COLLEGE FARM

From mediaeval times, Magdalen College, Oxford, owned manorial rights over those properties in Southwater which were part of the Manor of Sele. College Wood was one such property, hence the name. The original site of College Farm was adjacent to College Wood.

The 1844 Tithe Map apportionment book refers to it as a Homestead (barn and dwelling combined). (Ref no 1048) (See PARSONS FARM for an example). It also shows a cottage orchard, a well field and two ponds (which are still there). Old maps reveal that it was approached by several paths or tracks via Shaws Lane and through College Wood. From acreages shown in Fletcher leases, we can see that the area now called College Farm once comprised three farms, Priors, Worsfolds and College.
(see SLHG website www.southwaterhistory.co.uk for more information)

In Henry Smith's diary the entry for 29th December 1896 refers to *"A very good concert in College Barn"*. The 1911 maps also show this site as College Barn. The barn burnt down in the 1960s or 1970s and no trace of it remains.

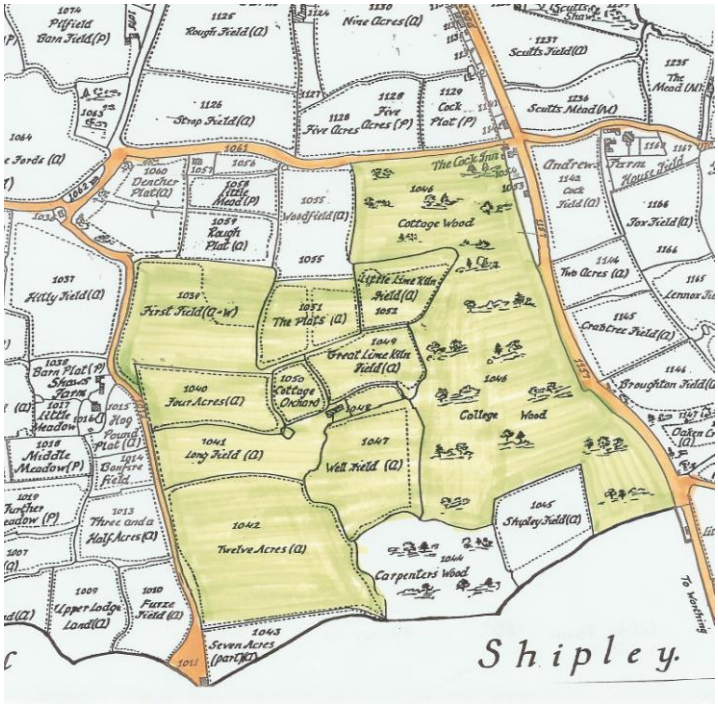
Searches on the site by SLHG have revealed a large amount of Horsham stone, brick and tile fragments. A belt buckle, probably from the sixteenth century, has also been found. The pottery shards have been checked by the Sussex Archaeological Society and include:

- early mediaeval jug handle dated 1250 to 1500
- the remains of a Bartman jug circa 1600 (see picture)
- early post mediaeval vessel dated 1500 to 1700
- clay pipe fragments dated 1750 to 1850

Found by Patsy Laker

16th century belt buckle found by Trevor Whittaker

The area covered by the farm in 1809.



1844 Tithe Map redrawn by Alan Siney