

Title: The Valdoe

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Summary: “War and Peace”; as reflected in the records and topographical evidence for the uses of an ancient West Sussex woodland.

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The Valdoe

Under the general umbrella of Woodland Management and Use, two themes have been identified.

1. Management of the estate woodland, including evidence for historic trees.
2. War preparations and activity within project area, e.g. practice areas, mobilisation, billeting.

In order to maintain clarity, it has been necessary to divide the report in to sections:

Section 1: Deals with the woodland management and use theme, supplemented with details from the Goodwood Estate Timber records.

Section 2: Covers research into possible military use of The Valdoe, up to and including World War I.

Section 3: Attempts to explain the high density of troops in the area during World War II.

Section 4: Lists observations which help to form opinions regarding the origin of trenches identified by Lidar images. The Westhampnett Airfield document includes a Summary, discussing possible origins of trenches and weapon-pit.

Section 1. Deals with the woodland management and use theme, supplemented with details from the Goodwood Estate Timber records.

This ancient woodland is approximately 4.5 km (2.8 miles) NNE of Chichester City centre at OS. Grid ref. SU 8780 (487500: 108500). The boundary between the parishes of East Lavant and Westhampnett divides the wood.

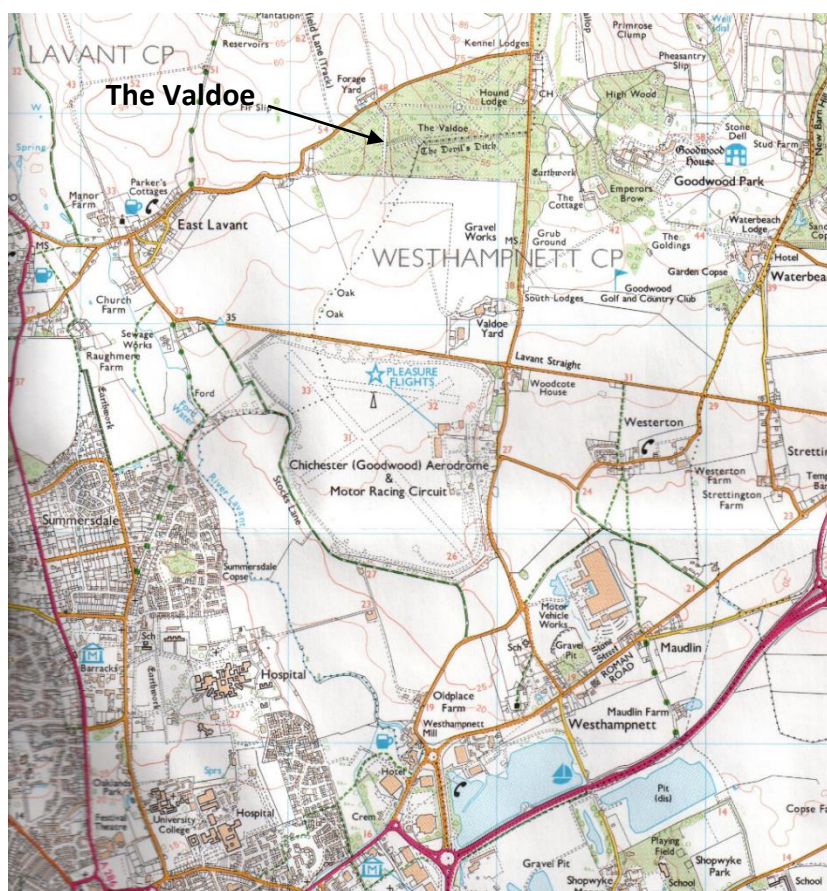


Fig. 1. The Valdoe relative to Chichester and East Lavant.

The Valdoe is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and is described as “...ancient semi-natural woodland consisting mostly of Pedunculated Oak and Hazel, with some mature Beech and planted Sweet Chestnut”ⁱ. The ground flora includes Dog’s Mercury, Gladdon, Spurge Laurel and Common Cow-wheat, all listed as indicator plants of ancient woodland.ⁱⁱ However, the absence of Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) or Pry, and the presence of lynchets, indicates ancient secondary woodland rather than wildwood origins. Rackhamⁱⁱⁱ states that ‘there is a very strong correlation between the areas of wood in those parishes which had woods in 1279 and the corresponding areas at the present day.....These correlations make it unlikely that there have been major changes in the location of woods since the 13th century.’

Possibly, the earliest reference to The Valdoe is as the “Park of Foldey” within Lavant or Loventon in 1285. Lavant was held by the Archbishop of Canterbury at this time.^{iv}

Sir William Morley (1639-1701) is identified as “of Balndo” . Balndo is bracketed with “Valdoe in Westhampnett” ^v in 1676.

In 1705 there is reference to Faldy Coppice in a post-nuptial settlement, included in the manor of East Lavant.^{vi} The transfer of ownership of Halnaker Park includes “4 crofts by the parke and Faldy Coppice.”

On the 30th May 1727, Thomas Heberden of East Lavant, yeoman, leased, at £58 per year a “Tenement called Valdoe Coppice Farmhouse, with two barns, carthouse and other.” ^{vii}

The Parish Records of East Lavant dated 29th July 1758 relate to a deposition concerning the tithes of Faldy (Valdoe) Coppice. ^{viii}

Even in 1772 the name ‘Faldy Coppice’ was in use. In an Act of Vesting to enable “East Lavant Manor.....and Faldy Coppicesto be sold to Charles, 3rd Duke of Richmond.” ^{ix}

Again, in 1794, in a Reconveyancing document, there is reference to Faldy Coppice.

The United Kingdom Land Tax Redemption for The Duke of Richmond dated 1798, in Register 96885 offers Vaulder Coppice, in the Parish of East Lavant at an assessed sum of £3.19.0.

The name Valdoe most likely comes from Old English ‘weald’ meaning ‘forest’ and/or ‘domain’ (cognate with German ‘wald’), like that of the Weald itself .^x

The Neolithic people living on the Somerset Levels used coppiced tree trackways and “the Romans probably coppiced large areas of the Wealden woodlands to fuel their iron-works.”^{xi}

John Evelyn ^{xii}(1620-1706) writes under ‘Of Coppices’ that Marcus Varro, a Roman author (116BC-), said to have watered his favourite trees with wine, defined coppice as ‘Sylva caedua’*, later adopted in Ecclesiastical Law as meaning ‘ wood of any kind which was kept on purpose to be cut, and which, being cut, grew again from the stump or root’. Evelyn states in ‘Sylva’ that ‘our ordinary coppices are chiefly upon hasle, or the birch’. Following details of ‘best husbandry’, Evelyn adds ‘the profit arising from copp’ces so manag’d shall equal, if not exceed what is usually made by the plough or grazing.’

Timber production was carefully managed. Regarding statutes, Evelyn records that ‘laws and civil constitutions of great antiquity’ govern coppicing, quoting Pliny, Paulus, et al. ‘From time of Edward the Fourth, were enacted many excellent laws for the planting, securing, cutting and ordering of woods, coppices and underwood....’

In 1372 (45 Edw. 3), ‘Sylva caedua (coppice; also ‘underwood’) is express exempted from tithe’ ^{xiii}, Gros bois, in Common Law, relates to timber trees such as oak and ash, and, from 20 years upward are exempt from being tithed. ‘Every species of wood, which is not timber, is titheable’. Apparently, unsaleable underwoods were not rateable for the relief of the poor.

A statute of 1483 (22 Edw. IV), controlled grazing and age of coppices. In 1544 (35 Henry VIII) ensures 'there were to be left twelve 'standils' or stores of oak, upon each acre....' Also, 'the underwood may be cut from January, at the latest, until mid-March or April, or from mid-September till near the end of November, so as to be avoided by Midsummer'. During Elizabeth's 13th year as Queen (1571), further statutes appeared. '...men were bound to enclose Copp'ces after felling', and 'your elder under-wood may be graz'd about July....newly weaned calves are the least noxious...and some say, colts of a year old'. In Elizabeth's 23rd year, there was a statute made 'to prohibit the converting of timber trees to coal, or other fuel, for the use of iron-mills... 'Tis a pity some of those places in Kent, Sussex and Surrey were exempted....for they will else ruin Old-England'.


In Evelyn's period, tithes were paid, 'sylva caedua, as coppices and underwoods, pay the tenth whenever the proprietor receives his nine parts', also 'in the Wild of Sussex, tithe wood is not paid, as for faggots, but in the Downs they pay for both.'

That tithes were paid on underwood from The Valdoe (Faldy or ffaldy Coppice) is recorded by oaths sworn by Henry Newman and James Eldridge on 29th July 1758.^{xiv} Figures 2 and 3 show the oaths together with a transcription of each.

*Henry Newman of East Lavant in the County of
Sussex Taylor aged Seventy four Years Maketh Oath &
Saith That he was born in the said Parish & hath liv'd
There ever since, except now & then that he had gone from
there for a short time as his business hath required
him. Saith he well know the Faldy Coppice in the said
Parish & remembers That when One William Mant rented
The Tyths of the said Parish of East Lavant of Mr Bepton the then
Rector of East Lavant He was once or more in the said –
Coppice with the said Mants Waggon & saw the said Waggon
Loaded with Tyth Faggots there & brought to the said Mants
House, besides Frith that was allow'd for the use of his
Farm which he then rented of the Earl of Derby.*

Henry Newman

29th July 1758 sworn at the City of Chichester Before me} Will: Tutte: a Mag. In Chancery
extry. *John BETTON was Rector of St. Mary, Lavant between 1676 and 1720 (Prebendal).
Henry Newman was born in East Lavant in 1684, so the above occurred between the late
1600s and 1720. Will: Tutte was a Master (Magister) in Chancery Extraordinary.

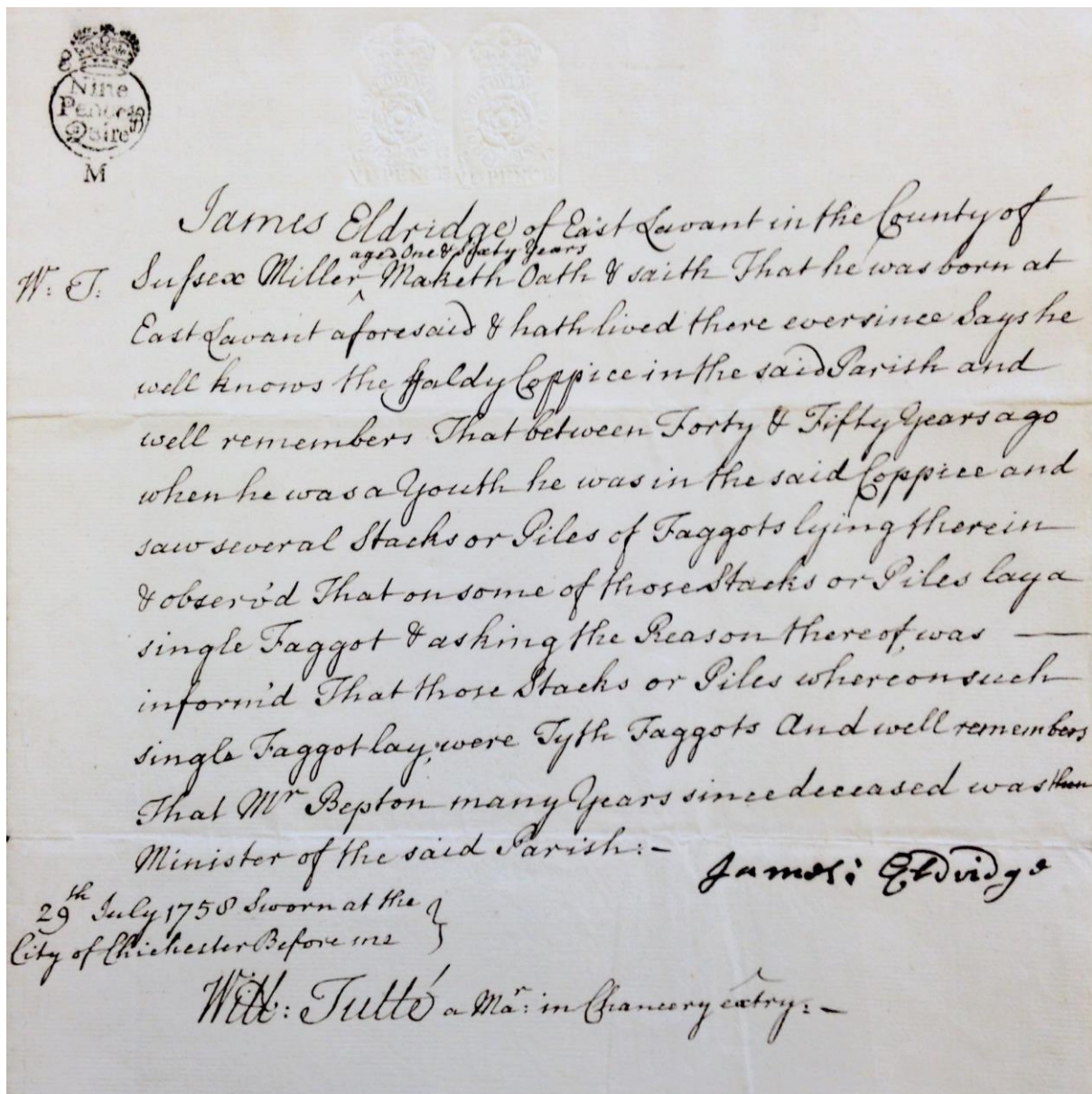


 Henry Newman of East Lavant in the County of
 Sussex Taylor aged seventy four Yeares Maketh Oath &
 saith That he was born in the said Parish & hath liv'd -
 there ever since, except now & then that he had gone from
 thence for a short time as his business hath required
 him, saith he well knows the Taldy Coppice in the said
 Parish & remembers That when One William Mant resided
 W. J. the Tyths of the said ^{Parish} of East Lavant of Mr Bepton the then
 Rector of East Lavant He was once or more in the said -
 Coppice with the said Mants Waggon & saw the said Waggon
 loaded with Tyth Faggots there & brought to the said Mants
 house, besides Tyth that was allow'd for the use of his
 Farm which he then rented of the Earl of Derby.
 29th July 1758 Sworn at the } Henry Newman
 City of Chester Before me }
 W. J. Tuttle a Ma^r in Chancery at try.

Fig.2 Henry Newman's oath dated 29th July 1758

James Eldridge of East Lavant in the County of
 Sussex Miller aged one & sixty years Maketh Oath & saith That he was born at
 East Lavant aforesaid & hath lived there ever since Says he
 Well knows the ffaldy Coppice in the said Parish and
 well remembers That between Forty & Fifty Years ago
 when he was a youth he was in the said Coppice and
 saw several Stacks or Piles of Faggots lying therein
 & observed That on some of those Stacks or Piles lay a
 Single Faggot & asking the Reason thereof, was
 Inform'd That those Stacks or Piles whereon such
 Single Faggot lay, were Tyth Faggots and well remembers
 That Mr Bepton many Years since deceased was then
 Minister of the said Parish -James: Eldridge

29th July 1758 sworn at the City of Chichester Before me } Will: Tutte a Mar. in Chancery
 extry: - James Eldridge was born in 1697. The Minister referred to was John BETTON.



James Eldridge of East Lavant in the County of
 W. J. Sussex Miller ^{aged One & Forty Years} Maketh Oath & saith That he was born at
 East Lavant aforesaid & hath lived there ever since says he
 well knows the faldy Loppice in the said Parish and
 well remembers That between Forty & Fifty Years ago
 when he was a Youth he was in the said Loppice and
 saw several Stacks or Piles of Faggots lying therein
 & observ'd That on some of those Stacks or Piles lay a
 single Faggot & asking the Reason thereof was —
 inform'd That those Stacks or Piles whereon such
 single Faggot lay were Tyth Faggots And well remembers
 That M^r Bepton many Years since deceased was then
 Minister of the said Parish: — James Eldridge

29th July 1758 Sworn at the
 City of Chichester Before me }
 Will: Tutte a Mar: in Chancery extry: —

Fig 3. James Eldridge's oath dated 29th July 1758

A survey in 1828 recorded the area of The Valdoe as approximately 239 acres.^{xv} Today, the area of woodland is about half that acreage, due to clearance in the Southern section for gravel extraction in the 1960s.

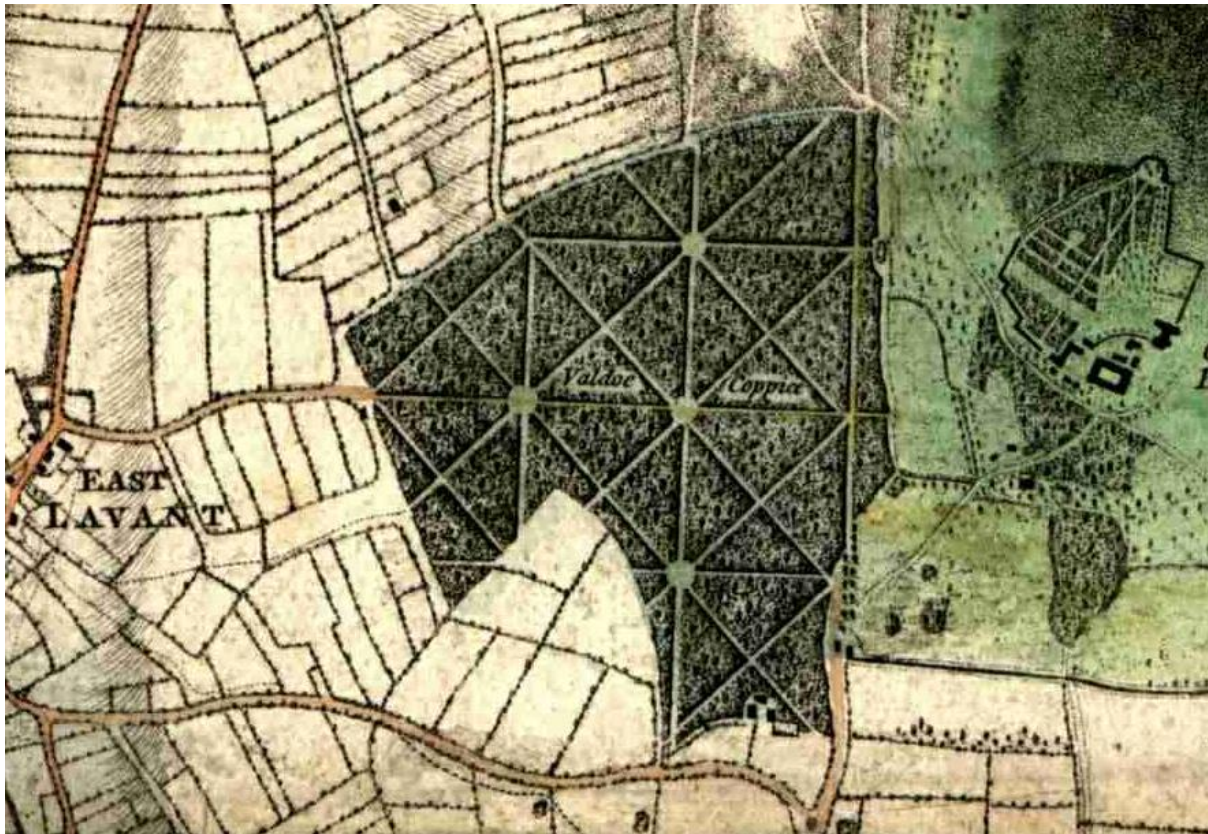


Fig.4. An engraving dated 1781^{xvi}

Other early records of The Valdoe as commercial woodland relates to Thomas Heberden who, in 1727, was legally taking “one acre of coppice wood or fryth (brushwood)...out of Valdoe Coppice”^{xvii}. Was Heberden a “timber, bark and copse-ware merchant” as described in Thomas Hardy’s ‘The Woodlanders’? Hardy’s merchant, George Melbury had an ‘area for stacking timber, faggots, hurdles and other products of the wood’ and an enclosure ‘used for spar-making, sawing, crib-framing and copse-ware manufacture in general.’

Albert West from East Dean, whose father and grandfather were in the “underwood trade” and started in the same occupation in 1941, wrote an article for the Volunteers’ News for The Open Air Museum. ^{xviii} He begins by describing the character of the woodland used. “Some parts are 90 per cent chestnut with a little ash and birch. There are still areas of this remaining in the Valdoe CopseOther copses consisted mostly of hazel and these were used for hoops, hurdles and spars.” He continues “coppice wood was allowed to grow for eight to twelve years for suitable material for hurdles, hoops and spars, etc. For fencing wood grown to twenty five years made better posts because more heart timber was formed.”

Under the subtitle ‘Method of Sale,’ Mr. West explains that areas of standing timber used to be sold by auction, but when he bought underwood from the Goodwood Estate purchase

was by tender. A catalogue containing the areas for sale duly numbered with the measurements and location were sent to those engaged in the work. There were also opportunities for private purchase.

Mr West explains methods of cutting, terminology and the tools used. He explains that copsemen were paid by how much they did. Eight acres was good for a cutting season that extended from October to mid-March. This would be working from 4am to 6pm with two half-hour breaks for lunch and tea.

Another dealer in the products of coppicing was Charles Milton^{xix} of Tillington, West Sussex. Milton kept a Coppice Book containing accounts for the management of woodland in the year 1830.

Below are examples of the expenses involved.

1830 Expenses – making pimps

April 10th.	John Miles	1800	pimped	10d (per hundred)	15(s)	1(d)
	Barns	300	“	10d	2	6
	?	550	“	10d	4	7
	For 19 days cutting and coppicing at 1/6 per day				£1	8 6

(Pimps were bundles of offcuts from hurdle and besom making bound together and sold in fives for fire lighting.^{xx})

Expenses of planting in nursery, March 1830

George Sageman	3days	4	0
Total 13 men	£2 14	6	

The products from Mitford's coppice included those below:

210 Rails, 350 Stakes, 80 Stumps (James Terry?)	£5	4	3
Waterbury 50 Rails, 150 Stakes, 86 Fagots, 75 Bavins.			
900 ½ Kiln bavins > Kiln			
12 th June John Miles 50 Oak fagots out of Waterloo	6	0	
August 15 th (1830) 100 Oak fagots	13	0	
? Oakwood for Lime Kiln	7	10 ½	

(Fagots (faggots) used for burning; bundles 30" x 12". Bavins were similar to faggots but for specific ovens (Baker's bavins) or Furnaces (Kiln bavins)).

The underlying geology of The Valdoe is Tarrant Chalk. Flint occurs as nodules or bands within the chalk, and the flint has been quarried, together with the chalk, and marl, which is also present in seams in the northern section.^{xxi}

Buildings on Pook Lane, north of The Valdoe, now known as the Forage Yard, are referred to as the Flint Barn and Yard (SU874091). In The Valdoe opposite is a large excavation variously referred to as a chalk pit or a flint pit. Flint has been used for major construction works on the Goodwood Estate. Fig.5 shows a section of the long wall enclosing parts of the estate.



Fig. 5 Flint used in wall construction

It is possible that the lime mortar used in the wall construction was also from these pits, assuming high purity of the chalk. Pengelly and Thorne^{xxii} record an indication of the presence of a lime kiln less than a kilometre north of The Valdoe. The Goodwood Timber accounts show the sale of kiln bavins. Henry Farley of Cocking, ^{xxiii} where there were two lime kilns in 1861, describes himself as 'lime burner and timber merchant' in the census of that year; emphasising the affinity between the two resources.

Much of the chalk would have been used for road stone, as well as raising the pH of farmland. Before artificial fertilizers, a marl or clay dressing to fields raised the nutrient levels.

The Goodwood Estate records relating specifically to the Valdoe

Despite its use for relaxed walking 'in the glades of the Valdoe, a favourite wood', as experienced by the 5th Duke of Richmond, together with The Duke of Wellington, Lord Raglan, Sir Charles Rowan and 'other comrades in arms', with guns, pheasant shooting, the Valdoe was essentially a commercial entity.

The Estate's 'Standing Timber survey and valuation book' dated 1802^{xxiv} records that:

The total amount of oak timber in Valdoe Coppice was valued at £6282.11s. 6d. The total number of oaks was 2656 trees. As an example, Oak No.1 (all were numbered) had a girth of 19", a Content (?) of 50, the wood was worth 2/- per foot and the Price on the Tree was £5. LopTop and Bark added a further £1 .12. So the standing oak was valued at £6 12s 0d.

The total Beech timber (90 trees) valued at £120. 3s 0d.

Ash numbered 189 trees valued at £201 2s 10d.

Walnut, maple, sycamore and cherry were included. The survey ends: "Recapitulation of Timber in Valdoe Coppice £7341 14s 0d.

This figure includes £734 for 'Tellers': 9,686 at prices varying from 4/- to 6d each. Tellers are young trees from which standard trees are selected. For every 10-20 tellers reserved only 1 or 2 may survive to become standards^{xxv}

231

1803				1803			
1/2 C of Cordwood to several	2 24	12		Rich Oaks & C. Felling 7 1/2 ft			
30 ft of S. Oakwood	2 16	16 10		of Beech at 15 ft Lene		10 9 1/2	
5 ft of C. of C. of C.	2 14	3 13 6		2 1/2 ft of Ash		4 1/2	
15 ft of S	13	9 15		Cutting 243 Posts	2 6 1/2	14 7	
1 ft of S. of B. Faggots	13	1 1 1/2		94 Rails	2 4	3 9	
1/2 C of Cordwood to Doughton	24	6		Cutting 2 ft of Cordwood	2 2 1/2	5 7 1/2	
1 ft of C. of C. of C.	14	1 4 6		Carrying out S	2 10	1 10 1/2	
1/2 C of Oakwood to S				Cutting 2 ft of Oakwood	2	5	
Re Poulting Good Farm	16	4		Carrying out S	7	1 5 1/2	
1 ft of C. of C.	14	7		Making 1 ft of B. Faggots	2	3 3	
1/2 C of Cordwood to Kent L.D. 2		13		Carrying out S	0 7	11 1/2	
1/2 C of Cordwood to S. Master		1 4		Making 10 ft of C. of C.	2	6	
1/2 C of C. of C. to S	14	1 1		Carrying out S	2 7	5 11 1/2	
1/2 C. Oakwood by Gardens	16	4		Making 5 ft of C. of C.	2	11	
1 ft of C. of C.	14	3 6		Carrying out S	6	2 9	
1/2 C of Oakwood to R. C. C.		16		Cutting 1/2 ft of C. of C.	2 2	2 10	
1 ft of C. of C. to S		14		S. Whitall & C. Cutting		1 5 3	
1/2 C of Oakwood to Mount Dull House		4		12 ft of C. of Oakwood at 2		16 3	
1 ft of C. of C. to S	14	7		Making 1 ft of C. of C.	2	1 4 1/2	
1/2 C of C. of C. to Bichster	5 6 1/2	1 10 3		Cutting 1 ft of C. of C.	0 2		

Figure 1. Goodwood Estate Timber accounts 1803

Fig I is a copy of the Goodwood Estate Timber accounts for Valdoe Coppice in Hampnet Parish in 1803ⁱ. An example of the entries for Income follows.

(Income)

		£	s	d
6d of cordwood to several	@ 24(d)		12	0
20 ./.2 (1/2) ./.8 (1/8) Stackwood	@ 16	16	10	0
5 ./.4 hd (hundred) of bavins	@ 14	3	13	6
15 hd of bavins	@ 13	9	15	0
1 ./.2 ./.8 hd of B Faggots	@ 13	1	1	1 1/2
5 ./.2 hd of bavins to Brick kiln	S/6	1	10	3
39 ./.2 ft. of Ash to J Andrews @ 20 pft.		3	15	10
22 Loads of Bark to Messrs				
Thornton and Rapier	317	62	10	0 48
posts to East Lavant Farm	6	2	2	0
24 Ends containing 1569 ft of Oak Timber				
To Edw. Northeast at ? Place		222	4	11 ./.2
2 Ends of 116 ft. to d(itto)	24 ./.2 pft.	12	13	9
2 Ends 66ft. planks to d.	36 3/4	10	2	1 ./.2
1 End 59ft. of Oak to Goodwood	31 ./.2	7	14	10 ./.2
2 d. 82 ft. d. to d.	27 3/4	9	15	1 ./.2
		443	2	3/4

During the same year, 1803, the Expenses are as shown below.

(Expenses)

	£	s	d
Rich Wells & Co. Felling 7ld (load) 10ft			
Of Beech @ 18d pr load		10	9./2
2 Ld 46./2 ft of Ash		4	4 3/4
Cutting 243 posts @ s6 (6 shillings) phd.		4	4 3/4
D 94 rails @ 4 d		3	9
Cutting 2 ./4 of cordwood @ 2/6		5	7./2
Carrying out d @ 10d		1	10./2
Cutting 2./2 of stackwood s2		5	-
Carrying out d 7		1	5./2
Making 1./2 ./8 of B Faggots s2		3	3
Making 5./2 hd of kiln bavins s2		11	-
D 10./2 of lop bavins s2	1	0	6
Cutting 17 hd. Of withs @ 2d			
2 10			
Cutting 6./2 ./8 of withs @ 2d		1	1./4
Balance	434	17	4
	£ 443	2	3./4

The Income from The Valdoe in 1803 was equivalent to approximately £26,000 in today's terms. (Office of National Statistics). Paid work being equivalent to £500.

Timber in Valdoe Coppice in Hampnet Parish

1797				1797			
4 ³ / ₄ Cord of Stackwood to Sea at 15			3 13 1 ¹ / ₂	Dyer & Carpenter cutting			
3 ¹ / ₄ H ^d of Ravins to D ^r at 12			1 10 -	- 10 Cord of Cordwood at 2		3	
10 Cord of Cordwood to the Kennel 22			2 9	6 ¹ / ₂ Cord of Stackwood at 10		9 11 ¹ / ₂	
7 ¹ / ₂ Cord of Stackwood to D ^r at 15			3 9	3 ¹ / ₂ H ^d of Ravins made at 2		7 3	
7 ¹ / ₂ H ^d of Ravins to D ^r at 12			4 6	3 ¹ / ₂ H ^d of Ravins cut at 2		7 ¹ / ₂	
17 ¹ / ₂ Cord of Stackwood to L. Malters			1 2 6	2 H ^d of Bakers Faggots at 2		4	
2 H ^d of Bakers Faggots to D ^r at 15			1 0 -				
Right on Bark, the Bark now page 213			6 1 2	Balance		38 16 5 ¹ / ₂	
6 1 ¹ / ₂ in 15 of Oak to Goddard at 40. 27 ¹ / ₂ p ^t			25 3 8 ¹ / ₂	Right cast J Bayley		39 18 6	
Right cast J Bayley			39 18 6				

Figure 2. Goodwood Estate Timber Accounts 1797

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- ⁱ Lavant Watershed Biodiversity Opportunity Area: Sussex Biodiversity Partnership.
- ⁱⁱ Francis Rose. Indicators of Ancient Woodland: "British Wildlife" April 1999.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Rackham O (1967) Monks Wood Symposium 3: Biotic effects of public pressures on the environment.
- ^{iv} B C Redwood and AE Wilson. Customs of the Sussex Manors of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sussex Record Society (1958) Vol.57 p.19.
- ^v The Diocese and Archdeaconry of Chichester. Deposition Books Ep/1/11/17
- ^{vi} Goodwood: E322 (p47) dated 15.05.1705
- ^{vii} WSRO MS 869
- ^{viii} WSRO Par/120/6/1
- ^{ix} Goodwood /E202
- ^x Dr Dunstan LOWE, Lecturer in Latin Literature, University of Kent. (e-mail 05.01.2016)
- ^{xi} Fuller R J and Warren M S (1993) 'Coppiced woodlands: their management for wildlife.'
- ^{xii} John Evelyn (1620-1706) *'Sylva: or a discourse of forest trees...'* Vol 2 Chapt.1
- ^{xiii} Boll E. and Pratt J T. (1827) *'The Laws Relating to the Poor'* Vol.1.
- ^{xiv} WSRO Par 120/6/1
- ^{xv} Goodwood E5148
- ^{xvi} Goodwood E67/pp 61, 62.
- ^{xvii} WSRO MS 869 (H C & Co)
- ^{xviii} Volunteers News, The Open Air Museum. No.4. Winter 1974.
- ^{xix} Mitford Mss. 2318 (1830) Coppice Book.
- ^{xx} "The Cleft Stick" Issue 3 June 2014 (NCFed)
- ^{xxi} Pengelly M and Thorne A (2015) 'An Interim Report.....'
- ^{xxii} See 4 above.
- ^{xxiii} 'Cocking Lime Works'; Cocking History Group 2005
- ^{xxiv} Goodwood E5442
- ^{xxv} MATTHEWS J D (1991) *'Sylvicultural Systems'*

Section 2: Covers research into possible military use of The Valdoe, up to and including World War I.

War preparations and activity

The Sussex Courier dated 18th April 2004 comments:

“Sussex defiance in the face of the threat of an invasion in the early years of the 19th Century was renewed in 1914, when Kaiser Wilhelm’s armies neared the Channel coast, and again in 1940, after Hitler’s blitzkrieg advance through the Low Countries and Northern France.”

Can apparent military activity in The Valdoe be attributed to the response to these threats?

The 3rd Duke of Richmond (1735-1806) purchased the Halnaker Estate in 1765 and East Lavant Manor in 1775, including Faldy Coppice.^{xxv} During the years of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815), the Duke of Richmond was Lord Lieutenant of Sussex and Colonel of the Sussex Gentleman and Yeomanry Cavalry and Sussex Militia.^{xxv} Training included ‘sham battles’. Ann Hudson in ‘Napoleonic Barracks in Sussex’^{xxv} describes barracks as a phenomenon of the period. Chichester Barracks were a ‘more permanent’ site, but many were temporary, housing officers, men, horses and magazines. From mid-1803 the barracks at Chichester (later to be known as the Roussillon Barracks) housed 1500 men.^{xxv} It is possible that The Valdoe, on the 3rd Duke’s estate, and close to Chichester, would be utilized for ‘sham battles’. Supposedly, trench warfare began in WWI but Fig. 1 shows an area where musket fire was exchanged in the Battle of Hohenlinden on the 3rd December 1800.^{xxv} No reference can be found regarding training trenches in Britain during the Napoleonic Wars.

Certainly the trenches at The Valdoe have little in common with those shown.



Fig.1. The battlefield at Hohenlinden

The Great War 1914-18

The 7th, 8th and 9th Royal Sussex Regiments were raised in Chichester in September 1914, but moved to various billets in Britain; including Ireland. The 3rd (Reserve) Battalion was a depot/training unit based at Chichester. World War I training trenches have been identified in Folkestone,^{xxv} Marlow^{xxv} and elsewhere in Britain (Figs. 2 and 3). It is unlikely that The Valdoe trenches date from this period however, since corrugated iron appears in the structure of one trench. Certainly the British Army was using galvanised iron for building since the late 19th Century, but when placed in the ground, corrosion due to water and electrolytes e.g. nitrates can destroy it within 50 years.^{xxv}

It is possible that The Valdoe trenches were not for training but observation and possible defence. The Mid-Lavant Wood Distillery Company was operational in 1918 and situated north of The Valdoe, toward Lavant Down. Described as an 'explosives factory' it actually produced calcium acetate or acetate of lime used in cordite manufacture. Timber was transported across the Goodwood Estate by ropeway from North Wood, Eartham. The ropeway was constructed by The Canadian Forestry Corps based at Slindon.^{xxv} Was there extra vigilance in the vicinity of the distillery?



Fig.2. WW1 training trench in the Curragh, Co. Kildare^{xxv}



Fig.3 WWI training trenches at Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh^{xxv}

^{xxv} The Goodwood Estate Archives (GEA) Vol.1 E202

^{xxv} Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Vol.122 (pp.165-181)

^{xxv} SAC Vol. 124 (pp.267-8).

^{xxv} P Longstaff-Tyrell (20002) 'Barracks and Bunkers'

^{xxv} Thorsten Straub: Literatur für Schatzsucher

^{xxv} 'WW1 trenches discovered': BBC News Channel (Video) 06.09.2009

^{xxv} ROMADAM Project

^{xxv} www.finishing.com

^{xxv} GEA Ms 1315 and 1316

^{xxv} Great War Forum online

^{xxv} Guard Archaeology online

Section 3 Attempts to explain the high density of troops in the area during World War II.

West Sussex during World War 2

Between 1939 and 1945 the Roussillon Barracks were manned by Depot Rear Details. It was also occupied by 45 ITC (Infantry Training Centre) 70th Young Soldiers and the United States Army. ^{xxv} The Young Soldiers Battalions were formed from young volunteers who could not be posted overseas until 19 years of age. Together with the Home Guard they played a Home Defence role until disbanded in 1943.

Chichester Local Defence Volunteers became the 1st Battalion, Sussex Home Guard in 1940^{xxv}, with an area north of Chichester which would have included The Valdoe. Weapons and other kit were in short supply. Geoffrey Smeeth of Lavant joined the LDV aged 15 (he lied about his age). He could not join initially because they had no more armaments, however, he owned a shotgun and was accepted. ^{xxv}

Ode to the Home Guard (Winkle Ayling 1943)^{xxv}

With prongs and sticks and shotguns
There was John and Joe and Tom
Right through the bally country
The Home Guard was formed and strong.

The West Sussex Home Guard Pocket Book ^{xxv} details the roles of the Home Guard, among which are: observe and report; delay and obstruct the enemy and protect the local population and facilities. Local Home Guard commanders were apparently left to develop their own tactics, relevant to their own locality. ^{xxv} An article in the West Sussex Gazette dated June 25th 1942 ^{xxv} records the Chichester Company was affiliated to the Royal Sussex Regt., receiving instruction from officers and NCOs of an Infantry Training Centre. Training in the local area is described by a Home Guard member: "A party was sent by lorry to a point near Goodwood Racecourse to establish a Machine Gun Post at a location indicated by Map reference only. A second party sent by another route had to locate the Machine Gun Post and clear them out." In January 1942 the same unit was provided with an instructor from the Royal Canadian Regt. ^{xxv} Another example of the use of local terrain for training by the Home Guard is related by Harold Taylor of the Chichester Battalion ..."I had only just turned 15....My first Sunday exercise....moved to trench on the bank of the Lavant to await approaching enemy." ^{xxv} They attended manoeuvres, sometimes with the Army and RAF at Goodwood, they also manned various posts in and around the City, Westhampnett Mill for example. ^{xxv}

A West Sussex HG manual for 'Patrol Duties' orders patrols to 'keep vigilant watch for the landing of parachutists and any suspicious movements of civilians and other unexplained

happenings’ and to ‘take cover keeping parachutists under observation until the arrival of reinforcements.’

A weekend ‘HG Invasion Exercise’ is described in the West Sussex Gazette dated 1st October 1942, involving the HG and other Civil Defence Services of the Singleton, East Dean and West Dean area and other military personnel. ‘Heavy fighting was in progress along a line from Arundel to Fishbourne’ and was ‘particularly heavy around Chichester. The HG was called upon to deal with paratroops (regular soldiers). The Lavant HG platoon provided the enemy.’

In September 1940, units of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division arrived in Sussex.^{xxv} Between 15-20,000 men.^{xxv} Jeff Farley of Singleton^{xxv} remembers Home Guard (HG) exercises with the Canadians stationed at Lavant. Midhurst HG^{xxv} and Fernhurst HG^{xxv} were trained by officers of the Canadian Army.

Figure 1 shows copies of requests by two HG commanders to Col. Keene of The Lorne Scots of the 4th, Canadian Division stationed at Cove, Hampshire.^{xxv}

In “Sussex Home Guard”, Paul Crook mentions the Home Guard facing the Canadians of Princess Patricia’s Light Infantry and the 1st Canadian Corps ‘dug-in’ in Goodwood and Slindon.^{xxv} Leonard Piper in a rural area of West Sussex describes how the Canadian Army supplied the local HG with transport, unarmed combat training, and, towards the end of the summer of 1943, were involved in an ‘invasion’ exercise: the enemy being ‘our old friends’ the Canadian Army.^{xxv}

Not only Canadian soldiers used the South Downs as a training area. The 4th US Cavalry Division was at Littlewood (Farm?) and manoeuvred around the Goodwood region.^{xxv} The British Army was present, for example, the Coldstream Guards, 27th Armoured Brigade and the 15th Scots Infantry Div.^{xxv}

By early 1944 British and Commonwealth troops became involved in large scale and testing exercises across the south of England. These exercises became less concerned with defence but with cross-Channel offensives.^{xxv} The HG was formally stood down in December 1944.

A villager from Fernhurst mentions “the Royal Observation Corps, who had an observation post in a field at the back of the cottages.”^{xxv} Nothing in the records identifies this observation post, nor any other ROC post in the area, but, since the ROC was taken over by the RAF in 1939 and the RAF used the airfield at Westhampnett, the ROC presence is probable.

H.E.Crooks of the 21st Company, Royal Army Medical Corps., billeted at Goodwood House, describes stretcher bearing exercises in a copse. A rough map suggests this was The Valdoe.^{xxv}

C O P Y

Boldrewood,
Sunningdale,
Berks.

Dear Col. Keene,

I am writing to ask if you can provide the necessary instructors for the programme for the coming Sunday February 9th.

Programme as under:-

1. (a) Rifle.
(b) Lewis Gun.
(c) Map Reading etc.
(d) Field craft.

2. Upper Ribsdon Platoon will be at Higham's Corner (Near Foxhill) at 2.30 p.m. ready with entrenching tools to dig rifle pits etc. Can an instructor be there to see that these are properly sited, that they are of a right type and to give hints regarding camouflage etc.

3. Captain Bright (Upper Ribsdon Platoon) tells me that you agreed to send some instructors with his party to Bisley on Sunday morning (9th) starting from this Headquarters (Boldrewood, Sunningdale) at 10.a.m.

Yours sincerely

(signed) F. Kinsman.

February 6th 1941.

HOME GUARD.

"B" COMPANY. 1st Bn. SURREY H.G.

SUNDAY. FEBRUARY 9th 1941. 2.30 PM. Windlesham Council Schools.

Instruction under instructors kindly arranged for by Col. Keene C.O. Lorne Scots, will be continued on the following subjects:-

1. Observation and Map reading and Special class for Guides and D.Rs.
2. Fieldcraft, elementary tactics and camouflage.
3. Lewis Gun. (Selected volunteers)
4. Rifle.

Upper Ribsdon Platoon will parade at 2.30 PM Higham's Corner (Grid 395840) for preparing Weapon pits under Lorne Scots Instructors and supervision. (Picks, shovels, Sand bags etc are to be brought).

2.30 PM 10 minutes Drill. Volunteers are to bring Gas Masks.

February 3rd 1941.

C.W.H. Taylor,
i/c Training School.

Fig.1. Requests for training instruction made to the Canadian Army.

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- xxv P. Longstaff-Tyrrell "Barracks to Bunkers" 2002
- xxv Louisa Garrett Anderson "Home Guard" online.
- xxv Goodwood Villages Together "We just got on with it" 2005.
- xxv The Fernhurst Centre: BBC "WW2 People's War"
- xxv Brig.Gen A F U Green: WSRO Add. Mss. 54.790
- xxv Home Guard: Louisa Garrett Anderson: History Learning online.
- xxv "Wartime West Sussex 1939-45" www.westsussexpost.org.uk
- xxv History of the Bognor Regis Post Office Home Guard Unit.
- xxv Life story Library: Home Guard Duties: online
- xxv Chichester Observer dated 28th April 2010 re Chichester Home Guard.
- xxv See 7 above.
- xxv Canada at War Forum January 2012.
- xxv See 3 above.
- xxv The story of the home front in West Sussex 1939-1945. Wartime West Sussex 1939-45 project.
- xxv See 4 above.
- xxv National Defence and the Canadian Forces. www.forces.gc.ca
- xxv "Sussex Home Guard": Paul Crook (1998)
- xxv See 4 above.
- xxv See 3 above.
- xxv See 1 above
- xxv Canadian Roots UK: online.
- xxv See 4 above.
- xxv See 3 above.

Section 4 Lists observations which help to form opinions regarding the origin of trenches identified by Lidar images. The Westhampnett Airfield document includes a Summary, discussing possible origins of trenches and weapon-pit.

The Valdoe Trenches



Fig. 1 Lidar Image



Fig.2 Entrenchment within The Valdoe



Fig.3. Entrenchment within The Valdoe leading to roadside excavation



Fig.4. The roadside excavation at The Valdoe



Fig.5. Concrete used at the roadside excavation



Fig.6. Corrugated iron at the roadside site.

Observations

The Valdoe site appears isolated from other military activity, however it is situated beside a road leading to the Westhampnett Airfield (WW2) and Goodwood and faces open fields upon which enemy gliders and/or paratroopers might land. Somewhere in that area was an 'explosives factory' (WW1).

Many Army camps were tented and leave no trace.

The entrenchments within the wood are extensive and deep which suggests they are perhaps not merely training trenches. The excavation overlooking Pook Lane and the fields beyond appears riveted with corrugated iron.

If these are training trenches, the Home Guard would be the main suspect, being local to the Chichester, Lavant and Singleton units. Transport was often a problem. These trenches are not the result of a Sunday training activity however (See Section 3; pp1-2 re Home Guard training).

The battalions of the Regular Armies would be unlikely to use areas such as The Valdoe for training when they have the whole of the South Downs and huge training areas in Surrey and Hampshire available, together with transport.

Assuming that the shovel discovered was actually used in the trench digging, it is not an Army trenching tool but one that might be used by soldiers who were poorly kitted out. The Home Guard for example. See Figs.7 and 8.



Fig.7 Shovel found at site of Valdoe trenches



Fig.8. British Army WW2 shovel

The roadside excavation appears a much more permanent site, with concrete and corrugated iron incorporated into its structure.

The siting of the roadside 'trench' suggests an Observation Post. Fig.9 is taken from an Infantry Field Manual dated June 1942 ¹, but unlikely to be for the Royal Observation Corps since does not offer 360 degree view. However the position does offer a 'wide range of fire' should it have been a weapons-pit.

INFANTRY FIELD MANUAL



FIGURE 39.—Observation post in tree.

NOTE.—Choose tree near edge of woods or in grove of trees so that surrounding foliage will form background for and screen observer.

Fig 9. Infantry Field Manual (1942)

Despite the apparently unanswered pleadings of Colonel Montmorency:

With the Vicar's stirrup pump, a pitchfork, and a stave
It's rather hard to guard an aerodrome
So if you can't oblige us with a Bren gun
The Home Guard might as well go home.
"Could you please oblige us with a Bren gun?
The lack of one is wounding to our pride
Last night we found the cutest, little German parachutist
He looked at our kit and giggled a bit, and laughed until he cried.

Noel Coward 1943 ²

The Home Guard was eventually issued with Bren Guns. Fig.10 shows a small gun-pit, probably for Bren gun use³. Bren guns would have been available to all Regular Army battalions, of course, as well as the RAF.



Fig.10 A small gun-pit

Anti-Aircraft (Ack-ack) guns were mounted in similar pits, but it would need to be larger. The Home Guard manned ack-ack guns⁴ but no mention is made of the Chichester HG using them.

Fig.11 shows The Valdoe as on an approach road to the Goodwood Estate where troops were stationed, and its proximity to the Westhampnett Airfield (now Goodwood or Chichester Aerodrome).

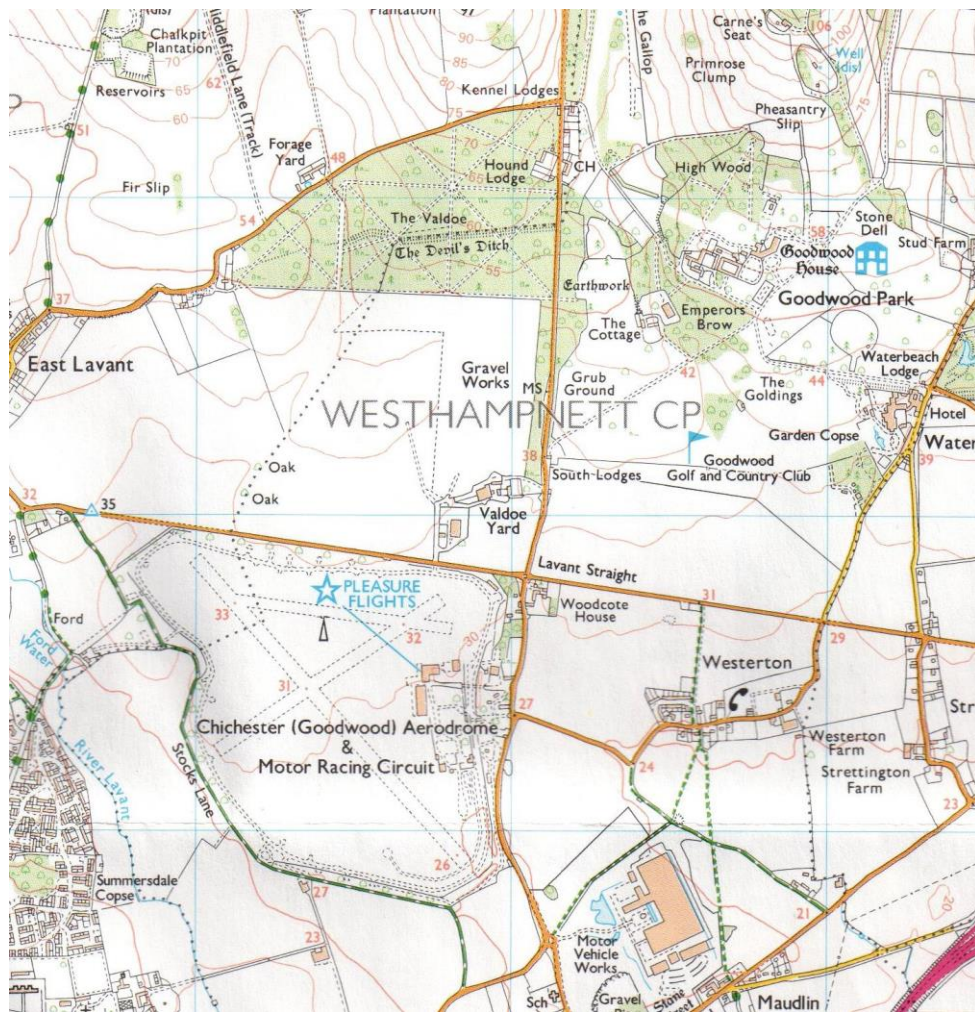


Fig.11. OS Map showing The Valdoe relative to Westhampnett (Goodwood) Airfield.

WW2 airfields that were within twenty miles of the coast were designated as at high risk of airborne attack. Most had a ring of pillboxes that defended the perimeter. Other defences were the decision of the Commanding Officer.

Open areas within 5 miles of airfields were considered possible landing sites for paratroops and gliders. Defence in these areas would include gun pits, sandbag defence posts and trenches 5.

One source suggests the following as being involved in airfield defence:

1. Field Forces (British Army), but there were concerns regarding availability.
2. Home Defence Battalions consisting of the Home Guard and Young Soldier Battalions.
3. Royal Engineers Construction Companies whose main role to repair runway damage.
4. RAF Staff, armed only with rifles until February 1942, when the RAF Regiment was formed, with sole responsibility for airfield defence 6.
5. Mobile Strike Forces with armoured lorries 7. Favoured by the Americans. The USAAF was flying out of Westhampnett.

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- 1 Infantry Field Manual. Rifle Company. War Department: June 2, 1942.
 - 2 Could you please oblige us with a Bren gun? (Verses 4 and 11) Noel Coward 1943: International Lyrics Playground.
 - 3 Kenthistoryforum.co.uk: re: WW11 Anti-aircraft guns at Fort Amherst.
 - 4 Joe Carley: BBC WW2 People's War ID 2309078
 - 5 Ww2talk.com/forums/topic/21140-airfield defence.
 - 6 www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk @Airfield defence'
 - 7 Airfield defence-troops: pillboxes-suffolk.webeden.co.uk

Westhampnett Airfield during World War II

Peter Jacobs in his book 'Battle of Britain – Airfields of 11 Group' (2013)¹ explains the division of Fighter Command into Groups and Sectors. Group 11 protected London and the south-east of England. The Tangmere Sector or Sector A was the most westerly sector, bounded in the west by a line from Reading to Bournemouth. Within the sector were the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, radar sites at Poling and Ventnor, several factories and the two airfields Tangmere and Westhampnett.

Westhampnett was developed just prior to WW2 as an emergency landing field for fighters based at Tangmere. Following Germany's invasion of France during May 1940, the airfield was upgraded to satellite status, with four grass runways and bell tent accommodation. Aircraft were 'dispersed around the airfield and serviced in blister-hangars'. By the start of the Battle of Britain in July 1940, it was used by Hurricanes from Tangmere. Initially, facilities were limited. Only one squadron at a time could use the airfield. On the 31st July 1940, the 145 Squadron were flying Hurricanes from Westhampnett, and in September the Spitfires of the 602 Squadron flew from there.

In August 1942 Westhampnett Airfield became USAAF Station 352. The perimeter tarmac track was extended and Nissen hut accommodation built. A map dated 1946² shows that accommodation, workshops, a hangar and two blister-hangars, had been established on The Valdoe side of the Lavant Straight, slightly north and west of Valdoe Coppice Farm, now Valdoe Yard.

Jacobs relates that defence of the south-eastern airfields, excluding London, was the responsibility of the 6th Anti-aircraft Division; armed with heavy guns and Bofors 40mm. guns, which are all wheeled. He adds however, 'several hundred light machine guns [Brens or the heavier Lewis] protecting the airfields and other key targets'. A lady who lived in Lavant during WWII, Ruby Kent³, remembers an ack-ack gun and a Nissen hut at East Lavant, 'where Locks Farm used to be'. Locks Farm does not appear on OS. Jacobs also mentions the importance of Home Defence units in local defence.

Summary:

It is impossible at this stage to identify the group(s) responsible for the trenches and weapon-pit:

- There is no evidence that troops camped under canvas in The Valdoe as they did in Trumley Copse⁴. Was The Valdoe more or less heavily wooded than today?
- Assuming trenches in the wood and the weapon pit are contemporary, the use of concrete and corrugated iron suggests they are not training structures.
- The position of the weapon-pit, overlooking Pook Lane and the open fields toward Lavant Down suggest an observation/defence role.
- The proximity of the site to Westhampnett Airfield and the risk of invasion by Germany (Operation Sea-lion, September 1940) support the observation/defence hypothesis, possible by Home Defence units.

Figures 12 and 13 below, although seventy years have passed, show that the site commands a wide view over open fields to the north of The Valdoe.



Fig.12. Pook Lane facing east. Trenches are sited on The Valdoe northern bank on the right.



Fig 13. The view from the entrenchment, northwards, toward Lavant Down

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- 1 Peter Jacobs; 'Battle of Britain – Airfields of 11 Group' 2005
2 WSRO AM 667/3; Westhampnett Airfield map dated 1946.
3 'We just got on with it' (2005)
4 See 1.