

# The Lossenham Project Study Day

Souvenir Brochure  
3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022



## Contributors

Keith Bailey Russell Burden Sue Callow  
Richard Copsey Sue Hatt Celia Jennings  
Maeve Moorcroft Sue Muddiman Sophie Ogilvie  
Annie Partridge Andrew Richardson Jane Richardson  
Sheila Sweetinburgh Rebecca Warren

Banners designed by Florence Gilham

Souvenir brochure designed by Jason Mazzocchi

Catering supplied by Bridget Goodwin

Audio visuals by Peter Smith

We would like to thank everyone  
who has contributed to the Study Day



**Will of Thomas Congeherst of Hawkhurst (1504)**

*I bequeth to the mendyng of the fote pathe betwene my dwellyng house and the said church of Hawkeherst 3s 4d.*

**Will of Peter Woodgate of Hawkhurst (1581)**

*I give to John Woodgate the elder my sonne or to such other of my sonnes as shall enjoy my howse called Hensell [Hensill] wherin I dwell [the furniture] and all thymplementes in my workhouse at Hensell aforesaid*

**Will of John Thaccher of Sandhurst (1505)**

*To the shrine of St Thomas the Martyr [Canterbury] 4d.*

**Will of Edward Mongeham of Sandhurst (1520)**

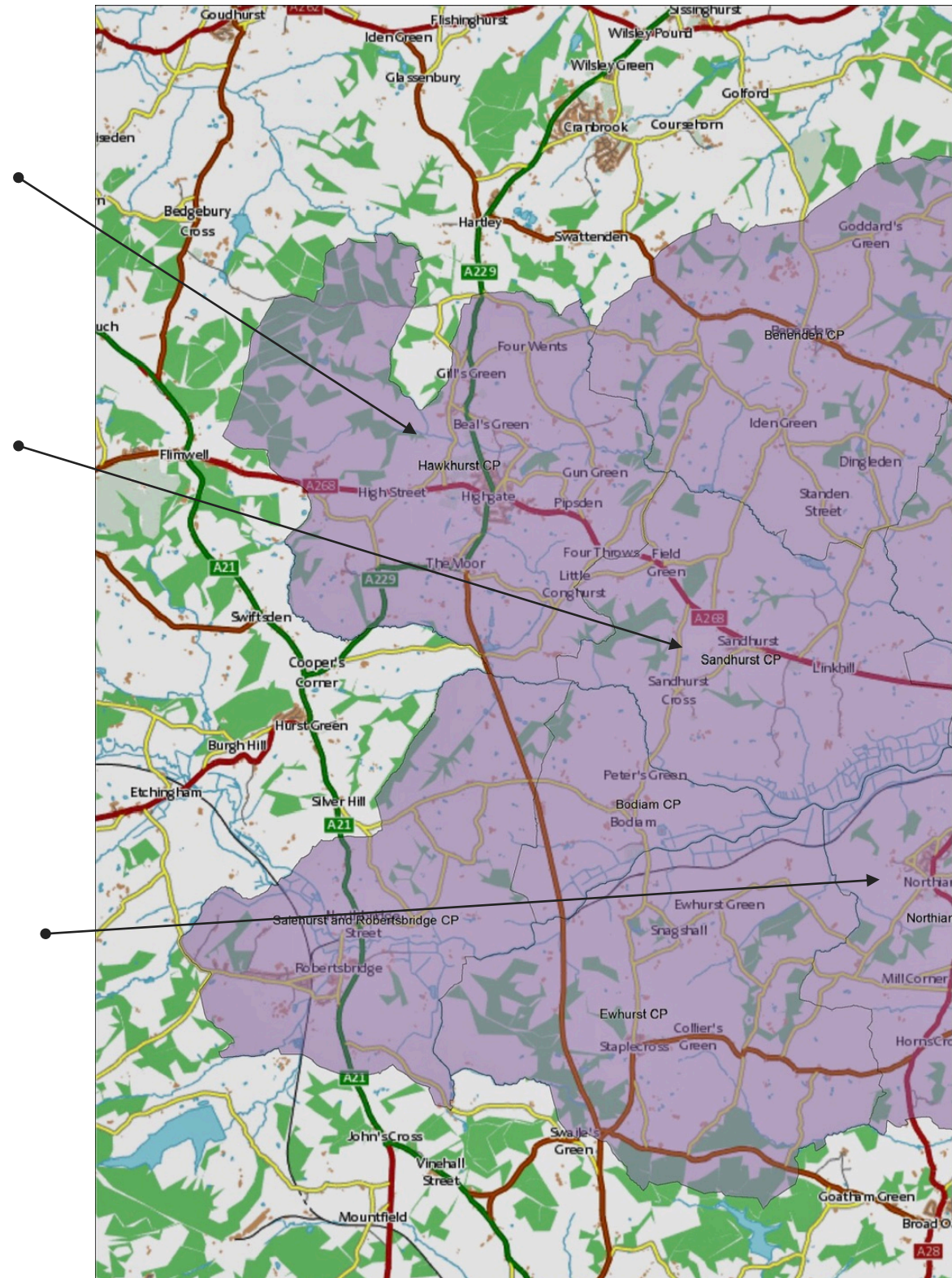
*I will 10 marks to the repairs of Sandhurst church where most need is.  
To the friars of Lossenham 10 marks to be bestowed whereas most need is [and I] to be prayed for forever.  
To the highway from Spondengreen unto Holys a footway to be made, as far as it will be made for 40s sufficiently.*

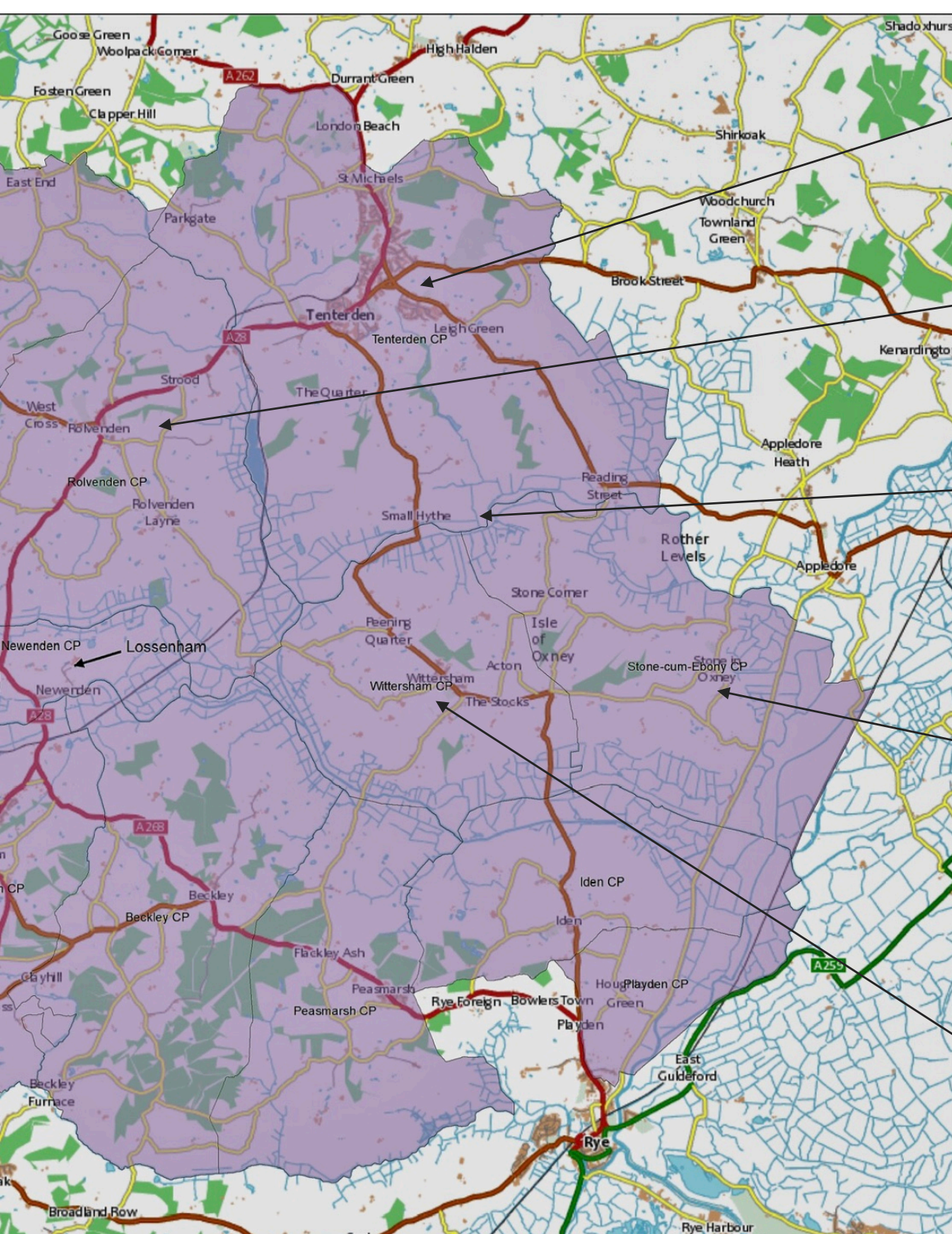
**Will of Thomas Helle of Northiam (1506)**

*6s 8d to the friars of Lossenham  
6s 8d to the friars of Rye  
6s 8d to the friars of Winchelsea.*

**Will of Agnes White of Northiam (1524)**

*Lego feretro sancti Ricardi Cicestren iiiiid [I leave 4d to the shrine of St Richard at Chichester]*





**Will of William Lenconour of Tenterden (1517)**

*Item I bequeath one taper of waxe of the weight of 1lb to be sett before thimage of St Erasmus in the said churche of Tenterden.*

**Will of John Crothall (1626)**

*I give and bequeath to Peter Crothall my sonne when he shall accomlishe his age of one and twentie yeares my wood called Puckwell Wood lyinge in Rolvinden ... conteyninge by estimacion fortie and fower acres purchased of Sir John Culpepper knight.*

**Will of Robert Brigenden of Smallhythe (1517)**

*I bequeath to the glasyng of one wyndowe in the chapell of Seynt John the Baptiste at Smalehith 10s.  
I bequeath to the buyldyng of an house for the preest celebrating in the said chapell of Seynt John the Baptiste of Smalehith, to occupye and lyve in 6s 8d.*

**Will of Joane Raynold of Ebony (1523)**

*To the amendment of the comen causey and foteway between Redyng and Ebbeney church on either side of the chanel 40s, where need is.*

**Will of Richard Lawles of Ebony (1533)**

*To the railing of the churchyard of Ebbeney two tons of timber*

**Will of William Wattyll of Wittersham (1586)**

*I bequeathe unto my sonne George foure acres of salte marshe grounde in Coorte Brooke, being in the parrishe of Stone.*

## Lossenham Priory and the upper Rother valley

The Lossenham Project is a joint initiative between archaeologists and historians, uncovering a hitherto 'lost' Carmelite friary at Lossenham, which flourished from c.1280 - 1538. The priory sits within the upper Rother valley, an area of the High Weald where evidence of human occupation dates back to at least the Iron Age. Situated at a busy river crossing, the Priory depended on the support of local communities and passing traffic. Carmelite friars did not cut themselves off from people but took their message out into the population, asking for alms in return.



Understanding the role of the Priory in this part of the Weald requires a detailed understanding the evolution of the landscape of the Rother valley itself. The Lossenham project offers a unique opportunity to research and document the archaeology and history of the wider river valley, from its earliest settlement to the modern era.

## Documents, Digging and Direct Involvement

Extensive historical research into the wills of people living within the Rother Valley from medieval times has begun to shape our understanding of the local importance of the Priory.



Weeks of surveying and excavation have revealed much about the archaeological remains of the buildings and of their destruction in 1538. The Carmelites were 'poor friars' and would have kept little of value within the Priory, but finding drains, animal bones, pottery shards and tiles can tell us much about the lives of those who lived here.

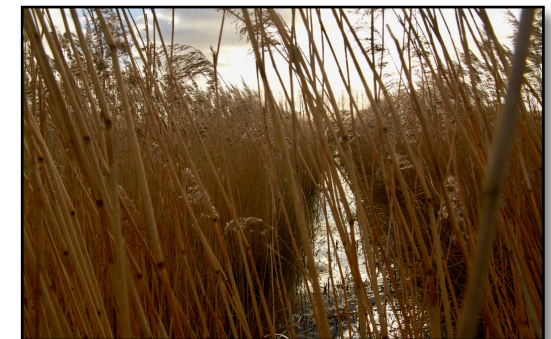


## Community and Landscape

The Lossenham Project welcomes volunteers to join the historical research group or to try their hand at digging on the site under the supervision of Isle Heritage CIC. Training and support are given to everyone who volunteers.



The Lossenham Project encompasses a large area of land within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and work is being carried out on the estate to improve habitats for wildlife and to encourage an increased diversity of species.



### Contact Details

If you would like to know more about the project, please email: [info@lossenham.org.uk](mailto:info@lossenham.org.uk)