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POTTERS BAR

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Aim of the Report

The aim of this report is to provide a framework from which decisions can be made about the management of the archaeological resource of Potters Bar. The settlement was not urban in character before the 20th century, but has been studied on the same principles as surveys of historic urban areas in Hertfordshire carried out as part of the English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey Programme. The report will eventually comprise three parts:

1. A summary of what is known of the archaeological and historical development of the town using the evidence from archaeology, buildings, old maps and documents, and surviving physical elements of the historic townscape such as ancient property boundaries. The evidence is presented as a series of thematic and period maps generated by GIS, accompanied by a brief explanatory text.
2. An assessment of priorities for the management of the archaeological resource of the town, including academic research priorities.
3. A strategy which aims to take forward the research and management priorities.

1.2 The Sources Used

Historically, Potters Bar belonged to the medieval parish of South Mimms, in the Hundred of Edmonton and the county of Middlesex. It has been part of Hertfordshire only since the boundary changes in 1965.

The evidence for the report has been compiled from the following primary sources:

- The Hertfordshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- The Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR)
- The Statutory List of Buildings of Historical and Architectural Interest
- Maps and documents held in the Hertfordshire County Record Office
- Archaeological excavation and survey reports held in the Hertfordshire SMR

In addition, numerous articles, both published and unpublished, have been used; a bibliography is included at the end of the report.

1.3 Geography

Potters Bar lies on a flat ridge of pebble gravel, the largest of several patches of such gravel on the highest land in an area otherwise consisting mainly of London Clay. The ridge is a watershed, with Mimms Brook to the west and streams running down to the Turkey Brook and ultimately the river Lea on the east (VCH 1976, 271). The town is now cut off from the parent village of South Mimms by the A1 and its junction with the M25. The M25 itself runs across the southern half of the parish, between Potters Bar and Chipping Barnet. The area studied here is that east of the A1, and does not include South Mimms village.

2.0 AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT

2.1 Prehistory: Palaeolithic to Late Iron Age (c10,000 BC to cAD 50) (Figure 1)

Remarkably few prehistoric finds are recorded, but those known are of some interest. Two concentrations of worked flint tools have been found. Those from the eastern edge of the town are Mesolithic (SMR 0621, 6475, 6488-90). Such a focus, on the edge of the ridge above the sources of the Turkey Brook, is likely to represent a seasonal occupation site. A great many more Mesolithic flints have been found further east along other tributaries of the Brook (Warren 1982); clearly the margins of the river were being quite intensively exploited. More flint tools, as far as can be ascertained also of Mesolithic date, are known from South Mimms castle, on higher ground above the Mimms Brook (SMR 4834, 6264). It must be significant that these two groups of finds are not on the ubiquitous London Clay but on the better drained soils: the pebble ridge at Potters Bar itself, and an outcrop of chalk at the north-west corner of the parish. There are no records of Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age finds; nor are there any known cropmarks which might belong to these periods. Study of the landscape at Saffron Green, however, to the west of Dyrham Park, has revealed that this area was substantially cleared and used as pasture (not for crops) possibly as early as the Bronze Age (Hunn 2000). This pastoral landscape was partly encroached upon by secondary woodland in the post-Roman period. It may represent the localised survival of a much larger area of prehistoric clearance.

2.2 Roman (c50 - c450 AD) (Figure 1)

Potters Bar first emerges as a distinct place in the Roman period, and it is probable that this is due to the geology. Unlike so many Hertfordshire settlements further north, there is no Late Iron Age predecessor here, and maps of both Hertfordshire and Greater London show very little on the London Clay throughout the Roman period as well (Niblett 1995, 74, & map; MOLAS 2000, map 7). The known finds indicate a

small area of settlement (recorded on the Oakmere estate, SMR 9119, and at Wyllyotts (1st-2nd century sherds), SMR 6234) in the vicinity of the tile kiln recorded at Parkfield (SMR 2081; Gillam 1956; Rook 2001). Roman coarse potsherds have also been reported from Bridgedown golf course (Murray 1993). A hoard of 1st and 2nd century coins (SMR 9240) found east of Bridgefoot House is the only other discovery. Little is known about these finds except that they constitute a focus on the gravel ridge, in part industrial. The surrounding London Clay was not attractive to settlement or arable, and is likely to have been largely woodland and wood pasture (see also Hunn 2000, above). It was certainly managed woodland, exploited for timber and timber products used in Londinium and elsewhere.

The occupation at Potters Bar has to be seen in this context. It was not as isolated as it might appear from the map, although as far as is known the nearest neighbours to the south were more than 10 km away. The products of the tile kiln, which would have used the available timber for fuel, may have been for wider than local consumption. The kiln products included roof tiles, and possibly the box flue tiles which were found making up a drain on the site. The excavated structure may have been a drying kiln rather than an actual firing oven, as yet undiscovered. The place must have been connected by some sort of road with the main Roman highway system. None of the major roads goes near, although a length of minor road has been excavated in the Mill Hill area 10 km to the south-west, heading north away from Watling Street (MOLAS 2000, map 7; Taylor 1989, 45).

2.3 Saxon and Medieval (Figure 2)

Throughout the medieval and later periods Potters Bar was part of the parish of South Mimms, in the hundred of Edmonton and the county of Middlesex. These land divisions were established before the earliest surviving historical records of the area, in later Saxon times. The process is obscure, and no archaeological evidence has been discovered from the centuries between the Roman settlement and the medieval period. Bailey (1988) suggests that it was perhaps in the 7th century that a loose federation of Middle Saxon tribal groups began to be organised into territories; one of these belonged to a group called the *Mimmas*. The lands of this group later became split when the boundaries of the two counties of Hertfordshire and Middlesex were drawn up; North Mimms has always been in Hertfordshire. Middlesex was divided into hundreds during the 10th century, and Edmonton was also known as the half-hundred of Mimms, with its hundred-moot at South Mimms (hence Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, leading to an area within Enfield Chase which was still known as ‘mote plane’ in 1658: VCH 1976, 129). The half-hundred may have been part of a Saxon royal estate which included Waltham Holy Cross to the east, ‘a primitive administration unit predating the separation of Middlesex from Essex’ (Bailey 1988, 181). Adjoining on the west, as far south as Barnet, lay lands belonging by late Saxon times to St Albans Abbey.

The wooded landscape of the Roman period persisted, with little settlement and some encroachment of secondary woodland in areas previously used as pasture, as at Saffron Green (Hunn 2000). In 1086 the Domesday survey recorded a great deal of woodland across south-west Hertfordshire and north Middlesex. The history of

medieval Potters Bar and South Mimms is of a gradual process of settlement on scattered patches of land taken in from the uncultivated 'waste'. Domesday assessed Edmonton Hundred 'at only 70 hides, less than any other Middlesex hundred' (VCH 1976, 128). South Mimms was then described as a berewick or outlying hamlet of the manor of Edmonton (Rutherford Davis 1966, 26). As Edmonton supported two priests, it is possible that one of them belonged to South Mimms; the parish church, however, may not yet have been built, and the village not yet established. 11th-12th century domestic pottery has been found at Bridgedown golf course (SMR 9621) and on a site north of Dyrham Park Farm (SMR 11240), neither site having later material. It may not have been until the 12th-13th centuries that the pattern of settlement became permanently established.

Enfield Chase

A fundamental influence on the medieval landscape was the formation of Enfield Chase, which was enclosed out of the waste as a semi-private hunting ground by the de Mandevilles and is recorded in 1136 (Dalling 1999). Geoffrey de Mandeville, one of the most powerful barons in 12th century England, may have been responsible for the construction of the boundary banks and ditches which defined it. In time the Chase was inherited by Henry V and it remained in royal hands until 1777. The inhabitants of the hundred of Edmonton (but not their Hertfordshire neighbours) kept grazing rights on the Chase throughout, rights that appear to be a relic of the Saxon estate. The north-western edge of the Chase adjoined the wastes of Bentley Heath and South Mimms Common. Access was via gates or 'bars', one of which became Potters Bar at the north-west corner. Its position at the west end of the Causeway appears to be recorded on a map of 1594 (Rutherford Davis 1966, 53, pl. VIII). Formation of the Chase meant that South Mimms was now virtually cut off from its parent settlement, and developed as an independent parish and a manor in its own right.

Other significant 12th century developments include the road from St Albans to London via Barnet, established by the abbey across its own estates, and the subsequent founding of the market (by 1199) on this road at what came to be called Chipping Barnet. This was the nearest market to South Mimms, and the road came to influence the settlement pattern. The older settlement at East Barnet gravitated to the highway; a similar move may be the origin of the village at South Mimms. The church there is 13th century, and it is possible that earlier settlement was on a different site, or not in a nucleated centre at all.

On the gravel ridge that was to become Potters Bar itself, a parcel of land was granted by Ernulf de Mandeville c1200 to a small Augustinian priory called Cathale, which stood near Cattlegate in Northaw parish (Rutherford Davis 1966, 53). This land, still called Cathales or Cattalls on 19th-century maps, was at the north-west end of the High Street. It lay between the holdings of two local men, one of whom was named Adam the Forester. The record implies the establishment here by the end of the 12th century of assarts or taking-in of land from the wooded waste. Cathale Priory was too poor to survive and its possessions were given to Cheshunt nunnery in 1240. In 1425 the Potters Bar property was still described as 'a croft and grove' (*ibid*, 54). In the 13th century a man called Le Pottere is recorded in the parish. This is an occupational name, and the place name *Potters Bar* appears to derive from the presence of potters here on the edge of the Chase. Presumably they were exploiting the same resources as

the Roman tilers: workable potting clay and timber for fuel. No medieval kiln has yet been found at Potters Bar, although a 13th-century pottery kiln is known to have existed at Arkley, west of Barnet (Taylor 1989, 55).

Moated sites

Rising population in the 12th and 13th centuries led to exploitation of the agricultural margins here as elsewhere, and the appearance in the parish of numerous homestead moats. Moats survive or are known to have existed at Old Fold Manor (now outside Hertfordshire), Old Fold Farm (SMR 2648), Blanche Farm (SMR 2944), Mimms Hall (SMR 4266), Darkes (SMR 11257), probably Wyllyotts (SMR 4268), and possibly Elm Farm at Bentley Heath, where there are earthworks (SMR 9118). Dyrhams (Durhams) may also have its origin in a similar homestead, with a moat long since infilled. Wyllyotts is discussed below. The moat at Darkes is shown on Ralph Treswell's 1594 map of Wyllyotts, and may be associated with John Derk of Mymmes who was sentenced to the pillory at London in 1382 for selling defective charcoal (Rutherford Davis 1966, 56). Charcoal-burning was presumably another local occupation, hence Colliers Lane (below). Darkes is recorded in 1490; the house was demolished in 1830 and replaced by Darkes Farm, itself demolished in the 1950s. The outline of the moated site is still discernible in the boundaries of Cedar Close.

A long narrow pond south of Home Farm in Wrotham Park is said to be the 'one remaining side' of another moat, which surrounded a cottage known in the early 17th century as 'the hermitage' and reputedly once a chapel built to receive the dead after the battle of Barnet in 1471 (VCH 1976, 275-6). Whatever the truth of the association, it survived as a dwelling on what became Kitts End Green, and disappeared into the grounds of New Lodge in the later 18th century.

Surviving medieval elements of Potters Bar

The main elements of the *road system* are medieval in origin, and reflect the settlement pattern of homestead moats and small crofts scattered along tracks connecting them with the parish church, the common land, the chalk (of agricultural importance) at the castle, and crossings of the Mimmshall Brook. During the 15th century Mutton Lane, Ryverstrete Lane (Dancers Hill Lane), Old Street (Baker Street), Alen Street (Bentley Heath Lane), Sawyers Lane, Colliers Lane (Quakers Lane), and New Lane (Billy Lows Lane) were all recorded (VCH 1976, 272). Darkes Lane, linking Baker Street and Wyllyotts with the moat at Darkes and with other roads, must also be medieval in origin, and is on the 1594 map of Wyllyotts manor (Rutherford Davis 1966, pl.VIII). The track to the castle only survives in part, as a footpath. The 'highway from Potterbare to Barnet' is mentioned in 1387 (*op cit*, 55) and skirted the boundary to the Chase. The High Street must have existed as at least 'a rudimentary lane', also following the boundary and running into the Causeway around the north-west corner of the Chase. Traces may remain of the *boundary banks*. Rutherford Davis (1966, 28) refers to a remnant in Oakmere Park, 30 ft (10m) wide and several feet high, which survived until the car park was laid out in 1963. The county boundary also had a bank and ditch; part of this survives in the railway cutting at the Duty Stone (*ibid.*), and the line is still marked by oak trees.

Wyllyotts

‘The modern town is roughly co-extensive with the sub-manor of Wyllyotts, which at some unknown date was created by splitting off part of the parent manor of South Mimms’ (Rutherford Davis 1966, 54). The name derives from John Wyliot, who held the land in 1349. Robert Taylor bought it in 1594 (VCH 1976, 284), and added to the estate more land from South Mimms manor, including Cattalls. It went through many owners, including a merchant tailor of London, until its sale to a brewer in 1651. This was alderman James Hickson of the Brewers’ Company, who founded the Brewers’ Almshouses at Kitts End (see below). In 1687 he willed Wyllyotts to the Brewers’ Company for the upkeep of the almshouses, and it remained in the Company’s hands until 1925.

The manorial centre may have been moated, although the 1594 map does not show a moat and only ‘slight traces have been made out’ (Rutherford Davis 1966, 133). The site is occupied by a single long north-south block, made up of a timber-framed barn with one end attached to a later house.

The barn: although Smith (1993, 143) notes that it could be 15th century, it is described in the Listed Building Details as late 16th century, and possibly built for Robert Taylor in the years 1594-1603. It is timber-framed with two brick buttresses. As it stands it has four bays, plus a fifth bay built into the link with the house itself. It was originally aisled, and still contains much of its internal timber framing. In the late 17th century part of the interior was floored; a chimney stack with fireplace at one end, and casement windows, have also been inserted. The link is a weatherboarded lean-to, and at the rear are 20th century extensions.

The house appears to date to c1800, although its form is that of a small 18th century country house of a modest double-pile form (Smith 1992, 132; 1993, 143-4). It is built largely of re-used timbers, and may include part of the structure of the barn as well as materials from the earlier house on the site. Rutherford Davis (1966, 134) refers to an oak window with moulded frame and mullions blocked up behind the staircase. The earlier house was in existence by 1581 and was enlarged or rebuilt in 1664 for the merchant tailor (VCH 1976, 284). The 1800 house was stuccoed, to give it an up-to-date appearance, and it has a brick semi-circular two-storey bay on the south return wall. When house and barn were restored by the new owner c1925 the stucco was removed and the entire block given brick nogging within the exposed timber framing. Most of the bricks, however, were ‘found on the site’ (*ibid.*). In 1937 the house was sold to Potters Bar UDC, who used it as council offices and then renovated and leased it as a restaurant in 1973.

2.4 Post-medieval changes (Figures 3-4)

Two major factors changed the landscape in the 16th and 17th centuries. Potters Bar did not, however, emerge as a place of any more importance than other small knots of settlement in the parish. This was still an area of scattered rural dwellings without an urban focus. From at least the 16th century the area began to be drawn into the orbit of London itself. It was favoured by wealthy merchants and others who found it suitable for the purchase of country property, but was even in the 16th century close enough to London to be able to commute. The history of Wyllyotts (above) is typical. The

original houses (see below) have all been rebuilt, but their estates emerge at this period.

The second element, in time even more important, was the emergence of the *Great North Road*. This was not a new construction, but was largely pieced together from fragments of existing road during the 16th century, to make up a main route between London and the north. From Barnet the road skirted Enfield Chase, still a private enclave within boundary banks, across common land which is now part of Wrotham Park (see the 1658 map reproduced as a sketch in Pam 1984, 71; Taylor & Corden 1994, illus 7, 52). It was reported in 1686, however, that a more direct road from Hadley windmill to Potters Bar had been forced through the neglected boundary bank and fence, 'to the great damage of His Majesty's deer' (Rutherford Davis 1966, 62). It is already shown on John Seller's map of 1676. This stretch was technically illegal as it entered the Chase, and since no one was legally responsible for its maintenance, it was never repaired. This was only one of the hazards, as the Chase was also notorious for highwaymen. Once beyond Ganwick Corner the road ran into the lane along the boundary, which was to become Potters Bar High Street. A plan made in 1769 (Pam 1984, 137) shows that by then a string of properties had encroached upon the Chase along the entire east side of the High Street, and this encroachment extended south of the Mutton Lane end in the 1730s (Field 2000, 12). The road left Potters Bar by a circuitous route towards Hatfield. It turned left at the Causeway into Quakers Lane, which continued further east than its present line, and right into a vanished lane which led north to Little Heath (Lynch 1986, 4-5). It was this route which was turnpiked by the Galley Corner Turnpike Trust in 1730 (a sometimes proposed alternative via Coopers Lane and Northaw Place was not part of the turnpike route: *ibid.*, 6-8, 10). This tangle of lanes, which had emerged to connect the crofts and assarts scattered among the woodland, heath, and commons, had to serve as part of the Great North Road until the early 19th century.

The medieval road to St Albans also became part of a national route for long-distance coaches, as it led on to Dunstable and the Midlands, and by the 18th century was the road to Holyhead and the Irish Sea. Inns, smithies, and cottages appeared along it at Kitts End (still Kicks End on the 1676 map), 'Green Dragon End' at the top of Kitts End Road where an inn called the Green Dragon stood at the junction from at least 1623, and at the next turn at Dancers Hill.

Kitts End in particular attracted new settlement, along the main road and a lane which ran east of it, encroaching on common land and on the Chase itself (VCH 1976, 276-8). The Bull's Head inn is first recorded in 1523; inns recorded by the 18th century include the White Lion, which had beds for 12 men and stabling for 43 horses in the billeting returns of 1756; the Two Sawyers, the Angel, the Crown, and the Bunch of Grapes. It was here, and not at Potters Bar or South Mimms, that the six Brewers' Almshouses were built in 1687, endowed in James Hickson's will (VCH 1976, 276, 307). The need for such foundations emerged after the Dissolution in the 16th century, and the Kitts End almshouses were typical of them, 'established by prominent [London] citizens through their livery companies, not as adjuncts to the company halls but at separate sites away from the city centre' (MOLAS 2000, 272). They were rebuilt by the Brewers Company in 1750, and transferred to new almshouses at South Mimms in 1856. The old buildings, each consisting of a single room and a coalshed,

still stood in 1867 but were then in poor condition. As well as these six dwellings, at least ten copyhold cottages stood at Kitts End, the property of Admiral Byng in c1750. This entire settlement grew up here because it was on the coaching route. In 1786 enclosure of the common land gave Kitts End Green to the owner of New Lodge (built 1767), and in 1826 the opening of the New Road took away the traffic. New Lodge and the hamlet were absorbed into Wrotham Park, the last cottages making way for the Home Farm in the 1850s. A milestone (not now in situ) is the one remaining relic of a vanished settlement.

In the early 18th century both of these long-distance roads were taken into the care of turnpike trusts, put into repair and provided with milestones. The St Albans road was maintained by the South Mimms & St Albans Trust ; the Great North Road between Ganwick Corner and Lemsford was in the care of the Galley Corner Trust, established in 1730. Beyond Potters Bar High Street, a toll gate was set up at the top of the hill at Little Heath (Lynch 1986, 4-5). Improvements to the road were accompanied by the appearance of new inns.

Inns

Although Barnet was a major coaching stop for long-distance services, inns were built at South Mimms and at Kitts End to serve the coaches on the highways leading north. Some coaches preferred to stop at Kitts End rather than Barnet. Inns also appeared at convenient points at Ganwick Corner and at Potters Bar, many of them serving waggoners and drovers as well as coaches. Those at Potters Bar are not numerous, but others once existed in the High Street, including the *Swan with Two Necks* (see the White Horse, below), and the *Robin Hood and Little John*, recorded from c1750, rebuilt after 1945 and demolished in 1980 (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 101). Beyond the turn at the north end was the *Red Lyon*, first mentioned in 1686 (VCH 1976, 278) and demolished after Hatfield Road bypassed it in 1802. Most of the 19th century beerhouses are not included here.

Green Man, High Street: a mid 17th century inn remodelled and extended in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries but still with its plastered timber frame at its core. This is the oldest surviving building in the High Street. Originally it was a single two-storey block, three rooms long, with a small cross-wing to the right. At the right of this main range is a large ridge chimney stack of brick, and another external stack stands at the left. The gabled cross-wing has an exposed wall-plate and a roof ridge lower than the main range. The ground floor front of the main range has a projecting lean-to extension with the entrance, the lean-to extending to right and left. This apparently dates to the 18th century. The building is first recorded as an inn in 1730-1 (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 103). Towards the end of the 19th century it was given an addition along the whole rear frontage, with a separate lower ridge joining the cross-wing. In the 20th century a single-storey flat-roofed extension was built at the rear into the garden.

White Horse (Cask & Stillage), 19 High Street: an early 18th century building, altered in the 19th century, of plastered brick and tiled roof, with a good painted sign. The structure is long and low, of two storeys in five bays, in plastered brick with tile and asbestos roof. A parallel range added at the rear is brick with some weatherboarding. The frontage has two entrances, the left one unused, and 19th century canted bay windows on the ground floor. A chimney stack stands on the left gable end; a ridge

stack is above the main entrance. The single storey entrance extension at the left is 20th century. The building, which was extensively renovated in 1989, appears to have been put up as a house. The earliest reference to the White Horse is c1726, but there are three inns of this name in the 1756 Billetting Returns (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 102): this one, another at 6-8 High Street, and a third in Mutton Lane. The inn at 6-8 High Street was older than no.19, and had been the New Inn in 1658 and the Swan with Two Necks by 1716. It was later called the Bull.

The Chequers, Coopers Lane: Chace House was the original Chequers, built as a coaching inn during the earlier 18th century, although the earliest reference appears to be c1770 (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 102-3). The house, stable, and brewery outbuildings still retain the original open courtyard arrangement. Some original timbers survive in the kitchen and cellars, and the cellars also have a well. The house is of brick, now partly pebbledashed, two storeys and attic under slate and tile roof, with a false central entrance and a real entrance on the left with rectangular fanlight and ground floor bay windows. It was altered and extended in the mid 19th century, and c1900 it was given a new rectangular bay at the left end. It is not certain when the licence moved across the road to the present Chequers; possibly by 1807 (*ibid.*, 102). By 1843 Chace House was a grocer's shop. The present public house was converted from two older buildings. These were 'originally a brick house and a timber-framed cottage of c1650, illegally built within the boundary of Enfield Chase' (*ibid.*).

Duke of York, Ganwick Corner: an early to mid 18th century inn, of brick, tall proportions with two storeys and attic under tiled roof. It was altered in the 19th century and extended in the 20th, and has flanking two-storey hipped roof extensions with their own entrances and sash windows. The main central entrance has a porch on fluted Doric columns, and a 19th century canted bay window on the ground floor to the right of the porch. On the first floor an inn sign takes the place of one of the windows. It was once known as the Angel. Jolliffe & Jones (1995, 103) say that the present building is a little further south than the original house, which was put up illegally on Bentley Heath in 1743 and from 1751-88 was called the White Horse. It has been called the Duke of York since 1793.

The Lion, 2 Barnet Road, Potters Bar: this was originally a blacksmith's shop, built in 1761 on a piece of 'waste' in the manor of Wyllyotts, at the crossroads where Mutton Lane entered the Chase. The present house appears to be the one built in 1785 (Field 2000, 8-9). It is a late 18th-century building in painted brick, two storeys under a hipped slate roof with a T-shaped ridge. The front is of four bays, the two on the left projecting slightly, and the front door in the second bay from the right with ornamented doorcase. There is a large ridge chimney stack at the left and a smaller stack to the right rear; extensions at the right end and rear right. In 1837, when the property was sold, it was divided into two premises; one was a smithy and the other a wheelwright's shop damaged by a fire. By 1841 it had been turned into a beershop by James Wanstall, a brewer. It was first named the Lion Brewery in 1861.

Country houses

After the Dissolution many new country residences were built by prosperous Londoners within reasonable reach of the City, and the parish of South Mimms began to be characterised by new houses (VCH 1976, 276). They included Clare Hall,

Durhams or Dyrhams, Knightsland, Gannock at Bentley Heath, Knights (Green Dragon Lane), Wicks Place (Laurel Lodge), Bridgefoot, and possibly Pinchbank. Rebuilt farmhouses included Fold Farm, Blanche Farm, Mimms Hall, and in Potters Bar itself, Wyllyotts and Cattalls. A brick house of two storeys and attics was built in the High Street c1580, and known as Goodwin Stile when owned a century later by James Hickson; it was later called Ladbrooke Farm, and stood until c1911 (VCH 1976, 276). All of these, apart from most of the farmhouses (including Knightsland), have been rebuilt or demolished. Cattall House, built for Robert Taylor of Wyllyotts in the 1590s on the land that had belonged to Cathale priory, had gone by 1745 but part of the land was sold to Richard Plaistow who built a new house on the High Street c1770. This was Easy Lodge, known as Parkfield by 1859 (VCH 1976, 286). The house was demolished in 1936 but the grounds remain in part, as public parkland dropping down from the ridge on the west side of the High Street. The approach to Cattall House survives as the eastern half of The Walk (Baker 1988, 15, 19).

16th and 17th-century Listed Buildings (east of the A1)

Mymms Hall Farmhouse, Mutton Lane: now two dwellings, the house dates to the early 16th century, but was extended in the 17th, then refronted and much altered in the 18th and 19th centuries. The plan is a half-H, looking like a hall with crosswings. The left and longer crosswing is the original small 16th century house, its chimney inserted in the late 16th or early 17th century. The central range is of four bays with its entrance in the second bay from the right, in a Tuscan porch, a canted bay window with crenellated parapet to its right, and a central ridge chimney stack. The rear right wing is a 17th-century extension, fronted in stock brick in rat trap bond and with a central entrance. At the far right is a lower two-storey extension. To the north is a 17th-century timber-framed weatherboarded barn. Another, on a brick base, stands opposite the Green Dragon in St Albans Road, but predates the road, which did not exist until 1826. This barn was converted into housing in 2002.

Knightsland Farmhouse: this was originally a timber-framed hall house with an open hall and a cross-wing on the west, probably early 16th century (Smith 1993, 143). The main hall range was rebuilt c1600, apparently by William Crowley, who owned the estate in 1618 and would have been responsible for the fine series of wall paintings. This main range is of four bays on the ground floor, and two rooms above. On the partition wall of the eastern upstairs room are paintings depicting the parable of the Prodigal Son, dated c1590-1610. In the south room of the wing, which may have been extended to the south, the partition wall has painted decoration of 1610-20. In the angle between the hall and cross-wing is a semi-octagonal (altered to square) stair turret. In the late 17th century most of the walls were rebuilt in brick. The main entrance was probably on the south side until the 18th or 19th century.

Bentley Heath Farmhouse: a two-storey double-pile brick house of the late 17th or early 18th century. The front is of five bays, with steps up to a central entrance with pilastered surround and cornice. The chimney stacks are at the ends. The 19th century rear extension links the house with an 18th century timber-framed and weatherboarded barn.

Elm House, Bentley Heath Lane: a late 17th century brick house, altered in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is of two storeys with lobby entrance to right of centre, the

doorway with pilastered surround under a bracketed hood. A ridge chimney stack is behind the entrance, and another stack is at the left end. Behind the house are 19th and 20th century extensions.

Fold Farm House, Galley Lane: a timber-framed farmhouse, two storeys with attic, of the mid to late 17th century, altered in the 18th when it was given a brick front. It is L-shaped with lobby entrance. The main front has central entrance with porch, and a gabled wing projecting forward on the left, a gable end chimney stack and another central stack behind the ridge. At the rear left is a 19th century extension in yellow brick. The house is outside the site of the medieval moat, which lay to its south.

Brick-making

The first brick house in Potters Bar, Goodwin Stile (Ladbroke Farm: above) was built c1580. The bricks were no doubt made locally, exploiting the same clay source as had the Roman kiln, and the surrounding woodland for fuel. 17th century sources refer to brick making, and by 1658 a brickyard existed south-east of the High Street (VCH 1976, 293). Other fields in the parish were named 'Brick Kiln Field' at various dates.

2.5 18th-century changes (Figure 5)

In the mid 18th century the centres of population in the parish were at South Mimms village and at Kitts End. Most of the earliest extant buildings at Potters Bar itself and in the southern part of the parish reflect a wave of rebuilding during the 18th century, some of it by people who were considerably more grand than wealthy city tradesmen like James Hickson. Their new Palladian villas demanded surrounding parks, and enclosure came comparatively early to South Mimms parish. The estates put together at this period are still prominent in the landscape today. The breaking up of Enfield Chase in the 1780s was part of the same re-organisation of the landscape, and it was this re-organisation which allowed the development of Potters Bar.

Parish amenities, apart from a pound in Mutton Lane, did not yet exist at Potters Bar itself. South Mimms parish workhouses were variously in South Mimms village, Dugdale Hill, and at the obelisk at Hadley Side near Kitts End (VCH 1976, 295-6); in 1835 the parish joined the Barnet Union and inmates were sent to the new workhouse in Wellhouse Lane, Barnet.

18th-century Listed Buildings (east of the A1)

Wyllyotts: see above.

Salisbury House, 81 High Street: a mid 18th-century double-pile house, facing west onto the High Street. This was apparently the house 'erected on a piece of land, formerly a gravel pit, held by John Fennel from 1740 to 1756' (Smith 1993, 143). The front elevation originally had five bays, and four ground-floor rooms around the entrance and staircase halls. A plan dated 1769 (see Pam 1984, 137) shows a north-east wing. From c1805-1855 Salisbury House was a private boys' boarding school; service rooms to the south-east were added c1800, and the wing was replaced in the early 19th century by a two-storey wing of yellow brick. These additions were

demolished in 1975 and new wings added, the whole being converted into offices. A prominent two-storey bay window on the frontage dates to the later 19th century.

Bridgefoot Farm, Bridgefoot Lane: the farmhouse is a mid 18th-century building of brick, two storeys and attic, three bays under a tiled gambrel roof, dormer windows and external end chimney stacks. The central front door has a bracketed hood. There is a lean-to extension at the rear. The adjacent timber-framed, weatherboarded barn is 17th-century. The brick and weatherboarded cottage which completes the group is 18th-century but rebuilt in the 19th-century. The Bridgefoot estate emerged from South Mimms manor in the 16th century; Bridgefoot House (demolished in 1969) was not built until the later 18th century (Baker 1988, 6-12).

Ganwick House, Wagon Road: a late 18th-century double-pile brick house which must date after the break-up of Enfield Chase, when Wagon Road was constructed. It is of two storeys, three bays with projecting central entrance porch added, and canted bay windows on the sides.

Wrotham Park: this house was built on a new site in 1754 for Admiral John Byng, by Isaac Ware. Admiral Byng had bought the Pinchbank estate and named it after family property at Wrotham in Kent (Gelder 1991, 59). The house was a Palladian villa in two storeys, fronted by an Ionic portico approached by a pair of curving staircases. Short one-storey wings led to pavilions with domed roofs (VCH 1976, 289). The Admiral may never have lived in his new villa, as he was called to sea, and shot in 1757. In 1810-16 the wings were heightened and the building stuccoed. General Sir John Byng, earl of Strafford, had the house altered in the 1850s and the wings extended to designs by Henry Clutton c1860 (Smith 1993, 143). After it was gutted by fire in 1883 it was rebuilt with a full attic storey, and the interior remodelled.

At the south end of the park, at Home Farm, is the complete, almost square, late 18th-century walled enclosure of the kitchen garden.

Dancers Hill House: a Palladian villa built c1750-60 for Charles Ross, a Westminster builder, facing what was then the main coaching road. The original villa was of five bays in three storeys with a slightly projecting centre on the entrance front, attached Roman Doric columns on the principal floor and pilaster strips continuing up to the parapet. On the garden front the three centre bays also project slightly under the pediment. The house was tall for its size, and in the early 19th century an earth bank was thrown up on three sides of the house to disguise the basement, and the entrance moved from the south front to the north. Extensions of five bays at one end and two at the other were added c1860 and soon afterwards, and the whole house stuccoed (VCH 1976, 285). To the north of the house, the original garden front, were 18th century formal grounds including an avenue, of which traces remain, and a grotto which also survives. Less formal 19th century gardens on the south side of the house have disappeared, although the timber pergola survives.

Dyrham Park: the present house in fact dates to c1810, the earlier house having burnt down c1806. It is a large Neo-classical villa, with a Tuscan entrance portico on the north, and a semicircular bow on the south. Some of the fittings in the service-wing at the north-west appear to be late 18th century survivors from the previous house. This

was a 16th-century building (VCH 1976, 284). The estate was bought by Ann Keppel, wife of the earl of Albemarle, in 1733, and in 1736 she diverted the public road which ran east to west across the front of the house along the north boundary of the park. The old road became the carriage drive to the house. The mid-18th century park had a formal layout with double avenues and canal. After being sold in 1773 the estate was bought in 1798 by John Trotter, an army contractor, and the Trotter family owned it until 1938. The house was much remodelled in the early 20th century. The elaborate new gateway and lodges at the entrance to the carriage drive was built c1790-1800, and the park was redesigned in a less formal manner c1822 (VCH 1976, 273, 284). It is now a golf course.

2.6 Development in the 19th century (Figure 6)

In 1802 Hatfield Road was constructed to take the Great North Road out of the High Street in a straight line which cut across the old right-angled turns. Quakers Lane was shortened as a result and the Red Lyon, no longer on the highway, lost its custom. The tollgate was moved south to the new fork and a toll house built (Lynch 1986, fig.2; Taylor c1805). The scale of coaching traffic was substantial; 'in the early 1830s there were about 15 stage-coaches a day in each direction passing along Potters Bar High Street', although the horses were changed in Barnet (Lynch 2000, 2, 8, 24). After 1837 long-distance coach traffic vanished very quickly, and only a few services were still running by the time the new railway system reached the town in 1850. It took decades more before Potters Bar began to grow in earnest, although it began to acquire urban facilities.

In 1826 construction of Telford's New Road from Barnet to South Mimms, part of his rebuilding of the road from London to St Albans, took the Midlands and Holyhead traffic into a straight course bypassing the old tortuous route. The Green Dragon at the top of Kitts End Road moved to a new building on the New Road near Knightsland. The coaching inns at Kitts End lost their custom and the settlement there was soon to disappear. The land, including New Lodge and its grounds, was bought by the Byngs of Wrotham Park. Their expanded park survives, with the many buildings added in the 1850s and 1860s (the Home Farm, lodges, estate cottages, and the mausoleum built c1880).

The Great Northern Railway

The line from Kings Cross to Peterborough arrived in 1850, when Potters Bar & South Mimms Station opened in Darkes Lane, close to Wyllyotts and some way from the High Street. The station was rebuilt in 1955 (Pevsner 1977, 272; Eve 1986), and again in 1987. Major engineering works, by the engineer Thomas Brassey, were necessary to reach Potters Bar from the south, via a tunnel 1200m long. The spoil from the tunnel was used to form embankments, as well as Spoilbank Wood (Eve 1986, 6), and a few railway cottages were built near it (Field 2000, 42-4). A new public house opened in 1850 in Mutton Lane by the railway cutting, to serve the navvies building the line (and who were housed in camps nearby). This was the *Railroad or Pilot Engine*, which lost its licence in 1906 and later became Limerick House (Rutherford Davis 1966, 73). The arrival of the railway did not engender a rash of new housing.

St John's Church

In 1835 a chapel of ease was built for the inhabitants on the east side of the High Street, just south of Oakmere Park. It was paid for by George Byng of Wrotham Park, on land given by Lt Col Carpenter of Oakmere House. Designed by Edmund Blore, it was one of the earliest buildings in the country to be constructed of reinforced concrete, 'Ranger's Patent Stone'. The style was Norman, with nave, apsidal chancel, and western tower; inside it was a plain preaching-box. The parish of St John's, Potters Bar, was created in 1836. A vicarage house (demolished c1928) was built on the west side of the High Street. After a fire in 1911 a new church, St Mary's, was built on the other side of the High Street, and when this opened in 1915 the font, stone pulpit, and organ were transferred to it. St John's gradually decayed but was not demolished until after St Mary's was finally completed in 1967 (VCH 1976, 300-1). The site of the old church is where the War Memorial now stands; the land around it was the churchyard.

Trinity Chapel, Bentley Heath

One of the adornments of the Wrotham Park estate built by George Byng, earl of Strafford, the chapel was designed by S S Teulon and built in 1866. It was built for the Byng family, but outside the park itself, and the public were admitted to services. The style is polychrome Gothic, in red brick with patterns of white and burnt brick, and stone dressings; it has a gabled timber porch and decorative bargeboards. At the west end is a semi-octagonal baptistery. Memorials to the Byng family were moved here from St John's church when it was demolished; the tombs were moved to the private mausoleum in the park.

St Michael and All Angels, Church Road

This was a 'tin tabernacle' or corrugated iron structure put up as a mission church by the vicar of St John's in 1874. It burnt down c1942 (VCH 1976, 301).

Particular Baptist Chapel, Barnet Road

'By the end of the 18th century nonconformist bodies were active in the parish, mostly at Potters Bar and Barnet Side' (VCH 1976, 302); the distance to the parish church encouraged such growth. The first Baptist congregation began meeting in a field south of the present chapel in 1788, and the first chapel was built in 1789 (Field 2000, 24-6, 29). This does not survive, but its successor, built in 1869, stands adjacent to the present church, opened in 1964. The 1869 building is in the Romanesque style and was registered for worship by the Particular Baptists. It was extended in 1884, its new Spurgeon hall named after the famous preacher of the time. The former burial ground, grassed over, remains behind it.

Methodist Chapel

There is a record of Methodists meeting in a barn at Darkes Farm in the late 18th century, but it was not until 1883 that a Methodist chapel was built in Hatfield Road. This was used until a new church was erected in Baker Street in 1941 (VCH 1976, 303).

National School, Barnet Road (St John's Church of England School)

This was built in 1839 on land given by George Byng of Wrotham Park, and paid for by the first incumbent of the new St John's Church (VCH 1976, 304). It was a brick building comprising a schoolroom with teacher's house attached, surrounded by a playground. There were soon 83 children on the roll (Field 2000, 35-6). In 1862 the infants were transferred to their own premises (Ladbroke School, below) on glebe land in the High Street. Subsidence under the Barnet Road building led to the opening of a new junior school in Southgate Road in 1872, and the site of the old school is now a grass verge at the corner of Barnet Road and Hill Rise.

Ladbroke School

'A pretty building of 1861 in polychrome brick Gothic with large decorative bargeboards to the gables' (Pevsner 1977, 272), this faces onto the west side of the High Street. It consists of the two-storey school house adjoining a single-storey two-bay school room, forming a T plan, in stock brick with red and white brick and stone dressings under a slate roof in green and blue stripes. The forecourt wall, and the timber and iron gate, are original and part of the design. To the rear is a large 20th century extension. The 1861 building was for the National School infants, and was built on land belonging to the vicarage. It was renamed Ladbroke School in 1938, after the neighbouring farm (VCH 1976, 305).

A British School, for children of Nonconformists, existed in Union Street, Barnet, but only from c1854 to 1866 (VCH 1976, 305). Another Church of England school was built at Bentley Heath by Lord Strafford of Wrotham Park in 1876, for infants; this closed in 1914 (*ibid.*).

Water supply and drainage

Wells were used until 1888, when the Barnet Water Company laid mains to South Mimms from wells sunk in the chalk at Barnet and Potters Bar (VCH 1976, 297). The Potters Bar well continued to supply water until c1948. A sewage farm was constructed at the north end of Cranborne Road in 1899 and houses nearby were connected; sewers were laid along Mutton Lane in 1925 (*ibid.*).

Gas

The Potters Bar Gas & Coke Company was set up in 1868-9, and built the Potters Bar Gasworks on land behind the Baptist Chapel in Barnet Road. In 1872 it joined other small companies in Barnet and East Barnet as the Barnet District Gas & Water Company (VCH 1976, 297; Field 2000, 6-7, 27-9). In 1876 a new gas main was laid from East Barnet, and the original gasworks closed in 1879. A long single-storey brick building at 68-68a Barnet Road is part of the original retort house.

Police, Fire

The first police station was built in 1883; it was replaced by a new station in the Causeway in 1891 (VCH 1976, 297). No fire engine was available nearer than Chipping Barnet until 1939.

Hospital

A cottage hospital with a dispensary was established in Richmond Road, just off Hatfield Road, in 1884. It moved to new premises in Mutton Lane as a District Hospital in 1939 (VCH 1976, 297).

Village Institute

This was built in 1893 in memory of Henry Parker of Parkfield, and provided a hall, reading room, lending library, and billiard room. It was later bought by the local branch of the British Legion (VCH 1976, 294).

Housing

Potters Bar saw the building of large houses throughout the 19th century and up to 1914. Some of these are Listed Buildings and are described below. Others which survive but are not Listed include Morven, at the turn into the Causeway (Matthews 1989). This was built after 1873 by A B Sanderson of the firm of wallpaper manufacturers, on the site of the Clock House (which was originally 16th century, and rebuilt c1750; VCH 1976, 279). Morven is a good example of a substantial Victorian merchant's house, in its own park and with its lodge house, stable block, and planned farm range all surviving, in the ownership of the National Trust.

Despite being on a main line, the railway service was poor (Eve 1986) and growth of the town from 1850 was slow. In 1855 two London speculators bought part of the manor of Wyllyotts in the hope of selling it in more than 200 plots, as the Osborne Park estate (VCH 1976, 279). Only a few houses were built, in Church Road, Osborne Road and Heath Road, and the 1898 OS 25" plan shows how rural the area remained, with fields still stretching between Darkes Lane and the High Street. Most inhabitants were either of independent means, servants, or engaged in agriculture (VCH 1976, 293). Until the 1920s much of the High Street was dominated by the grounds of Parkfield on one side and Oakmere on the other. Tradesmen and shopkeepers were to be found along part of the High Street and Barnet Road, and some small terraces of houses were built from the 1880s in what is now Whaley Road (Field 2000, 22). This road remained incomplete until 1903, and other schemes came to nothing.

19th-early 20th century Listed Buildings

Pound Farm House (37 Baker Street): this early 19th century farmhouse survives in good condition on the street frontage, surrounded by 20th century housing. It is a two-storey double-pile house in brick under a slate hipped roof, with steps up to the central main entrance with fanlight, and a one storey extension on the left. Most of the house is in red brick, but the frontage is in the grey brick fashionable in the earlier 19th century.

The White Cottage (27 The Causeway): a two-storey double-pile house in whitewashed brick, under slate hipped roof, and like Pound Farm dating to the early 19th century. It also has the central entrance, with a semi-circular fanlight, and three windows above, but has a parapet above.

Oakmere House, High Street: several of the small properties encroaching on the Chase on the east side of the High Street were bought up by John Hunter of Gobions in the late 18th century, and the land sold to Daniel Carpenter, who built a house here in 1797 (Warren 2001). The grounds east of the house were part of an estate formed

out of Enfield Chase in 1781 (VCH 1976, 278, 290). In the 19th century this was the grandest house in Potters Bar. In 1861 it was inherited by Margaret Carpenter and her husband Horatio Kemble, who began alterations; in 1864 the house burnt down, and a new house was built more or less over the basement of the original. This is an Italianate building of two storeys in stuccoed brick and slate roof. The three centre bays on the front have a Tuscan portico with the upper floor set back; on either side are single-bay wings with pedimental gables. A cornice and parapet, and ground floor rustication, tie all these front elements together. The right side of the house also has a ground floor portico, and a large projecting bay with pedimental gable. Late 19th and 20th century extensions run to the left. The ornamental grounds with their lakes were laid out following the building of the 1864 house. In 1920 part of the estate was sold, and the house and grounds bought by the Urban District Council in 1937 for community use. The farmhouse built at the same time as the original house in 1797 stood facing the High Street, and was replaced by the Oakmere Parade shops in the early 1930s (Warren 2001, 17). After the Wyllyotts Centre was built in 1991 Oakmere House was sold and re-opened as a restaurant in 1996.

Seldown (23 The Avenue) is an Arts and Crafts style house designed by Sir Bannister Fletcher in 1904, in roughcast brick under a grey-green slate roof. *Tiverton* in Darkes Lane nearby is another early Bannister Fletcher house, built in 1908 in Queen Anne style, in red brick with stone dressings and slate roof.

One more fine Listed structure dates to this period, before the building of suburban estates. The *War Memorial* by Voysey, erected in 1920 at the top of the High Street, is an elegant design in Portland stone of a Free Gothic octagonal column and cross on a tall base, with flying buttresses and fine gold lettering. It was re-erected in 1973 on the site of St John's church on the east side of the High Street.

2.7 The 20th century town (Figure 7)

'Potters Bar now consists of two parts, the old to the south along the High Street.... and the later essentially suburban development around the railway station in Darkes Lane, parallel to the High Street' (Pevsner 1977, 272). This suburban character did not overtake the rural settlement until the 1930s. Between 1929 and 1939 council houses had been built along Mutton Lane and on the Cranborne estate in the north-west part of the town, and the fields between Darkes Lane and the High Street, and along Baker Street, were covered in residential roads. Parts of the grounds of Parkfield and Oakmere were built over. The main shopping area was in Darkes Lane, not in the old High Street, and even here the 1850 railway bridge, with an arch only 15ft wide, was not rebuilt until 1955 (Eve 1986). Development east of the High Street took place from the 1950s (VCH 1976, 280).

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