

*EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY*  
*of*  
*SURREY*

**COBHAM**



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Date of report	August 2002 (revised February 2004)
Client	English Heritage



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## **EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY**

### **COBHAM**

#### **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). Cobham qualified for inclusion as a small, but nucleated settlement on the Rocque map of c1768, with Church Cobham as the main settlement adjacent to Street Cobham. The settlement has early origins

and the Abbot of Chertsey was granted the right to hold a Tuesday Market in Cobham by King Stephen in the mid-12th century.

The study areas are those of the medieval settlements of Church Cobham and Street Cobham as defined by fig 3. The areas so defined correspond fairly closely with the extent of the built-up area as indicated by the earliest large scale maps, such as that of Rocque map of c1768 and the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1880.

### **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 (fig 1)**

Cobham (NGR 108 598) lies in the centre of the county of Surrey in a low lying area on the lower river terrace gravels of the River Mole. The eastern side of Cobham lies on the Bagshot Beds partially overlain by higher terrace gravels, and the town is bordered to the south by alluvium along the line of the river which forms the southern boundary of the town. The course of the Mole has been a crucial factor in the siting of Cobham, and the river's terraces have been important in the siting of individual buildings in close proximity to the river, such as the parish church (TD1) and Cedar House (TD3), which have largely remained unaffected by flooding (Taylor 1982, 11).

The Chalk Downs lie to the south, and to the north the River Mole joins the River Thames. Cobham is located c6km south-west of Esher, c6km north-west of Leatherhead and c10km west of Epsom.

### **PAST WORK AND THE NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE**

Cobham is a small town for which there is a limited body of archaeological and historical information for the local area. 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 Cobham. The detailed information is confined to that directly relevant to the study area (fig 3) of the settlement, but material from the general vicinity is referred to as necessary.

### **Archaeology**

Archaeological work in the area of Cobham has produced a variety of archaeological finds (although not within the town centre itself) in addition to a number of stray finds. The results of early excavations carried out in 1907-08 were published by the Surrey Archaeological

Society (Smith 1908, Smith 1909); later excavations were carried out in the area in the 1940s and from the 1970s to the 1990s. The sites that were identified and the artefacts recovered are mainly of Iron-Age/Romano-British date, but include earlier prehistoric material and artefacts of Roman, Saxon and medieval date.

### **Documents**

The history of Cobham can be pieced together from a number of written sources. The earliest reference to Cobham was made in 675AD when Cobham Manor was granted to Chertsey Abbey (Gover *et al* 1934, 87). The manor of Cobham was also mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) as part of the Abbey's estate. The Chertsey Abbey Cartularies (Surrey Record Society, **XII**) provide valuable information about the Abbey, its properties and its activities, in particular for the period 1307-46 when Abbot John Rutherwyk was in office. The Victoria County History account of Cobham (*VCH* 3) provides a useful summary of the history and development of Cobham, and Blair (1991) provides some useful information regarding a number of issues relating to the town. Taylor (1982) has produced a relatively detailed work summarising the history and development of the town, having made reference to a large number of sources, including original material, both published and unpublished. As a whole, these documentary sources provide a firm background against which to place archaeological and other discoveries.

### **Cartography**

The earliest useful cartographic source for the layout of Cobham is the Rocque map of 1768 (fig 2) which reveals the basic plan of the town but at a small scale. The Rocque map shows 18<sup>th</sup> century Cobham centred on Church Cobham (which is focused on the parish church), situated on the north bank of the River Mole; a couple of fields separate it from 'Cobham Street' (later known as Street Cobham) which lies to the north-west adjacent to another stretch of the River Mole. The Tithe map of 1845, although not providing a great amount of detail, clearly shows the two separate communities of Church Cobham and Street Cobham. The 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1880 provides the first very detailed map of Cobham, still divided into the two separate communities. OS maps from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards document the growth of the town as residential development amalgamated the two separate communities to create the present day town of Cobham.

### **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. Cobham possesses a number of historic buildings, some of which are listed, dating from the 15th century and later. A number of historic buildings have also been destroyed since the 1960s as a result of redevelopment in the town centre.

## **THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF COBHAM**

The scope of the resources available for an account of the history of Cobham 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 village and its immediate surrounds. The more detailed analysis of the town plan and its development is reserved for the next section.

### **Prehistoric and Roman**

Despite the fact that no evidence has been recovered for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area of Cobham itself (fig 4), material of Mesolithic to Roman date has been recovered from the surrounding area. The archaeological evidence is the result of development work, archaeological interventions and the recovery of stray finds. Mesolithic artefacts, including a flint axe (SMR No 102), and fragments of prehistoric pottery (SMR No 92) were recovered from the bank of the River Mole near Cobham in 1942 and 1950. The site

of the Cobham Sewage Works (now the site of Sainsbury's Superstore), located c800m north of Street Cobham, has produced evidence suggesting that it had considerable archaeological potential. Construction of the Sewage Works in 1932 produced fragments of Romano-British pottery and fragments of wattle and daub (SMR No 236), and in 1963 a Late Bronze Age pot (SMR No 2451) was recovered. Subsequent archaeological work on the site in 1988 (SMR No 3270-1) showed that the Sewage Works and earlier ploughing had destroyed most, if not all, ancient occupation levels, leaving only scattered artefacts. However, these finds (including Mesolithic flintwork and prehistoric and Roman pottery) provided enough evidence to suggest settlement activity in this location in both the prehistoric and Roman periods. Further archaeological work at the site in 1996 (SMR A) produced a sherd of prehistoric pottery (in addition to sherds of medieval pottery).

An Iron-Age/Romano-British occupation site (SMR No 238) was discovered in 1906 on the Old Glebe Estate at Leigh Hill, c1km east of the centre of Cobham, during the digging of a driveway. Subsequent archaeological excavations undertaken on the site in 1907-8 revealed prehistoric features including c40 storage pits, a ditch, and an area which produced a large quantity of pottery, loomweights and quernstone fragments. The finds provided a 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> century AD date for the occupation. Further archaeological excavation was undertaken in 1972-3 in an attempt to establish the limits of the settlement. The work suggested that the settlement did not extend much beyond the gravel pit on the north and east sides of the site, and had possibly been destroyed by landscaping on the south side; the western side would have been destroyed by another deep gravel pit. A Middle Bronze Age Urn, representing a probable cremation burial, was found in a circular pit in the grounds of Leigh Court (SMR No 252), c137m east of the limits of the Leigh Hill Romano-British site (SMR No 238). Two sherds of another Bronze Age cinerary urn (SMR No 237) were recovered from a gravel pit located slightly north-east of the Romano-British site. The Romano-British site at Leigh Hill (SMR No 238), which is located on the higher terrace of the river, probably represents the first settlement in the vicinity.

Evidence for Roman activity, in addition to that identified at the Cobham Sewage Works (SMR Nos 3271 and 236), has been recovered from a handful of sites in the Cobham area. Four Roman coins of 4<sup>th</sup> century date (SMR No 91) were found in a meadow west of Cobham/Downside Bridge, one having been recovered from the bank of the River Mole. Another Roman coin was found at No 12 Frelands Road, Cobham (SMR No 250). A Roman bath-house of 4<sup>th</sup> century date (SMR No 490), partly destroyed by river erosion, was located on the left bank of the Mole at Chatley, c2km south-west of Cobham; and an archaeological excavation was undertaken in 1942. Any possible associated villa may have been destroyed by the river.

### **Saxon and Norman**

There is no evidence for Saxon activity within the study area of Cobham itself, and very little within the local area. A Saxon spearhead (SMR No 241) was found in 1926 in a gravel pit at Leigh Hill, near the findspots of Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery (SMR Nos 237-8). The spearhead may have accompanied a burial, but no human remains were recovered. The gravel pit, long disused and overgrown, lies within the grounds of Leigh Court. A Saxon cruciform brooch (SMR No 3912), of late 5<sup>th</sup> or early 6<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from the area of Cobham Court Farm, on the west side of Cobham, providing an indication of early Saxon activity in the area.

The earliest reference to Cobham (as *Coveham*) was made in 675 when the Manor of Cobham was granted to Chertsey Abbey by Frithwold, a sub-King of Mercia, and Bishop Erkenwald, later Bishop of London. The grant was later confirmed by King Athelstan in 933 (Taylor 1982, 16), and again by Edward the Confessor in 1062 (*VCH* 3, 443). The place name *Coveham* is derived from 'Cofa's ham(m)' meaning Cofa's land situated on a river bend (Gover *et al* 1934, 57 and 87). Gover *et al* (1934, 87) also note that the development of the name *Coveham* to *Cobham* is entirely irregular. The manor of Cobham and its three mills (but

with no mention of a church) is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) as belonging to Chertsey Abbey.

### **Medieval**

The first church to be documented in Cobham is listed in a papal confirmation of 1176 as an endowment of Chertsey Abbey (Blair 1991, 129). The Manor of Cobham belonged to Chertsey Abbey until the abbey's dissolution in 1537 when the manor was handed over to King Henry VIII (*VCH 3*, 443). In the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) Cobham, like most of Surrey, lay within Windsor Forest. However, after 1190 this part of Surrey was disafforested by Richard I. Earlier in the 12th century King Stephen had granted the Abbot of Chertsey the right to hold a Tuesday Market in Cobham (Taylor 1982, 98), but it is not known where this took place or when it ceased.

Cobham Court (TD3) (SMR No 100) is located c800m to the west of the centre of Cobham within the meander of the River Mole. It stands on the original site of the manor house (*VCH 3*, 443) that was mentioned in a grant dated 1553. It was presumably the manor house that was referred to in 1331, in the Chertsey Abbey Cartularies, as the building that was repaired by Abbot Rutherwyk (Walker 1961, 47). There are no visible signs of the earlier house, but a series of fish ponds located to the east of the present house are said to be associated with the former grange of Chertsey Abbey which occupied the site. It is possible that buried remains of the medieval grange lie in the area of the present house.

Downe Place is recorded as one of Cobham's most important medieval estates and was the ancient home of the Downe family who held it until the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Taylor 2003, 2). William de la Dune had been Keeper of the Hanaper to Edward I, and State documents of Edward I, dated at Cobham, indicate Royal visits to Downe Place between 1292 and 1306 (Taylor 1982, 65 and 68). The Victoria County History (*VCH 3*, 444) records that Downe Place once stood on the site of the present Cobham Park which lies on the Downside Road to the south of Cobham. There is, however, no evidence at present to prove this one way or the other. The existing mansion at Cobham Park dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and replaced an earlier post-medieval property owned by Viscount Ligonier in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The estate was sold to the Combe family in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (*VCH 3*, 443).

Street Cobham is located at an important crossing point of the River Mole and on the ancient road from Kingston to Guildford, which is shown on the Gough Map of 1360 as part of the main route from London to the west of England (Walker 1961, 64). There must originally have been a ford, but the first bridge (TD7) is said to have been built by Queen Matilda, wife of Henry I, in c1100 (see Bridges, below). It is possible that a medieval settlement became established at this important river crossing following the construction of the bridge.

A very limited amount of archaeological evidence has been recovered for medieval activity within Cobham and its surrounding area. The parish church of St Andrew (SMR No 93) is of late 12th century date with additions of 13th century and later date. Archaeological excavations on the site of the former Sewage Works in 1988 (SMR No 3272) recovered sherds of medieval pottery, and metal detectorists have recovered two sword chapes of probable late 15th century date from the area of Cobham Court Farm (SMR Nos 3915-6).

### **Post-medieval**

In 1537 the manor of Cobham became a possession of King Henry VIII who visited Cobham on several occasions (*VCH 3*, 444). In c1540 part of Cobham was enclosed in the Chase of Hampton Court, an area in which Forest law prevailed. This reversion to Forest law caused great hardship to many villagers, as only the King and his courtiers were allowed to hunt here (Taylor 1982, 99). A successful petition was made for the removal of the Chase fence after the death of Henry VIII in 1547. The Crown held the manor until 1553 when Queen Mary granted it to a George Bigley and his wife (*VCH 3*, 443). The manor was passed down through various hands thereafter by inheritance and sale.

Cobham was basically a rural community up until the early 20th century, but there had been changes in the late 18th century which affected the community. In 1779 the lord of the manor, Thomas Page, obtained a private Act of Parliament for 'dividing and inclosing the common and open fields within the parish'. The enclosure of the open fields meant a reallocation of the many small land holdings in the parish, often at the expense of both the smallholder and the poorer people who greatly depended on their rights in the common land. This was one of the earliest enclosure acts in Surrey and dealt with the cultivated strip which had dwindled in extent from c481 acres in 1598 to 370 acres at the time of the Act in 1779. The common land and waste ground were enclosed by a later act in 1793 (Taylor 1982, 117). According to this there were several open commons, heath and marsh, and wastelands in Cobham, across which new roads 40ft wide were to be laid. Certain areas of land were to be set aside for gravel pits for the construction and maintenance of the new roads, one example of which was the long straight stretch of the Portsmouth Road (Fairmile) to the east of Cobham (Taylor 1982, 117).

Street Cobham, at the northern end of the town, lies on the Portsmouth Road (the former route of the A3) which was the main route between London and the west country. The Cobham stretch of the Portsmouth Road, between Kingston and Petersfield, was turnpiked in 1749 and a toll house erected between the former White Lion pub and Cobham Bridge, near the present Matthew Arnold Close (Taylor 1982, 22). The increase in road traffic in the 18th century brought a new prosperity to this part of Cobham and many inns and ales houses were built to cater for travellers' needs. A brewery was built on the Portsmouth Road in the 18th century, opposite the present Police Station. The coaching trade was at its peak in 1836 and about 20 different coaches, including the Royal Mail, passed through Cobham from London to Guildford, Southampton, Chichester and Portsmouth; the first post office in Cobham was near the White Lion. One of the local attractions which visitors flocked to was Painshill Park (SMR No 2813), a landscape park with follies on the north-west side of Cobham, on the opposite side of the River Mole. It was created from scratch by the Hon Charles Hamilton in the mid-18th century and after just 10 years the park had become famous throughout the country (Taylor 1982, 83).

The advent of the railway was to take away much of the custom derived from the coaching trade. Despite a number of abortive attempts in the mid-19th century to bring the railway into Cobham itself, the London and South Western Railway, Cobham and Guildford Line was eventually built in 1885 to the south of Cobham. Cobham Station was built in the same year c1.9km to the south-east of Cobham at Stoke D'Abernon (*VCH* 3, 443). If the railway promoters had succeeded in their attempt to get a railway station built on the site of Oakdene Parade in Cobham itself, the town would be a very different place today (Taylor 1982, 23).

The coming of the railway saw other changes in Cobham, including an increase in travel and a new industrial boom. At the start of the 19th century the rural community of Cobham had a population of 1,200 (Taylor 1982, 117). One fifth of the population was engaged in agriculture and the total number of occupied houses in the village was only 208. By the end of the 19th century the population had more than doubled to almost 3,000. The number of people working on the land had decreased, largely as a result of low wages nationally. People became more involved in industry and could work further afield due to the improved transport system.

In the late 19th/early 20th century much of the farmland around Cobham was replaced by low-cost housing development and gradually the separate communities of Street Cobham, Church Cobham and Tilt Cobham merged into one (Taylor 1982, 117). In 1883 a large part of the Leigh Hill estate, which dominated a large part of Cobham north of the High Street, was sold off as building plots and is now represented by Anyards Road, Copse Road, Hogshill Lane and Cedar Road (Taylor 1982, 118).

The increasing population and development in Cobham raised a growing concern for public services and amenities. Gas street lighting was introduced in 1899 and mains drainage a few years later (Taylor 1982, 119). The present Cobham police station was opened in the



early 1900s (Taylor 1982, 118), and the Portsmouth Road later regained its former importance with the advent of the motor car.

## **THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN PLAN**

### **Topographic divisions**

The detailed analysis of the topographic development of Cobham 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 3 and summarised below. Cross-reference to them is given as TD1 etc in the text that follows. It should be stressed that the precise extent of a number of these elements is not known.

- 1        The parish church of St Andrew and the graveyard occupied their present sites by the late 12th century, but there is no evidence as to how much earlier church provision was made here.
- 2        The medieval settlement of Church Cobham was established along Church Street, a straight road which forms a junction with High Street and River Hill.
- 3        Cobham Court Farm is built on the site of the original medieval manor house of Cobham and the site of the grange of Chertsey Abbey.
- 4        Cedar House in Mill Lane was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century at a short distance from the centre of Church Cobham.
- 5        The areas along High Street, Mill Road and the area to the south of the church developed in the post-medieval period from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- 6        Pyports was built on the west side of the parish church in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, detached from the centre of Church Cobham.
- 7        Cobham Bridge over the River Mole was first constructed in c1100.
- 8        The area of Street Cobham along the Portsmouth Road had developed by the post-medieval period, but may have begun to develop rather earlier, perhaps from soon after the bridge was established in c1100. The zone shows the limit of development up to c1768 (based on the Rocque map).
- 9        Street Cobham continued to develop along the Portsmouth Road; this is the limit of development by 1880 (based on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map).

### **Cobham before the late 12th century**

Cobham lies on the terrace gravels of the River Mole in an area of low relief. The course of the Mole and the location of its terraces have been crucial factors in the siting of the town. The earliest evidence for occupation at Cobham is a Romano-British settlement on the upper gravel terrace at Leigh Hill on the east side of the town, 800m east of the centre of Church Cobham. If this occupation continued into the Saxon period, it is possible that it moved from Leigh Hill down to the lower gravel terrace along the riverside, in the area of Church Cobham, but there is no evidence for this. The manor of Cobham became a possession of Chertsey Abbey Estate in 675, but the only evidence recovered to date for Saxon activity close to the town is a Saxon cruciform brooch of late 5th/early 6th century date (SMR No 3912 ) from Cobham Court Farm, to the west of the town, and a Saxon spearhead (SMR No 241) from Leigh Hill on the east side of the town.

The early origins of the manor of Cobham suggest that it may have been a site of early settlement with a manor house. A grange of Chertsey Abbey is thought to have existed on the

site of Cobham Court, the site of the manor house, on the west side of the town where evidence of fishponds possibly associated with it remain (SMR No 100). The manor is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) with three mills, one of which was Cobham Mill.

The late 12th century establishment of St Andrew's Church at Cobham by Chertsey Abbey provides some evidence for the medieval origins of the town. However, no excavations are recorded as having taken place in the area of Church Cobham which could provide evidence for the nature of, and presence or absence of, early medieval settlement in this area. It is probable that by the 12th century development of Cobham was centred close to the church, and Church Street must have been a key element in the topography of the early settlement. Although the earliest settlement in Cobham would have been adjacent to the parish church in Church Cobham, the main crossing of the River Mole was located at the northern end of what later became Street Cobham where a ford must have existed from quite early on, prior to the construction of the first bridge which is said to date to the early 12th century (see Bridges below).

### **Medieval and post-medieval topography**

At or around the same time as Chertsey Abbey established the parish church at Cobham (in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century), the Abbey also seems to have been creating regular row plan villages on its estate, such as Egham and Chertsey. Evidence for similar planned settlement is less clear at Cobham (see below), but possibly needs to be kept in mind (Blair 1991, 58-9). The post-medieval settlement of Cobham can be shown, by archaeological, topographical and documentary evidence, to have its origins in the medieval period when the settlement would have been fairly tightly centred around Church Street (in Church Cobham) (TD2). The area of Street Cobham which now forms the northern part of the town may also be of medieval origin, but there is no present evidence.

The Rocque map of c1768 provides evidence for the nucleated nature of the settlement at Church Cobham (TD5), and perhaps also at Street Cobham (TD8), which reflects its medieval origin. The Tithe map of 1845 is not very comprehensive, but provides an indication of the limits of the settlements at Church Cobham and Street Cobham in addition showing a few mid-19th century properties in Church Cobham along Church Street and Mill Road.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the spread of residential development, the three separate communities of Church Cobham, Street Cobham and The Tilt merged to form a single town of Cobham.

### **PARISH CHURCH (TD1)**

Cobham was provided with its first church in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century by Chertsey Abbey, in common with a number of other Abbey estates such as Chertsey and Egham (Blair 1991, 107 & 129). The earliest known rector of Cobham was Aymer de Fureth who was appointed in c1166 (Taylor 1982, 43). The parish church of St Andrew is located, with its churchyard, at the western end of Church Street. The history of St Andrew's Church is provided by the Victoria County History (*VCH* 3, 445-6) which records that the earliest parts of the church are of 12<sup>th</sup> century date and include the chancel, nave and west tower. Subsequent additions were made in the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries and the church underwent restoration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **STREETS**

The Rocque map of c1768 and the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1880 appear to preserve the medieval street pattern in Church Cobham, with the T-shaped junction of Church Lane, High Street and River Hill forming the nucleus of the town (TD2).

Church Street is so named because it runs alongside the parish church, and was historically the old shopping area of the village and must have been a key element in the topography of the early settlement at Church Cobham. It is portrayed on both the Rocque Map of c1768 and the Tithe Map of 1845 as a very straight road running north-east to south-west. At its western end Church Street makes a 90° turn to the south-east and continues in this direction until it meets Bridge Road. The eastern end of Church Street meets the southern end

of High Street and the northern end of River Hill. High Street runs NNW-SSE, and at its northern end meets Between Streets (named on the 25 inch OS map of 1880 as Street Cobham Road). Between Streets provides the link between Church Cobham to the South and Street Cobham to the north. High Street heads northwards to meet Between Streets which links Church Cobham with Street Cobham. The southern end of High Street leads into River Hill, a short section of road which continues into Mill Road by making a dog-leg eastwards. River Hill has been altered over time by road widening which resulted from the demolition of a number of cottages of 18th century and earlier date (Taylor 1982, 141). Mill Road runs roughly east-west along the northern side of the River Mole and derived its name from the presence of Cobham Mill which lies on the southern side of the road on the River Mole. The road (the A245) continues south-eastwards towards Cobham Tilt and onwards to Stoke D'Abernnon.

The Portsmouth Road (A307) runs through Street Cobham and was the former route of the A3 before it was re-routed in the 1970s with the construction of a 10km bypass running east-west to the north of Cobham. Walker notes that the route of the Portsmouth Road through Street Cobham was the ancient road from Kingston to Guildford, and would have been one of the most important crossings of the River Mole. This road is shown on the Gough Map of c1360 as part of the main route from London to the west of England (Walker 1961, 64). Street Cobham is likely to have been established at this location as a result of the crossing of the river by the Portsmouth Road. The settlement would have developed as a stopping off point along the road, providing accommodation and supplies to travellers. The Portsmouth Road was turnpiked in the 18th century, and Cobham lay on the stretch between Kingston and Petersfield which was turnpiked in 1749 (Taylor 1982, 22). The turnpiking of the road would have led to an increase in road traffic which brought a new prosperity to this part of Cobham (Taylor 1986, 5). The Trust responsible for the section of highway passing through Cobham was wound up in 1873, and the associated toll house demolished.

#### THE MARKET AND MARKET PLACES

King Stephen (1135-1154) granted the Abbot of Chertsey the right to hold a Tuesday Market in Cobham, but it is not known when this ceased and where it would have taken place. There is no mention of a market place in Cobham and none apparent. A possible candidate for a market location is the northern end of River Hill, to the south of the junction of Church Street and High Street, where the road is a little wider. In the late 18th century, a fair for 'toys and pleasures' was held on March 17th in each year (Taylor 1982, 98).

One of the ancient privileges of the Manor of Cobham was that of holding a fair on the feast of St Andrew, patron saint of the parish church. The fair was for cows, steers, horses, sheep and pigs, and was held until c1859 in a field at Street Cobham. The site is now occupied by a house called Faircroft which is marked on the 2nd edition 6 inch OS map of 1896, south of the junction of Between Streets with the Portsmouth Road. In 1796 a meadow near Downside Bridge was known as Fair Meadow and was possibly the site of an earlier fair (Taylor 1982, 98).

#### BURGAGE PLOTS

The 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1880 preserves the layout of the medieval town with its T-shaped plan based on the three main streets at Church Cobham: Church Street, High Street and River Hill (TD2). In Church Street plots of varying size line both sides of the road, stopping on the east side of the church. The plots on the northern side of Church Street appear to lie within a series of long strips which may have been part of the original field system. At the western end of Church Street, on the west side of the church, stands the 18<sup>th</sup> century house named Pyports (TD6) situated within a long plot lining the west side of the road. High Street and River Hill are also lined by plots of uneven size (TD5). The irregular size of the plots may point to the organic rather than planned development of the town. On the 1880 map High Street, which did not develop as a commercial street until the 20th century, has an assortment of plots including a few smaller ones on its eastern side at the southern end, adjacent to its

junction with Church Street, and a few larger plots further north along both sides which included a dairy farm, a forge and a few houses. In River Hill the southern side of the road is lined by properties which stretch down to the riverside, and two public houses, The Bear and The Crown (the latter of the two now demolished), take up most of its north-eastern side. Mill Road, which runs along the northern bank of the River Mole, is only developed along its northern side, with a few larger plots within which lie larger residences including Cedar House, built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century on a plot detached from the centre of Church Cobham, and Ham Manor. Crown Alley runs to the rear of these properties leading out to High Street emerging opposite Church Street. The properties along Mill Lane have been built on a gravel terrace and have therefore remained largely unaffected by flooding.

On the modern OS map, the plots along Church Street are still largely recognisable as are those along Mill Road. Despite the changes that River Hill and High Street have undergone, the main field boundaries within which individual plots were laid out are still discernible.

The 1880 25 inch OS map shows the separate community of Street Cobham to the north of Church Cobham; the link road between them (Between Streets) was yet to be developed. It is shown as a ribbon development following the most important line of communication to the north-east and north-west. Street Cobham stretched along a section of the Portsmouth Road (the former line of the A3) lying between the bridge over the River Mole to the west, and the junction with Street Cobham Road to the south. The map shows the majority of the buildings on the northern side of the road, with a few larger properties in larger plots situated on the southern side such as the Brewery and the White Lion Inn.

## CHAPELS

Cobham became a Quaker centre by the 1670s and a meeting house was built in the village in 1680. The last quarterly meeting was held in Cobham in 1735 and the building was sold in 1739. The burial ground was excluded from the sale and was not disposed of until the 1840s. The site of the Cobham Meeting House and its burial ground is uncertain (Taylor 1982, 53).

An Independent/Congregational Chapel was built in Street Cobham in 1854 on the Portsmouth Road and is shown on the 25 inch OS map of 1880. The chapel remained in use until the early part of the 20th century when it was closed down and demolished (Taylor 1982, 54).

Cobham's first Methodist Chapel opened in Cedar Road in 1862 and was demolished in 1964 (Taylor 1982, 55-6). It is shown on the 25 inch OS map of 1880 as the Wesleyan Chapel and was located between the present No 4 Cedar Road and the church (in the area of the car park), opposite the Adult Education Centre.

The former Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel at Cobham was opened in Cedar Road in 1873 on land given by a local Strict Baptist pastor, Edgar Hewlett. The building, situated between 1-4 Cedar Road, is still known as Ebenezer Hall.

## SCHOOLS

Early schooling in Cobham had largely been a charitable affair. James Fox, an 18th century Lord of the Manor, endowed a charity school for 40 children in the 1720s (location unknown). The Parochial Schools in Cedar Road were built in 1860 by Miss Coombe of Cobham Park in memory of her brother (Taylor 1982, 118), and are shown on the 1880 25 inch OS map opposite the Wesleyan Chapel. The site is now that of the Youth Centre.

Church Stile House in Church Street was put to many uses, including being used as a school for crippled children in 1822 (Taylor 1982, 37).

In 1833 a schoolroom for the poor was built on the Parish ground at the The Tilt at the south-eastern end of Cobham, and is marked on the 1880 25 inch OS map. The building later became a parish room, then a fire engine house and later a warehouse (Taylor 1982, 37).

## MILLS

Domesday Book (1086) refers to three mills in the manor of Cobham, one of which was Cobham Mill; however its site is not known. The Chertsey Abbey Cartularies record that, in the early 14th century, Abbot John Rutherwyk made two mills at Cobham and constructed a new mill house. Walker suggests that this may mean that he rebuilt Cobham mill (Walker 1961, 59). The earliest known reference to a mill on the present site in Mill Road dates from 1534, when Richard Sutton leased it from the Chertsey Abbey for 40 years (Stidder 1990, 111-12). In 1572 the mill was described as comprising a corn mill and a malt mill under one roof (Taylor 1982, 75). Milling continued on the site until the 1920s when the flour mill closed. One of the larger buildings, which created a dangerous bottleneck in Mill Road, was demolished in 1953, leaving the smaller mill building which dates from 1822. The Cobham Mill Preservation Trust was set up in 1985 to restore the mill, a Grade II listed building, to full working order, and it was opened to the public in 1993 (SIHG 2000). Cobham Mill is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map as a Flour Mill; the map also shows a steam (flour) mill in what is now Hollyhedge Road. The steam mill is not shown on the 1914 edition of the OS map and had presumably closed by this time.

#### MANOR HOUSE (TD3)

Cobham Court Farm (SMR No 100) is built on the site of the original manor house of Cobham c800m west of the centre of Cobham. The manor of Cobham has early origins having become a possession of Chertsey Abbey in 675, and is recorded in Domesday Book (1086). A grange of Chertsey Abbey is thought to have existed on the site at Cobham Court Farm where there is evidence for fishponds which may have been associated with it.

#### WORKHOUSE

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Cobham's Workhouse was located at The Tilt on the south-eastern side of the town and seems to have originally comprised a property called Tilt Hatch, in addition to a number of other cottages. A master was installed in 1801. Cobham's poor were eventually transferred to Epsom, and the Parish Workhouse on the Tilt, along with 8 tenements built in 1822, were sold in the 19th century. The Cobham almshouse was also located at Cobham Tilt (Taylor 1982, 36).

#### OTHER BUILDINGS

Cobham possesses a number of historic buildings, some of which are listed, dating from the 15th century and later. A number of historic buildings have also been destroyed since the 1960s as a result of redevelopment in the town centre.

Church Street possesses a number of fine old houses including Church Stile House which is of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, and the Pyports (TD6), Overbye and Lime Cottage which date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Other historic buildings such as Cedar House (TD4) (of 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date), Ham Manor (early 18<sup>th</sup> century) and the Old Mill House (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century), are found along the riverside in Mill Road. The former Old Cottage Restaurant in River Hill dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and was saved from threatened demolition and is now an Italian restaurant 'La Capana' (Taylor 1982, 141). The Bear Inn, on the north-eastern side of River Hill, is of 17<sup>th</sup> century date. Until the early 20th century, Church Street was the old shopping area of the town, and High Street contained little else but a few houses, a dairy farm and a forge.

Street Cobham which was once a separate community, also possesses a number of historic buildings, including the White Lion Hotel which dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of the location of Street Cobham on the Portsmouth Road (the former A3) many inns, ale houses and a brewery were built in to cater for the passing trade (Taylor 1982, 5).

At the southern end of Cobham, at the Tilt, there are a number of houses of various periods, including Korea Cottages. Nos 9 and 10 are of 18th century date and probably represent the last of the old Workhouse cottages (Taylor 1982, 142).

#### BRIDGES (TD7)

Due to the location of the town of Cobham within a large bend of the River Mole, there are two bridges crossing the river at either end of the town; Cobham Bridge to the north and Downside Bridge to the south. The first bridge on the site of Cobham Bridge is said to have been built in c1100 by Queen Matilda, wife of Henry I, following the drowning of one of her maidens in the ford. The Queen gave land on the Cobham side of the river to maintain half the bridge, while on the Walton side the lord of the manor did the same. In 1239 Abraam is named as the bridge keeper and, in 1345, John le Smyth appears to have had a smithy by the bridge to shoe travellers' horses (Taylor 1982, 21). In 1351 Cobham Bridge was known as *pons de Coveham* and *Covehambridge* in 1548 (Gover *et al* 1934, 87). In the 18th century, carriages were made to cross the ford unless the river had risen to a certain height. The bridge was locked and the key kept by the landlord of the former King's Arms public house. The wooden bridge was replaced in the 1780s by one of brick which still stands. The architect was George Gwilt, the County Surveyor, who also rebuilt the bridge on the Downside Road at about this time. Downside Bridge was mentioned in 1415 when Thomas Freke bequeathed 2s for repairing 'Downbrygge' and in 1528, John Bygnold left 20d 'to making down bridge'. The new bridge by Gwilt survived intact until the floods of 1968 when it was severely damaged; the present bridge was opened in 1971 (Taylor 1982, 21). Downside Bridge is named on the 1880 edition 25 inch OS map as Church Cobham Bridge.

The 1880 25 inch OS map shows a ford across the river on the west side of Cobham Mill providing access from Mill Road to the meadow on the southern side of the river. These meadows have remained undeveloped due to their liability to flood.

The River Mole is also crossed by a foot bridge from the grounds of Rose Lodge, adjacent to St Andrew's Church, to Rose Lodge Wood on the southern side. The foot bridge is marked on the 1880 25 inch OS map.

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The economy of Cobham had a predominantly agricultural base until the end of the 19th century. The two main industries carried out in Cobham until the 20th century were brewing and milling. A brewery once stood on the Portsmouth Road in Street Cobham opposite the Police Station and is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map (1880). Brewing had long been a home industry and it appears that the brewery in Cobham flourished for at least 120 years. It grew out of the premises of John Louis Mackay, described in 1803 as 'All that Cottage or Tenement....known by the name of Homes Place with the Malthouse and Brewhouse Yard and Garden thereunto belonging'. In 1806 Mackay sold the building to Joseph Stedman of Cedar House and it was he who established the business on a firm footing. The brewery passed down through the family and became known as 'Ashby's Cobham Brewery'. Most of the pubs in Cobham were, at some time, either owned or controlled by Ashby's, the only exceptions being the Tartar and the White Lion. In 1913 the Brewery became Cobham United Breweries Ltd and eventually closed down in 1922. The remaining brewery premises were purchased by Watney Coombe Reid & Co who used them as an off licence and store. The 1934 edition of the 25 inch OS map shows the brewery site redeveloped, by which time most of the buildings had been demolished and the adjacent field converted into a recreation ground, bowling green and tennis courts. The last of the brewery buildings was demolished in 1970 (Taylor 1982, 97). The brewery, pubs and inns of Cobham would have served the travellers passing through Street Cobham along the Portsmouth Road as well as the local community. The community would have particularly benefited from the increase in the coaching trade in the 18th and 19th centuries following the turnpiking of the road.

The manor of Cobham is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) as having three mills, one of which was Cobham Mill. The steep gradient of the river Mole at Cobham, where it falls c2m in 800m, makes this an excellent mill site (Taylor 1982, 75). Milling continued at Cobham Mill until the early 20<sup>th</sup>

Until the end of the 19th century, the trades and industries of Cobham were generally tied to the agricultural nature of the district and to the specific needs of the community. In the

17th century during a period when copper coinage was short two Cobham tradesmen, Thomas King and Francis Tyrill, issued their own token coinage. Tanning was another local industry, with Charles Collyns recorded as a Cobham tanner in 1609 and Francis Sutton in 1652. In 1737 a property in Cobham was known as Tan House and this may have been the property now known as Cedar House (TD4). A small group of buildings on River Hill were formerly known as Fellmongers Yard, dealing in skins. A glover called James Acklyn lived here in 1716. In the mid-19th century the High Street consisted of little more than Holden's Forge, Foster's Dairy and a few houses. Church Street was the commercial centre of the village and here there were a stationer, butcher, grocer, draper, milliner and seedsman.

In the later 19th and early 20th century brickmaking became an important local industry due to the increase in population and demand for more housing, and there were two brickfields located on the border of Cobham and Oxshott. Gravel digging was also carried out within the parish. In the late 18th century certain areas of land were to be set aside for gravel pits, for the construction and maintenance of new roads across several open commons, heath and marsh, and wastelands in Cobham. The long straight stretch of Portsmouth Road (former A3), at Fairmile Common north-east of Cobham, is one such road, where large pits were dug alongside it (Taylor 1982, 117). Gravel was recently extracted for the construction of the Esher and Cobham by-pass (A3) in the 1970s (Taylor 1982, 11). An old gravel pit is marked on the 1880 25 inch OS map adjacent to Leighill House, on the east side of Church Cobham.

The Cobham Gas Light and Coke Company was formed in 1868 near Cobham Bridge. Street lighting was introduced in 1899 and mains drainage followed a few years later (Taylor 1982, 119). The railway came to the Cobham area in 1885 when the Cobham and Guildford Line of the London and South Western Railway was constructed to the south of Cobham, and Cobham Railway Station was located at Stoke D'Abernon. The advent of the railway saw a new industrial boom in Cobham and the number of people employed in agriculture decreased, becoming more involved in industry. They were also able to travel more widely in search for employment. The railway also encouraged an influx of people which increased the local population and saw an increase in the local building trade (including brickmaking), with new houses being built on farmland around Cobham.

Fishing was more than a leisure pursuit in the parish and there were important manorial rights in the River Mole. Charles II (1660-1685) granted a fishery at Cobham and an eel weir was erected across the Mole by the Lord of the Manor in the early 19th century (Taylor 1982, 98).

## POST-MEDIEVAL TOPOGRAPHY AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Development in Cobham has included the merging of the three separate communities of Church Cobham, Street Cobham and The Tilt to form the single town of Cobham in the early 20th century, resulting from the increase in residential development filling in the surrounding fields. Cobham has seen many changes particularly since the 1960s, including the loss of a number of old buildings which have been replaced by new roads and modern shops, Cobham High Street having suffered the most. Despite this redevelopment the historic centre of Cobham around Church Street has not undergone any real change, retaining much of its historic character and form. Cottages on River Hill, dating from the 18th century and earlier, were demolished for road widening, and at the northern end of the High Street, the former doctor's house and surgery were replaced by Oakdene Parade. The River Mole, which forms the southern boundary of the town, has restricted development in this direction. The Cobham Conservation Group was formed in 1973 after the Cobham Residents Association had been instrumental in the creation of the town's first Conservation Area, which took in Church Street and the riverside (Taylor 1982, 141). Since then two further conservation areas have been created to include most of Downside and the Tilt, to the south and east of the centre of Cobham respectively. Cobham Mill has also been recently restored and opened to the public in 1993. At the northern end of Cobham, near Cobham Bridge, the former Cobham Sewage Works has recently been redeveloped with the construction of a new Sainsbury's superstore.

The A3 was re-routed in the 1970s with the construction of a 6 mile by-pass which runs east-west to the north of Cobham. The former route of the A3 ran through Street Cobham on the Portsmouth Road and is now designated as the A307. This has resulted in a reduction of some of the through traffic, but the road still provides a connection to the A3 at Painshill.

## **SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT**

Prehistoric and Roman finds are recorded from the Cobham area, but developments in these periods had no discernible effect on the origins or character of the town. It is likely that there was some settlement around the parish church in the early medieval period, but archaeological work in this area is needed to confirm its date and character. There is little archaeological evidence relating to the early origins of the town itself.

There appears to have been little expansion of the settlement of Church Cobham from the medieval period until the 20th century, when it merged with Street Cobham to the north, with development to the south restricted by the presence of the River Mole. A few large properties were built in Church Street and Mill Road in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Street Cobham developed along the Portsmouth Road, a major communication route adjacent to an important crossing of the River Mole. The settlement may have become established soon after the construction of the first bridge in c1100, but there is no archaeological evidence to confirm this. The community benefited from the passing trade which aided its development. When the railway came to Cobham in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, despite the fact that Cobham station was constructed at Stoke D'Abernon c1.9km to the south-east, Cobham saw a population increase which resulted in the merger of Church Cobham, Street Cobham and The Tilt. Cobham may have seen even greater change had the station been located within the town centre itself. Despite surrounding redevelopment, the historic centre of Church Cobham in the vicinity of the parish church has maintained its historic character.

### **Existing protection (fig 5)**

- 1 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the area, but much of the historic area of Cobham is defined as an area of high archaeological potential (AHAP).
- 2 A substantial proportion of the area of greatest archaeological interest falls within the Cobham Conservation Area.
- 3 There are a number of listed buildings within the study area.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL POTENTIAL**

### **General comment**

Part of the area of greatest archaeological interest in Cobham has undergone piecemeal redevelopment in the last century, particularly in the area of High Street and River Hill, and there is a general lack of archaeological evidence for the study area. The archaeological evidence that we have for the surrounding area results from excavation and observation during the redevelopment process and the recovery of stray finds. 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.

A substantial proportion of the area of greatest archaeological interest falls within the Cobham Conservation Area, within which large-scale redevelopment is relatively unlikely. Opportunities for small-scale work should, however, be grasped wherever possible, since this may clarify issues and provide further detail for the greater understanding of the origins and early development of Cobham. It is therefore important that adequate arrangements are made for the publication of any such work.

Investigation and publication of research into the historical sources, particularly by Taylor (1982) has been useful. As archaeological evidence, especially of medieval date, is recovered in future work, the original sources may repay further examination. Due to the lack of archaeological work within the historic centre of Cobham 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**

- Was there an earlier church on the site of the present late 12<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Andrew?
- What is the earliest date for occupation in the area of Church Cobham, particularly in the vicinity of St Andrew's Church. Is there any evidence for Saxon or early medieval activity/settlement?
- Are there any remains relating to the former medieval grange belonging to Chertsey Abbey which is thought to have been associated with the remaining fishponds at Cobham Court. Are there any remains of Saxon or early medieval date on the site?
- Is there any evidence for a market-place within the area of Church Cobham? Is River Hill a possible location?
- Cobham Park to the south of Cobham is thought to be the site of the medieval property known as Downe Place. Is there any evidence for this?
- What was the balance of industrial and other uses of the backlands of the town?
- What is the earliest date for settlement in Street Cobham which lies along the ancient route of the Portsmouth Road adjacent to an important crossing point of the River Mole? Is there any archaeological evidence?
- Where is the Domesday site of Cobham Mill? Or was the Domesday Book site the same as the medieval one?
- Where is the site of the former Quaker meeting house in Cobham and the associated burial ground?

## APPENDIX 1

### SITES AND MONUMENTS LISTING

A number of sites recorded on the SMR lie within the area of study at Cobham (**fig 4**). However, a number of records which lie outside the study area are also referred to in the report and are included below. The records are summarised in chronological order. They have been assigned a code to denote which section they are located in and are listed below.

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

91	R	238	P	2813	PM	3577	PM
92	P	241	SM	3269	P	3912	SM
93	SM	250	R	3270	P	3915	SM
100	PM	252	P	3271	R	3916	SM
102	P	490	R	3272	SM	A	P
236	R	1908	PM	3572	PM	B	NF
237	P	2451	P	3575	PM		

Prehistoric:			
92	TQ 1028 5912	Flints and prehistoric pottery were recovered from the bank of the River Mole in 1950.	Out of EUS study area - info only
102	TQ 106 594	A Mesolithic flint axe was found lying on a spit of land in the River Mole near Cobham in 1965. It seems unlikely to have been in the water for a considerable period as it retains its natural black and grey patchy colouring. Other Mesolithic artefacts were recovered from the bank of the River Mole, near the church, in 1942 and may be from the same area as the axe.	Out of EUS study area - info only
237	TQ 1148 6028	Two sherds of a Bronze Age cinerary urn were found in a gravel pit a little to the north-east of the Leigh Hill Romano-British site (SMR No 238). The gravel pit has been long disused and now forms part of a garden.	Out of EUS study area - info only
238	TQ 1144 6026	An Iron Age/Romano-British occupation site was found at Leigh Hill during the cutting of a drive on the Old Glebe Estate in 1906. Excavations in 1907-8 revealed c40 storage pits, a ditch, a 'working hollow' and an area which produced a large quantity of pottery, portions of loom weights and quern (probably the site of a circular hut). The pottery suggests a 3rd century BC to 1st century AD date. Other pits containing similar pottery have also been found in the grounds of Leigh Court (TQ 1165 6014). Further excavation took place in 1972-3 in an attempt to establish the edge of the settlement. The work revealed more of the ditch, a pit, a possible post-hole and more artefacts. It seems likely that the settlement did not extend much beyond the area of the gravel pit on the north and east sides and has been landscaped away, if it did exist, on the south side. The western edge will have been destroyed by the excavation of another, deep gravel pit.	Out of EUS study area - info only
252	TQ 1162 6019	A Middle Bronze Age Urn, representing a probable cremation burial, was found in a circular pit when the grounds of Leigh Court were being laid out (TQ 116 601). It was found c137m beyond the eastern limits of the Leigh Hill RB site (SMR No 237).	Out of EUS study area - info only
2451	TQ 1010 6082	A ?Late Bronze Age pot was recovered from the area of the former Cobham sewage works in 1963 (see SMR No 236).	Out of EUS study area

3269	TQ 101 609	The site of the former Cobham Sewage Works (now Sainsbury's) has produced finds suggesting it had considerable archaeological potential (SMR Nos 236 and 2451). In 1988 the site was investigated archaeologically by various methods which showed that the Sewage Works and earlier ploughing had destroyed most, if not all, ancient occupation levels, leaving only scattered artefacts behind including sherds of prehistoric pottery. These finds are perhaps just sufficient to suggest settlement in both the Roman and prehistoric periods (see SMR Nos 3270-72).	info only Out of EUS study area - info only
3270	TQ 101 609	Archaeological work at the former Cobham Sewage Works in 1988 produced Mesolithic flints (see SMR Nos 3269, 3271-2).	Out of EUS study area - info only
A	TQ 102 607	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 1996 on the site of the former Cobham sewage works adjacent to the Sainsbury's store. The construction of the sewage works had truncated the original ground surface. No features of convincing archaeological origin were located, but four medieval sherds and a single prehistoric (?Bronze Age) sherd were recovered from the trenching spoil (Jackson <i>et al</i> 1997, 197).	
<b>Roman:</b>			
91	TQ 1019 5910	Four Roman coins were found in 1931/32. One was dug up from the bank from the River Mole in a meadow west of Cobham/Downside Bridge, another was found in a mole-hill and two others at c60cm below the surface. The coins were a small AEs of Rhodes c334-304 BC, two coins of Constantine I and an overstrike of Constantius II. They were possibly part of a hoard lost or buried in the mid 4th century AD; no pottery was found in association with them. As it was never current in this country, the Rhodian coin must have been regarded as a curio by its 4th century owner.	Out of EUS study area - info only
236	100 609	Fragments of Romano-British pottery vessels dated to AD 50-100, part of a spout of a mortarium and pieces of wattle and daub were found during construction of the former sewage works at Cobham in 1932, half a mile north of Street Cobham and close to the River Mole (see SMR No 2451).	Out of EUS study area - info only
250	TQ 1088 6020	A Roman coin was found at No 12 Freeland's Road, Cobham, accessioned by Weybridge Museum in 1964.	Out of EUS study area - info only
490	TQ 0883 5955	A Roman 4th century bath-house is located on the left bank of the River Mole at Chatley c2km south-west of Cobham. Excavated in 1942 and partly destroyed by river erosion. Any possible associated villa may have been destroyed by the river.	Out of EUS study area - info only
3271	TQ 101 609	Archaeological work at the former Cobham Sewage Works in 1988 produced sherds of Roman pottery (see SMR Nos 3269, 3270 and 3272).	Out of EUS study area - info only
<b>Saxon/Medieval:</b>			
93	TQ 1078 5974	St Andrew's Church, Cobham, in normal use. The lower part of the tower and south door are Norman and the nave arcade is of 13th century date.	
241	1147 6028	A Saxon spearhead was found in 1926 in a gravel pit at Leigh Hill (near where the BA vessel and RB pottery were found, see SMR Nos 237-8). Possibly accompanying a burial, but no human remains were found in the previously disturbed gravel. The gravel pit, long disused and overgrown, lies within the grounds of Leigh Court, now subdivided into flats.	Out of EUS study area - info only
3272	TQ 101 609	Archaeological work at the former Cobham Sewage Works in 1988 produced sherds of medieval pottery (see SMR Nos 3269, 3270-1).	Out of EUS study area -

3912	TQ 099 594	A copper alloy cruciform brooch, dating from the late 5th or early 6th century was found by metal detector in an area of Cobham Court Farm.	info only Out of EUS study area - info only
3915	TQ 104 599	A decorated medieval sword chape of probable late 15th century date was found by metal detector in an area of Cobham Court Farm.	Out of EUS study area - info only
3916	TQ 104 598	A plain medieval sword chape of probable late 15th century date was found by metal detector in an area of Cobham Court Farm.	Out of EUS study area - info only
<b>Post-medieval:</b>			
100	TQ 101 595	Cobham Court stands on the site of a manor house (extant in 1822) which was mentioned in a grant dated 1553. Cobham Court is a large 19th century mansion, but there are no visible traces of an earlier house. A series of ponds, to the east of the house, are said to be fishponds of the grange of Chertsey Abbey which occupied the site until the dissolution in 1537.	Out of EUS study area - info only
1908	TQ 1070 5975	An icehouse is recorded at Pyports, Cobham, a Grade II listed building at TQ 1070 5975. There is apparently no knowledge of an ice house and no trace on the 1:2500 OS map in 1973.	
2813	TQ 0960 6010	Painshill Park is an 18th century pleasure gardens with follies which lies to the west of Cobham.	Out of EUS study area - info only
3572	TQ 0988 6053	Cobham Bridge, which lies on the northern side of Cobham, was built over the River Mole in 1783 by George Gwilt, County Surveyor. The first bridge was built here in 1100, to replace a ford.	Out of EUS study area - info only
3575	TQ 1058 6054	A milestone is located on the south side of the old A3 (now the A307). The top is illegible, the front marked Hyde Park Corner 17 and the sides Esher 3 and Ripley 4.	
3577	TQ 1109 5988	Cobham Mill, Mill Road, Cobham on the side of the River Mole. The mill formerly comprised two buildings with undershot wheels between and joined by a covered footbridge. One of the buildings was pulled down in 1953 for road widening, but the brick and tile buildings which remain still retain cast iron wheels and other features. The earliest reference to a mill on this site is in 1534, when it belonged to the Abbey of Chertsey. The estate, including the mill, was bought in 1708 by the Viscountess Lanesborough. In the late 18th century the mill was damaged by flooding from the Mole and had to be repaired. A new, smaller mill was built in 1822, but the two mills do not appear to have been worked together at that time. The last occupier of both mills was the firm Henry Moore & Son. The mills stopped working in the 1920s. The mill was restored by the Cobham Conservation Group and opened to the public in 1993.	
<b>No features/finds:</b>			
B	TQ 113 608	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the former St Andrew's playing field, Cobham in 1995. Much of the site had been disturbed by the construction and demolition of military works and by the creation of the playing field. No archaeological features or finds were identified (Jackson <i>et al</i> 1997, 197).	Out of EUS study area - info only

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## FIGURES

- 1 Extensive Urban Survey of Surrey. **Top:** Cobham, showing the area of the parish and manor. The principal routeways, as shown on 18<sup>th</sup> century maps, are also shown. **Bottom:** parishes (about 1823) and drift geology.

Fig 2 The Rocque map of c1768, showing the area of Cobham.

- 3 Topographic development of Street Cobham (to the north) and Church Cobham (to the south).

Fig 4 Cobham: Sites and Monuments Records and other archaeological information

Fig 5 Cobham: constraints map showing the Conservation Area and the AHAP