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Ancient Tracks of Danehill Parish Part Two

What Journeys Did People Need to Make

Most journeys would have been made on foot. Walking to Lewes and back from Danehill would have been considered normal. This old man has been collecting faggots for his fire.

Photo from
Gill Rolfe Archive

Travellers would have been a common sight making their way along the village roads.



Goods were mostly carried by pack-horse. There were regular pack-horse trains traveling down from London delivering to the area.

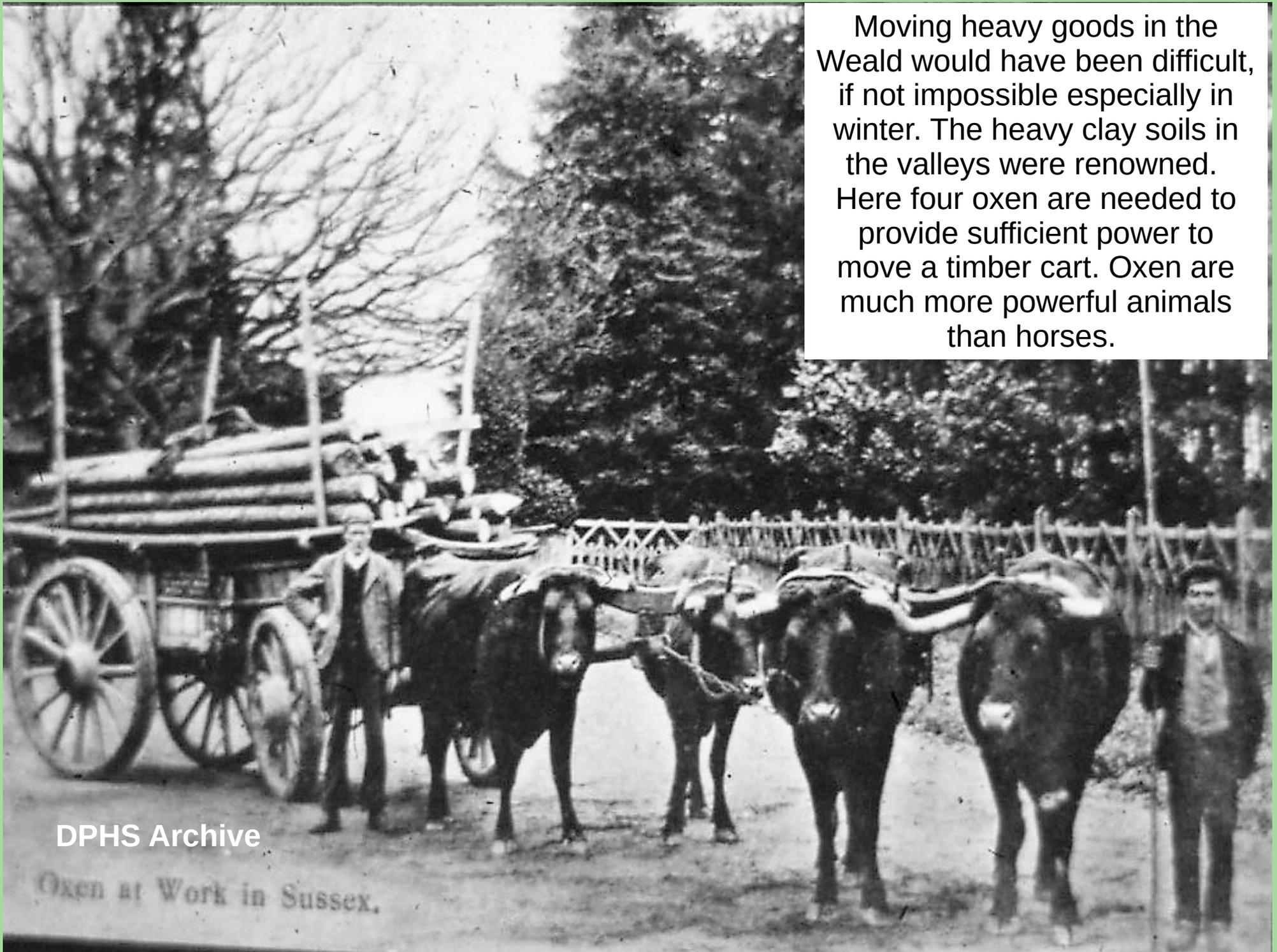


Pannage and Grazing

This is a modern posed photograph, but there would have been much movement of animals to market and to fresh grazing. Here pigs are being taken to Ashdown Forest to fatten up on acorns and beech mast.



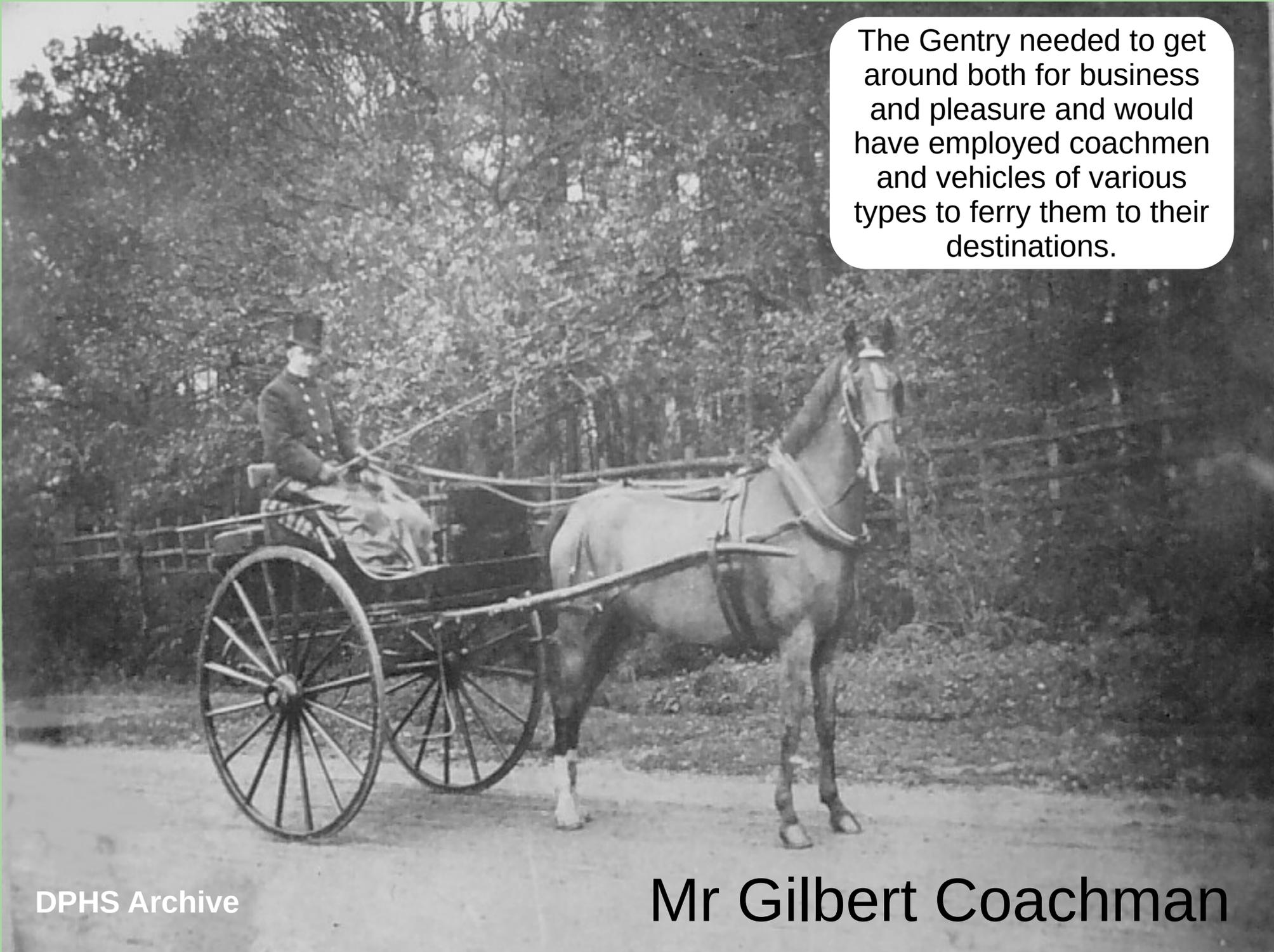
Moving heavy goods in the Weald would have been difficult, if not impossible especially in winter. The heavy clay soils in the valleys were renowned. Here four oxen are needed to provide sufficient power to move a timber cart. Oxen are much more powerful animals than horses.



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Oxen at Work in Sussex.

The Gentry needed to get around both for business and pleasure and would have employed coachmen and vehicles of various types to ferry them to their destinations.

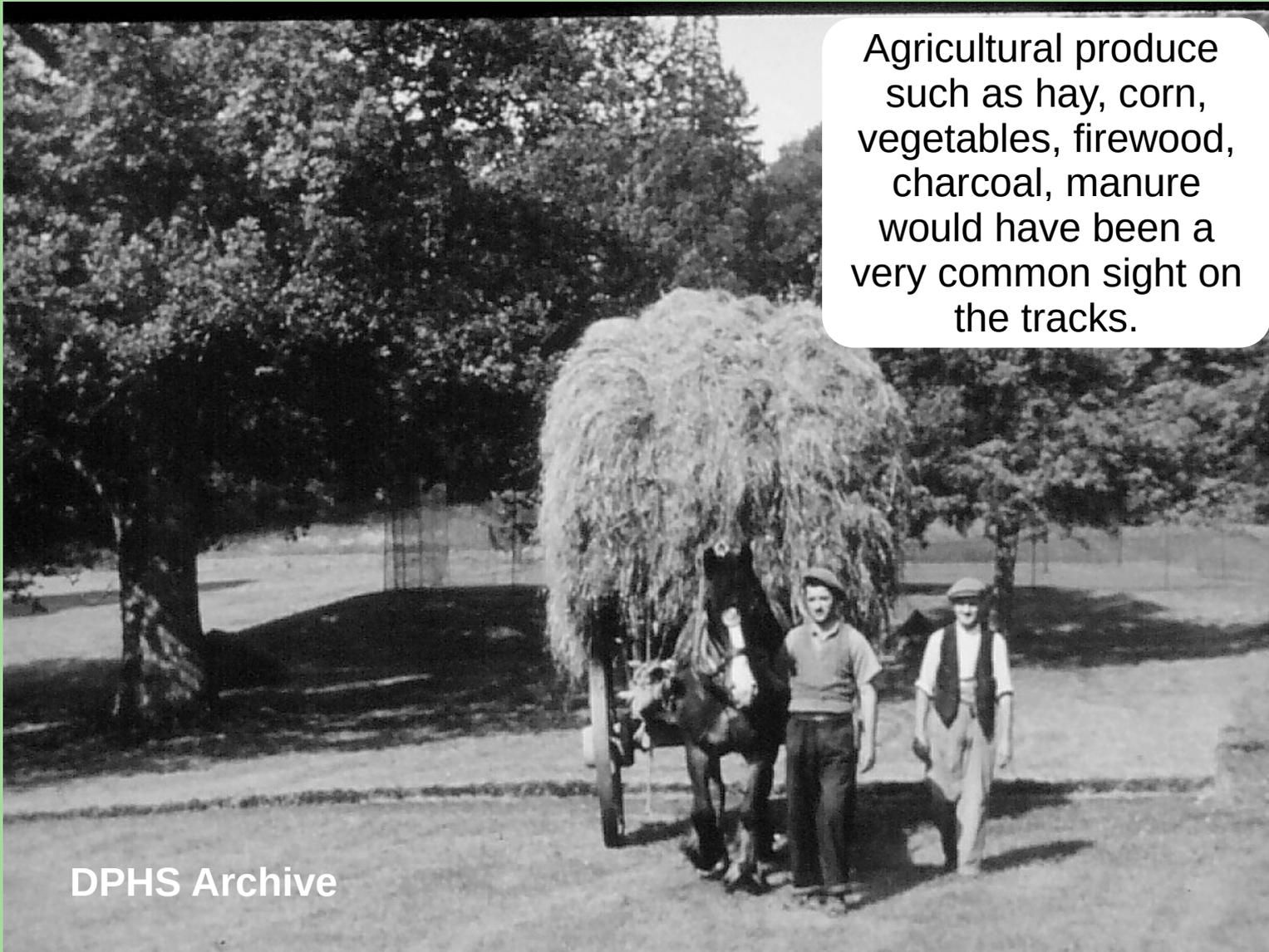


Horsted Keynes Smithy

Tradesmen would have also needed vehicles to move heavy goods from place to place. In some time periods heavy iron sows would have been transported from the furnaces to the forges.



Hay Cart



Agricultural produce such as hay, corn, vegetables, firewood, charcoal, manure would have been a very common sight on the tracks.

Charcoal And Iron Manufacturing



Charcoal production was an important industry and the charcoal would have to be carted away to the iron furnaces

Stagecoach



Danehill was on the main route from London to Brighton, when the stagecoach first began to be an important means of travelling longer distances. The route was through Croydon, Caterham, East Grinstead, Lewes and over the Downs to Brighton.

Summing Up

- Movement of goods by pack-horse and cart
- Movement of people (including coffins), horseback, carriage, stagecoach and on foot
- Movement of animals to grazing and market.

DANEHILL.

MANORS AND BOUNDARIES

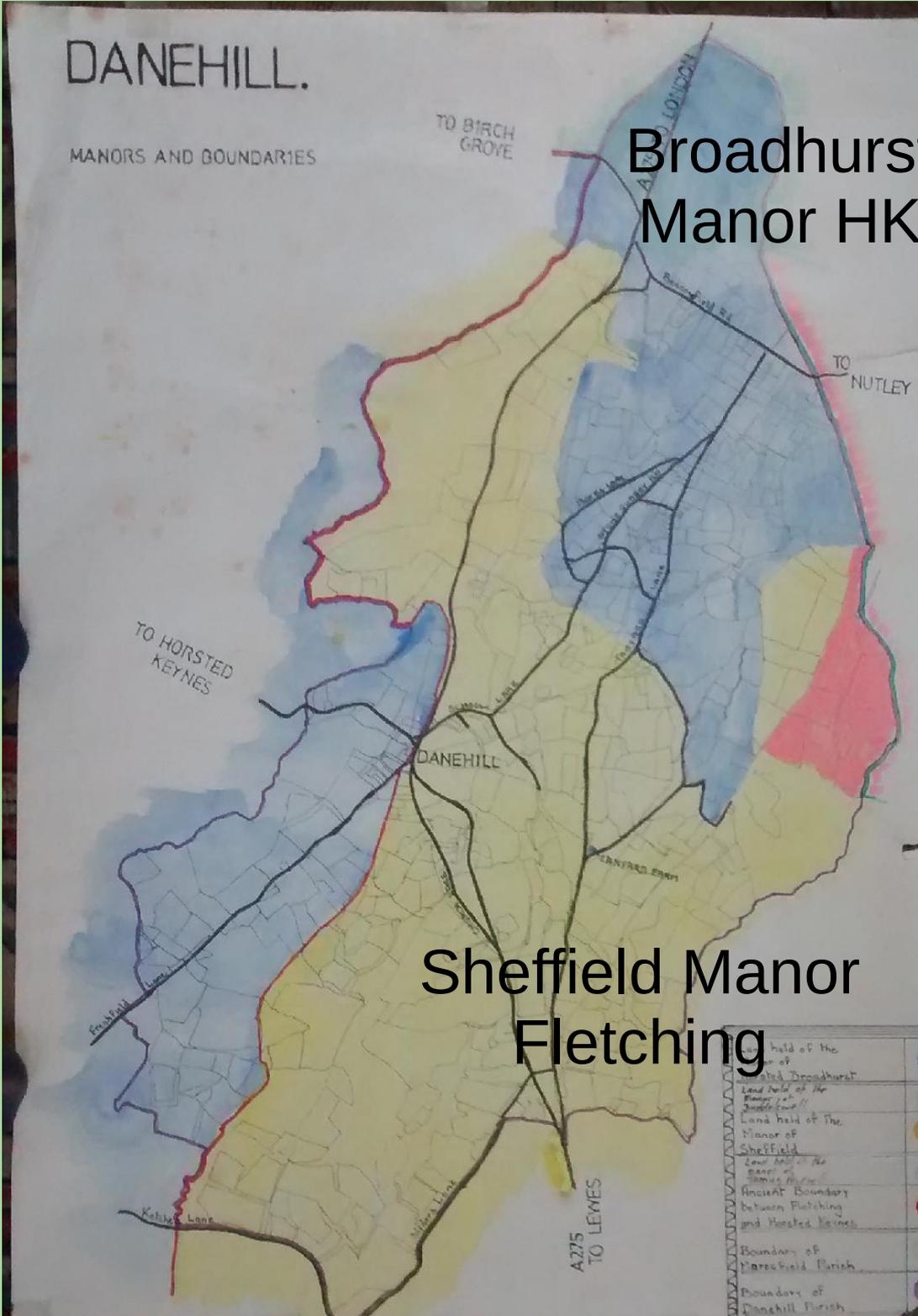
Broadhurst
Manor HK

What Journeys Did People Go On?

The blue area on the map is common land within Danehill Parish that belonged to the manor at Horsted Keynes. The 1795 map of Horsted Keynes on the next page shows that the land around the village is entirely enclosed. And all the common land is in Danehill parish. Horsted Keynes folk would have been a common sight on the tracks to Danehill and Chelwood Common as they would have had to make regular checks on their grazing animals during the summer

Sheffield Manor
Fletching

Land held of the	Manor of
Manor of	Broadhurst
Land held of the	Manor of
Manor of	Sheffield
Land held of the	Manor of
Manor of	Sheffield
Ancient Boundary	between Fletching
and Horsted Keynes	
Boundary of	Maresfield Parish
Boundary of	Danehill Parish



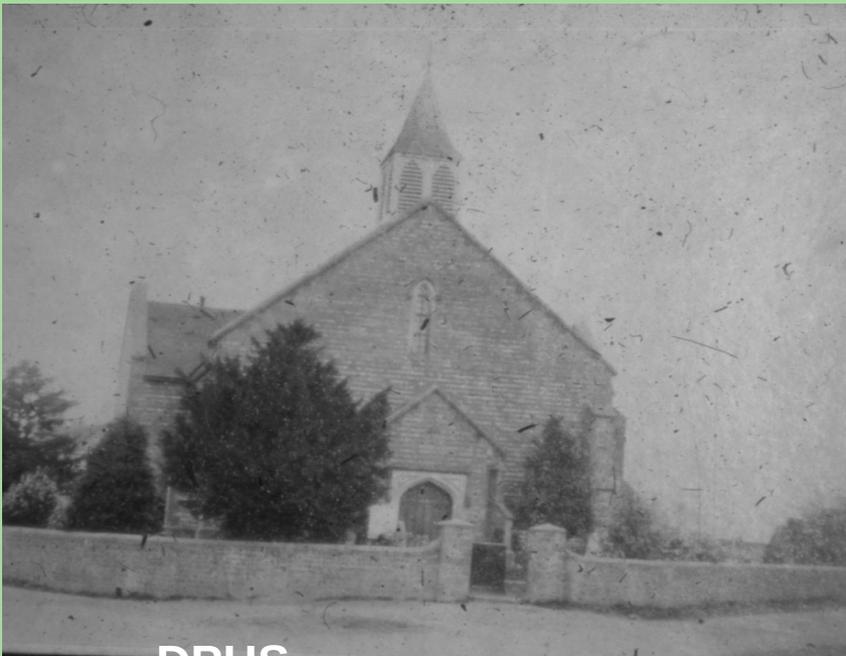
1795 map shows there was little common land in Horsted Keynes parish



Journeying to Church

People were expected to attend church on Sundays. In 1835 the Holy Trinity chapel, photo below, was opened, but before this people would have had to make long journeys to church in Horsted Keynes or Fletching.

Many would have walked along the tracks to Fletching or Horsted Keynes



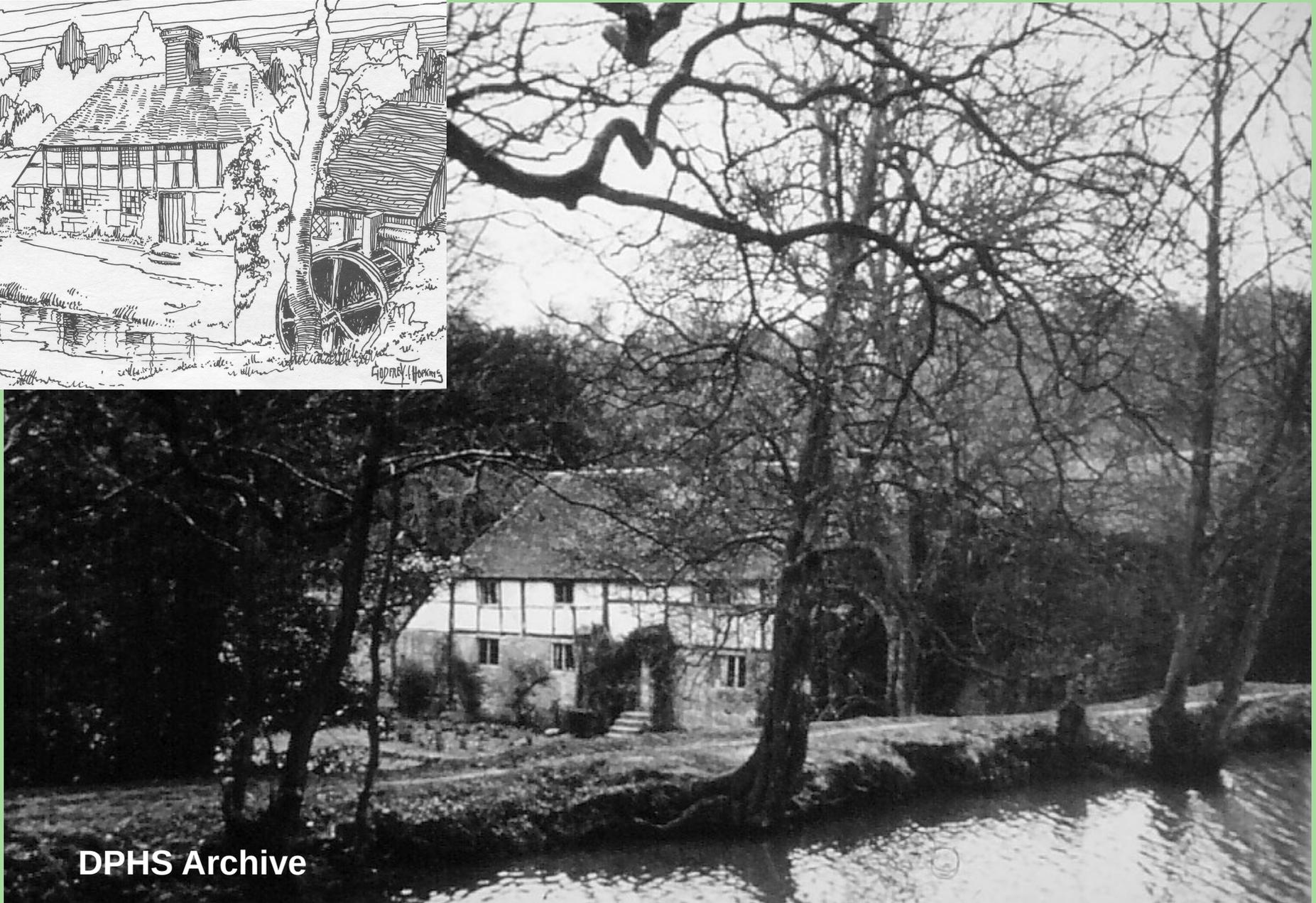
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Fletching church

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Corn would have had to be transported to the mill and the flour collected.
This is the mill at Furners Green



People would have needed to travel to local shops to pick up supplies. Here we see the ironmongery attached to the Forge at Danehill



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This is Turner's Bakery. The site of the shop can still be seen on the A275 almost opposite Freshfield Lane. The last bread was baked in the 1990's



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What Journeys Did People Go On? Summary

- Visiting local commons for animal grazing, collecting bracken, peat, firewood
- Place of worship at Horsted Keynes, Fletching, (Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals, Churchings).
- Access local services such as milling, blacksmith, shops, farrier, tannery, shoemaker.
- Travel to town, fairs or markets.
- Longer journeys eg London.

Any idea why she would have been crossing the road this time of night?

