

*EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY*  
*of*  
*SURREY*

**EGHAM**



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Date of report

March 2002 (revised June 2003)

Client

English Heritage



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## EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY EGHAM

### **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 12/13th 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). Egham, shown as a nucleated settlement on the Rocque map of 1768 and now a large settlement in an area of major archaeological importance, clearly qualified for inclusion.

The study area is that of the medieval town as defined by fig 4. The area so defined corresponds fairly closely with the extent of the built-up area as indicated by the earliest large scale maps, such as that of Rocque and the c1840 Tithe map.

### **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**

Egham (NGR TQ 012 715) is located within the north-west area of the County of Surrey. The town lies on the relatively flat land of the flood-plain gravel of the Thames Valley, bordered immediately to the north by alluvium at Runnymede on the northern side of the causeway (a raised road of ancient origin), and by London Clay and Bagshot Beds on the higher ground to the west (BGS Windsor Sheet 269, 1984). The town is built on slightly higher ground than that of the River Thames, which lies c1km north of the town centre. The County boundary between Surrey and Buckinghamshire runs along the line of the river and the Surrey/Berkshire border is situated c4km to the west of the town. Egham lies 6km north west of Chertsey, 8km south east of Windsor, and 21km north of Guildford. The A30 (now a bypass) follows the line of the causeway around the north side of the town and continues up Egham Hill heading west.

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

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

### **Archaeology**

Archaeological work in and around Egham has produced a variety of archaeological finds, the great majority of which derive from excavations in a number of locations undertaken in response to redevelopment in the town since the early 1970s, and during the construction of the M25 which lies adjacent to it (fig 3).

The most important of the discoveries have been of prehistoric date, and these have generally been well served by publication (eg O'Connell 1986, Longley & Needham 1980).

Most of, but not all, the prehistoric finds have come from outside the main area of urban development. This is true also of Roman finds, which indicate well distributed, if not intensive, settlement (eg O'Connell 1986). Little evidence for the period between c400 and c1100 has been recovered, but a number of interventions, especially within the core urban area, have yielded valuable evidence relating to the early medieval origins and subsequent development of the town. Full publication of most of this work is awaited, but for most of the work reasonably detailed interim reports are available (eg Hayman 1996b, Dover 1997).

### **Documents**

The history of Egham can be traced by documentary evidence from as early as the 7th century. The earliest reference to Egham was made in Frithwald's endowment charter (672-4) which named Egham as a component of the main estate of Chertsey Abbey (Blair 1991, 25). Domesday Book (1086) also makes reference to Egham as part of the Abbey estate (Blair 1991, 38). The Chertsey Abbey Cartularies (Surrey Record Society, **XII**, 1958-63) provide valuable information about the activities of the Abbey and its estate until 1537; in particular very full records survive for Abbot John Rutherwyk's period of office from 1307-46 (Poulton 1988, 4). The Victoria County History account of Egham (*VCH 3*, 419-27) provides a useful summary of the evidence from the 7th century, and Blair's (1991) treatment of a number of issues is also worthy of note. The English Place Names in Surrey volume (Gover *et al* 1934, **11**) provides a useful summary of the place name evidence for Egham.

### **Cartography**

The cartographic evidence steadily becomes more detailed through the post-medieval period and suggests that there was some expansion outside of the medieval extent of the town in the post-medieval period, particularly in the 18th century and again from the mid-19th century. The Senex map of 1729 is one of the earliest detailed maps of Surrey and, although of small scale and not very detailed, is useful in that it provides an idea of the extent of the settlement at Egham in the early 18th century.

The earliest useful source for the town itself is the Rocque map of about 1768 which reveals the basic plan of the town but is at a small scale. The Tithe map of c1840 shows the town clearly, and the Apportionment provides useful additional detail. The town had undergone a certain amount of new development by the time of the large scale OS maps of c1869, and this, together with their high quality and accuracy, makes these the most generally useful maps to aid study of the early town.

### **Buildings**

Egham has a number of historic buildings, many of which are listed, that range in date from the 16th to 19th century. The majority of the town's historic buildings are of 18th and 19th century date, erected during periods of renewed prosperity.

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

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

### **Prehistoric and Roman**

The area of Egham and its surroundings are of great historical and archaeological importance with evidence for activity dating back to the Neolithic period. Various archaeological interventions within the centre of Egham itself have revealed evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity.

Prehistoric activity has been revealed within the area of the High Street, at Nos 64-5, 81-4 and 133-9, with archaeological excavations revealing evidence for activity of Late

Bronze Age to Late Iron Age date; finds recovered include pottery, and struck and burnt flint (SMR Nos 3678, C and E). Residual struck flints of Mesolithic or Neolithic date were also recovered from later prehistoric features at 64-6 High Street. Sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from an Egham garden, from a bank associated with a branch of the Roman Road (SMR No 794). During an archaeological evaluation of land on the east side of Manor Farm, Manor Farm Lane, Egham two pieces of flint (one struck and one burnt) were recovered as stray finds (SMR No B). The construction of the M25 across the east side of Egham has led to various discoveries being made, including the multi-period site at Petters Sports Field off The Avenue, Egham in the 1970s. The site lay c500m north-east of Egham town centre and c450m south of the River Thames (SMR Nos 799, 2423-5 and 2926-7). It consisted of at least six phases of activity, the most important phase being concentrated in the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, although occupation spanned from the Neolithic through to the post-medieval period. Structural features of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age included a large ditch, in which a bronze hoard was discovered, several hut circles and a number of pits (O'Connell 1986). Prehistoric flintwork has also been recovered from a site at Daisy Meadow (SMR No 2288), to the east of the Petters site and on the line of the M25. To the south east of the town archaeological excavations were undertaken at Thorpe Lea Nurseries (TQ 018 699) in advance of mineral extraction (and earlier during the motorway construction). Evidence for extensive occupation activity dating from the Bronze Age to the end of the Roman period was recorded at the site (Jackson, Maloney & Saich 1997, 209). A major Neolithic site was discovered during excavations at Runnymede Bridge c1km north-east of Egham town centre. The importance of the Runnymede site lies in the association of pottery and organic artefacts in a settlement context. Evidence for a Late Bronze Age settlement was also recovered (SMR No 2645, outside of the present area of study).

The Petters Sports Field excavations produced evidence for a Romano-British site with finds dating from the 1st century AD (SMR No 2423); features included two parallel enclosure ditches and a possible palisade trench. The site also produced a Roman military harness mount in the top fill of the possible palisade ditch, indicating a military presence in the surrounding area. A sherd of Romano-British pottery was also found during an excavation at Daisy Meadow, adjacent to the Petters site (SMR No 2932). Evidence for a Romano-British farmstead with pottery finds indicating occupation from the mid-1st to the 4th century AD was discovered under heavily cultivated allotment gardens to the south of the railway line at Egham in the 1970s in advance of the construction of the M25 (Barker & Barker 1995, 42). At Thorpe Lea Nurseries an enclosed farmstead and associated field system had Iron Age origins and flourished almost to the end of the Roman period (Hayman *et al* forthcoming).

A variety of other evidence has been recovered for Roman activity in and around Egham. This includes the varied (and of variable reliability) evidence for a Roman road, part of the London-Silchester route, which may run through the centre of Egham (SMR 794), bridging two accepted portions of the Roman road at Staines Bridge and Prune Hill, Egham. Part of this, or a related road, was examined in excavations at Petters Sports Field (SMR No 2423). A ditch of possible Roman date was found at Vicarage Road, Egham during construction of the M25 (SMR No 2287), and archaeological work at 81-84 High Street, Egham produced a few sherds of residual Roman pottery of late 1st century date (SMR No C) indicating a Roman presence in the near vicinity (Saunders 1998, 14). At 85 High Street (SMR No A: the former Katherine Wheel public house) a large fragment of quernstone of probable Roman date was recovered during archaeological work (Hayman 1996a, 4).

The cumulative effect of this evidence is to suggest that the area in and around Egham was favoured for settlement during the prehistoric period, and appears to have been well settled and exploited in the Roman period. The present indications for the Roman period are of dispersed settlements/farmsteads: a nucleated settlement is a possibility, but any such is unlikely to have been of significant size with the minor town of Staines so close by.

## Saxon and Norman

Egham is first mentioned, as *Egeham* (Gover *et al* 1934, 119), in the 7th century in Frithwald's endowment charter as part of the Chertsey Abbey Estate (Blair 1991, 25). The meaning of the name Egham is probably 'Ecga's Ham(m)' i.e. land hemmed in by water or marsh, and perhaps also by higher ground (Gover *et al* 1934, 119-20; Gelling 1984, 41). This description ties in with the location of Egham at the foot of Egham Hill surrounded by the low-lying land of Runnymede which is prone to flooding by the River Thames.

The only archaeological evidence recovered so far for Saxon activity in or close to the town is in the form of pottery sherds of Late Saxon date recovered from a ditch of Roman or post-Roman date during the Petters Sports Field excavations (SMR No 2425).

In 1086 Domesday Book records Egham, still part of the Abbey estate, as having a population of 57. It records that earlier, in the time of King Edward I, the manor had been assessed for 40 hides, but by 1086 it had reduced to 15 hides (Blair 1991, 38). The manor of Egham was included in all subsequent confirmations of the abbey land. It was only during the later 12th century that churches or chapels appeared on the main Chertsey Abbey estates (Blair 1991, 107), and a papal confirmation of 1176 shows that a church existed at Egham (Blair 1991, 129). The manor was held as part of the Abbey estate until the surrender of the Abbey in 1537 (VCH 3, 421).

### Medieval

The 12th century establishment of the church at Egham by Chertsey Abbey provides some evidence for the medieval origins of the town. It is probable that the planned early medieval development of Egham was centred close to the church and recent excavations within the High Street area of Egham appear to confirm this. Archaeological work undertaken at 81-4 High Street (SMR No C) identified several features of medieval date providing evidence to demonstrate that this part of Egham has probably been settled since at least the 12th century (Saunders 1998, 14). Archaeological work at the site of the former Katherine Wheel public house (at 85 High Street) also produced material of early medieval date (SMR No A); the distribution of the features identified on the site suggested that much, if not all, of the site area had been used in antiquity and was associated with settlement activities (Hayman 1996a, 4).

The medieval layout of the town of Egham is reflected in the Tithe map of 1841 which shows the town concentrated along the High Street, around the area of the church, with a regular two-row plan. The two blocks of strip-plots facing one another across a single road (the High Street) with back lanes along the far end of the crofts, are indicative of the regularity evident on manors held by Chertsey Abbey (Blair 1991, 58).

A number of more irregular plots are located in the High Street, east of Hummer Road, and along the Avenue. It is suggested (fig 2) that these represent medieval and/or post-medieval expansion of the town. Evidence from the excavation at the Katherine Wheel (SMR No A) at No 85 High Street just east of Hummer Road, indicates that the process may have started very early in the medieval period.

The area of Runnymede on the northern side of Egham has great historical importance, as it is here that the armies of King John and the Confederated Barons encamped at the sealing of the Magna Carta on 15th June 1215, and the meadow is now preserved as a National Monument (SMR No 789). Runnymede is recorded as *Runingmed* in one of the two original versions of Magna Carta of 1215, *Ronymedd(e)* in 1314, *Ronneymede* in 1514 and *Ronney me(a)de* in 1548. The development of the name is suggested to be a compound of the Middle English word *runinge* meaning 'taking counsel' and *maed*. The name suggests that the mead had been the scene of earlier unrecorded assemblies, from which it had already earned this significant description (Gover *et al* 1934, 124).

The Causeway (SMR No 794) forms the present northern boundary of Egham and the southern boundary of Runnymede, and is a highway of 13th century date with possible Roman origins, leading from Egham to the bridge at Staines. It is recorded by an enquiry of 1350 as originally being constructed by Thomas de Oxenford in the time of Henry III (1216-72), but there is a possibility that it has earlier origins and was remade in medieval times. Over the centuries it has provided protection for the town and an accessible route in times of

flood. Its height is 1.2-1.8m above the present road and is up to 5.5m wide at its base, and was constructed taking advantage of a slight natural ridge through Egham

The existence of The Manor of Imworth in Egham is recorded in 1224 when it was in the possession of the family of Imworth; the Imworth family still held the manor in 1339 (*VCH 3, 424*). Imworth Manor was located at the eastern end of Egham, to the west of the site of the present Police Station. In 1622 the site of Imworth Manor was in the possession of Sir John Denham who rebuilt the house and named it 'The Place'. In 1638 he passed the manor to his son, a royalist poet also named Sir John Denham (*VCH 3, 425*). A possible medieval moated site (SMR No 2306) was recorded as having existed to the east of the site of the Manor of Imworth (in the vicinity of the present Police Station). It comprised a broad ditch, or moat (now infilled), was referred to in a house sale of 1841 and is marked on the Tithe Map of *c1840*.

Manor Farm, the site of Egham Manor, is located to the east of the church and possesses a listed timber-framed building dating from the 16th century, with some parts dating from the 14th century (SCC 1976, 175) (see below). The buildings are described in an early 14th century survey, and again in 1508 (Turner 1926). The comprehensive 16th century description of the manor house secures the fact that although Manor Farm is not obviously apparent on the early historical maps of Senex (1729) and Rocque (1768), it has been in existence since at least the early 16th century. An archaeological evaluation (SMR No B) on the site of Manor Farm in 1996, in advance of redevelopment work, did not reveal any features of archaeological interest. Members of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society undertook the recording of the two-storey timber framed house at Manor Farm in 1971-2 (Rendell 1973, 191-2) which also recorded a number of wall paintings of late 16th century date.

The grouping of the Manor House or Farm, the Church and the concentrated area of regular plots either side of the High Street is very suggestive. Archaeological and documentary evidence combine to suggest that it was in the 12th century that this was achieved. The farm may have been in existence before this, though there is no present direct evidence, and was chosen as the focus around which Chertsey Abbey aimed to meet its spiritual and economic objectives by the establishment of the new church and planned settlement. The co-incidence of date with the developments at Chertsey is marked, and the widening of the main street in front of the church is also an interesting parallel. At Chertsey it was the market area: does its existence at Egham suggest that the monks wished to be prepared for the possibility that Egham might achieve such status?

There is evidence for small, early outlying settlements around Egham. A small scatter of buildings is apparent to the east of Egham on the Tithe Map of *c1840* at Pooley Green where the road divides in two, marking a vicarage and a moat. Pooley Green is recorded as *Pully Green* in 1605 showing the existence of some sort of early settlement in this location. The site of the vicarage is listed on the SMR (No 791) as a site of medieval buildings and the remains of a possible homestead moat that surrounded the 18th century vicarage. The site was destroyed by road realignment in 1973 during the construction of the M25. Another cluster of buildings to the west of Egham on the Tithe map is at the foot of Egham Hill in the area of Langham Farm, at the junction of four main roads. This area, once on the outskirts of the early town of Egham, has been enveloped by the developing town and is now located at the western end of Egham High Street. *Langeham* is recorded in 1294 and 1434 (Gover *et al* 1935, 126) indicating the presence of early settlement on the western side of Egham.

### **Post-medieval**

The Manor of Egham was held as part of the Chertsey Abbey estate until 1537 when the Abbey and its estate were surrendered to the Crown. In 1550 the manor was leased to Sir William Fitz William for 30 years, and to a number of other people until the 19th century. The state of the manor house was recorded in a Parliamentary Survey of 1650 (*VCH 3, 422*). An evaluation undertaken at Manor Farm in 1987 (SMR No 4217) produced fragments of

post-medieval pottery, and possible kiln wasters and fragments of kiln furniture, providing evidence for possible post-medieval pottery production in the vicinity.

Egham was situated on the main coach route to the West Country (the A30) during the days of the stagecoach from the 17th century and flourished as a result, with the construction of new buildings, including inns to cater for the long-distance coaches. The Senex Map of 1729 shows Egham as a well-developed town strung along the High Street. The church is clearly marked, as is the 'Free Schoole' endowed by William Strode in the early 18th century, now the site of Strode College at the west end of the High Street. In 1817-20 the parish church was rebuilt on the site of the original 12th century church. As mentioned above, the Tithe map of c1840 shows the limits of mid-19th century Egham which was concentrated along the High Street around the area of the church. A number of long narrow plots can be seen along the western side of the road later named Station Road showing that no development had yet taken place here; this only occurred following the arrival of the railway in 1856 when the town witnessed further growth. This is reflected in the census for Egham: at the time of the 1851 census the population was 4,482, but by 1901 it had reached 11,895 (Barker and Barker 1995, 63). The economy of the town was mainly agriculturally based, although brickmaking was a small local industry.

Archaeological investigations in and around the town provide evidence for post-medieval activity in Egham. Excavation work at 133-9 High Street revealed evidence for occupation of 17th and 19th century date (SMR No 3679), and structural remains and features of post-medieval date were identified during an excavation at 81-4 High Street (SMR No C). Excavation on the site of 174 High Street, a mid-Georgian house (SMR No 1274) demolished to make way for the extension of Church Road, revealed a variety of 17th and 18th century finds. A salvage excavation at 6-7 The Avenue, Egham revealed layers and features of 18th and 19th century date. Excavations at Petters Sport Field site (SMR No 2424), east of the town centre, revealed a post-medieval site with a number of pits and possible fencelines of 18th/19th century date.

## ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN PLAN

### Topographic divisions

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

- 1      The original planned town of Egham in a regular row-plan along High Street, thought to have been established in the 12th century by Chertsey Abbey.
- 1a     Possible market place in the wider part of the High Street, on the north side of the parish church.
- 2      The church, although of 19th century construction, is located on the site of the original 12th century church provided by Chertsey Abbey.
- 3      Manor Farm, the site of the Egham manor house, is located on the south east side of the parish church. Surviving elements date back to the 14th and 16th centuries.
- 4      The separate medieval settlement at Langham Place, mentioned in 1294 and 1434, at the western end of Egham.
- 5      Medieval and early post-medieval development
- 6      The limit of development by 1840

## **Medieval and Post-medieval topography of Egham**

The town of Egham can be shown, by archaeological and documentary evidence, to have its origins as a planned new town of the 12th century. All the evidence suggests that it was closely focussed along High Street, and it is this core area that is considered here.

### **LIMITS OF THE PLANNED TOWN (TD1)**

The precise extent of the 12th century planned town is uncertain, but the Tithe map of c1840 shows two blocks of strip plots facing each other across the High Street with back lanes along the far end of the crofts. Blair (1991, 58) notes that this two-row layout is common to manors held by Chertsey Abbey. The boundary lines of the two blocks of strip plots have been taken as suggesting the original extent of the planned town. None of the archaeological fieldwork carried out to date has confirmed the limits of the medieval town. The historic core of the town is also located on a slight gravel ridge providing a favourable site for early settlement adjacent to the river.

The presence on the Tithe map of more irregular plots at the east end of the High Street (beyond Hummer Road) and along the Avenue suggests medieval and early post-medieval expansion of the town in this direction.

### **BURGAGE PLOTS**

It has been suggested that the core of Egham had been deliberately planned during the medieval period. As seen on the Tithe Map of c1840 Egham is an excellent illustration of a settlement with a regular two-row plan (TD1), with two blocks of strip plots facing each other across a single road (Blair 1991, 58-9). East of Hummer Road, buildings are found only on the north side of High Street and The Avenue (development to the south having been constrained by the presence of Denham House in the area of the present Police station) and the plots are noticeably more irregular. This may reflect piecemeal development in the medieval and post-medieval period. Until the 19th century Egham was confined to the High Street and its extension along The Avenue. The town has since developed beyond these limits, although the presence of the railway line to the south and the causeway and the protected meadows of Runnymede to the north have tended to restrict growth in these two directions.

The northern side of the High Street has retained some semblance of the early long plots; a number of the buildings on the northern side, some of which are of 18th century date, are listed and therefore retain some of the historic character of the town. The line of the back boundary of the original northern row of strip plots is retained to some extent. The properties on the southern side of the High Street have been affected by substantial redevelopment, destroying the plot boundaries between Nos 140 and 157 High Street. The area around the church (TD2) and Manor Farm (TD3) has not been affected greatly by redevelopment.

At the eastern end of the High Street, the northern side up to No 116 (apart from the corner of Denham Road), lies within the Conservation Area and has not been greatly affected by redevelopment. The south-eastern side of the High Street has, however, been completely redeveloped with the building of the Police Station and a row of detached houses on land previously belonging to Denham House. The northern side of the very eastern end of the High Street and The Avenue has been redeveloped over the years with the building of offices and industrial warehouses changing the character of the eastern end of the town. The only part of the Avenue that appears to have remained untouched is a row of cottages marked as Collingwood Terrace on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1883 and a couple of adjacent houses, all lying at the east end of The Avenue on its southern side.

### **PARISH CHURCH (TD2)**

The present parish church of St John the Baptist, a late Georgian structure, was erected on the same site as its medieval predecessor on the south side of the High Street at the eastern end of the town centre, on the north western side of Manor Farm. The first church at Egham was

provided in the 12th century by Chertsey Abbey within whose estate it lay. As mentioned above, it was only during the later 12th century that churches appeared on the main estates of the Abbey (Blair 1991, 107), and a papal confirmation of 1176 shows that a church existed in Egham (Blair 1991, 129). The church was mentioned again in 1291 when it was valued with the churches of Chertsey and Chobham (*VCH 3*, 426). A print of the old church shows a large building with a central tower (*VCH 3*, 426). The medieval church was demolished in 1817, due to its poor state of repair, and several of its monuments were transferred to the present building. The 15th century wooden entrance porch from the north door of the old church was removed in 1817 and is now used as a lychgate at St John's. In the south-east corner of the nave of the present church an inscription has been re-set saying that the old chancel was rebuilt by Abbot Rutherwyke of Chertsey in 1327. The new church was built in 1817-20 by Henry Rhodes and is of little architectural interest (Nairn & Pevsner 1971, 208-9). Some remains of the old church, including a Norman arch and a piscina can be seen in the grounds of Milton Park on the south side of Egham (Davis 1988).

#### MANORS AND MANOR HOUSE (TD3)

The Manor of Egham was referred to in the 7th century in Frithwald's endowment charter as part of the Chertsey Abbey estate (Blair 1991, 25), and again in Domesday Book (1086) which assessed its value. The Abbey held the manor until 1537 when its estate was surrendered to the Crown (*VCH 3*, 421). The manor was leased to Sir William Fitz William in 1550 for 30 years and to a number of other people until the 19th century. A Parliamentary Survey of 1650 recorded that the manor house and premises were in 'good tenantable repair and very fit to be continued as a farmhouse' (*VCH 3*, 422). The manor house located at Manor Farm, east of the parish church (TD2), is a listed timber-framed building dating to the 16th century with parts dating to the 14th century. An early 14th century survey records the buildings of Egham Manor lying within an enclosure of c4acres surrounded by a hedge and ditch. A later description of Manor Farm in 1508, naming it as 'Manor House', stated amongst other things that it comprised an old timber building with hall, parlour, buttery and kitchen (Turner 1926). The timber-framed building at Manor Farm possesses a number of 16th century wall-paintings and was recorded by the Egham-by-Runnymede Society in 1971-2 (Rendell 1973, 191-2). An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 1987 (SMR No 4217) produced fragments of post-medieval pottery, and possible kiln wasters and fragments of kiln furniture, providing evidence for possible post-medieval pottery production in the vicinity. However another archaeological evaluation on the site of the farm in 1996 in advance of redevelopment did not reveal any features of archaeological interest.

The grouping of the Manor House or Farm, the church and the concentrated area of regular plots either side of the High Street strongly suggests that the farm is at least as old as the other two elements. Indeed, it has been suggested that the farm predates the other elements and was chosen as the focus around which Chertsey Abbey established a new church and a planned settlement.

In 1224 the Manor of Imworth, a tenement and lands in Egham, was recorded as being in the possession of the family of Imworth, and in 1339 Robert de Imworth received a licence for the celebration of divine service in the oratory of his house in Egham (*VCH 3*, 424). Imworth Manor was located at the eastern end of Egham, on the west side of the site of the present Police station. The manor may or may not be have been associated with a possible medieval moated site (SMR No 2306) that lay to the east of the manor, comprising a broad ditch or moat, now infilled. The site of Imworth Manor was held in 1622 by Sir John Denham who rebuilt the house and named it 'The Place' (*VCH 3*, 425). In 1638 the manor passed to his son Sir John Denham,. 'The Place' was demolished in the 19th century and replaced by a smaller building named 'Denham House' built slightly further west within the grounds of 'The Place'; this is marked on the Tithe Map of c1840. Denham House was demolished in 1937 to make way for road widening at the junction of the High Street and Vicarage Road, and the subsequent building of the Police Station on the site.

## CHAPELS

A Wesleyan Chapel was located in The Avenue, and appears to have been in existence by 1824 (Barker & Barker 1995, 49). It is seen on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1883. In 1880, in response to a growing membership, a new chapel was opened adjacent to The Red Lion in the High Street.

A Baptist chapel was founded in The Avenue in 1893.

## STREETS

Egham is laid out along one main road, the High Street, which runs east-west and curves round to the north east to become The Avenue. The High Street is thought to run along the route of a branch of the London to Silchester Roman road (SMR No 794). At the eastern end of the town Vicarage Road forks off the High Street to the east and to the west Station road runs southwards away from the High Street. The old road from London to the South-West (the A30) came across Staines Bridge and through Egham, making the town an important place during the days of the stage coach (VCH 3, 419). Its position on a main western road is something upon which, historically, Egham's growth and prosperity has relied. The High Street was the main road taken by travellers prior to the construction of the Egham Bypass which diverted the A30 along the route of the causeway to the north of the town. Many inns flourished on either side of the High Street, a fairly narrow and now much quieter road. The town has developed along the line of the High Street and up the Avenue, which itself had once been known as part of the High Street. At the end of the 19th century the Rural District Council, having been granted powers to name streets, defined The Avenue as a separate road planting flanking limes and horse chestnuts, illustrating the origin of the street name. The road was subsequently widened and raised to prevent flooding in an area prone to such inundations (Barker & Barker 1995, 39).

Some of the streets preserve the line of boundaries of the early strip plots and some of the larger fields recorded on the Tithe map of c1840. These include Crown Street which runs east to west parallel to the High Street; and Runnemede Road, Park Road and King's Road running north-south between Crown Street and the Egham By-pass.

Changes made to the road system in and around Egham over the years include the construction of the Egham Bypass (the route of the A30) which was opened in 1925 (Barker & Barker 1995, 41). It uses the route of the medieval causeway bank running along the northern side of the town to the foot of Egham Hill. A new ring road was constructed in the 1970s which resulted in the extension of the western end of Church Road, linking it with the western end of High Street. The new section of road cut across Station Road splitting it in two, and also resulted in the demolition of several of the old properties including 174 High Street (SMR No 1274).

Hummer Road, known in the 17th century as Little Humber Lane, connects Egham High Street with the causeway and Runnymede. Its southern end lies directly opposite St John's Church (TD2) forming a T-junction with the High Street at the centre of the medieval town. On the Senex map of 1729 and the Tithe map of 1841 it is shown to provide a direct access route to meadows of Runnymede from the centre of the town.

Station Road, running north-south, forms a T-junction with the High Street at the western end of the town centre; the northern end has been truncated by the new ring road, the southern end now forming a T-junction with Church Road. Prior to the arrival of the railway in 1856 it was known as Gravel Pit Road (Barker & Barker 1995, 52), the name deriving from an old gravel pit site alongside the road over which the 'The Prince of Wales' public house was built. The pub was demolished in the 1970s to make way for the new ring road (Davis 1988). Gravel Pit Road is clearly marked on the Senex map of 1729 heading southwards towards Thorpe, but development along it does not appear to have started until after the arrival of the railway.

## MARKET (TD1a)

There is no historic reference to a market place in Egham, but the High Street becomes wider on the north side of the parish church (TD2). This provides a parallel to Chertsey, which developed at a similar time to Egham under the influence of Chertsey Abbey, where Windsor Street is wider outside St Peter's Church where the market place was located. It is possible that early provision was made for a market place but this was not subsequently developed.

### SCHOOLS

In 1703 Henry Strode left £6,000 in his will for almshouses (see below) and a school which is marked as 'Free Schoole' on the Senex map of 1729. In 1812 the Court of Chancery decided that the school must be reserved for the poor children of Egham. The money for the school was discontinued in 1870 and was then given to the Station Road School, formerly Egham Parish School. Strode's school closed on 31st July 1900, but the foundation stone for a new school was laid in 1915 on the same site as Strode's School. It opened as a Grammar School in 1919 and became a 6th form college in 1975 (Davis 1988), providing a continuous educational use of the land for almost three centuries.

Station Road School was built on Crown Land in 1870 out of Poor's Allotment Fund. It was taken over by the School Board in 1884 and enlarged in 1895 (*VCH 3*, 421). It is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch O.S. map of 1883 as 'Parochial Schools', lying to the south west of St John's Church (TD2) on the northern side of the railway line. As the Manor School it closed in 1975, was demolished and a housing estate built on the site (Davis 1988).

### ALMSHOUSES

The limits of a town at a given date can often be detected by the presence of almshouses on the outskirts of the community (O'Connell 1977, 5). Sir John Denham, a 17th century Judge and resident of Egham, founded almshouses in the town in 1624 for five poor widows. They were built at the western end of Egham, at the foot of Egham Hill. Richard Wyatt of Milton Place, to the south of Egham, is said to have taken a great interest in the charity and from his letters it appears that the almshouses were rebuilt in 1767. They are marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1883 at the western end of the Egham, beyond the end of the High Street. The almshouses were demolished in 1973 for road widening on the A30 (White 1974, 135), but were recorded by Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society prior to their demolition.

In 1703 Henry Strode left £6,000 in his will for almshouses and a school (see above) for which the Cooper's Company became trustees. In 1749 it was decided that they must be used by persons chosen from the parish. In 1828 new almshouses were begun and completed by 1839 on the northern side of the High Street (*VCH 3*, 427). Strode's twelve almshouses (dated AD1730) are marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map adjacent to the school.

In 1838 Ann Reid founded five almshouses in memory of her husband; their location is unknown and they are not apparent on the Ordnance Survey maps. In 1840 Mr Steward founded five almshouses; these are marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map on the west side of Station Road on the northern side of the railway line (*VCH 3*, 427).

### BUILDINGS

Egham possesses a number of listed buildings dating from the 14th to the 19th centuries. One of the earliest listed structures in Egham is the 15th century lychgate of St John the Baptist from the old church. The original farmhouse building at Manor Farm (now a Day Care Centre) was erected in the late 16th century but is thought to have parts dating to the 14th century. A number of ancient wall paintings have survived within the building and have been restored. Manor Farm lies within the medieval centre of the town to the south east of the church.

A number of public houses have very early origins, reflecting the importance of Egham along one of the main roads to the west providing accommodation and refreshment for travellers. The Red Lion on the north side of the High Street has 16th century origins (c1521), and the inn was attached to the Assembly Rooms in the late 18th century. In 1845 the Assembly Rooms were sold and became 'The Literary Institute' which is listed and

houses Egham Museum. The former Nags Head Inn (a listed building at 55 and 55A High Street) appears in the Egham Parish Register in 1689 and in 18th century directories. The inn's name has been preserved in the mosaic floor at the front of the existing building which is now a block called the White House development, combining 55 and 55A with 53A and 54 (formerly known as The White House) retaining much of the original facade of the buildings (Davis 1988). The Katherine Wheel public house was Egham's most ancient inn site (Barker & Barker 1995, 43) and in the 17th century was listed in a Parliamentary Survey as one of the principal inns of Egham. It is thought to have been the oldest and busiest hostelry in the town serving long-distance stage coaches, and trade tokens associated with the inn have survived. In 1898 the stucco faced early Georgian building was destroyed and then rebuilt in late Victorian style (Davis 1988). The Katherine Wheel was closed in 1992 and was demolished for redevelopment in 1996. A block of late Georgian buildings facing the Katherine Wheel over the High Street were demolished in 1975 to make way for new development. The White Lion, in The High Street/The Avenue, is another ancient hostelry in Egham and is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1883. The Kings Arms, a listed 17th century public house, lies at the western end of the High Street at No 6. It would have originally lain within the settlement cluster at Langhams (TD4) separated from the early town of Egham on the old coach road.

A row of old cottages known as Post Boys Row (the quarters of post boys) was demolished in 1956 to make way for a car park. The row is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map and was situated to the rear of what was once 151 High Street and the Royal Standard public house; it provides evidence that Egham was a recognised place of call and a posting station in the days of the stage coach (E D C 1963-4, 21).

The Malt House, a listed building of c1852 tucked away to the north of the High Street, has been restored and converted into offices, combining some of the historic character of the town with a modern usage.

#### INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Agriculture of all types was important in the area of Egham. A herd of pedigree Jersey cows were kept at Manor Farm and driven to graze on the lush protected meadows of Runnymede on the north side of the town (Barker & Barker 1995, 42).

A brewery is marked on the 1st edition 25 inch OS map of 1883 located at the north-eastern end of the town along The Avenue; however, by 1897 the 2nd edition of the map shows the brewery as disused.

A malthouse has existed in the town centre to the rear of the No. 56 High Street since 1852. Now a listed building, The Malt House has been converted into offices with a kiln located at the west end of the building. The malthouse is marked on the 2nd edition of the 25 inch OS map of 1897.

The London and South-Western Railway came to Egham in 1856 (Davis 1988). A goods yard at the station supported a wide range of commercial traffic linked to the national railway network. The 1897 edition of the 25 inch OS map shows a rail link heading north-westwards from the main railway line to a corn warehouse in Station Road, possibly belonging to Walter Bosher, a coal and forage merchant who maintained a depot at Egham Station goods yard. This small rail link to Station Road is no longer visible on the 1934 edition of the 6 inch OS map, possibly due to development along Station Road.

Oldridge's Forge started working in Egham in c1872, originally operating in Hummer Lane; the premises were moved to 158 High Street by 1881 (Barker & Barker 1995, 62) and appear on the 2nd edition of the 25 inch OS map.

Brickmaking was an ancient local industry utilising the local clay and sand. Members of the Oades family, located on the west side of Egham at the foot of Egham Hill, had been among those prominently involved in the trade which seems to have ceased by c1885 (Barker & Barker 1995, 63). A brickfield is marked at the bottom of Egham Hill on the 1st Edition 25 inch OS map of 1883. Evidence for the possible manufacture of post-medieval pottery in

Egham was revealed during an archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm, Egham (SMR No 4217) where possible kiln wasters and fragments of kiln furniture were found.

One of the old crafts once undertaken in Egham was basket weaving; it was a thriving business utilising the large number of osier beds situated around Runnymede (Turner 1926, 236).

#### POST-MEDIEVAL TOPOGRAPHY AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Egham underwent expansion in the 17th to 19th centuries as a result of the town lying on the main stagecoach route from London to the West Country (the A30) and the arrival of the railway.

The centre of Egham has retained its basic form, but has witnessed quite a lot of redevelopment over the last three decades which has led to the demolition of many of the old buildings in the town and loss of archaeological material. Development has included the construction of The Precinct (shopping centre) along the southern side of the High Street between Nos 140-157, and the construction of the Egham ring road in the 1970s which extended Church Road. The ring road has helped to draw the main traffic flow away from the central area of the High Street which has since been pedestrianised. Apart from a variety of piecemeal redevelopment, Egham has also been subjected to the construction of the M25 across the east side of the town, only 300m from the historic centre.

The designation of the historic centre of Egham as a Conservation Area and its pedestrianisation should enable development to be controlled in such a way as to maintain what remains of the historic character of the town. The construction of the Egham By-pass to the north of the town has reduced the amount of traffic passing through the town itself, allowing it to retain some of that character.

#### SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT

A few individual features and finds of prehistoric date have been identified within Egham, in addition to the discovery of the prehistoric sites identified at Petters Sports Field (500m north east of the town centre), Runnymede Bridge (900m to the north-east) and Thorpe Lea Nurseries (c1.5km to the south east). Egham's position on a slight gravel ridge adjacent to the River Thames would have provided a favourable location for prehistoric activity.

A few finds of Romano-British and Roman date have been identified in and around Egham, and it has been suggested that Roman finds from Petters Sports Field indicate a military presence in the surrounding area. The London-Silchester Roman Road is thought to pass through the centre of Egham along the line of the High Street, and it has been suggested that Egham Causeway has Roman origins.

Despite the fact that Egham is mentioned in the 7th century as part of the estate of Chertsey Abbey, the only evidence for Saxon activity recovered to date is a few sherds of Late Saxon pottery (from the Petters Sports Field site). The town itself was established by the Abbey in the 12th century and was centred on the High Street, with the 12th century parish church (TD2) located at its eastern end. Archaeological work carried out provides evidence for settlement activity in the High Street from the 12th century onwards. There is place name evidence from the 13th century for the presence of a settlement to the west of the historic core of Egham in the area of Langham Place (TD4), an area which has now become absorbed within the limits of the modern town.

There is archaeological evidence for early medieval expansion immediately to the east of Hummer Street, the presumed eastern limit of the original planned town, but, in an overall view it is doubtful whether the town grew very much before the 17th century, serving mainly the local area. From the 17th century onwards Egham developed largely as a result of being on the main stagecoach route from London to the West Country, and again in the mid-19th century with the arrival of the railway. The development of the town has been restricted to the north by the presence of Egham Causeway which forms a boundary between the town and the lower lying alluvial area of Runnymede, and protects the town from the flood-waters of the Thames.

## **EXISTING PROTECTION (fig 5)**

1. Much of the study area is defined as an area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP).
2. A substantial proportion of the area of greatest archaeological interest falls within the Egham Conservation Area.
3. There are a number of listed buildings within the town of Egham, the majority of which are located along the High Street.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL POTENTIAL**

### **General comment**

A large part of the area of greatest archaeological potential has undergone piecemeal redevelopment in the last century. Although the historic town centre retains its basic form and has been pedestrianised in recent years, a number of the old buildings have been demolished. Much of the archaeological evidence we have results from excavation and observation during that process. It would, however, be unwise to assume that all archaeological evidence has been destroyed in such areas, except where deep excavation from basements, foundations or such-like has taken place. The areas most affected by redevelopment include the area of The Precinct on the southern side of the High Street between Nos 140-157, and route of the ring road which extended Church Road westwards.

Approximately half of the area designated as an area of greatest archaeological interest (AHAP), the High Street Area, falls within the Egham Conservation Area, within which large-scale redevelopment is relatively unlikely; the other half of the main AHAP lies along The Avenue, with a couple of isolated AHAPs elsewhere in the town. Opportunities for small-scale work should, however, be grasped wherever possible, since this may still clarify issues and provide further detail. It will be of some importance that adequate arrangements are made for the publication of any such work.

The published reports of archaeological investigations undertaken in the town provide a firm basis for developing an understanding of the origins and early development of Egham, and this should be developed to publish more recent excavations, especially in the High Street area.

It is possible to formulate some precise research questions which future investigations in Egham might hope to answer, as well as addressing broad themes of urban development. These may be set out as follows.

### **Specific issues**

- What is the extent of prehistoric activity throughout Egham and how does it relate to the prehistoric sites revealed at Petters Sports Field, Runnymede and Thorpe Lea Nurseries?
- What is the extent of Roman activity within Egham? What is the true route of the London-Silchester Roman road through Egham?
- What is the extent of Saxon activity in Egham? Do the sparse finds of Late Saxon pottery recovered from Petters Sports Field derive from a settlement which preceded the 12th century town? Is there any evidence for Saxon activity in the vicinity of the church and/or Manor Farm?
- Can the early limits of the town and its development over time be confirmed through excavation?
- What was the date and nature of the earliest settlement in the area of Langham Place to the west of the historic core of Egham?
- What is the date of the earliest occupation activity at Manor Farm, and does it predate the 12th century establishment of the town of Egham?
- Did Egham possess a market at any time? If so was it held where the High Street widens adjacent to the parish church?

## APPENDIX 1

### EGHAM SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

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

P - Prehistoric

R - Roman

SM - Saxon and medieval

PM - Post-medieval

NF - no features or finds

UD - features of unknown date.

765	SM	2423	R	2938	P	A	SM
789	SM	2424	PM	3678	P	B	SM
794	R	2425	SM	3679	PM	C	P
799	P	2926	P	3680	PM	D	NF
1274	PM	2927	SM	3727	R	E	P
2287	R	2932	R	4217	SM	F	UD
2288	P	2935	SM	4218	P	G	P
2306	SM	2936	R	4307	P	H	P

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Prehistoric:								
799	TQ 0163 7156	A Bronze Age site at Petters Sports Field located on the eastern edge of the present study area. The site was discovered during excavations in 1972 by Bernard Johnson and David Barker and investigated more fully in 1976-7 by Martin O'Connell. Evidence was recovered for occupation in the Middle and Late Bronze Age and Romano-British period. Major finds included a Late Bronze Age hoard of about eighty pieces of Bronze in two groups in a large ditch, and part of a stone axe mould for a Late Bronze Age axe of South Welsh type. Most of the features were confined to the gravel (see SMR Nos 2423-5, 2926-7).						
2288	TQ 0162 7132	A number of prehistoric struck flint flakes were found in Daisy Meadow, Egham.						
2926	TQ 0163 7156	Excavations at Petters Sports Field by B Johnson and D Barker from 1972, and by O'Connell from 1976-7. Only one feature, a shallow pit, produced material dateable to the Neolithic period and that consisted of only one sherd of pottery. Although it is possible that the pottery is residual from an earlier, unrelated context, in view of the amount of Neolithic material found in the vicinity, a Neolithic phase at Petters Sports Field is not an unreasonable proposition. (See SMR Nos 799, 2423-5, 2927).						
2938	TQ 01 71 marginal	A triangular flint arrowhead, notched at the base for mounting, is said to have been found in Bowman's Walk, Runnymede opposite the north end of Hummer Road. It is an unusual type, probably foreign in origin.						
3678	TQ 0132 7141	An excavation was undertaken in 1979 at 133-139 High Street, Egham by D.M. Barker. Sealed below a gravel surface dated to c1660 was a prehistoric ground surface (see SMR No 3679). This took the form of a grey clay with some struck flint flakes and burnt flints. Although it was not possible to date this level, it sealed what appeared to be the terminal of a ditch. The ditch contained Late Bronze Age pottery in its lower silting.						
4218	TQ 015 715	Excavation by S Dyer in advance of redevelopment on a site adjacent to Petters Sports Field, The Avenue, Egham. Finds recovered from a buried river channel include Bronze Age pottery, prehistoric worked flint, an Iron Age terret (harness), sherds of probable IA pottery and mixed Romano-British pottery. The possible Romano-British road line was also located (see SMR No 3727). A Romano-British ditch was found, probably a continuation from one previously known; Saxon pottery was recovered						

			from its upper fill. A medieval ditch continuing from the earlier excavations at Petters Sports field was also located (Bird <i>et al</i> 1990, 210). Excavation by S.Dyer in advance of redevelopment revealed a continuation of the multi-period site at Petters Sports Field, The Avenue, Egham. A few sherds of probable Iron Age pottery and an Iron Age terret were found in a buried river channel (see SMR Nos 799, 2423-5).
4307	TQ 015 715		
C	TQ 0126 7146		An archaeological evaluation, excavation and watching brief were undertaken at 81-84 High Street, Egham by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) in 1997. Five main phases of activity were identified including: the Late Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, medieval, late medieval/post-medieval and post-medieval periods. The features excavated included a pit and gully of prehistoric date, several medieval features, features of late medieval/post-medieval date including a cobbled yard surface, and structural remains and features of post-medieval date. A few sherds of residual Roman pottery of late 1st century date were also recovered. The majority of the features were of medieval date and demonstrate that this part of Egham has probably been settled since at least the 12th century (Saunders 1998, 14).
E	TQ 011 714		An evaluation was undertaken in 1998 by AOC Archaeology to the rear of properties at 64-65 High Street, Egham in advance of redevelopment. Little evidence for medieval activity was revealed. Sealed below a layer of redeposited brickearth, however, a few features of prehistoric date were found. Two of these contained fragments of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery in addition to some burnt flint. Residual flints of Mesolithic or Neolithic date were also recovered from one of these features. The redeposited brickearth was itself found to contain a few pieces of flint, apparently of later Bronze Age date. A subsequent watching brief on the redevelopment by AOC revealed further features of probable prehistoric date: a ditch later redefined as a bank with a fence in the late Iron Age; a double arc of stakeholes apparently forming a circular structure and two small pits, also presumed to be of Iron Age date (Howe <i>et al</i> 2000, 192).
G	TQ 014 712		An evaluation was undertaken in c1998 by OAU at Daisy Meadows, Vicarage Road, Egham in advance of the construction of an office building. A single ditch of recent date was revealed which also contained a residual prehistoric struck flint (Howe <i>et al</i> 2000, 192).
H	TQ 021 716		An evaluation undertaken in c1998 by Wessex Archaeology revealed a truncated ditch of probable mid to late Iron Age date and a second, undated, ditch. A number of residual flints of Neolithic to Bronze Age date were also recovered (Howe <i>et al</i> 2000, 192).

Roman:			
794	TQ 00800 71000 linear		A branch of the 13th century Egham Causeway or Roman Road 4A. In 1964 pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age to medieval date were recovered from a bank in an Egham garden (TQ 0080 7100). An investigation of the bank revealed that it was a causeway 18.0m wide and 1.5m high, traceable and lying across land liable to flood, south-westwards towards Bakeham House and the foot of Prune Hill. To the north-east it is fragmentary but can be traced in the centre of Egham along the back of Grange Road where the fences are aligned along it, to the junction of Station Road and High Street. It is significant that in the vicinity of Egham Church, the site of which is of Saxon origin, the High Street is on its apparent alignment. Although the existing evidence points to a medieval origin for the Egham causeway (see SMR No 765), there is a possibility that it represents the line of Roman Road 4a remade in medieval times. It appears to effectively bridge two accepted portions of the Roman road, Staines Bridge and Bakeham House, avoiding low ground to the north and south, taking advantage of a slight natural ridge through Egham.
2287	TQ 0164 7145		A ditch of possible Roman date was discovered during the M25 motorway construction work at Vicarage Road, Egham.

2423	TQ 0163 7156	A Romano-British site was revealed during excavations at Petters Sports Field in 1972 and 1976-7. Two parallel enclosure ditches were revealed. The larger one had a v-shaped profile with a maximum width of 1.92m and a depth of 0.9m. The smaller one varied in width from 0.9m to 0.5m with a maximum depth of 0.3m; it may have served as a palisade trench, but there was no surviving evidence of timber posts. The finds were limited but indicated a date of the second half of the first century AD. The discovery of a Roman military harness mount in the ultimate fill of the palisade ditch indicates a military presence within the surrounding area. Only one feature within the area enclosed by the ditch was dateable to the Roman period. A small part of a Roman roadside ditch was also excavated, which cut the northern section of a Late Bronze Age ditch and contained a coin of Constantine I (see SMR Nos 799, 2424-5, 2926-7).
2932	TQ 015 714	A trial excavation at Daisy Meadow by D M Longley for the Surrey Archaeological Society and the Department of the Environment revealed only one sherd of Romano-British pottery and no features.
2936	TQ 011 713	A ?Roman Threshold step. The end section of a sandstone threshold step was found placed directly on Thames gravel and said to be 'below the Roman level, 5 feet below the surface pointing east' although it is not explained what is meant by this. The stone was originally 5' 6 inch wide with tapering ends and evident wear in the centre. The site is on the north side of Egham High Street, below what is now a Chinese restaurant.
3727	TQ 0728 7308 – SU 9105 6486	London-Silchester Roman Road (TQ 0728 7308 to SU 9105 6486). The route of the road from the Thames to Bakeham House at Englefield Green is not known for certain. It may be a direct route, over a slight rise in the ground, or it may follow the route later used by the Egham causeway (see SMR No 765). A causeway 18m wide and up to 1.5m high (SMR No 794) was traced from the foot of Prune Hill to No 9 The Crescent, Egham and on to the junction of Station Road and High Street. It is suggested that such an alignment would effectively bridge the gap between two accepted portions of the Roman Road. This Roman road was the most important thoroughfare from London to the western parts of the province.
		Excavation by S.Dyer in advance of redevelopment on a site adjacent to Petters Sports Field, The Avenue, Egham, located the possible Romano-British road line (see SMR No 4218).

Saxon and Medieval:		
765	TQ 0069 7169 –TQ 0295 5715	Egham Causeway: a 13th century thoroughfare. The causeway is mentioned by Aubrey in the 17th century as keeping off the water from Chertsey and Thorpe. It was said by an enquiry in 1350 to have been originally constructed by Thomas de Oxenford in the time of Henry III (1216-72) to keep his packhorse route free from flooding. Such a statement in a medieval document cannot be taken to rule out the possibility that he was repairing or extensively rebuilding an older causeway. It forms part of the southern boundary of Runnymede and for a long distance joins the high road, used as the common footpath. Its height varies from 1.2m to 1.8m above the present road and it is up to 5.5m wide at the base. The generally accepted extent of the Egham Causeway, TQ 01377175 to TQ 02957154 is readily traceable. There is a possibility that the causeway may have a Roman origin (see SMR No 794 for a possible fork to Bakeham House); it may represent the line of a road to Dorchester, Oxon.
789	TQ 0070 7210	Runnymede Meadow is preserved as a national monument. The armies of King John and the Confederated Barons encamped here at the signing of the Magna Carta on 15th June 1215. The full original form of the name would seem to be <i>Runingmed</i> meaning a mead (meadow) where counsels were held (from the ME <i>runinge</i> meaning 'taking counsel' and moed). This suggests that it was already a well-known meeting place. (This record

		lies outside of the EUS study area).
2306	TQ 0145 7145	A possible moated site was located on the site of the present police station. A broad ditch or moat, now filled in, existed to the east of the site of the Manor of Imworth and is visible on the 1841 Tithe map as a water-filled ditch c7.3m wide and c67m long. A house sale catalogue of 1841 names it as a moat or canal. The medieval manor house was rebuilt c1605 by Sir John Denham (and named 'The Place'); the ditch could have been a medieval or Tudor ornamental feature. The demolition of Albany House (located north of the site of 'The Place') produced signs of a 3m deep wet ditch which might constitute the northern arm of a moat.
2425	TQ 0163 7156	This site was initially thought to be a medieval site, revealed during excavations at Petters Sports Field. Part of an enclosure ditch 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep contained 12th century pottery and bone, excavated at the northern end of the site. The area of the enclosure was not available for excavation (see SMR Nos 799, 2423-4, 2926-7). The pottery was subsequently re-examined and identified as of Late Saxon date; the ditch from which it was recovered was then thought to be of possible Roman or post-Roman date.
2927	TQ 0163 7156	Pottery from the fill of a ditch, thought by excavator to be medieval, is in fact Late Saxon. The ditch itself could be Roman or post-Roman. (See SMR Nos 799, 2423-25, 2926).
2935	TQ 011 713	A hand-forged medieval iron nail was recovered from the foundations of the King's Head in Egham.
A	TQ 0129 7145	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at The Katherine Wheel, a former public house in Egham, by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) in May 1996 in advance of redevelopment (TQ 0129 7145). The site was located at 85 High Street, on the corner of the High Street and Hummer Road. The evaluation demonstrated that archaeological deposits were present on site with layers and features surviving beneath and between areas of modern disturbance. Those deposits which could be dated reasonably securely would appear to be of early medieval origin (though earlier remains might also be present). The distribution of the features suggested that much, if not all, of the site area had been used in antiquity and was associated with settlement.
B	TQ 013 713	A watching brief was undertaken by SCAU on the construction work in January 1997. The unstable nature of the deep excavation resulted in a general lack of opportunity for detailed inspection of the work. The possible archaeological features (three possible pits and old ground surfaces) were minimal and did not add any significant information to that gained from the earlier evaluation.
		An archaeological evaluation was carried out at SCAU in May 1996 in advance of redevelopment to the east of Manor Farm, Manor Farm Lane, Egham (TQ 013 713). The work was undertaken because Manor Farm is believed to have origins in the 14th century. No archaeological features and just two stray finds of archaeological interest (one struck flint and one burnt flint) were recovered.

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Post-medieval:		
1274	TQ 0093 7125	A 17th-18th century occupation site. In 1970 a mid-Georgian House at 174 High Street was demolished to make way for a new road in the town. The site was excavated with a section cut through the front garden and a large variety of 17th and 18th century domestic rubbish and small finds, which covered a series of gravel road surfaces, were recovered.
2424	TQ 0163 7156	A post-medieval site was also revealed during excavations at Petters Sports Field (TQ 0163 7156). The spacing and line of four postholes may indicate the existence of a fence in the post-medieval period. Three other postholes may have belonged to a similar structure, probably of 18th or 19th century date. Post-medieval pits were also excavated (see SMR Nos 799, 2423,

		2425, 2926-7).
3679	TQ 0132 7141	Excavation in 1979 at 133-139 High Street, Egham by D M Barker revealed evidence for post-medieval occupation. A number of 19th century features produced a vast quantity of domestic refuse. An earlier phase of activity was represented by a series of gravel floors, cut by at least three large rubbish pits. The fill of the pits suggested a 17th century date for them; the gravel floors also appeared to be of 17th century date.
3680	TQ 0157 7167	An excavation in 1979 at 6-7 The Avenue, Egham by M O'Connell revealed a series of layers and features of 18th and 19th century date.
4217	TQ 013 712	Trial trenches excavated by S Dyer in advance of redevelopment produced some post-medieval pottery and possible kiln wasters and fragments of kiln furniture.

Undated features:		
F	TQ 0163 7155	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Unigate Dairies (formerly Petters Sports Field), Egham by The Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1994. The work was undertaken in order to establish whether remains relating to previously excavated Bronze Age and Romano-British settlements extended into the area of investigation (see SMR Nos 2423-5). One trench was excavated to the north of the site of the 1970s excavations and one trench was excavated to the south. The only feature located was a ditch in the northern trench. The ditch was recently infilled and may be a genuine archaeological feature that was excavated in the previous excavations. The ground level of the area had previously been reduced to the level of the natural gravel to make a car park thereby possibly destroying any other features that may have existed here. No archaeological features were revealed within the southern trench. A number of buried soil horizons, interpreted as old ploughsoils, were seen in section. The absence of archaeological features in the second trench suggests that the archaeological activity recorded in the 1970s does not extend significantly beyond the southern limit of those excavations (Chris Blandford Associates 1994, 20-22).
No features or finds:		
D	TQ 011 711	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by MoLAS at 4-10 Church Road, Egham in advance of redevelopment. Even though the site was found to be little disturbed, no archaeological features or finds were encountered (Howe <i>et al</i> 2000, 192).

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## **FIGURES**

1 Extensive Urban Survey of Surrey. **Top:** Egham, 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.

2 A transcript of the 1840 Tithe Map of Egham at scale 1:5000

Fig 3 Egham: Sites and Monuments Records and other archaeological information

Fig 4 Egham: Topographic development map of the town

Fig 5 Egham: Constraints Map showing the Conservation Area and AHAP