

BUCKHOLT MANOR FARM

Buckholt means beech thicket (OE boc holt), Buckholt 1275, it is recorded as Boccholte in 1121 and Bokholte in 1428. (1) It fell within the Manors of Buckholt and Bexhill.

DETAILS OF PROPERTY (NGR TQ 7456 1108)

Buckholt seems to have been held with Barnhorn in the Reign of Henry I (Regnal years 1100- 1135) when Ingelram (de Northeye) gave to Ralph, Abbot of Battle the tithes of his land of Boccolte. (4)

Buckholt was first mentioned as a Manor in 1276 when Matthew de Hastings, son of Robert, conveyed Buckholt to Margery de Northeye for life. (2). There used to be a chapel at Buckholt when it was owned by John de Northeye (3)

1108-1204 'I, John de Nordia, have granted to the Church of St Peter of Beaus (Bexhill) the land of (de abse) which used to render me 2s. For this Seffrid II, Bishop of Chichester, with the assent of the charter, granted me my chapel at Buckholt to hold as his charter provides. (3)

1252-1253 Agreement between Richard II (de Wych) Bishop of Chichester and William de Northy, Kt. William and his heirs shall give the Bishop a fat buck between assumption (15 August) and Holy Rood Day (14 September) and a net to take foxes, that they may freely have enclosure of their park at Boxholte in the hundred of Beaulle ... (3)

Buckholt was emparked in the 13th century when Richard, Bishop of Chichester granted it to William de Northeye to be held by yearly tender of one fat deer and one fox net (SAC X1X, 22). This therefore was probably part of the Bishop's park. In 1544 £4 for the fee of the park keeper is mentioned among expenses of the Manor and in 1569 the park is said to have adjoined the site of the Manor on the north side, and to have been 1½ miles in circumference, about 20 acres lying across the stream in the Crowhurst parish; it was disparked c1563. (4)

There were iron works at Buckholt in the 16th century. In 1574 Lord Dacre was holding one forge and one furnace in the tenancy of Bartholomew Jeffrey, of Chiddingly. Jeffrey was buried at Bexhill on March 9th 1575, having by his Will demised the furnace and forge to Thomas Alfrey for the payment of his debts. In 1664 Buckholt was laid aside, only sometimes used. The forge was disused by the end of the 17th century. (5) On the plan of the Buckholt Estate dated 1753, a field above the pond bay is marked 'Old Forge'. (6)

Buckholt Manor Farm

When Buckholt was offered for sale in 1788, Buckholt House was described as 'pleasantly situated in the centre of a large manor which bounds with game of every kind'. (4)

Damage was done to Buckholt by the hurricane of 1729. Richard Budgen describes 'a stack of chimneys on the west side of the house was turned down upon the house, and took off most of the ridging to the house. A large barn on the east of the house was blown down and some timber and tiles carried over a standing wood above a ¼ mile away. A hovel and malt-house and another barn were very much damaged. A hog pound and sty were badly damaged but the thatch remained intact and many trees on the estate were blown down'. (8)



The house today is described as a Grade II listed building of the late 16th century, remodelled in 1670. Two storeys, 3 windows, red brick. Steeply pitched tiled roof with stone edges and corbells. 3-light casement windows with stone mullions and dripstones. Two storeyed gable porch with tablet or sundial in the gable. Contemporary or slightly later red brick wall on either side of the house with a stone

doorway to the west. (9)

In the middle 19th century there were 14 acres of hops being grown. (10) The oast house had two roundels on the drying floor to the north of the kilns and abutting one of the ponds. The drying floor was demolished and a new one built on the south of the kilns earlier in the 20th century. (11) The remains of the oast house is still to be seen and the rough brickwork on the front of the roundels clearly shows the alteration.



The hop pickers huts are still at the farm today (1990's). The slats in the roundels are still present but the press was taken out by Mr Gillingham many years ago c1950's as it was in the way. (The oast has now been converted into a dwelling in the last years of the Twentieth century.)

When Buckholt was offered for sale in August 1864 it was described as 'A valuable manorial estate comprising of an excellent farm residence, buildings and cottages. the Park Wood, Great Gill, Cole and other woods interspersed with and belting the property. Extending upwards of 530 acres together with the Manor of Buckholt and it's rights, priviledges and immunities. Also 84 acres of very fine grazing marshland in Bexhill and Pevensey (35)



There was a boarding school here for about 12 girls around 1900. The school room was originally situated in the later oast house drying floor which was boarded around the walls upon which the girls had written their names. The girls left this accommodation for a lean-to room attached to the west side of the farmhouse, owing to rat and mouse infestation. The boarding was ripped out and taken to the new

school room. (12) This later school room can be clearly seen on a photograph taken by the Bexhill Observer in 1913, a copy of which is in the Bexhill Museum.

A farm worker, Joe Leonard, lived in the old school room in the 1930's before he moved into one of the cottages further down Buckholt Lane. The school room had fallen down by 1938. (12)

OWNER DETAILS

<1276	William de Hastings (died 1277), son of Robert (4)
1276	Margery de Northeye, first time called a manor (4)
1277	Matthew de Hastings's widow claimed a third of the manor in dower (4)
1280	William de Hastings, son of Matthew, granted the manor to Margery & William de Stokes & their son John (4)
1329-1333	Thomas de Hastings, son of William (4)
1333>	Richard and Margery Haket (4)
<1356>	John Haket (4)
<1364	John Assheky, cousin of John Haket (4)
1364>	William Batisford (4)
<1398>	William Brenchley, clerk, and Joan his wife, land of Bocholte holden of the Bishop's Manor of Bexle (3)
<1412-1453	Joan Brenchesle/Brenchley daughter of William Batisford (4)
c1453	Buckholt came into the hands of Sir Richard Fiennes Lord Dacre of Herstmonceux, grandson of Joan's sister Elizabeth (4)
<1534>	Thomas Fiennes, Lord Dacre died seized (4)
<1567>	Gregory Fiennes Lord Dacre of Herstmonceux (15)
<1753>	Francis Hare Naylor of Herstmonceux (18)
<1788	Rev Robert Hare (4)
1788-1833>	John Fuller of Park Gate Catsfield (22)
<1806>	Bishop of Chichester (21)
<1833	John Fuller Esq (22)
1833-1854>	Sir Peregrine Ackland Bt (23)
<1865-1870	Thomas Brassey owner (25)

Buckholt Manor Farm

- 1869 Oct 5 Lease between Thomas Brassey the younger of Normanhurst MP and F.Brazier of Sandhurst Kent Farmer. Messuage Farm & lands with buildings and cottages 303 acres (26)
- 1870-1919>
<1902> First Lord Brassey
Thomas Allnut Brassey
- <1920> Hugh Sydney Egerton of Mountfield Court Robertsbridge

TENANT DETAILS

- <1332> Johe Bogholte paying 3s Subsidy Roll
- <1673> Earl of Sussex (16)
- <1727-1730> John Furner (17)
- 1730-1735> The Lord Bishop of Chichester (17)
- <1730> George Naylor Esq (8)
- 1735-1737> Thomas Curtis (17)
- <1740> John Lansdell (18)
- <1753> John Lansdell and Richard Thomas (18)
- <1757> John Lansdell (19)
- <1784> Isaac Lansdell (20)
- <1790> Thomas Lansdell (20)
- <1797-1799> William Lansdell (20)
- <1833-1854> Walter Duke (22)
- <1855> Henry Overy (24)
- 1869 Oct 5 F.Brazier of Sandhurst Kent Farmer, Messuage farm and lands with buildings and cottages 303 acres (26)
- <1881> Albert Harden (7)
- 1888 Oct 11 John Body of Wittersham Kent 249 acres £300 rent (27)
- 1895 Oct 28 Thomas Fielder, dairyman & farmer Mess farm & cottages 187 acres (28)
- 1896 May 11 James John Arnold of Lincolns, Eastleigh Southampton 187 acres £300 (29)
- 1897 Mar 22 Miss Mary Cullen of The Gables, Horley. 187 acres rent £125. An interesting letter reads: I, Mary Cullen of Buckholt Farm do hereby agree to pay Lord Brassey the sum of £25 per annum as increase rent for the expenditure he is about to incur in the erection of a new room at Buckholt Farmhouse dated 5 June 1899. (30)
- 1902 Oct 11 Bernard Pitt of Catsfield Place 187 acres £150. (31)
- 1906 Mar 6-1920 Aug 2 J. Wintersgill of Cooden Farm (32)
- <1909> George Reed was keeper of the pheasantry in Cole Wood, he lived in one of the Henniker Cottages in Buckholt Lane. (12)
- 1920 Aug 2-1922 May 8 J.Wintersgill of Rodmill Farm, Eastbourne rent £210 (32)
- 1922 Oct 11> Mrs Wintersgill rent was increased to £210 from Michaelmas 1920. (32)

Buckholt Manor Farm

1923 Aug 30 The East Sussex Agricultural Committee certified that Watson Verity, the tenant, was not cultivating the holdings according to the rules of good husbandry. (34)

<1937 Mr Shoesmith (12)

1938-1964 Charles Gillingham (12)



West view of farm building near oast 1990
1990



West view of house and buildings

ADDITIONS OF AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS from The Planning Office at Bexhill Town Hall

Addition of cart lodge for the Normanhurst Estates May 1922

Addition of cooling, sterilizer and boiler rooms for Trustees of 2nd Earl Brassey
Jan 1939

Stock shed for Captain Egerton May 1951

Dutch barn and lean-to for Captain Egerton Feb 1952

Extension to dutch barn for Capt. Egerton April 1960

Steel frame building for housing cattle for Mr Gearing, Friday Street Farmers Jan
1989

SOURCES

- 1 The Place Names of Sussex by Judith Glover
- 2 Sussex Record Society Feet of Fines SRS 849
- 3 Sussex Record Society SRS 838
- 4 Victoria County History Vol 9
- 5 Wealdon Iron - W. Straker
- 6 ESRO ACC 1745
- 7 Census Returns 1881
- 8 Budgens Map of the Hurricane of 1729 copy in the Bexhill Museum
- 9 Bexhill Town Hall - List of Listed Buildings
- 10 ESRO TD/E 141 Bexhill Tithe Award
- 11 O.S. Map of 1873 and later
- 12 The late Charles Gillingham tenant of Buckholt Farm
- 13 Sussex Record Society Vol X
- 14 Postal Directories

Buckholt Manor Farm

- 15 Kent Archives Office, Maidstone U269 M20
- 16 ESRO ADA 49
- 17 ESRO AMS 5641/2 Rev Ott Tithe Book
- 18 ESRO DR/B33/1
- 19 ESRO PAR240/30/1
- 20 ESRO PAR240/30/2
- 21 ESRO AMS 6819
- 22 ESRO Land Tax
- 23
- 24 Sussex Directory
- 25 ESRO A5634/56/1
- 26 ESRO A5634/56/2
- 27 ESRO A5634/56/3
- 29 ESRO A5634/56/5
- 30 ESRO A5634/56/6
- 31 ESRO A5634/56/7
- 32 ESRO A5634/56/8
- 33 ESRO A5634/56/9
- 34 ESRO A5634/56/10
- 35 ESRO BAT 2137