

INGRAMS FARM

Freehold of the Manor of Bexhill

PROPERTY DETAILS (NGR TQ 7426 0932)

Ingrams in Bexhill seems to have been an outlying portion of the Manor of Ninfield. The name originates from the first holders of land in Ninfield. In 1264 Robert and Andrew Ingeram were jurors in an inquisition held at Ninfield and their name appears in the Subsidy Roll of 1296. Another Robert and William Ingram were assessed in 1327 for land in Ninfield, as were five years later Stephen Ingram in 1332. It was in 1458 that Ingram was first mentioned as a Manor. By 1571 it had passed to Gregory Feinnes Lord Dacre of Herstmonceux and follows the descent of Herstmonceux until 1776, when it was sold by Robert Hare to Isaac Lansdell for £1,600 after which the manorial rights probably lapsed. (1)

Levetts Wood is part of the property, the name taken from Daniel Levett tenant in the 18th century. A plan of the hurricane in 1729 shows this as Engrim Wood. There are the remains of the clay diggings of the brickyard which used to be in the open fields but after the brickyard was abandoned the trees have taken over and the site is now part of Levetts Wood. There was a 'Brick Kiln Field' in 1753, the yard was in operation in 1839. It was not in use in 1873 but had been reactivated by 1899 and was finally abandoned before 1930 (12) (10)

At a sale in 1867 the property was described as 'A Freehold Estate which included a Brick built and Tiled farmhouse containing five bedrooms, Two sitting rooms with cupboards. Paved Kitchen, Pantry, Detached Scullery, Mangle Room, Coal and Wood Stores, Poultry House, etc

The out-buildings are brick and tiled and include a Granary, 4-stall Stable, Chaise House, Four Cattle Sheds, Timber built and slated Barn, Tiled Implement and Cattle Lodges, Enclosed Farm Yard and two other outlying thatched cattle sheds. Kitchen Garden and 87½ acres of Arable Meadow and Pasture land. (14)

In the mid 19th century a small quantity of hops were grown, just over 4 acres. There was one kiln attached to the barn but that had gone by the end of the century.

OWNER/TENANT DETAILS

<1567>	Gregory Feinnes Lord Dacre Messuage and 26 acres (2)
<1673>	Earl of Sussex Messuage and lands (3)
<1727-1738>	Daniel Levett tenant (4)
1758	Daniel Levett died (6)
<1776	Robert Hare owner (1)
1776-<1802	Isaac Lansdell purchased (1)
<1802>	William Lansdell (5)

- <1823> William Lansdell (7)
 1824 Abstract of Title see separate sheet.
 <1831 William Camac owner (10)
 <1833 William Camac owner, George Thomas tenant (8)
 1838 Jun 20 Death of William Camac (9)
 <1843> Sarah Lushington owner, George Thomas tenant (11)
 <1851> George Thomas resident tenant aged 60 farmer of 180 acres
 emp 5 men and 1 boy (13)
 <1861> Edward Thomas resident tenant farming 100 acres. He was also
 Valuer and Auctioneer. (13)
 <1891> George Jenner resident tenant (13)
 1897 Some of the land was sold for building. This area was called the
 'Sidley Green Estate' comprising Norfolk Road, Preston Road,
 Cumberland Road, Sidley Street, North Road and Suffolk Road.
 (15)
 <1919> Arthur John Brook owner/occupier. Mr Brook gave one of the
 fields 'Sidley Field' to the parish for recreational purposes and it
 is still used as such today (8)
 1920's Clifford Gulliver owner, Maurice Christmas tenant. Donald
 Christmas was the last farmer of Ingrams as Ingrams ceased to
 be a working farm in 1946. (16)
 1946 Oct 7 Donald Christmas sold his stock and machinery but auction, the
 land being needed for building. (16)
 1952 Demolition of the farmhouse (16)

SOURCES

- 1 Victoria County History Vol 9
- 2 Maidstone Record Office Manor Rental KAO U269 M20
- 3 ESRO ADA 49
- 4 ESRO AMS 5641/2 Rev Ott Tithe Book
- 5 ESRO RAF Box
- 6 ESRO A59/715 Daniel Levett'S Will
- 7 Bexhill Museum Manor Rental 1823
- 8 ESRO Land Tax LLT
- 9 ESRO ADA 67
- 10 Bexhill Museum LM 128 Plan of part of Ingrams Farm showing the brickyard.
- 11 ESRO TD/E 141 Tithe Award
- 12 Molly Beswick study of Brickyards
- 13 Census Returns
- 14 ESRO BAT 2140
- 15 ESRO AMS 5828/4
- 16 Richard Christmas son of Donald

INGRAMS FARM - ABSTRACT OF TITLE

Abstract of Title to the Sidley Green Estate (Norfolk Road, Preston Road, Cumberland Road, Sidley Street, North Road and Suffolk Road) endorsed '15 Sidley Street', 1897 Ref ESRO AMS 5828/4.

9th June 1824 Ingrams Farm was conveyed by Nathaniel Polhill, Edward Lansdell, George Thomas and William and Ann Lansdell to Musgrave Brisco and William Polhill Kell;

25th November 1867 Brisco snr and jnr conveyed to George Clement who on 20 January 1868 conveyed to George Jenner of Udimore, farmer.

6th November 1876 Jenner, retaining a 4th part sold 22 acres 3 roods and 3 perches (map on abstract) to James Coleman Vidler of Rye, land agent, Charles Vidler of Hastings, wine merchant and Alfred Leighton Sayer of Hastings, Solicitor for £2988 lent by Jenner; the land had been leased to Edward Thomas for 11 years in 1874.

By his Will of 1880 Jenner of Tufton House Hastings, bequeathed his share of the property to his nephew George Trayton Jenner, Charles Vidler sold his share to James Coleman Vidler on 30 June 1892 and on 9th November 1897 Vidler, Sayer and Jenner sold to William Moon and William Garner both of Hastings, builders and Frederick James Parsons of Hasting, gent for £2572 and on the following day mortgaged the estate to William Eicholz of 64 Basinghall Street London, gent. For £4500.

A detailed plan of the road layout appears with the abstract and impending purchase of more land, included on the plan is recited.

By Deed of 17th December 1897, Frederick Atkinson of Hastings, gent. was brought into partnership with Moon and Garner, on 9th May 1898 plots 348-351 on the corner of Sidley Street and Suffolk Road were freed from the mortgage.

(The plan can be seen at the East Sussex Record Office, Lewes under the ref. AMS 5828/4.)