

# **The Historical Heritage of Crowhurst**

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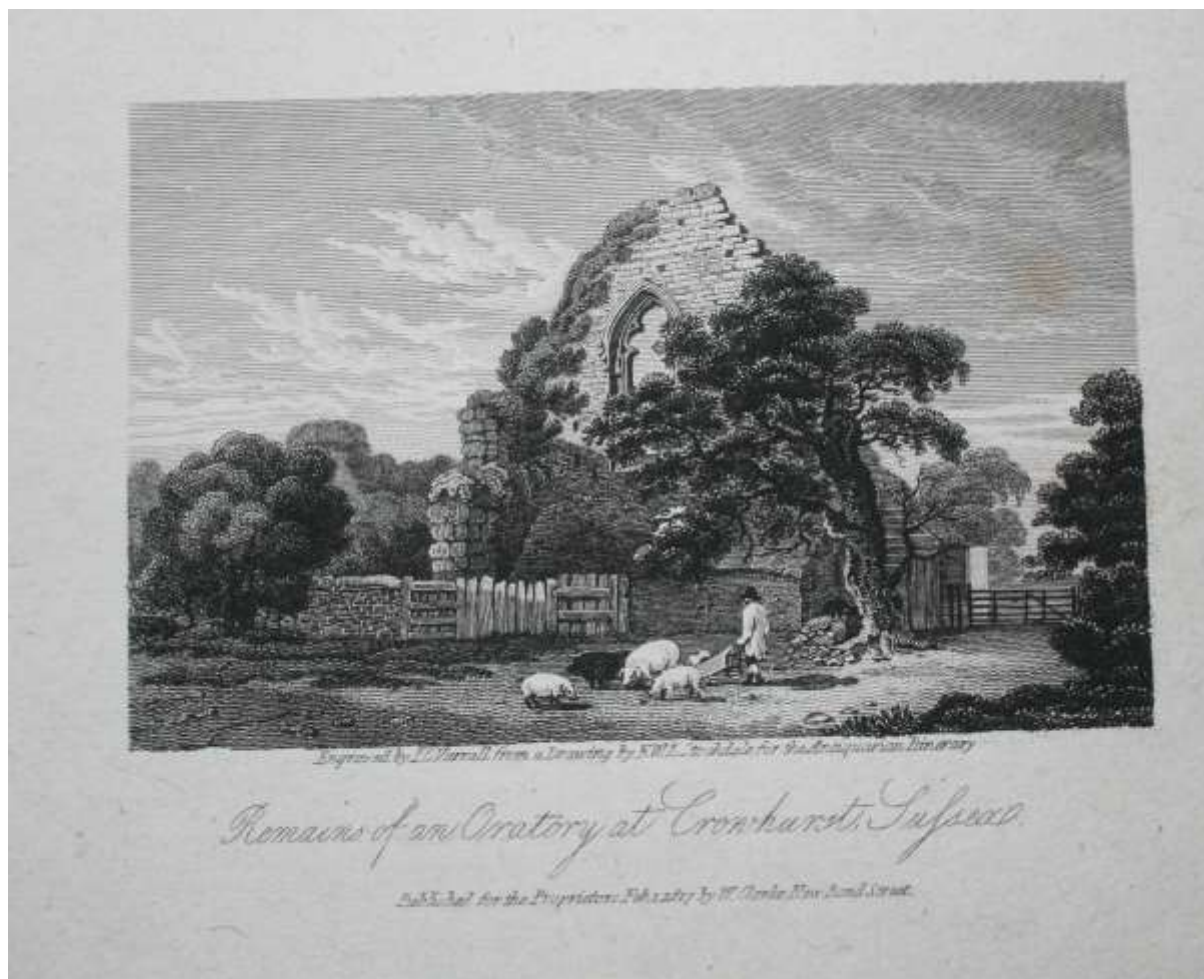
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## Introduction

In writing this, our Heritage Group have aimed to establish the main Heritage assets in Crowhurst. We need to know what they are in order to protect and enhance them.

The Heritage and Character Assessment (HCA), written by AECOM, and the Landscape Character, Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, written by HBA, both identify a “Heritage Centre” around the Church. One of the sites earmarked for development is located close to this area. *Reference:* Rother District Council Core Policy EN2 (stewardship of the historic built environment).

As Crowhurst develops its Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), our historical heritage has to be integral to the process. There are good reasons for making the most of these assets and local residents have already made a series of contributions that we feel are important. We will highlight these contributions later in this report. The heritage of Crowhurst reflects not only ancient heritage but the living history of local people. As this report has been compiled, we have benefitted from contributions from local residents. To ensure this process is ongoing, we intend to continue to gather life experiences and knowledge as part of a Crowhurst heritage group, for example the history of Crowhurst Cricket Club, farming in

the 1940's to 60's and the many personal records and photographs that exist within the Parish.

In writing this report we are very appreciative of the help of the following:

The Rev'd Dr Michael Brydon, Lindy Butters, Bruce Cripps, Ian Gordon, High Weald AONB unit, Dave Howley, Casper Johnson MCIfA FRSA FSA , Will Kemp, Peter Linecar, John Springford, Nicola Stell, Sophie Ungar, Martin White and past local historians.

## **1: Historical Sources**

The local (Crowhurst) historian, John Springford, had done a great deal to inspire local interest in his study "Crowhurst a village in history" which is available through the Crowhurst Community Information Stall. There was so much there we didn't know. And this helped us frame questions and try to find out whatever we could from established sources. As part of trying to secure our evidence base we met with Casper Johnson the then County Archaeologist. He and Sophie Ungar helped us access information from the East Sussex archives at "The Keep" which are very extensive and contain a fair amount of information specifically on Crowhurst but much more information on the whole area that Crowhurst was a part of. This became very important to us in understanding the wider factors affecting our small village.

Casper Johnson agreed to use the formal records of East Sussex Historic Environment in the form of a brief summary, and a further in depth survey. *Reference: Crowhurst Parish – An Archaeology Summary by Casper Johnson in section 11.*

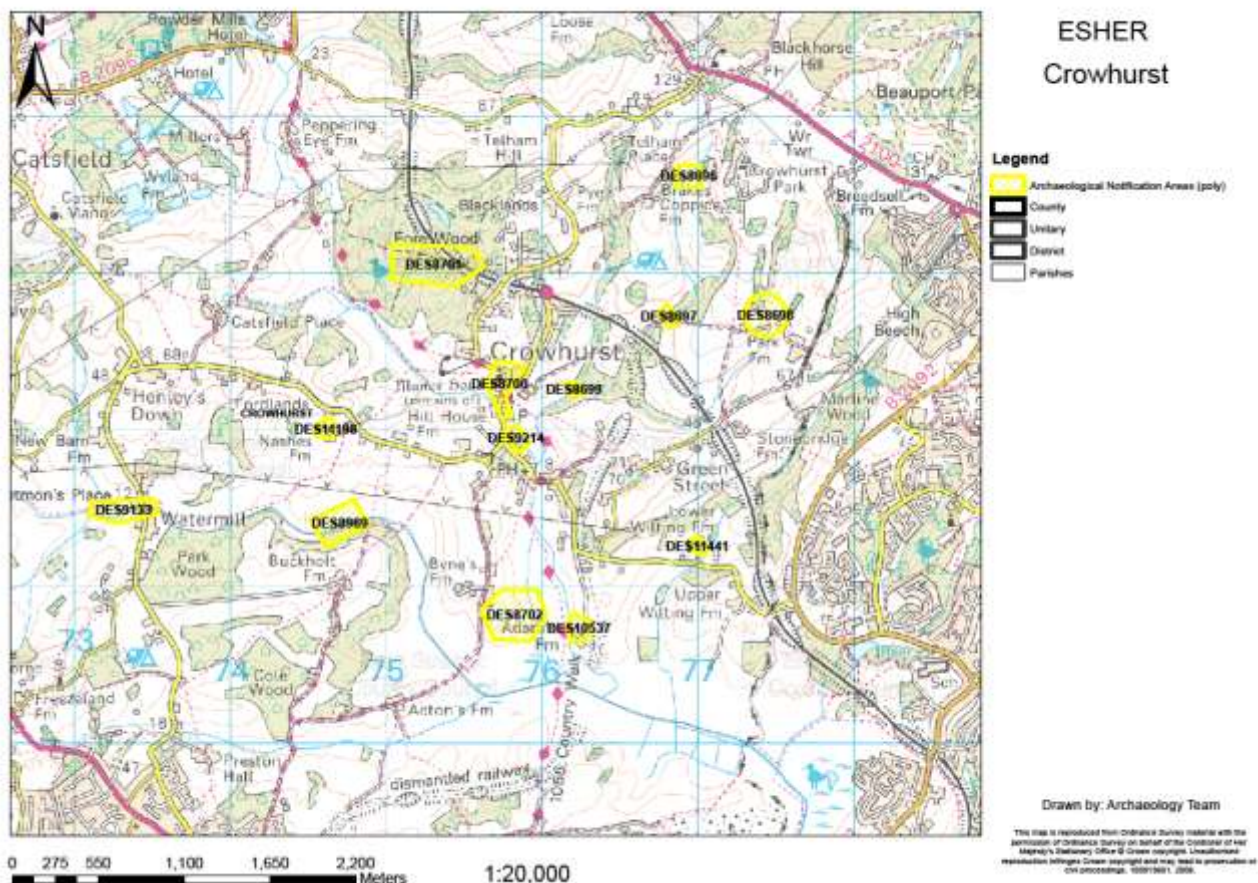
Both are used here in full, and form an important part of our evidence base.

We start with Casper's brief summary from his Historic Environmental Record (HER) which includes Archaeological Notification Areas listed under 7 in the Recorded Heritage Assets below. These list, for example:

### **1.1 Archaeological Remains.**

The Fore Wood: a Romano- British iron working site, 5) Gunpowder Mills, 13). Crowhurst Mill: a post medieval furnace and mill site. The background to these heritage assets is provided later in his fuller summary and we will give further details under the headings Iron Working and Gunpowder Production, drawn from other sources. We would especially like to draw attention to the recent valuable findings of ancient Flint Scatters uncovered during the

work on the New Bexhill to Hastings Link Road. Again Casper covers these findings and their implications for our historic heritage with fascinating extra detail and illustration in his fuller summary in *Crowhurst Parish – An Archaeology Summary by Casper Johnson.*



## 1.2 HER Map 1: Crowhurst Heritage and Character Assessment - Heritage Assets - ESHER ANA Map Archaeological Notification Areas

### 1.3 Historic Buildings:

At the end of his brief summary Casper includes a schedule of Crowhurst's officially listed historic buildings. *Reference: section 2.6.*

These include The Manor House and the Church, and the main medieval farmhouses. They represent an important element of our built historic heritage, they have survived and are highly valued by the local community. After Casper's Brief Summary we will provide a short commentary to help explain the historical context in which these buildings emerged.

## 2: Historic Environmental Record (HER) information

The following consultation report is a brief summary by Casper Johnson, formerly ESCC County Archaeologist which explains the heritage assets, including the listed buildings of Crowhurst.

### 2.1 Crowhurst Parish - Historic Environment Record Consultation Report from Casper Johnson

*The Historic Environment Record Consultation report provides summary information about designated and non-designated heritage assets within the parish recorded on the HER. This*



*will help inform the Neighbourhood Plan and should be used as the starting point and evidence base for considering issue such as protection and conservation of known heritage assets and the support for future research into developing a wider understanding. Local knowledge of the historic environment of the parish can also be fed back to the HER to improve and expand the record and any mistakes or errors should be noted and fed back to [county.HER@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:county.HER@eastsussex.gov.uk).*

*This summary report has been prepared by the East Sussex County Council Archaeology Section using data from the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER) and professional judgement. This draft report should be read in conjunction with the HER maps and data supplied separately.*

## **2.2 Summary – Casper Johnson**

*The modern parish of Crowhurst has significant historic environment potential but with the exception of listed buildings there is only one other formally designated heritage asset; namely Scheduled Monument – SAM DES8241 the ruins of Crowhurst Manor.*

*Below is a list of recorded heritage assets within the parish. It can be seen that there are no Conservation Areas, no Registered Parks and Gardens, no Historic Battlefield and no Protected Wrecks. There are 25 Listed Buildings either within or on the border of the parish. A full list of which has been provided from the HER search accompanying this report.*

*Within the parish there is evidence (in the form of worked stone tools) for people living in the area as hunter-gatherers since at least the end of the last ice age through to the introduction of agriculture and a more settled landscape in the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The parish has a particularly important record of Romano-British activity, including iron working sites, as well as post-Roman early medieval settlement. Medieval and post-medieval iron working and other industries such as gun powder manufacture are also of great importance.*

*Reference should be made to the summary report for the results of archaeological investigation for the Bexhill Hastings Link road (Combe Valley Way) supplied April 2017. Crowhurst Parish Archaeology Update April 2017. (reference: Crowhurst Parish – An Archaeology Summary by Casper Johnson).*

## **2.3 Recorded Heritage Assets** (see Appendix for maps and shape files for GIS)

**Scheduled Monuments (Historic England data) – DES 8241 Crowhurst Manor House**  
(remains of)

- 1) Listed Buildings (Historic England data) – 25** - See gazetteer of Listed Buildings
- 2) Conservation Area – none**
- 3) Registered Park and/or Garden (Historic England data) – none**
- 4) Historic Battlefield (Historic England data) – none**
- 5) Protected Wrecks (Historic England data)- none**
- 6) Archaeological Notification Area –13**
  1. Fore Wood (DES8701) Romano-British iron working site
  2. Crowhurst Park (DES8696) Romano-British iron working site
  3. Crowhurst Park (DES8698) ditto
  4. Crowhurst medieval village (DES8700)
  5. Gunpowder Mills (DES9214)

6. *Brakes Coppice (DES8697) c.17<sup>th</sup> pond bays*
7. *Rackwell Wood (DES8699) pond bay earthwork*
8. *Lower Wilting Farm (DES11441) Medieval and post-medieval farm*
9. *Adams Farm (DES10537) ditto*
10. *Bynes Farm (DES8702) Romano-British iron working site*
11. *Nashes Farm (DES11198) Anglo Saxon/medieval settlement*
12. *Buckholt Forge (DES8969) c.16<sup>th</sup> furnace site*
13. *Crowhurst Mill (DES9133) post-medieval furnace and mill site*

**7) Locally Listed Heritage Assets – none**

**8) Other Non-Designated Heritage Asset** (including buildings, structures, parks and gardens identified from the HER and/or associated sources such as historic mapping or documentary records). The information about these is included in the separate HER Monument Report list and they are shown as MES (Monument East Sussex).

## 2.4 Finds

The HER also contains information about metal detecting finds from within the parish recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). These provide further clues to past activity within the parish but are not provided here. Further information can be found at <https://finds.org.uk/>.

## 2.5 Archaeological Events/Surveys

The Event Record Report sets out the descriptions and sources, archaeological surveys or projects recorded on the ESHER from Crowhurst Parish.

Casper Johnson, Team Manager - Heritage and Records Management, East Sussex County Council. July 2017

Built Heritage Assets: ( Mainly Grade 2 Listed and Parish Church of St George Grade 1 Listed )

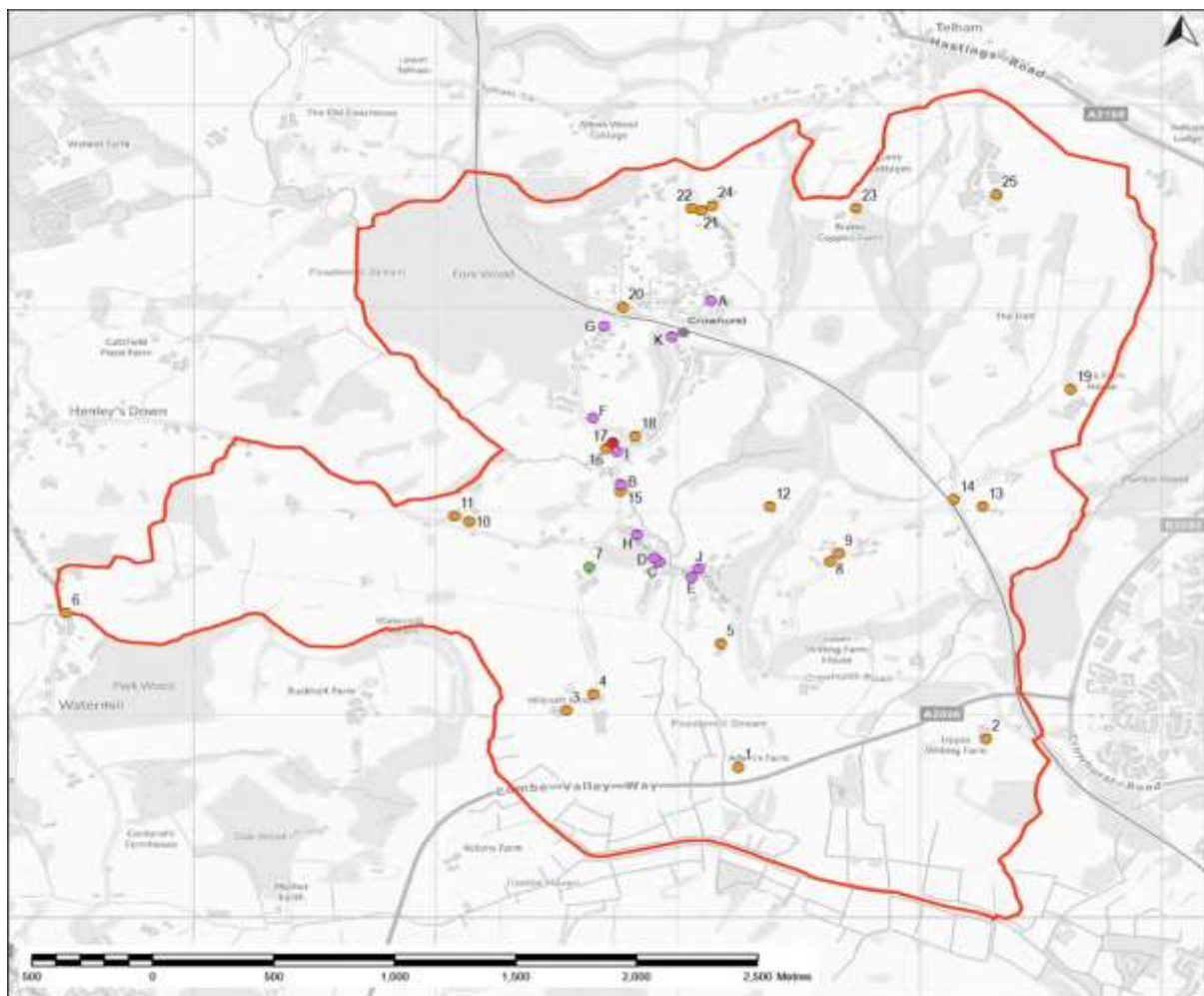
## 2.6 Schedule of Heritage Assets – ESCC and The Keep (County Archive)

### **ID list entry name grade x y list date**

- 1 1276644 ADAM'S FARMHOUSE II 576252 110740 03/08/1961
- 2 1233259 UPPER WILTING FARMHOUSE II 577276 110881 13/05/1987
- 3 1276652 BYNES FARMHOUSE II 575540 111022 03/08/1961
- 4 1276688 ROYAL OAK II 575652 111101 13/05/1987
- 5 1276686 CROUCHER'S FARMHOUSE II 576179 111349 13/05/1987
- 6 1233365 OAK COTTAGE II 573472 111500 27/10/1983
- 7 1233348 HYE HOUSE II\* 575636 111725 03/08/1961
- 8 1276689 GREEN STREET FARMHOUSE II 576631 111754 13/05/1987
- 9 1233362 GREEN STREET COTTAGE II 576668 111794 13/05/1987
- 10 1233257 BARN AT HILL HOUSE FARM TO THE SOUTH EAST  
OF HILL HOUSE II 575141 111950 13/05/1987
- 11 1233256 HILL HOUSE II 575077 111977 03/08/1961
- 12 1233262 SAMPSON'S FARMHOUSE II 576382 112025 13/05/1987
- 13 1276655 STONEBRIDGE FARMHOUSE II 577261 112025 13/05/1987
- 14 1233363 STONEBRIDGE COTTAGE II 577143 112059 13/05/1987
- 15 1233339 THE FURNACE II 575764 112101 13/05/1987
- 16 1233335 RUINS OF THE OLD MANOR HOUSE II 575705 112310 03/08/1961

- 17 1233292 THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST GEORGE I 575733 112339 03/08/1961
- 18 1276685 SCHOOL HOUSE II 575825 112371 13/05/1987
- 19 1233364 PARK FARMHOUSE II 577626 112601 13/05/1987
- 20 1233261 BROWN COTTAGE II 575774 113008 13/05/1987
- 21 1233344 BLACKLANDS FARM COTTAGE II 576098 113481 13/05/1987
- 22 1276687 BLACKLANDS FARMHOUSE II 576058 113492 13/05/1987
- 23 1233347 SQUIRREL COTTAGE II 576738 113492 03/08/1961
- 24 1233260 PYES FARMHOUSE II 576144 113505 13/05/1987
- 25 1276656 CROWHURST PARK II 577318 113560 13/05/1987”

Casper Johnson, Team Manager - Heritage and Records Management,  
East Sussex County Council



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## 2.7 HER Map 2: Crowhurst Heritage and Character Assessment - Heritage Assets

Legend:

- Grade I listed building
- Grade II listed building
- Grade II\* listed building
- Non-designated heritage asset



### **3: A History of Crowhurst**

#### **3.1 Early History**

The first mention we have for Crowhurst is in 771 AD when King Offa of Mercia conquers the local Sussex Kingdom of the Hastingeas and gives Bexhill and the wooded outland of Crowhurst ( 8 hides), to the Bishop of Selsey in his “The Charter of King Offa”. This probably would have included the adjacent forest as well as the arable land. It’s not clear whether the boundaries were the same when Earl Harold Godwinson later held the Parish of “Croherste” in the reign of Edward the Confessor, he paid geld or tax for 6 hides (600 acres). Before 1066 it was valued at £8 but legend has it that the invading William “wasted” it in the hope of enraging Harold into premature and, in the event, fatal action. After the invasion it was valued at only 100 shillings (source Madge Newman reference below). Around this time the Combe Haven Valley was open to the sea at Bulverhythe and the most strategic position for Harold’s Manor House would have been just above the point where the marsh came up from the sea and where the Rackwell and Powdermill stream met. To our knowledge there is no existing evidence for Harold’s Manor House.

Madge Newman the Headmistress of Crowhurst Village school from 1947 to 1966 wrote a booklet “Some notes on the Church and Manor of Crowhurst”. From her we learn that Sussex had been divided into five parts and given to the Conqueror’s friends and relatives as a safeguard. His cousin, Count Robert of Eu held the Rape of Hastings and Walter Fitz Lambert held the ‘*Manor of Crowhurst of the Count*’ and it remained with him and his descendants for nearly two hundred years.

The Fitz Lambert family prospered in the years following the Conquest with responsibilities for the manor and lands in Crowhurst. In 1259 Walter de Scotney, a descendant, was charged with attempted murder, by poisoning, of the Earl of Gloucester and his brother, William de Clare. He claimed to have been paid to do it by the Earl of Pembroke. Despite influential friends he was eventually brought to trial at Winchester and executed. King Henry III then took possession of the Manor of Crowhurst and granted it to Peter of Savoy, a relative. In 1358 John Earl of Richmond was responsible for it and seems to have had to carry out extensive repairs. In 1385 200 oaks were felled in Crowhurst and used to repair the fortifications at Rye. In 1412 Henry IV granted the Manor of Crowhurst to his faithful “adherent”, Sir John Pelham (son of Sir John who fought at Poitiers and received the surrender of the French King). In 1466 the Manor was settled on the Pelham family and in 1607 James 1<sup>st</sup> granted Crowhurst in perpetuity to Sir Thomas Pelham. The last male heir of the Pelhams died in 1838 and the two daughters Frances Thursby and Anne Papillon inherited the estates. Mrs Thursby took the name of Pelham and the Shropshire estates, while Mrs Papillon took the Crowhurst estate. Owing to the beauty of the site, Crowhurst Park became the family home instead of Catsfield Place and the Papillons sold up in 1942.

### 3.2 St George's Church, Crowhurst



Crowhurst is mentioned in the Domesday Book as having been 'wasted'. The invading Normans bent on defeating King Harold strove to goad him into action by destroying his own manor at Crowhurst. The Bayeux tapestry potentially shows Edith Swanneck, his handfast wife and his youngest son Ulf fleeing the burning manor house. But what we don't know is whether the destruction of 1066 included a village church.

It seems unlikely that there was no place of worship for an important manor and the existence of the ancient pre-conquest yew hints that something may have already existed on the site of St George's. Yews were planted in churchyards for the very practical reason that their evergreen branches both proclaimed the Christian belief in the resurrection and provided a necessary source of branches for ceremonies such as the Palm Sunday processions.

The first firm reference, however, to a church comes in 1189 when Sir Walter Scotney hands over the church of Crowhurst to the newly founded priory of Augustinian canons at Hastings. In return for receiving some of the revenues Sir Walter and the prior took on the joint responsibility of providing a priest. It is likely that this Sir Walter was also responsible for deciding to dedicate the church to St George, since at the time of the Third Crusade the cult of St George was high. We have to wait to 1429, however, for the first unambiguous reference to 'the church of St George the Martyr' in the Bishop's register.

In the fifteenth century, Sir John Pelham added the fine sandstone battlemented tower to St George's, which is still with us. Sadly he doesn't seem to have done anything to the rest of the fabric, which was not of the same quality. Much of the eighteenth century seems to have

been devoted to trying to repair the old building. Eventually the parish gave up the struggle and in 1856, under the direction of the architect William Teulon, rebuilt everything except the tower.

The old monuments and gravestones were put back and are can still be seen behind the organ. The Hardinge memorials link us to the Napoleonic wars on both land and sea and with the growing English links in India. The monument to Thomas Garnier is also interesting since he was a member of the Oxford crew in the first boat race of 1829. The twentieth century saw the addition of the main war memorial in 1919 and other related plaques. A flying bomb also left a mark on the fabric when it blew out most of the stained glass of the east window in 1944.

In the twenty-first century the north aisle was glassed in to provide a meeting room for the parish and the 'Gothic extension' with a kitchen and other facilities swiftly followed.

*Source: The Rev'd Dr Michael Brydon*

### **3.3 Crowhurst Manor House**

The history surrounding Crowhurst Manor Ruins are extensive but neither definitive nor agreed. It is assumed the Manor House was first built by Walter de Scotney around 1250.

The above-ground remains provide the primary focus of attention. These consist mainly of a large gable with a magnificent arched window on the first floor and two modest, lancet windows at the lower level. The base of a fireplace for the first floor sits along a small remnant of the north wall. There is a small section of western wall with a further small window. Construction was mostly ragstone sandstone with some Caen stone corbelling, at the lower levels only. Corbels evidence a vaulted roof to the lower level, the last sections having fully collapsed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has been further supposed that a large hall of wooden construction came off the southern side of the building occupying the terracing to the south. The arrangement of the structures on the south eastern corner have been described as a "grand entrance" with the upper part of a staircase to the first floor above.

However, the below ground remains and the terraced site as a whole do not correlate well with this picture. The primary terraced site is about five times the area such a medieval manor would have required. There are much wider remains extending across and beyond this primary terrace, including further terraces and foundations for substantial walls. These indications conspire against the existence of a large wooden hall and suggest a far larger stone building, or complex of buildings instead. Two recent archaeological investigations have suggested a building possibly much larger than a manor of the type and size that Walter de Scotney would have built.

The architecture presents further anomalies. The lower vaulted sections are similar to the Norman style vaults, as at Battle Abbey. However, the large arched window is a later, medieval style. The structure of the gable end and 'grand entrance' itself is also rather curious. If the resultant manor was the builders' objective then the walls do not line up in any practical or sensible manner.

The building also displays several anomalous modifications. The two small lancet 'windows' at the base of gable were originally doorways, although passing to and from where is difficult to gauge, particularly with a 'grand entrance' immediately adjacent. Other modifications are much more profound; particularly some substantial walls with incongruous alignments. The main anomaly concerns a large door jamb clearly apparent in the remains at the western section of the ruins. During archaeological excavations in 2004 a further, very large wall, with buttress, was discovered parallel to this western wall but only slightly further to the west. If a large, buttressed wall to the west was an external wall, medieval building practices simply would not include a large gate and window on a nearby internal wall.

Taking all the various anomalies in the remains and their construction styles and locations into account, there is still some question whether the ruin ever was simply a medieval manor ruin subsequently modified, or some other more substantial building re-employed.

The main possibilities for earlier, large buildings on the site centre on the Roman iron industry. A major activity in the Sussex and Kent Weald, valuable iron cargo would have been collected, processed, stored and then loaded onto ships in the vicinity. Buildings associated would have included barracks, warehouses, bloomeries, villas and other associated facilities.

Later, Crowhurst was home to a large Saxon manor eventually owned by Earl Harold. It is not certain whether Harold's Manor House would have been on this exact site and Saxon Manors were generally not of stone construction. However, Earl Harold's Manor would likely have been a large example and it was not unusual for Saxon Manors to utilise stone foundations and walls.

Another possibility, albeit very remote, is that the original construction was a first, partial incarnation of St Martin's Abbey (eventually completed at Battle). It is known that construction of Battle Abbey was started somewhere near to its eventual site but abandoned and Crowhurst is just over a mile, as the crow flies, from the eventual site. There are detailed arguments both for and against this suggestion although nothing substantial, or conclusive either way.

The reasons for the eventual destruction of the ruin are also unclear. The most likely suggestion is that the building simply became redundant and too expensive to maintain. Age and robbing of materials for other projects would have taken their toll. However, there are other possible explanations. A fortified building close to a major port would have provided an obvious opportunity for a beachhead. Foreign invasions threatened at various times up to and throughout the decline of Hastings Port following the great storms of 1286-7. Demolition could have been a prudent defensive act. Contrarily, in 1377, the French ransacked Hastings and this destruction could well have extended to destroying a fortified (defensive) building in Crowhurst, especially one owned by John, Earl of Richmond who had waged so much war in Brittany. But regardless of however and whenever the manor ended up in ruins, it seems to have spent most of the time since at least the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century used somewhat ignominiously as a pig sty.

The Manor Court itself where local grievances and transgressions were heard remained quite local. Court Lodge farm, originally to the north and east of the church, took its name

from this role. The Manor Court was probably somewhere to the east of the church until 1875 when Church Farm and Court Lodge Farm were amalgamated, and a single new farmhouse built incorporating the Court Room. The external door to the Court can still be seen, bricked up, in the north western corner of Court Lodge.

Source: *Martin White*

### 3.4 Grade II Listed Farmhouses and Buildings

The older Grade Two listed Crowhurst buildings have become better known over recent years, especially through the work of David Martin and John Springford's "*Crowhurst a village in history*". We are able to start to form a picture of our agricultural past, the key farms, and the system of landholding as it evolved.

In the south of the Parish lie some of our oldest farmhouses. These buildings and some in the north, start to emerge as the Manor holdings are broken up in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and a series of holdings come to dot the landscape as farms standing in their own land. This represented an important part of the big changes in the rural way of life largely caused by shortages of labour. These early farmhouses are durable unlike the highly perishable dwellings that ordinary people lived in. Generally the farmhouses were built sturdily in oak. Each have their own stories, they are aesthetically pleasing, fascinating to look at, and we have a good store of information on many of them.

At risk today, is Grade II listed Adams Farm, thought to be built in 1440. This ancient farm with its old barn and orchard, is now neglected and in disrepair following its compulsory purchase by East Sussex County Council as part of the construction of the new Link Road. Local concern for its future has been re-enforced by the recent destruction by fire of Glover's Farm left vacant for the same purpose at the Bexhill end of the Combe Haven Valley.

### 3.5 The Manor Court and Administration of the Land

The manor court was a part of the administration of the parish as were the reeve and beadle who made judgements on relatively minor disputes. Remaining problems were referred to the higher authorities. From the remaining records we can see how the manor court in Crowhurst developed and, to some extent, how it worked. John Springford records:

*"that the manor court always takes care to have a beadle chosen (a beadle was a parish officer with the power to punish petty offenders) and he should not be afraid of keeping order and knocking heads together. Though all have to club together to make good what he loses in time not spent on his land. The names Nately, Jervase, King and Cheseman, (mostly farming families), come up again and again as reeve or receiver. It was important for them to have some literacy....In the old days the lord was careful about letting land slip out of his hands. But labour has for long been short, perhaps through war or plague, so much of his land outside the manor farm itself has been dispersed of as 'copyhold' (close to ownership) farms".*

Over time some farming families prospered, and some declined, often losing their land to a more successful neighbour. As John Springford writes, the 15<sup>th</sup> Century yeoman was becoming a 17<sup>th</sup> Century gentleman farmer.



One name that comes up in 1428 is Croucher, a “lords servant”, with a long trail of “ruinous buildings”, (offences). Later, a Gregory Relf is recorded as living at Crouchers Farm. In 1604 he’s just had the lord’s permission to sell for the 6,000 bricks he’s made at Crouchers.

*Reference: John Springford.*

“Adams is thought to be of about 1440 when certainly, John Adam was the most prominent of all the manorial tenants. Though even here, there is the suggestion of an earlier building.”

*Reference John Springford.*

The early timber framed farm houses had proved durable; there had been Croucher’s, Adam’s and Sampson’s (formerly known as Groundilly, probably after John Grundelye, a pikeman in 1339). Now the numbers of these timber framed farm houses were becoming increasingly common; there was Blackland’s, Pye’s and others.

### **3.6 The Growth in Iron Working across the Weald**

From Tudor times there are new jobs in iron working in Crowhurst and this growth continues to Stuart times. The Pelhams were involved in the iron working, (Sir Thomas Pelham worked there in some sort of partnership with one, Peter Farnden). As the iron working progressed (though wages were not high) there were new and older residents making “*new money*”. There were new skills, such as men who knew how to harness water power to operate the hammers at the forges in Tudor and Stuart times.

### **3.7 Iron Working in Crowhurst and the Surrounding Area**

The local countryside in and around Crowhurst consists of small fields, woodlands and steep, narrow gill valleys. The landscape is typical Wealden and the geology of sands and clays give us iron ore, as well as brick and stone to build furnaces. The woodlands give us the charcoal fuel, and the many small streams and valleys meant there would be waterpower for the bellows and hammers of the forges and furnaces.

### **3.8 Iron Working in Pre-Roman and Roman Times**

Archaeologists have found evidence of pre Roman iron working in Sedlescombe and Crowhurst. Julius Caesar first drew attention to iron being produced on a small scale in these coastal areas of Britain. When the full Roman invasion of AD43 happened their Imperial Supply organisation the “*Classis Britannica*” quickly organised several large smelting sites around Hastings, the largest being at Beauport Park, the next in size locally being on the area now known as Crowhurst Park, with evidence of a further, active bloomery in the Fore Wood. The extensive Roman baths found at Beauport Park would have been used by some of the workforce. These sites may have produced as much as 30,000 tons of iron over 130 years.

For the first two centuries of Roman rule and later during the Tudor and early Stuart times the Weald was the main iron producing region in Britain.



### 3.9 Tudor Times and Beyond

In this later period the technology changed, water power was used for forging iron, and the new blast furnaces from France were introduced in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. This was a much larger structure than the bloomery and daily output was closer to a ton rather than the few kilos possible under the old system.

More ore and charcoal were required, and the need to operate the bellows by waterpower instead of by hand meant that ponds had to be created to store the water. In addition the higher temperatures in the furnace meant that a different type of iron was being produced. A second process- the forge-with its own pond and supply of charcoal was needed to refine the iron. Large numbers of people were employed in cutting wood, digging ore and transporting raw materials and product were required. Most furnaces made "sows", or lengths, of iron for refining, but from the 1540s a small number began to make cast-iron cannon, a product that grew to be a profitable, and sometimes illegal, export. Improvements in house design led to the building of chimneys, and the need for iron fire-backs to protect the brickwork. Many Wealden farmhouses contain examples of these decorative and functional plates.

As competition from imported iron increased, the Wealden ironmasters began to concentrate increasingly on gun founding, and examples can be found all over the world, wherever Britain fought or traded. Eventually, the onset of the Industrial Revolution took heavy industry north to the coalfields and the last furnace in the Weald, at Ashburnham, closed in 1813.

So, where are the remains of iron production? Building stone was too valuable in the Weald to be left unused, so the works were dismantled, and the woods grew back over the former sites. Only the tell-tale waste, called slag, from the smelting process, and some of the hammer and furnace ponds are left to remind us of a once-great Wealden industry and examples of these are found in Fore Wood.

Special thanks are due to the *High Weald AONB unit* who gave permission to use this research in full, for the purposes of the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan.

There are traces remaining if you know what to look for. A pond from the dammed Powdermill stream, below the old manor for example. The East Sussex records include the “Crowhurst Furnace first listed in 1574, the place names: Cinderbrook and Forge Field, a furnace and forge owned by John Relfe. Sir John Pelham of Crowhurst held it as a forge and furnace in 1648. In 1664 the furnace was “continued in repair” and made guns and shot, but the forge was laid aside and not used, although part of the bay remains. A walk has been devised by a local resident showing medieval ironworking in the area.

#### **4: Gunpowder Production**

In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, a new industry of gunpowder production gave rise to new employment, utilising some of the “new infrastructure” left by the iron workers.

##### **4.1 The Asten Gunpowder Trail**

Nicola Stell and Bruce Cripps, local residents of Crowhurst, have explained the history of gunpowder production in Crowhurst and surrounding areas in a pocket guide for an illustrated guided walk “*The Asten Gunpowder Trail*”.

This guided walk outlines the processes involved in local gunpowder production from what is now the Powdermills Hotel (that still retains its great lake), and proceeds down the Powdermill stream through Crowhurst following the main gunpowder production sites. The extract below, provides a brief summary of the gunpowder production and walks created in relation to this later industry of Crowhurst and surrounding areas.

*“The Gunpowder industry that existed in the Crowhurst and Battle area has left a very light imprint in the landscape, in fact it has all but vanished. However, if you know where to look its faint traces can be found.*

*The history of the period of about two hundred years, roughly between 1670 and 1870, when the powder mills were churning out gunpowder, has been studied by a few stalwart historians, both professional and amateur. One of the best articles is in “A Tapestry of Battle” by the Battle Walkers Group.*



The Eldridge Family  
The last powder makers in  
Crowhurst

*The manufacture of gunpowder in Battle, Crowhurst and Sedlescombe came about because of the immediate supply of two main features - streams which could be harnessed to power the mills and trees in abundance to provide charcoal (one of the three ingredients of gunpowder, the other two being Saltpetre and Sulphur).*

*For the period that this industry was running in the area, the valleys were filled with the*

*sound of tree felling; of the mills mixing the ingredients; the rollers compressing it and the sieves separating the granules. Carts would have been moving the ingredients into the area and carts would have been taking gunpowder to the navy and army, and to retailers for sportsmen and farmers. It was a busy area alive with activity. There would also have been the occasional accidental explosion and fatalities were not uncommon. Families can be traced whose fathers and grandfathers worked in the mills, such as the Eldridge family of Crowhurst.*

*A walk - "The Asten Gunpowder Trail" - has been developed to follow in the footsteps of these intrepid workers and to see these faint traces of an industry, which has all but disappeared, is not forgotten."*

## **5: The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

By the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century we see the development of Gentleman's Estates. The one at Crowhurst Park was formed in 1744 by James Pelham MP. He had been acquiring little farms in the area until the new estate consisted in 338 acres with a small mansion. In 1761 he died leaving his estate to his grand nephew John. And so the manor centred at Court Lodge was again united with the old Park to the East.

Two significant houses were Hill House on the Catsfield Road and Hye House which was built by Thomas Bristow as part of an estate.

*"Built in 1744 during the reign of King George II, Hye House is a beautiful Georgian mansion set in its own grounds, which also includes a Victorian conservatory, walled garden, ornamental vineyard and set a stone's throw from the Historic 1066 walking route to Battle. The beautiful red bricks used and the detail of the embattled parapets, cut away in front of the dormers, really provide a stunning property. So much so that in 1961 it was awarded Grade II\* listed status. Inside the large rooms, grand staircase, high ceilings and original sash windows all add to its grandeur and it is now run as a boutique detox retreat...."*

*Source: Ellie McManus (Hye House)*

At this time, new buildings, cottages and larger buildings appeared e.g. The Old Shoppe Cottage (and bakers) in Sampsons Lane built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century and Oak Cottage in Watermill Lane probably built anytime from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. Down the old coach road, now known as Royal Oak Lane, is the old Royal Oak Cottage, apparently rebuilt in 1605. Furnace Cottage, just above the old post office, was the house of the blacksmith Goddard Coleman in 1662. By 1730, it was the property of William Hammond who by 1740, owned all the land along the stream from the bridge to Chapel Hill. All the earlier houses on Chapel Hill are now gone.

## **6: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century and a Village transformed**

The AECOM HCA report provided for our NDP contains some good visual detail on our 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Built Heritage including some of the humbler buildings. For example, on Chapel Hill, these include a police station built in 1885 (now Powdermill Bank) followed by The Watch Cottages. Some more solidly built cottages appear in the south and north of the village e.g. Cherry Tree House formerly Avonside Tearooms and The Railway Inn, by the new railway station.

## 6.1 The Village School

Many villages were without schools when Crowhurst School opened in 1843. Whether a village had a school or not depended on local initiative. Transport links then were poor and it would have been impractical for children to walk miles to the nearest school. The initiative came from the Papillon family of Crowhurst Park. Thomas Papillon gave the land opposite the Church and donations amounting to £87 13 shillings and 11pence which enabled a Church Day School to be built. Many areas were without a school until education for all was required by the 1870 Education Act so Crowhurst was in front of many other villages in this respect. The school had a long period of stability when John Grayson became Headmaster in 1894 and was succeeded upon retirement by his daughter until 1937. The “Log Books” kept by the “Master” have been preserved and give an interesting insight into the life of the school and village. Attendance was considered of prime importance as the Government Grant depended on this. The school had a very tight budget and in 1874 we read:

<u>Income was:</u>		<u>Expenditure was:</u>	
Government Grant	£33	Master’s salary	£55 per annum
Voluntary contributions	£14 15s	Assistant teacher	£8 10s
Children’s School Pence	£26 10s 2d	Phoebe Brown (monitor)	£1 16s

This left very little money to buy fuel for heating, or for cleaning, repairs or educational materials. On 14<sup>th</sup> January 1910, Mr Grayson wrote “No fires and no coal to make any-children wet and miserable”. Until the modernisation in 1958 there were outside toilets (no water!) and only one tap. An enamel bowl was filled by the teacher on duty and the children washed in order of seniority. In the earlier days of the school pupils attended up to the age of 13 - school leaving age. Around harvest time, older students were often absent causing concern about the government grant! At the time of the railways being built, the school suddenly had to cope with an influx of pupils from all over the country with widely varying needs. The term “Railway Children” was used.

The school was modernised and enlarged in 1958 and again recently in 2014.

## 6.2 The Coming of the Railway

Perhaps the biggest and fastest driver of change was the new Railway from Tunbridge Wells to Hastings that opened 1851. Although Crowhurst Station wasn’t constructed until 1902, there was a great deal of work carried out constructing the line during the 1850’s. John Springford points to some revealing population figures: in 1811 the Crowhurst population was 265, in 1831 it was 370, in 1851 at the height of railway construction it was 592 including 137 railway workers, but by 1871 it was down to 405.

Large amounts of labour were needed including excavators, brick makers and waggoners, for raised bridges, cuttings, laying of sleepers, etc. The same occurred fifty years later with the new branch line to Bexhill. Suddenly “the railway to the south coast had turned a jolting coach ride from London to a short run by train. Hastings in summer was now full of holidaymakers and Crowhurst was a favourite spot for an outing being an unspoilt village, with a church to walk around, ruin to wonder at, and to round it off, tea at one or other of the enterprising tea gardens situated where the Powdermill Stream ran under the bridge:



“Avonside” with its old horse bus, and “Springfields” sitting beside the stream on the site of the old Tudor ironworks.” *Reference: John Springford.*

## **7. More Recent Times**

Like many other villages, Crowhurst has steadily lost a large number of its previous amenities: bakery, shops, tea rooms, blacksmiths, the Railway Inn and more recently the post office with shop (formerly the telephone exchange). Previously, most villagers worked in or close to the village. In recent times the population has substantially increased with residents able to commute daily to surrounding towns and London. Now only a few work in the village. With the arrival of a local supermarket in the 1980s, the local trade decreased to the point at which the shop and post office had to close. Three village market gardens have also disappeared in the last 20 years. Crowhurst previously had a number of dairy farms. The last of these was Hye House Farm, which closed with loss of farm land arising from the building of the Link Road in 2014. Farm land in Crowhurst is now used for grazing and arable crops.

Local residents have purchased land known as the Quarry Wood, formerly part of the old quarry and railway line to Bexhill lost as part of the Beeching cuts in the 1960s. This has been developed as a nature reserve through volunteer activity. It provides a focus for a number of educational and community events and activities relating to the natural world..

The building of the Link Road divided the Comb Haven known locally as ‘The Marsh’ and now contains a new ‘Country Park’ which includes a SSSI and ancient dykes and reedbeds.

### **7.1 Services and Facilities**

Crowhurst has the services of an active Parish Council, church, playgroup, a thriving primary school and a station, highly valued for commuting and general travel. There is an extensive, long-established recreation ground and pavilion, which remains well-used in all seasons with several football sides, a local tennis and a local cricket club. A youth club and short-mat bowls club share premises on the recreation ground, supported by fundraising and physical work by local villagers. There is a very well-used Village Hall. The Church now includes a new space for people to meet on Friday mornings with cooked food and refreshments. Importantly, while we have lost the Inn by the station we are still able to enjoy The Plough, built in 1805, this is a traditional village pub which has a long and interesting history including being bombed in the Second World War. It has looked to market itself to the surrounding areas and now serves high quality meals and has been registered as a Community Asset to show its importance to the village. The Crowhurst News provides monthly information and articles of interest to village residents and has been run by volunteers for over 30 years.

The extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and woodland, including RSPB Fore wood, are well used by residents and local walking groups. These are greatly valued and monitored by a resident Footpath Warden. The development of the controversial Bexhill to Hastings Link Road has brought with it a greenway which has links with surrounding towns and also provides new bridleways and cycle paths.

## **8. The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) - local resident consultations on their life in the village**

In recent NDP surveys and consultations (2015-17), residents of all ages have made clear the high value they place on the rural, agricultural and historic nature of the village. This was equally shared by young people from the village attending brownies, scouts and the local primary and nearby secondary school, as evidenced through surveys and consultations. Interestingly, a high proportion of the village children attending the secondary school, had an aspiration to be able to live in the village in the future. They were very concerned that the village should only be developed with great sensitivity to its rural and agricultural environment and visible history. Most young people wanted the return of a shop and more amenities for young people. They also wanted affordable housing to be part of any development and didn't want "Large Executive Houses" to dominate.

*Reference Neighbourhood Development Plan Surveys and Consultations 2016 and '17.*

This love and enjoyment of rural life is widespread in the village. Unlike living in a modern urban area, people get to know people of all ages and "types" living around them. There is a feeling of belonging, as people cooperate and socialise extensively as seen in the wide range of clubs, organisations and sports both for entertainment, fundraising and companionship. These include village events such as Crowhurst Fayre and Broadstock Music Festival. Clubs range from the Horticultural Society with its long history in the village to over 20 cultural, social and church groups. These contribute greatly to the community and social cohesion of the village which is seen to be highly valued in NDP surveys and consultations. The high value placed on the environment and rural nature of the village was highlighted with the local opposition to the development of the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road which crossed the ancient Combe Haven (valley), known locally as 'The Marsh'. Many older residents remember the viaduct taking the branch line to Bexhill which crossed the marsh and was demolished in the 1960s. Stories of fishing for lampreys, eels and trout as well as the dangerous sinking mud are relayed locally by people who grew up in the village at this time.

## **9. The Historical Heritage of Crowhurst and Opportunities for the Future**

Crowhurst and its surrounding villages and nearest town Battle, share a common historic heritage which interconnect in many ways. To develop these interconnections, the NDP Heritage Task Group have been working on two local history trails; one based on iron-making in and around Crowhurst and the second on the history of gunpowder production along the Powdermill Stream, beginning in Battle and passing through Crowhurst. Some funds have already been secured towards the printing of guides and the costs of signage. The archaeological finds of extensive flint scatters in the south of the parish near to the new road, are presently being investigated and classified ready for publication by East Sussex County Council. These findings will be of considerable value as an educational resource with plans for sample boxes for use by local schools. We hope that with wider knowledge of these archaeological finds, a wider interest will be engendered in this early period of Crowhurst's history. To build on this, we hope ESCC will be able to provide signage and information boards. Two significant areas where extensive flint scatters have been found are near Adams Farm and below Hill Top Farm close to the footpaths linking Hastings, Bexhill and Crowhurst.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Crowhurst was seen as a very attractive place to visit by large numbers of day trippers on Hastings holidays. Many came to local tea rooms by train or charabanc to enjoy the church and Manor ruin and local countryside.

In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is evidence of a strong surge in interest in the countryside, heritage and rural life. The BBC TV show “Countryfile” has a prime spot with an audience of six and a half million rising from about one million a few years ago. At the same time, new studies of peoples’ expenditure patterns evidence a firm trend of people substituting consumer goods expenditure with “experience-seeking expenditure”. More people are actively seeking fitness, health and wellbeing, through leisure activities and placing increasing value on countryside conservation. Organised and Rambler groups from Battle, Bexhill and Hastings also regularly come through Crowhurst.

New cycle tracks, bridleways and footpaths are already largely in place as a part of the new Combe Valley Country Park, part of which, lies within the parish boundary. Supported by the Combe Valley CIC, it aspires to make this area accessible to all in the wider communities of Bexhill, Hastings and Crowhurst.

Residents of these areas share many common histories and there is mutual benefit from building and sharing these interconnections. The Plough Pub in Crowhurst, a significant social focus for residents, relies strongly on outside custom in order to survive at a time of many pubs closing their doors.

## **10. Conclusion**

Throughout this brief look at the history of Crowhurst we see that it has been an active centre of human habitation since Neolithic times. The early industries of flint production gave way to agriculture, pottery and bronze production. There is evidence of pre-Roman and extensive Roman ironworking making use of the natural geology and woods producing timber for charcoal and building. With the Norman Conquest, the manor passed from Harold to William and a change of landholding followed. Soon this system changed again, as labour became short and the Manor House lands passed to the newly emerging yeoman farming class. These in turn became ‘gentlemen farmers’ with farms changing hands and larger farm holdings developing. The revival of the iron industry in Tudor and Stuart times as a result of increased manufacturing and warfare, impacted on Crowhurst, providing new jobs and money. This laid down the foundations for the wealth of some including the local landowning Pelham dynasty. Later, this same infrastructure was used for the manufacture of gunpowder with Crowhurst being subsidiary to Battle gunpowder production. With the coming of the railway and motor transport, village life was transformed increasing the population by almost three times.

There have always been trends and continual change. In the past, some villagers were able to adapt to new trends such as changes in agriculture, ironworking and gunpowder production. Others fell by the wayside as they became impoverished through lack of skills or resources to meet the new demands of a changing age. The flourishing tourist industry of the early part of the last century has now passed. However there remain new opportunities as people’s aspiration for a rural experience and improved health and wellbeing, create demand and a need which Crowhurst could address in a variety of ways. From early times

to the present day, Crowhurst has proved resilient and resourceful to meet new change and challenges.

## 11: Crowhurst Parish – An Archaeology Summary by Casper Johnson

Below is a summary written by Casper Johnson of the rich history of Crowhurst since the time of the last ice-age.

*The parish of Crowhurst has a well-documented rich history with particular interest in Roman iron working sites and the time of the Norman Conquest. But it is arguably the planning and construction of the Combe Valley Way (Bexhill Hastings Link Road), which included a comprehensive set of archaeological surveys and excavations, spanning the late 1990s until 2014 which have revealed potentially internationally important, rich and complex evidence for human occupation within an evolving landscape from the end of the last ice age through to the present day. The results of this work, which will be fully reported by 2021, will help provide a detailed contextual understanding of the history and archaeology of the parish of Crowhurst and neighbouring parishes that include the Combe Haven. What follows is a short summary of the results of recent archaeological work.*

11.1 **The ‘time spiral’** below shows the main divisions including the Stone Age (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic) and subsequent Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

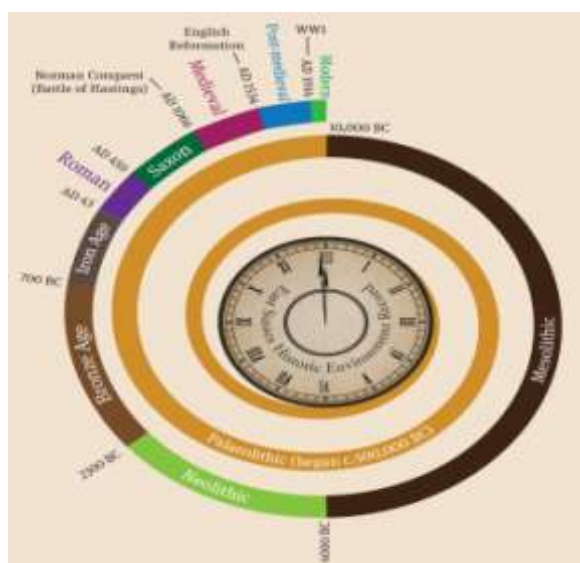


Fig. 1

### 11.2 Stone Age

*The Stone Age covers an immense period of time during which stone tools and especially those made from flint are the characteristic artefacts.*

*Evidence for people occupying the Crowhurst landscape during the later **Palaeolithic**, **Mesolithic** and **Neolithic** has survived, primarily in the form of sites where flint tools were made and used. These sites range in size from small assemblages, perhaps a moment of*

*re-fitting weapons during a hunting trip to large camp sites with a wide range of flint tools as well as the remains of pits and fireplaces. Individual types of tool, carefully and repeatedly produced, provide insights into wood working, skinning, food processing and other everyday activities and how these varied from one area to another. We can perhaps see where children would have learnt their crafts and whilst evidence for structures is rare, at least one flint scatter of early Mesolithic date is associated with an intriguing set of stake holes, which could indicate the site of a hunting screen or wind break. The precise definition of the extent of flint scatters may allow us to interpret the location of structures, perhaps tents, for which no remains survive or areas where animals were butchered or skins were cleaned.*

*More than 200 separate flint scatters, comprising nearly 500,000 pieces of worked flint have been recorded by Oxford Archaeology making the Combe Valley Way archaeological excavations, that include parts of Crowhurst parish, the most important archaeological excavations of their type, ever undertaken in the UK.*

### **11.3 Archaeological excavation of flint scatters Watermill Valley**



Fig. 2

*The most well-preserved prehistoric remains lie on the lower valley slopes and valley floor where there has been less agricultural impact over the millennia. The careful removal of peat and alluvium, deposited as sea levels rose and the valleys flooded during prehistoric times, has revealed how complex the old land surfaces were, with many ridges, gullies and hollows. Pollen, insects and other organic remains collected during archaeological excavations help us understand more about the changing climate and ecology of the Combe Haven and see how people adapted to these changes and how they may have contributed to those changes, for example by felling trees and clearing land during the Mesolithic and from the Neolithic onwards by continuing to alter the environment by creating landscapes with settlements, monuments, field systems and trackways.*

*In the alluvium and peat of the Combe Haven in the south of the parish, archaeologists have found worked wooden objects and possible structures of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date and which may form part of trackways or wetland edge platforms.*



*A wide range of different flint tool types have so far been recorded, ranging from the long blades of the Late Upper Palaeolithic, used for cutting and butchering through to the microliths of the Later Mesolithic used for arrows and spears.*

#### **11.4 Long blade and Microlith**



*Fig 3*

*The vast number of separate flint assemblages help us to understand how and why tool technology changed over time and to what extent this was driven by changes in climate and ecology as relative sea levels rose, coming closer to the parish and Britain became separated from the continent some eight thousand years ago. At this time many people would have been driven from their flooded 'homelands' to the relatively higher ground and we are perhaps seeing a significant increase in activity in the parish in the Late Mesolithic as a result.*

*The archaeology of Crowhurst is helping us to understand these most important periods of change in our history, including for example during the transition from the hunter-gathering of the Mesolithic to the Neolithic; which saw the introduction of many new ideas including knowledge of pottery making, agriculture, social organisation and new belief systems. Discoveries include sites with Late Mesolithic flint tools and associated hearths and pottery. Discoveries also include flint axes, adzes and worked wood.*

#### **11.5 Waterlogged wood under peat with associated flint scatters Combe Haven**



Fig. 4

*The application of C14 dating of organic remains associated with the flint scatters, for example hazel nuts in pits, is one key method for dating when changes may have happened in the Crowhurst area.*

#### 11.6 Neolithic flint axe for woodworking



Fig. 5

#### 11.7 Bronze Age and Iron Age

*Over one and a half thousand years after the beginning of the Neolithic there is evidence for continued change in the Crowhurst and Combe Haven landscape, with the discovery of numerous barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, a rare archer's wrist guard, a ring ditch (ritual circular area or barrow in the south of the parish), numerous burnt mounds and the development of more formal field systems and drove ways. The burnt mounds, which comprise pits, channels and large overlying mounds of burnt clay and stone are likely to represent the remains of communal cooking or industrial processing sites, though it has also been suggested that they may be the sites of saunas or sweat lodges. They have been found in all the valleys south of Crowhurst, lying close to the present day edge of the wetland and drier valley sides. It is clear from the range of flint tools, pottery and monuments that the Crowhurst landscape was well-organised during the Bronze Age.*

*At present, it is difficult to understand what life would have been like during the Iron Age, following what appears to have been a settled and well-organised Bronze Age landscape.*

*This may be a result of much wetter conditions and economic and social decline and a failing agricultural economy or because we are finding it difficult to interpret the archaeological evidence.*

### **11.8 Bronze Age burnt mound being excavated**



*Fig. 6*

### **11.9 Prehistoric woodworking tools**



*Fig. 7*

### **11.10 Early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowheads**



Fig 8

### 11.11 Romano-British

*By the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Roman period, the evidence indicates that the landscape was busy with small settlements on ridge tops close to iron working sites. At Upper Wilting Farm in the south of the parish, excavation has revealed occupation from the 1st century AD through to the late 2nd century AD, comprising an iron working site and adjacent ditched enclosure, which may have been used for accommodation by those working on the industrial site. The iron working site included areas for preparing charcoal, roasting ore and then smelting with the remains of more than fourteen bloomery furnaces and hundreds of cubic metres of overlying slag and cinder deposits. Evidence for either iron working, and/or associated settlement of this period has also been found on all the ridges to the west, including at Adams Farm, Bynes Farm, Actons Farm and Glovers Farm and collectively will help us gain a much better understanding of how relatively settled the rural landscape of the Roman period in the parish would have looked. Not the impenetrable forest that many may have imagined. The Roman iron working site at Upper Wilting farm does not have any evidence for a connection with the Classis Britannica. The analysis of the metal working at the site will allow a more sophisticated understanding of the industry within the parish and enable us to more fully understand known sites such as those at Crowhurst Park, which may have started before the works at Upper Wilting. However, it should be noted that only the upper part of the Upper Wilting site has been excavated and evidence for earlier working may be found in future further down slope to the north. The nature of the works at Upper Wilting farm once again highlight the significant industrial scale of ironworking that would have been undertaken in the parish during the Roman occupation.*

### 11.12 Romano-British iron working furnace Upper Wilting Farm



Fig. 9

### **11.13 Saxon, Medieval and through to the present day**

*The archaeological excavations of the Bexhill Hastings Link Road project have provided the opportunity to understand more about the development of Saxon settlement following the collapse of the Roman Empire. In many cases these are the settlements which now survive as farms such as at Upper Wilting Farm. Here ditches, gullies, pits, post holes and a small number of fragmentary artefacts including pottery have been found and C14 dates indicate activity here as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. There is some evidence for Saxon iron working continuing in the parish as well as cereal cultivation attested by the discovery of three corn drying ovens.*

*The historic landscape of Crowhurst parish is rich and complex with many aspects visible today that are articulated on the tracks, monuments, fields, industrial areas and settlements of the many generations that have lived in the parish since the end of the last ice age; a period of over ten thousand years.*

*With the archaeological field work for the Bexhill Hastings Link Road (Combe Valley Way) now completed, the archaeologists are working on the post-excavation 'laboratory work' of assessing and analysing all the records, finds and samples. This will be completed in 2020 – 2021. The archive will then go to Bexhill Museum where it is hoped a comprehensive display of local archaeology can be developed along with facilities for storage and presentation of the finds. All archaeological sites identified but not excavated as part of the Bexhill Hastings Link Road project will need to be protected below ground by careful future management.*

**Casper Johnson FSA April 2017, Team Manager - Heritage and Records Management, East Sussex County Council**

## **12. Glossary**



AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CIC	Community Interest Company
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
ESHER	East Sussex Historic Environment Record
GIS	Geographical Information System
HBA	Huskisson Brown Associates
HCA	Heritage and Character Assessment
HER	Historic Environmental Record
MES	Monument East Sussex
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest