



AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

AGRICULTURE ACT 1947

Romney Marsh  
Investigation  
REPORT

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1949

TWO SHILLINGS NET

AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

AGRICULTURE ACT 1947

Romney Marsh  
Investigation  
REPORT

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1949

# CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Pages</i>
TERMS OF REFERENCE ... ..		5
SECTION I. INTRODUCTION ... ..		6
(i) Procedure ... ..	2-3	6
(ii) Description of Area ... ..	4-9	7
SECTION II. SOILS, SEA-DEFENCE AND DRAINAGE... ..		9
(i) Soils ... ..	10-18	9
(ii) Sea-Defence ... ..	19	10
(iii) Drainage ... ..	20-35	11
SECTION III. ROMNEY MARSH AGRICULTURE—PAST AND PRESENT ... ..		14
(i) Period 1866-1939 ... ..	38-42	16
(ii) War Period (1939-1945) ... ..	43-46	17
(iii) The Present (1948) ... ..	47-49	17
SECTION IV. A RESTATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM ... ..		18
SECTION V. POSSIBLE FARMING SYSTEMS FOR FULL AND EFFICIENT PRODUCTION IN ROMNEY MARSH ... ..		19
(i) Sheep Farming ... ..	54	19
(ii) Dairy Farming ... ..	55-56	20
(iii) Arable Farming, including Market Gardening ... ..	57-59	20
(iv) Ley Farming ... ..	60-62	21
SECTION VI. THE TILLAGE AREA UNDER A LEY SYSTEM ... ..		22
(i) Extent of Tillage Acreage ... ..	63-65	22
(ii) Fattening Pastures and the Plough ... ..	66-67	23
(iii) Cropping Problems ... ..	68-70	23
(iv) Use of Machinery ... ..	71	23
SECTION VII. LIVESTOCK UNDER A LEY SYSTEM ... ..		24
SECTION VIII. PRE-REQUISITE CONDITIONS FOR A LEY FARMING SYSTEM IN ROMNEY MARSH ... ..		25
(i) Farming Efficiency ... ..	78-80	25
(ii) Labour and Housing ... ..	81-87	26
(iii) Buildings and Roads ... ..	88-93	28
(iv) Land Drainage ... ..	94-98	31
(v) Public Services ... ..	99-104	32
SECTION IX. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE IN ROMNEY MARSH ... ..		33
(i) Investigation and Research ... ..	105-106	33
(ii) Future Planning and Land Use ... ..	107	33

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Pages</i>
SECTION X. CONCLUSION ... ..		34
(i) Summary of Recommendations ... ..	108	34
(ii) Compulsory Purchase or Hiring under Section 84 of the Agriculture Act, 1947 ... ..	109-112	35
APPENDIX I. Holdings on which additional buildings are recommended ... ..		36
APPENDIX II. New farm roads and improvements to existing roads recommended ... ..		38
APPENDIX III. Water supply extensions recommended ...		39

## APPENDIX I

### Holdings on which additional Buildings are Recommended (Vide Paragraphs 88-90)

Reputed Owner	Reputed Occupier	Name of Holding	Buildings recommended
All Souls' College, Oxford	G. T. Paine ...	Sandylands, Broomhill.	Implement shed and store.
All Soul's College, Oxford	H. Finn-Kelcey & Ashworth.	Scotney Court, Lydd	Implement shed and store. (Adaptation of existing buildings).
All Souls' College, Oxford	A. B. & J. Long...	Lower Agney, Lydd	Implement shed and store.
Bailey & Cogger, High Street, Tonbridge.	C. Paine ...	Cheyne Court, Brookland.	Implement shed.
F. A. Baker, Lord's Land, East Guldeford.	Owner/Occupier...	Lord's Land, East Guldeford.	Implement shed and store.
R. Balcomb, Melgrove Villa, Lydd.	Owner/Occupier...	Horsebones, Lydd	Implement shed
G. Barton, Brisley Farm, Kingsnorth.	Owner/Occupier...	Land at Stockbridge, Snave.	Implement shed.
E. E. Bath, Laurel House, New Romney.	Owner/Occupier...	Golding Land, Brookland.	Implement shed and store.
Messrs. Bevin and Felin, c/o J. H. E. Hobbs.	J. H. E. Hobbs, Stone Farm, Saltwood, Hythe.	Burmarsh Land, Burmarsh.	Implement shed and store.
G. Body, Waystreet Farm, Ruckinge.	Owner/Occupier...	Oxpound, Newchurch	Implement shed and store.
Bracher, Son and Miskin, Star House, Maidstone.	C. Paine ...	Land near Terry House, Snargate.	Implement shed.
H. Burra, Springfield, Playden.	J. Saunders and Sons.	Land at Camber ...	Implement shed and store.
G. Carey, Hothfield, Kent	J. A. Weller ...	Land in the Dowels, Kenardington.	Implement shed.
A. B. Catt, Mount Farm, Warehorne.	G. N. Boulden and Sons.	Hurst Farm, Hurst...	Implement shed and store.
Christ Church College, Oxford.	H. F. Clemen ...	Manse and Goose Land, St. Mary's.	Implement shed and store.
A. Clifton, Court Lodge, Appledore.	Owner/Occupier...	Brockmans Land, East Guldeford.	Implement shed and store.
A. Clifton, Court Lodge, Appledore.	A. B. & J. Long ...	Knatchbull Land, Ivychurch.	Implement shed and store.
W. Cook, Mount Farm, East Guldeford.	Owner/Occupier...	Mount Farm, East Guldeford.	Implement shed and store.
W. E. Crump, Stoddard Farm, Beckley, Sussex.	A. T. Skinner ...	Puddick Land, Brookland.	Implement shed.
Major Teichman Derville, Red House, Littlestone.	S. Buck ...	Manor Farm, Snave	Implement shed.
Mrs. Duthoit, Bridge Farm, Warehorne.	J. A. Duthoit ...	Land at Stockbridge, Snave.	Implement shed.
Exors. F. E. Fehr, Slodden Farm, Dymchurch.	L. R. Uden ...	Willow Pound, Dymchurch.	Implement shed and store.
E. Finn, North Street, New Romney.	Owner/Occupier...	Ballard Land, New Romney.	Implement shed.
H. F. Finn-Kelcey, Estate Offices, Lyminge, Kent.	Owner/Occupier...	The Hague, Burmarsh	Implement shed and store.
W. J. Finn-Kelcey, Scots Hall, Smeeth.	Owner/Occupier...	Scots Marsh, Lydd	Implement shed and store.
W. E. Frith, Willow Farm, Clench Norton.	Owner/Occupier...	Shipton Land, Eastbridge.	Implement shed and store.
Mrs. Godden, New House Farm, Bilsington.	A. Godden ...	Jimmetts Land, Snave	Implement shed and store.
F. A. Griffin, Windy Ridge, Brede.	Owner/Occupier...	Land at Guldeford Lane, Corner.	Implement shed and store.

Reputed Owner	Reputed Occupier	Name of Holding	Buildings recommended
E. C. Heritage, Coolinge Farm, Folkestone.	J. A. Heritage ...	Stone Reaches, Burmarsh.	Implement shed and store.
Exors. A. Hickman, c/o Swan and Co., Bank Street, Ashford.	T. H. Chown ...	Codhall Farm, Brenzett.	Implement shed and store.
Higham Farms, Ltd., The Strand, Rye.	Owner/Occupier...	Kent Ditch Land ...	Implement shed and store.
Kent County Council, Maidstone.	R. Blacklocks ...	Isles Bridge, New Romney.	Implement shed.
S. Little, Borough Green, Kent.	S. E. Homewood	Land at Turngates Bridge, St. Mary's.	Implement shed and store.
S. May, Sharvells Farm, Peasmarsh.	H. Terry ... ..	Land near Iden Lock, Iden.	Implement shed and store.
F. Nevard, c/o Burtenshaw and Sons, Tenderden, Sussex.	G. N. Boulden and Sons.	Frogmore, Hurst ...	Implement shed.
R. Piper and Sons, Coghurst, Hawkhurst.	East Sussex Agricultural Executive Committee.	Castle Farm, Rye ...	Implement shed and store.
R. Piper and Sons, Hawkhurst.	T. Glass ... ..	Upper Agney, Lydd	Implement shed.
C. J. Player, Cameron, Stone in Oxney, Kent.	G. Coleman ...	Land near Boonhill Bridge, Playden.	Implement shed and store.
B. E. Prior, Running Waters, New Romney.	E. Prior ... ..	Kemp's Hill, New Romney.	Implement shed.
C. Southerden, Prospect Farm, Old Romney.	Owner/Occupier..	Prospect Farm, Old Romney.	Implement shed.
R. H. Stoneham, Tylands Lane, Maidstone.	Owner/Occupier...	Land near Appledore Station.	Implement shed and store.
F. R. Swain, Dungdale Farm, Pembury.	Owner/Occupier...	Land near Appledore Station.	Implement shed and store.
Trinity College, Cambridge	J. Tetley ...	Tame Lane, Burmarsh	Implement shed and store.
J. and S. Waddell, Hope-all-Saints.	Owner/Occupier...	Bald Head, New Romney.	Implement shed.
H. L. Wimble, Manor Farm, Newchurch	Owner/Occupier...	Pt. Manor Farm, Newchurch.	Implement shed and store.

## APPENDIX II

### New Farm Roads and Improvements to Existing Farm Roads Recommended (Vide Paragraphs 91-93)

Location of proposed work	Approximate length of road	Reputed owners of land through which road would pass	Reputed owners of land which the roads will serve
New road extension from Money Penny to Sisley Land (O.S. No. 28).	yds. 2,700	R. Vinson, Nettlestead Place, Wateringbury.	R. Vinson ... 290 acres W. Cooke ... 140 " J. H. Cooke ... 157 " Higham Farms ... 117 " J. Saunders ... 14 " <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 718 " <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
New road extension from Little Cheyne Court Corner to boundary Messrs. Cooke and Long's land (O.S. No. 470).	900	A. Clifton, Court Lodge, Appledore.	A. Clifton ... 283 "
New road extension from Little Scotney to Lower Agney.	1,750	All Souls' College, Oxford.	All Souls College 471 "
New road extension from the ex-Air Ministry road to Scots Marsh (O.S. No. 1).	800	W. J. Finn-Kelcey, Scots Hall, Smeeth. <i>Note: The ex-Air Ministry road passes over land belonging to R. Piper and Sons.</i>	W. J. Finn-Kelcey 212 "
(i) Improve road from Wall House Farm to Sandylands.	700	All Souls' College, Oxford.	All Souls' College 234 " F. Reeves ... 89 " G. C. Baker ... 32 " <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 355 "
(ii) New road extension from Sandylands to Corner of Mr. G. T. Paine's land (O.S. No. 110).	900	All Souls' College, Oxford. F. Reeves, Lea Farm, Peasmarsh.	
Improvement of existing road to Upper Agney.	1,150	R. Piper & Sons, Coghurst, Hawkhurst.	J. Piper ... 310 "

Total length of new road—4 miles  
Improvements to existing roads—1 mile

} Area of benefit: 2,350 acres (approx)

### APPENDIX III

#### Water Supply Extensions Recommended (Vide Paragraphs 99-102)

From existing supply at	Estimated length of piping required	Water Supply Authority concerned
Hurst Farm, Eastbridge to Oak Farm, Hurst.	yards 600	Mid-Kent Water Company.
Honeywood Farm to Frogmore ...	1,400	" " "
Ham Mill Green to Nest Cottage ...	900	" " "
Cuckolds Corner to Bridge Farm, Warehorne.	2,800	" " "
Snargate to Bowdell ... ..	900	" " "
Brookland to Ashen Tree Land ...	1,600	" " "
Puddledock Bridge to King Farm ...	2,800	" " "
Rhee Wall to Prospect House and Beggars Bush, Brenzett.	300	" " "
Stockbridge to Oxpound ... ..	2,300	" " "
Newchurch to Norwood ... ..	1,600	" " "
Road Junction south of Chapel Farm to Orgarswick.	1,300	Mid-Kent Water Company and vacant statutory area.
Hurst Farm, Eastbridge, to Lone Barn Farm, West Hythe.	5,500	Mid-Kent Water Company and Elham Valley Water Company.
Starveacre Bridge to Brodnyx Road via Turngates Bridges.	3,100	Mid-Kent Water Company and Littlestone-on-Sea and District Water Company.
The corner near Hope Farm, New Romney, to Poplar Pound.	1,500	Littlestone-on-Sea and District Water Company.
Westbrook House, Lydd, to Birds Kitchen.	800	" " "
Lydd Station along the New Romney Road.	1,600	" " "
Camber to Broomhill House with extensions to Wallhouse Farm and Broomhill Farm.	4,200	Hastings Borough Corporation.
Money Penny Corner, East Guldeford, to Beach Field.	1,300	Battle Rural District Council.
East Guldeford to Lamb Farm, Gulde- ford Lane Corner.	4,000	" " "
	21 miles 1,540 yds.	



S. No.	Name of Industry	Nutrient Analyses of meals										Calories
		Proteins		Fats (g)	Carbo- hydrates (g)	Minerals		Vitamins				
		Total (g)	Animal (g)			Ca. (g)	Fe. (mg)	A (I.U.)	B1 (I.U.)	C (mg)		
(1)	(2)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	
<i>VI.—Details of meals served at annas 8 per plate.</i>												
1	Air India, Ltd. . . . .	34.6	4.8	31.8	148.6	0.40	11.8	474	266	17	1,020	
1	Do. . . . .	42.7	17.7	42.3	131.8	0.25	12.2	366	288	17	1,079	
2	Allied Chemicals, Ltd. . . . .	39.1	15.8	30.9	131.4	0.25	14.8	268	104	17	960	
5	B. E. S. T. Colaba Depot . . . . .	22.7	8.4	32.6	101.9	0.18	7.9	425	202	22	792	
15	Burmah Shell Refinery (Workers) . . . . .	29.6	10.5	51.4	146.0	0.26	10.2	679	253	32	1,165	
16	Do. (Clerical Staff) . . . . .	28.3	10.5	51.2	137.9	0.25	9.6	667	233	32	1,126	
19	Central Railway, V. T. . . . .	27.3	3.6	35.0	122.1	0.35	9.7	519	195	30	913	
28	Firestone Tyre and Rubber . . . . .	20.5	..	44.0	110.1	0.21	12.2	1,541	209	47	918	
30	Geoffery Manners Co. . . . .	23.5	..	26.0	156.3	0.21	13.3	1,639	214	49	953	
35	Hind Cycle, Ltd. . . . .	24.1	2.4	32.7	113.3	0.40	15.0	2,777	194	65	844	
44	Indian Naval Dockyard . . . . .	30.3	15.4	38.6	102.3	0.24	9.8	1,748	188	27	878	
61	Oriental Metal Press Works . . . . .	31.9	2.3	30.5	176.6	0.34	11.1	499	183	25	1,108	
79	Volkart Bros. . . . .	31.6	1.6	32.6	144.8	0.25	11.1	372	218	18	993	
84	Arvind Mills, Ltd. . . . .	44.3	0.3	55.8	250.7	0.40	25.5	3,056	439	56	1,682	
85	Calico Mills, Ltd. . . . .	29.9	0.4	31.6	163.4	0.20	15.8	1,058	356	61	1,057	
94	Ammunition Factory . . . . .	26.3	1.2	17.7	139.8	0.19	11.4	510	194	23	824	
101	CIBA Pharma, Ltd. . . . .	29.5	..	21.6	176.9	0.15	11.7	194	177	34	1,020	

APPENDIX F—cont.

Composition of meals in Ozs.

S. No.	Name of Industry	Composition of meals in Ozs.									
		Cereals	Pulses	Leafy vegetables	Non-leafy vegetables	Fruits	Sugar and gur	Oil and ghee	Milk	Fleshy food	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
<i>VII.—Details of meals served at annas 10 per plate.</i>											
11	Bombay Tel. Workshop .. ..	6.3	0.3	..	4.1	..	0.4	0.2	..	1.6	
52	Firestone Tyre and Rubber Co. .. ..	4.0	0.8	1.0	4.2	..	..	1.5	..	2.0	
52	Khatau M. Mills (Staff) .. ..	5.7	1.0	1.0	6.7	1.3	0.6	1.3	3.0	..	
69	Shree Ram Mills (Staff) .. ..	7.1	3.3	0.9	9.1	..	1.1	1.0	2.8	..	
79	Volkart Bros. .. ..	4.3	1.8	..	3.2	..	..	1.0	1.3	1.6	
101	CIBA Pharma, Ltd .. ..	6.2	1.7	..	4.9	..	..	0.7	..	2.3	

Nutrient analyses of meals

S. No.	Name of Industry	Nutrient analyses of meals									
		Proteins		Fats	Carbo- hydrates	Minerals		Vitamins			Calories
		Total (g)	Animal (g)			Ca. (g)	Fe. (mg)	A (I.U.)	B1 (I.U.)	C (mg)	
(1)	(2)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)
<i>VII.—Details of meals served at annas 10 per plate.</i>											
11	Bombay Tel. Workshop .. ..	29.3	7.7	14.5	162.4	0.15	11.1	377	131	27	898
52	Firestone Tyre and Rubber Co. .. ..	31.0	10.5	51.6	110.1	0.30	13.6	1,559	243	47	1,029
52	Khatau M. Mills (Staff) .. ..	31.5	3.7	46.3	190.9	0.45	18.0	2,608	334	78	1,307
69	Shree Ram Mills (Staff) .. ..	54.0	3.4	37.6	256.6	0.53	26.8	1,852	489	80	1,581
79	Volkart Bros. .. ..	34.8	10.0	38.3	131.5	0.29	10.8	351	223	18	1,010
101	CIBA Pharma, Ltd. .. ..	39.3	11.6	30.2	188.8	0.24	11.3	333	214	24	1,184