

7. Designs for your neighbourhood

Generic design guidelines, which apply throughout the town, are set out in the preceding sections. They should be used together with the specific guidelines of this section.

History of Haslemere

There is evidence of human occupation of the area around Haslemere from pre-historic times. The Norman church of St Bartholomew is the oldest surviving building, dating back to 1180.

In the twelfth century there was a Chiddingfold family named Heysulle and it has been suggested that the name Haslemere refers to the boundary or mere of the Heysulle family land. At that time Haslemere was part of the borough of Godalming and had originally been given by Henry II to the then Bishop of Salisbury in 1185.

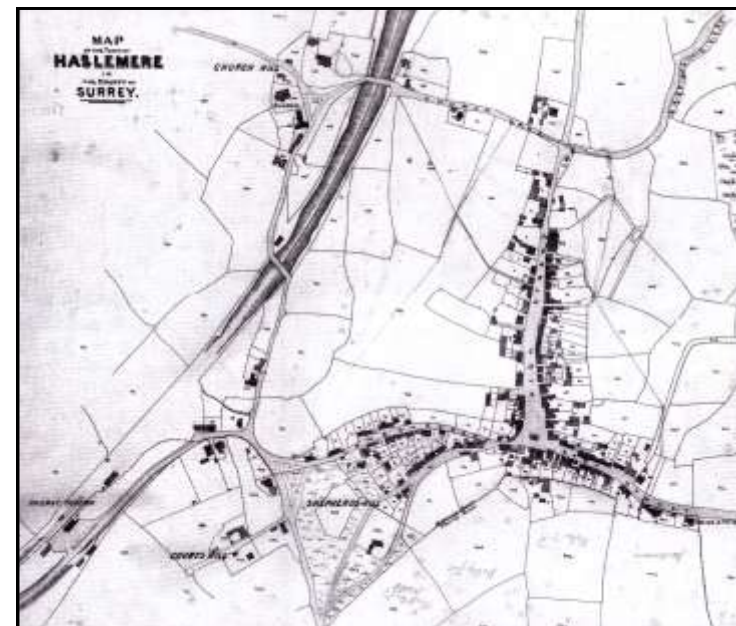
The first mention of Hindhead or 'Hyndehed' came in 1571 with the explanation that it was "a hill frequented by hinds or does".

Haslemere's importance continued to grow and a Charter was granted by King Richard II in 1394, permitting the holding of a weekly market. Following this, industries were set up and the town became known for glassmaking, iron ore smelting and leather curing, as well as farming. This brought wealth and prosperity to Haslemere which then



View of Haslemere High Street early 20thC (Frith)

received Borough status and the right to elect two Members of Parliament from Queen Elizabeth I. In 1596 she visited the town and granted it a new Charter which sanctioned the market and two annual fairs. To this day Haslemere still holds a Charter Fair in the High Street on alternate (even-numbered) years.



1867 Tithe map of central Haslemere showing railway and town centre

During the 16thC to 18thC Haslemere became an industrial centre for small scale iron-working and craft industries, but fundamentally it remained a rural town until the mid 19th century.

The opening of the London to Portsmouth railway in 1859 changed Haslemere forever. From being a remote little town, accessible to the outside world only on horseback or by gig, it could now be reached from London in under an hour and a half. Change at first was quite slow but the increasing number of visitors gradually built up a demand to live in this attractive area.

In the years between 1895 and 1910, Haslemere came into its own architecturally: Lutyens at Amesbury School, Voysey at New Place, Farnham Lane, and E J May at both Branksome Hilders on the Hindhead Road and Ballindune in Weydown Road. Other houses of merit are Kemnal on the Grayswood Road and Hill Court in Courts Hill Road, both by Norman Shaw, and, possibly one of the finest houses in the district, Broad Dene, Hill Road, by W F Unsworth and Inigo Triggs.

Sir Jonathan Hutchinson's great contribution to the town was the founding

of its Educational Museum in 1888. Now sited in the High Street, it is one of the most highly-regarded museums in the country.

Other benefactors to the town include Stewart Hodgson, who, among his many philanthropic works, gave generously to St Bartholomew's Church, built the Comrades Club and modernised the Town Hall. Barclay Day made his name locally by building the Haslemere Hall, the 350-seat theatre in constant use today.

At the turn of the century Haslemere was in the forefront of the revival of the Peasants Arts and Crafts movement with spinning, weaving, woodworking and pottery taking place around the town. Haslemere was then truly on the map and, with London within easy reach, more and more people wished to live here. House building therefore increased rapidly and the population grew year on year.



Kemnal, Grayswood Road



Art deco decoration at the bottom of Shepherds' Hill



Decoration on front of Haslemere Comrades Club



Haslemere Museum



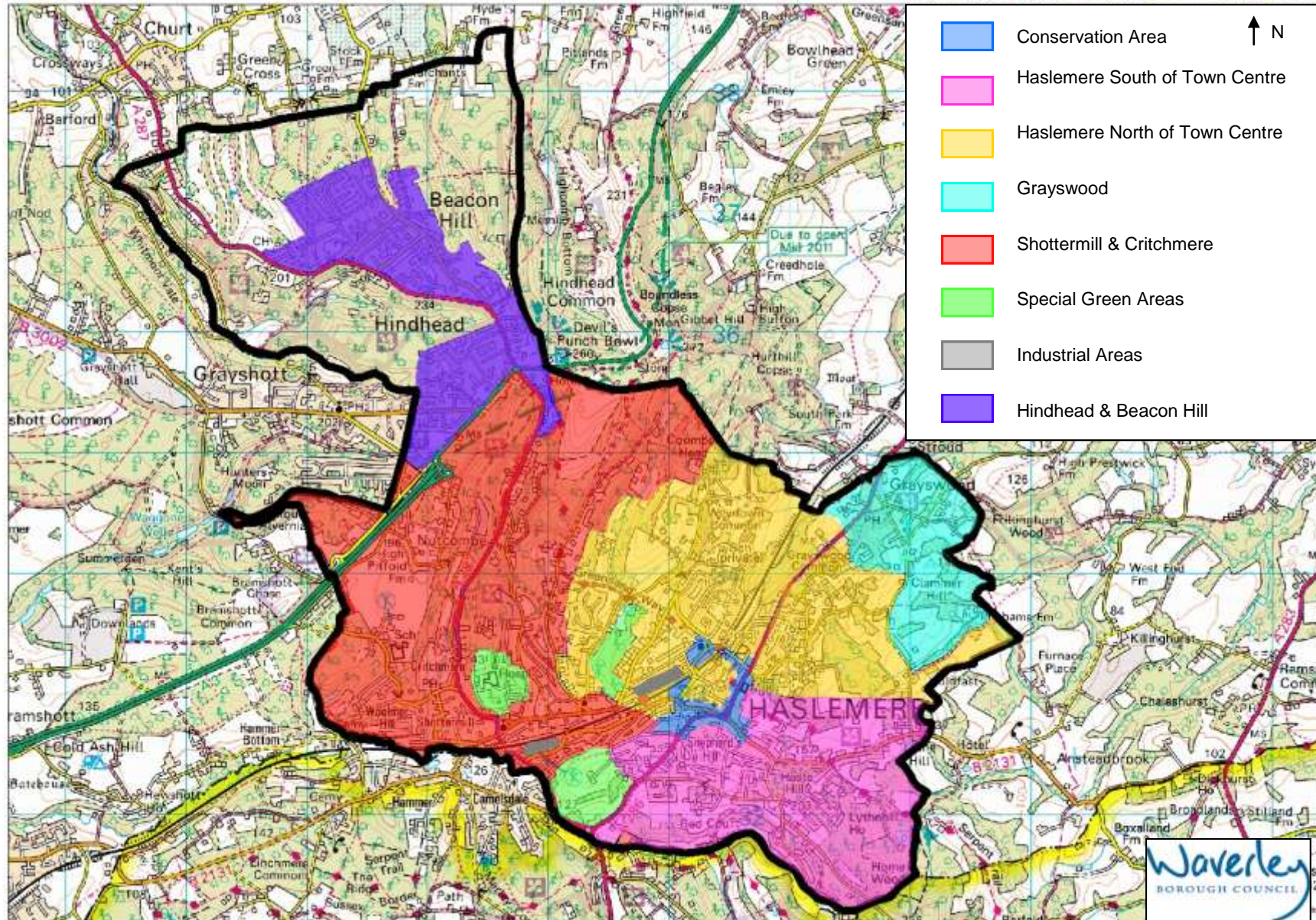
Amesbury School by Lutyens

The reorganisation of local government in 1974 resulted in Haslemere becoming part of the Borough of Waverley. The former Urban District Council became known as Haslemere Town Council, led by a Town Mayor.



Plaques on cottages in Lower Street

Areas of Haslemere



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