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12. Sheep-Keeping and Lookers' Huts on Romney Marsh

Anne Reeves and David Eve

Sheep have been important to the Romney Marshes for over a thousand years and in many people's minds are an essential part of them. This paper is the result of both documentary research and field survey. It gives a brief outline of the history of sheep-keeping on the marshes of the Romney region from the seventh century to the present day and examines in detail a specialized form of building that evolved to meet the needs of the shepherding community. Local shepherding practices are discussed and the origin and use of the Romney Marsh Sheephouse or Looker's Hut is investigated. These huts, which stood alone on the open windswept marshes with their pens or sheep-folds, originally numbered in the hundreds. The remains of only 15 survive today. More than a hundred former sites have, however, been located using manuscript and early Ordnance Survey maps. Detailed field survey of the surviving huts has identified and enabled comparison of their essential components. The buildings survey examines the detail of both the internal and external structures, the building materials and the construction methods used.

> '...everywhere, the management of the Marshes, and the stock they carry, is committed, in a great measure, to the care of the Marshmen – provincially 'LOOKERS'; whose cabins and pens are seen scattered over the area of the Marsh.'[1]

Introduction

Romney Marsh is world famous for its rich pastures and fine sheep so perhaps it is not surprising to find that a specialized and unusual form of building evolved there to serve the needs of the shepherding community. The buildings are referred to as Sheephouses in historical documents but were subsequently described and became known as Lookers' Huts. The terms are interchangeable and since both have been used in recent published sources and both remain in everyday usage, they have been used interchangeably in this text.

The Looker's Hut or Sheephouse is a form of agricultural building that appears to have developed during the 17th and 18th centuries in response to practices in intensive sheep husbandry peculiar to the marshes of the Romney region and the adjacent river valleys. During the 19th century these structures were widely distributed and formed part of the unique quality of the Marsh landscape. The second half of the 20th century has seen changes in agricultural methods resulting in a sharp decline in the use of Lookers' Huts for their original purpose, followed by their wholesale abandonment and destruction.

The Romney Marsh Looker's Hut should be distinguished from sheepcotes and sheephouses found elsewhere in Britain which were used solely to house animals. In contrast to those, the Marsh Sheephouse was the exclusive domain of the Looker who used the hut as temporary accommodation while tending the flocks, a store for his tools and medicines, and an operational base for his shepherding work. The buildings were plain, small and of simple design and construction, with very little in the way of domestic comforts, yet they were an important part of

* Numbers in brackets refer to the catalogue of buildings given in the Appendix to this paper.

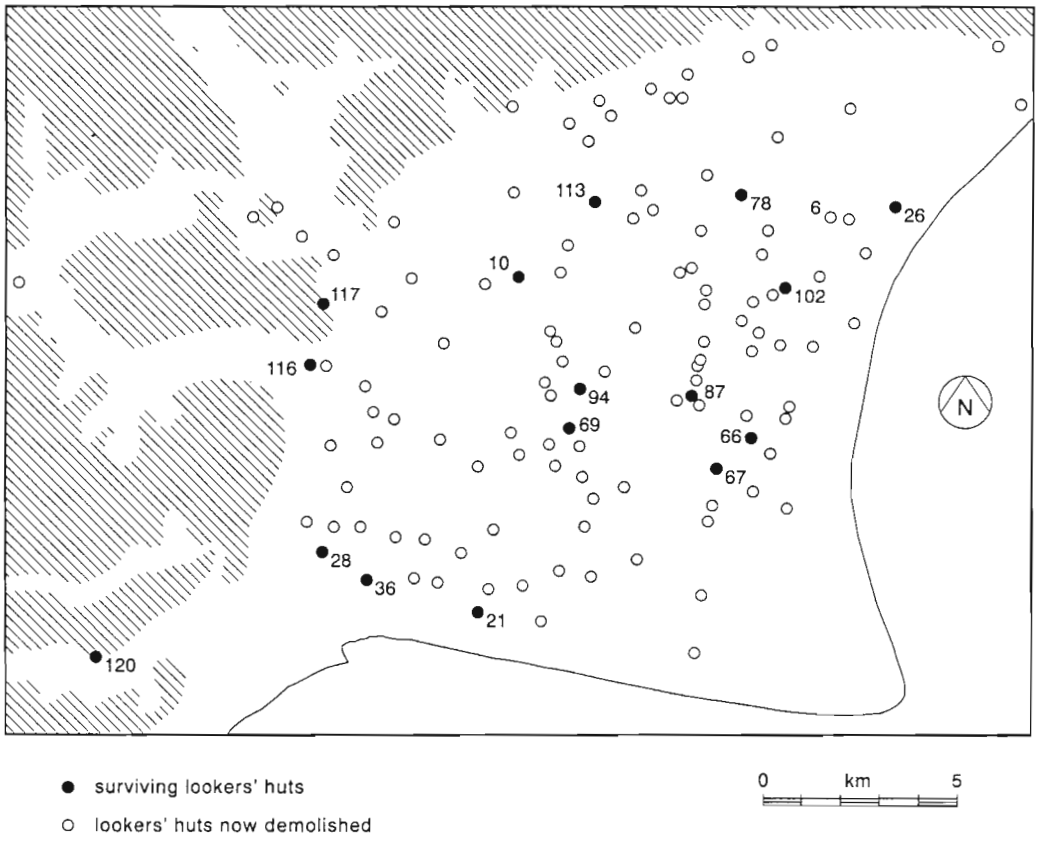

Fig. 12.1. Distribution of Lookers' Huts. The surviving buildings are numbered as in the Appendix.

Fig. 12.2. Looker's Hut (6) with Stable at Blackmanstone, in 1973. Source of photograph: Edward Carpenter.

working life on the Marsh. At their peak the huts probably numbered in the hundreds. Today only 12 buildings remain standing, with a further three in a ruinous condition (Fig. 12.1). Despite this heavy toll, the loss continues with one, hut 6, a Listed Building, being demolished during the course of this study (Fig. 12.2).

The precarious state of the surviving buildings prompted an assessment of the field evidence. From this a surprising variety of design emerged, confirming the urgent need to record these humble buildings. This paper is the result of a programme of research and recording which aims to investigate their origin, development,

nature and use and to preserve the remaining standing buildings. Documentary research using secondary sources was carried out to provide a broad background of marshland agricultural history against which to view the Lookers' Huts and the activities of those who used them. Primary archive sources were also used to assess the number and distribution of Sheephouse sites, and to attempt a chronology of hut construction. Field records of the surviving sites were made and the resulting information was used to characterize the building type and add to the knowledge of working practices. This paper presents the results in two main parts, the documentary research and the buildings survey – further divided into discrete sections to consider a series of topic areas.

Documentary Research

The agricultural background: a brief history of sheep-keeping on Romney Marsh

Sheep have been important to Romney Marsh for more than a thousand years but, contrary to popular belief, it was not until the end of the medieval period that sheep-keeping became the main land-use of the region. The first documentary record of sheep keeping dates from the seventh century when a charter of 697 recorded: 'land called *Rumining seta*, for the pasture of 300 sheep' which Gordon Ward located near Dymchurch.[2] A number of Anglo-Saxon charters refer to lands on Romney Marsh but these are mostly concerned with cultivated land. Only one other charter, dated 740, records pasture at Bishops Wick, near Lydd.[3] However, it is likely that detached pastures belonging to other distant manors were located on Romney Marsh at this early date. No detached pastures were recorded in Domesday Book, although settlements and ploughlands were located in the Romney region, and sheep pastures were noted by the Domesday survey in other Kentish marshland parishes, for example at Higham in North Kent, and at Wickhambreaux near the Stour Levels.

By the 13th century much of the Marsh had been consolidated into productive estates, owned and in some cases directly farmed by ecclesiastical landowners. There were also many small freeholders. Overall the area was well settled and intensively farmed and a dispersed settlement pattern had developed. The monks of Christ Church Priory, Canterbury, held large areas of arable land as well as pasture on Romney Marsh. Sheep flocks were kept to produce wool, skins, meat and milk which was made into considerable quantities of fine cheese regularly transported to Canterbury. The monks pioneered specialized farming methods in contrast to the surrounding peasant holdings but, even so, fewer sheep were kept at this date on Romney Marsh than in other parts of Kent. Accounts show how the monks gradually built up their flocks. In 1281 the manors of Orgarswick and Agney had a total of 289 sheep and by 1322 this particular flock had increased to 400.[4] The priory's Kent flocks were reduced by recurrent flooding, drought and disease in the mid-14th century, but overall the numbers of sheep kept on Romney Marsh were maintained and even increased, in contrast to other areas of Kent such as Thanet. In the last quarter of the 14th century stock-and-land leases were a feature of the tenurial arrangements on manors in the Romney region which helped to preserve the numbers of sheep kept there.

Romney Marsh remained well populated throughout the medieval period, but the 15th century saw a marked change in demographic trends, with the population declining steadily thereafter. In the early 14th century the population of the Marsh matched the most densely settled areas of Kent but by 1660 it had become the least populous area of the county.[5] Romney no longer functioned as a port and focal point for the region, its harbour silted and superseded by Rye to the west. Hythe in the east had also declined. Churches became redundant, many farmsteads were abandoned, cultivated land was laid down to pasture and increasingly bought up and amalgamated into larger holdings by absentee landowners. It is from this date that Romney Marsh became famous for sheep-keeping and much of the medieval landscape was preserved, sealed under a carpet of permanent pasture that lay undisturbed until 20th-century ploughing.

By the 17th century the Romney flocks were as much as five times larger than those kept in other parts of Kent. Thriving local markets developed. Wool was supplied to the Wealden cloth industry and smuggled to the Continent, and fattened animals sent to the London meat market. Cattle were also kept, but in smaller numbers. It is from this period that reports of the 'unwholesomeness' of the area originate. With depopulation and the establishment of a pastoral economy, drainage was neglected in some areas. As a result ague became rife until the agricultural improvements of the 18th century.[6] In the main though, the efficient drainage system that had evolved during the earlier arable phase and the low annual rainfall ensured that the post-medieval pastures were of the best quality. They could be well stocked and used all year round, in contrast to the more limited seasonal grazing provided by the wetlands of less well-drained marshes. It is likely that the degree of control over drainage attained (and maintained) here explains why sheep have always predominated over cattle. In the Pevensey Levels of East Sussex, some 50 miles to the west, the reverse has been the case, with cattle always predominating over sheep.

Records show that the ownership of sheep flocks in the post-medieval period, although often associated with absentee landlords, was not the sole province of the landed gentry – the established county families such as the Twisdens, Derings and Knatchbulls – or the emerging class of Wealden yeoman farmers. As early as the 15th century rich merchants from the old Cinque Port towns

were to be found diversifying their investments by buying up grazing land in the marshes. Also a significant number of small local freeholders continued to survive alongside the new landowners.[7] Later, Lookers and town craftsmen also kept their own flocks, such as Thomas Baker, a carpenter of Lydd, who in 1744 owned sheep worth more than all his tools and timber.[8] This trend continued right up to the 19th century when local directories show how New Romney tradesmen diversified into farming once they had become established and successful in their first line of business. John Humphrey, who began his career as a coal merchant, was listed 30 years later as a grazier and coal merchant. Similarly, John Tunbridge the builder, and even Benjamin Wood the surgeon, followed the same course between 1830 and 1850. The town of Lydd founded its own flock in the 16th century which grazed on the Freeman's Ripe attended by the town shepherd who was paid £6 a year. The flock was originally established to raise money to pay the costs of litigation between the town and the Crown. In order to amass the flock, sheep were accepted in lieu of the normal money payment of entry fines by the freemen. The sheep were finally sold off to provide Ship Money in 1596.[9] Thus the Romney Marsh sheep industry was not the province of one particular social group. Rather its success appears to have evolved out of a diversity of ownership and farming methods. On the one hand post-medieval pastoralism saw a consolidation of lands with the creation of many larger estates with larger field units,[10] but there is also evidence of the continuing fragmentation of some grazing lands. Daniel Jones noted in 1786 that many 'graziers hired land from different owners in many parcels and at any distance, neither the compactness of their business nor the distance being any object'.[11]

Despite such a variable background, by the 17th century a distinctive system of sheep farming and a distinct breed of sheep had evolved on Romney Marsh that was frequently commented on by visitors to the area such as Daniel Defoe who wrote in 1724:

> 'Rumney Marsh ... is a rich Fertile Soil, full of feeding Grounds, and where an infinite number of large Sheep are Fed every Year, and sent up to London Market; these Rumney Marsh Sheep, are counted rather larger than the Leicestershire and Lincolnshire Sheep'.[12]

William Cobbett wrote in 1823:

> 'I crossed a canal and entered on Romney Marsh. This was grass-land on both sides of me to a great distance. The flocks and herds are immense. The sheep are of a breed that takes its name from the marsh. They are called Romney Marsh sheep. Very pretty and large. The wethers, when fat, weigh about twelve stone, or one hundred pounds. The faces of these sheep are white; and, indeed, the whole sheep is as white as a piece of writing paper. The wool does not look dirty and oily like that of other sheep ... with sheep such as I have spoken of before, this marsh abounds in every part of it, and the sight is most beautiful'.[13]

Inventories reveal how the Romney flocks had increased over the 17th century, making Romney Marsh the chief sheep grazing area of the county.[14] In 1700 there were reckoned to be 160,000 sheep on the Marsh producing 3000 packs of wool annually, although this is probably an underestimate.[15] Despite combative measures, smuggling increased dramatically through the century with an estimated 40,000 packs of wool from Kent and Sussex landed illegally at Calais within two years in the 1690s.[16] The chance of making such easy profits was obviously a further incentive to sheep-keeping on the coastal marshes. The increasingly intensive stocking rates achieved on the Marsh were in part due to grazing management techniques. By 1640 distinct differences between fattening and breeding pastures were recognized, and by the 18th century a refined system of sheep husbandry was being practised.[17] Local methods are described in detail in a letter written in 1786 by the Rev. Daniel Jones of New Romney to his brother Thomas, who farmed in Cardiganshire, Wales.[18] Selective breeding, careful management of grazing and flock, including segregating and marking stock, specialist care at lambing time and the keeping of detailed stock registers were all practised. These various activities required well-enclosed fields and pounds or pens for gathering and regular inspection of the sheep. In 1805 John Boys reported that

> 'The general management of the land in Romney Marsh is so very excellent, that it is hardly possible to conceive a better mode. The fences are kept in good order, the grass fed down smooth and even thistles constantly kept under, and drainage well conducted, which together with the constant verdure and innumerable quantity of sheep always feeding on the land, form a universal neatness and beauty of appearence hardly to be met with in the kingdom'.[19]

Boys also commented on the improved stocking rates that were being achieved as a result of grazing the turf hard: 'for it is in the Marsh a settled maxim, that the more a field does keep, the more it will keep'. An old test of a well-grazed Marsh pasture is to throw a sixpence as far as one can and then go and look for it. If you cannot find it, the pasture is not being grazed hard enough.[20] Even in the 20th century local farmers believed that lambs 'should not hear the church bells rung twice in the same field'. Such hard grazing was possible because, unlike other breeds, Romney Marsh sheep on being put into a pasture immediately disperse over it and feed it down evenly and thoroughly.[21]

In many respects the particular system of sheep husbandry that had evolved by the late 18th century has persisted until the present day, but some changes and refinements have occurred. In the late 18th and early 19th century experiments in cross-breeding took place. Attempts were made to introduce Lincoln and Leicester rams, but these never assumed much significance. The marshmen were adamant that the pure Romney breed was best suited to the difficult climatic conditions of the Marsh. 'Probably

no more exposed and bleak country can be imagined. In some parts miles may be traversed without seeing tree or hedge. Severe winds from the east, or gales from the west, sweep across it with full unchecked force from the sea; and in a hot dry season, such as we experienced in 1893, there is no shade or shelter from the burning glare of the sun' wrote the Lydd grazier Arthur Finn in 1894.[22] Daniel Price describes the introduction of Leicesters in some detail in his treatise on Romney Marsh sheep farming published in 1807, but Whitehead found that 'all ram breeders deny that they have introduced Lincolns or any other breed into their flocks'.[23] Apart from careful selective breeding there was some cross-breeding of Romney Marsh sheep with hill-bred Kents, whose characteristics differed slightly, with the result that by the end of the 19th century these once distinctive types had merged, producing an animal with the best points of each variety. Dunstan found the main characteristics of the Romney Marsh sheep to be hardiness, thriftiness, fecundity, early maturity and producing a heavy weight of fine long wool.[24] The definitive description of the breed was laid down by the Romney Marsh Sheep Breeders Association in the 1930s.

Perhaps the biggest problem suffered by the Marsh graziers was the heavy losses incurred as a result of over-wintering their lambs on the uplands. The Marsh climate was considered too harsh for the lambs in their first year. 'Vast numbers of 'tegs', as the young sheep are termed, return to the Marsh in the spring in a half-starved condition and so debilitated are they that many die soon after they are put upon richer pasture'.[25] Farmers who had both upland and marshland farms were able to oversee the care of their young stock but those that had to rent keep, that is additional grazing land, taken on for a short fixed term, usually for only one season, were most vulnerable. Whitehead reported that there had been a considerable improvement by the end of the 19th century, with supplementary feeding of corn and cake regularly employed. But the problem was not solved finally until the 20th century when lamb came to be preferred to mutton and greater numbers were sold for slaughter in the autumn.

Methods of pasture management were also advanced through the 19th century and the distinctions between land types refined. As a consequence the Marsh could be stocked more heavily than any other area of similar size in the world. Garrad describes four grades of pasture: fatting pasture, able to carry six to ten sheep per acre in summer; breeding pasture, four to six sheep per acre; inferior breeding pasture, two to four sheep per acre, and rough grazing land, able to carry two or less sheep per acre.

In some cases the quality of pasture varied considerably within small areas, but the graziers always gave preferential treatment to the management of the rich fatting pastures. Cole and Dubey found that all the best fatting pastures were located on a particular soil formation and it was also discovered that these lands had a uniform type of herbage, composed mainly of Kent's indigenous perennial rye grass with wild white clover and bent grass.[26] Green confirmed this analysis in his detailed investigation of Romney Marsh soils in 1968.[27]

Local livestock markets were held regularly throughout the 19th century at Tenterden, Hamstreet and Ashford, and Romney's annual sheep fair took place on 21st August. Accurate agricultural statistics are available from the mid-19th century. In 1870 there were 169,960 sheep and 1,974 cattle grazing on just under 40,000 acres of marsh pasture.[28] The records show that more than 80% of the Marsh was permanent pasture at this time and sheep numbers continued to grow, reaching an unprecedented 225,000 in 1891.[29] Although the railway did not come to Romney until the 1880s, the branch line from Ashford to Hastings built in 1851 was used to transport livestock from Appledore station. Breeding stock was also reared for export, with high prices realized for Romney Marsh ewes and rams which were sent as far away as Argentina and New Zealand.

The remarkable success of the Romney Marsh sheep farmers made the region world famous, but this could not be sustained as the 20th century advanced. Some land was ploughed during the First World War but most was laid down to pasture again in the Depression years. Wool prices slumped in the 1930s, the type of animal produced by the Marsh farmers no longer suited the meat market, and many pastures became sheep-sick from overstocking. Some farmers let their land on grazing tenancies on the understanding that no rent would be charged until wool prices improved. Much land was sold very cheaply. Experiments in cross-breeding found that a cross between the Southdown and the Romney or Kent sheep produced a fast-growing, smaller-boned sheep which suited the market better.

To many, the outbreak of the Second World War, bringing a government directive that one third of every farm should be ploughed, was a blessing. As war continued the threat of invasion brought one of the most extraordinary incidents in the long history of sheep farming on Romney Marsh. In May 1940 the War Department prepared to flood a large portion of the Marsh by letting in sea water if the enemy attempted to cross the Channel. Orders were issued to evacuate the sheep from the area. In order that the breed should be preserved it was arranged that the best sheep of each flock should be taken by the government at a fixed price and removed for safekeeping to inland counties. Owners made their own arrangements for moving the rest of the sheep. The sheep could not be moved far without first shearing them. Consequently, shearers were engaged from all parts of the country to come and shear the Marsh sheep. They worked day and night for three weeks shearing 60,000 ewes with their lambs, 20,000 ewe tegs, 5,000 wether tegs and over 8,000 rams which were then transported by rail and road. Once the evacuation of the sheep was complete, most of the main bridges across the dykes and Royal Military Canal were destroyed and

large tracts of agricultural land were commandeered for military activities.[30]

After the War an Agricultural Land Commission recommended that at least 50% of Romney Marsh farmland should be ploughed and kept in cultivation. However, in 1961 Allanson found that two-thirds of the Marsh was still primarily concerned with sheep production and that Romney Marsh continued to carry the heaviest sheep population for its size of any district in the British Isles, although year by year the area of pasture has decreased.[31] Today less than 30% of the Marsh is permanent pasture. The specialist pastoral economy, which the Romney Marsh sheep keepers maintained for more than 500 years, is now pursued only by a small minority of farmers.

The Origin and Use of Lookers' Huts

It can be seen from the history of sheep farming on Romney Marsh that the essentially pastoral economy of the region first became established in the 15th century. From that time, farm and field sizes became larger and much land became concentrated in the hands of absentee landowners who then proceeded to hire local men to oversee their flocks. Daniel Jones described the local practice in detail in 1786.

> 'The graziers reckon themselves now to be the best sheep graziers of any in England and I believe they have some claim to that title. If their business lies near about home, they generally keep a servant to look after it but if it lies at a distance ... they employ a man whom they term a looker, to look after their stock and they themselves attend occasionally. The looker is paid at this time at about the rate of 8d per acre per annum (since double that sum has been given). He has a house at an easy rent; has the keep of a cow at a moderate charge, has all the fat of the dead sheep and the lamb skins if he lambs them and has the privilege of keeping a horse upon his master's ground gratis and is paid besides for whatever work he does upon the land; all which enables him to live in a comfortable manner ... His business is to ride about ground, which he generally does once a day, i.e. in the forenoon, to see whether there be any sheep fallen into the ditches, and whether the fence is anywhere broken down; he also counts the sheep and sees whether any of them is ailing or has been struck by the fly. He has always a dog with him, which they call a sheep dog ... One man can look after from three to five hundred acres or more, and very frequently looks after land for several different masters at the same time.'[32]

The fact that the Looker often cared for the sheep of more than one owner distinguishes him from a shepherd. Shepherds were generally in charge of only one particular flock. The Looker often lived in a nearby village rather than on an isolated farm with his flock, and so necessarily had to be more mobile. It was this combination of absentee landowner and peripatetic shepherding that originally led to the need for Lookers' Huts. The buildings were always situated within a complex of pens where the sheep could be gathered for routine inspection and doctoring. The Lookers kept their tools and medicines in huts situated on the lands of the different owners, and at busy times of the year they could comfortably spend the night there close to their sheep. In lambing time, when extra help was often hired, the Looker or his helper would live in the Sheephouse for up to six weeks, his family bringing provisions on Sundays. Throughout the summer the sheep had to be regularly checked for fly strike and any maggots cut out and the wounds treated. Shearing operations were also centred upon the huts and their complex of pens. Many had brick-built tuns for washing the sheep using water supplied from the adjacent dykes. Inscriptions were sometimes made on the beams or inside walls of the huts recording the numbers of sheep lambed or washed and sheared. In winter there was less to do once the old stock had been sent to market and the lambs moved to the uplands, but the sheep still had to be checked periodically for foot rot and infected feet trimmed back. All these activities were practised at least as far back as the 18th century and probably earlier. As improvements were made in breeding and management, the Looker's work-load increased, as did his need for an established operational base which the Sheephouse provided. One of the main benefits of improved sheep husbandry was the increased stocking ratios which were being achieved by the 19th century, with the best pastures keeping 10 sheep to the acre in summer. Higher stocking ratios coincided with the peak period of hut building, and this explains their continued importance right up until the Second World War.

The Location and Distribution of Sheephouses

Location and distribution

It is believed that there were over 300 Sheephouses on Romney Marsh in the 19th century but by 1950 only 50 remained. A survey in 1973 found 23 still standing.[33] Unfortunately the remains of only 15 survive today. However, the sites of 124 have now been located and mapped with some certainty. These are listed in the Appendix, together with their national grid reference, parish, county and approximate date. Where remains of the buildings survive, this is indicated in the buildings column with an asterisk.

The location map (Fig. 12.1) shows all the sites listed, making no allowances for chronology or disparate and incomplete sources. Observations about the distribution of huts is therefore limited by the fact that this 'sample' is by its nature composite, and also by the fact that the location of many huts still remains unknown. The map shows that the known Sheephouses are scattered fairly evenly across the whole of Romney Marsh and also along the adjacent river valleys, irrespective of the county boundary between Kent and East Sussex. Areas where they appear to be absent are the north-east corner of Romney Marsh and, to a lesser extent, parts of the north and west of the region. It is not possible to attribute any

real significance to this absence until more rigorous searches have established it with certainty. Huts were probably lost when fields were ploughed in the 19th century. More convincing is their absence from areas with long-standing drainage problems such as the Dowels between Appledore and Kenardington; and Shirley Moor.

Today Romney Marsh consists of 27 parishes but formerly there were 39 parishes wholly or partly on the Marsh. Since the documentary sources used to trace Sheephouses pre-date the re-organization of these boundaries, the huts are listed under their original parish names. Thus it can be seen that Sheephouses have been discovered in 28 of the original 39 parishes of the Marsh. There does not seem to be any clear relationship between parish identity, or parish size and shape, and distribution. Lydd, the largest parish, had 12, the most known in any parish, while Orgarswick, one of the smallest parishes, appears to have had none. However, Newchurch, also a large parish, had only four compared to two in the tiny adjoining parish of Blackmanstone. Although by definition the buildings always occur in association with sheep pens and usually are found isolated from farms and other buildings, 10 huts found among the sample group of 124 were exceptional in that they were located within 1 km of the parish church and village centre.

It is likely that distribution was initially linked to land ownership, with huts probably more prevalent on the pastures of absentee landowners, and ultimately to land type and stocking ratios. Areas with the greatest concentration of sheep would have required more pens and Sheephouses in order to manage the flocks effectively.

Sources

As working agricultural buildings, the numerous huts were rarely commented on. The earliest reference to the name Sheephouse is from the 16th century, when a map of Walland Marsh by Thomas Gull names Sheephouse Fleet lying between Old and New Cheyne Court.[34] On later maps this is spelled Cheaphouse, but the earlier depiction confirms its meaning beyond doubt. Gull was a local surveyor and his name appears in Lydd records *c.* 1600.

Apart from the 26 Sheephouses (29% of the total) that were already known to local people, most (63, or 51% of the total) were located through the Tithe Records. Tithe Maps and Awards for all the 39 parishes with lands on Romney Marsh were checked. These included detached portions and parts of parishes not wholly on the Marsh. The dates of the final revision of the Tithe Maps for Romney Marsh parishes ranges from 1817 to 1844, and the Awards date from 1837 to 1845. The Tithe Maps of some parishes depicted the Sheephouses and some Awards meticulously describe all land and clearly list the Sheephouses. For example, the Midley Tithe Award described field no. 73 as a Sheephouse and Pound. Therefore while providing reliable evidence of the existence of some Sheephouses in the early 19th century, the Tithe Surveys cannot be regarded as a definitive record of existing huts at that date. There may have been many more that were not included or that had already been lost when pastures were ploughed during the Napoleonic Wars, especially in parishes particularly associated with early ploughing such as Burmarsh, Newchurch and parts of Ivychurch.

Estate maps are another potential source and although no systematic search has been made one Sheephouse known to the authors from an 18th-century estate map has been included. The other main source used was early editions of the 25–inch Ordnance Survey maps. The search was limited by the fact that local archives do not hold complete coverage of the area. Twenty-four Sheephouses (19%) were located using first- and second-edition 25–inch Ordnance Survey maps. Again, it is likely that a systematic search of other Ordnance Survey maps of the whole area would provide more.

Chronology

The Sheephouses located were not all in use at the same time. Where clusters of Sheephouses were found, this may sometimes be the result of successive building. For example, in Bilsington parish where a hut depicted on an estate map of 1750 had been lost by the time of the Tithe Survey when the adjacent land was converted to arable, two other huts are shown for the first time on land nearby. Although it has not been possible to date the Sheephouses precisely, it has been possible to place them into three groups – firstly, those lost by 1830 – only one; secondly, those in existence in 1830 – a total of 71; and thirdly, those probably built after the period 1830 to 1842. No data was available for 10. These figures suggest that the peak period for their construction and use was the late

Fig. 12.3. Sheephouse at Newland, Midley in 1979. This is now at School Farm, St Mary-in-the-Marsh (102). Source of photograph: Edward Carpenter.

18th and early 19th centuries. Many of the buildings continued to be used until the mid-20th century, as farmer's records testify. Sheephouse no. 22 in Broomhill was rebuilt using the original materials in 1931 when it was rendered, and the porch was added in 1937. Sheephouse no. 92 in Old Romney was rebuilt in the 1950s. No. 102 was preserved by being moved from its original site at Newland in Midley (Fig. 12.3) and rebuilt in the farmyard at St Mary-in-the-Marsh with some additional material from the hut from Shingle Hall (108). Only one, at Denge Marsh in Lydd (60), is known to have been newly-built in the 20th century, although there probably are other examples.[35]

Sheepfolds, Sheephouses and Settlement on Romney Marsh

Field-walking on arable land in the north east of Romney Marsh Level found evidence of a number of medieval sites coinciding with the location of sheep-folds shown on first-edition Ordnance Survey maps. Some of the sheep-folds had previously included Sheephouses within the complex of pens, for example at Pound Spot, Bilsington. Further archaeological work recording earthworks from areas of old pasture also noted a significant correlation. From an area of 100 hectares of old pasture, four out of the ten sites of former buildings recorded had also been used as sheep-folds. This suggested a link between the location of sheep-folds and the earlier medieval settlement pattern. Furthermore, a cursory glance at early editions of Ordnance Survey maps of the Marsh shows many sheep pens or folds were located along the network of public footpaths. Two possible explanations come to mind. First, the sheep-folds mark the last vestiges and position of earlier farmsteads, lost when land was amalgamated into larger units in the late or post-medieval period; alternatively, the sites of former, medieval buildings provided a firm base upon which to site the pens (and their Sheephouses). Either way the link between sheep-folds and the earlier settlement pattern is supported.

A good example can be found at Dymchurch. Sheep-house no. 26 (Fig. 12.4) and its pens are connected by public footpath to the village centre and to the former moated site at Marshalls Bridge. It is set amidst the earthworks of a farm that was depicted on a map dated 1652.[36] The farm is believed to have medieval origins, but no trace survived by 1759.

The Sheephouse at Kemps Hill (66) between New Romney and Lydd is the only one included in the list that appears not to have been purpose-built. Although located among sheep pens, the hut has in fact been adapted from an earlier building and may be the remains of a medieval structure. Three of the Sheephouses listed have been identified with the sites of earlier settlement, although it is likely that many more were similarly associated.

Conversely, Sheephouses or their sites have provided the location for subsequent agricultural development. As pastures have been ploughed, the pens and Sheephouses have been destroyed and replaced by barns and farm-houses, particularly during the 20th century. As far as can be ascertained, the locations of 18 of the sheephouses listed here have become farms. A rare example with the Sheephouse still surviving, but now surrounded by more modern buildings, can be seen at Caldicott Farm, Lydd. More commonly the pens and huts have been demolished.

Clearly this apparent connection between the location of sheep-folds and the settlement pattern of the Marsh would repay further investigation.

Fig. 12.4. Bert Uden with his flock at a Looker's Hut near Dymchurch (26) in 1936. Source of photograph: Edward Carpenter.

The Looker's Hut as a Building type[37]

Introduction and Methodology

Field survey forms accompanied by photographs and measured plans were made of 10 largely complete structures and five ruinous ones. The plans recorded the huts 'as built' in a purely diagrammatic form, noting construction and the dimensions and location of components in order to enable a later comparison of plans. Evidence from the limited number of surviving huts was augmented by the use of archive photographs, although most depict them after they had fallen into disuse. No interior views were found, but they still provided much valuable information.[38] Detailed research into individual sites was not carried out, being beyond the scope of this rapid survey.

The Looker's Hut fits well within a definition of vernacular building where the function, in this case a working agricultural building, dominates aesthetic considerations in design, and constructional choice is guided by tradition.[39] The functional aspect of the buildings suggested adopting an approach used by industrial archaeologists for developing typologies of buildings, a method which has been successfully applied to buildings such as malthouses.[40] In the present study that approach seeks to look for both commonalities and differences in examples of huts, in order to identify the typical components and ways in which they vary.

Essential Components and Plan Form

Lookers' Huts were small, purpose-built, single-roomed buildings of one storey with a fireplace and chimney. They were mainly constructed of brick and had tiled pitched roofs. There was usually a single door and a single, small window. Although the majority of huts appear to have been purpose-built structures, there were occasional exceptions. The building at Kemp's Hill, near Lydd (66), was certainly of several phases and it is likely that it did not originally serve as a hut (Fig. 12.5). The unique pair

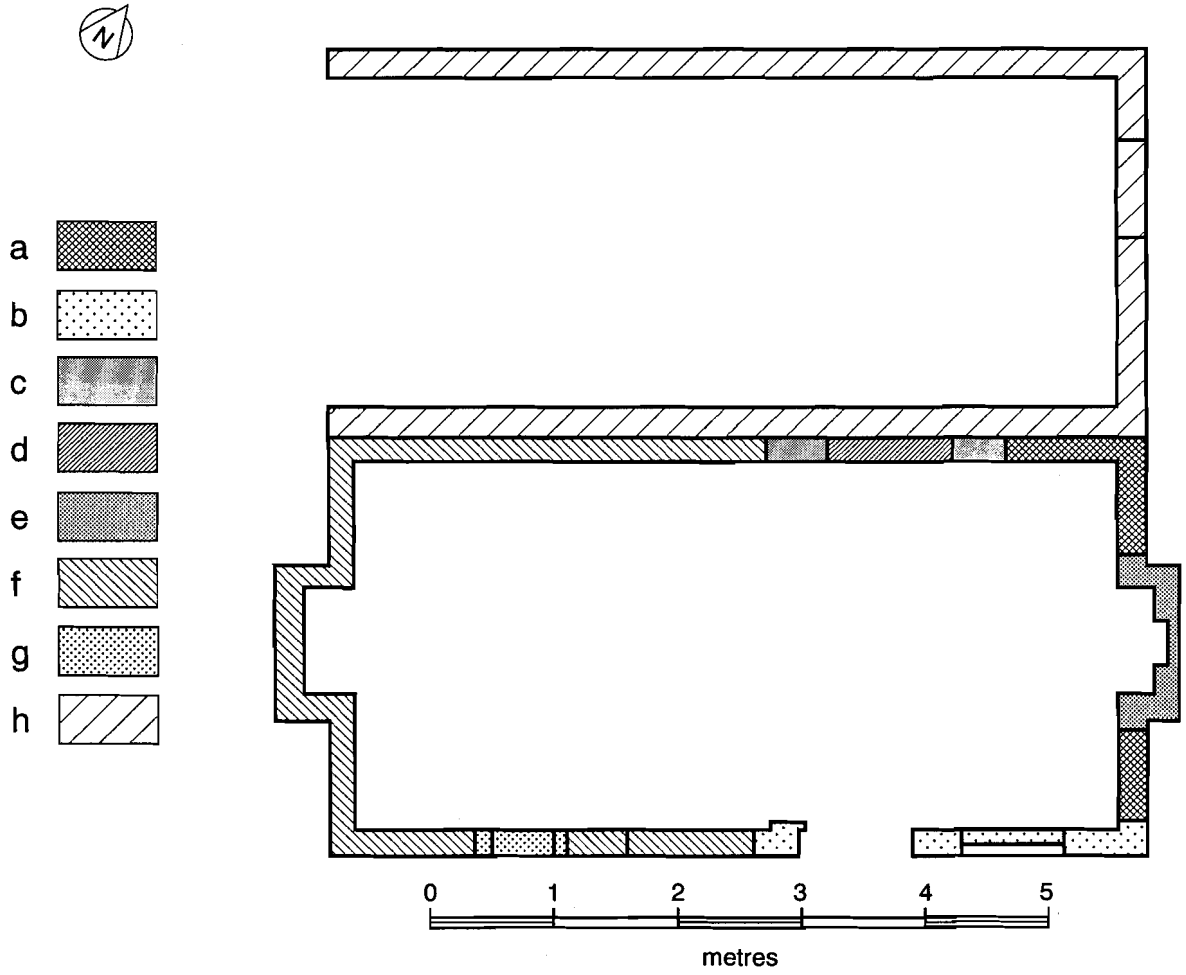

Fig. 12.5. A possible sequence of development of the Looker's Hut at Kemp's Hill, Lydd (66). The earliest parts of the building appear to be the ragstone footings (a) of the eastern half. Wall (b) was added in the 18th century, re-using 15th- or 16th-century brick. Parts of the eastern end of the building were re-built in phases (c), (d) and (e), including the upper parts of the north wall. The western half (f) is a later extension, which may date to the late 18th or early 19th century, and was itself rebuilt (g) when a sloping roof was added. An open-ended concrete shelter shed (h) was added on the north side in the present century.

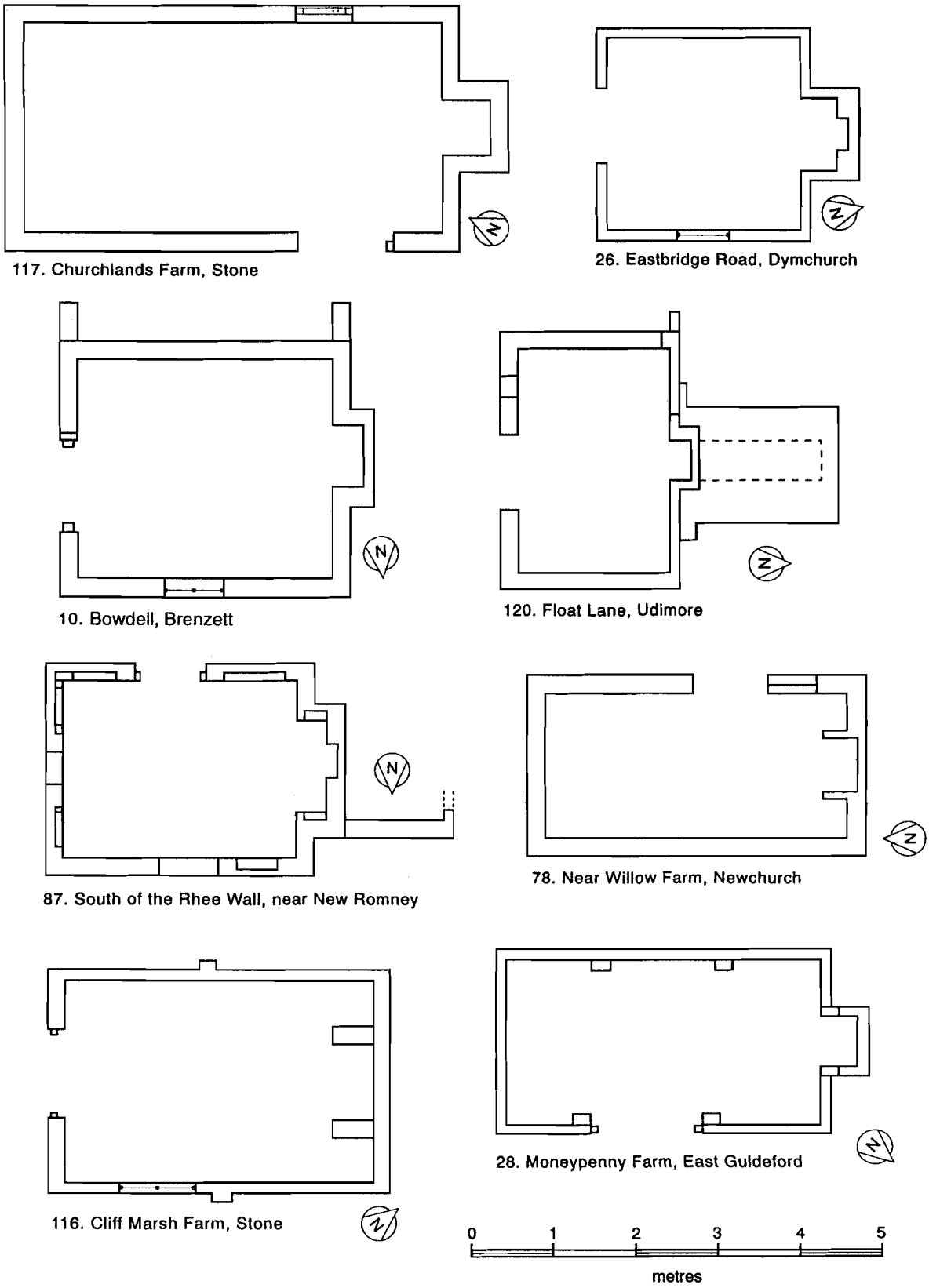

Fig. 12.6. Plans of surviving Looker's Huts.

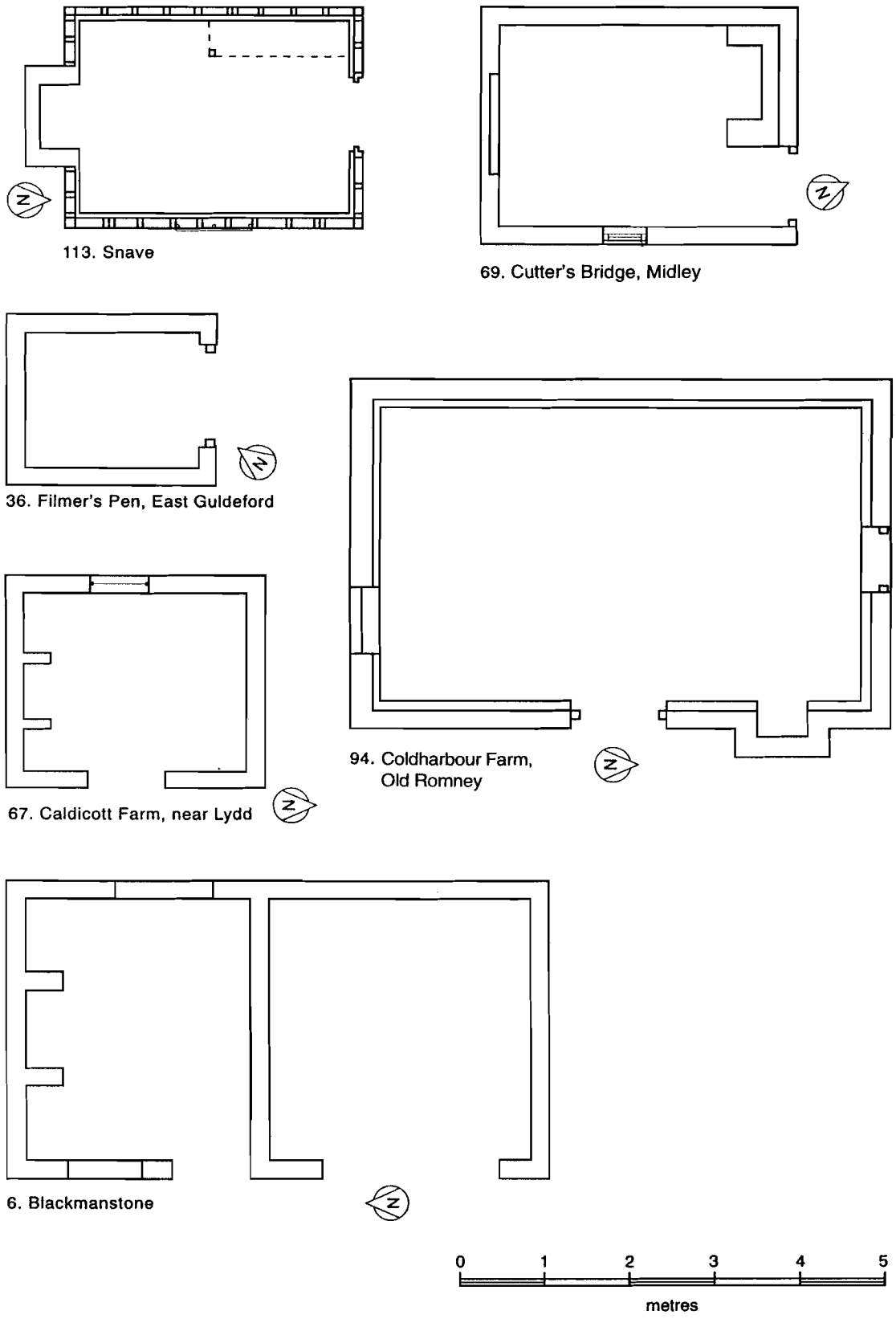

Fig. 12.7. Plans of surviving Looker's Huts.

of chimneys and possible former internal division suggested it was formerly a domestic structure later adopted by Lookers. The hut at Float Lane, Udimore (120), while possessing all the characteristics of the Looker's Hut, may also have had another origin. A close examination revealed a horizontal shaft extended at right angles from the base of the chimney for a few metres beyond the building and below a water trough which lay upon the bank into which the hut had been set (Fig. 12.6). The rear wall is clearly of two phases, the earlier possibly relating to the shaft having been a drainage culvert.

Huts were simple single-cell spaces with a limited number of components that occur with a surprising number of variations. The buildings were almost always rectangular in plan with the short ends supporting gable walls. Some examples known from photographs may have been almost square (24, 63 and 68). Huts were generally not divided internally, although the building at Kemp's Hill (66) might have had an internal cross-wall. However, structural evidence suggested that this was the original external wall of a building that had been increased in size (Fig. 12.5). A small porch was added to the doorway of site 22 and shelter sheds or stables at four other sites, including hut 6 at Blackmanstone which can be seen in Fig. 12.2.

The compass orientation of the majority of the identifiable plans were divided between fairly accurate north to south or east to west alignments on the long axis with some of the former veering slightly towards the north-west or north-east.

Entry to Looker's Huts was always by a single door, though at Blackmanstone (6) a blocked second door almost opposite the existing one can be seen (Fig. 12.7) and Kemp's Hill (66) may have been similar, though the evidence is less clear (Fig. 12.5). The doors were built in both the gable and long walls and faced east at half of the 15 sites where orientation could be determined. Other common orientations were south-west and south, perhaps to catch sunlight.

Most Lookers' Huts had a single small window. Examples with two or more windows do exist but are either unusually large (87, 94) or developed from an earlier building (66) and some were built without windows (28, 113). The aspect of the windows was much more varied than that of doors and does not suggest any concern with the position of prevailing winds or direct sunlight. The greatest number of windows were placed in the long wall sides rather than gable ends, perhaps to allow light into a larger area of the hut.

The presence of a chimney differentiates Lookers' Huts from other small agricultural buildings. The chimneys were constructed, either outside or inside the building, with the fireplace protruding from the gable wall. All but one of the huts examined had the chimney at the short gable end of the hut. The exception was at Coldharbour, Old Romney (94) which had a hipped roof and the stack was built on the long wall close to the north-east corner of the building. Only one building (36) which would otherwise be identified as a Looker's Hut was built without a chimney.

Building Materials and Construction

Brick was used in all buildings for the walls and chimneys of Lookers' Huts, with the exception of site 113. The predominant type was the red stock brick produced from either Wealden clays or those of Romney Marsh itself. These bricks were often of quite poor quality, being unevenly burnt and possessing a very coarse, granular fabric. Such material was probably a product of the 18th- or 19th-century local small-scale hand-made brick industry. This form of production survived longer in the south and west parts of Kent where the local market was relatively inaccessible to the mass-produced products manufactured in the second half of the 19th century in the north Kent brickfields. Stray examples of the characteristic yellow stock brick from north Kent were found in Lookers' Huts, as are Staffordshire blue bricks (69) and even re-used early brick incorporated into the multi-phase structure at Kemp's Hill (66).[41]

The vast majority of huts have walls one brick (9 inches) thick and without cavities, but there are some exceptions. At Moneypenny Farm, East Guldeford (28) and Cliff Marsh Farm, Stone (116) huts were built with walls half a brick thick and in both cases have been reinforced by pilasters, while the hut at Coldharbour (94) was constructed with a unique wall one and a half bricks thick (Fig. 12.7). Simple stretcher bond was by far the most common method of construction, found at 11 of the 21 sites where the bond could be identified. Of the other bonds seen, the majority are variations on Flemish Bond including Sussex, Flemish Stretcher and Yorkshire bonds, all of which use stretchers to increase the area covered by a limited quantity of bricks. More densely-built bonds, such as Dutch and English, were rare.

Stone was rarely used in hut construction. The only known example was at Kemp's Hill (66) where a rough mix of ashlar and rubble stone formed the base of the walls adjoining the eastern chimney. Some stonework in the upper wall was mixed with 15th- to 16th-century and 18th- to 19th-century brick suggesting that the whole has been constructed with salvaged material, though the chimney base could be a fragment of an earlier building (Fig. 12.5).

Timber, often re-used, was employed for roofing. The huts at Blackmanstone (6) and Coldharbour (94) used what were almost certainly house wall timbers for the wall plates. The only known example of timber wall construction, at Snave (113), uses a brick plinth to support a simple box frame with diagonally braced studs and corner posts with weather boarding nailed to them.

Roof Structure and Coverings

The most common type of roof construction in the surviving huts was a simple form of coupled rafter roof. The key components of such a standard roof were common rafters, set closely at centres of around 30 cm were notched to the outer edge of wall plates laid on the brick wall heads of the hut's long side. The paired rafters were commonly joined to a ridge board at their apex. Common variations on this model were the use of a tie beam set into the gable wall to strengthen the wall plates (in 10, 26, 67, 86 and 116) and the lapping together of rafter ends, rather than using a ridge board (as in 69 and 94). At site 108 the ridge board was replaced by an iron tie rod. Use of tie beams was not uncommon (6, 67, 94, 108 and 116), but they seem to have been later additions, except at site 113.

Seven known structures had hipped roofs (6, as shown in Fig. 12.2, 46, 63, 67, 68, 69 and 94). The hip was created by placing an additional plate on the short wall, which was morticed and pegged to the wall plates, and placing short rafters reaching to the ridge.

Clay tile was the universal roofing material for the traditional Looker's Hut, although many of the surviving examples have been re-clad in modern sheeting materials. The peg tile used was invariably of a fairly coarse red fabric, probably of Wealden origin, though some may have come from local brickfields, and was of 18th- or 19th-century date. Ridge tiles were also of a common, unembellished, semicircular form of the same fabric. So far no evidence, either documentary or from the field, has been found of huts with thatched roofs. In no examples seen were principle rafters used to carry common rafters supporting the tile-hanging laths, as might be found in more substantial buildings.

Construction Details: Doors, Windows and Chimneys

The doors of such small buildings always opened outwards, with the possible exception of site 22 which had a unique porch added to the gable end, presumably enclosing the original door. Doorways were often wide relative to their height and to similar domestic examples, and door frames reached to the roof margin on the long side, with the wall plate pegged to the frame. The doors, as in so many vernacular buildings, were constructed of vertical planks reinforced at top and bottom and possibly with a diagonal plank behind. Few original windows were found to survive and in many cases only the frames remained. Windows were usually quite narrow, 0.6 – 0.7 m wide, and were frequently placed high in the long wall of the building so that the top member of the frame fitted directly to the wall plate. A pair of tall narrow slit-like openings can be seen in the walls of hut 87 which had the proportions of ventilation openings (Fig. 12.6). They are like no other windows, and had no frames and may suggest a mixed use.

Windows were normally glazed, although some were only covered by shutters (Fig. 12.3). The shutters may have covered windows on the outside giving extra protection to the glazing and providing additional security when the hut was unoccupied. Although windows were small enough to be glazed with a single pane, they were frequently divided by glazing bars so that small off-cuts, at site 68 as many as nine, could be used.

The portion of the chimney rising above the roof ridge was generally short; no great height was needed to create an updraught on the exposed marshland. In many cases the top of the chimney has been demolished or at least reduced, but the average height was eight to ten courses of brick standing above the roof ridge. Chimney pots were relatively unusual additions, although it is very likely that many may have been lost in gales. Where present, they were invariably of a simple plain form, as might be expected.

Interiors: Walls, Floors, Fireplaces, Fittings and Furniture

The interiors of many huts studied were partly filled with rubble from the collapsed roof or overgrown with weeds. The buildings still in use (69, shown in Fig. 12.8, and 116) had modern cement floors but others were found with brick or compacted soil floors. The hut at Float Lane, Udimore (120) was probably unusual in having a flagstone floor. The interior walls were covered in a white limewash to maximise the illumination from sun and firelight. Graffiti was most readily seen on the lime-washed walls. The hut at Blackmanstone (6) had a host of inscriptions including initials, dates (from the present and last centuries) and what were probably sheep-counting tallies. Fragments of other graffiti were been noted at other sites but were usually in a very poor state.

Looker's Huts often had surprisingly large fireplaces in relation to their size, measuring between 0.6 and 0.8m. They dominated a large part of the room, often filling over a third or even half the internal width of the building. Most were built with a crude arch over the hearth supported with a wrought iron fireband, although occasional examples of timber and stone lintels are found and at two sites (10 and 116) the flue structure was corbelled in a self-supporting structure.

Hearths were seldom visible during fieldwork, but were usually of brick. At one site (94) stone was used but this was exceptional. It is unclear whether the fire was laid straight on to the hearth or if stoves or built-in fireplaces were used. There is little evidence of built-in grates, although there were five triangular-section fire bars in the hearth at Float Lane hut, near Udimore (120) and a curious slot in the hearth floor itself at Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch (26) may have acted as an ash trap below a grate. At site 108 a cast-iron fire was built into the chimney, set in a brick surround that reduced the width of the hearth. It had a small grate with arched opening above decorated with a moulding. This common mid-late 19th century

Fig. 12.8. Sheephouse at Cutters Bridge, Midley (69) in 1973. Source of photograph: Edward Carpenter.

item was of the type often seen in cottages and servants' rooms in larger houses.

There was surprisingly little evidence of fittings and furniture in the huts. Beds and cupboards may have been moveable and so left few traces. There was no surviving evidence for wall-mounted cupboards except at site 113, where a medium sized wall-cupboard remained in the north-west corner (Fig. 12.7). It may be a recent addition, but its presence suggested that similar items of re-used domestic furniture elsewhere may have been removed.

Large nails driven into the wall plates were used for hanging items. A substantial hook was fixed to a tie beam at site 6, one of a series of timbers added to the building that may have served to create a storage space. Few fixtures from around the fireplace have survived. A hook on an iron chain suspended from the fireband, probably meant for a cooking pot, was found at site 113, and similar features can be seen at sites 78 and 10 where iron pegs above the fireplace and in the back of the hearth survive. Elsewhere, nails can be found adjacent to the hearth (94) and in a beam above it (67).

Probable evidence for fitted shelving was found at several sites. Wooden batons in the hut near Willow Farm, Newchurch (78) probably used to support shelves between the fireplace and side walls. Bricks corbelled out from the gable wall may have supported shelves at site 108. The insertion of timber blocks into interior brickwork can be seen at several sites where they are often placed below windows, but not all were below windows and they may relate to former fittings. Perhaps the most complex piece of design is seen at the hut on the south side of the Rhee Wall, near New Romney (87) where a series of what appear to be timber shelves were built in alcoves (Fig. 12.6). There is nothing comparable to this is any other surviving building which could suggest an alternative or additional use for the hut.

Conclusions

While sheep have been important on the Romney Marshes for over a thousand years, their husbandry only became widespread from the 15th century. By the 17th century, however, a distinct breed of sheep and system of sheep farming had evolved. The late medieval and post-medieval pastoral economy of the area resulted in enlargement of fields and an increase in absentee landowners who hired local 'Lookers' to oversee their flocks. The Looker often cared for the flocks of several owners and this form of peripatetic shepherding led to the need for Lookers' Huts to provide an operational base for routine shepherding activities.

Agricultural improvements resulted in increasingly large flocks more densely stocked on carefully graded pasture, and by the end of the 19th century Romney Marsh pastures were the most heavily stocked in the country. As sheep numbers rose, more folds with their accompanying Sheephouses were built. The peak of construction was in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when as many as 300 huts may have existed, though all were not necessarily in use at the same time. Survey work, utilising limited sources, has identified 124 sites (at which remains of just 15 huts now exist above ground) and there are certainly more sites to be found. Distribution seems to have been fairly even across the region, having probably been initially linked to land ownership, and

subsequently to pasture quality and stocking ratios.

The sample that survives after at least half a century of decline is, unfortunately, small and in poor condition. It is difficult to look for generalities of design or to appreciate many of the apparent variations in their correct context. Although field evidence has been able to establish a chronology for hut development, a surprising variety of design in the detail of what are, on the face of it, the humblest of structures has emerged from field survey.

Fieldwork confirmed the solitary location and purpose-built nature of the Sheephouse. In terms of construction most huts were found to share the same essential components – a single-cell plan, pitched roof, chimney at one gable end, a single door and window – which typify the type. There are significant variations on these themes, including the presence of hipped roofs, abutting animal shelters, multiple windows, the lack of chimneys and possible adaption from other uses. Some features seem to relate to location and use, such as the orientation of doors and windows, and the construction of wide fireplaces. As might be expected of low-status agricultural buildings, a sparing use of poor quality and re-used materials was observed. The interiors were always very plain with little to suggest they were made more habitable by the inclusion of fittings like cupboards or stoves.

The two strands of research into the origin and nature of Sheephouses in the Romney Marshes region have demonstrated how a unique agricultural history has led to the development of a peculiar form of shepherding with its associated buildings. While the buildings themselves are constructed in a way familiar from other small vernacular agricultural structures, the details of their building and the characteristics of their location make them unique. While efforts should surely be made to preserve the better surviving examples in their surroundings, an understanding of their origins would benefit from further research targeted at identifying the location of further huts, refining their chronology and expanding the study of marshland vernacular building to place them in a tradition of construction.

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Notes

1. Marshall, *The Rural Economy of the Southern Counties*, 364.
2. Ward, 'The Wilmington charter', 24.
3. Birch, CS 160, 740.
4. Smith, *Canterbury Cathedral Priory*, 150–52.
5. Chalklin, *Seventeenth Century Kent*, 73.
6. cf. Dobson, 'Death and Disease on Romney Marsh'.
7. Draper, 'The Farmers of Romney Marsh'.
8. Short, 'The South-East', 285.
9. Beryl Coatts, unpublished research of the records of Lydd.
10. Draper, 'The farmers of Romney Marsh'.
11. Skilbeck, 'Sheep Farming in Romney Marsh in the XVIIIth Century', 6.
12. Whyman, 'The unchanging face of Romney Marsh', 48.
13. Cobbett, *Rural Rides*, 190.
14. Chalklin, *Seventeenth Century Kent*, 101; Filmer, 'The Kent sheep', 391.
15. Edwards, *The Romney Marsh Story*, 7.
16. Filmer, 'The Kent Sheep', 391.
17. Short, 'The South-East', 284.
18. Skilbeck, *Sheep Farming in Romney Marsh in the XVIIIth Century*.
19. Boys, *General View of the Agriculture of Kent*, 105.
20. Garrad, *Survey of the Agriculture of Kent*, 76.
21. Whitehead, 'A sketch of the agriculture of Kent', 481.
22. Finn, 'Romney Marsh sheep', 365.
23. Price, *A System of Sheep-Grazing and Management as Practised in Romney Marsh*, 167–203; Whitehead, 'A sketch of the agriculture of Kent', 480.
24. Dunstan, 'Romney Marsh sheep', 77.
25. Buckland, 'On the Farming of Kent'.
26. Cole and Dubey, 'Soil profile in relation to pasture performance in Romney Marsh'; Harrison, 'The relationship of herbage to soil in Romney Marsh'.
27. Green, *Soils of Romney Marsh*, 135–6.
28. Green, *Soils of Romney Marsh*, 125.
29. Edwards, *The Romney Marsh Story*, 8.
30. Garrad, *Survey of the Agriculture of Kent*, 80.
31. Allanson, *Kent or Romney Marsh Sheep*, 3.
32. Skilbeck, *Sheep Farming in Romney Marsh in the XVIIIth Century*, 5–6.
33. Carpenter, *Romney Marsh Yesteryears*, 10.
34. All Souls College, Oxford, CTM 226a/65a.
35. We are indebted to Edward Carpenter and Dennis Cole for much of the detailed information in this paragraph.
36. Centre for Kentish Studies S/RM P1/2 (map of Jefferson Watering by Thomas Boycote, 1652).
37. A full version of this section is contained in a report which will be produced for Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group.
38. Photographs used are held by the authors, Edward Carpenter and Lydd Public Library.
39. Brunskill, *Illustrated Handbook*, 26.
40. Patrick, 'Establishing a typology', 180.
41. The brick used at site 66 is certainly of 15th- or 16th-century date. Kenneth Gravett has suggested a 15th-century date in conversation with the authors.

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Appendix: Sites of Lookers' Huts

NGR	Parish	County	Surviving Building	Date
1. TR 043291	Appledore(d)	K		2
2. TQ 963293	Appledore	K		3
3. TR 035326	Bilsington	K		2
4. TR 038326	Bilsington	K		2
5. TR 039332	Bilsington	K		1
6. TR 076295	Blackmanstone	K		3
7. TR 082295	Blackmanstone	K		3
8. TR 055336	Bonnington	K		3
9. TR 061339	Bonnington	K		2
10. TQ 995279	Brenzett	K	*	3
11. TQ 957243	Brenzett	K		2
12. TR 006280	Brenzett	K		2
13. TR 008288	Brenzett	K		2
14. TR 002266	Brookland	K		3
15. TR 004265	Brookland	K		3
16. TR 038280	Brookland(d)	K		3
17. TQ 976261	Brookland	K		2
18. TQ 963242	Brookland	K		2
19. TQ 958236	Brookland	K		2
20. TR 005262	Brookland	K		2
21. TQ 982191+	Broomhill	Sx	*	2
22. TR 006203	Broomhill	K		3
23. TQ 996199	Broomhill	K		3
24. TQ 988198	Broomhill	Sx		2
25. TR 001189	Broomhill	K		2
26. TR 093297	Dymchurch	K	*	3
27. TR 082323	Eastbridge	K		2
28. TQ 943207	East Guldeford	Sx	*	2
29. TQ 939215	East Guldeford	Sx		
30. TQ 968200	East Guldeford	Sx		2
31. TQ 946213	East Guldeford	Sx		2
32. TQ 953214	East Guldeford	Sx		2
33. TQ 963210	East Guldeford	Sx		2
34. TQ 950224	East Guldeford	Sx		2
35. TQ 974199	East Guldeford	Sx		2
36. TQ 956200	East Guldeford	Sx	*	3
37. TQ 932297	Ebony	K		2
38. TQ 926294	Ebony	K		2
39. TQ 960271	Ebony	K		2
40. TQ 986276	Fairfield	K		2
41. TQ 955251	Fairfield	K		2
42. TR 053268	Hope	K		2
43. TR 057265	Hope	K		2
44. TR 057272	Hope	K		2
45. TR 062262	Hope	K		2
46. TR 056259	Hope	K		2
47. TR 041281	Ivychurch	K		2
48. TR 001251	Ivychurch	K		2
49. TR 006257	Ivychurch	K		2
50. TR 026265	Ivychurch	K		2
51. TQ 975236	Ivychurch	K		2
52. TQ 971211	Ivychurch	K		2
53. TQ 980207	Ivychurch	K		2
54. TQ 984229	Ivychurch	K		2
55. TQ 992238	Ivychurch	K		2
56. TR 046219	Lydd	K		
57. TR 055243	Lydd	K		3
58. TR 014201	Lydd	K		2
59. TR 027204	Lydd	K		
60. TR 043195	Lydd	K		3
61. TR 057223	Lydd	K		
62. TR 041182	Lydd	K		2
63. TR 065219	Lydd	K		
64. TR 046215	Lydd	K		
65. TR 064235	Lydd	K		
66. TR 055236	Lydd	K	*	2
67. TR 046228	Lydd	K	*	3
68. TR 023225	Midley	K		2
69. TR 008238	Midley	K	*	2
70. TR 014213	Midley	K		3
71. TR 005230	Midley	K		2
72. TR 011234	Midley	K		2
73. TR 003236	Midley	K		2
74. TR 014222	Midley	K		2
75. TQ 989213	Midley	K		2
76. TQ 995232	Midley	K		2
77. TR 045306	Newchurch	K		2
78. TR 054299	Newchurch	K	*	3
79. TR 060291	Newchurch	K		2
80. TR 062314	Newchurch	K		3
81. TR 003248	New Romney(d)	K		3
82. TR 064242	New Romney	K		3
83. TR 066246	New Romney	K		3
84. TR 044275	New Romney	K		2
85. TR 044263	New Romney	K		3
86. TR 041252	New Romney	K		3
87. TR 040247	New Romney	K	*	2
88. TR 042255	New Romney	K		3
89. TR 042257	New Romney	K		3
90. TR 044273	New Romney	K		3
91. TR 042245	Old Romney	K		2
92. TR 036245	Old Romney	K		3
93. TR 011226	Old Romney	K		2
94. TR 011249	Old Romney	K	*	3
95. TR 019253	Old Romney	K		3
96. TR 008323	Orlestone	K		2
97. TQ 945234	Playden	Sx		2
98. TQ 864277	Rolvenden	K		
99. TR 019321	Ruckinge	K		3
100. TR 016325	Ruckinge	K		2
101. TR 030328	Ruckinge	K		3
102. TR 064276	St Mary-in-the-Marsh	K	*	
103. TR 071261	St Mary-in-the-Marsh	K		2
104. TR 085285	St Mary-in-the-Marsh	K		2
105. TR 082267	St Mary-in-the-Marsh	K		3
106. TR 061275	St Mary-in-the-Marsh	K		2
107. TR 059285	St Mary-in-the-Marsh	K		2
108. TR 073279	St Mary-in-the-Marsh	K		2
109. TQ 967279	Snargate	K		2
110. TR 027302	Snave	K		2
111. TR 026295	Snave	K		2
112. TR 014314	Snave	K		3
113. TR 016299	Snave	K	*	3
114. TR 030296	Snave	K		3
115. TQ 938289	Stone	K		3
116. TQ 940256	Stone	K	*	3
117. TQ 943273	Stone	K	*	3
118. TQ 944255	Stone	K		3
119. TQ 946284	Stone	K		3
120. TQ 884181	Udimore	Sx	*	
121. TQ 993323	Warehorne	K		3
122. TQ 994300	Warehorne	K		2
123. TR 121340	West Hythe	K		3
124. TR 126324	West Hythe	K		2

Notes

\+ There is some doubt about the location of hut no 21, in Broomhill. Documents refer to a Sheephouse there, but none has been found although it may have been subsequently incorporated into the main building. More research is needed.

(d) Detached portion of that parish.

* Standing or ruinous building present.

The dates refer to three groups, as described on page 197: 1. Gone by 1830; 2. Existing in 1830; 3. Built after 1830–42.