool, possible a hand axe, which has been reused. There is no cortex on this piece and it consists of various shades of grey.

Flint boring point, cat. no.18.1510

Found in grid reference G10

Pale grey in colour with translucent edges when held to the light. The tool is roughly triangular in shape, the boring point would have been longer and has been broken off.

Flint scraper, cat. no.18.1266

Found in grid reference H14

Light grey in colour.

Flint blade, cat. no.18.969

Found in row F

Dark brown in colour with translucent edges when held to the light.

Flint blade, cat. no.18.336

Found in grid reference H5

Mid grey in colour.

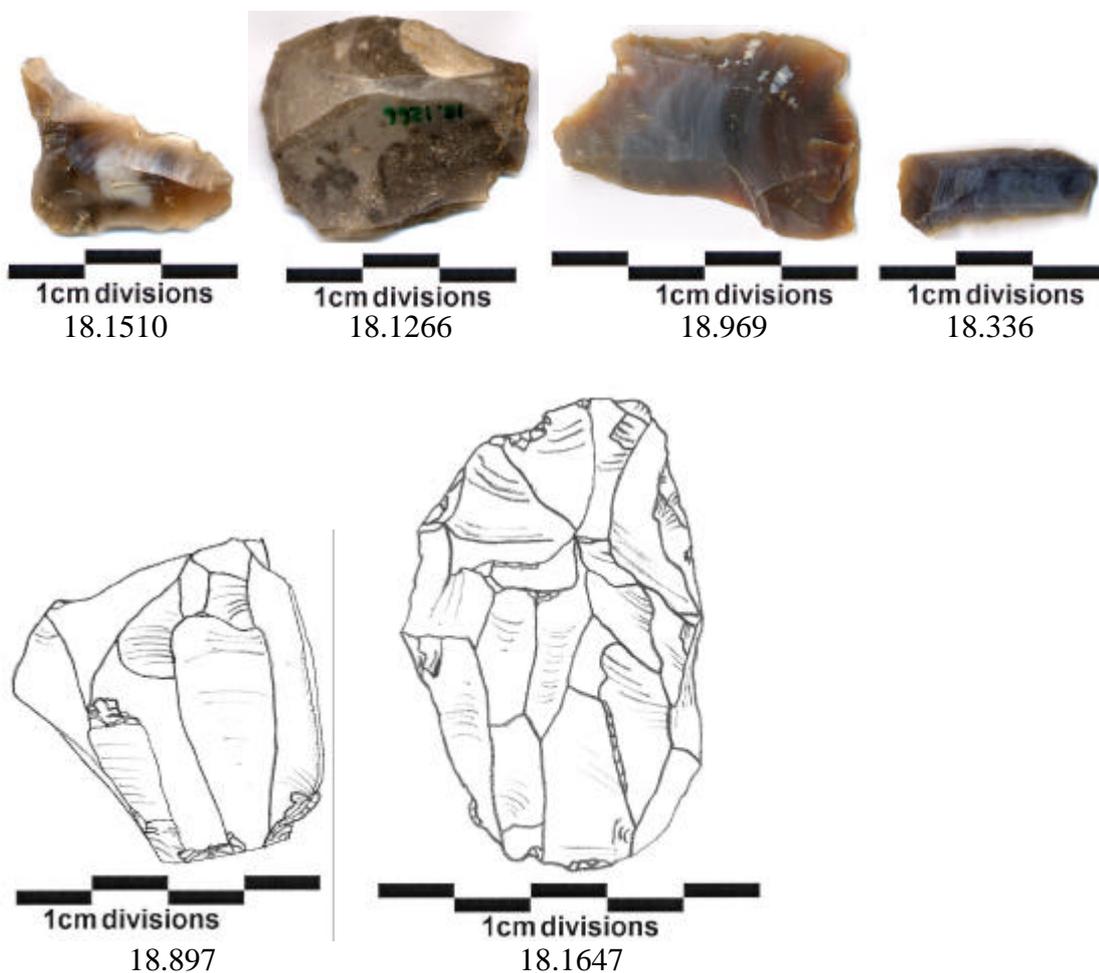


Fig. 5. A selection of Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flints found.

Bones:

The site yielded 72 fragments of bone and a variety of shapes and sizes were found. Some of these were clearly butchered and may have been imported by foxes or with pig's swill during the late 20th century when the field is known to have been rented to a pig farmer, but there was one very interesting long bone from a leg or arm showing signs of being deliberately split to extract the marrow.

3rd century style bloomery slag:

The site yielded 139 pieces of bloomery tap slag. The concentration profile was unexpected [Fig. 6.] as there was very little found in the northeast of the field closest to the known bloomery site. There seems to be a higher concentration of finds further south that may have been used as a hard standing associated with a building at some time later or an area where bloomery slag was dumped prior to distribution for some other purpose such as fertiliser, an agricultural practise that operated in the 1930s and 40's.

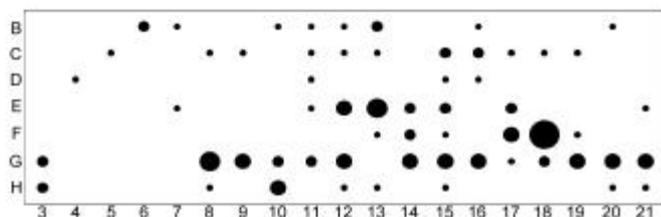


Fig. 6. Distribution of Bloomery Tap Slag

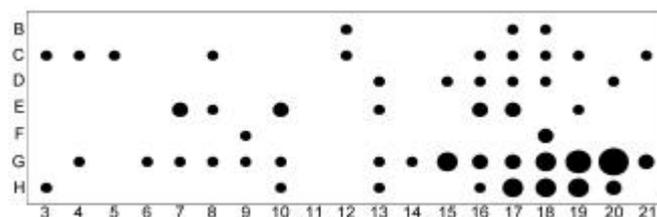


Fig. 7. Distribution of Blast Furnace Slag

Blast furnace slag:

The site also yielded 109 pieces of blast furnace slag, the nearest blast furnace being Warren furnace in Furnace Wood, TQ 3475 3929, working between the mid 1500's and late 1700's. Any blast furnace slag found in the area must have been imported for a specific purpose, either for roadway maintenance or hard standing being the most probable uses. Blast furnace slag differs from bloomery slag in that it is grey/green glassy material whereas bloomery slag looks like solidified molten globules of iron coloured material and is very heavy in comparison with the 16th century slag due to the efficient iron extraction of the blast furnace process compared to the bloomery furnace process. The distribution plot [Fig. 7.] shows a

distinct concentration in the southwest corner of the site walked. This does not correlate with the concentration of the bloomery slag implying that the reuses of these materials were separated historically rather than just gathering locally found slag of any period for a single purpose.

Brick:

The site yielded 491 fragments of brick, including some glazed fragments, yet to be analysed by an expert. The distribution of the brick fragments is illustrated [Fig. 8.] and shows a reasonably even distribution over the whole site but possibly a greater concentration between rows 8-12 on the western edge of the walked area and again row G between rows 15-21.

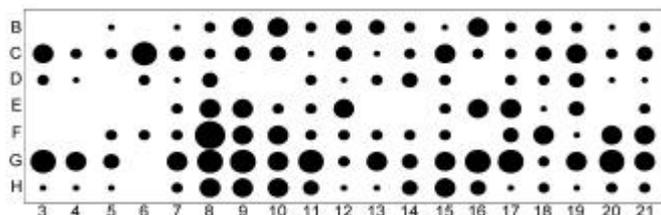


Fig. 8. Distribution of Brick fragments

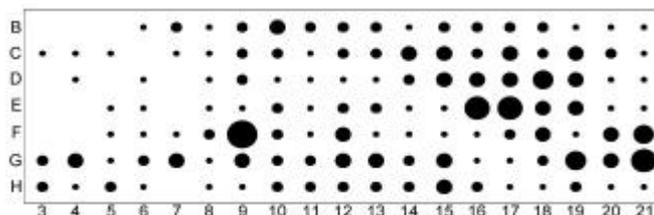


Fig. 9. Distribution of Tile fragments

Tile:

The site yielded 746 tile fragments of varying thicknesses, colour, degree of firing, age and size. The distribution of the tile fragments is illustrated [Fig. 9.] and shows a very different profile to that of the brick fragments with a greater concentration at the southern end of the walked area. This implies that the two were not always used in conjunction for building structures. The tile fragments were recorded using thickness and core thickness, the core being the under-fired central band that is clearly visible as a contrasting colour in many of the tiles. Analysis by thickness and core thickness does not show any significant differences to the overall distribution of all tiles and thus cannot be used to distinguish between tile types in this area. Future collation by fabric colour and temper may provide clearer distribution profiles. The tile fragments are yet to be analysed by an expert, although three pieces of special interest are worth noting:

Fragment of tile, cat. no.18.1

Found just outside the grid in the northeast corner close to the Felbridge Water Bloomery site.

The fragment is 22mm thick with a dark grey core measuring 10-13mm. The fabric of the fragment is a red-orange sandy ware with a dark grey core. The temper ranges from fine to fairly coarse sand and of a slightly porous nature. It is an interesting fragment being that it is so thick.

Fragment of tile, cat. no.18.548

Found in grid reference B13

The fragment is 22mm thick with a dark grey core measuring 16-18mm. The fabric of the fragment was a red-orange sandy ware with a dark grey core but has been fired to a higher temperature than fragment 18.1 causing the exterior surface to become very dark in comparison. The temper ranges from fine to fairly coarse sand. It is an interesting fragment being that it is also so thick.

Fragment of 15th century glazed floor tile, cat. no.18.90

Found in grid reference G8

The fragment is 20mm thick and the fabric is red-orange sandy ware, greying near the surface. The temper ranges from fine to fairly coarse sand with some milky quartz chip inclusions. The discernable pattern indicates that it has had white slip poured into a shallow incised area, this has then been covered with an olive-green coloured glaze, which although badly worn, is still evident. Fragments of similar style glazed floor tiles have been observed on the moated site NBR no. TQ 33 NE 8, an early medieval moated site on the south bank of the Felbridge Water at TQ3613 3903.

Pottery shards:

The site yielded a complete range of pottery shards from the early medieval through to the present day, consisting of 87 shards of non-glazed coarse/sandy ware with a colour range from pinky-buff through to red-orange, the majority being in the red-orange category (group 1), 33 shards of partially glazed terracotta (group 2), 11 shards of fully glazed terracotta (group 3), 16 shards of stoneware (group 4), 48

shards of china ware of which 21 shards were patterned (group 5). Group 1 may include tile fragments, as it is difficult to distinguish between the fabric of some tiles and pottery, and this seems to be supported by the fact that the distribution profile of Group 1 is very similar to the distribution profile of tile fragments [Fig. 9.]. It is interesting to note that the distribution of pottery/china fragments of a later date tend to gravitate towards the western boundary of the site, parallel with the trackway. The rim shards have had their curvature measured and this has been used to provide an estimated internal diameter at the rim for the original object.

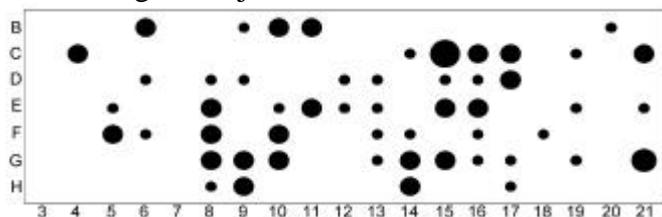


Fig. 10. Group 1

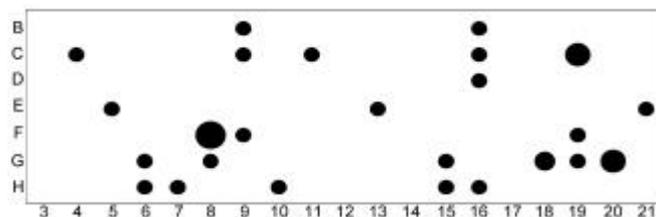


Fig. 11. Group 2

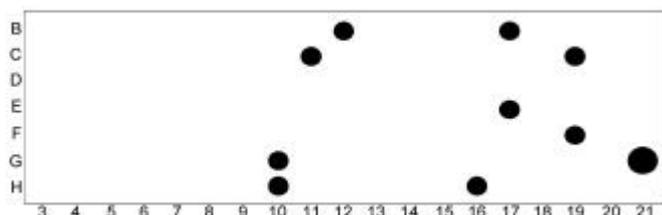


Fig. 12. Group 3

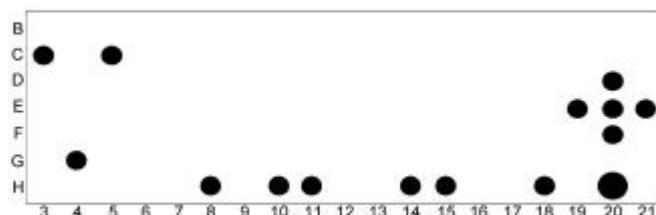


Fig. 13. Group 4

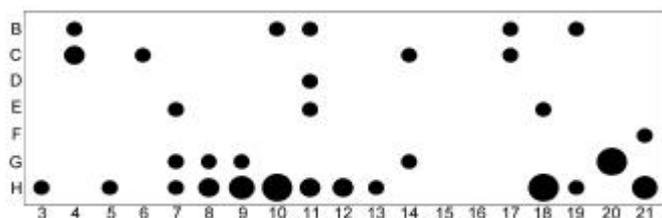


Fig. 14. Group 5

The most interesting shards include:

Unglazed coarse buff ware handle/foot, cat. no.18.115

Found in grid reference H10

The fabric of the handle/foot is a pinky-buff sandy ware with a pale greyish core. The temper ranges from fine to coarse sand with some quartz chip inclusions up to 1mm. The fabric is quite porous and the initial dating suggests medieval.

Red ware handle, cat. no.18.1678

Found in grid reference F10

The fabric of the handle is red-orange smooth ware with very little temper and the body is quite porous. The under side of the handle is burnished dark orange-brown, indicative of glaze having been applied too thinly that has then burnt off in the firing process. Initially dating suggests 15th century.

Unglazed red-orange sandy ware pot rim, cat. no.18.564

Found in grid reference F8

The fabric of the pot rim is a pinky-orange sandy ware with a pale greyish core. The temper ranges from fine to coarse sand. Initial dating suggests medieval.

Unglazed red ware pot rim, cat. no.18.565

Found in grid reference F8

The fabric of this pot rim is red-orange smooth ware with very little temper and the body is quite porous. The shard is slightly darker in colour than shard 18.564, but lighter than shard 18.1678.

Partially glazed red ware pot rim, cat. no.18.1288

Found in grid reference G19

The fabric of this pot rim is red-orange smooth ware, possibly terracotta, and has similar properties to shard 18.1678 both in fabric and colour. The inside of this vessel has been glazed with a clear glaze. No approximate size for the complete object could be determined due to the small size of the fragment.

Partially glazed red ware pot rim, cat. no.18.1435

Found in grid reference B12

The fabric of this pot rim is red-orange smooth ware with fine temper. It is similar in colour and fabric to shards 18.1288 and 18.1678. The interior of the vessel has been glazed with a clear glaze showing a pale greenish tinge where more thickly applied. The glazing extends over the top of the rim to the outside of the pot, although the exterior of the pot would appear to have been left unglazed. Although the colour of the fabric of this pot is similar to shard 18.1288, the glazed areas are lighter suggesting a lower firing temperature.

Partially glazed red ware pot rim, cat. no.18.13

Found outside the grid in the southern half of the field.

The fabric of this pot rim is again very similar, both in colour and temper, to shards 18.1678, 18.1288 and 18.1435. Of all the pot rims found this has the crispest rim. The interior is fully glazed with a clear glaze that extends to the top of the rim with faint traces of thinly applied glaze extending over the rim, which have been burnt off in firing darkening the colour of the body.

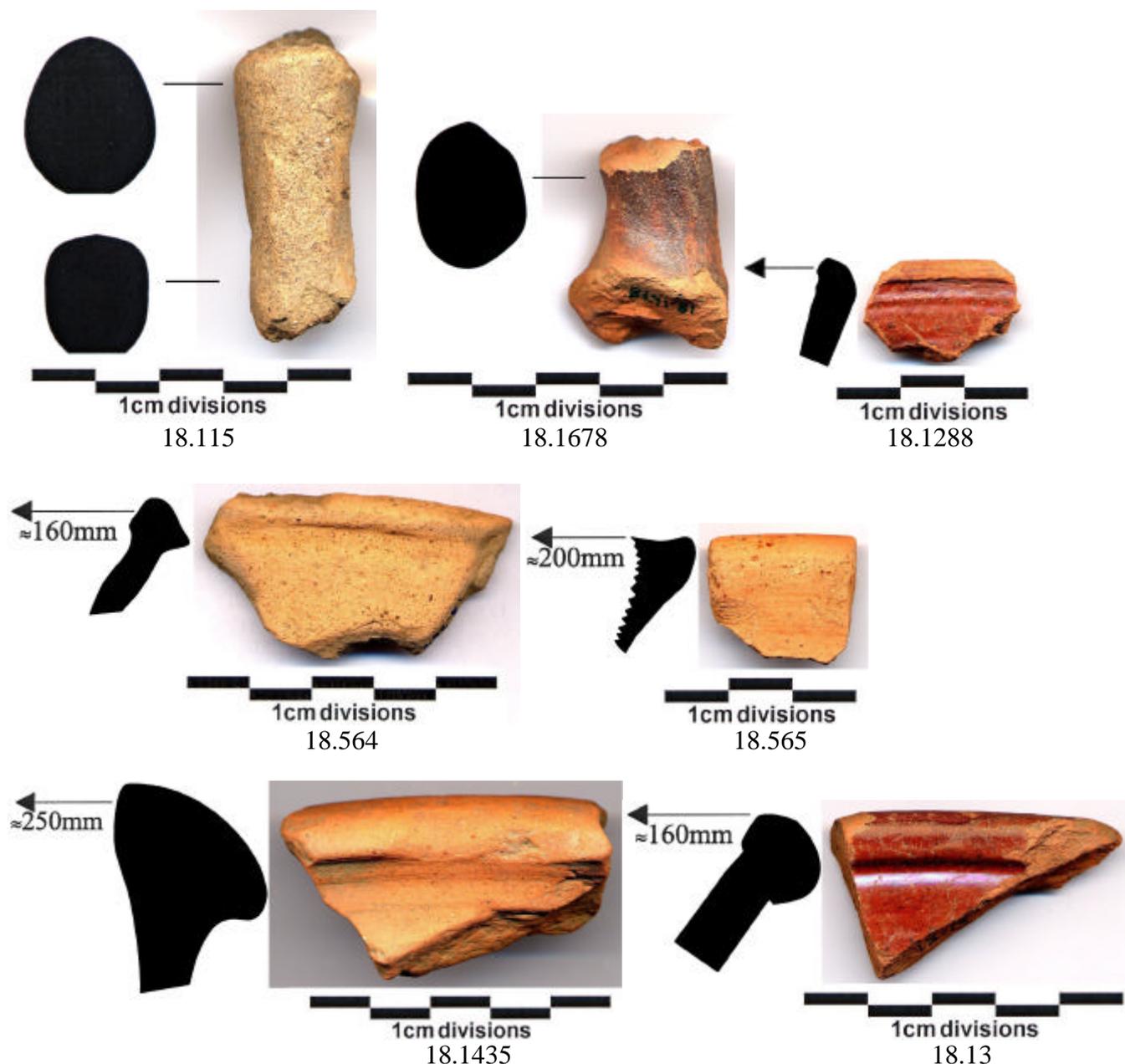


Fig. 15. Selection of some of the more interesting pottery finds.

Glass:

The site yielded 26 fragments of glass of which one fragment is of some interest:

A small piece of thin, pale blue glass, cat. no. 18.935 found in grid reference C20, initial suggestions are that it may be Roman.

Clay pipe:

The site yielded 19 pieces of clay pipe, mostly stems and 4 parts of bowls, all those that were dateable were 19th century.

Coins:

Very few were found, none of particular interest.

Non-ferrous artefacts:

The site yielded 33 non-ferrous artefacts including two .303 bullet and one .45 bullet from the mid 20th century, and six coins, the oldest dating to 1775.

Of particular interest:

A piece of a military cap decoration made of brass, date unknown, cat. no. 18.346 found in grid reference H21.

A small figure-of-8 buckle, possibly Tudor, cat. no. 18.1514 found in grid reference G10.

Iron artefacts:

The site yielded 71 iron artefacts, mostly parts of farm machinery generally dating to the 19th century. Possibly the largest piece found was the point of a 19th century iron two-furrow horse-drawn plough.

Other iron finds included:

2lb 4oz cannon ball dating to the 16th/17th century.

Ox shoes, cat. no. 18.1403 found in grid references C13. This confirms the use of oxen for ploughing in the heavy Wealden soil of Imberhorne Farm that was too heavy for horses before the introduction of intensive liming and fertilising from the mid 17th century.

2 heavy horseshoes, dating to the 19th century.

Summary of May Field Walk

The artefacts found suggest that the northern half of Long Field has been associated with human activity since the Mesolithic period, some 10,000 years ago, through to the present day, although there is a lack of archaeological evidence between the end of the Roman period and the early medieval. From an analysis of the distribution of finds, the largest concentration of worked flints is to be found in the northwest corner of the field, near the stream, although they are also found throughout this half of the field.

3rd century bloomery slag is found throughout the field but the largest concentration of material is found south of the identified bloomery site, possibly meaning the bloomery slag was being used as a hard standing or associated with a building at some time, or that it had been dumped there prior to distribution for some other purpose. The distribution of blast furnace slag shows a distinct concentration in the southwest corner of the area walked. This does not correlate with the concentration of the bloomery slag implying that the reuses of these materials were separated historically rather than just gathering locally found slag of any period for a single purpose.

There was a general spread of quick lime and chalk inclusion associated with burnt chalk in the northern half of Long Field implying that it has been used consistently for arable crops since at least the introduction of lime as a fertilizer in the mid 1700's.

From the pottery shards found it would appear that the majority are from the medieval period to 18th century with about 30% dating to the 19th or 20th century. This would suggest that there has been human activity, possibly human settlement, in the vicinity of Long Field from the medieval period.

Post Script

With limited time and manpower, it was decided to carry out a small field walk in the southern half of Long Field, the finds to act as a comparison to those of the northern half of the field.

Field Walk 31st August 2003

This walk was not on the same scale as the 10th May and was carried out to ascertain if there were any significant differences in distribution of finds between the southern half of Long Field and the northern half. The walk consisted of a 20m wide strip starting from the centre of the southern end of what had been known as Kitchen Garden Field down to the southern extremity of the northern half of Long Field that had been walked on 10th May, covering the fields once known as Kitchen Garden Field and Mole Forest, [see Fig. 1.] Conditions for walking the strip in the southern half of Long Field were better than for the northern half as it had recently been ploughed prior to sowing.

Geological finds

Sandstone:

The site yielded much less sandstone in comparison to the northern end of Long Field.

Chalk inclusions:

The site yielded only a couple of chalk inclusions in contrast to the northern end of the field.

Lime fragments:

There was evidence that liming had been carried out on the site but again lime fragments were in lesser abundance than the northern end of the field.

Flint:

The site yielded very few pieces of flint and there was very little evidence of pebbles.

Archaeological Finds

Flint:

The site yielded 3 pieces of worked flint, which is of equal density to the worked flint found in the northern half of Long Field.

Slag:

There were 9 pieces of bloomery slag and 41 pieces of blast furnace slag found. The bloomery slag was found at half the density as in the northern half of Long Field, but the blast furnace slag was found at three times the density to the majority of the northern half of Long Field. However, the density of blast furnace slag was equal to that found in the southwest area identified in the northern half of Long Field in May.

Pottery shards:

The site yielded a complete range of pottery shards from the early medieval through to the present day, consisting of 36 shards of non-glazed coarse/sandy ware with a colour range from pinky-buff through to red-orange, the majority, 19 shards, were in the red-orange category (group 1), there were 3 shards of partially glazed terracotta (group 2), 2 shards of fully glazed terracotta (group 3), 6 shards of stoneware (group 4), 6 shards of china ware of which 4 shards were patterned (group 5). Within group 1, there were four shards of fairly coarse pottery where the core was red-orange but the outer surface of both the interior and exterior of the vessel would have been grey in colour.

The most interesting pottery shards include:

Unglazed coarse ware pot rim, cat. no.27.48

The fabric of this pot rim is pinky-buff tempered with fine sand. The top of the rim has a flattened surface that is slightly indented, and the outer surfaces show signs of darkening possibly through the application of an oxide. The body is quite porous and initial dating suggests early medieval.

Slipped pot rim, cat. no.27.49

The fabric of this pot rim is dark buff with a red-orange core containing medium to coarse sand temper. Like shard 27.48, the top of the rim has been flattened with a slight indent to the surface. The interior and

exterior of the vessel has then been coated in white slip, and although very worn, it appears to have then been glazed with an olive-green coloured glaze. The glaze is so worn that it only imparts the colour, no shine. The body is very porous and initial dating suggests early medieval.

Slipped pot rim, cat. no.27.203

The fabric of this pot rim is pinky-buff tempered with fine sand. Like shard 27.48 & 27.49, the top of the rim has been flattened but with a pronounced indent to the surface. The interior and exterior of the vessel has then been coated in white slip there is no evidence of glazing. The body is very porous and initial dating suggests medieval.

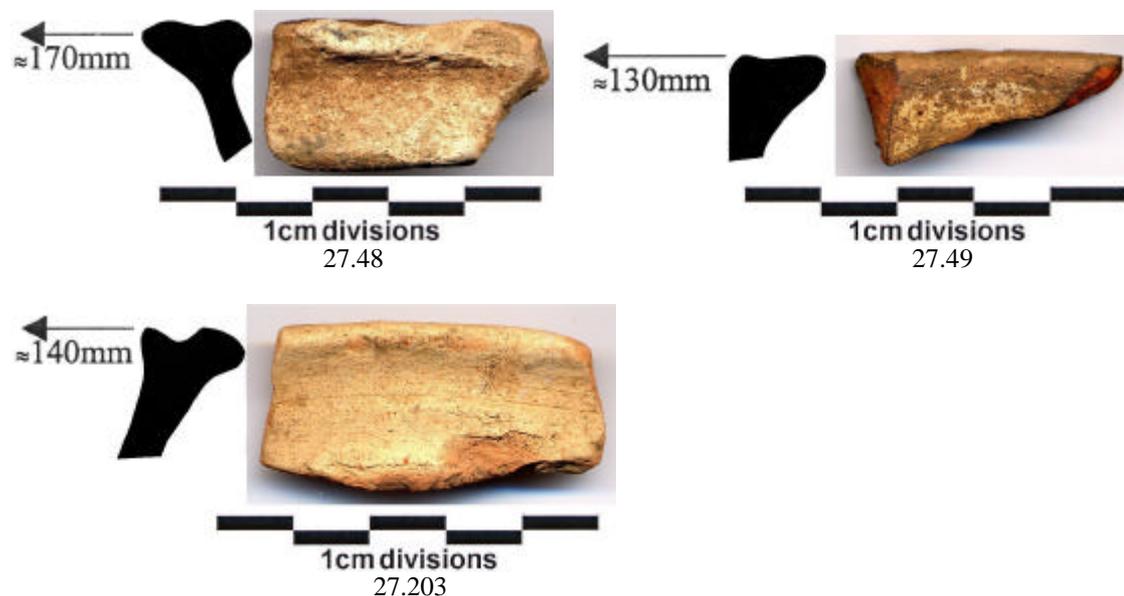


Fig. 16. Selection of some of the more interesting pottery finds.

General artefacts:

There were 8 pieces of glass of varying colour, belonging mostly to bottles, with one piece of particular interest - a quarter of a telescope style lens, cat. no.27.10

Summary of August Field Walk

The most noticeable feature of the southern half of Long Field was the distinct lack of chalk inclusions and greatly reduced quantities of lime fragments. This may be because the most southern end of Long Field was once a small field known as Kitchen Garden Field suggesting that it may once have been used as a kitchen garden for Gullege and may not have produced arable crops until more recently because there was evidence that some liming had been carried out. There was a noticeable lack of flint/beach stones/pebbles in the southern end (Kitchen Garden Field) although a casual glance at the area to the east, formerly Long Ten Acres, revealed evidence of far more. However, at least three pieces of worked flint were found and thus the density of worked flint finds is the same for both the southern and northern halves of the field.

The concentration of bloomery slag in the southern half of Long Field is half that found in the northern half of the field, supporting the distance from the bloomery site and the stream which would have been a necessary proximity for the bloomery process. Blast furnace slag was found at three times the density in the southern half of Long Field compared to the northern half, although the density of blast furnace slag in the southwest area of the top of the northern section was equal to that found in the southern half of Long Field. This may support the theory that the blast furnace slag had been used as a hard standing material in the southern end of the field. There were several shards of pottery/china, the majority of which pre-dated the 18th century, with 19th and 20th century china fragments gravitating towards the western boundary of the field, parallel to the trackway. A break down of the density of pottery shards by group shows that there was a higher density of groups 1 and 4 shards found in the southern half of the field compared to the northern half, a lower density of group 2, and equal density of groups 3 and 5. Overall there appears to be no localised concentration of pottery shards nearer the known building but a general spread implying that there may be an as yet unidentified area of usage in Long Field.

The lack of non-ferrous and iron artefacts was due to the fact that this section of Long Field was only walked and not metal detected.

From the known evidence to date concerning agricultural use, the southern half of Long Field would appear to have been used differently to the northern half, although all other finds, except ferrous and non-ferrous metals, which were not searched for in the southern half, would appear to be in similar concentrations to those found in the northern half of Long Field.

Conclusions drawn from Finds of Long Field

The number of finds produced from Long Field has shown that this area is rich in archaeological information, the distribution along the length of the field shows very little decline as we move away from the known area of habitation since at least the mid 1500's. Further minor settlement could have existed within this field to produce the consistent pottery distribution.

The agricultural activity has been shown to be similar across the historic field boundaries but with evidence of reduced liming in the very south of the field which is consistent with this area's possible use as a kitchen garden as supported by the historic field name.

The finds cover the prehistoric to modern day with a significant gap from the end of the Roman period to the early medieval. Considerable time is yet to be expended accurately dating the 200+ fragments of pottery and also the tile and brick fragments to enable more detailed distribution analysis to be completed by time period.

The study of Long Field has been proved to be a worthwhile archaeological exercise and an area that could benefit from further detailed study in the future. This section of current day farmland provides a very interesting case study and initiator to the planned programme of field walks covering the extensive land usage of Imberhorne Farm.

Compiled by Stephonie and Jeremy Clarke under the direction of Martin Bastone.

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