

Area 5: Shottermill and Critchmere

History of Shottermill and Critchmere

For 700 years a small isolated community in the Wey Valley, now known as Shottermill and Critchmere, was a corner of industry; by the end of the 19thC six watermills existed, used for corn making, fulling, iron-working and, in particular, sickle making, leather dressing, paper and braid making.

The coming of the railway to Haslemere in 1859 saw increased prosperity in the town, with many large houses and country estates being built in the hills approaching Hindhead. This brought a number of prominent Victorian and Edwardian people to the area, which in turn prompted development in Shottermill and particularly Lion Lane for the workers on the various estates.

With the geographical and land constraints on development within the Town Centre, the development of Shottermill and Critchmere continued right through the 20thC and the area now houses the majority of Haslemere residents.

Although much of housing in Shottermill and Critchmere was constructed from the mid/late Victorian era, a number of properties pre-date that time, mostly clustered around the junction of the A287 / Liphook Road / Church Lane. Examples include Rose Cottage, Cherrimans, Lees Cottage, Blossom Cottage and Buffbeards. All these are Grade II listed. There is a Voysey-designed house called New Place on Farnham Lane and Branksome Hilders, now De Vere Hotel, which are also listed.

One of the joys of Shottermill and Critchmere is the great variety of housing and landscape. They range from large country houses to housing of high density. The landscape



Branksome Hilders on the Hindhead Road

changes from the National Trust Greensand Hills of Hindhead to the clays at the lower levels adjoining a tributary of the River Wey, a diverse area indeed!



Hindhead Road, Buffbeards



St Christopher's Church Shottermill



St Christopher's Church, Mouse



St Christopher



St Stephen's, Critchmere

Shottermill and Critchmere

This area is characterised by:

- Development northwards from its medieval craft industry origins, which used the natural resources of the locality, to the predominantly residential area of today
- A considerable amount of Haslemere's development over the last fifty years has been in this area
- The majority of housing development is high density when compared to Haslemere town yet has considerable green screening provided by the trees
- Most of the high density development undertaken is on lower-lying land where there are many underground water-courses and springs which have, in the past, caused flooding problems
- Low density housing towards the north of the area where it adjoins National Trust land
- Built around the turn of the last century through to the mid / late 20thC, as is evident from its mix of property styles. House types vary from large mainly late 19th/early 20thC country houses with substantial grounds to much smaller one and two bedroom flats and houses.
- The major building material is brick and tile with some distinctive gables. Some cottages have slate roofs, although these are in the minority
- The characteristics of Wey Hill and Junction Place are:

- The shopping areas of Wey Hill and Junction Place were predominantly developed in the early



Wey Hill showing Haslemere Library

20thC, mostly independent shops, restaurants and commercial properties

- Some modern infilling to provide retail units to meet current needs. This infill has, in effect, merged Wey Hill and Junction Place
- Two of the town's three supermarkets serving Haslemere
- Variety of elevations, two and three storeys in height. Gables are a dominant feature and these contribute to an attractive jumble of clay-tiled and slate roofs
- Recent refurbishments of some shops and commercial properties has restored some quality to the character of the area but more needs to be done
- More outdoor seating areas would encourage social interaction and invite shoppers to sit and linger
- A number of community and other organisations' buildings including the Library, Haslewey (the town's popular Community Centre), Shottermill Working Men's Club and several youth facilities
- Two of the main Haslemere car parks, both of which are heavily used for commuter parking and by shoppers



Bells, the butcher, on Wey Hill



The entrance to Tesco Supermarket showing Chestnut View care home, a modern development which contributes to linking the two areas

- Development has enhanced but sometimes clashed with the surrounding buildings. One successful conversion is the former Drill Hall. New flats have been built behind



Retail and Office space designed to reflect the Drill Hall which previously stood on the site

- Two important green spaces, Lion Green and St Christopher's Green. These two open spaces create a country feel to what otherwise would be an urban area.



Lion Green

- Kings Road is a part of Haslemere which has seen quite significant change in the last twenty to thirty years:

- Originally it consisted of a number of smaller brick and slate cottages and terraced and semi-detached houses



King's Road showing sleeping policemen

- Foundry Cottage (Grade II listed) in Foundry Lane, off Kings Road

- Further development in 1960s on the site of Haslemere Sewage Works

- In the last twenty years or so, the industrial sites such as the former coal yard, garage and

gasometer sites have been developed with modern housing, including Doyle Court and Canvas Court



Canvas Court, King's Road

- Severely affected by commuter parking and those using it as a shortcut. "Sleeping policemen" / platforms have been incorporated.

These have reduced the traffic speed but not the volume.

- Between Kings Road and Sturt Road is The Herons, the town's swimming pool and leisure centre, and adjacent to that, is Sickle Mill, a restored water mill with small houses created from adjoining buildings

- Development has progressed northwards from Wey Hill along the three spines of Vicarage Lane, Lion Lane and Farnham Lane

- The woodland between the west of Vicarage Lane and Buffbeards Lane is classified as being of High Visual Importance

- Lion Lane is a high density area with cottages originally constructed for people who worked in the major local country estates. The majority of the development was in the late 1800s / early 1900s.



Lion Lane, terraced houses

- Lion Lane leads to further residential areas ranging from Edwardian detached villas and terraced houses to 1960s detached and semi-detached houses.

- Farnham Lane is characterised by:
 - Rural lane ending on National Trust commons
 - Large houses with extensive gardens
 - Part of Farnham Lane lies within the Settlement Area of Haslemere. It has been subject to residential infilling
 - The majority of large country houses have been divided into wings / flats, cottages sold off and more modern homes constructed in the grounds. Nevertheless the character of Haslemere has been maintained by the prudent use of hedging, trees and banking
 - New Place, Farnham Lane, is a grade II listed house designed by CFA Voysey with gardens by Gertrude Jekyll.

- To the south of Wey Hill lies the 1950s Local Authority housing development of Sunbrow, Dale View and Sickle Mill. It exhibits many of the characteristics of that time:



Sunbrow from footpath on Sturt Farm

- The building vernacular is brick with some tile hanging.
- Mixture of flats and houses in elevated position within easy reach of the town's amenities
- Sunbrow enjoys views across Sturt Farm, an area with AONB and AGLV status.
- To the west lie Hatchetts Drive, Lower Hanger and



Sunbrow

Rackfield. These are another Local Authority development. It consists of semi-detached homes and flats of brick, tile and concrete on a relatively spacious layout with ample parking.

- Further development in the second half of the 20thC including Dolphin Close and Deepdene. The latter was built in the mid-1980s, consisting of approximately 200 homes varying from five-bedroom detached houses to one-bedroom starter homes.



- To the north of the area roads such as High Pitfold, Glenlea and Hazel Grove have a number of very substantial homes with associated grounds.

Deepdene

- Critchmere Hill leads from the A287 via Woolmer Hill to the newly improved A3 and, although sleeping policeman / platforms have been installed, the traffic flow here has undoubtedly increased with the opening of the A3 tunnel.

- Despite it being an area of more recent development there is still considerable green screening provided by trees and hedging.

- In the mid-1930s roads such as Fir Tree Avenue, Sunvale Avenue and Oak Tree Lane were created. They are predominantly detached three-bedroom family houses with reasonably-sized gardens.



Sunvale Avenue

Here elevations are predominantly of brick with some render under tiled roofs.

- Borders the River Wey Conservation Area. This protects land either side of the tributary of the River Wey.
- Contains large areas of open land including private fields and woodland and the Hindhead National Trust commons
- Critchmere has boundaries both with West Sussex and Hampshire.



Pitfold Avenue



Oak Tree Lane

Design guidelines for Shottermill and Critchmere

- *Generic Design Guidelines also apply in relation to any development in this area and these are stated in context in sections 4, 5 & 6 and Appendix 1. The complete set of guidelines can be found in Appendix 8.*
- Retailers should follow WBC's Shop-Front Design Guide (see Appendix 2)
- More outdoor seating areas would encourage social interaction and invite shoppers to sit and linger
- Safeguard the green open spaces of Lion Green and St Christopher's Green
- The individual character of Shottermill should be retained. Any new development should be consistent with the prevailing character of the area.



Sickle Mill, restored