

Honnington Farm, Southborough
SHAAS Excavations – Summer 2016



Site view from South-West Corner of Site looking North-East

Summary.....	3
1. Project Background.....	4
2. Aims and Objectives	5
3. Methodology	5
4. Results	5
5. Finds	13
6. Project Participants.....	13
7. Site Plan.....	14
Appendix A: Magnetometer Survey.....	15
Appendix B Metal Detecting Survey.....	20

Summary

The Honnington Farm site was excavated based on the findings of a geophysical survey, which indicated a rectangular magnetic anomaly (30m x 20m) located parallel to the edge of an old orchard and next to a trackway leading from Southborough to Tonbridge. Three main trenches were excavated, plus additional smaller trenches aimed at answering specific questions relating to different contexts and structures.

The outcome of the excavation was that the rectangular magnetic anomaly matched the position of a late 19th Century deposit of CBM which contained magnetised material. The Wadhurst Clay forming the bed rock geology also contained Pyrolusite nodules resulting from groundwater interaction with the clay and these nodules are also magnetic.

Although there were finds located, these were of domestic nature, such as clay pipe stems and glazed pottery. No convincing structural remains were located. Based on the location and age of the site, one possible scenario was that the site represented a wooden barn, located at the edge of the orchard and next to a trackway, where produce was collected, packaged and sent by track to Tonbridge for shipment to London via the then newly established railway. The following picture (Picture A) illustrates an old barn within an orchard, which may be similar to the structure located on the site.



Picture A – Derelict barn structure located in an orchard

1 Project Background

1.1 SHAAS approached the land owners of Honnington Farm for permission to run a community archaeology excavation in a field from May until September 2016.

1.2 The archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the SHAAS Excavation Policy (2015). The field work also followed *Standard and guidance for archaeological for archaeological excavation (ClfA 2014)*.

The site

1.3 The site comprised of four trenches within a broadly triangular area comprising approximately 80m². The current land use is pasture, with horses being kept in the field for most of the year.

1.4 The field is bounded to the north and west by woodland, the southwest by a public right of way and to the east by a metalled laneway used for farm traffic. The land is sloping from west to east on a gentle gradient.

1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as the Wadhurst Clay of the early Cretaceous era, circa 150 Million years in age. Manganese was present throughout in the natural layer.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The society's main goal is to provide opportunities for members to participate in archaeological fieldwork, such as archaeological excavations and metal detecting. While primarily providing the community with an opportunity to practice archaeology the society also organises a programme of public lectures and field trips. The goal of the 2016 season's excavation was to assess the potential archaeology of the area identified.

2.2 The objectives of the archaeological work were:

- to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on a chosen site during a summer long excavation;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

3 Methodology

3.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the SHAAS Excavation Policy (2016). An experienced archaeologist was present during the excavating to advise on best practice.

3.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with industry standards

3.3 The archive and artefacts from the excavation are currently held the SHAAS Finds Officer. Subject to the agreement of the landowner the artefacts will be deposited for display with Southborough Library (KCC).

4 Results

4.1 The area of excavation was to focus on a pair of convergent old routeways visible in the landscape. Preliminary field walking had identified the possibility of a large sub-rectangular feature visible immediately under the surface in the locality. The initial desk based research was carried out using Ordnance Survey 6 inch maps from 1872 and 1910. Similarly, the Tithe map of 1836 was used to research the area in question.

4.2 Using Lidar maps several features were better identified; namely, a series of cultivation lines, roughly 8 metres apart and bounded on the south-east by an old field boundary. The Lidar also highlighted a second set of cultivation lines which run parallel to the old field boundary and are bounded by a curving lynchet. The routeway is most clear to the south-west as it exits the woods, but slowly disappears as it heads towards the farm to the north-east.

4.3 A magnetometer survey was undertaken by David Staveley using a Bartington GRAD601-2 fluxgate gradiometer. A survey area 120m x 120m was set up with lines spaced 1 metre apart. The data was processed using Snuffler with despiking, destriping and interpolation filters applied. The results showed a very clear set of cuts. It appeared to show a series of large postholes or pits arranged in a 20m x 30m roughly rectangular arrangement. The preliminary interpretation pointed towards the possibility of a post built building. The alignment of the feature may suggest it is contemporary to the old field system.

Trench A

4.4 Trench A was excavated by shovel, mattock and trowel, with an initial excavated area 2m x 4m, with the Western end later extended by a further 1m, and the South-West Corner extended South by an additional 1m. A single context recording approach was implemented. The topsoil (max depth 0.30m) consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay with a friable compaction. The subsoil (max depth 0.26m) was made up of light reddish brown sandy clay with a similarly friable compaction. The subsoil had frequent inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM) and charcoal flecks. As a result of continuous agricultural activity (i.e. ploughing), the horizon clarity between the subsoil and the underlying deposit is notably diffuse.

The CBM was provisionally interpreted as being from roof tiles and brick. The natural layer consisted of firm compaction of light blueish yellow clay. The presence of manganese verified this layer as being geological. The majority of the larger CBM fragments which included white sandstone fragments were intermingled with finds (including Clay Pipe stems) came from the Western and South-Western corners of the trench. The Clay Pipe stems and a glazed brown

pottery sherd with an anchor stamp are currently dated to the late 19th Century, which provides a relative date for the layer. The Eastern and Central sections of Trench A were devoid of finds and lacked any datable evidence. Figure 1 shows the final extent of Trench A, with the “L” shaped extension.



Figure 1 Trench A, shot taken from North-West corner of trench looking South

Figure 2 below shows the South-Western corner of Trench A, with CBM deposits at 20cm from the top of the Trench.



Figure 2 South-West corner of Trench A looking South

Trench B

4.5 Trench B was excavated by shovel, mattock and trowel. A single context recording approach was implemented for the excavated area of 3m x 3m. The topsoil (max depth 0.32m) consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay with a friable compaction. The subsoil (max depth 0.24m) was made up of light reddish brown sandy clay with a similarly friable compaction. The subsoil had frequent inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM) and charcoal flecks. The blending of the underlying archaeological layer with the subsoil has been interpreted as the result of continuous agricultural activity (i.e. ploughing).

The natural layer consisted of firm compaction of light blueish yellow clay. The presence of manganese verified this layer as being geological. Most the trench was observed as being devoid of any archaeological features (Please note Figure 3 below, showing excavation to multiple levels within the trench). The CBM was provisionally interpreted as being from roof tiles and brick. The contamination from ploughing together with no dateable evidence being retrieved does not allow for an accurate dating of the archaeology in Trench B.



Figure 3 Trench B

Trench C

4.6 Trench C was excavated primarily by mechanical digger, with selected areas explored by shovel, mattock and trowel, with an excavated area 8m x 8m. A single context recording approach was implemented. The topsoil (max depth 0.30m) consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay with a friable compaction. The subsoil (max depth 0.25m) was made up of light reddish brown sandy clay with a similarly friable compaction. It had a maximum depth of 0.25m. The subsoil had frequent inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM) and charcoal flecks. Plough scarring was visible in the natural, such contamination was further indication of continuous agricultural activity in the area investigated.

The North East corner of the trench was extended, with a 2m by 1m extension to investigate the site boundary defined by the Geophysics survey. Potential ditch features with stone and chalk deposits were encountered on each face of the trench and in associated sondages, suggesting an uneven surface with depressions (Figure 5), interpreted as either geological features, associated with the erosion of the Weald, or possibly to root action linked with the trees in the orchard site. A pit structure 30cm by 30cm with a depth of 25cm, was discovered 20cm below the land surface, and had multiple capping layers of clay.

The Western 1m strip of Trench C was further excavated to a depth ranging between 30cm and 1m. The North-Western edge of the trench contained a number of small postholes, with a diameter of 2-3cm and depths of 30 cm, suggesting possible basic structures, although they could be explained by the action of tree roots. The Southern section of this 1m strip (Figure 4) was excavated to a depth of 1m, and exposed flat stones up to 30cm by 20cm, which were initially interpreted as a potential floor surface, but their presence within the apparent natural Wadhurst Clay suggests a geological origin associated with riverine and deltaic environments.

The natural layer consisted of firm compaction of light blueish yellow clay. The contamination from ploughing together with no dateable evidence being retrieved does not allow for an accurate dating of the archaeology in Trench C.

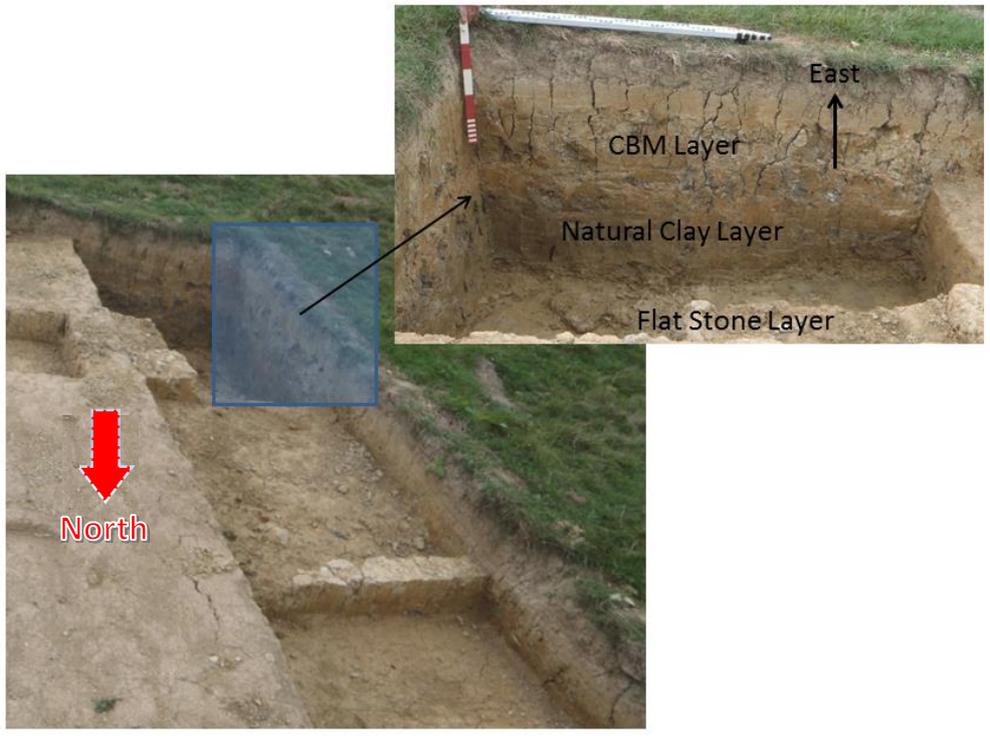


Figure 4 South-West Corner of Trench C

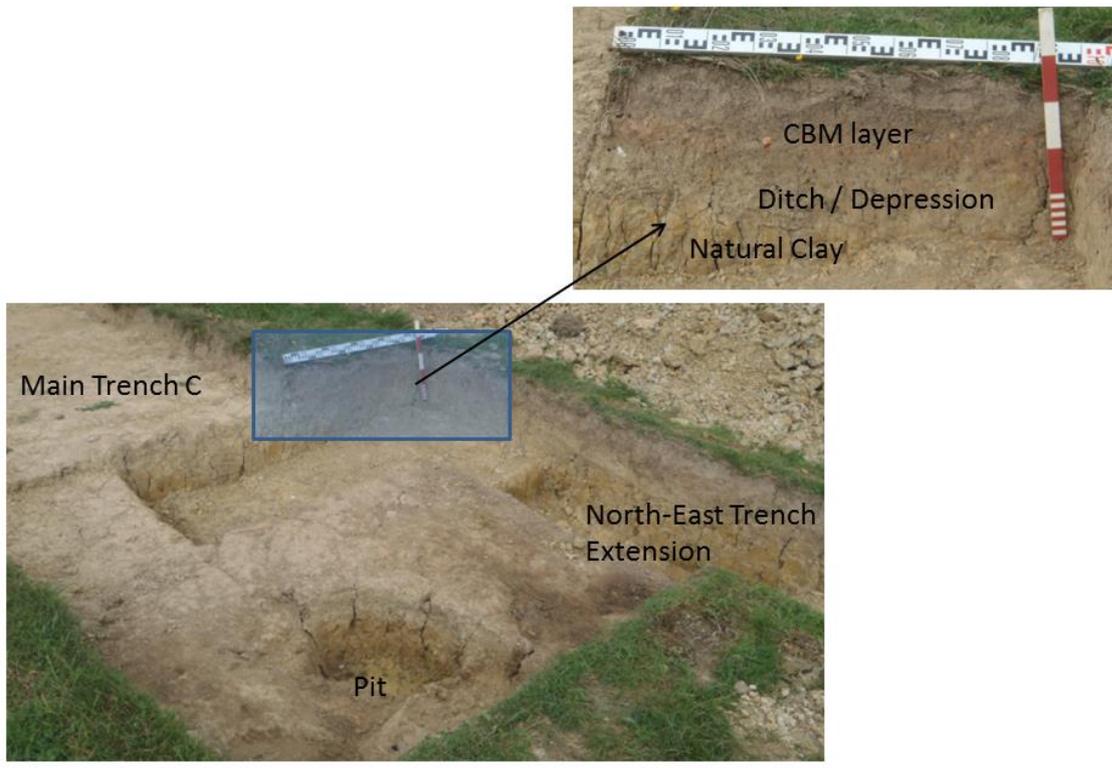


Figure 5 North-East Corner of Trench C

Trench D

4.7

Trench D was an extension of 8m in length by 0.5m width to Trench A, which was excavated in the South-West corner of Trench A directed in a Southerly direction up to a depth of 30cm (shown in top right corner of Figure 1). This extension demonstrated the presence of CBM up to 4m from the start of the Trench, after which no further CBM or finds were found, but disturbances in the soil at 6m with more compacted textures suggested a change in terrain usage. Figure 6 below, shows the Northern edge of Trench D looking North, with large CBM fragments at a depth of 20cm.



Figure 6 – Northern End of Trench D looking North

The final extension confirmed the absence of any ditch features on the Southern edge of the site, but potentially indicated the former boundary hedge to the orchard within which the site was situated. Figure 7 shows the overall layout of Trench D, looking South, with zone of disturbed soil, interpreted as the boundary hedge marked on the image.



Figure 7 Trench D from Northern end looking South

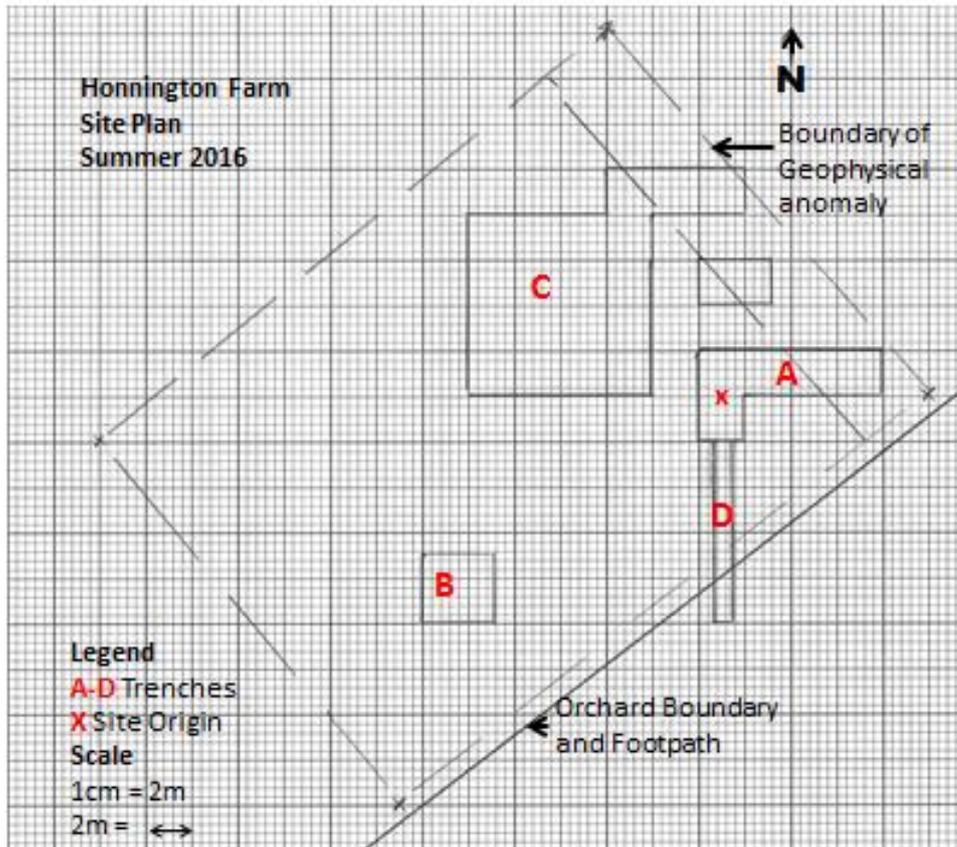
5 Finds – Significant examples

- a. Medallion – Refer to Appendix B (located by metal detecting)
- b. Patten – Refer to Appendix B (located by metal detecting)
- c. Glazed Pot Fragment – Green glazed with Anchor Mark (post 1875)
- d. Clay Pipe Stems – several fragments from multiple pipes
- e. CBM samples – red, small, numerous
- f. Half of a glazed brick
- g. Roof tiles with thumb or finger prints
- h. Glazed brown ware pottery fragments with either red or grey fabric

6 Project Participants

Site Director (from 26 th June 2016)	Anthony Palmer
Site Director (until 26 th June 2016)	Robert Falvey
Consultant Archaeologist	David Thorpe
Head of Metal Detecting	John Turley
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Di Drummond
Learning Assistant	Simon Bamblett
Finds Co-Ordinator	Jane Clark

7 Site Plan



Site plan showing Trenches A to D, with site origin (x) marked. The boundary of the geophysical anomaly, co-incident with the edge of the CBM distribution, has two boundaries on the North-Eastern corner of the site, with an absence of the geophysical anomaly between the two edges. The site plan also shows the location of the Orchard/Field boundary and the Footpath running beside the Orchard boundary.

Appendix A: Magnetometer Survey HON16

Details	
Site Code	Hon16
Site identification and address	Honnington Farm, Vauxhall Lane, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells
County, district and / or borough	Kent
O.S. grid ref.	TQ581433
Geology	Wadhurst Clay
Project number	SNUFFLER1601
Fieldwork type	Geophysics
Date of fieldwork	April 2016
Sponsor/client	SHAAS
Project manager	David Staveley
Period summary	Post Medieval
Project summary	A magnetometer survey on a field in Honnington Farm, Tunbridge Wells

A Magnetometer Survey on a field in Honnington Farm, Tunbridge Wells

by David Staveley

Introduction

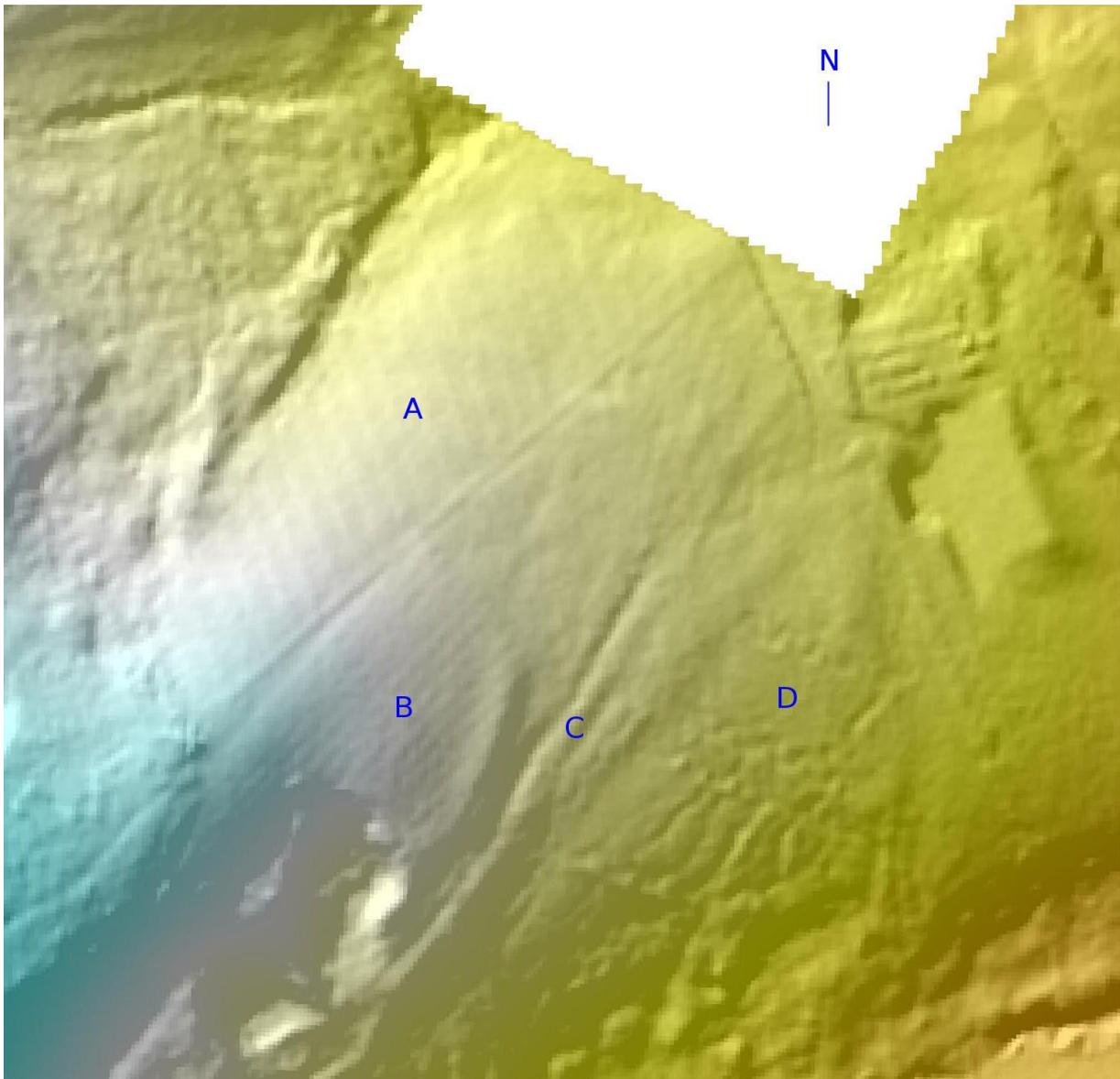
Southborough and High Brooms Amateur Archaeology Society asked for a magnetometer survey of a field in Honnington Farm ahead of a community excavation, suspecting that there may be occupation adjacent to a relict trackway running SSW through the field to the SW of the farm itself.

Methodology

The magnetometer survey was undertaken using a Bartington GRAD601-2 fluxgate gradiometer. The 40 metre grids were laid out aligned to the OS national grid using a Javad Triumph-LS RTK netrover. A survey area 120m x 120m was set up bounded to the west by 558020, east by 558140, south by 143160 and north by 143280. Survey lines were spaced 1 metre apart were walked northsouth with 4 readings per metre along the line. The data was processed using Snuffler with despiking, destriping and interpolation filters applied. The data was displayed with display boundaries of ± 2 nT.

Lidar

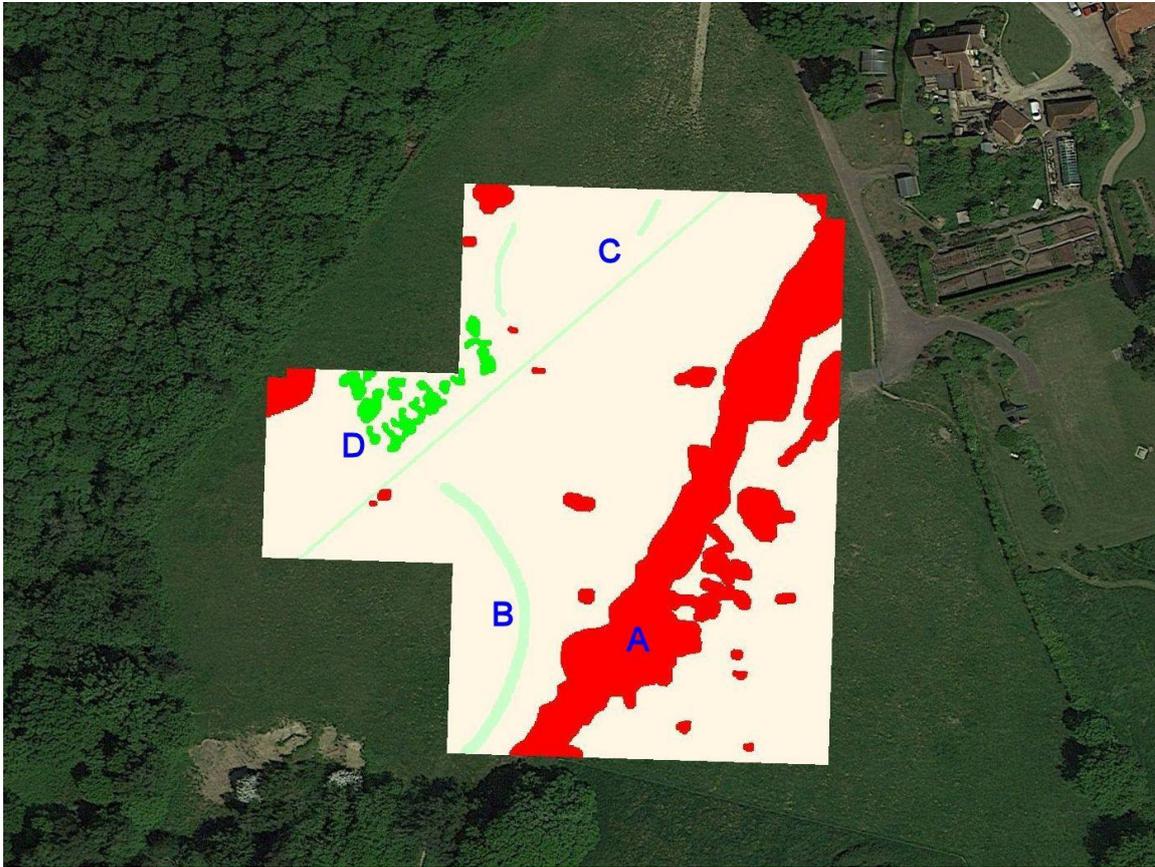
A number of features are visible on the EA 1m DTM lidar. A shows a series of cultivation lines, roughly 8 metres apart and bounded on the south-east by an old field boundary that is now barely visible on the surface. B shows a separate set of much more closely packed cultivation lines parallel to the old field boundary and bounded itself by a curving lynchet that is still clearly visible on the ground and on the lidar. C is the relict trackway, which is clear to the south-west as it exits the woods but slowly disappears as it heads towards the farm to the north-east. D shows 2 sets of cuts in what appears to be a corrugated pattern. One possible interpretation is WWI practice trenches.



Results



Interpretation



Modern features are shown in red. Possible archaeology is shown in green.

Feature A shows the line of a buried metal fence associated with the relict trackway, feature C on the lidar. Roughly parallel with this to the south-east is an amount of modern magnetic material associated with a deviation of the track to the modern gate. The possible practice trenches on the lidar (D) do not show, but that would be expected with no occupation material as fill.

Feature B shows a very magnetically slight but wide feature associated with the lynchet, feature B on the lidar. This seems to respect the now disappeared field boundary running straight NE-SW through the middle of the modern field, so they may be roughly contemporary.

Feature C shows a very slight remnant of the now disappeared field boundary through the middle of the modern field, along with two other slight linear features.

Feature D shows a very clear set of cuts, with strength of up to 10nT. It seems to show a series of large postholes or pits arranged in a 20m x 30m roughly rectangular arrangement. One interpretation is some sort of post built building. It is aligned to the old field boundary (C), but is earlier than the cultivation marks that respect that same boundary.

Appendix B: Metal Detecting Survey HON16

Report Reference	SHAAS/MDS/HON16 Issue 1 dated 17/07/2017 John Turley
Site	HON16: Bankey Field, Honnington Farm, Southborough
Survey No.	SHAAS HON16
Detectorists	John Turley, Michael Sawyer & Neil Dale
Detector / coil	Minelab Advantage / 15" WOT, Minelab Safari & XP Deus

Background

As part of an archaeological investigation by Southborough & High Brooms Amateur Archaeology Society (SHAAS), a metal detecting survey was carried out on a meadow site on Honnington Farm during 2016. It was anticipated that material from this metal detecting survey would provide background information into the nature and distribution of any former structures and past activities on this site.

Method

The HON16 metal detecting survey began on the 3/4/2016, alongside the geophysical magnetometer survey that preceded the excavation phase of the investigation. In order to avoid interference with the geophysical survey, initial metal detecting was carried out on an area alongside the fence line adjacent to the east gate entrance to the field. This area proved to be heavily contaminated with modern ferrous scrap metal, confirming reports by the landowner that rubbish pits had been discovered during recent levelling of this part of the field. This problem was further aggravated by interference from an electric stock fence which caused the metal detectors to emit false signals. During a break in the geophysical survey, it was decided to move further into the field to determine the extent of the ferrous contamination and electrical interference. It was during this assessment that the bronze commemorative medallion (find HON16-1) was recovered.

Once the excavation of the site started, the metal detecting survey was focused on the area surrounding the trenches. By agreement with the site director, the locations of finds recovered in this area were recorded in relation to the datum points established during the geophysical survey. When requested, the trenches were searched and the location of any metal finds flagged for subsequent recovery and recording by the archaeological team. Periodically, the spoil heaps from the trenches were searched in order to recover any metal finds missed during the excavations.

The searching of the wider field was carried out using string and pins to create corridors, to maximise ground coverage. Where this approach was impractical due to obstructions or rough terrain, searching was carried out in strips on an ad hoc basis. The location of finds from the wider field was recorded using a Garmin eTrex 10 hand held GPS device, when measurements from the geophysical survey datum points became impractical.

All detectorists were asked to also recover any 'eyes only' finds of pottery, flint etc. made during the excavation of metallic finds. Modern rubbish such as bottle tops and ring pulls was removed from the site but not recorded.

Results

A catalogue of the metal detector finds with descriptions is given below by HON16 reference numbers. Photographs of cleaned finds are contained in Figures 1-7. Grid references for the locations of metal detector finds are contained in Table 1.

Notable finds included the bronze commemorative medallion (HON16-1), and a well preserved iron patten (HON16-53). With the exception of these notable finds, the general spread of material recovered was fairly typical of that from other fields in the Southborough and High Brooms area.

Identifiable coin finds dated from the reign of George II to Elizabeth II, circa 1740 to 1965. The majority of artefacts found also dated from the 18th to 20th century, reflecting the fields agricultural past and the practice of disposing of household waste on the land in the days before organised rubbish collection.

An iron horse buckle c/w pin (HON16-54) and fragments of horseshoes (HON16-11 and 17) may be earlier than 1700 AD, but these artefacts are difficult to date accurately, especially when in poor condition, as they continued to be produced in similar form over a long period of time.

The find of a fired pre-1912 brass .303" blank cartridge case (HON16-38) indicates some military activity here during the early 20th century, and supports the premise that some of the zigzag earthworks visible in this field may have been WW1 practice trenches.

Catalogue of metal detector finds HON16-1 to 79:

1. Bronze commemorative medallion of Maria Louise Archduchess of Austria dated 1836. See Annex A for full details of this notable find.
2. Lead nameplate for William E Lidlow with 2 fixing holes. This nameplate has been cut from lead sheet and labelled using hand held ¼ inch upper case letter stamps. Note that the maker has used a letter W in an attempt to produce the M of William, but has forgotten to invert the stamp. A letter O has also been substituted for the D in Ludlow, suggesting the set of stamps available was incomplete. See Annex B for the results of an investigation of William E Lidlow by SHAAS researcher Jenny Burgess.
3. Cast Cu alloy furniture mount, with square section spike 7.5mm long on reverse for attachment to wood; 18th-19th century.
4. Victoria Sixpence; young head silver coinage 1864.
5. Victoria Sixpence; young head silver coinage 1884.
6. Livery button; starburst design.
7. Elizabeth II Penny 1964.
8. Geo V Halfpenny 1917.
9. Oval watch or locket back; modern.
10. Teaspoon; silver plated brass.
11. Fragment of horseshoe.
12. Fe tool handle.
13. Openwork decorative artefact with traces of fabric or leather attached.
14. Lead uniface token; clock face design? Diameter 18.0mm x 1.7mm thick, Mass 2.8g. Lead tokens can date back to the medieval period; the size and design of this token suggests it dates to the 18th-19th century.
15. Musket ball; late 17th-18th century. Diameter 14.1mm, Mass 15.8g.

16. Musket ball; late 17th-18th century. Diameter 14.0mm, Mass 15.2g.
17. Fragment of horseshoe.
18. Fe cultivator tine.
19. Victoria Halfpenny; young head copper coinage, 1838-1860.
20. Unidentified copper Halfpenny; pre 1860.
21. Victoria Sixpence; widow head silver coinage 1893.
22. Heavy gauge Fe tethering or harness ring. Mass 171g.
23. Victoria Sixpence; young head silver coinage 1849.
24. Small livery button; horse head design?
25. Livery button; bird and anchor design, silvered.
26. Livery button; bulls head design.
27. Victoria Farthing; bun head issue 1860.
28. Geo V Farthing 1912.
29. Unidentified copper Halfpenny; pre 1860.
30. Fragment of decorated box.
31. Horse harness decoration; late 19th-20th century. Stamped from Cu alloy sheet, with traces of gilding. Mass 12.6g.
32. Geo V Farthing 1919.
33. Plain pewter button.
34. Plain ring; Cu alloy.
35. Plain ring; Cu alloy.
36. Clock component; Cu alloy.
37. Musket ball; late 17th-18th century. Diameter 15.5mm, Mass 18.4g.
38. Cartridge S.A. Blank .303" Mk VI. The cartridge has 3 headstamps: **VI**, **GB**, and **C** denoting a Mk 6 cartridge manufactured by Greenwood and Batley, Leeds, UK with Cordite propellant charge (Pre 1912).
39. Victoria Halfpenny; bun head issue 1886.
40. Geo VI Florin 1947; Cupro Nickel.
41. Clock pendulum weight with remains of suspension wires and knurled adjustment nut. Mass 24.4g.
42. Unidentified copper Halfpenny; pre 1860.
43. Unidentified copper Halfpenny; pre 1860.
44. Geo V Halfpenny 1915.
45. Plain pewter button.
46. Light gauge Fe tethering or harness ring. Mass 31g.
47. Pocket watch backplate; gilded and engraved with maker E Pistor of London. Edward Pistor is listed on the British Museum website as a clock, watch and organ maker; Clockmaker's Company 1777 - 1794.
48. Plain ring; Cu alloy.
49. Geo II Halfpenny; old bust issue 1740-1754, date illegible.
50. Small plain button.
51. Victoria Penny; bun head issue 1862.
52. Geo V Halfpenny 1920.
53. Fe sole from Patten 17th- 19th century. See Annex C for full description.
54. Fe D-shaped horse buckle c/w pin. Mass 30.7g. 16th-18th century.
55. Victoria Halfpenny; bun head issue 1861.
56. Elizabeth II Threepence; nickel brass.
57. Horse harness buckle frame; Cu alloy.
58. Geo III Halfpenny 1st issue copper coinage 1770-5; date illegible.
59. Victoria Penny; bun head issue 1866.
60. Plain ring; Cu alloy.

61. Lead cap or terminal.
62. Victoria Penny; bun head issue 1883.
63. Geo V Penny 1917.
64. Cast Cu alloy shoe buckle frame c1720-1790; drilled for separate spindle. Mass 15g.
Similar to Whitehead No.667.
65. Geo V Halfpenny 1932.
66. Buckle frame; modern.
67. Large furniture mount c/w fixing pin heads; pierced design in Cu alloy with hallmark style markings.
68. Pair musket balls; late 17th-18th century. Diameters 12.6mm, Masses 11.5g and 11.6g.
Found buried close together, suggesting they were lost not fired.
69. Large Horseshoe.
70. Unidentified copper Halfpenny; pre 1860.
71. Geo III Halfpenny 4th issue Soho 1806-7; date illegible.
72. Unidentified copper Farthing; pre 1860.
73. Lead toy soldier. Later type with spigots for articulated arms (missing).
74. Geo V Penny 1917.
75. Geo V Penny 1921.
76. Geo V Penny 1921.
77. Horseshoe.
78. Brush head from gun cleaning kit; 0.44" diameter. Internal thread in LH end (Fig.7) to accept rod with handle; for cleaning .45" barrels (Webley pistol, Thompson SMG).
79. Livery Button; bird standing on nest feeding young design.

Table1. Grid references for locations of metal detector finds.

HON16 Find No.	Measured Coordinates Relative to Geophysical Datums A to D	GPS Coordinates using Garmin eTrex 10
1	-	See Annex A for Coordinates
2	C+16.4m, 3.8m S	-
3	C+7.8m, 14.25m S	-
4	B+32.6m, 6.45m S	-
5	B+33.6m, 7.3m S	-
6	B+33.0m, 5.45m S	-
7	B+34.3m, 8.5m S	-
8	C+6.2m, 3.45 N	-
9	B+28.8m, 16.7m S	-
10	B+28.0m, 0.0m N/S	-
11	C+9.7m, 24.5m N	-
12	C+2.7m, 5.6m S	-
13	C+11.1m, 3.15m S	-
14	B+35.2m, 8.6m S	-
15	C+0.6m, 2.6m N	-
16	C+10.7m, 18.7m S	-
17	C+2.0m, 8.4m S	-
18	C+17.5m, 10.9m S	-
19	-	51° 9.656' N, 0° 15.771' E
20	-	51° 9.974' N, 0° 15.546' E
21	-	51° 9.955' N, 0° 15.566' E
22	-	51° 9.971' N, 0° 15.554' E
23	-	51° 10.036' N, 0° 15.607' E
24	-	51° 10.020' N, 0° 15.614' E
25	-	51° 10.016' N, 0° 15.617' E
26	-	51° 10.016' N, 0° 15.615' E
27	-	51° 10.014' N, 0° 15.614' E
28	-	51° 10.011' N, 0° 15.617' E
29	-	51° 10.010' N, 0° 15.619' E
30	-	51° 10.008' N, 0° 15.620' E
31	-	51° 10.012' N, 0° 15.607' E
32	-	51° 10.012' N, 0° 15.608' E
33	-	51° 10.012' N, 0° 15.606' E
34	-	51° 10.011' N, 0° 15.609' E
35	-	51° 10.010' N, 0° 15.609' E
36	-	51° 10.013' N, 0° 15.605' E
37	-	51° 10.006' N, 0° 15.609' E
38	-	51° 10.000' N, 0° 15.612' E
39	-	51° 9.999' N, 0° 15.613' E
40	-	51° 10.004' N, 0° 15.606' E
41	-	51° 10.001' N, 0° 15.609' E
42	-	51° 10.003' N, 0° 15.604' E
43	-	51° 9.998' N, 0° 15.603' E
44	-	51° 10.000' N, 0° 15.598' E

HON16 Find No.	Measured Coordinates Relative to Geophysical Datums A to D	GPS Coordinates using Garmin eTrex 10
45	-	51° 10.003' N, 0° 15.597' E
46	-	51° 10.003' N, 0° 15.594' E
47	-	51° 10.007' N, 0° 15.592' E
48	-	51° 10.008' N, 0° 15.587' E
49	-	51° 10.004' N, 0° 15.590' E
50	-	51° 9.994' N, 0° 15.595' E
51	-	51° 9.997' N, 0° 15.524' E
52	-	51° 9.972' N, 0° 15.553' E
53	-	51° 9.986' N, 0° 15.597' E
54	-	51° 9.994' N, 0° 15.593' E
55	-	51° 9.997' N, 0° 15.590' E
56	-	51° 10.000' N, 0° 15.587' E
57	-	51° 10.010' N, 0° 15.584' E
58	-	51° 9.996' N, 0° 15.577' E
59	-	51° 9.995' N, 0° 15.578' E
60	-	51° 9.993' N, 0° 15.580' E
61	-	51° 10.004' N, 0° 15.586' E
62	-	51° 10.017' N, 0° 15.567' E
63	-	51° 9.992' N, 0° 15.645' E
64	-	51° 10.016' N, 0° 15.611' E
65	-	51° 10.016' N, 0° 15.609' E
66	-	51° 10.015' N, 0° 15.607' E
67	-	51° 10.014' N, 0° 15.596' E
68	-	51° 10.020' N, 0° 15.585' E
69	-	51° 10.024' N, 0° 15.580' E
70	-	51° 9.986' N, 0° 15.525' E
71	-	51° 9.969' N, 0° 15.511' E
72	-	51° 9.965' N, 0° 15.512' E
73	-	51° 9.964' N, 0° 15.516' E
74	-	51° 9.960' N, 0° 15.521' E
75	-	51° 958.' N, 0° 15.524' E
76	-	51° 9.963' N, 0° 15.529' E
77	-	51° 9.976' N, 0° 15.536' E
78	-	NR
79	-	NR



Figure1. Photographic record of finds HON16-1 to 13.



Figure 2. Photographic record of finds HON16-14 to 3



Figure 4. Photographic record of find HON16-53



Figure 5. Photographic record of finds HON16-54 to 68



Figure 6. Photographic record of find HON16-69



Figure 7. Photographic record of finds HON16-70 to 79

FIND HON16-1**Description**

The find is a commemorative medallion struck in bronze. Photographs of the obverse and reverse of the medallion are shown in Figures A1 and A2.

The obverse of the medallion depicts the diadem bust of Marie Louise Archduchess of Austria. Around the bust is a Latin inscription: M LUDOV ARCH AUSTR D G PARMA PLAC ET VAST DUX. Loosely translated this reads Marie Louise Archduchess of Austria by the Grace of God, Duchess of Parma, Piacenza and Guastalla.

The reverse of the medallion depicts a scenic view of a bridge over a river. Below the scene in exergue is a Latin inscription: PONS EX LATERICIO LAPIDEUS ARDAE IMPOSITUS A(NNO) MDCCCXXXVI. Loosely translated this reads Bridge of Brick and Stone Erected on the Arda in the year of 1836. Below this in very small letters is inscribed: E GALLI F. This is believed to be the name of the maker or die engraver.

The medallion is in good condition with only patches of light corrosion. The findspot was recorded using a high resolution GPS unit as E 558107.20 N 143276.50, at a depth of approximately 10cm. The medal is 56mm diameter and has a mass of 74g.

Remarks

The application of steam power to coin presses in the late 18th century gave rise to a marked improvement in the quality of struck coins. A notable example of this can be seen in the copper coins of Geo III produced by the industrialist Mathew Bolton at his Soho works in Birmingham. These improvements also made possible the manufacture of high quality larger pieces, which gave rise to an upsurge in the issue of a wide range of medallions to commemorate important events, public works etc.

Marie Louise Archduchess of Austria was a member of the House of Habsburg. In 1810 she was persuaded to become the second wife of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in a politically arranged marriage. After the defeat of Napoleon in battle and his subsequent abdication and exile to Elba, she returned to Austria. The 1814 Treaty of Fontainebleau granted her the duchies of Parma, Piacenza, and Guastalla, where she lived and reigned as Duchess until her death in 1847.



Figure A1. Obverse of commemorative medallion



Figure A2. Reverse of commemorative medallion

FIND HON16-2

Figure B1. Lead nameplate of William E Lidlow

WILLIAM E. LIDLOW

One of the finds during the 2016 dig at Honnington Farm was a metal nameplate of William E. Lidlow. He turns out to have been a local man, so there is quite a lot of information available which gives a picture of him, his life, family and society at the time.

His full name was William Edward Lidlow and he was born at Leigh in 1865, the 9th of at least 13 children. Tracking those who were born but dying before baptism is tricky, however the records of his family show baptisms from 1847 to 1874 at regular 2 or 3 year intervals, so it doesn't look as if they had many, if any, neo-natal deaths. There are census records of several surviving siblings and their work; exactly half of the children were of each gender and the eldest four were girls; all the children were born or baptised at Leigh except Anne who managed to be at Hadlow. They all seem to have survived into adulthood, some to a ripe old age. The lack of neo-natal deaths and the longevity of the survivors (Grandfather William was about 70 and father James 61 when they died) point to a healthier than usual family. They must have been very close emotionally (as well as physically), as nephews lodged with uncles, sons supported widowed mothers and daughters widowed fathers.

In 1881, when just 15 years old, William was a farm servant at Eynsfield Farm in Leigh (presumably at the farmhouse) and his parents and some siblings were living in one of the cottages at the same farm. Ten years on, after his father had died, William had moved into the cottage with his widowed mother called Sarah, elder brother Charles (another agricultural labourer) and two younger siblings. William was 33 years old when he married Emma, five years his senior, at Leigh in 1898 (she was Bidborough born) and they moved away, being at Barleycorn Cottages in Hildenborough in 1901, where he was described as an agricultural labourer. Sadly, William only lived until 1908 and his widow moved in with her father (a Penshurst man, 90 years old at the 1911 census). There is no sign of Emma and William having had children.

The information about the family shows the way life was lived in the 19th century. The early church registers have many instances where individuals were unable even to sign their names, but later, as schooling became available for all, the level of literacy increased and children are shown on census records as being scholars rather than workers. Whereas many of the men, including William himself and his father and grandfather worked as farm labourers, several were employed at the Powder Mills in Leigh and others in cricket ball manufacture. One brother was a

police constable for a while and another a railway signaller and several were involved in the timber industry. Two of his aunts were in service in 1841 when in their twenties, one living on the estate at Hall Place, Leigh and another at an unspecified Southborough address. As time went on, the nephews and nieces had a wider choice of occupations, at least one being in the printing trade in the area.

The Lidlows were at Leigh from as early as 1773. Many of the church records before that date are damaged, but it looks as if the family may have started there when a Sussex man married a Leigh girl and stayed and Lidlows in Sussex (with variations in the spelling of the name) are recorded as early as 1595. The Leigh people generally lived in the immediate area until the 1880s, then several of William's siblings moved to Orpington, Catford, Dartford etc., and one of his brothers was in Bengal when he died in 1898. The next generation of nephews and nieces were much more mobile and spread widely. Sadly there are records of young Lidlows from Orpington, probably William's nephews, who died in France in World War I.

So how did the nameplate get into the Honnington field? We can only guess, but in 1891 William's brother James was living at Castle Street in Southborough and working as a farm labourer – maybe the farm was Honnington, as the house and farm are near to each other. William could himself have lost it while visiting or perhaps James had borrowed an item with the name on, and the nameplate came off while in his possession. They were a close-knit family, after all.

Jenny Burgess

April 2017