

EXPLANATION OF MAP EVIDENCE

1. TITHE MAPS

Tithe maps were prepared following the Tithe Commutation Act 1836, which allowed tithes to be paid in cash rather than goods. It was not the purpose of the maps to record public highways. However as public highways were free from tithes it was in the interests of a landowner to have any public highways on their land recorded on the tithe map. The Rottingdean Tithe map dated 1839 prepared by Wm Leach includes the area of The Paddock and does not record any paths at the area of The Paddock.

2. FINANCE ACT 1910 MAPS

The Finance Act of 1910 involved a national survey of land by the Inland Revenue so that an incremental value duty could be levied when ownership was transferred.

Landowners could claim tax relief where a highway crossed their land. Although the existence of a public right of way may be admitted it is not usually described or a route shown on the plan. This Act was repealed in 1920.

There were two main types of survey record, plans and field books. Plans refer to relevant field books, which provide information about specific properties. Two sets of plans were created:

- (a) surviving working plans used in the course of valuation are kept at local archives
- (b) record plans made after the valuation was completed are kept at The National Archives at Kew

Field books were the final record of the Valuation Survey compiled after the survey was completed and are the most useful source of information. The East Sussex Records Office have advised that the plans held there are not very helpful without the field books

However Ordnance Survey maps of Sussex were annotated by the Brighton Valuation Office for the purposes of the Finance Act 1910. Printed base maps used by the Valuation Office were produced by Ordnance Survey at various dates between about 1840 and 1920, the majority dating from between late 1880s and about 1914.

3. ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

Ordnance Survey mapping was originally for military purposes to record all roads and tracks that could be used in times of war. This included both public and private routes. These maps are good evidence of the physical existence of routes, but not necessarily of status. Since 1889 the Ordnance Survey has included a disclaimer on all of its maps to the effect that the depiction of a road or way is not evidence of the existence of a right of way. These documents must therefore be read alongside the other evidence.

Ordnance Survey maps show what actually exists on the ground

Large scale Ordnance Survey maps have not been printed since geographical information systems became commonly available. In 2001 OS MasterMap was launched. This is a geospatial database showing man-made and natural landscape features in Britain.