

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
of
SURREY

LEATHERHEAD



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EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY LEATHERHEAD

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). Leatherhead is thought

to have been subject to a degree of planning in the 12th/13th century and was granted a market in 1248, qualifying Leatherhead for inclusion in this survey.

The study area is that of the medieval town as defined by fig 4. The area so defined corresponds fairly closely with the extent of the built-up area as indicated by the earliest large scale maps, such as that of Rocque (1768), the c1840 Tithe map and the 1st edition 25 Inch Ordnance Survey map of c1869.

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
SyAC	<i>Surrey Archaeological Collections</i>
SyAS Bull	<i>Surrey Archaeological Society's Bulletin</i>
VCH	<i>Victoria County History of Surrey</i>

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Leatherhead (NGR TQ 165 564) lies in the centre of the county of Surrey within the Mole Gap, the valley cut by the River Mole through the North Downs. The geology of the town consists largely of chalk, overlain by gravel and alluvium along the course of the river, and Thanet and Reading Beds on the northern side of the town (BGS Reigate Sheet No 286, 1978). Leatherhead is a relatively small town situated 6.5km south-west of Epsom and 8km north of Dorking.

PAST WORK AND THE NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE

Leatherhead 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 Leatherhead. 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 the historic centre of Leatherhead, but the surrounding area is rich in evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon activity. Archaeological work undertaken in Leatherhead itself has mainly taken the form of archaeological evaluations, carried out since the 1990s in response to redevelopment work. A few stray finds have also been recovered during the last century. The few artefacts recovered from the town of Leatherhead date from the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Documents

The history of Leatherhead can be pieced together from a number of written sources. One of the earliest documentary references to Leatherhead ('Leodridan') is in c880 in the will of King Alfred the Great (O'Connell 1977, 41). Domesday Book (1086) made reference to the four estates that had holdings in the parish of Leatherhead. Merton College was in possession of the manor of Thorncroft from the mid-13th century until the early 20th century and therefore holds a valuable series of documents concerning the manor, including a survey which was undertaken in 1629 by Elias Allen (Lambert 1933, 41-46). A review of Leatherhead by O'Connell (1977, 41-44) provides both a series of research aims, especially related to the origins and early development of the town, and a concise summary of existing knowledge. John Blair has undertaken documentary research which has clarified the complex early history and planned nature of the origin of Leatherhead (Blair 1976 and 1991), and The Victoria County History provides a short summary of the history of the town (*VCH* 3, 293-301).

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. Elias Allen's survey of Leatherhead town centre in 1629 (fig 2; Vardey 1988, 68) provides a useful but fairly basic plan of the 17th century town with its principal elements quite recognisable, such as the general layout and disposition of the roads, and some buildings schematically portrayed. The Rocque map of c1768 also provides a useful plan of the town, but at a small scale. George Gwilt produced a map of Leatherhead in 1782-3 (fig 3; Vardey 1988, 83) which provides important information regarding the topographic development of Leatherhead. The details can be correlated with considerable success with the earliest OS maps which confirms the high standards of accuracy of this map. There was limited development in the town by the time of the large scale OS maps of 1869 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. Leatherhead possesses a reasonable number of historic buildings, some of which are listed, dating from the 14th century and later. The majority of them are situated in Bridge Street, High Street, Church Street, North Street and Gravel Hill.

THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF LEATHERHEAD

The scope of the resources available for an account of the history of Leatherhead 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

The area around Leatherhead is rich in prehistoric and Romano-British settlement, but there is only a limited amount of evidence for activity from these periods within the historic town centre. Evidence for prehistoric settlement was found c1.3km south-west of the town at Hawk's Hill (SMR No 121) in the parish of Fetcham (Hastings 1965; Lowther 1958, 42). It took the form of a large Iron Age occupation site which continued into the early Romano-British period. Evidence for a Romano-British site (SMR No 122) was discovered east of Hawk's Hill on the left bank of

the River Mole (Elmore 1976) and suggests a possible continuity of occupation with a shift of position (O'Connell 1977, 41). A Celtic field system has been detected on Fetcham Downs, while more Celtic fields have been found close to Stane Street on both Leatherhead and Mickleham Downs, providing evidence of Iron Age agriculture on the Surrey Downs (Blair 1991, 45). Celtic fields represent the first imposition of a regular cultivation pattern on the landscape of this country and may have originated as early as the Middle Bronze Age. A number of struck flint artefacts have been found in and around Leatherhead (Turner 1971, 189; see SMR Nos 136 and 2035), including a large backed blade of probable Later Upper Palaeolithic date recovered from upcast glacial gravels at Leatherhead (Ellaby 1987, 53), and a core adze found at Young Street, Leatherhead, south-west of the town (Ellaby 1987, 57). Three Mesolithic hearths were also uncovered at Young Street in 1952 when a new channel was cut for the river (Vardey 1988, 21). Fieldwalking in the Bocketts Farm and Thorncroft area of Leatherhead parish (TQ 158 547) to the south-west of the town has produced a thin scatter of worked flint, mostly of Neolithic date with some Mesolithic and some Bronze Age material in addition to sherds of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery (Bird *et al* 1992, 150). A dispersed group of six barrows (some destroyed) of Bronze Age date lies at Tyrrells Wood on Leatherhead Downs, c2.5km south-east of the town (Needham 1987, 106).

No structural evidence for Roman settlement has yet been found in Leatherhead, and the only evidence for Roman activity within the town centre is the recovery of a 4th century Roman coin from a garden in the area of Linden Road (SMR No 153). The surrounding area has, however, produced much evidence for Roman activity. As mentioned above an Iron-Age/Romano British settlement occupied until the 4th century was excavated c1900-1907 (SMR No 122). The site lay in the grounds of Hawk's Hill House and is probably the successor to the Iron Age complex excavated in 1961-3 (SMR No 121), suggesting a broad continuity across the two periods. During the fieldwalking at Bocketts Farm and in the Thorncroft area south-west of Leatherhead, evidence for the presence of a farmstead of Roman date has been suggested by a scatter of Romano-British pottery, roof tile and other finds including daub, slag and three coins (SMR No 166). The evidence suggests a 2nd-4th century date range (Bird *et al*, 1992, 150).

Approximately 4km to the east of Leatherhead town centre the heavy clays at Ashtead Common (north of Ashtead) were exploited by a large tileworks of 1st-2nd century date (SMR Nos 267 and 270) with an associated Roman villa and bathhouse. The complex was approached by a branch of Stane Street (SMR No 134), the London to Chichester Road, which passes to the south-east of Leatherhead at a distance of c3km.

Saxon and Norman

One of the earliest references to Leatherhead is in the will of King Alfred the Great in c880 in which land at 'Leodridan' was bequeathed to his son, Edward. The meaning of the name has been the subject of debate. Gover *et al* (1934, 78-9) advanced the suggestion that its first element is suggestive of the Old English *leod* meaning 'people', but regarded the second element as very obscure, suggesting that the name looks very much as if the Old English form has its source in folklore. Subsequently it was suggested that the name means 'the public ford' suggesting that an important river crossing point gave rise to the early settlement at Leatherhead (O'Connell 1977, 41 quoting Ekwall 1951). Gelling (1984, 79-80) has affirmed her belief that the origin of the name Leatherhead was satisfactorily clarified for the first time in Coates 1980: it is a British name meaning 'grey ford'. This interpretation is now generally accepted.

Leatherhead was important in the Anglo-Saxon period not as a town but as a key place in the local government of Mid-Saxon England: a centre of royal authority and the site of a minster church (Vardey 1988, 27). The minster, which eventually disappeared, had a likely origin in or before the 9th century (Blair 1991, 104). There is some uncertainty as to whether it was located in the lands of the manor of Thorncroft, and therefore associated with the present parish church

which lies within the territory of Thorncroft manor, or in the manor of Pachenesham which lies in the north of the parish (Blair 1991, 101). Blair's documentary research has clarified the complex early history of Leatherhead (Blair 1976). In the Domesday Survey (1086) there were four estates with separate holdings in the parish of Leatherhead of which Pachenesham to the north-west and Thorncroft to the south-west of the town were the most important. The third estate was later amalgamated with lands at Pachenesham to form the medieval manor of Pachenesham Parva, while the church of Leret (suggested by Blair to be the Saxon 'old minster' then in the last stages of decay) together with forty acres worth 20s belonged to Osbern de Ow, of the manor of Ewell. A fifth estate, Mynchin was first mentioned in the 12th century and had the smallest holding in Leatherhead (*VCH 3*, 297).

Although no evidence has so far been recovered for Saxon activity within the historic town centre at Leatherhead, the surrounding area has provided a great deal of evidence for activity of this period. The closest find to the town centre is the recovery, in 1950, of a bronze pin of c800 and several sherds of pottery of 9th century date from a garden on the former Leatherhead Common Fields on the east side of the town (SMR No 154). The town of Leatherhead is situated between the sites of two Saxon cemeteries: one on the west bank of the River Mole at Hawk's Hill, Fetcham (SMR No 123) c1.3km west of the centre of Leatherhead, the other c1.7km to the east of Leatherhead on the site of the former Goblin Works on the south side of Ashtead (SMR Nos 139 and 2280). The Hawk's Hill Early Saxon cemetery contained c40 inhumations; Saxon burials discovered c360m to the north-east of it (SMR Nos 119 and 120) are possibly part of the same cemetery. A number of Early Saxon weapons were discovered at Watersmeet (SMR No 147), c600m south-west of the town centre on the west side of Leatherhead Bridge in 1929-30; their burial position suggested that they represented an inhumation cemetery even though no bones were recovered. The site is now occupied by the Fire Station. The early, probably Saxon, church at Fetcham suggests the probability of a late Saxon settlement, close to the Hawk's Hill cemetery, which may be a continuation of the earlier occupation. To the east of Leatherhead evidence for the Saxon cemetery in the grounds of the Goblin Works was discovered in 1927 with excavations in the 1970s and 1980s. The presence of substantial Saxon cemeteries in each of the manors adjacent to a major river crossing which has a British name may well reflect the establishment of Saxon newcomers by agreement with the indigenous population. (cf Poulton 1987, fig 8.1).

Medieval

The 12th and 13th centuries were a flourishing period for English towns; with a rapid expansion in trade. Landowners saw the advantage of founding market towns on their manors from which they could expect returns in the form of rent and market tolls (Vardey 1988, 39). As a result, the siting of some of Surrey's towns shows the influence of the leading landowners rather than geography. Leatherhead is at a geographical node, but an act of town creation seems to have been involved, with the town being established on the boundary between the two important (separately held) estates of Pachenesham and Thorncroft. Leatherhead also appears to have been established along the approach to a new bridge and its creation may have involved the suppression of a polyfocal group of settlements (Turner 1987, 250). Leatherhead created a new focus for local trade and this suggests internal changes: an economic coalescence of the manors of Thorncroft and Pachenesham to form a planned 'market village' blurring the dividing line between towns and purely rural settlements (Blair 1991, 58).

Pachenesham was the old Royal Manor, the site of the manor house, which is known today as 'The Mounts' (SMR No 133), situated c1.5km north-west of the centre of present-day Leatherhead. Excavations undertaken by Lowther in 1947-9 and Ruby 1950-53 at 'The Mounts', revealed that a moat was dug in the 13th century and the site consisted of a cluster of buildings dominated by a large hall (Renn 1983). The excavations confirmed that the manor house was

abandoned in the 14th century soon after the lord of the manor, Robert Darcy, died leaving no male heir. A nucleated settlement seems to have been established nearby in this sparsely settled area of heavy clay commons. It may have been a late 13th century settlement associated with recorded enclosures from the surrounding waste land and the major rebuilding of the nearby manor-house. The settlement eventually became depopulated in the wake of the Black Death (Vardey 1988, 42). The manor became greatly divided in the years following the plague, was badly maintained and suffered as a result. The manor-house was derelict by 1414 and only a scatter of small houses between its moated site and the river preserved traces of the former village into the post-medieval period (Blair 1981, 331). The manor of Thorncroft, on the other hand, had a much simpler history. In 1086, Thorncroft (valued at 110s) was held by Richard fitzGilbert, Lord of Clare. It remained a Clare possession until it was sold to Walter de Merton in 1266 and used to found Merton College, Oxford. The manor was well maintained, unlike its northern neighbour, Pachenesham. Merton College finally sold the manor in 1904; they hold records for the estate from the 13th to the 20th century. Thorncroft has had a house on the site of the manor since Domesday. The present house, completed in 1776, lies on the west side of the River Mole and possibly incorporates the cellars of the earlier manor house which was demolished to make way for the new house (Vardey 1988, 320).

It has been suggested that the origins of Leatherhead town are closely connected with the early estate of Thorncroft (O'Connell 1977, 41), growing up on the early boundary between the manors of Thorncroft and Pachenesham, along the High Street-Bridge Street axis, creating a physical and commercial focus (Vardey 1988, 38). Blair believes that the present Leatherhead parish church may have originated as the manorial chapel of Thorncroft (Renn 1983, 5); it is also thought that the original peasant settlement of Thorncroft may have lain nearby (Vardey 1988, 38).

Leatherhead became a place of importance in the medieval period and documentary evidence suggests that the County court was held there at one time. Its later removal to Guildford is referred to in a complaint made in 1259. The early importance of the town may be due to the fact that it is geographically the centre of the County and much closer to London than Guildford. Deforestation by the resident lords at the beginning of the 13th century would have made the area more accessible. Leatherhead may also have been on the main road from London to Winchester during the Middle Ages, and reference was made to the King's Way from Leatherhead to Guildford in 1345. Although the road appears on the Gough map of the highways of Britain, c1360, the plan is too schematic to indicate the precise route of the road (O'Connell 1977, 41).

A market and an annual fair were granted to Leatherhead by Henry III in 1248 and regranted to Robert Darcy, lord of Pachenesham, in 1331, which shows Pachenesham taking a lead role in the development of the town. In the tax returns of 1336 Leatherhead, which was assessed at one-fifteenth, the rural rate of taxation, was the richest of the towns discussed after Guildford. Later, in 1392, the town was almost completely destroyed by a fire (O'Connell 1977, 41).

Surrey's towns suffered a limiting factor to their urban growth: the proximity of the County to the growing dominance of London which led to its towns being inhibited in the medieval period. Leatherhead achieved urban status but growth was limited (Turner 1987, 248).

Post-medieval

Leatherhead maintained its importance into the 16th century when, in 1588, the County Justices met there to consider what measures should be taken if the Spanish Armada should land forces (SCC 1976, 145). The market ceased to function during the 16th century and in the Hearth Tax Roll of 1664 Leatherhead was one of the smallest towns in Surrey with only 122 households. The reason for its decline is not known. A certain amount of rebuilding on a modest scale took place during the 18th century including reconstruction of the town bridge (O'Connell 1977, 41).

Leatherhead gained much of its trade from its position at the north end of the Mole gap and on the turnpike road from Epsom to Guildford which was constructed in 1758.

Up until the beginning of the 20th century Leatherhead's economy was largely based on agriculture with some small scale industry such as brick and tile making. A terminus of the London and South-West Railway opened in Leatherhead in 1859 which eventually led to new light industry being attracted to the town which forms the basis of its modern economy.

ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN PLAN

Topographic divisions

The detailed analysis of the topographic development of Leatherhead 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.

TD1 The parish church of St Mary & St Nicholas has occupied this site since at least the 12th century, but there is no evidence as to how much earlier church provision was made here. It is possible that it was the replacement for the Saxon minster, the location of which is otherwise unknown.

TD2 The presumed extent of the original 'planned' town thought to have been established in the 12th/13th century.

TD2b Further extent of medieval expansion.

TD3 An area of medieval occupation at Gravel Hill to the north of the central crossroads.

TD4 The infilled market area at the staggered junction between North Street and Church Street.

TD5 Post-medieval expansion in the 18th/19th century.

Medieval and post-medieval topography of Leatherhead

The modern and medieval town of Leatherhead can be shown, by archaeological and documentary evidence, to have its origins as a planned new town of the 12th/13th century. All the evidence suggests that it was closely focused on the junction of High Street, Bridge Street, Church Street and North Street, and it is this core area that is considered here.

PARISH CHURCH (TD1)

The parish church of St Mary & St Nicholas (SMR No 158) is situated off Church Road at the southern edge of the historic centre of Leatherhead in an open and prominent position. It derives its unusual dedication from 1345 when it became the property of a Priory of this name at Leeds, Kent. The church has a late 12th century nave, early 13th century arches in the arcade, and a chancel, transepts and tower all of 15th century date. Pevsner comments that inside the church, "apart from harsh restoration of the roof, the impression is almost entirely of c1210 and surprisingly consistent, largely because the surviving details form a coherent space in themselves (it has, however, been suggested that the walls above the nave arcades may survive from a Late Saxon church)" (Nairn & Pevsner 1971, 338-9).

The parish church was not Leatherhead's first church: a Saxon 'old minster' is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) in the last stages of its decline, its location uncertain. It is thought that

the present parish church was originally built by the lords of Thorncroft Manor and was sited in order to suit the convenience of themselves and their tenants (Vardey 1988, 273-4). This would explain the position of the church on the southern edge of town not far from Thorncroft Manor House (Vardey 1988, 274). Thorncroft church assumed the attributes of the abandoned minster and a new status as Leatherhead Church, although exactly how and when this occurred is uncertain (Vardey 1988, 33).

STREETS and TOWN PLAN

Leatherhead has a simple town plan focused on the crossroads of the four main streets: High Street, North Street, Bridge Street and Church Street. High Street runs east-west and was pedestrianised following the redevelopment of the town centre in the 1980s. Pottery of the 13th century (SMR No 164) has been found in the High Street and appears to support the suggestion that this main east-west communication route was established at that date. Bridge Street, also aligned east-west, continues westwards towards the 18th century Leatherhead Bridge thereafter becoming the Guildford road. The present line of the London-Guildford road via Leatherhead was a result of the 1756 Turnpike Act which must have increased the flow of traffic through the town and over the bridge (O'Connell 1977, 41). North Street, as its name implies, is oriented roughly north-south, curving to the north-west into Station Road. Church Street heads southwards from the central crossroads down towards the parish church at the southern end of the town. The present closure of the northern end of Church Street to traffic is also a result of the 1980s town centre redevelopment. There is an awkward staggered junction between North Street and Church Street which may be due to the earlier infilling of the former open market area (see The Market below).

Blair has suggested that the present street pattern was superimposed on the ancient lane and field pattern of Leatherhead (1991, 56-8 and fig 17). He has suggested that Elm Road and Church Walk may represent two of the four arms of an ancient crossroads superceded by the present central crossroads when the medieval town of Leatherhead was planned out on a slightly different alignment. Elm Road marks the line of the original boundary between the estates of Thorncroft and Pachenescham; this is marked by a projection of Elm Road which follows a long straight tenement boundary up to and across the river until it rejoins the line of the modern road near the top of Hawks Hill. If Elm Road were the original main routeway, there would have been a river crossing south of the present bridge which is quite possible since various fords of the River Mole are known to have existed in that region. The common field strips to the south of Elm Road run parallel with the road (recalling the early field pattern) while ignoring the alignment of the present High Street; they are also seen to have been cut in half by the 18th century Turnpike Road (later known as Magazine Lane, now named Church Road). Church Walk runs at right angles to Elm Road and would originally have provided the major line of communication to the south. Gwilt's Survey of 1782-3 also shows a number of common field strips which running parallel with Church Walk.

The realignment of the roads allowed the tenement plots to be laid out entirely on Pachenesham territory; thus a new crossroads and central market were superimposed on the ancient lane and field pattern. This restructuring shows that Pachenesham manor took the lead role in this development, but it was the church in Thorncroft manor which became the parish church for Leatherhead, and there is other evidence which indicates Thorncroft taking a direct interest in the economic development of the town. This includes the existence of a 14th century timber-framed house known as 'Cradlers' at No 33-35 High Street, Leatherhead which can be traced as a copyhold of Thorncroft Manor from 1527. Built in c1320-60 it was presumably one of the unidentifiable villain tenements appearing on the Thorncroft Court Rolls from the 1270s onwards (SMR No 4162). Economic development had happened by the 1280s and may be associated with the grant of a market and fair in 1248. This created a new focus for local trade

and suggests internal changes: an economic coalescence of the manors of Thorncroft and Pachenesham to form a planned 'market village' blurring the dividing line between towns and purely rural settlements (Blair 1991, 58).

Since the superimposition of the new crossroads in the medieval period, the only real change to the streets of Leatherhead up until the redevelopment of the town centre in the 1980s appears to have been the renaming of some of the streets, as compared to George Gwilt's survey of the town centre in 1782-3 (fig 3), and the construction of the Turnpikes in 1756 and 1758. High Street and Church Street were named Great Queen Street and Little Queen Street respectively, Elm Road was named Kings Head Lane and Church Walk was named Bowling Alley.

The upper end of North Street, now Gravel Hill, was known through the Middle Ages as the 'Berge' or 'Borough', and tenements were recorded here before 1300 (TD3). It has been suggested (Vardey 1988, 60) that this name may preserve memories of a small Anglo-Saxon fortification (*burh*). Vardey also notes the alternative that the term was sometimes used in the 12th and 13th century for newly planned urban streets. This is seen in Surrey at Farnham (Brooks 1998, 102) and may be regarded as more likely, although the relationship of this area to the town proper is a difficult problem.

The annual fair held in October at Leatherhead is remembered by the present road names and was probably located in the area now named as 'Fairfield' where the Common Land was located; it is marked on the Gwilt map (1782-3) as 'Common Fair Field' (fig 3).

Turnpikes from Leatherhead to Epsom, Dorking, Horsham and Guildford were constructed in 1756 and 1758. Acts of Parliament in these years laid down that the maintenance of the turnpike should be paid for by the system of tolls. The toll-house was in Great Queen Street (High Street) near the present Leatherhead Institute. Hay, straw and oats were stored in magazines in Leatherhead between the toll-house and the church, close to the present Magazine Place. Church Road was at one time named Magazine Lane (Vardey 1988, 129), and is marked as such on the 1st edition 25 inch O S map of 1869.

The town plan of Leatherhead does not appear to have undergone any major changes from c1300 until the redevelopment of the town centre in the 1980s, although the later 19th century saw the former common fields changing use, with the individual strips acquiring buildings and other new uses.

BURGAGE PLOTS

There is evidence for some form of medieval planning within the town centre of Leatherhead. Several long narrow plots are discernible along Bridge Street, High Street and Church Street. However, they do not form a significant group. Vardey (1988, 61-2) notes that houseplots on the northern side of High Street were strikingly regular, the blocks possibly originating as a common field furlong containing thirteen strips of equal width which had been adapted in the medieval town to make a series of regular tenements fronting onto the street. Evidence for the field strips themselves is clear on Gwilt's map of 1782-3 (fig 3 - marked 'Common Fair Field') and the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1869, although by then infilling by building is evident. They are still dimly visible to either side of Fairfield Road and Middle Road today, although to the south, the new road Leret Way and the Swan Centre development have destroyed the evidence.

Several common field strips can clearly be seen on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map divided by Magazine Lane (now Church Road) on the east side of the town centre running parallel to Elm Road, the suggested early principal routeway. These strips are still in evidence on modern maps, having been infilled by building but maintaining their original boundaries.

An island of building plots is located at Gravel Hill (TD3) on the north side of North Street; the lane now named Gravel Hill is marked as Borough Hill on the Gwilt map of 1782-3, and the area is named Gravel Hill on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1869. Blair's map (Blair

1991, fig 17) suggests that this area was an open space at the junction of the new and old roads when the medieval town was founded. If so, it was later filled in, as Gwilt's map indicates. There is documentary evidence for tenements before 1300, and at least one 15th century building (Sweech House) is present (see below). It must be a distinct possibility that settlement here predated the establishment of the town and was then incorporated into it.

OTHER BUILDINGS

A number of old buildings, many of which are listed, still remain within the town of Leatherhead. The majority of the buildings of historic interest lie along the main streets: Bridge Street, High Street, Church Street, North Street and Gravel Hill, with a few others located along Church Road. One of the oldest buildings still standing within the town centre is Cradlers at Nos 33 and 35 High Street (SMR No 4162). It is a listed building of 14th century date which has recently been refurbished. It was a copyhold of Thorncroft and lies on one of a series of burghage-like crofts which bear the marks of medieval planning (Blair 1987, 73). At Nos 37, 39 and 41 High Street a late medieval or 16th century building has been converted into three shops. The High Street possesses a number of other historic buildings including a couple of 17th century properties such as The Duke's Head public house at No 57, and Nos 43 and 45, and a building of 19th century date at Nos 10 and 12. The rear of the properties on the north side of High Street has been redeveloped to create the Swan Centre.

Bridge Street has a large number of historic buildings. These include The Running Horse, a 15th/16th century inn built on glebe land of Leatherhead Church near to Leatherhead Bridge. It has an open hall aligned on the street, and the two-bay crosswing, jettied over the street, has an impressive upper chamber. It seems unlikely that the 'Running Horse' was built as an inn; to all appearances it is a high quality private house of 1450-1550 (Vardey 1988, 64). Nos 39 and 41 and 15 and 17 are of 17th century date, and Nos 5, 28 and 30-34 are of 19th century date.

Church Street has a variety of historic buildings ranging in date from the late medieval period to the 19th century. One of the oldest is No 55 Church Street, on the corner of Church Road, lying opposite the grounds of the Church of St Mary & St Nicholas. It is a building of late medieval date set end on to the main street over which it is jettied, and it is of two bays and spanned upstairs by an open truss. Devonshire House at No 30 is probably of late 16th century date and is now used as offices. A number of 17th century houses stand at Nos 1 and 3, 28, 35 (with Nos 1 and 2 Mansion Cottages) and No 53 Church Street. Hampton Cottage at No 64 Church Street is a 17th century building now housing the Leatherhead Museum of Local History (Tarpsee 1995, 62). The Mansion and its outbuildings on the west side of Church Street are of 18th century date.

Sweech House on Gravel Hill (off North Street) is of probable late 15th century date, and is a former farmhouse now used as offices. The southern range appears to represent a complete small house, with smoke blackening in the roof as evidence for an open hall. This is aligned end on to the street, perhaps recalling a time when the east side of Gravel Hill (then known as the 'Borough') was built up like an urban frontage (Vardey 1988, 65). Nos 16 and 18 Gravel Hill are of 18th century date.

The Letherhead Institute at the eastern end of High Street was endowed and built in 1892 by Abraham Dixon who lived in Cherkley Court. A variety of activities have taken place in the building over the years; the first film show in the town took place here in 1898. Having become very run-down the building was completely refurbished and re-opened in 1987 and continues to provide community services to the town (Tarpsee 1995, 69).

THE MARKET (TD4)

A market and an annual fair were granted to Leatherhead by Henry III in 1248 and regranted to Robert Darcy, Lord of Pachenesham, in 1331; the market was in decline by the 16th century (O'Connell 1977, 3).

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 Leatherhead the medieval market place stood at the central crossroads, an area thought to have been newly created following the superimposition of the new crossroads in the 12th/13th century (Blair 1991, 57 fig 17). The first permanent market house was probably late medieval and built in an existing open market place. Its location here seems to be the most likely explanation for the peculiar staggering of the central crossroads. Post-medieval infilling might have incorporated a previously free-standing hall at the present High Street-North Street corner, thus causing Church Street and North Street to be offset in relation to each other. Elias Allen's map of 1629 shows a very large building on this site, against which the Swan Inn seems to have been built shortly after (Vardey 1988, 62).

ALMSHOUSES

In 1642 Charles, Earl of Nottingham, left £50 to the poor. It was not paid out until 1679 when the parish added £20 and bought a house for use as an almshouse. In 1725 it was let for 15 shillings a year for the use of the poor and was described as having six rooms, a fairly substantial building. In 1807 it was sold and replaced by a new House of Industry, a workhouse built on the common north of the town set in two acres of land with a large garden, all donated by Henry Boulton of Thorncroft Manor. It existed until the passing of the Poor Law of 1834 (*VCH 3*, 300-1).

SCHOOLS

A free school has existed in Leatherhead since 1596, and the schoolroom may have been located at the parish church. In 1797 a school was endowed with £500 from the will of a Mr John Lucas (*VCH 3*, 295). A number of schools are marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS Map of 1869 including a National School for boys and girls, built by subscription in 1837-8 in Highlands Road. It was later used as a boys school and served as a school up to 1912. In 1865 the Infants School on Gravel Hill was built in what is now Upper Fairfield Road, also operating up until 1912. In 1877 what was to become All Saints School was opened, using a disused railway engine house off Kingston Road. In 1900 All Saints School opened; in 1978 the building became the North Leatherhead Community Centre. In 1884 the National School for Girls was founded, later becoming Poplar Road Church of England 1st School (Vardey 1988, 181). Nos 10 and 12 High Street, a listed building of early 19th century date, is said to have been used as a "school for young ladies" before 1885. The School for the Blind in Highlands Road was founded in St George's Fields in 1799, incorporated by royal charter in 1826, and moved to Leatherhead in 1902 (*VCH 3*, 294). St John's (private) School, moved to Leatherhead off the Epsom Road in 1872 after having been established in St John's Wood in 1851. It provided a free education to sons of the Clergy of the Church of England. The buildings, begun in 1872 and added to in 1890 and 1894, are in 16th century style in brick with stone dressing (*VCH 3*, 294).

BRIDGES

Leatherhead Bridge has medieval origins, the present bridge having been constructed in 1782 on the piers of the old (?14th century) bridge (SMR No 1969). The bridge has fourteen semicircular arches built of brick and stone. The piers have been repaired with tiles, and some of the arches look as though they once had ribs, although none remain. The total span is c77m and the original width was only about 3.35m but this was increased, probably in c1782 to a width of 7.3m.

The bridge has always been important to road traffic in and out of the town and historically its upkeep was always a problem. In the year 1362 a licence was granted for the collection of money for the repair of the bridge and early in the 17th century Edmund Tilney of Leatherhead left £100 in his will towards the reparation of "Leatherhead stone bridge". In the 17th and 18th century there were so many complaints about the state of the existing bridge that in 1760 it was kept locked and keys were issued to those who paid for them; others had to use the ford (Tarplee 1995, 20). In 1782 an Act of Parliament was passed which made the county responsible for the bridge, and it was reconstructed by George Gwilt, the County Surveyor (Jervoise 1930, 27-8).

Suggestions have been made that Leatherhead may once have had an earlier bridge in a different location. If Elm Road was the original (pre-12th/13th century) High Street, a bridge may have crossed the River Mole south of the present bridge (O'Connell 1977, 44).

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Leatherhead was concerned with the cloth trade during the Middle Ages, and its economy was largely agriculturally based until the beginning of the 20th century. Industries of the 19th century included brewing and malting (one of the leading industries), brick and tile making, tanning and corn milling.

The Swan Brewery, located at what is now the entrance to the Swan Centre, operated from 1859 until 1921. Another brewery was located in North Street and is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map; it ceased brewing in 1892 and only malting continued (Vardey 1988, 155). Brick and tile making were undertaken on a small scale and a brickworks was once located along Kingston Road. A clay pit is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1869 on the western side of the railway line to the north-west of Leatherhead. A marl pit was situated on the northern side of High Street (marked as Swan Pit on the 1st edition OS 25 inch map of 1869), and opened onto the street frontage. By 1629 the pit was disused and contained the common sheep pens. Marl (chalk) was used to enrich the heavy clay soils of Leatherhead (Vardey 1988, 61-2).

A tannery was once located on the eastern side of Leatherhead Bridge and is also marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map. It was owned by Bartholomew and later Thomas Chitty, and operated from 1826 until the 1870s in the watermill upstream of the Town Bridge on the east bank of the river (Tarplee 1995, 55). In 1888 one of the lead-lined baths was opened as a swimming pool and in 1900 this was taken over by St John's School until they built their own pool in the school grounds. The area was cleared and the mill demolished after World War II for the construction of Minchin Close, but traces of the watercourse may still be seen where it entered the river (Tarplee 1995, 55). The trades of leather-working and tanning continued in the town up until 1905 (Vardey 1988, 12).

The principal mill for Leatherhead and the surrounding area was Fetcham Mill (SMR No 3851) until it was burnt down and destroyed by fire in 1917. A watermill was granted in 1293 and the last mill to stand on the site was constructed in the late 18th century. The mill pond still survives and now provides a haven for wildlife. A corn chandlery was established by the Hutchinson family who moved into their Church Street premises in 1830. Although the building was much improved in 1870, many of the original features remain such as malting vats, malt cellar and stables. The firm continued as corn and coal merchants until 1965 when they dropped the agricultural side of the business and concentrated on the sale of fuel, fire irons etc (Tarplee 1995, 62).

The railway arrived in Leatherhead in 1859 and Leatherhead station was built c500m north of the town centre; its arrival was to play an important part in the changing economy of Leatherhead. With cheap rail travel in the 20th century, and an expansion of light engineering and research laboratories, local employment headed in a new direction away from agriculture

(Vardey 1988, 11-12) changing the face of Leatherhead.

POST-MEDIEVAL TOPOGRAPHY AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The cessation of the market in the 16th century is an indication of economic decline in Leatherhead, but the reason for it is unknown. There was a small amount of rebuilding in the 18th century which included the rebuilding of Leatherhead Bridge. The advent of the railway to Leatherhead in 1859 helped to improve communications between the town, London and the South-West, and encouraged the development of light industry in the area moving the town's economy away from a largely agricultural base. The later 19th century saw the former common fields changing use, with the individual strips acquiring buildings and other new uses.

The street pattern of Leatherhead has retained its basic form, but the town has undergone a reasonable amount of redevelopment in recent years particularly in the town centre. Preparations for its redevelopment started in 1979 with the demolition of many buildings in Lower Fairfield Road and a house in Middle Road to make way for the construction of Leret Way. In conjunction with this a one-way traffic system was introduced round Station Road, Randalls Road and Bull Hill in 1981. High Street was then closed to traffic. Church Street was closed as far as The Crescent and full pedestrianisation of the inner town was introduced. The Swan Centre (a shopping centre) was opened in 1982. Some of the names assigned to the new development reflect Leatherhead's history: Leret Way recalls Leatherhead's 11th century name, and the Swan Centre was named after the Swan Inn which once stood on the site. The Thorndike Theatre, situated at the top of Church Street, was built on the site of the Crescent cinema which itself stood on the site of the Manor House which was demolished in 1936 to make way for it (Tarplee 1995, 69).

O'Connell noted in his survey of 1977 that many of the buildings fronting North Street, Bridge Street, High Street and Church Street had already been destroyed this century without archaeological investigation (O'Connell 1977, 41). The Conservation Area of Leatherhead was extended in 1998 resulting in the linking of areas of historic interest that were previously isolated.

SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT

There is very little evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity within the town of Leatherhead itself, indicating that these periods had no discernible effect on the origins or character of the town. There is, however, evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British settlement in the surrounding area. The same can be said for the Saxon period as no evidence has so far been recovered for Saxon activity within the historic town centre, but a great amount of evidence for activity within this period has been identified in the surrounding area. The settlement at Leatherhead appears to have been established in the 12th/13th century as a coalescence of the manors of Thorncroft and Pachenesham to form a planned 'market village' on the boundary between the two manors, and along the approach to a new bridge, superseding an earlier settlement. The presence of the river on the west side of the town has constrained development in this direction, and the town does not appear to have grown very much before the 20th century. The economy of the town has changed from a mainly agricultural base to one based on light industry. The arrival of the railway, and more recently the construction of the M25 motorway which lies only 1km from the centre of Leatherhead, have improved communication routes in and out of Leatherhead and encouraged both residential and industrial development.

EXISTING PROTECTION (fig 6)

1 The Leatherhead Conservation Area covers much of the area of the original medieval settlement along High Street and Bridge Street, Church Street and around the parish church, apart from some central pockets. In addition, most of the area is defined as an area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP).

2 There are a number of listed buildings within the town of Leatherhead mainly located along Bridge Street, High Street, Church Street and North Street and Gravel Hill.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL POTENTIAL

General comment

Much of the area of greatest archaeological potential in Leatherhead has undergone piecemeal redevelopment in the last century without archaeological supervision, resulting in a distinct lack of archaeological evidence from the town centre. Despite this the historic centre of Leatherhead has retained its basic form. It would be unwise to assume that all archaeological evidence has been destroyed in areas of redevelopment, except where deep excavation from basements, foundations or such-like has taken place. The areas of the town centre most affected by redevelopment include The Swan Centre on the north side of the High Street, the construction of Leret Way, a bypass which has cut through properties in the area to the north of the town centre (including Fairfield Road and Middle Road), and the area to the south of the properties fronting Bridge Street and High Street which includes the Thorndike Theatre, Minchin Close and buildings along the north side of The Crescent such as Ashcombe House and Ranmore House.

A substantial proportion of the area of greatest archaeological interest falls within the Leatherhead 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 valuable information relating to the origin and development of Leatherhead. It will be of some importance that adequate arrangements are made for the publication of any such work.

Due to the lack of archaeological work undertaken within the historic centre of Leatherhead it is only possible to formulate fairly broad research questions which future investigations might hope to answer, as well as addressing the broad themes of urban development, and these may be set out as follows:

Specific issues

- Is there any further evidence for prehistoric activity in and around the town?
- Is there any relationship between the Saxon cemeteries to the east and west of the town and the settlement at Leatherhead?
- What was the origin and extent of the earliest settlement on the east side of the River Mole?
- Where is the site of Leatherhead's Saxon minster? Was there any association between the minster and Thorncroft manor, and therefore a link with the present parish church of St Mary & St Nicholas (TD1)?
- Is there any evidence for a Saxon or early medieval settlement in the vicinity of St Mary & St Nicholas' Church (possibly the location of the early settlement relating to Thorncroft Manor)?
- Is there any evidence for early medieval settlement in the area of Gravel Hill (TD3)?
- Where was the site of the earliest bridge?
- What was the character and date of the suggested earlier settlement/street pattern superseded by the later medieval town (following the alignment of Elm Road and Church Walk further west and north respectively)?
- By what date did the present street pattern become established?
- What was the economic history of the medieval town? How can the subsequent decline of the town be explained?
- 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

A number of sites recorded on the SMR lie within the area of study at Leatherhead and are summarised below in chronological order. The record numbers have been assigned a code to denote which section they are located in:

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

119	SM	136	P	165	PM	3851	SM
120	SM	139	SM	267	R	4162	SM
121	P	147	SM	270	R	4284	PM
122	P	153	R	1969	PM	A	PM
123	SM	154	SM	2035	PM	B	PM
130	SM	158	SM	2280	SM	C	NF
133	SM	164	SM	3611	PM	D	NF

Prehistoric:								
136	TQ 1655 561			A barbed and tanged arrowhead was found in association with 'fragments of gritted and red-surfaced pottery which also appears to be of the late Bronze Age'. The artefacts were found in May 1933 in the garden of the Vicarage, Leatherhead.				
121	TQ 1551 5540			An Iron Age farmstead of "Little Woodbury" type in the orchard of Sussex Cottage, The Mount, Fetcham, was excavated in 1961-3. A number of features, including storage pits, a gully and post-holes, were identified but no hut site located. The only possible structures were a drying frame and a small building. Deep cultivation had destroyed all stratification in the top soil. The pottery recovered from the pits covered a period of occupation from Hakes' second A to second B, much the same as Little Woodbury. The finds include animal bones, broken loom weights and calcined flints, a whetstone, a bronze pin, 3 spindle whorls, bronze and iron with slag. A proton gradiometer survey was carried out over the whole of the unexcavated part of the orchard and no further pits located, but the site obviously extends into the adjacent garden.				Out of study area. For info only
122	TQ 1568 5541			An Iron-Age/Romano-British settlement, with corn-storage pits and drying ovens, occupied until the 4 th century was excavated in 1900-1907. A site plan shows a couple of pits, a parch mark and a ditched enclosure. The site falls in the grounds of Hawkes Hill House; there are no visible remains. It is undoubtedly part of the IA farmstead complex excavated in 1961-3 150m to the SW (see SMR 121).				Out of study area. For info only.
Roman:								
153	TQ 1684 5659			A worn 4th century Roman coin (?3rd brass of Constantine 'urbs Roma' type) was found in a garden in Leatherhead in 1950. The area has since been developed as a block of flats.				
267	TQ 1803 6032			Roman tile kilns (1 st /2 nd century AD), clay pits and associate finds. Lowther wrote " Excavation has made it apparent that the manufacture of tiles and bricks was carried out here from early in the 1 st century AD on a very large scale before the corridor house or isolated bath-house was built. The debris and wasters from these works cover a large area.				Out of study area. For info only.
270	TQ 1775 6017			Roman villa and bathhouse (1 st -2 nd century) found in 1924 associated with				Out of study

an adjacent Roman tiler (SMR No 267) and approached by a branch road from Stane Street (SMR No 134). The site occupied one of the highest points on Ashtead Common. area. For info only.

	Saxon and medieval:		
119	TQ 1587 5580	Three human skeletons with an iron knife were found in 1926 during the excavation of a cesspool. They are thought to be of Anglo-Saxon date and are probably an outlier of the Hawk's Hill Anglo-Saxon cemetery.	Out of study area. For info only
120	TQ 1586 5573	During the construction of the turnpike in 1758 nearly 20 Saxon inhumations, an iron spearhead and some knife blades were found.	Out of study area. For info only
123	TQ 1561 5549	An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was identified at Hawk's Hill. About 40 inhumations were found in 1803, 1886 and 1906 with associated finds. A debased denarius of Constantine was also recovered. Further burials found at Newlands House, formerly known as Outspan, during the excavation of a foundation trench to enlarge the property. According to the owner ten skeletons were identified at a depth of c1m from the present ground surface and faced east. No artefacts were found but presumably these burials are part of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Hawk's Hill.	Out of study area. For info only
130	TQ 1667 5608	Cistercian Priory of Ripa Mola (doubtful). Dallaway quoting Tanner refers to the 'Cistercian Priory of Ripa Mola founded by Henry de Apurdele, 1263, for a prior and four monks of the Cistercian order of St Benedict' at Leatherhead, the ruins of which are incorporated in the present house, The Priory. This establishment is not mentioned by <i>VCH</i> and a note in the local transactions dismisses the article as a 'jeu d'esprit'	
133	TQ 1544 5783	The Manor House site (Pachenesham Magna) dating to the 12 th -14 th century known as 'The Mounts'. Excavation of the moated site in 1947-8 revealed 12 th century pottery. Area within the moat was excavated in 1949: revealed foundations of the hall, part of the chapel, a well and other structural remains of buildings erected in 1290-91 by Sir Eustace de la Hache. The dating depends largely on documentary evidence as only a few objects were found. A review of the pottery suggests that the earliest pottery dates to the 2 nd half of the 12 th century and that occupation must have begun by then; some of the stone mouldings appear to be earlier. Several phases of construction of the hall and other buildings are clearly represented extending from the 12 th century to dereliction c1350 or a little earlier.	Out of study area. For info only.
139	TQ 1821 5670	A Late Saxon execution cemetery was identified during the excavation for a water main in 1927. In 1927 a large pit containing mutilated and dismembered skeletons was discovered during the laying of a water main just within the grounds of the newly built Goblin Works, Ashstead. It was suggested that the bones might be of Saxon date. Confirmation of this was received during further work in 1974 when human bones and an early Saxon spearhead were recovered (SMR No 2280). In 1984 prior to redevelopment a disappointing trial excavation was undertaken. Subsequently, preliminary development by Esso Petroleum Ltd revealed further burials, and resulting excavation in Sept and Oct 1985 revealed a total of c35 burials. They can be divided into two distinct groups: inhumations of normal early Saxon type (SMR No 2280), and a number of execution victims. The one possible indication on the site of a date for the execution victims was the recovery of two sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery from feature 103, if it is accepted that it represents the hole dug for a gallows tree.	Out of study area. For info only.
147	TQ 1601 5617	A Saxon inhumation cemetery was found at Watersmeet in 1929 during the digging of foundations for a greenhouse. A sword and three spearheads of	Out of study area. For

		5 th -6 th century date were recovered. Further work undertaken nearby in 1930 recovered a number of other finds including a scramasax, a spearhead, an umbo of similar character and the remains of a bucket with bronze ornaments. The Firestation now occupies the site.	info only.
154	TQ 1720 5635	In 1950 a bronze pin of 800 and several sherds of 9 th century pottery were recovered from a garden on the former Leatherhead Common Fields on the east side of Leatherhead.	Out of study area. For info only.
158	TQ 1676 5616	St Mary & St Nicholas' Church which is in normal use has a late 12th century nave with 15th century chancel, transepts and tower.	
164	TQ 1657 5644	Late 13th century pottery. In April 1954 sherds of late 13th century cooking pots and flagons were recovered from the High Street at Leatherhead. A fragment of a chimney pot was also found.	
2280	TQ 18195 56724	Evidence for an Early Saxon cemetery was recovered in c1974 at the Goblin Factory. Finds included a Saxon spearhead and human bones. Further work in 1984 revealed further burials (see SMR No 139).	Out of study area. For info only.
3851	TQ 1602 5632	Fetcham Mill (remains of). Fetcham Mill was the principal corn mill for Leatherhead and the surrounding area, until it was burnt down and destroyed by fire in 1917. In 1293 a watermill was granted by Adam le Sousse to John D'Abernon and in 1514, a bailiff's account of Sir Edmund Brays's manor of Fetcham included a watermill called 'Cutte Mill'. An agreement in 1705 between Francis Vincent and Arthur Moore made reference to 'A capital messuage and mansion house including a watermill in Fetcham called "Cutte Mill"'. Thomas Withall was the miller until 1791, when Henry Ellis took over. His sons Harry and Horace worked together as millers until the partnership dissolved in 1842. Henry remained at the mill until his death in 1849. The next recorded occupier was William Sturt, who stayed until 1887, when the milling firm of Henry Moore took over and ran the mill in conjunction with similar interests in Ockham and Cobham Mills.	
		The last mill to stand on the site was probably constructed during the late 18th century, and a photograph taken at the turn of the 20th century shows a fairly large building, which apparently contained three pairs of stones. The mill was powered by an internally mounted iron overshot waterwheel that was 12ft in diameter and also drove the pump of Baddington Hall. The fire destroyed most of the building apart from some brick walling. In 1918 the machinery apart from the waterwheel, was sold for scrap. The large spring-fed millpond was used extensively for watercress growing by Messrs Mizen Bros. until at least 1957.	
4162	TQ 1667 5648	14th century timber-framed house. The house, known in the Middle Ages as Cradlers, stands at No 33-35 High Street, Leatherhead. Its descent as a copyhold of Thorncroft Manor can be traced from 1527, and was presumably one of the unidentifiable villein tenements that appears on the Thorncroft court rolls from the 1270s onwards. The building was refurbished in 1985-6 revealing the buildings' construction and carpentry which suggest a date of c1320-60. The first occupants of Cradlers must have been a well-to-do farmer, perhaps with living-in servants, an innkeeper, a shopkeeper or a tradesman.	
<hr/>			
		Post-medieval:	
165	TQ 16509 56574	19th-20th century artefacts and a midden were found during an excavation in 1975 by SAS in the back garden of 2 Upper Fairfield Road, Leatherhead (a house of late 18th century origin). See SMR No 2035.	
1969	TQ 16300 56300	Leatherhead Bridge. The piers of the medieval bridge (14th century?) were reused in the construction of the present structure which was the work of George Gault, erected in 1782 and widened in 1824.	

2035	TQ 16509 56574	Probable post-medieval occupation site. Two sherds (one medieval and one post-medieval) together with a small flint blade were found within a layer of pebbles during an excavation in 1975 in the back garden of 2 Upper Fairfield Road, Leatherhead. Another medieval sherd was found unstratified within the topsoil. See SMR No 165
3611	TQ 1661 5632	17th century cottage and well. An excavation by E.A.Crossland around the well at Hampton Cottage revealed no dating evidence, it is probably also of 17th century date.
4284	TQ 1662 5626	A worked greensand block. Observations of building works at The Mansion were made by E Crossland for LDLHS. This allowed examination of the foundations of the existing building and the recovery of a worked greensand block, probably part of a window surround from the Elizabethan house previously on the site.
A	TQ 164 564	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by S.P.Dyer at the rear of 20-22 Bridge Street, Leatherhead for the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) and Estates and General Developments PLC. No finds of earlier than the 18th century were recovered (Bird <i>et al</i> 1994, 206).
C	TQ 165 565	An archaeological evaluation undertaken at 16-20 Bridge Street, Leatherhead by G Bruce of AOC in advance of office redevelopment revealed post-medieval pits and post-holes. The nature of the features revealed confirms the view, from post-medieval cartographic sources, that the part of the site to be redeveloped was predominantly open ground, at the rear of the street frontage. A small assemblage of residual worked flint was also recovered, adding to the general picture of prehistoric activity within Leatherhead (Howe <i>et al</i> 2001, 345).

	No features or finds:	
B	TQ 165 564	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 7-11 Bridge Street, Leatherhead by J Robertson of SCAU on the site of a new residential development. No finds of features of archaeological significance were revealed (Howe <i>et al</i> 2001, 345).
D	TQ 164 564	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 26 Bridge Street, Leatherhead by R Poulton of SCAU. No finds of features of archaeological significance were revealed (Howe <i>et al</i> 2000, 189).

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FIGURES

- 1 Extensive Urban Survey of Surrey. **Top:** Leatherhead, 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 Leatherhead town centre in 1629 from Elias Allen's survey (held at Merton College, Oxford; from Vardey 1988)
- 3 Gwilt Survey of Leatherhead 1782-3 (from Vardey 1988)
- 4 Topographic development map of Leatherhead
- Fig 5 Sites and Monuments Records and other archaeological information for Leatherhead
- 6 Leatherhead: constraints map showing the Conservation Area and the AHAP