

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
of
SURREY

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EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY HASLEMERE

INTRODUCTION

Extensive Urban Surveys have been undertaken or are presently being undertaken in a number of English counties as part of a wide ranging English Heritage initiative (English Heritage 1992). Surrey, in common with many other counties, had a survey of its historic towns carried out almost thirty years ago (O'Connell 1977), as a result of an initiative by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments (then part of the Department of the Environment). This survey has formed a basis and background for archaeological work in towns throughout the ensuing period, but is now in urgent need of replacement to reflect current knowledge and planning concerns (Poulton & Bird 1998).

The present survey is intended to provide an up-to-date view of the archaeological resource in each of the towns studied and consists of three phases: data collection, data assessment and strategy. The first stage, data collection, incorporates the acquisition of new data and its amalgamation with existing knowledge of the history and archaeology of the town. The data is acquired in a form suitable for its incorporation into the Surrey Sites and Monuments Record. The data assessment phase of the survey leads to the production of this report which presents a history of the town, an analysis of the plan of the town, an assessment of the archaeological and buildings data and the state of modern development resulting in the identification of areas of archaeological importance. Information about the development of the town through the ages, including analysis of its plan and the identified areas of archaeological importance, is also presented in a series of maps at the end of the report. The Strategy phase of the survey uses the information presented in the Data Assessment combined with current statutory and non-statutory constraints, and present and future planning policy to make recommendations for policies regarding the historic environment. The policies may be incorporated into Local and Unitary Development Plans, non-statutory policies, supplementary guidance and for use within development control (Hampshire County Council 1997, 1).

The project faced a clear difficulty in knowing which towns to include, as there seems to be no agreed definition. Historically, towns in Surrey have always been small because of the proximity of London and the generally poor quality of the County's land for agriculture. This fact is masked now by the considerable expansion of many towns and villages following the coming of the railway in the later 19th century. The main problem, in the absence of an absolute measure, is in deciding where to draw the line. This ought, in principle, to be established by comparing the evidence from towns, as defined by O'Connell (1977), and that from other large settlements or villages.

Unfortunately archaeological investigation of Surrey's towns has been relatively limited in scope, and villages have been even less well served. In these circumstances comparisons are rather hard to draw. The evidence from the villages is consistent with that of the towns in suggesting that their development belongs to the period from the 12th/13th century onwards. Surrey's towns are not, generally, greatly different from the villages in the quantity of evidence they produce and this is undoubtedly because they differ little in size. The town, with its market, had an economic status denied to the village, but in Surrey all the inhabitants of both lived in immediate proximity to their fields. There was probably the same lack of distinction between town and village in the medieval period as there is in their excavated evidence or plans revealed today.

In these circumstances it seemed best to adopt an inclusive approach and deal with all the more substantial medieval settlements which have indications of nucleation ('nucleated' settlements have houses run together and signs of developed backlands). Haslemere, which developed as a town following the granting of a market in 1221 (and its confirmation by charter in 1394), clearly qualified for inclusion.

The study area is defined on fig 4. This area was defined to enclose all of the built-up area as indicated by the earliest large scale maps, such as that of Rocque (1768), the 1842 Tithe map and the 1st edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey map of c1877. In practice, however, information from a larger area, including a possible earlier focus of settlement to the south of the defined study area, has been taken full account of.

General note on maps and mapping

A standard set of historic maps was consulted in compiling all reports for the Surrey EUS. The Senex and Rocque maps were consulted in Ravenhill 1974, while all enclosure, tithe, and historic Ordnance Survey maps were examined in the map collections of the Surrey History Centre, Woking. Further references are not given for these maps where they are mentioned below. Where other maps are referred to a reference is given.

All map bases for the maps used in the figures are those of the modern Ordnance Survey, unless otherwise stated, and the data forms a GIS overlay to the Ordnance Survey maps.

Abbreviations used

EUS	Extensive Urban Survey
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
OS	Ordnance Survey
SCAU	Surrey County Archaeological Unit
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SHS	Surrey History Service
<i>SyAC</i>	<i>Surrey Archaeological Collections</i>
<i>SyAS Bull</i>	<i>Surrey Archaeological Society's Bulletin</i>
<i>VCH</i>	<i>Victoria County History of Surrey</i>

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY (fig 1)

Haslemere (NGR 905 328) lies in the Weald, in the most south-westerly corner of Surrey, bordered to the south by West Sussex and to the west by Hampshire. The geology of the town is mainly Lower Greensand but it extends on to the Atherfield and Wealden Clay (BGS Haslemere Sheet No 301, 1981); the railway line follows the edge of the Atherfield Clay on the western side of the town. Haslemere is a market town situated 14.5km south-west of Godalming. The historic centre of the town lies on the slope of a gentle hill, Black Down Ridge, with the parish church of St Bartholomew upon the hilltop (at Piperham) c800m to the north-west. The High Street in Haslemere is thought to run along the watershed of the Wey and Arun rivers (Rolston 1956, 2).

PAST WORK AND THE NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE

Haslemere is a small town for which there is a limited body of archaeological and historical information. The purpose of the present section of the report is to provide a summary of the scope and character of that evidence, and to indicate something of its strengths and weaknesses, prior to the attempt in the ensuing section to use this data to create an account of the development of Haslemere. The detailed information is confined to that directly relevant to the study area (fig 4) of the settlement, but material from the general vicinity is referred to as necessary.

Archaeology

A limited amount of archaeological evidence has been recovered from Haslemere and the surrounding area. Archaeological work in and around Haslemere, in the form of watching briefs and evaluations, has generally been undertaken since the 1990s in response to redevelopment work in the area; although this has been small scale and with a limited amount of positive results. Earlier work has included the excavation of a Romano-British cemetery in 1908 north of the town (SMR No 1554). Stray finds have also been recovered from around

Haslemere. The archaeological evidence recovered dates to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Documents

The history of Haslemere can be pieced together from a number of written sources. A chapel at Piperham (generally agreed to be the site of St Bartholomews church) is referred to c1180 in the Salisbury Registers (*VCH 3*, 49), which show it as belonging to the parish of Chiddingfold which was itself part of the manor of Godalming (*VCH 3*, 45). The first known record of the place-name appeared in 1221 when a market at Haslemere was granted to the Bishop of Salisbury (O'Connell 1977, 35). A review of Haslemere by O'Connell (1977) provides both a series of research aims, especially those related to the origins and early development of the town, and a concise summary of existing knowledge. The Victoria County History provides a short summary of the history of the town as part of the manor of Godalming.

Cartography

The cartographic evidence, which steadily becomes more detailed through the post-medieval period, suggests that there was little expansion outside the medieval extent of the town until the 20th century. A map by an unknown draughtsman depicting Haslemere at some time in the period between 1600-1700 has been published in Rolston's *Haslemere in History* (1956) (fig 2). A map by William Morley dated 1735 (fig 3, from Rolston 1956) provides a stylised but reasonably accurate plan of the layout of the town centre and also a detailed view of the houses and buildings, shown as front elevations. A map by H Cotes dated to 1775 (Rolston 1956) provides a more detailed layout of the town plan. Other useful maps include the Rocque map of c1768, the Tithe Map of 1842 which shows the town clearly with the surrounding field names, and a map of the parish of Haslemere compiled in 1867, based on the Tithe Map, which probably results from a survey of the parish started by JW Penfold in May 1861. A Town map of Haslemere was also drawn up by John Clark in 1886. There was limited development in the town by the time of the large scale OS maps of 1877 which, together with their high quality and accuracy, makes these the most generally useful maps to aid study of the early town.

Buildings

Historic buildings can provide us with valuable information regarding the plan of a town over time, information which might not be available from any other source. Haslemere possesses a reasonable number of historic buildings, some of which are listed, dating from the 16th century and later; there is a possibility that some of the timber-framed buildings in Haslemere may be of even earlier date.

THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HASLEMERE

The scope of the resources available for an account of the history of Haslemere has been indicated by the preceding section. The following narrative should be read with the limitations of those resources in mind. It is concerned essentially with the area of the medieval town and its immediate surrounds. The more detailed analysis of the town plan and its development is reserved for the next section.

Prehistoric and Roman

There is a limited amount of evidence for human activity in the area of Haslemere dating from the early Prehistoric period, generally to the north and south-west of Haslemere. The Lower Greensand has long been recognised as a most productive area for the recovery of Mesolithic flintwork, being well-drained and well-watered (Ellaby 1987, 58). This is reflected by the SMR around Haslemere with a scatter of finds of Mesolithic flint implements (SMR Nos 1550, 1561, 1562, 1567 and 1569) in addition to finds of Neolithic date (SMR Nos 1549, 1572, 2203 and 2713) (fig 5).

A Romano-British cemetery (SMR No 1554, Holmes 1949) was excavated in 1908 at Beech Road on the northern side of the town near the railway line. It consisted of 26 cremations in two separate groups, the first dating to AD60-80, the second to AD80-120. A 'pavement of flat stones' was also found in association with the cemetery and has been variously interpreted as a kiln or the bottom of a storage pit. A parallel to this cemetery exists at Charterhouse School, Godalming. In both cases much of the coarse ware pottery was in forms derived from contemporary imported models and directly influenced by Gallo-Belgic work. This type of pottery is relatively uncommon in Surrey and the two cemeteries constitute good evidence concerning the early Romanisation of the region (O'Connell 1977, 35). Sherds of a 2nd century AD jar were found in 1953 at High Lane, Haslemere (SMR No 1565) and may represent an outlier to the Beech Road cemetery.

Saxon and Norman

There is no archaeological evidence for activity of Saxon or Norman date in Haslemere at present.

Medieval

The early history of Haslemere is rather complex. Piperham is recorded in c1180 in the Salisbury Registers as a chapelry belonging to the parish of Chiddingfold which itself was part of the manor of Godalming (*VCH 3*, 45). The parish church of St Bartholomew is commonly identified with the chapel of Piperham mentioned in the Salisbury Registers in 1180 and 1185. Piperham is the name of the area where the present church is situated, c800m north-west of the present town centre. It has been suggested that the original settlement of Haslemere was situated at Piperham (Gover *et al* 1934, 206) and the distance between the present town in the valley and the church on the hilltop at Piperham strengthens this argument. However, it is possible that an even earlier settlement existed at Haste Hill, c800m south-east of Haslemere. A small tenement is recorded here during the 14th century (*VCH 3*, 45) and reference is made to land known as 'Old Haslemere' in 1486 (Rolston 1956, 106-7). Two field names on the Tithe Map of 1842 are 'Church Lidden Field (no 564) and 'Old Haslemere Field' (no 559) suggest the site of an original church and cemetery (Swanton & Woods 1914, 36-42). Human bones were reported to have been found in Church Lidden Field in the early 19th century (O'Connell 1977, 35), and fragments of pottery, glass and flint implements have also been discovered in Little Field adjoining Church Lidden Field. There is no evidence to support the detail of these statements, but they may well reflect memories of the earlier existence of more than one church. A record of 1363 records the grant of a licence for the consecration of a long existing chapel and burial ground at Haslemere in place of the old churchyard near the old church (*VCH 3*, 49). The former must be St Bartholomew's at Piperham, the latter might well refer to a former church on Haste Hill, with the suggestion that early settlement took place on Haste Hill south-east of the present town centre.

The town was certainly in its present position by the 13th century. The first known record of the place-name of Haslemere appeared in 1221 when a market was granted to the Bishop of Salisbury together with the manor of Godalming. It has been suggested that the appearance of Haslemere as a market centre in 1221 makes a good case for its having been a planted town that, like Reigate, succeeded a much smaller settlement (Beresford 1967, 490). If so, it seems likely that the bishop could have been the initiator of such a new town. The place-name 'Haslemere' means 'hazel pool' (Gover *et al* 1934, 204) implying that the original water supply came from pools fed by springs. High Street is thought to run along the watershed of the Wey and Arun rivers (Rolston 1956, 2); the presence of a natural water source would have been an important factor in the siting of the settlement of Haslemere.

Haslemere may have become a borough as early as 1230 when a burgage plot is known to have been granted (Swanton & Woods 1914, 44), and is specifically called 'burgus' in 1377 (*VCH 3*, 46). It is impossible to estimate the relative wealth of Haslemere in 1336 in comparison with the other Surrey towns because there is no separate tax return for the borough. In 1394 the market was confirmed by charter and an annual fair granted by the

Bishop of Salisbury (*VCH 3*, 46). The woollen industry must have provided the basis for the town's economy during the Middle Ages (*VCH 2*, 271).

Post-medieval

Before the end of the 16th century the town appears to have been relatively poor and the market and fair had fallen into disuse (O'Connell 1977, 35). In 1596 Elizabeth I regranted the market and fair and confirmed the right of the borough to elect two members of Parliament. The town was also considered as a separate manor from Godalming by that date. The grant was politically motivated to increase Elizabeth's influence in Parliament. The new market does not appear to have been very successful and the market-house is recorded as being entirely ruinous by 1658 (*VCH 3*, 46-7). The Hearth Tax Roll of 1664 listed 82 households within the borough (Meekings 1940, cxiii), making Haslemere the smallest town considered, after Blechingley, at that date (O'Connell 1977, 35).

The road from Godalming to Haslemere was turnpiked after 1758, and is on the list of new mail roads for 1769 (Rolston 1956, 60), giving improved communications between the town and the rest of Surrey and providing impetus for growth. A certain amount of rebuilding took place in the 18th century but little outward expansion of the town itself. All of the early cartographic evidence, such as the 1735 map by William Morley and the map by H Cotes dated to 1775 reveal that the present High Street was formed and well developed by the late 18th century.

Haslemere was among the 46 boroughs whose population stood lowest at the time of the Reform Act of 1832. The South Western Railway (Portsmouth line) reached Haslemere in 1859 and initiated the modern development of the town. Having been bypassed previously by the London to Portsmouth coach road which ran through Hindhead, the town was now connected to Guildford and London, and to the south coast. The population, which was 840 in 1842, grew to 2,650 by 1903 and 4,340 by 1931 (Winter & Collyer 1991, 7). Haslemere had also become an independent parish by 1869 (*VCH 3*, 49). In the latter half of the 19th century several artists and writers, including Alfred Lord Tennyson, Conan Doyle, George Bernard Shaw and George Eliot were attracted to live in or around this quietly growing but still relatively unspoilt small country town (Winter & Collyer 1991, 8).

ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN PLAN

Topographic divisions

The detailed analysis of the topographic development of Haslemere is presented in the sections of the report following this one. The analysis has enabled the definition of a number of distinct elements within the plan, which are shown on fig 4, and summarised below. Cross-reference to them is given as TD1 etc in the text that follows. It should be stressed that the precise extent of a number of these elements is not known.

- 1 The parish church of St Bartholemew and its churchyard. Identified with the 12th/13th century chapel at Piperham. The church is thought to have possessed features of 13th century date prior to its 19th century rebuild. It lies c800m north-west of the present centre of Haslemere.
- 2 The medieval settlement at Haslemere along High Street and Petworth Road, Lower Street and Shepherd's Hill, possibly a regular planned settlement.
- 3 Medieval market place at the southern end of the High Street, first granted in 1221.
- 4 Limit of development by c1877 having spread along Shepherd's Hill and Lower Street.
- 5 Old Haslemere Field, perhaps part of a 13th century or earlier settlement at Haste Hill

- 6 Church Lidden Field, perhaps part of a 13th century or earlier settlement at Haste Hill
- 7 Little Field, perhaps part of a 13th century or earlier settlement at Haste Hill
- 8 Haste Hill Common, perhaps part of a 13th century or earlier settlement at Haste Hill

Medieval and post-medieval topography of Haslemere town

The modern and medieval town of Haslemere can be shown, by archaeological and documentary evidence, to have its origins in the 13th century. All the evidence suggests that it was closely focused on High Street and Petworth Road (later developing along Shepherd's Hill and Lower Street) and it is this core area that is considered here.

PARISH CHURCH (TD1)

The parish church of Haslemere, St Bartholomew's (SMR No 1552) is situated on a hilltop c800m north-west of the present centre of Haslemere in an area once known as Piperham (*VCH 3*, 45) (fig 4). The church was originally a chapel-of-ease belonging to the parish of Chiddingfold, itself part of the parish of Godalming (*VCH 3*, 48). The location of the church at Piperham seems to make certain the identification of St Bartholomew's with the 'capella de Piperham' mentioned in the Salisbury Registers in 1180 and 1185 (*VCH 3*, 49). St Bartholomew's is thought to have contained 13th century features in the old nave and chancel prior to being largely rebuilt in 1870-1 (*VCH 3*, 48), with the exception of the 17th century tower at the west end. The church registers date from 1572.

CHAPELS

Two chapels are shown in Haslemere on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1877. One is a Baptist chapel which was built in 1862 on the northern side of Lower Street. Prior to its construction, meetings had been held since 1846 in a disused skittle alley in Well Lane (Winter & Collyer 1991, 35). The other is a Methodist chapel on the south side of Lower Street which dates from 1804. A Congregational Church was built in 1881 next to the Methodist chapel and later became the United Reformed Church (Winter & Collyer 1991, 37).

STREETS

The 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1877 preserves the basic layout of the medieval town with a basically T-shaped plan (fig 4). The High Street runs roughly north-south broadening out into a typical funnel-shaped market-place (TD3) at its southern end where it meets Petworth Road which runs to the east, and Lower Street and Shepherds Hill which both run westwards. The only substantial changes to the main streets of Haslemere over the last few centuries have been to their names. On the Cotes map of 1775 Lower Street is named as Pilewell Street after the well at its western end, and the western end of Petworth Road, where it meets High Street and 'Pilewell Street', is named as Cow Street. On the Tithe Map of 1842, Petworth Road is named as 'East Street' becoming Chicken Street further to the east, once it is beyond the last buildings of the town. The London Turnpike Road is named along what is now known as Grayswood Road. On an 1886 Town map of Haslemere by John Clark, Lower Street is named 'Station Road'. Tanners Lane was formerly called Hall Lane as it led to the Hall of Piperham near St Bartholomew's Church.

Some of the street names recall industries undertaken within the town. They include Weavers End on the eastern side of the railway bridge on Church Lane, and Tanners Lane, probably named after the leather industry that was based in this part of the town from at least the 15th to 18th century. The location of the pound at the northern end of the High Street is recalled by Pound Corner and Pound Mead.

Shepherds Hill became part of the turnpike road for coaches in the late 1760s. Before this coaches bound for Chichester from London or Guildford came down from Hindhead, bypassing the town completely. West Street was created in c1900 when a new school was built at the end of Chestnut Avenue, the start of the westward development of the town.

Bridge Road was constructed in 1911 to connect West Street and Chestnut Avenue with Tanners Lane, to provide better access to the west side of the town from the school in Chestnut Avenue (Rolston 1964, 52).

The road from Godalming to Haslemere was turnpiked after 1758 and is on the list of new mail roads for 1769 (Rolston 1956, 60). This improved communications between the town and the rest of Surrey and provided impetus for growth.

THE MARKET (TD3)

In medieval times the market place was sometimes an area completely separated from the main street of the town, but could also take the form of a widening of the street itself. In both types the market hall was usually placed off-centre, nearer to one side or even in the corner of the area (Harris c1990, 39). At Haslemere the market-house, marked on William Morley's map of 1735, stood just north of the present town hall at the southern end of the High Street where it broadens into a funnel-shaped market-place, with Petworth Road to the east and Lower Street and Shepherds Hill to the west.

A market was granted at Haslemere to the Bishop of Salisbury in 1221 (Beresford 1967, 490). In 1394 the market was confirmed by charter and an annual fair was granted by the Bishop of Salisbury (*VCH 3*, 46). Before the end of the 16th century the market and fair had fallen into disuse and the town appears to have been relatively poor. In 1596 Elizabeth I regranted the market and fair and confirmed the right of the borough to elect two members of Parliament (O'Connell 1977, 35). The town commemorates the charter by holding a fair, the Charter Fair, in the High Street, every other year. The new market does not appear to have been a very successful one and the market-house and two crosses (the Fish Cross and the Butter Cross) were entirely ruinous by 1658. A ground plan of the old market-house copied from a plan of 1758 by William Morley and published in Swanton & Woods (1914, 236) shows several shops, standings and a cage set up round the market house. The map also shows a Butchers Shambles and the pillory on the north side of the market-house. The two crosses were pulled down after 1735 and the market house was pulled down in 1814 when the present hall (town hall) was built slightly to the south (*VCH 3*, 46-7). Pevsner notes that, despite its early 19th century origins, the Town Hall looks like a perfect example of the late 17th century vernacular public building, two storeys with the ground floor originally open for market stallholders (Nairn & Pevsner 1971, 304). In a photograph of 1862, the area under the arches appears to be in use as a lock-up. A later photograph taken during the years of the First World War shows the ground floor bricked up and enclosed. The room above was the infants' school until 1900. The first public library in Haslemere was also in the Town Hall from 1865 (Winter & Collyer 1991, 17). In the present day the Council Chamber on the first floor is used by Haslemere Town Council.

BURGAGE PLOTS

There is little difference between the plan of Haslemere on Cote's map of 1775 and on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of c1877. Regular building plots can be clearly seen on the map of 1775, mainly on the east side of the High Street and southern side of Petworth Road. William Morley's map of 1735, although stylised, provides an indication that plots associated with the houses of the medieval town fronting onto the High Street were of a fairly uniform length (TD2).

Such regular plots must be the result of a formal setting out of the borough at its foundation. (TD2). Development westwards along Lower Street and Shepherds Hill seems to have been sporadic and belongs to a later phase in the growth of the town (O'Connell 1977, 39) (TD4). The development is of a different nature with smaller plots.

The present plan of the old town has not changed greatly since 1775, still possessing the same inverted T-shape with funnel-shaped High Street.

OTHER BUILDINGS

Haslemere has a large number of buildings of historic interest, many of which are listed. The oldest standing buildings within the centre of the town are of 16th century date, perhaps even earlier in some cases, and are mainly located within the three main streets of the town: High Street, Lower Street and Petworth Road. The majority of the historic buildings are of 17th century date. Many of the timber-framed houses have had their lower walls rebuilt in brick or stone and the upper framing clad in tile-hanging to give greater protection from the weather.

In Lower Street there are a number of cottages connected with the tanning industry and dying of cloth. They include No 56 (Yew Tree Cottage) which is of 17th century or earlier date. Tudor House is a substantial house of early 17th century date and was formerly known as 'Skinners' and 'Sheepskin House' where skinning and curing of hides took place. Here at Town Meadow there was plenty of flowing water for the pits or vats used for the dressing or tanning of skins. Also in Lower Street are No 3 (The Wells) and No 43 which are both timber-framed houses of 16th century or earlier date; No 15 is thought to possess the remains of a late medieval timber-framed house. Verandah Cottage at the junction of Lower Street with Tanners Lane is another timber-framed house of 16th century or earlier date. The gablets of the roof appear to have been shortened suggesting that the house may once have been an open hall; an off-centre ridge stack (rebuilt) supports this theory.

Nos 9-29 Shepherd's Hill are a terrace of late 17th century buildings situated high above the road. They have late 18th/early 19th century and Victorian additions and are, according to Pevsner, the best example of domestic building in Haslemere (Nairn & Pevsner 1971, 306).

High Street possesses a number of timber-framed buildings. Those of 16th century date include Nos 66 and 68, and Half Moon House at the southern end of High Street which dates to c1500; it was originally an open hall of two bays with a west cross wing, adjoining No 10 High Street. Buildings of 17th century date include No 74 (The Small House), No 2 (originally the Fox Inn), Nos 4 and 4A, No 10 and No 41 (Tudor Cottage), a timber-framed building of shallow U-shape standing sideways to the road. The Georgian Hotel is of 18th century date and it was formerly known as The White House; in the 18th century it was owned by William Cobden, a tanner. The White Horse Hotel at No 22 High Street is also of 18th century date; it is located near the town hall and has a Palladian front of c1740. Town House at the northern end of High Street, on the west side, dates to c1725. Haslemere Museum, now on the east side of High Street, was founded in 1888 by Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, and moved to its present location at The Lodge (a former private house) in 1926.

In Petworth Road, 'Collards' on the northern side of the road is of 16th/early 17th century date. The former White Lion public house at No 7 comprises a long timber-framed double range of buildings. The front range is of probable 17th century date and the back right part is of 16th century or earlier date. Nos 3 and 5 Petworth Road is a timber-framed building of 17th century or earlier date. Nos 31-35 on the south side of the road form a big L-shaped mid-17th century block.

Other buildings of historic interest around Haslemere include Church Hill House, a building of early 18th century date which is situated next to St Bartholomew's Church. It is now known as Peperham House, a reminder of the 12th century chapel that became St Bartholomew's Church. Tudor Cottage in Courts Mount Road is a timber-framed building of 16th century date. Anderson Court, at the top of Shepherd's Hill, was designed and given to the town as the first cottage hospital, by the Victorian architect James Wornham Penfold in 1898. The Haslemere and District Hospital opened in 1923 on the site of the former Pound Corner Recreation Ground.

THE WELLS

Two wells, Pile Well and Town Well, are shown on Cote's map of 1775 and on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1877, and provided much of the town's water supply. The Pile Well (or Pyle Well) in Lower Street was a spring in the bank above Pile Well Meadow (now called Town Meadow) at the corner of Tanners Lane. Before the parish council waterworks were

opened in November 1907 Pile Well and Town Well in Well Lane were the main public sources from which water carriers delivered buckets to the door (Winter & Collyer 1991, 37).

TOWN POND

The old town pond, called the Wyer Pond (now infilled), was located in the High Street. The pond was formed by the presence of a number of springs on the east side of the town from Well Lane downwards. It emptied itself as a small stream in a gully under the main road, emerging from a causeway at the lowest point in the road, hence the name Causewayside for the buildings between West Street and the Georgian Hotel. The stream ran across the meadow, down what is now West Street, out to Tanners Lane to join the stream from Church Hill pond. In 1642 new premises were built just north of the pond which was filled in at some time between 1710 and 1722; in c1727 the new White Hart Inn was built on the site of the infilled pond. A map published by Rolston (1956; fig 2), showing Haslemere at some time in the period between 1600-1700 (draughtsman unknown), shows a pond in the High Street with a stream flowing westwards from it on the south side of the Angel Inn.

ALMSHOUSES

The almshouses built for the needy of Haslemere lie to the east of the town on the common near Lythe Hill, on the road to Chiddingfold. The first pair were built in 1676 with funds raised from the market and fair revenues, and were originally known as the 'Tolle House'. By the end of the 19th century they had fallen into a poor state. The necessary repairs were paid for by Stewart Hodgson, Lord of the Manor of Haslemere and Godalming; in 1886 when he also paid for an extra pair of cottages on the south-east side of the original two (Winter & Collyer 1991, 43).

SCHOOLS

A school is marked at the southern end of the High Street on the second edition 6 inch OS Map of 1899. This may refer to the Town Hall where the infants' school was located until 1900.

The National or County Council School on Church Hill was built around 1816 and expanded in 1873 and 1893; it is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1877. When the infants could no longer be taught in the Town Hall, the influx of new pupils at Church Hill necessitated the building of Chestnut Avenue School, a school for boys, in Chestnut Avenue. The school is an imposing building with a late Victorian Gothic facade. Built and opened in 1900, it was used as a school up to 1994 and is now used as a community centre. Bridge Road was constructed in 1911 in order to provide direct access from the School in Chestnut Avenue to the west side of town.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Until the mid 19th century when the railway arrived, the economy of the town had been agriculturally based with some industrialisation. The woollen industry existed in Haslemere as elsewhere in West Surrey. The tanning industry in Haslemere is remembered by the naming of Tanners Lane. In nearby Lower Street a 17th century cottage, now named Tudor House, was formerly called 'Sheepskin House' and 'Skinners' where skinning and curing of hides took place. During the 18th and 19th centuries other local activities included linen, silk and cotton spinning and weaving in Foundry Road, making of paper, braid for army uniforms, brick and tiles during the growth in residential house building, and pottery. A pottery producing slipware-decorated dishes for local housewives was located in Lower Street, Haslemere in the eighteenth century (Winter & Collyer 1991, 36). The woodlands in the area provided many jobs and crafts such as charcoal burning, woodturning, making of chestnut fencing, rush baskets and brooms manufactured from local birch. The latter were supplied to Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace and the makers were known as "Broom Squires".

There is evidence for quarrying within the town at Shepherd's Hill; a gravel pit is marked on the second edition 6 inch OS map of 1899. This map also marks a smithy in

Lower Street. The Old Malt House in Shepherd's Hill, on the corner between Lower Street and Shepherds Hill, was a merchants run by H & J Purkis since the 1890s supplying corn, grain, hay, straw and other items (Winter & Collyer 1991, 32). It was knocked down soon after 1934 to widen the end of Lower Street.

During the Tudor and Stuart periods the manufacture of iron and glass was centred upon the Weald. Blast furnaces consumed relatively large quantities of iron ore and in the west Surrey Weald around Haslemere the clay ironstone occurs at a constant horizon in a narrow, crescent-shaped belt (Brandon 1998, 56). Several iron furnaces and hammers were sited around Haslemere such as the iron works at Imbhams (SMR No 1553) to the east which gave employment to charcoal burners (colliers) in Haslemere parish. The names of Foundry Road and Hammer Lane on the west side of the town provide evidence for the existence of ironworks in the parish.

Haslemere station was built in 1858 and the railway line from London to Portsmouth through Haslemere, which had been privately constructed, opened in 1859. It helped to restore the economy of the town and the local area. The railway line was widened to two tracks during the 1870s and completed for through trains to Havant and Portsmouth in 1879. Having become more accessible, the locality of Haslemere attracted famous artists, writers and scientists including Alfred Lord Tennyson, Helen Allingham, Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, Arthur Conan Doyle, George Bernard Shaw, George Eliot and Professor Tyndall. The internationally famous Dolmetsch family became established in Haslemere in 1916 in Kings Road. They have been making early musical instruments since the 1880s and instituted the local music festival (Haveron 1985, 36).

POST-MEDIEVAL TOPOGRAPHY AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A certain amount of rebuilding took place in the 18th century but little outward expansion of the town itself. The turnpiking of the roads in the 18th century would have increased communications between Haslemere and the rest of Surrey and, in addition to the arrival of the South Western Railway (Portsmouth Line) at Haslemere in 1859, would have helped to initiate the modern development of the town.

Much of the old part of town appears to have been preserved over the years, thanks in part to the interest of the Haslemere Preservation Society. The town has however suffered from piecemeal development in the past and several areas of the historic street frontage have already been destroyed without archaeological investigation (O'Connell 1977, 39). Expansion and development of the town this century has occurred on the north, south and west sides of the medieval town centre. The area to the east has maintained its rural character, preserved as National Trust Land. The Conservation Area for Haslemere links the area of St. Bartholomew's church to the north-west to the old part of the town once again, the construction of the railway line having separated the two areas in the 19th century.

HASTE HILL

The possibility that Haste Hill was the focus of an early settlement, which preceded the establishment of Haslemere itself, has been referred to above. Fig 4 maps the possible elements, Old Haslemere Field (TD 5), Church Lidden Field (TD6), Little Field (TD7), and Haste Hill Common (TD8). It should be emphasised that the evidence for this development is comparatively weak and circumstantial.

SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT

A few finds of prehistoric and Romano-British date have been recovered from in and around Haslemere. The presence of the Romano-British cemetery north of the town provides good evidence concerning the early Romanisation of this part of Surrey, but there is no evidence for settlement of this date in Haslemere itself. Haslemere is first mentioned in 1221, but a chapel was referred to in c1180 at Piperham, c800m north-west of the present town-centre. It is not known if the first settlement at Haslemere was at Piperham, the location of the present parish church, as has been suggested (Gover *et al* 1934, 206), or at Haste Hill to the south-east of

Haslemere where a small tenement was recorded in the 14th century and reference made to land known as 'Old Haslemere' in 1486 (Rolston 1956, 106-7).

The town of Haslemere appears to have been in its present position by the 13th century, possibly a planted town succeeding an earlier settlement; plantation of this kind being a common phenomenon in the 12th and 13th centuries (O'Connell 1977, 35). The early town was focused on the T-shape of High Street, Petworth Road and Lower Street/Shepherd's Hill but archaeological work is needed to prove the limits of the early settlement. The historic buildings provide evidence of development in the town from the 16th century onwards, but with little outward expansion until the 20th century.

EXISTING PROTECTION (fig 6)

1. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the area, but much of the historic area of Haslemere is defined as an area of high archaeological potential (AHAP).
2. A substantial proportion of the area of greatest archaeological interest falls within the Haslemere Conservation Areas which include the area of the medieval town and the area of St Bartholomew's Church
3. There are a number of listed buildings within the study area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL POTENTIAL

General comment

A limited amount of archaeological work has been undertaken within Haslemere generally as a result of redevelopment work in the town. Parts of the area of greatest archaeological potential, including several areas of the historic frontage, have witnessed some piecemeal redevelopment in the past without archaeological investigation, although the centre of Haslemere has retained its basic form. The areas of greatest archaeological interest lie around St Bartholomew's church to the north-west of the present town centre and around the inverted T-shape of Shepherds Hill/Lower Street, High Street and Petworth Road. A substantial proportion of these areas lie within the Haslemere Conservation Area within which large-scale redevelopment is relatively unlikely. Opportunities for small-scale work should, however, be grasped wherever possible, since this may provide further information regarding the origins and early development of the town. There is also a need for fieldwork in the Haste Hill area to the south-east of Haslemere, where the original settlement may have been. It will be important that adequate arrangements are made for the publication of any such work.

Set out below are some research questions which future investigations might hope to answer, as well as addressing broad themes of urban development.

Specific issues

- What is the extent of prehistoric activity throughout the area?
- What was the extent and importance of the Romano-British occupation in Haslemere?
- What was the origin and extent of the settlement in the vicinity of Haste Hill? Did it precede a settlement near St Bartholomew's church?
- Was there a settlement in the vicinity of St Bartholomew's church? If so what was its origin and extent?
- By what date did the present street pattern become established?
- What was the economic history of the borough during the Middle Ages? To what extent did the community increase or decrease in size? Was Haslemere ever prosperous?
- What was the density of occupation and degree of backland utilisation at different periods? What evidence is there for backyard industries?

APPENDIX 1: SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD LISTING

A number of sites recorded on the SMR lie within the area of study at Cobham (fig 5). However, a number of records which lie outside the study area are also referred to in the report and are included below. The records are summarised in chronological order. They have been assigned a code to denote which section they are located in and are listed below.

P - Prehistoric
 R - Roman
 SM - Saxon and medieval
 PM - Post-medieval
 NF - no features or finds
 UD - features of unknown date.

1549	P	1562	P	1572	P	C	NF
1550	P	1565	R	2203	P	D	SM
1552	SM	1566	P	2713	P	E	NF
1554	R	1567	P	A	PM		
1561	P	1569	P	B	SM		

Prehistoric:			
1549	SU 9000 3200	A Neolithic perforated stone hammer head was found at Haslemere. No further information is available.	Out of EUS study area - info only
1550	SU 9070 3370	A ?Mesolithic ironstone implement with an hourglass perforation was found c1854 in the railway cutting near Haslemere Church adjoining the Romano-British cemetery (see SMR No 1554).	Out of EUS study area - info only
1561	SU 9080 3340	A Mesolithic tranchet axe found at 'Kemnal', Grayswood Road was donated to Haslemere Museum in 1926.	Out of EUS study area - info only
1562	SU 9018 3350	A Mesolithic tranchet axe from 'The Garth', High Lane, Haslemere was donated to Haslemere Museum in 1945.	Out of EUS study area - info only
1566	SU 9028 3341	A barbed and tanged arrowhead was dug up in Haslemere Churchyard and presented to Haslemere Museum in 1913.	
1567	SU 9000 3200	A ?Mesolithic flint hammerstone from Haslemere forms part of the Allen Chandler collection of the 1900s. No further information is available.	Out of EUS study area - info only
1569	SU 9000 3200	A Mesolithic tranchet axe was found near a spring supplying the Museum pond which is centred at 9972 3303. It was donated to Haslemere Museum in 1930 (see also SMR No 2203).	
1572	SU 9050 3260	A piece of Neolithic worked flint on display in Haslemere Museum recovered from "a field above Museum Hill", was donated in 1916.	
2203	SU 9000 3200	A Neolithic flint scraper was dug up in the Museum grounds near the pond, but no further information is available (see also SMR No 1569).	
2713	SU 9000 3300	The blade of a Neolithic flint axe is in Haslemere Museum.	Out of EUS study area - info only
Roman:			
1554	SU 9070 3360	Romano-British cemetery, 1st-2nd century. Excavations at this cemetery at Beech Road, Haslemere produced twenty-six cremations in two groups (each of thirteen burials). The dating of both groups is well attested by pottery: the southerly group is dated up to AD80, the northerly group to AD80-120. The area has now been completely developed and no further finds are known to have been made except for part of a 2nd century jar (see SMR No 1565) which may represent an outlier.	Out of EUS study area - info only

1565	SU 9032 3356	Sherds of a small 2nd century jar of a sandy-red coarse ware were found in 1953 'during cutting back of lane sides at High Lane, Haslemere'. The find may represent an outlier to the 1st-2nd century Romano-British cemetery at Beech Road (see SMR No 1554).	Out of EUS study area - info only
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Saxon/medieval:

1552	SU 9030 3342	St. Bartholomew's Church was almost entirely rebuilt in the 19 th century except for the 17 th century tower. A watercolour view of 1823 indicates that the church then retained some 13 th century features in the nave and chancel, amidst extensive 16 th century and later alterations.
B	SU 9061 3273	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by SCAU in October 1998 on the land to the rear of 24 Petworth Road. A gully containing pottery of later medieval date was identified, possibly representing an early boundary to the garden plot and could therefore reflect the planned character of Haslemere in this part of the town (Stevenson 1998, 1).
D	SU 9046 3280	Historic building recording was undertaken in 2000 to assess the proposed impact of proposed alterations to Half Moon House, High Street, Haslemere. The building evolved from a late medieval hall house. The joists of the jettied west wing and surviving portions of the halls crown post roof suggest a probable 16th century date for its construction. The unusual position of this building, set back from the main borough plan, on a prime burgage plot opposite the town hall, suggests a very early origin. Until at least 1820 the original building was the homestead of a local farm (Currie 2001, 10). Various parts of the building have been extended and rebuilt in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Post-medieval:

A	SU 905 328	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by SCAU in May 1997 on the site of a proposed residential development on land to the rear of the White Horse Hotel, Haslemere. The only feature to be revealed was a ditch containing pottery of 19th or 20th century date which may represent a field boundary (Poulton 1997).
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No features/finds:

C	SU 9058 3294	An archaeological watching brief was carried out on building works at 56 High Street, Haslemere by SCAU in July 1994. The site proved to be devoid of any features or finds of archaeological interest. The only disturbance was by a pit of 20th century date containing a wooden box (Pattison 1994, 1).
E	SU 905 330	An archaeological evaluation undertaken by SCAU on the site of a new residential block at The Georgian House Hotel, High Street, Haslemere illustrated that the area had been disturbed by modern rubbish disposal (Howe <i>et al</i> 2001, 350).
2203	SU 9000 3200	A Neolithic flint scraper was dug up in the Museum grounds near the pond, but no further information is available (see also SMR No 1569).

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FIGURES

- 1 Extensive Urban Survey of Surrey. **Top:** Haslemere, showing the area of the parish and manor. The principal routeways, as shown on 18th century maps, are also shown. **Bottom:** parishes (about 1823) and drift geology.
- 2 Plan of Haslemere in the period 1600-1700, draughtsman unknown
- 3 The William Morley map of about 1735, showing Haslemere
- 4 Topographic development map
- 5 Sites and Monuments Records and other archaeological information
- 6 Constraints map showing the Conservation Area and the AHAP