Henfield

Historic Character Assessment Report

August 2004



Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) *Roland B Harris*

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in association with Horsham District Council and the Character of West Sussex
Partnership Programme









The Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Sussex EUS) is a study of 41 towns undertaken between 2004 and 2008 by an independent consultant (Dr Roland B Harris, BA DPhil MIFA) for East Sussex County Council (ESCC), West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and Brighton and Hove City Council; and was funded by English Heritage.

Guidance and web-sites derived from the historic town studies will be, or have been, developed by the local authorities.

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Cover photo: St Peter's church, north chancel (or Parham) chapel.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

This report is an archaeological, historical, and historic urban character assessment of Henfield. It is part of the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (henceforth Sussex EUS) that examines 41 towns across the ancient county.¹

The Sussex EUS forms part of a national programme of such surveys initiated by English Heritage in 1992. The national programme is already well underway, with roughly half the English counties having been completed or currently undergoing study.

As the surveys have progressed, the approach has developed. In line with recent surveys, the Sussex EUS includes more modern towns, the main significance of which stems from the 19th and 20th centuries. Another recent innovation is the introduction of the characterization concept, comparable with the map-based techniques adopted by historic landscape characterization. This approach was developed in Lancashire (2000-4), and is further refined in Sussex.

The Sussex EUS has been funded by English Heritage, and supported in kind by the commissioning authorities: East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton and Hove City Council. A wide range of stakeholders (including district and borough councils, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) has supported the project.

In West Sussex the Sussex EUS forms part of the *Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme*,² aiming to provide guidance and advice on the protection and enhancement of all aspects of character in the county. Other historic environment projects come under this umbrella:

- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Sussex
- Intensive Urban Survey of Chichester and Fishbourne
- · Local Distinctiveness Study of West Sussex.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 Aims

The aim of the Sussex EUS is to deliver a unique and flexible tool to aid the understanding, exploration and management of the historic qualities of 41 of the most significant towns in Sussex with a view to:

- archaeological and historic environment research and management.
- informing strategic and local policy.
- underpinning urban historic land and buildings management and interpretation.
- encouraging the integration of urban historic characterization into the wider process of protecting and enhancing urban character.

1.2.2 Objectives

Key objectives of the project include the:

- synthesis of previous archaeological and historical work.
- creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) that maps and allows the analysis of archaeological events, monuments and urban plan components using information obtained from a variety of sources.
- analysis of the origins and development of each town by establishing and examining its principal plan components and existing standing structures.
- identification of county-wide Historic Character Types and attribution of the types to different areas within each town.
- preparation of a Statement of Historic Urban Character for each town, to include assessment of archaeological potential and Historic Environment Value.
- identification of gaps in the understanding of the past occupation and historical development of character of each town through the development of a Research Framework.
- advice to local authorities on the development of guidance derived from the town studies.

1.3 Outputs

The principal outputs of the project comprise:

- Historic character assessment reports.

 Documents (of which this is one) that, separately for each town, summarize the setting and preurban activity; synthesize current archaeological and historical research; describe the development from origins to the present day; assess the surviving historic character and historic environment value; and set out a framework for future research on the historic environment of the towns.
- Geographical Information System (GIS) for the historic environment of each town. The GIS underpins the analysis and mapping of the town

reports, and is available to local authorities as a unique tool to support their decision making. The EUS-generated GIS data includes historic buildings and archaeological data, and mapping of areas for which Historic Character Type, historic land use, and Historic Urban Character Areas have been defined. The GIS data will be maintained and updated by the West Sussex County Council Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) and the East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

- Informing historic environment management guidance specific to each local planning authority, for the 41 EUS towns and Winchelsea, produced under the new Local Development Frameworks, and subject to formal consultation procedures.
- Background papers for the Sussex EUS project. Documents that include the project design, a summary of the methodology and an overall bibliography.

1.4 The structure of this report

1.4.1 The Setting

This introductory section describes the topography, geology, communications, and preurban archaeology of the town (hereafter Henfield will be called a village, as it remains commonly understood as such).

1.4.2 History

The history of Henfield in this report can be a brief summary only. It aims to synthesize published research, and to provide a chronological overview of the development of the village as seen from documentary sources. The focus is placed on those matters – such as origins, economy, trade and institutions – that are most closely related to the urban (or urbanlike) historic environment today. Aspects of the village's history – such as the ecclesiastical, manorial, jurisdictional and more recent social history – have been published elsewhere, most notably in the *Victoria County History*.³

1.4.3 Archaeology

The archaeology section of this report draws on published and unpublished reports of excavations, archaeological assessments, and records of finds. This section also includes analysis of historic buildings (listed and nonlisted) and the topography, the latter drawing on maps of the village from 1845 onwards. Again, this section follows a chronological structure, and focuses on aspects of the material evidence

of the village's past that relate most closely to the historic environment today.

1.4.4 Statement of Historic Urban Character

Whereas sections on history and archaeology (above) have explored the development of Henfield over time, this part of the report considers and defines the physical evidence of the past in today's 'townscape'. It does this by means of a character-based approach, operating at three different scales: areas of common Historic Character Type; larger and topographically familiar Historic Urban Character Areas; and the whole village. Assessment is made of the Historic Environment Value of each of the Historic Urban Character Areas, taking account of the archaeological potential.

1.5 Principal sources

Henfield has been the subject of only limited archaeological and historical study. The principal sources drawn on during the writing of this report are listed below. Many other sources have been used too, and full references have been given by use of endnotes.

1.5.1 History

Henfield has been the subject of local historical interest, but by far the most authoritative historical study has been that undertaken by **Tim Hudson** for the *Victoria County History*, published in 1987.⁴

1.5.2 Archaeology

Henfield has had only two reasonably modern archaeological evaluations, and no medium or large-scale excavations. The evaluations comprise:

Tanyard Field – 1990 (resistivity survey) and 1992 (trial trences)⁵

Furners Lane – 1999.6

The **West Sussex Sites & Monuments Record** (SMR) database has been invaluable for identifying such unpublished evaluations, and for providing the pre-urban archaeological context.

1.5.3 Historic buildings

Henfield's rich vein of surviving timber-framed buildings was the subject of a survey by **Annabelle Hughes**. English Heritage's statutory list of historic buildings is also of use, though many of the descriptions date from the 1950s and were necessarily produced without

internal inspection. Very limited fieldwork only was possible during this assessment and focused on correcting dating derived from such sources, identifying hitherto ignored buildings of historic interest (e.g. houses of early 19th-century date), and re-evaluating the dating and function of key buildings and monuments.

1.5.4 Geology and topography

The contextual discussion of the solid and drift geology has principally derived from 1:50,000 British Geological Survey digital data. Ordnance Survey Historic 25" maps for Epochs 1-4 (1875 onwards) have proved invaluable, especially as these have been used in digital form, allowing overlaying with each other and with other data. The 1845 Tithe Map (*West Sussex Record Office*) captures pre-railway Henfield at a large scale and provides the earliest detailed map of the village. This map has been digitized and rectified to fit the National Grid to allow comparison with other maps and data. RAF

vertical air photo coverage of 1947 provides a useful snapshot in time, as does the modern equivalent flown for West Sussex County Council in 2001. All analysis and maps utilize the most recent large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping (digital MasterMap data).

1.6 Area covered by the report

The Sussex EUS assessment of Henfield covers the full extent of the village. This includes the modern suburbs, or estates, but excludes peripheral features that form part of the surrounding countryside, such as Henfield Common.

Henfield is one of 6 settlements in Horsham District that have assessments such as this. The others are Bramber, Horsham, Pulborough, Steyning and Storrington.

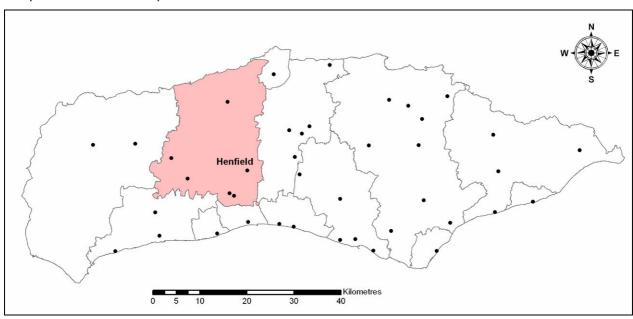


Fig. 1. Location of Henfield within Sussex. Horsham District is highlighted and points locate the 41 Sussex EUS towns.

2 THE SETTING



Fig. 2. Golden Square, looking east along Brighton Road, showing the proximity of Henfield Common and the South Downs in the distance.

2.1 Topography (Map 2)

Henfield is a large village situated in the Low Weald, 4km north of the scarp of the South Downs and 6.5km south of the High Weald. The centre of the village lies 2km east of the River Adur, with its western suburbs extending to within 1km of the river (and within less than 100m of the edge of the floodplain). The river flows southwards through a gap in the Downs to reach the sea at Kingston, 11.5km distant. The highest point of the village is at the south-west (Mill End) at 38.3m OD, but steeply slopes down to the south of this to brookland at c.5-6m OD.

The principal street is the north-south High Street/London Road. Major secondary east-west streets join this and comprise Church Street, Nep Town Road and Furners Lane. The Brighton Road joins the southern end of the High Street from the south-east. Today, the main shopping area is along the High Street. Limited-scale suburbs extend in all directions. Henfield Common abuts the village on the south-east, and smaller Broadmare Common lies 200m south of Henfield. The village is at the centre of Henfield Civil Parish, which, like many adjacent

Wealden parishes, is elongated on a north-south axis.

2.2 Geology (Map 2)

2.2.1 Solid geology

Along with the whole of Sussex, the rocks of the Henfield area are sedimentary. Descending the Downs and crossing the Weald, the rocks get progressively older. Henfield is in the midst of the predominant Low Weald geology, the Weald Clay, but the village itself sits on a spur of Lower Greensand silty sandstone and, at the southern end of the village, the looser sands of the Folkestone Group sandstone. These Lower Cretaceous strata sit over the Weald Clay, and form a tongue extending from the chalk Downs below Wolstonbury Hill, 7km to the east-southeast. The Lower Greensand spur narrows and continues 4km to the west, as far as Ashurst.

2.2.2 Drift Geology

The drift geology of the Henfield area shows that the scoured and embanked drainage channel that is the River Adur today is surrounded by reclaimed marshland. Alluvium (flanked by river terrace deposits) marks the location of the former marshy estuary of the Adur and, as with the Arun and Ouse rivers, this widened to a tidal compartment north of the Downs, in this case 2km across. Again like the areas on the Arun and Ouse, this remains known as The Brooks. Henfield lies immediately north-east of this brookland.

2.3 Communications

2.3.1 Water

The River Adur divides WNW of Henfield, with both branches remaining tidal till north of the village, as far as Bines Green and Shermanbury. We have seen (section 2.2.2) how the present channel differs from the natural state of the former estuary. Reclamation of the valuable alluvial soils of the river valley, the associated management of freshwater drainage in the Weald, and the prevention of tidal ingress (through creation of sea walls) increased silting so that the Adur had ceased to function as a significant communications route for Henfield by the 14th century.

Revival of the Adur as a navigable route was attempted, with canalization between Shoreham and Baybridge (West Grinstead), from 1807.8 The most significant modifications to the river that this made in the Henfield area were the

removal of meanders 1.5km south-east of the village, north of Stretham Manor.

2.3.2 Road

Henfield lies on a north-south road (A281 and A2037) from Shoreham to Horsham, and on a road to the south-east, leading to the Downs near Poynings, and then to Brighton.

2.3.3 Railway

The London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) was authorized to build a line from Shoreham to Horsham in 1858, and this opened in 1861. The single track was doubled in 1880, but never electrified. Stations included those at Bramber, Steyning and Henfield. The line was identified for closure in the Beeching Plan, and service stopped in 1966. Other than where built over by housing, the disused railway track is now a footpath and bridleway, promoted as the Downs Link.⁹

2.4 Evidence for pre-urban activity

2.4.1 Prehistoric

Within the EUS study area, the 2 minor archaeological evaluations that have taken place produced some evidence of prehistoric activity:

- Tanyard Field a single prehistoric flint blade fragment recovered from topsoil.
- Furners Lane Middle Bronze Age lugged ovoid jar that had been placed inverted in a cut in the ground, and probably represents a cremation. Other prehistoric finds comprise a scraper of possible Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, a waster flake of prehistoric date, and a pottery sherd possibly of Bronze Age date. 11

Elsewhere in the study area, prehistoric findspots have been few:

- King James's Lane Neolithic 'Laurel Leaf' implement was found in one of the gardens [SMR reference: 5287 – WS3977].
- Flower Farm Close Prehistoric barbed and tanged arrowhead found in one of the gardens [SMR reference: 5290 WS3980].
- 14 South View Early Iron Age gold stater found in the garden [SMR reference: 3759 WS550].

However, this is a poor reflection of the potential for prehistoric archaeology in Henfield, since the agricultural land immediately beyond the built-up EUS study area is marked by an unusually high density of prehistoric findspots and finds:

- River Adur (east of Eatons Farm) Palaeolithic (500000-10000 BC) Levalloisian flake axe found in soil dredged from the bed of the river [SMR reference: 3384 WS412]
- Swains Gill (S of Furners Lane) Palaeolithic (or possibly Neolithic) flint hand axe [SMR reference: 3747 WS544].
- Furner's Lane Palaeolithic axe of river drift type found N of lane [SMR reference: 3748 WS545].
- Catsfold Farm Palaeolithic axe and flake [SMR reference: 3382 – WS1158].
- Henfield Sandpit (Windmill Lane) Mesolithic (10000-4001 BC) pygmy flint implements were found [SMR reference: 3743 WS3343].
- Parsonage Farm Mesolithic flints found over many years below Parsonage Farm from TQ20601700 to TQ21341712 (include microliths, a Thames pick, a tranchet axe and a large number of borers, punches, saws and scrapers) [SMR reference: 3754 – WS840]. During more recent archaeological evaluation, 12 struck flints (Mesolithic and later) were recovered from topsoil contexts [SMR reference: 6698 – WS6716].
- Buckwish Farm Mesolithic worked flints collected casually, during and after ploughing over a number of years (include petit tranchet axes, 'Horsham' points, saws, punches, and a variety of arrowheads) [SMR reference: 3758 WS841].
- Henfield Common Mesolithic microliths scattered, and concentrated at the edge of the sandpit centred at TQ22151588 [SMR reference: 3744 WS543] and, especially abundant, inside the 'fort' [SMR reference: 4373 WS830]. Also from Henfield Common, a prehistoric discoidal flint knife [SMR reference: 3751 WS546].
- Chates Farm to Harwoods area (including Catsfold Farm) large number of prehistoric flint implements (arrowheads, bladelet cores, flakes, blades and microliths) found over fields centred at TQ191159 along the margin of watermeadows on the east bank of the River Adur, since 1942. The flints probably represent a series of hunting and other task-specific camps positioned on the edge of the Adur flood plain (i.e. at the forest margin) in the Mesolithic, Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age. [SMR references: 3381— WS1157; 4412 WS1159; 4413 WS1160; 4414 WS3429].

• Furners Farm – late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flints discovered during excavation of a sandpit. They included a chipped and polished flint axe head (late Neolithic), and a barbed and tanged arrowhead (Bronze Age), a flint core, flint flakes, microliths, waste flint flakes and fragments [SMR reference: 5289 – WS3979].

An enclosure on Henfield Common comprises a weak bank 8-10m in width, with a maximum height of 1.2m, extending from the lip of the Greensand escarpment at TQ22091592, southwards down a dip slope for 85m to TQ22101584. Its function and date are unclear, but it is perhaps most likely to be Iron Age (later) [SMR reference: 4372 – WS829].

2.4.2 Romano-British

The east-west 'Greensand Way' Roman road is the only reliably attributed Roman road in the area. It passes *c.*2.2km south of the centre of the Henfield, and connected Stane Street, the London-Hassocks road and the London-Lewes road. It crossed the Adur just south of Stretham Manor, a name that records (through its first element of Old English 'stræt', or street) the proximity of the Roman road [SMR reference: 1931 – WS3786].

Despite the lack of archaeological excavations in Henfield, finds and findspots indicate Romano-British activity within and immediately adjacent to the EUS study area:

- Barrow Hill Roman cemetery suggested by discovery of numerous urns [SMR reference: 3756 WS5550]. Also Roman jug found on Barrow Hill [SMR reference: 3746 WS3344].
- Henfield Sandpit Roman pottery found [SMR reference: 3745 WS878].
- Furners Lane 'relics of Roman occupation' have been identified, centred on TQ 2190 1600 [SMR reference: 5291 WS3981].

2.4.3 Early Anglo-Saxon

No excavations or finds have produced evidence of Early Anglo-Saxon activity in the EUS study area.

2.4.4 Implications of pre-urban archaeology

Although most of the pre-village finds have come from just beyond the EUS study area, this reflects both the lack of archaeological excavation within Henfield itself and the comparative ease with which finds can be identified in plough soil. Since Henfield sits on

the same spur of Lower Greensand silty sandstone and Folkestone Group sandstone on which most of the prehistoric finds have been located, it is likely that evidence for prehistoric activity will be discovered when and if archaeological excavations are undertaken in the village. The concentration of prehistoric and Romano-British finds also confirms that the area saw considerable activity before the Anglo-Saxon origins of Henfield and, thus, that there are grounds to suppose that both some of the routeways and the openness of the area (recorded in the later place-name: section 3.1.1) originated in the prehistoric period.

3 HISTORY

3.1 Origins: 8th-12th centuries

3.1.1 Place-name

The name *Henfield* is likely to relate to the area and to predate any nucleated settlement. The probable Old English form has been identified as *hēan felde* meaning 'high open land', and dates back to at least 770. ¹² An alternative meaning of 'open land characterized by rocks' has also been suggested, ¹³ and is supported in a recent study of topographic place-names. ¹⁴ Significantly, either meaning is restricted to the high sandstone ridge on which the village and church are located, and can hardly apply to any other part of the manor or later parish. A context for the openness of the site is provided by the sandstone geology, and the evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity thereon.

3.1.2 Anglo-Saxon church

St Peter's church is documented from 770, at which date, or before this, it was founded by the thegn Warbald and his wife Titburh. They were granted an estate by Osmund, king of Sussex, to endow the church. This estate later equated with the manors of Stretham (otherwise called Henfield) and Oreham, the rectory estate, and Henfield park (the medieval park on the north side of Henfield). In Domesday Book (1086) the church formed part of Stretham/Henfield manor. The church probably functioned as a minster (a mother church serving a *parochia* from which developed several later parishes). The likely date of the breaking up of the old minster *parochia* is the 11th century.

3.1.3 Origins of settlement

Other than the 8th-century record of the church, documentary evidence for the early development of the settlement is elusive. This should hardly be a cause for surprise since any claim to urban status must be recent, with Henfield's history largely being that of the less well documented organic growth of a Wealden village.

In the place-names of the early manors of Stretham and Oreham (both in the south of the later parish), the second element derives from Old English *hamm* ('land hemmed in by water or marsh; wet land hemmed in by higher ground; river-meadow; cultivated plot on the edge of woodland' ¹⁹), ²⁰ and not *ham* (settlement), as has been suggested. ²¹ This is consistent with the inference that can drawn from the very localized

place-name Henfield (see above) and the almost certain continuity between the present church of St Peter and that of the same dedication in 770. That is, the earliest nucleated settlement in the parish occurred on the site of the present village, and was not located elsewhere in the parish.



Fig. 3. St Peter's church, which has occupied the same site since c.770.

Contrary to recent suggestion, ²² however, Osmund's charter of 770 does not imply that the church built at or by this date necessarily formed part of a settlement from the outset. Indeed, the evidence for early and extensive dispersed settlement in the area²³ and the putative minster status of St Peter's, could suggest that origins for Henfield lie in an isolated church located on high ground, serving a large *parochia*. Other reasons, such as proximity to key routes and a market, might have influenced the location of the church, but these are not discernible from the documentary evidence.

3.2 The later medieval village

3.2.1 Economic history

Henfield was granted a market in 1234, but there is no evidence whatsoever of any activity as a result, or that this grant was indicative of urban

status. In this Henfield's market was similar to those granted at Wisborough Green (1227) and Newbridge (1247), and in stark contrast to the more successful expansion of markets elsewhere in the Weald during the 1250s (e.g. Cuckfield, 1255; and Wadhurst, 1253).²⁴

There are no references to medieval shops, trade guilds, or, indeed, any trades that suggest that Henfield was anything other than a modest village. 14th-century surnames record the trades of baker, carpenter and shoemaker, and smiths are mentioned in the 14th and 15th centuries.²⁵



Fig. 4. Haymaking on Henfield Common, 2004: view west towards rear of buildings on Golden Square.

In the absence of significant trade or industry, agriculture continued to dominate Henfield's economy. Although the Anglo-Saxon placename implies an open cultivated area contrasting with the surrounding area (presumably woodland on the Weald Clay), Henfield manor was more widely cultivated by 1086. Expansion of the cultivated area seems to have continued into the later medieval period, since the rod, or more probably reed (Middle English rede: Old English rīed), second element of Henfield place-name Shiprods (meaning 'sheep-clearing'; first recorded 1271) is common in Sussex, reflecting later medieval assarting.² Arable farming was predominant at this period, but cattle, sheep, pigs and other livestock were

important too. The two surviving commons on the edge of the village were common pastures attached to Stretham manor, with Henfield Common possibly that described as heath in 1391.²⁷

There are two mills mentioned in Domesday Book. That in Stretham, or Henfield, manor was lost to encroachment by William de Braose by 1086, and thus might be the same as the other in Wantley manor, as this was held of William de Braose by Ralph. A mill at Wantley manor would have been near the centre of Henfield village, but there are no later records or a surviving mill to determine the exact location. No other medieval mills in the parish are located within the village.

Henfield Park can be traced from a grant of free warren by William II (1087-1101) to the bishop of Chichester, and through references to park and pale in the 13th century and to deer in the 14th century. It included wood-pasture, pasture, and two fishponds, and was located immediately north of the village.²⁸

3.2.2 Church

Along with Henfield, or Stretham, manor, St Peter's church had been a possession of the bishopric of Selsey by 1066 (Chichester after 1075). The rectory was converted to a prebend (land, tithes or other sources of a stipend in collegiate and cathedral churches) in Chichester cathedral in or by 1219, and a vicarage ordained at that time.²⁹

3.2.3 Urban institutions

Moustows Manor is recorded from 1327, with the name likely to stem from the Old English *gemōt stōw*, meaning 'meeting-place for the moot'.³⁰ Since the reputed manor lies in the centre of Henfield, this suggests an early use of the village, as opposed to the manor house at Stretham, for at least some manorial court meetings. This was certainly the case by 1546.³¹ Contrary to recent suggestion,³² it is unlikely that Moustows Manor was used for the court of Henfield, later Tipnoak, Hundred.³³

A manor pound and pillory were recorded in the 14th century, ³⁴ and might then have been located as they still were in the mid 19th century, on the west side of the High Street almost exactly opposite Moustows Manor (see Map 3).

3.3 The village *c.*1500-1800

3.3.1 Economic history

Henfield in the 16th century was evidently a significant Wealden village, a position it maintained throughout this period. It continued to lack the functions, services and economy of the nearest towns of Steyning and Horsham.

Use of the River Adur seems to have developed, with significant wharves existing at Eatons bridge and Mock bridge from the late 17th century. Record of a timber merchant owning barges and boats in the early 18th century reflects the nature of the river traffic.³⁵ However, the impact on the village of the timber export trade and Henfield's position at the limit of navigable water is not clear.



Fig. 5. The White Hart, High Street.

Henfield still only had a minor role within the road network, reflected in the limited provision of 6 guest beds and 12 stablings at its two inns, recorded in a survey of 1686. This changed dramatically in the late 18th century when Henfield found itself on one of the main London to Brighton roads. The London road from Mockbridge (at the north of the parish) to

Henfield was turnpiked in 1771, and that from Henfield to Woodmancote (the modern Brighton road) in 1777. The two main coaching inns at this time were the George and the White Hart.³⁷

It is from the early 16th century that we get the first references to shopkeepers and a wider range of trades and industries. Clothworkers, coopers, mercers, millwrights, cartwrights, and ploughmakers are all recorded, albeit sporadically and usually singly. Significant brewing activity is indicated by 6 ale sellers in the mid 16th century and a maltster, north of the village, in 1598. Tanning seems to have been the largest industry, with 4 tanners in 1560 and several in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Lower Greensand and the Weald Clay were suited to brickmaking, and both geologies were available on Broadmare Common where a kiln is recorded in 1735, through to the 19th century. A brickhouse on Moustows manor (1560) suggests use of the Folkestone Group sandstone too. To the west of the village, a quarry was recorded from 1630, on the Lower Greensand.3

The population of Henfield parish tripled during this period, reflecting the growth of the village, rising from around 349 in 1524 to around 525 in 1676, falling slightly to around 450 in 1724, and thereafter rising rapidly to 1,037 in 1801.³⁹

3.3.2 Church and religion

The period began with the drama of Dissolution. Impact on the St Peter's church was very limited, however, and it remained a prebend of the secular cathedral of Chichester.

The Bishop family occupied the rectory estate and Henfield park and were notable Roman Catholics, but otherwise recusants were few in number. Protestant nonconformity was more widespread, and appears to have flourished in the renewed conformism of the Restoration (1660) and, especially, the Act of Uniformity (1662) with its Revised Book of Common Prayer. The nonconformism recorded in Henfield in the 1670s and 1680s is likely to have included Quakerism, for a meeting house is recorded in 1705 (but not thereafter). A Baptist chapel was licensed in 1690, and a small congregation is recorded in 1724.

3.4 Expansion: *c*.1800-2004

3.4.1 Economic history

While the urban status of Henfield remains questionable, the period from 1800 has seen dramatic and sustained growth in the village, to a

size that matches, and even exceeds, some of the historic market towns in Sussex.

The turnpike roads continued to make a significant impact on the economy of the village, with coaches stopping on regular services between Brighton and London, Oxford and Windsor. Carriers connected with Brighton and London, but the latter had ceased by 1855. ⁴¹ This predates the arrival of the railway and suggests that the 19th century was not a period of uninterrupted economic growth in Henfield. Indeed, the population growth rate of 1831-51 was lower than it had been in 1801-31, as was the case in many of the stagnating market towns of inland Sussex. ⁴² More specifically, the tannery closed in the 1840s, having long been one of Henfield's main industries. ⁴³

Nevertheless, the coming of the railway in 1861 reflected and supported Henfield's development in the 19th century. It is likely to have stimulated the growth of the Broadmare Common brickyard between 1845 and 1875. Sand quarrying expanded, with Henfield Sandpit, at Nep Town, being linked to the station by tramway in 1896. The same period saw an expansion in the goods and services in the village, including shops, and professional and financial services. However, it is a reflection of Henfield's character as a rural village that arguably its most characteristic industry from the mid-19th century onwards has been market gardening. This has supplied Brighton and London, and saw major growth after the First World War.44

The railway also resulted in rapid expansion of the western side of the village: most immediately with the Station Hotel and adjacent villas on Station Road, but more particularly the large villas in the Broomfield Road area and South View Terrace. In the early 20th century expansion continued to be focused on the western - or railway - side of the village. Although some of these, such as the 1920s council houses of Hollands Road, were intended to house those working locally, railway journey times of around 36 minutes to Brighton and around 30 minutes to Horsham meant commuting had arrived. Notwithstanding the continuance of minor industries and trades, this increasingly became the new economic basis for Henfield.

Expansion of the village accelerated again after the Second World War, with the immediate doubling of the Wantley Hill council estate (begun in 1936) and building of council housing north of Upper Station Road, all by 1950. Other estates followed north of Parsonage Farm, south of Golden Square, on the site of the station (closed 1966), and, most recently, off the

London Road at the northern fringe of the village. Meanwhile, the open nature of the village allowed smaller infill development, such as the northern part of Broomfield Road and the new closes leading off. Bungalows were a common feature of this development and reflect the fact that the village had become attractive as a location for retirement. By 1965 there was an above average number of elderly people in the village. 45 This dramatic expansion of the village and the absence of a larger town in the immediate vicinity - may have helped Henfield retain its range of shops, and has given the village a physical and socio-economic character similar to that of comparably sized inland settlements that have origins as market towns.



Fig. 6. Henfield Evangelical Free Church, High Street: rear part 1832, front part 1907.

3.4.2 Church and religion

Whilst the parish church of St Peter continued to be an active institution throughout this period, other denominations saw change. Roman Catholicism revived in the early 20th century, centred at Red Oaks, and now also using the church of Corpus Christi, built just to the north in 1974. Although earlier Quakerism is not recorded in this later period, Protestant nonconformity was strong and more akin to Wealden areas to the north and east. 46 The present Henfield Evangelical Free Church originates from a group of Independents registered in 1811, with their chapel in the High Street built in 1832. This was boosted in 1940, when the Nep Town Mission chapel (active from the 1890s) closed and joined what was then

called the Congregational Church. Baptists were active from 1870s, with their own chapel in Blackgate Lane opening in 1897.⁴⁷

The cemetery north of Church Street opened in 1885, and was extended in 1907. 48 Although this was a result of the limited size of the parish churchyard, it was and remains a secular cemetery.

3.4.3 Urban institutions

During the 19th and 20th centuries Henfield has seen the development of a range of social and public functions that did not exist previously. The detail of these is beyond the scope of this brief synthesis, but the salient institutions are included.

Henfield National School for was established in 1812, the boys moving into purpose built premises on the southern edge of Henfield Common in 1819. The girls were relocated to a new building off Church Lane in 1834. In 1844 an infants school was built next to the workhouse in Nep Town Road. The infants were rehoused in the present school in Fabians Way in 1957. In 1952 the girls' school closed and the girls rejoined the boys, in their school on the common. Thereafter secondary education passed out of village to Steyning Grammar School. In 1984 what had become the junior school joined the infants in Fabians Way, at what is now St Peter's C of E primary school.

Ste ens mars and help the Aged

Fig. 7. The former Assembly Rooms, High Street (1886).

This period has seen demand for public spaces for its diverse formal social activities. The Assembly Rooms at the junction of the High

Street and Park Road provided this from 1886 until replaced by the new village hall (and museum), behind the east side of the High Street, in 1974.⁵⁰ The parish church hall, or room, existed by 1914 and was directly replaced in the 1960s.

Sports facilities developed during this period. Although cricket was played on Henfield Common by 1764, the pavilion was not built until 1926. The common was also used for football and hockey, and, in the early 20th century, the village sports day, but for these sports has now been superseded by the playing fields and leisure centre between the school and cemetery. Public tennis courts have been created on the pre-1939 recreation ground immediately south of this. The present bowling green was built on the east side of Henfield, south of Backsettown, in 1975. Expression of the pre-1939 recreation ground immediately south of the east side of Henfield, south of Backsettown, in 1975.

Following the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, Henfield joined Steyning union in 1835. In the same year the new union workhouse opened in Ham Road, Shoreham, shortly thereafter rendering redundant Henfield's 18th-century workhouse.⁵³

4 ARCHAEOLOGY

4.1 770-1500: emerging village

4.1.1 Buildings



Fig. 8. St Peter's church from the north-east.

Nothing visibly remains of the Anglo-Saxon church, or any early post-Conquest successors. The oldest parts of the present church of St Peter are the chancel, chancel arch and nave, all early 13th century. The nave arcades were inserted later in the century and the aisles added. The south porch appears 14th century, but was rebuilt in the restoration of 1870-1. The 15th century saw significant enlargement, with the building of the north chancel (i.e. Parham) chapel, the westwards extension of the nave by c.1.8m, and the addition of the west tower. Local sandstone predominates, along with flint and Caen stone ashlar.

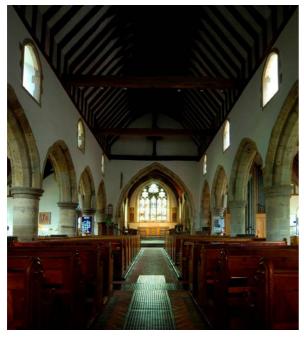


Fig. 9. St Peter's church: view of the nave from the west.

There are 5 surviving pre-c.1500 houses within the EUS study area, and 2 just outside the area (Backsettown, and Barrowhill Farmhouse). Apple Tree Cottage (Church Lane) is a single-aisled hall of probable 14th-century date.⁵⁴ Similar sanspurlin (i.e. without a longitudinal member) roofs are found at St Peter's Cottage/Church Cottage (Church Terrace), Ganders (Golden Square), and Pendrells (Nep Town Road),⁵⁵ and can perhaps be dated to the late 14th or very early 15th century. St Anthony's Cottage/Red Barn (London Road) and the George Inn (High Street) have crown-post roofs,⁵⁶ and probably date from the late 15th century. The George Inn had continuous-jetties on both the street and north elevations, suggesting that there was access to a rear range, to the plot or, even, to the field beyond (on the 1845 tithe map, called The George Field: Fig. 22). The form and location of the building is consistent with, but not evidence of, use as an inn or, indeed, shops.



Fig. 10. Apple Tree Cottage, Church Lane (14th century).

4.1.2 Excavations

The **Furners Lane** archaeological evaluation of 1999 provides the only evidence of medieval archaeological features within the EUS study area. A north-south ditch was interpreted as delimiting the rear of London Road/High Street 'tenement blocks' in the 13th and 14th centuries. Two pits to the west of the ditch were interpreted as domestic rubbish pits, with the area to the east of the ditch representing cultivated fields. ⁵⁷ Although the east side of the London Road is fronted by one of the earliest surviving buildings in Henfield (St Anthony's Cottage/Red Barn,

probably late 15th century), the ditch lies *c*.120m back from London Road/High Street and *c*.75m east of the rear of the plots as they survived in 1845 (tithe map: Fig. 22). Given that the shallowness of the plots is a distinguishing feature along the entire east side of London Road/High Street (section 4.1.3), it is more likely that this tantalizing but limited archaeological evidence of medieval Henfield relates to usage of Furners Lane, immediately adjacent to the site. Moreover, the excavator's identification of 'tenement blocks' at this date appears to assume a more urban Henfield than either the limited archaeological evidence from this site or the historical evidence for the village supports.



Fig. 11. Church Terrace: probable encroachment on the churchyard.

4.1.3 Topography

Two factors suggest that the scale of the present churchyard might be quite different from that in earlier, and especially Anglo-Saxon, periods. First, the extremely small and irregularly shaped churchyard indicates that there has been encroachment. Minor changes to the boundary certainly occurred on the east side as recently as 1845-75 (see Fig. 22 and Map 3). Second, the likely minster status of St Peter's (section 3.1.2) would imply a much more extensive precinct, as Blair has demonstrated elsewhere. ⁵⁸

The topography of the site is suggestive, with possible boundaries of an earlier and more extensive precinct on the north, east and south. To the east and south-east the boundary of Tanyard Field is marked by a stream (now rather residual) that curves as if centred on the church. To the north, the plots between the present churchyard and the ancient east-west route of Church Street almost certainly represent encroachment and, in the absence of evidence for an early (i.e. pre-church) market place, probably occupy part of the former extent of the churchyard. To the west, Church Lane is not a pre-existing or major through-route and need not define the west of any early churchyard or precinct. Perhaps significantly, the vicarage house (recorded from 1481 and certainly in this location by 1636⁵⁹) is located west of this lane, and it is possible – though necessarily a more tentative hypothesis – that the precinct extended far enough to the west to encompass later Henfield Place, positioning the church centrally within its precinct. The dimensions of this putative precinct are 190m north-south, and 260m east-west, and entirely consistent with (though hardly proof of) the interpretation of Henfield as a minster.

The chronology of the early streets, and throughroutes, of Henfield must be proposed equally tentatively. The north-south route of London Road and High Street is documented from 1296,60 but is likely to be much older. The probability that the route represents a common survival of an Anglo-Saxon drove route linking parent downland settlements to their areas of pannage in Wealden outliers is given support by the fact that Upper Beeding had such an outlier (now the parish of Lower Beeding) until the 19th century. There are no convincing alternatives to the Henfield road for an Upper Beeding-Lower Beeding route, and the deeply sunken form of the road at Barrow Hill Farm (where it approaches the southern edge of Henfield) is typical of the physical form of such surviving pre-Conquest drove routes. Further corroboration of the north-south road's function as an Anglo-Saxon (if not earlier) transhumant route is found in the fact that 6.5km north of Henfield it passes through Cowfold, another location for Anglo-Saxon seasonal pasture. The boundary of both Broadmare and Henfield commons on, and abutting, this route is also indicative of its antiquity.

An east-west route, from Hurstpierpoint to Ashurst, runs for its entire length east-west along the Lower Greensand spur on which Henfield sits. This route follows Furner's Lane, then Church Street/Upper Station Road/West End Lane, crossing the Adur near Eatons Farm. Documented as early as 1469, 61 its greater antiquity is suggested by the fact that it passes close to St Peter's church. If it did exist by the time of the foundation of the church in 770, then the north-south route of High Street/London Road is likely to be older: the east-west route, with its dog-leg between Furners Lane and Church Street, appears secondary.



Fig. 12. High Street, looking south from Coopers Way.

Hollands Lane is another early east-west route leading to Bineham bridge, recorded from 1548.⁶² The bridge is located near the sudden narrowing of the Adur floodplain north of the great brookland area that extends southwards to the Downs. The pre-16th century origins of the route and crossing are suggested by its link to Wyckham, in Steyning parish. The east end of this road joins the modern village in the former hamlet of Nep Town, and connects to the north-south route.

The distribution of pre-1500 buildings confirms the existence of these routes in the medieval period. We have seen how the church lies close to the Church Street/Furners Lane east-west route, and to this can be added nearby Apple Tree Cottage, St Peter's Cottage and Church Cottage. Elsewhere, Barrowhill Farmhouse, Ganders, the George Inn and St Anthony's Cottage/Redbarn are set directly on the north-south route of High Street/London Road. The relationship of Backsettown House to Furners Lane, 120m to the north, is unclear. Pendrells is directly on Nep Town Road.

The surviving pre-1500 houses give some insight into the extent and form of the medieval village. Several buildings need to be discounted as they lay outside the village during this period:

Backsettown is recorded from 1296 and probably represents a distinct messuage:63 Barrowhill Farmhouse remains just south of Henfield; and Pendrells represents a survival from the separate hamlet of Nep Town. Of the surviving pre-1500 houses within the village proper, there are 3 along the High Street/London Road, and 2 next to the church. Those on High Street/London Road are directly on the east side of the street, widely spaced, and on plots that, as recorded in later mapping and surviving today. have very little depth. Although none of the 8 surviving 16th-century houses are located on this street and we have no evidence for anything approaching a continuous street frontage until the 17th century, it must be suspected the late medieval street was reasonably built-up on its east side. An indication that many of the later houses simply replaced earlier buildings is seen in Moustows Manor, although this might prove atypical. Here the building dates from the 18th century, but the property is recorded from 1327 and likely to be a much earlier meeting-place for the moot (section 3.2.3). The 2 medieval houses by the church (Apple Tree Cottage and St Peter's Cottage/Church Cottage) either represent survival of an early nucleation of settlement around the church or (if the church occupies a much reduced churchyard or minster precinct, as is suggested here) represent medieval encroachment on an essentially partredundant ecclesiastical zone.



Fig. 13. Ganders, Golden Square. Late 14th or early 15th-century timber frame, with 17th-century extension towards the street

4.2 The village *c*.1500-1800

4.2.1 Buildings

Henfield has 41 surviving buildings that date from between 1500 and 1800: 5 from the 16th century, 25 from the 17th century (though it must

be suspected that, on closer analysis, some of these will prove to date from the late 16th century), and 11 from the 18th century.



Fig. 14. Potwell, Cagefoot Lane. 17th-century timber-framing.

All except one of the 16th and 17th-century buildings are timber framed. Several of the 16thcentury houses (Rapley/Tudor Cottage, Nep Town Road; The Cat House, Church Terrace; and Faircox Cottages, Faircox Lane) have evidence of smoke bays, reflecting the transition from medieval open halls to fully floored houses. 64 Few, if any, of these buildings can have had anything approaching an urban function, and many represent a scatter of farmhouses and cottages only later engulfed by the town-like modern village. Even the buildings built in this period along the High Street cannot be assumed to have had a non-agricultural commercial function. The 17th-century White Hart was an inn by 1764, ⁶⁵ and Forges (also 17th century) may have functioned as such from the

The architectural changes to the church at this time reflected general trends, with creation of galleries.⁶⁷ Neglect of the fabric was also evident and a legacy for the 19th century, during which evidence of the minimal impact of the 16th to 18th centuries was swept away.

To the 11 surviving 18th-century houses in Henfield can be added 13 instances where

completely new facades of brick were added to earlier timber-framed buildings.



Fig. 15. Greenfield House, High Street: 17th-century timber framing with 18th-century brick façade.

In other words, around 50% of the pre-1800 buildings that survive either date from or were re-fronted in the 18th century. While some of the 18th-century remodelling of earlier buildings was both large-scale and well executed (e.g. at Parsonage House, Church Street), such statistics mask the lack of grander 18th-century houses in Henfield. Martyn Lodge, Church Street (early 18th century, rendered in the late 19th century) and the 18th-century rebuilding of Moustows Manor, High Street, are the best examples. This simply reflects the comparatively modest expansion of population and wealth in Henfield in the 18th century; the fact that it was still very much a village and not a market town; and that it was only right at the end of the century that it achieved greater prosperity when it found itself on a major coaching route. At the other end of the social spectrum, the workhouse of 1736 survives on the edge of Rothery Field (Nep Town), converted to cottages.



Fig. 16. The former workhouse, Nep Town Road (1736).

4.2.2 Topography

There was little modification to the street plan of Henfield between 1500 and 1800, although there was expansion of the built-up area. The evidence of the standing buildings is that growth occurred in the 3 main areas of existing nucleation – around the church, along the High Street/London Road, and in Nep Town. That in the High Street formed stretches of continuously built-up street frontage, though these might have existed in the late medieval period (section 4.1.3). Certainly both the medieval and postmedieval houses along the east side of the High Street/London Road occupy the similar short plots. The houses at on the east side of Golden Square date from this period and are likely to represent new encroachment onto the west end of Henfield Common.

New minor streets appear to be indicated by the buildings of this period, but this does not bear up to scrutiny. For example, Faircox Cottages (16th century) and Batts House (17th century) were served by Faircox Lane, but both names are recorded as early as the 14th century, ⁶⁸ suggesting that the surviving buildings had predecessors. Likewise while 17th-century Potwell is the only surviving early house on Blackgate Lane and Cagefoot Lane, an earlier building is suggested by record of Robert Potwell, tenant of Stretham Manor in 1373. ⁶⁹

The creation of the turnpike roads along High Street/London Road (1771) and Brighton Road (1777) did not result in modification of the roads in, or immediately adjacent to, the village.

4.3 Expansion: *c*.1800-2004



Fig.17. Nep Town Mission chapel, Nep Town Road (1890s); now a joiners' workshop.

4.3.1 Buildings and topography

The majority of the buildings in Henfield date from this period, not so much through loss of

earlier buildings, but through expansion of the village to its town-like scale today. This growth accelerated after the railway arrived (1861) and, again, after 1945.



Fig. 18. Henfield Tavern, High Street. Edwardian vernacular revival

There are 21 buildings dating from the early 19th century. Some of these represent replacement or infill along the east side of the High Street and London Road. In the case of Rus House and Magnolia House (High Street) these are substantial houses. South of the church, Red Oaks was a still grander villa built in the 1830s with extensive grounds. A similarly style villa was built at Barrow Hill before 1810 and demolished in 1947.⁷⁰

The religious revivalism of the 19th century has left considerable physical evidence. The parish church itself saw creation of a new south aisle in the early 1830s. This was replaced during much more substantial rebuilding of 1870-1 in which both aisles and the porch were rebuilt; the transepts and southern chancel chapel were added; and the chancel extended. Much of the external appearance and most of the internal fittings are of this date.⁷¹ The vicarage was rebuilt *c*.1806 then substantially enlarged and modified *c*.1850.⁷² Protestant nonconformism

has left a brick-built Independent chapel, now Henfield Evangelical Free Church, of 1832. This had been extended towards the High Street by 1905. Remarkably, less substantial corrugated iron structures survive too, at the Baptist Chapel in Blackgate Lane (moved from Blackstone and re-erected in Henfield in 1897⁷³) and the Nep Town Mission chapel in Nep Town Road (1890s): the former is redundant and the latter has been a joinery workshop for *c.*30 years.



Fig. 19. Eastern Terrace, Furners Mead. Early 19^{th} -century terrace housing.

Running northwards along the High Street from the post office, the early 19th-century brick-built houses show too much variation to be considered Henfield's first terraced housing, though they do constitute the first large-scale building up of the west side of the street. Coherent terracing occurs in the early 19th-century at Eastern Terrace (off Furners Lane) and 1-4 Church Terrace, and is followed by mid 19th-century Alma Cottages (Brighton Road). The cottage style of these terraces contrasts with the immediate post-railway architecture, such as that of Southview Terrace (Nep Town), and Croft Villas (Church Street).

Large-scale villas mark the beginning of the development of the Broomfield Road area on newly set-out streets from *c*.1870 (e.g. Broomfield Villa), though later 19th-century

development here favoured still substantial semidetached housing (e.g. 38-52 Broomfield Road). Similarly scaled villas were built more centrally from c.1870 in Cagefoot Lane (also known by the new and more genteel name of Park Walk).



Fig. 20. Southview Terrace, Nep Town. Bay windows and stucco of railway age housing (c.1880).

This piecemeal and spacious building of villas continued into the mid-20th century, concentrating on the area between the village and the station, especially on Upper and Lower Station Road. The same period, however, saw the arrival of more widespread and uniform housing developments, with the regularity of the semi-detached council houses of Hollands Road (1920s) and Wantley Hill estate (first phase of construction in the 1930s, typically isolated from the rest of the village). Building continued at and south of Wantley Hill estate immediately after 1945, introducing bungalows. Larger private housing estates followed infilling the remaining open spaces in the village and extending it northwards and eastwards, with semi-detached houses, detached houses, chalet-bungalows, bungalows and small blocks of flats. Some open spaces, such as the pasture that has been Tanyard Field since the tanyard closed in the 1840s, have remained, although even these are being encroached by new development. A distinctive and extensive network of twittens is the main surviving topographical impact of the fields in and around the pre-1800 village.



Fig. 21. The former tanyard drying shed, Tanyard Field

The lack of a densely built-up core to the village (in contrast to many of the market towns in Sussex) has meant that this post-war infill is visible throughout most of Henfield. Thus it is often infill, rather than destruction of historic buildings, that accounts for late 20th-century development on the west side of the High Street (e.g. the large bus shelter and car park; the garage and workshops opposite the Forge; and some of the west side of Golden Square). Equally, the historically short plots of the buildings on the east side of the High Street explain the proximity of the village hall, telephone exchange, car park and Furners Mead housing development.



Fig. 22. Henfield tithe map (West Sussex Record Office), 1845 (detail).

5 STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER

5.1 Village summary

5.1.1 Historic environment overview

Despite the considerable expansion of Henfield in the later 19th and, particularly the 20th century, the village has retained much of its historic fabric: the 19th and 20th centuries have tended to add to rather than destroy the earlier village. Particular concentrations of historic houses and plots are found around the medieval church, along the east side of High Street/London Road and in the once separate hamlet of Nep Town. Less visible is the archaeological evidence of the earlier village, whose origins lie in the 8th-century foundation of its church. The potential of this archaeology has yet to be realized due to the almost complete absence of archaeological excavation.

5.1.2 Historic environment designations (Map 4)

There are 65 listed buildings in the EUS study area (no Grade I, four Grade II*, and 61 Grade II). Of these, seven predate 1500; five are 16th century; 24 are 17th century; 11 are 18th century; and 18 are early 19th century.⁷⁴

There are an additional seven historic buildings recognized in this assessment that have not been. These include Croft Cottage, off Nep Town Road, which has an exposed 17th-century timber frame; two corrugated iron chapels of the 19th century; and the early 19th-century drying shed surviving from the tanyard that closed in the 1840s.

Henfield has a Conservation Area. There are no Scheduled Monuments in the village.

5.1.3 Historic building materials

With the exception of the church (largely of local sandstone, with flint and Caen stone) and three houses, the pre-1700 buildings of the village are timber framed. Thereafter, brick is the dominant building material with flint used more sparingly than in settlements nearer the Downs. Timber framing after 1700 is restricted to the Barn House (a former barn at Barrow Hill). Clay tiles are used for roofs, tile hanging (16 examples) and mathematical tiles (two examples). Horsham

Stone is a flaggy sandstone used for roofing (13 examples, all of these on pre-1800 buildings).

5.2 Historic Character Types

5.2.1 Historic Character Types and chronology (Maps 5-11)

Historic Character Types (HCTs) for Sussex EUS
Lane/road [includes all historic routes]
Major road scheme [modern ring roads, motorways etc.]
Bridge/causeway
Regular burgage plots
Irregular historic plots [i.e. pre-1800]
Proto-urban
Vacant [reverted from built-up to fields etc.]
Market place
Church/churchyard [i.e. parish]
Cemetery
Religious house [abbey, priory, convent etc.]
Great house
Castle
Town defences
Other fortification
Barracks
School/college
Public
Farmstead/barn
Mill
Suburb [estates and individual houses]
Retail and commercial [i.e. post-1800]
Extractive industry [e.g. sand pit, brickfield]
Heavy industry [e.g. steel or automotive industry]
Light industry [e.g. industrial estates]
Utility
Quay/wharf [inc. boatyards]
Harbour/marina/dock
Station, sidings and track
Inland water
Orchard
Market garden [inc. nursery]
Allotments
Race course
Sports field [inc. stadia, courts, centres etc.]
Park
Informal parkland [e.g. small civic areas, large grounds]
Seafront [piers, promenades etc.]
Beach/cliffs

Table 1. Sussex EUS Historic Character Types.

Historic Character Types have been developed in the Sussex EUS to describe areas of common character by reference to generic types found across all 41 towns. Historic function is often the key determinant of character type, hence the term 'Historic Character Types' and the timedepth implicit in many of the types in Table 1 (e.g. *regular burgage plots*). The types also reflect the character of these towns, and, thus, they are different from those that would be applied nationally or to another county.

The Historic Character Types have been mapped to areas within the towns (polygons in the Geographical Information System that underpins the Sussex EUS). Whilst character type can prove consistent throughout a large area (for example, across a late 20th-century housing estate), different historic use of part of that area has been used as a basis for subdivision. This is to allow the application of the types in Table 1 to the mapped polygons throughout the 15 periods of the EUS chronology (Table 2). This means that for any area within the town, or mapped polygon on the Geographical Information System, both the present Historic Character Type and the past land use(s) are defined.

This approach gives time-depth to the mapbased character component of the Sussex EUS, and is structured to take account of both upstanding and buried physical evidence of the past. It enables the generation of maps (e.g. Maps 5-11) showing the changing land use of the urban area throughout the history of each town, and, through use of the Geographical Information System developed as part of this assessment, for simple interrogation of any area in the town to show all its known past land uses.

Period	Date
Period 1	500,000BC-AD42
Period 2	43-409
Period 3	410-949
Period 4	950-1065
Period 5	1066-1149
Period 6	1150-1349
Period 7	1350-1499
Period 8	1500-1599
Period 9	1600-1699
Period 10	1700-1799
Period 11	1800-1840
Period 12	1841-1880
Period 13	1881-1913
Period 14	1914-1945
Period 15	1946-present

Table 2. Sussex EUS chronology.

5.2.2 Historic Character Types in Henfield (Maps 10 and 11)

Although Historic Character Types represent county-wide types, modern Henfield is characterized by its particular concentration of some types and the comparative rarity, or absence, of others. For example, the identification of large areas of *irregular historic plots* reflects the antiquity of Henfield and the comparatively good preservation of medieval buildings and plot boundaries, while the absence of *regular burgage plots* reflects its non-urban past.

5.3 Historic Urban Character Areas (Maps 12-14)

5.3.1 Defining Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

Whereas Historic Character Types have been applied to areas of the Sussex towns with consistent visible character and historical development – and are mapped across the whole history for each town – **Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)** represent meaningful areas of the modern town. Although similar areas are found in many towns, HUCAs are unique, can include components of different history and antiquity, and usually represent amalgamation of several Historic Character Types.

Thus, HUCA 1 in Henfield combines four Historic Character Types that represent the *church/churchyard* dating from Period 3 (i.e. 410-949), *irregular historic plots* dating from Period 7 (1350-1499) and later, *public* from Period 13 (1881-1913) and *suburb* from Period 15 (1946-present). Combining this complexity into a single HUCA called *Church* reflects the largely coherent character of the area around the St Peter's church today. This coherence renders HUCAs suitable spatial units for describing the historic environment of the EUS towns, for assessing their **archaeological potential**, **Historic Environment Value** and for linking to **research questions**.

Some components of the towns are not included as HUCAs: roads (other than those that were built as part of a particular development) and waterways are kept separate as they frequently antedate surviving buildings or the known urban activity.

5.3.2 Archaeological potential

Whilst the nature and extent of areas to which Historic Character Types have been applied is closely related to the survival of buried archaeology, this assessment considers the archaeological potential at the larger scale of the HUCAs. The reasons are twofold: first, the typically smaller scale of areas of common Historic Character Type could misleadingly imply that high, or even low, archaeological potential is precisely confined, or that archaeological value is exactly coterminous with the edge of specific features (standing or buried); and, second, most Sussex towns have had insufficient archaeological investigation to support this precision. For this reason, too, there is no grading or ranking of archaeological potential. Rather, the summary of archaeological potential is used to inform the overall (graded) assessment of Historic Environment Value of each HUCA (see below).

When considering the archaeological potential of the towns, it is important to recognize that archaeology often survives 19th and 20th-century development and that it is misleading to assume complete destruction. Also, whilst pre-urban archaeology (such as the prehistoric and Romano-British features and finds located in Henfield) tells us little about the towns themselves, it contributes to wider archaeological research.

In assessing the likelihood of buried archaeology within areas in the towns there has been consideration of the potential for archaeology 'buried', or hidden, within later buildings and structures, as well as that for below-ground features.

5.3.3 Historic Environment Value (Map 14)

The Historic Environment Value (HEV) of each HUCA is assessed here, and expressed as a value from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Such values are iniquitous to some and always subjective, but here provide a necessary means of consistently and intelligently differentiating (for the purposes of conservation) the upstanding fabric, boundaries and archaeology that form the historic urban environment. The Historic Environment Value (HEV) of each HUCA is based on assessment of:

- Townscape rarity
- · Time-depth or antiquity
- · Completeness.

Lesser additional considerations in the assessment comprise:

- Visibility
- · Historic association.

The full methodology for assessing Historic Environment Value forms part of the annexe to the historic environment management guidance for Horsham District.

5.3.4 Vulnerability

The vulnerability of each HUCA is also considered, although many future threats cannot be anticipated. These brief analyses mean that this Statement of Historic Urban Character can be used to focus conservation guidance.

5.3.5 Research questions

Where relevant, reference is made to questions in the **Research Framework** for Henfield (below, section 6). This referencing links these key questions to specific HUCAs, helping ensure that any investigation of the historic environment (such as that as a condition of development, under PPG15 or PPG16) is properly focused.

5.3.6 Henfield's Historic Urban Character Areas (Maps 12-14)

The following assessments of the Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) of Henfield commence with those that make up the historic core. Inevitably, these assessments are more extensive than those that relate to recent expansion of the village.

HUCA 1 Church (HEV 5)

HUCA 1 comprises the church, churchyard, and the loose grouping of older houses around these features, together with some 20th-century infill development. This area represented a discrete cluster, or nucleation, of houses by the late medieval period. With the exception of Parsonage House on the north side of Church Street, this HUCA is also coterminous with the tentatively postulated Anglo-Saxon minster precinct. There are 13 listed buildings (12 Grade II; one Grade II*), of which one is Period 6 (1150-1349), two are Period 7 (1350-1499), two are Period 8 (16th century), five are Period 9 (17th century), and three are Period 11 (1800-40).

St Peter's church (Grade II*) has a chancel, chancel arch and nave from the early 13th century; nave arcades from the late 13th century; the 15th-century north chancel (i.e. Parham) chapel; aisles and porch rebuilt in 1870-1; and

transepts and southern chancel chapel added in 1870-1. Much of the external appearance and most of the internal fittings date from these 19th-century works.

Eight of the houses in the HUCA are of timber-framed construction. Apple Tree Cottage is the earliest of these, dating from the late 14th century and originally built with a single aisle to the rear. In the case of the two larger houses (Henfield Place and Parsonage House) the timber-framed core has seen considerable extension and remodelling, the latter with a fine 18th-century refacing in brick. Three buildings have Horsham stone roofs and one (The Cat House: 16th century) has thatch.

Irregular pre-1800 plots are well preserved, though much subdivided.

Significant residential redevelopment along the south and north-west of this HUCA in the 20th century will have had considerable impact on buried archaeology, but the more open surviving areas around the church, vicarage, Parsonage House and Henfield Place, and the survival of historic buildings (especially the church) mean that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA remains high.

The survival of plots and, especially, the medieval and post-medieval buildings; the visibility of the historic fabric; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA the very highest **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 5.

HUCA 1 has seen considerable change in the 20th century (through residential redevelopment), and continues to be threatened by infill. Given the considerable Historic Environment Value of the area this means that **vulnerability** is high.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the church (RQ2, RQ11), putative minster precinct (RQ3, RQ9), the development of housing around the church (RQ4, RQ10), and medieval and post-medieval buildings (RQ15, RQ18).

HUCA 2 High Street - east (HEV 4)

HUCA 2 comprises the second (the other is HUCA 1) cluster of buildings of the late medieval and early post-medieval village. Today this length of the High Street is continuously built up. There are 18 listed buildings (17 Grade II and one Grade II*), of which two are Period 7 (1350-1499), five are Period 9 (17th century), four are Period 10 (18th century) and seven are Period 11 (1800-40). Seven of the buildings are timber framed, with one (Greenfield House, 17th

century: Fig. 8) a very visible example of how many such houses were refaced in brick (in this case in the 18th century). Rus House (Grade II*) is a fine example of an early 19th-century villa, combining the classically-derived raising of the principal floor over a rusticated semi-basement with Venetian shutters, iron balconies and canopies. There are also two unlisted early 19th-century locally important historic buildings, that include the Henfield Evangelical Free church of 1832.

A reasonable number of plot boundaries are preserved, especially the distinctively shallow rear plot line that is an unusual feature of the historic plots along this side of the High Street.

Although redevelopment of individual buildings (most notably at the supermarket, Budgens) and the creation of the new road (Cooper's Way) has been destructive, the otherwise reasonable survival of medieval and post-medieval plots (and the buildings thereon) and the potential for medieval and later archaeology means that archaeological potential of nearly all this HUCA is moderate.

The survival of many historic plots and, especially, the late medieval and post-medieval buildings; the reasonable completeness of historic street-front (in the context of a functional high street); the visibility of much of the historic fabric (externally and internally in easily accessible commercial premises); and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a high **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 4.

The combination of commercial pressures on the High Street and significant Historic Environment Value mean that **vulnerability** is high. Internal and shop-front refitting of business premises; minor structural additions; and occasional rebuilding of non-listed buildings are all constant and continuing threats to buildings and archaeology. Additionally, the less protected boundaries and the minor locally-important historic buildings are vulnerable to neglect and conversion.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the development of plots in this area (RQ7), and medieval and post-medieval buildings (RQ15, RQ18).

HUCA 3 High Street – west (HEV 2)

HUCA 3 consists of the west side of the High Street as far south as Golden Square, and extending northwards to the buildings on the junction of Church Street and London Road. Today these street frontages are built up, although the High Street remained largely undeveloped as recently as the late 19th and early 20th centuries, in sharp contrast to the east side of the street.

There are seven listed buildings (all Grade II), of which two are Period 9 (17th century), two are Period 10 (18th century), and three are Period 11 (1800-40). These include the impressive 18thcentury brick townhouse Martyn Lodge on Church Street (refaced in the 19th century), and the run of early 19th-century houses extending northwards from the Post Office on the High Street. Southdown House (17th century) is unusual as the only timber-framed building in the HUCA and the only pre-1800 surviving on the west side of the High Street. Late 19th-century and early 20th-century buildings of interest include the vernacular revival of Henfield Tavern. the former Assembly Rooms, and the shops on the corner of London Road and Church Street.

The few pre-1800 plots are well preserved.

The fact that much of this HUCA was not built up pre-1800, and the density of recent development suggest limited **archaeological potential**.

The survival of the post-medieval buildings, together with limited presence of historic plots, and the archaeological potential give this diverse HUCA a moderate **Historic Environment Value** (**HEV**) of 2.

HUCA 3 has seen considerable change in the 19th and 20th centuries as the fields to the west of the High Street have become built up. Although there is scope for further infill (e.g. on the garage premises), the limited archaeological potential and the modest number of listed buildings mean that **vulnerability** is low. Perhaps the greatest threat is that of commercial pressure (and attendant internal and external refitting of business premises) to the listed buildings and the unlisted buildings of late 19th and early 20th-century date.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 4 Golden Square (HEV 4)

HUCA 4 is at the southern end of the High Street and the medieval and post-medieval village. The buildings on the eastern side of Golden Square represent historic encroachment onto Henfield Common, which abuts the HUCA. Today the HUCA comprises a concentration of historic houses on the east and south sides of what is a very loose interpretation of a 'square'. There is a high density of listed buildings. All seven of these are Grade II, and one is Period 7 (1350-1499), one is Period 8 (16th century), one is

Period 9 (17th century) and four are Period 10 (18th century). Three of these are timber framed, the earliest being Ganders (late-14th or early-15th century, with 17th-century extension towards the road). Forges has an 18th-century brick façade with its 17th-century timber framing easily visible from the twitten leading to the common. Other brick buildings include 18th-century Prospect Cottage.

Pre-1800 plots are well preserved.

There has limited redevelopment in this area with the post-war building of the new fire station and, more recently, the conversion of a builder's yard to housing. Otherwise the density of historic houses and plot boundaries suggest that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is moderate.

The survival of the medieval and post-medieval buildings, together with preservation of irregular historic plots; the absence of significant building since 1840; the visibility of much of the historic fabric; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a high **Historic Environment Value** (**HEV**) of 4.

Golden Square has seen limited change in the 20th century. Its considerable Historic Environment Value, however, suggests that **vulnerability** is relatively high, with the greatest threats coming from more infilling and conversion (especially if the fire station is ever redeveloped), and to its key characteristic of being on the boundary of the medieval and post-medieval village and open countryside, as represented by Henfield Common. This is the only part of medieval and early post-medieval Henfield that has not gained 19th and 20th-century suburbs, and maintaining this rare historic urban/countryside interface must be a priority.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the development of plots in this area (RQ7), and medieval and post-medieval buildings (RQ15, RQ18).

HUCA 5 Nep Town (HEV 3)

HUCA 3 lies on the southern edge of the modern village. It comprises the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Nep Town, only joined to Henfield village by the expansion of the latter in 19th and 20th centuries. Its long history as a fringe location is reflected in its scatter of historic farmhouses, sand pits (no longer working), nonconformist chapels (closed) and the former workhouse. There are eight listed buildings (all Grade II), of which one is Period 7 (1350-1499), one is Period 8 (16th century), five are Period 9

(17th century) and one is Period 10 (18th century). Seven of these are timber framed, with Pendrells (Nep Town Road) the only medieval example. The brick former workhouse (1736) survives converted into houses (Nep Town Road), and is adjacent to the unlisted former infants school (1844). There are four other unlisted locally important buildings that include two corrugated iron chapels of the 1890s (Nep Town Mission chapel, Nep Town Road; and the Baptist chapel on Blackgate Lane), and a 17th-century timber-framed house (Croft Cottage, off Nep Town Road).

Pre-1800 boundaries are reasonably well preserved.

The scattered survival of historic buildings is countered by the considerable amount and density of 19th and 20th-century development (e.g. terrace housing), and the lack of earlier occupation of much of the HUCA, suggesting that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is moderate.

The survival of the admittedly limited historic plots and, especially, the medieval and post-medieval buildings; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a moderate to high **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 3.

HUCA 5 has seen considerable change in the 19th and 20th centuries as it has become increasingly built up. Although there might be further infill (e.g. on the business premises in Nep Town Road and, even, on the Rothery Field recreation ground), the moderate archaeological potential and the scattered listed buildings mean that **vulnerability** is only medium to high.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 6 Tanyard Field (HEV 2)

HUCA 6 lies between the medieval settlement nuclei of Henfield: the church area and the east side of the High Street. It was used as a tanyard (possibly as early as the 16th century) until the 1840s, when it reverted to pasture. Today the field appears to have gone out of regular grazing or other use, although the former tanyard pond is maintained as a fish pond with adjacent seating. There are no listed buildings, but the early 19th-century brick and weatherboarded drying shed survives from the tanyard.

The boundaries of the HUCA are mostly pre-1800, although late 20th-century housing has encroached into the northern part of the field. Archaeological evaluation (resistivity survey and trial trenching) suggest that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is limited.

The partial and rare survival of the historic open space, and remnants of the tanyard (pond and shed); and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a moderate **Historic Environment Value** (**HEV**) of 2.

Although it lacks historic buildings or archaeological potential, *Tanyard Field* has seen substantial shrinkage during recent years as a result of the Chestnut Way/Chestnut End residential development and thus its **vulnerability** is high. The threat is greatest to its key characteristic of being a rare survival of the open spaces that were a feature of the non-urban plan form of the medieval and post-medieval village (Henfield Common is the nearest parallel, but is on the edge of the village): maintaining the remaining extent and pasture management of this rare rural feature must be a priority.

The **research question** especially relevant to this HUCA relates to post-medieval zones (RQ16).

HUCA 7 Red Oaks (HEV 2)

HUCA 7 lies to the south of the medieval and post-medieval cluster of houses around the church. It consists of a villa built in the 1830s, the extensive grounds of which have seen the development of a Roman Catholic centre, with attendant late 20th-century brick church and accommodation blocks. Red Oaks villa itself is listed (Grade II), but there are no other listed buildings. Only the boundaries of the site (mostly) represent survival of pre-1800 boundaries – in this case, of fields.

The density of some of the 20th-century development (i.e. the accommodation blocks) and the previous non-urban nature of the area mean that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is limited.

The combination of one 1830s villa, the quality of the considerable 20th-century development, and limited archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

HUCA 7 has seen considerable change in the 19th and 20th centuries as the agricultural fields have given way to a large villa and grounds, which has then seen further development. Although further infill or modification to the villa is possible, the low archaeological potential and the moderate Historic Environment Value of the area mean that **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 8 Cagefoot Lane (HEV 2)

HUCA 8 is on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval village, but fairly central to modern Henfield. Today the HUCA consists of substantial houses along Cagefoot Lane. There are three listed buildings (two Grade II and one Grade II*), of which one is Period 9 (17th century), and two are Period 11 (1800-40). These include the impressive 17th-century Potwell (Grade II*) which combines timber framing, Horsham stone roof, and an 18thcentury brick extension. The other two listed buildings are of brick, as are the later 19th and early 20th-century detached and semi-detached villas that make up most of this HUCA. There is moderate survival only of the limited pre-1800 boundaries.

The survival of only one pre-1800 building, the density of some of the 19th and 20th-century development, and the previous non-urban nature of the area mean that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is limited.

The survival of the admittedly limited historic plots and, especially, the small number of post-medieval buildings; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a moderate **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 9 New school and playing fields (HEV 1)

HUCA 9 lies north-west of the cluster of medieval and post-medieval houses around the church. Today the area is occupied by Henfield C of E school (built 1957) and the more recent playing fields and sports centre. There are no listed buildings but parts of the outer boundaries preserve pre-1800 (field) boundaries.

The location of this HUCA outside the pre-1900 village, and the absence of any known non-urban archaeology, suggest limited archaeological potential.

The quality of the 20th-century development, the absence of historic buildings or many historic boundaries, and the limited archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the HUCA means that its **vulnerability** is low, with the greatest threat being loss of the open spaces of the playing fields.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 10 London Road estates (HEV 1)

HUCA 10 lies north of the *c*.1920 village, and is built across agricultural land that includes, to the the west of London Road, part of the site of medieval Henfield park. Today it comprises immediate pre-war and post-war council housing (Wantley Hill estate) on the east side of London Road; later housing infilling the gap between this and the village and expanding it northwards too; and similar late 20th-century housing estates on the west of London Road. The latter includes a medical centre. There are no listed buildings, but some of the few pre-*c*.1800 field boundaries and a minor stream survive.

The location of this HUCA outside the pre-1900 village, the absence of any known non-urban archaeology, and the density of development suggest limited **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the 20th-century development, the absence of historic buildings or many historic boundaries, and limited archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the area means that its **vulnerability** is low, with the greatest threat being that to the green open spaces, especially that adjacent to the medical centre.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 11 Furners Lane/Mead (HEV 2)

HUCA 11 lies just beyond the eastern side of the medieval and post-medieval village. Today the HUCA combines housing, a former farmhouse, and recent civic and utility developments. There are two listed buildings: Wantley Manor (Grade II*, 17th-century timber framing, with Horsham stone roof, and 18th-century brick extension and mathematical tiles) and 1-8 Eastern Terrace (Grade II, early 19th-century terrace housing, roofed and hung with slate). There is varied post-war housing on Furners Lane, with more uniform estates at Benson Road and, on a larger scale, Furners Mead. Between the latter and the rear of the High Street plots (HUCA 2) are the modern telephone exchange, car park, and village hall/museum (opened 1974). Few pre-1800 boundaries survive.

Excavations within the HUCA revealed medieval pits and boundaries, and a Middle Bronze Age cremation, but this preceded development which

is of such a density that **archaeological potential** is now moderate.

The combination of two historic buildings, few boundaries, and limited archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

The density of infill development within this area, and its Historic Environment Value mean that its **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 12 Station (HEV 1)

HUCA 12 lies west of the c.1800 and earlier village, built on fields. It consists of suburban development focused on this side of Henfield in response to the railway station (1861). Today the station has gone (1966) and is replaced by housing (aptly named 'Beechings'). The railway track survives as a footpath and bridleway. The railway hotel, a few late 19th-century houses built immediately to the east of the hotel, and the former station steam flour mill also survive. Most of the housing is early 20th century, including 1920s council-housing at Hollands Road. Late 20th-century infill has been achieved through the creation of new roads at Chanctonbury View and Lower Faircox. The area of the former gasworks is used for light industry. There is one listed building in 17th-century Faircox Cottages (Grade II), a timber-framed former farmhouse engulfed by this expansion of Henfield. The few pre-1800 (field) boundaries are mostly preserved.

The location of this HUCA outside the prerailway village, the absence of any known nonurban archaeology, and the density of development suggest limited **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the predominantly 20th-century development, the single listed building, the absence of many historic boundaries, and the limited archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the area and the lack of opportunity for significant further infill mean that its **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 13 Broomfields (HEV 1)

HUCA 13 lies west and south-west of the cluster of medieval and post-medieval houses around the church, and outside the *c*.1800 village. Today the HUCA comprises housing mostly of

20th-century date. Spacious villas mark the beginning of the development of the Broomfield Road area on newly set-out streets from c.1870 (e.g. Broomfield Villa), though later 19th-century development here favoured still substantial semidetached housing (e.g. 38-52 Broomfield Road). Most of the development, however, had to wait until the late 20th century, at which point the northern part of Broomfield Road and the numerous branching cul-de-sacs were set out for a mixture of bungalows and houses. There is one listed building of the 17th century, Batts (Grade II), a timber-framed former farmhouse engulfed by this expansion and infill. The few pre-1800 (field) boundaries are mostly preserved.

The location of this HUCA outside the prec.1800 village, the absence of any known nonurban archaeology, and the density of development suggest limited **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the late 19th and 20th-century development, the single listed building, the absence of many historic boundaries, and the limited archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the area and the lack of opportunity for significant further infill mean that its **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 14 Fabians Way (HEV 1)

HUCA 17 lies north and west of the cluster of medieval and post-medieval houses around the church, and outside the *c*.1945 village. Today it comprises immediate post-war council housing and later housing, flats and a residential care home. There are no listed buildings. Some of the few pre-*c*.1800 field boundaries survive, although not of the barn/farmstead of Staples Barn now overlain by the estate.

The location of this HUCA outside the prec.1945 village, the absence of any known nonurban archaeology, and the density of development suggest limited **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the late 20th-century development, the absence of historic buildings or many historic boundaries, and limited archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the area means that its **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 15 Craggits and Hewitts (HEV 1)

HUCA 15 lies between the church-centred and High Street-centred nuclei of the medieval and post-medieval village. It comprises late 20th-century housing development behind the 19th and 20th-century building that dominates the west side of the High Street. The northernmost of the two discrete zones of infill is accessed of Cragitts Lane and comprises the modest infill to the east and the larger development of Chestnut Way and Chestnut End. To the south of Cagefoot Lane, Hewitts is accessed from Nep Town Road and is a slightly more extensive development of bungalows. There are no listed buildings, but some of the few pre-c.1800 boundaries are preserved.

The location of this HUCA outside the built-up parts of the pre-c.1945 village, the absence of any known non-urban archaeology, and the density of development suggest limited **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the late 20th-century development, the absence of historic buildings or many historic boundaries, and limited archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value** (**HEV**) of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the area means that its **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 16 Henfield Common (HEV 2)

HUCA 16 is on the edge of the medieval, post-medieval, and modern village. It comprises houses built along the northern edge of Henfield Common where it meets the village at its western end. There are four listed buildings (all Grade II), of which three are Period 9 (17th century), and one is Period 11 (1800-40). These include brick-built 17th-century Lavender Cottage, which has a thatched roof. Two of the buildings are timber framed (Stipenhoke and Moustows Cottage, both 17th century). Finches and Friar's Cottage are unlisted but early 19th-century brick and flint. The pre-*c*.1800 boundaries are well preserved.

The survival of several historic buildings, the late 19th and 20th-century infill, and the previous non-urban nature of the area mean that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is moderate.

The survival of the historic plots and, especially, the small number of post-medieval buildings; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a moderate **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

The Historic Environment Value of the area and the lack of opportunity for significant further infill mean that its **vulnerability** is low, although change to, or loss of, adjacent Henfield Common would have considerable impact on the edge of village/common character of this HUCA.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 17 Barrow Hill (HEV 1)

HUCA 17 lies south-west of the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Nep Town, and to the south of the *c*.1945 village of Henfield. Today it comprises late 20th-century housing (Cedar Way and Mill Drive, accessed from Brighton Road) and Springhills residential care home. Cedar Way and Mill Drive occupy the site of Barrow Hill House (built before 1810, demolished 1947), and early 19th-century Springhills was similarly replaced in the late 20th-century. There is one listed building: Swiss Cottage (Grade II), a brick and thatch early 19th-century house on Barrow Hill itself. Some of the few pre-*c*.1800 field boundaries survive.

Although this HUCA lies on the site of the grounds of demolished early 19th-century villas built outside the pre-c.1945 village, more significant archaeological interest is suggested by the possible Roman cemetery at Springhills. However, the substantial redevelopment of parts of this site suggests moderate **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the late 20th-century development, the single historic building, the lack of many historic boundaries, and moderate archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the area means that its **vulnerability** is low, with the greatest threat being further building at Springhills and its potential impact on any surviving remains of the possible Roman cemetery.

The **research questions** especially relevant to this area relates to the likely evidence of Roman activity (RQ1).

HUCA 18 Cemetery (HEV 1)

HUCA 18 mostly lies north of the cluster of medieval and post-medieval houses around the

church, and outside the *c*.1800 village. It occupies land that was fields and, in the extreme south-east of the HUCA, part of the (now much reduced) grounds of Parsonage House (17th century, but with medieval origins). Today the HUCA comprises the secular cemetery (opened in 1885, extended northwards in 1907) and, to the south, large mostly late 20th-century detached houses, and flats at Sobell Court. There are no listed buildings, but some of the few pre-*c*.1800 field boundaries, and the track through to Parsonage Farm, survive.

The location of this HUCA mostly outside the pre-1800 village, the absence of any known non-urban archaeology, the density of development, and use as a cemetery suggest limited archaeological potential.

The quality of the 20th-century development, the absence of historic buildings or many historic boundaries, and the limited archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the HUCA means that its **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Henfield-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

5.3.7 Summary table of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Henfield

Table 3 summarizes the assessments made in the individual Historic Urban Character Area descriptions (above). It provides a simplified comparison of the assessments across different parts of the village, and helps to draw out key points. As such it supports the preparation of guidance for the village (see section 1.3).

The table shows how Historic Character Types combine into more recognizable Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs). It summarizes the archaeological potential that, along with historic buildings and boundaries, contribute to the assessment of the Historic Environment Value of each HUCA. The assessment of vulnerability of each HUCA is important for developing guidance.

Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Henfield				
Historic Character Types (HCTs)	Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA)	Archaeological potential	Historic Environment Value (HEV)	Vulnerability
Church/churchyard	1. Church	High	5	High
Irregular historic plots				
Public				
Suburb				
Irregular historic plots	2. High Street – east	Moderate	4	High
Irregular historic plots	3. High Street – west	Limited	2	Low
Suburb				
Irregular historic plots	4. Golden Square	Moderate	4	Relatively
Public				high
Irregular historic plots	5. Nep Town	Moderate	3	Medium to
Farmstead/barn				high
Light industry				
Public				
Sports field				
Suburb				
Vacant	6. Tanyard Field	Limited	2	High
Inland water				
Suburb	7. Red Oaks	Limited	2	Low
Irregular historic plots	8. Cagefoot Lane	Limited	2	Low
Suburb				

Summary of a	ssessment of Historic Urban Cha	acter Areas (HUCAs	s) for Henfield	
Historic Character Types (HCTs)	Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA)	Archaeological potential	Historic Environment Value (HEV)	Vulnerability
School/college	9. New school and playing	Limited	1	Low
Sports field	fields			
Suburb	10. London Road estates	Limited	1	Low
Informal parkland				
Inland water				
Irregular historic plots	11. Furners Lane/Mead	Moderate	2	Low
Farmstead/barn				
Public				
Suburb				
Utility				
Irregular historic plots	12. Station	Limited	1	Low
Station, sidings and track				
Light industry				
Suburb				
Irregular historic plots	13. Broomfields	Limited	1	Low
Informal parkland				
Inland water				
Suburb				
Suburb	14. Fabians Way	Limited	1	Low
Suburb	15. Craggits and Hewitts	Limited	1	Low
Irregular historic plots	16. Henfield Common	Moderate	2	Low
Suburb				
Irregular historic plots	17. Barrow Hill	Moderate	1	Low
Suburb				
Cemetery	18. Cemetery	Limited	1	Low
Suburb				

Table 3. Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Henfield.

6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

6.1 Pre-village activity

Development pressure and opportunities for developer funding mean that archaeological excavations in the village, or prior to expansion of the village, are more likely to occur than in the surrounding area. Thus, archaeological excavations in Henfield should address:

RQ1: What was the nature of the palaeoenvironment (ancient environment), and the prehistoric, Roman, and Early Anglo-Saxon human activity in the area?

6.2 Origins

The focus of historical analysis has been on the period after the 13th century, with insufficient attention on the earlier origins of the settlement. Key questions for future archaeological and historical research include:

RQ2: What was the precise location and form of the Anglo-Saxon church(es)?

RQ3: Was there an identifiable minster precinct, what was its nature, did it include domestic buildings (e.g. of a minster church), and when and how was it reduced to the present churchyard?

RQ4: What evidence is there for Anglo-Saxon secular settlement?

RQ5: What was the road layout, how did this evolve, and how did it relate to east-west routes, river crossings, the commons, and a transhumant Downland-Wealden economy?

6.3 Later medieval village

Questions that need addressing include:

RQ6: What was the extent of the village in the 11th to 16th centuries, and to what extent did it change over this period?

RQ7: When and how did built-up street frontage of the east side of the High Street occur?

RQ8: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity), were there during this period, and how did they change?

RQ9: To what degree did any minster precinct remain distinct from the rest of the village?

RQ10: When and how did the nucleation of houses around the church develop, and did this occur through encroachment?

RQ11: What was the form of the church during, and as a result of, its 13th-century rebuilding?

RQ12: What evidence is there for the evolution of the street plan during this period?

RQ13: What documentary and, especially, archaeological evidence is there for the economy of the village?

RQ14: What was the relationship between Henfield and its hinterland, and with nearby towns?

RQ15: What evidence can the standing buildings provide for their function and date (i.e. through dendrochronology)?

6.4 Post-medieval village

RQ16: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider the tanning industries), were there during this period, and how did they change?

RQ17: How were the medieval and early post-medieval buildings adapted for new functions and changing status (e.g. subdivision of hall houses)?

7 Notes

¹ The 41 towns of the Sussex EUS are: Alfriston, Arundel, Battle, Bexhill, Bognor Regis, Bramber, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Crawley, Crowborough, Cuckfield, Ditchling, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hailsham, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Heathfield, Henfield, Horsham, Hove, Lewes, Lindfield, Littlehampton, Mayfield, Midhurst, Newhaven, Peacehaven, Petworth, Pevensey, Pulborough, Robertsbridge, Rotherfield, Rye, Seaford, Shoreham, Steyning, Storrington, Uckfield, Wadhurst and Worthing. Chichester and Winchelsea are omitted as they are the subjects of more intensive studies.

² The Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme is led by West Sussex County Council in conjunction with the borough and district councils, AONB agencies and stakeholders. The main aims of the partnership are to produce a range of interlocking characterization studies; to produce planning and land management guidance; and to raise public and community awareness of character as a vital and attractive ingredient of the environment of the county. The full range of characterization studies comprise:

Landscape Character Assessments and Landscape Strategy for West Sussex (2005).

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Sussex (2003-8)

Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) (2004-8).

Intensive Urban Survey of Chichester/Fishbourne (2005-6) (Chichester District Council).

Local Distinctiveness Study of West Sussex (2004-6).

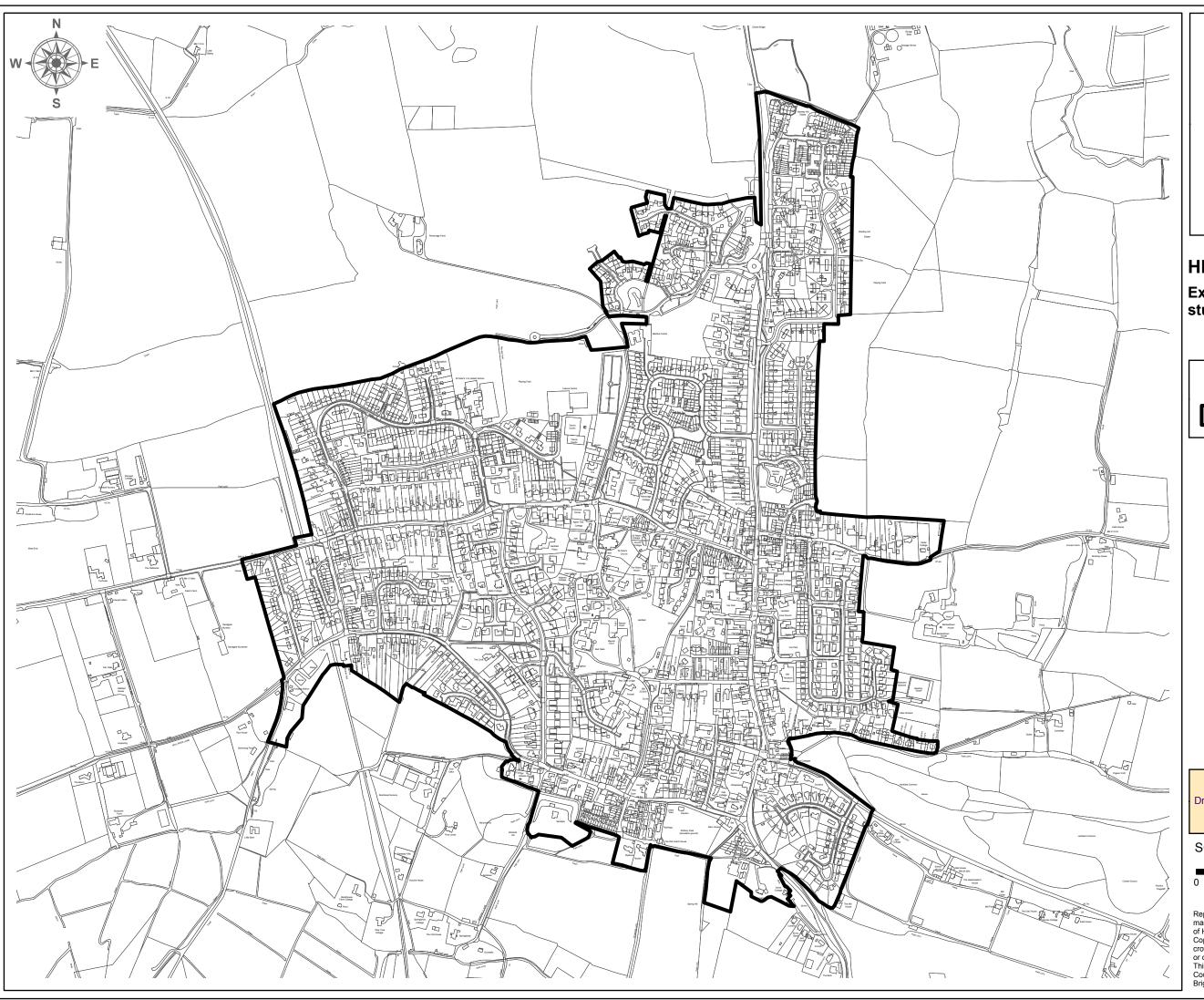
- ³ Hudson, T. P. (ed.), 'Henfield' in *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 132-58.
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- ⁶ Johnson, C., A Report and Post excavation assessment on the Archaeological Evaluation (Stages 1 and 2) at Furners Lane, Henfield, West Sussex (unpubl. Archaeology South-East report, No. 1999, project no. 1117).
- ⁷ Hughes, A. F., *Henfield, West Sussex: Some history and an inventory of most of its historic buildings* (Wealden Buildings Study Group report, 2004).
- 8 SMR 1928 WS5531; Victoria County History 6 (1), 234.
- ⁹ Mitchell,V. & Smith, K., Branch Lines to Horsham (1982).
- ¹⁰ Grieg, I. M., An Archaeological Assessment at Tanyard Field, Henfield, West Sussex (unpubl. Field Archaeology Unit, Institute of Archaeology report, March 1992), 3.
- ¹¹ Johnson, C., A Report and Post excavation assessment on the Archaeological Evaluation (Stages 1 and 2) at Furners Lane, Henfield, West Sussex (unpubl. Archaeology South-East report, No. 1999, project no. 1117), 13-20.
- ¹² Mawer, A, & Stenton, F.M., *The Place-names of Sussex* (1929-30; reprinted 2001), 215-16.
- ¹³ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 147.

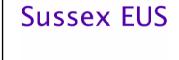
- ¹⁴ Gelling, M. & Cole, A., The Landscape of Place-names (2000), 277.
- ¹⁵ Barker, E., 'Sussex Anglo-Saxon Charters', SAC 86 (1947), 83-5.
- ¹⁶ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 140-1 and 155.
- ¹⁷ Rushton, N. S., 'Parochialization and patterns of patronage in 11th-century Sussex', *SAC* 137, 133-52. Hudson is more doubtful: Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 155.
- ¹⁸ Rushton, N. S., 'Parochialization and patterns of patronage in 11th-century Sussex', *SAC* 137 (1999), 133-52.
- ¹⁹ Gelling, M. & Cole, A., *The Landscape of Place-names* (2000), 46-55; see also, Coates, R., 'Place-Names before 1066', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 32.
- ²⁰ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 138.
- ²¹ E.g. Carreck, M. & Barwick, A., *Henfield: A Sussex Village* (2002), 4.
- ²² Hughes, A. F., *Henfield, West Sussex: Some history and an inventory of most of its historic buildings* (Wealden Buildings Study Group publication, 2004), 16.
- ²³ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 138
- ²⁴ Bleach, J., & Gardiner, M., 'Medeival Markets and Ports', , in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 42-3.
- ²⁵ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 151.
- ²⁶ Mawer, A, & Stenton, F.M., *The Place-names of Sussex* (1929-30; reprinted 2001), 218-19, and 378.
- ²⁷ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 145-9.
- ²⁸ Ibid., 134.
- ²⁹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 140-1 and 155.
- ³⁰ Mawer, A, & Stenton, F.M., *The Place-names of Sussex* (1929-30; reprinted 2001), 218.
- ³¹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987),
- ³² Carreck, M. & Barwick, A., *Henfield: A Sussex Village* (2002) 6
- ³³ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 121.
- ³⁴ Ibid., 154.
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- ³⁶ Ibid., 139; Pennington, J., 'Inns and Alehouses in 1686', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 68-9.
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- ³⁸ Ibid., 139, 149 and 151-2; Beswick, M., *Brickmaking in Sussex* (revised 2001), 199.
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SAC 45 (1902), 142-8. The calculations for total populations are the author's and are necessarily indicative, with the following multipliers used: 131% for surveys of adults (1676), 450% for families (1724), and 490% for taxpayers (1524 Subsidy).

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- ⁴¹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 135.
- ⁴² Berry, S., 'Urban Development 1750-1914', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) An Historical Atlas of Sussex (1999), 92-3
- ⁴³ Carreck, M. and Barwick A., *Henfield: a Sussex village* (2002), 34.
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- ⁴⁶ E.g. see: Vickers, J., 'Religious Worship in 1851', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 76-7.
- ⁴⁷ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 157; Carreck, M. and Barwick A., Henfield: a Sussex village (2002), 59-60.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., 154.
- ⁴⁹ Ibid. 157-8; Carreck, M. and Barwick A., *Henfield: a Sussex village* (2002), 64.
- ⁵⁰ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 140.
- ⁵¹ Ibid., 139.
- ⁵² Ibid., 140.
- ⁵³ Sleight, J. M., A Very Exceptional Instance: Three Centuries of Education in Steyning, Sussex (1981), 59.
- ⁵⁴ Wood, M., *The English Mediaeval House* (1965), 42 and ⁴⁸
- ⁵⁵ Hughes, A. F., *Henfield, West Sussex: Some history and an inventory of most of its historic buildings* (Wealden Buildings Study Group publication, 2004), 23, 24 and 26.
- ⁵⁶ Ibid., 29-30.
- ⁵⁷ Johnson, C., A Report and Post excavation assessment on the Archaeological Evaluation (Stages 1 and 2) at Furners Lane, Henfield, West Sussex (unpubl. Archaeology South-East report, No. 1999, project no. 1117).
- ⁵⁸ Blair, J., 'Anglo-Saxon Minsters: a Topographical Review', in Blair, J. & Sharpe, R., *Pastoral care before the Parish* (1992), 226-66.
- ⁵⁹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 155.
- ⁶⁰ Ibid., 134-5.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., 134.
- ⁶² Ibid., 134.
- ⁶³ Ibid., 135-6; Hughes, A. F., Henfield, West Sussex: Some history and an inventory of most of its historic buildings (Wealden Buildings Study Group publication, 2004), 29.
- ⁶⁴ Ibid.
- ⁶⁵ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) Victoria County History 6:3 (1987), 139

- ⁶⁶ Hughes, A. F., *Henfield, West Sussex: Some history and an inventory of most of its historic buildings* (Wealden Buildings Study Group publication, 2004), 48.
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- ⁶⁸ Hughes, A. F., *Henfield, West Sussex: Some history and an inventory of most of its historic buildings* (Wealden Buildings Study Group publication, 2004), 40 and 47.
- ⁶⁹ Ibid 49
- ⁷⁰ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 137
- ⁷¹ Ibid., 156; Oliver, B., *St Peter's Church Henfield* (church guidebook, 1987), 4.
- ⁷² Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:3 (1987), 155
- ⁷³ Carreck, M. and Barwick A., *Henfield: a Sussex village* (2002), 59-60.
- ⁷⁴ Listed building data is drawn from the statutory lists produced by English Heritage, but has been amended – especially in regard to the dating – during the Sussex EUS. The GIS data prepared during the Sussex EUS contains the full references to the sources for revised dates: in many cases these come from fieldwork undertaken by the author.





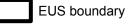






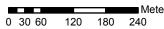
HENFIELD MAP 1 Extent of Henfield EUS study area

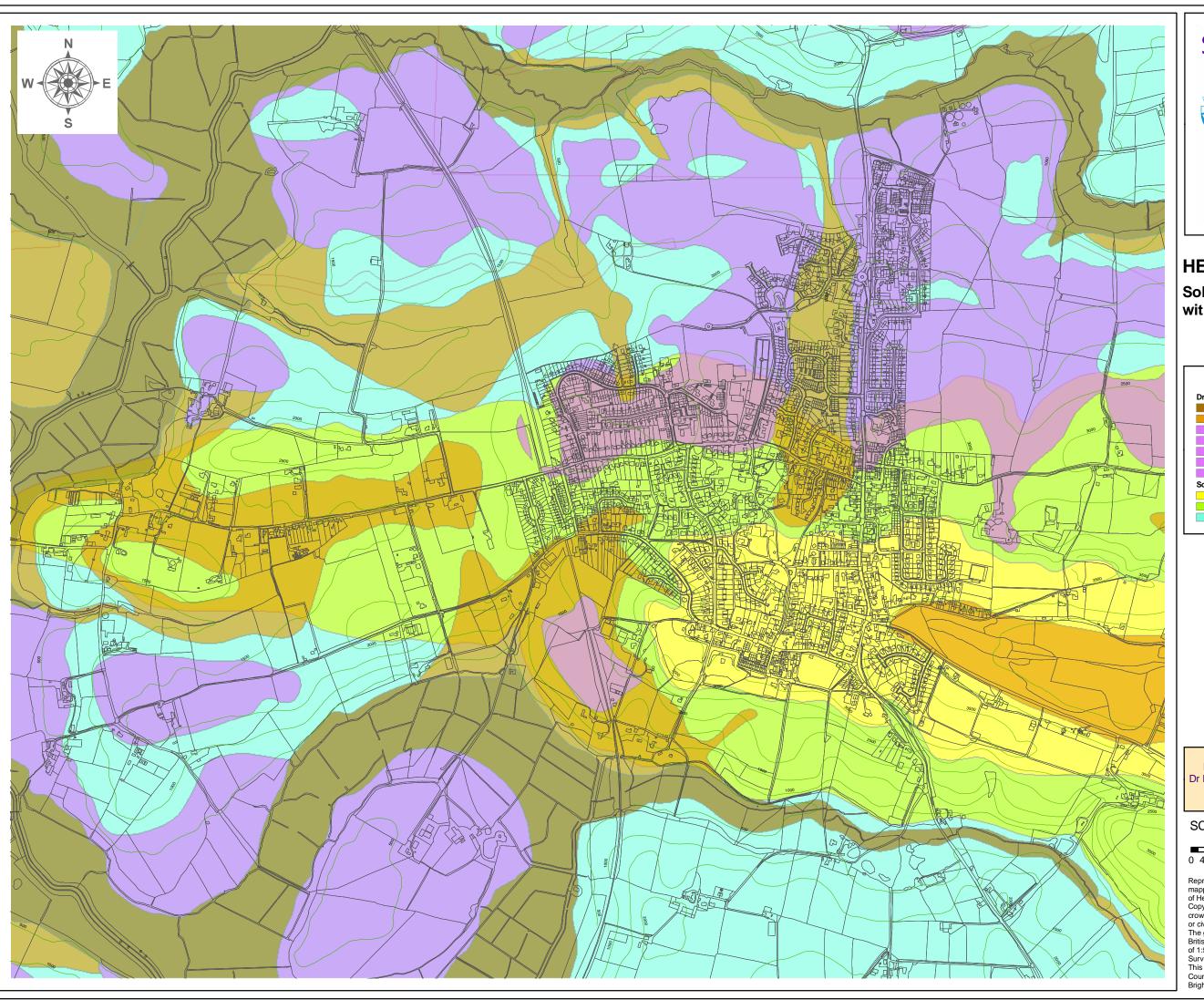




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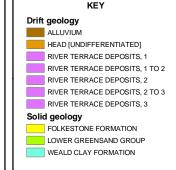






HENFIELD MAP 2

Solid and drift geology, with 5m contours



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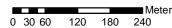


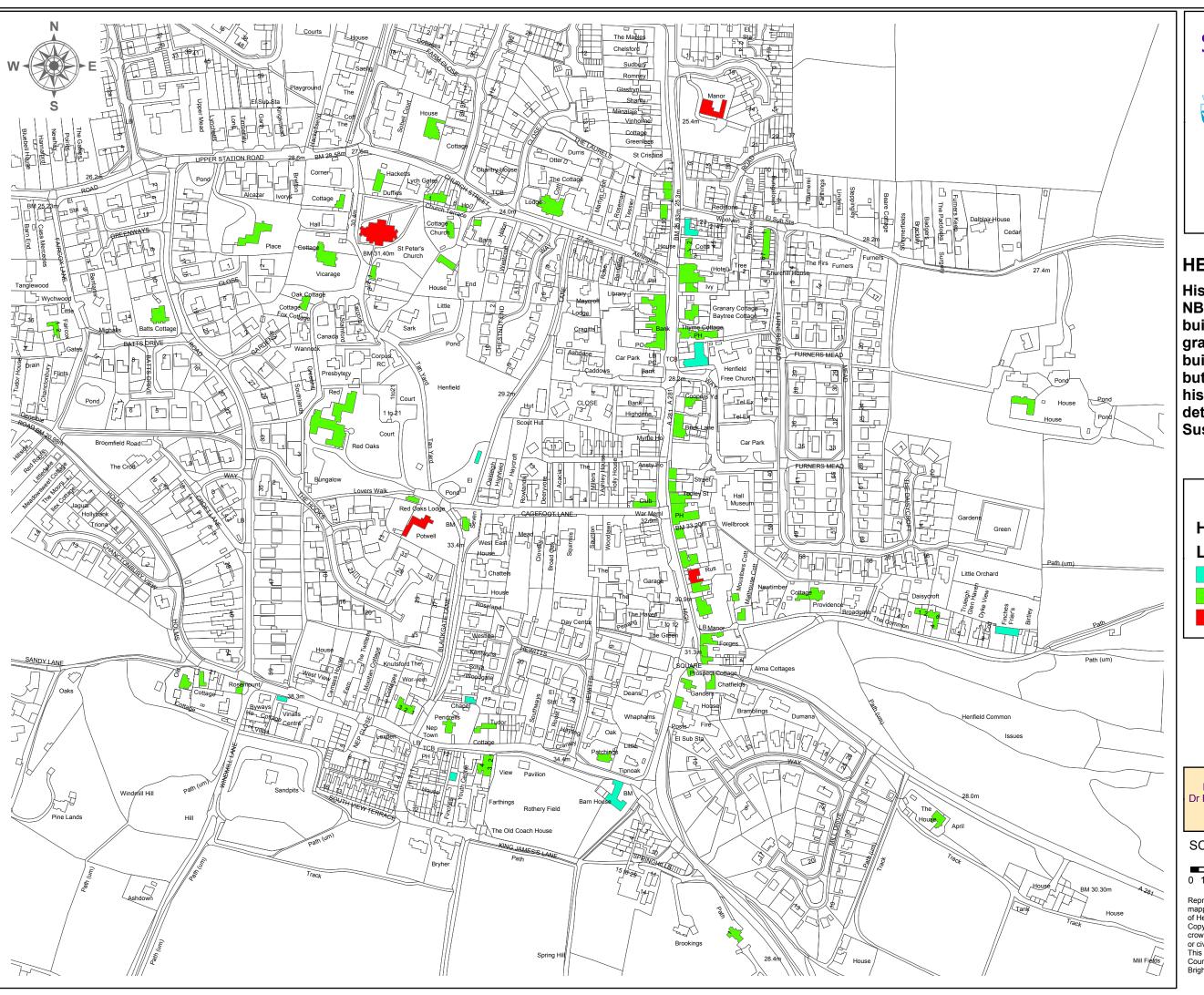


HENFIELD MAP 3
Ordnance Survey 1st
Series 25" (1875)

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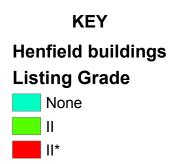






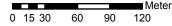
HENFIELD MAP 4

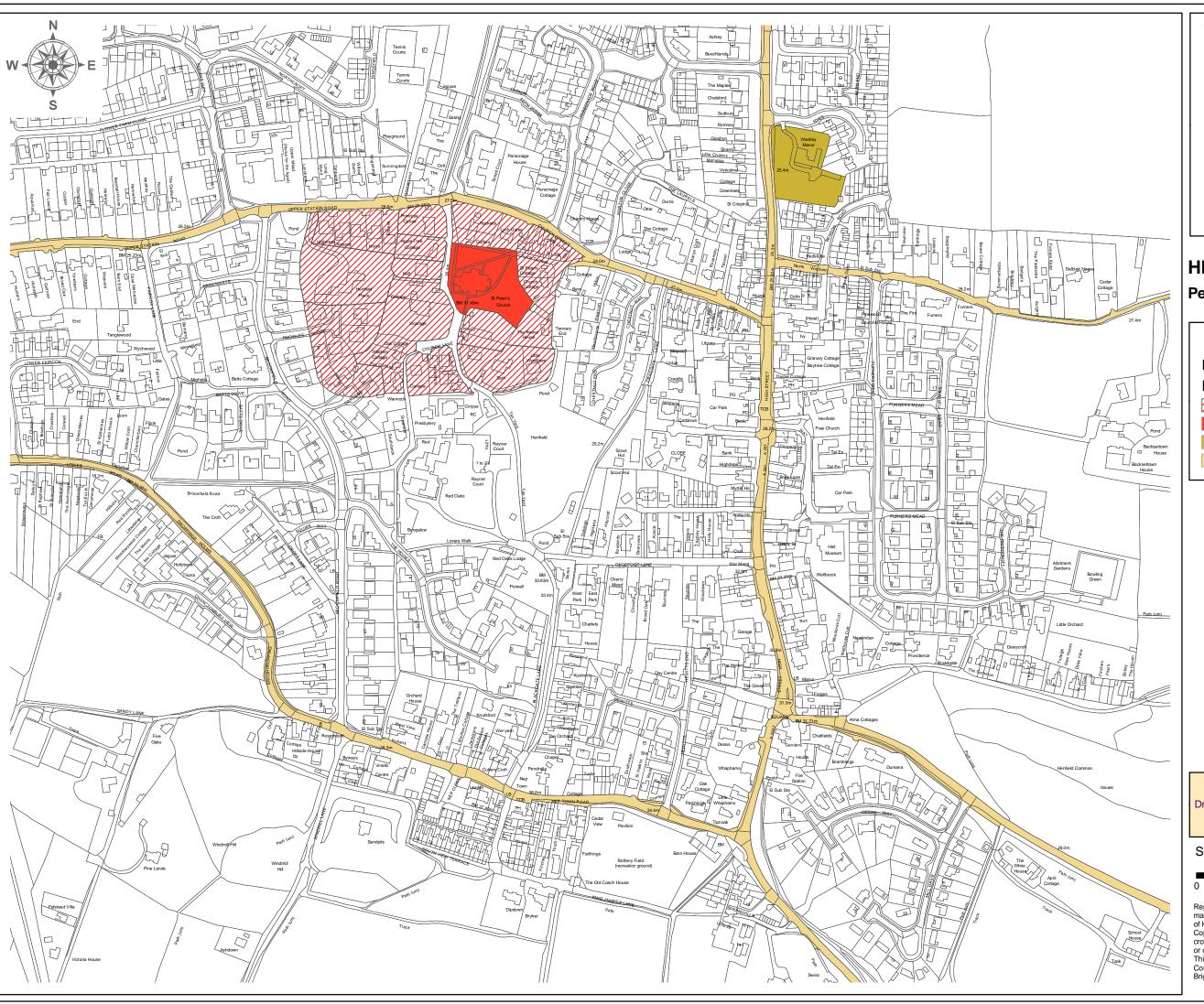
Historic buildings.
NB Grades of listed
buildings are shown. No
grade means that the
building is not listed,
but has significant
historical value as
determined by the
Sussex EUS.



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SCALE 1:3,500







HENFIELD MAP 5 Period 4 (950-1066)

ENGLISH HERITAGE

KEY
EUS Henfield
HCT

//// ?Church/churchyard
Church/churchyard
Farmstead/barn
Lane/road

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HENFIELD MAP 6 Period 7 (1350-1499)

KEY EUS Henfield

HCT
Church/churchyard

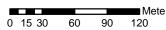
Farmstead/barn

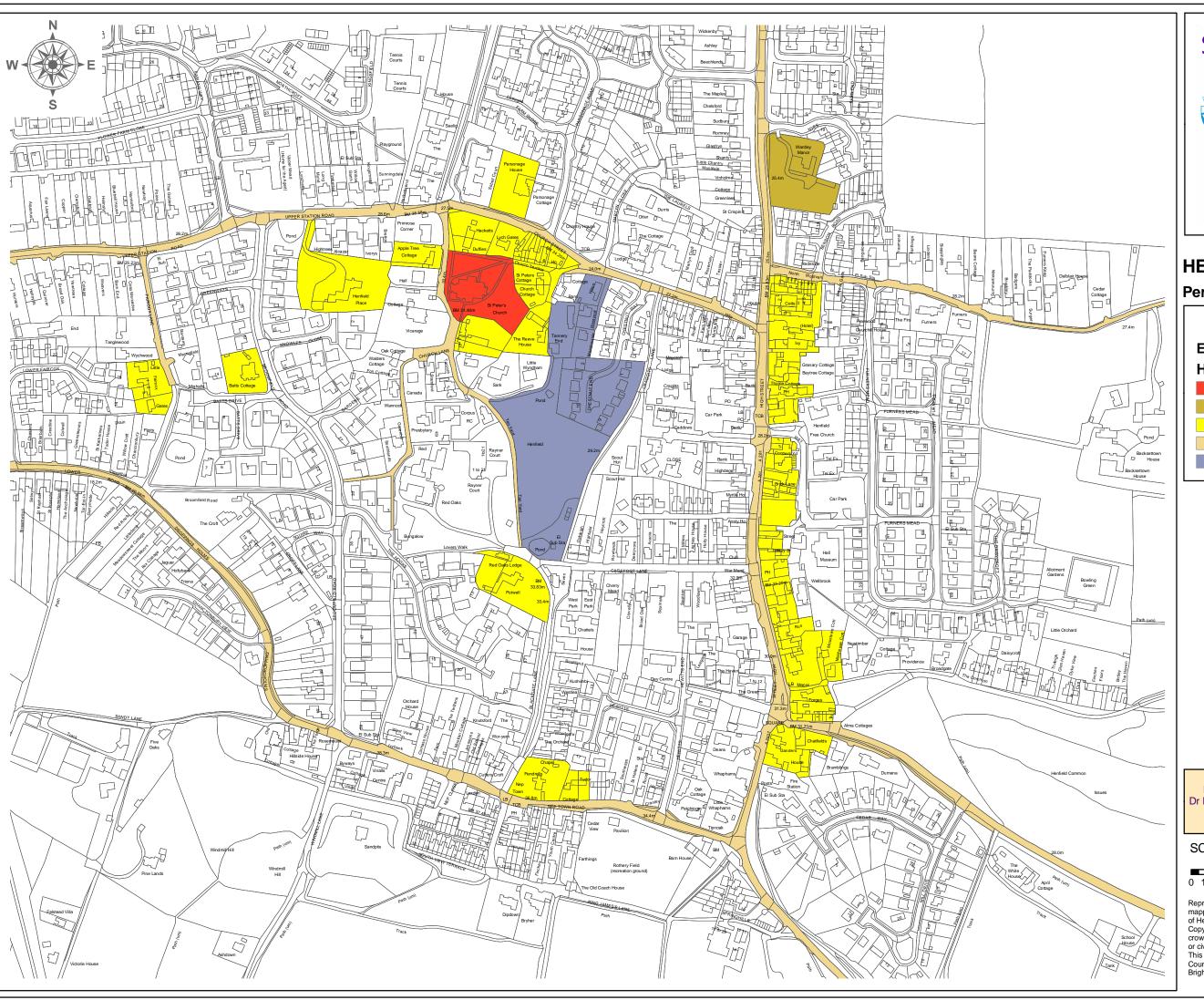
Irregular historic plots

Lane/road

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HENFIELD MAP 7 Period 8 (1500-1599)

KEY

EUS Henfield

HCT
Church/churchyard

Farmstead/barn

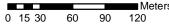
Irregular historic plots
Lane/road

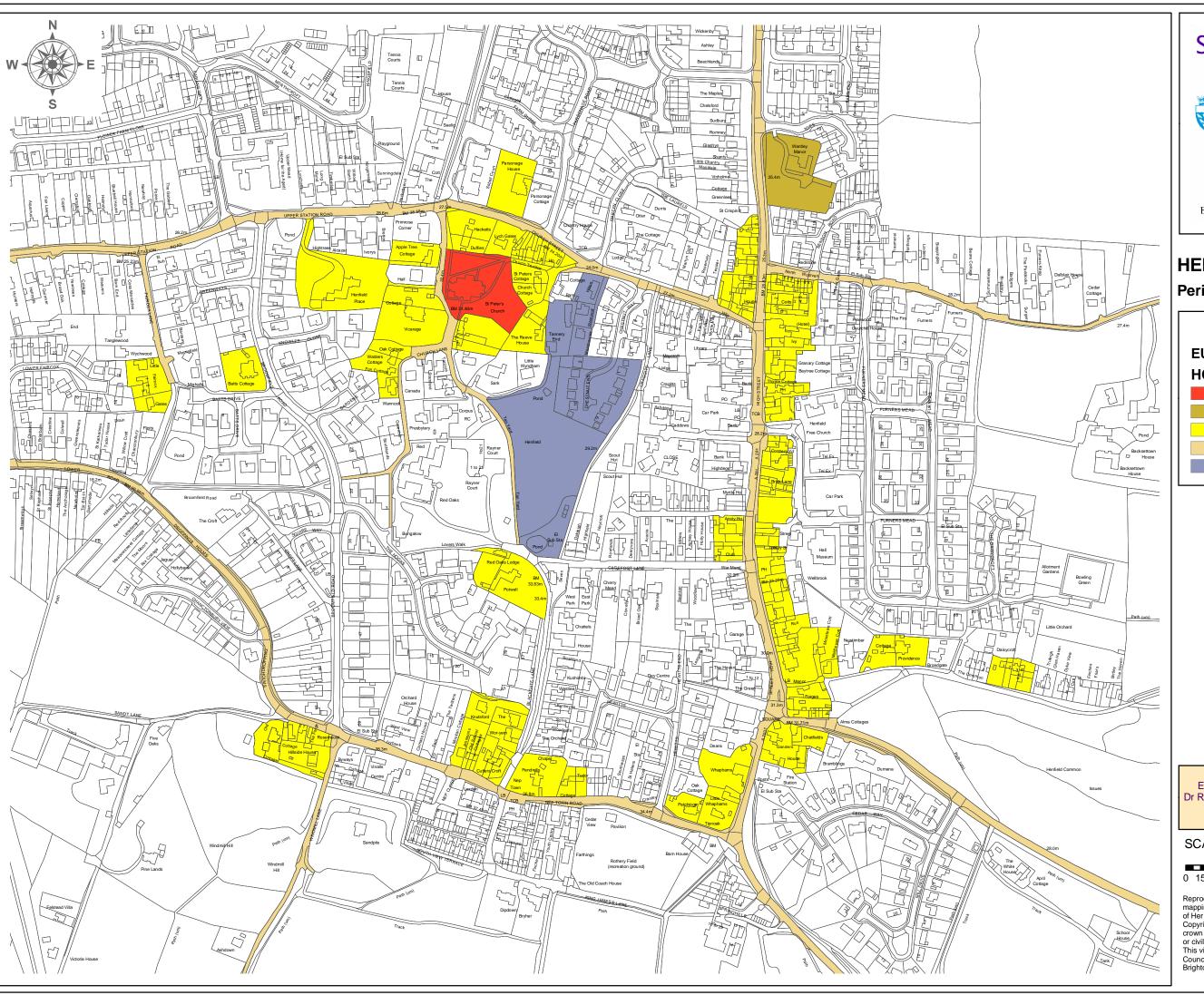
Light industry

Light industry

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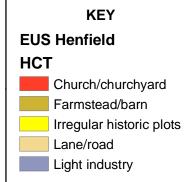
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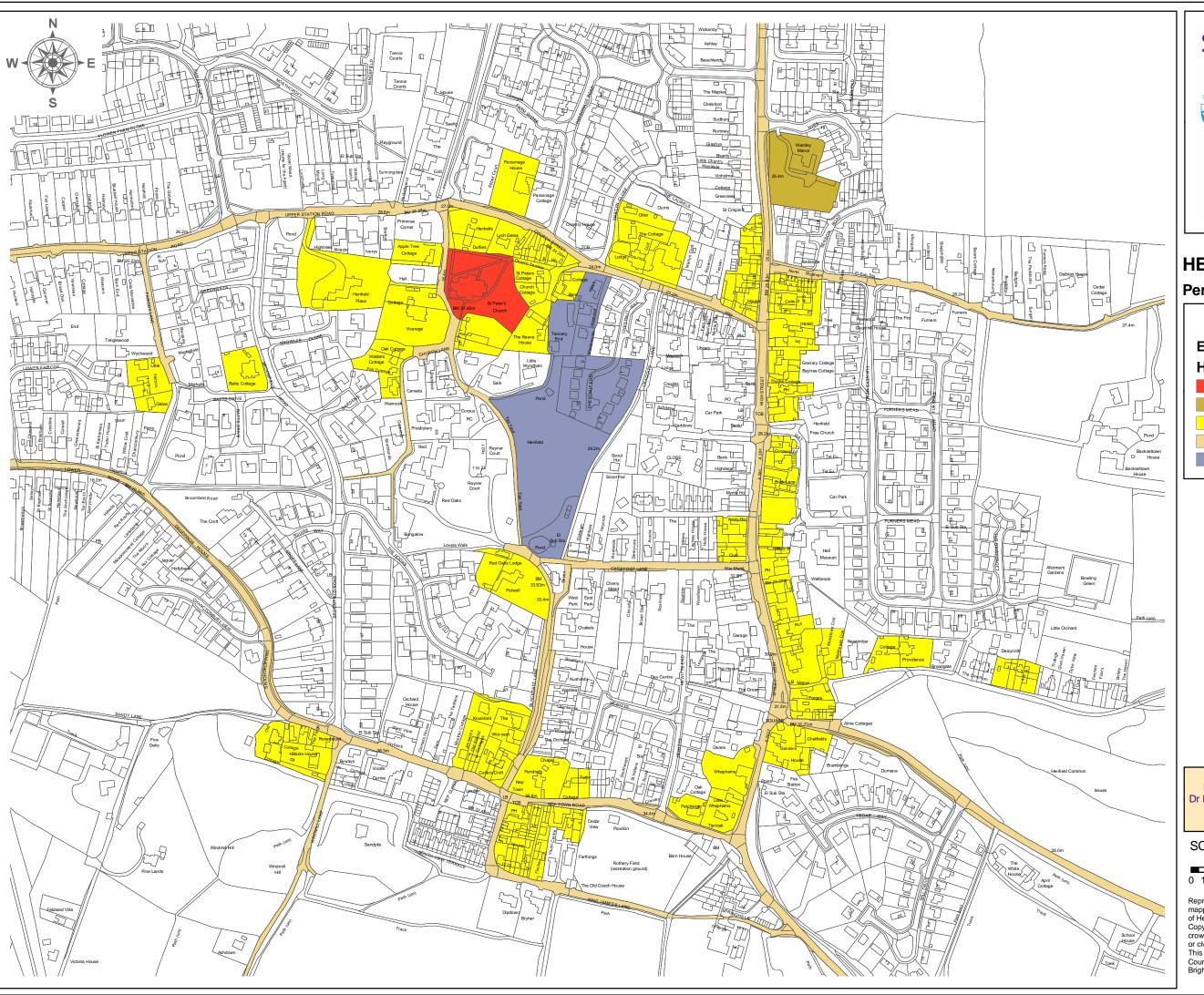
HENFIELD MAP 8 Period 9 (1600-1699)



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SCALE 1:3,500















HENFIELD MAP 9 Period 10 (1700-1799)

KEY

EUS Henfield

НСТ

Church/churchyard
Farmstead/barn

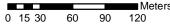
Irregular historic plots

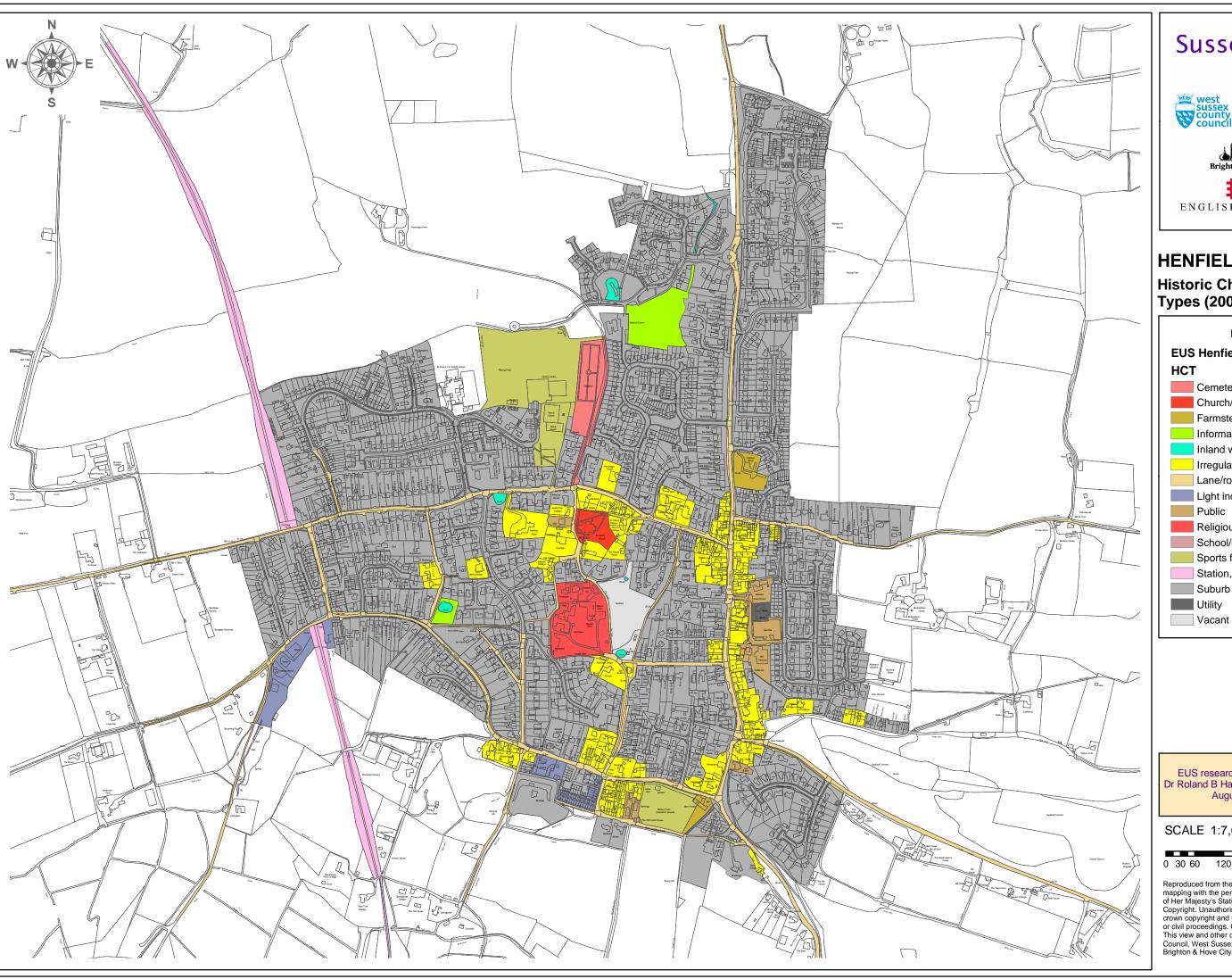
Lane/road

Light industry

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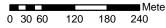
HENFIELD MAP 10

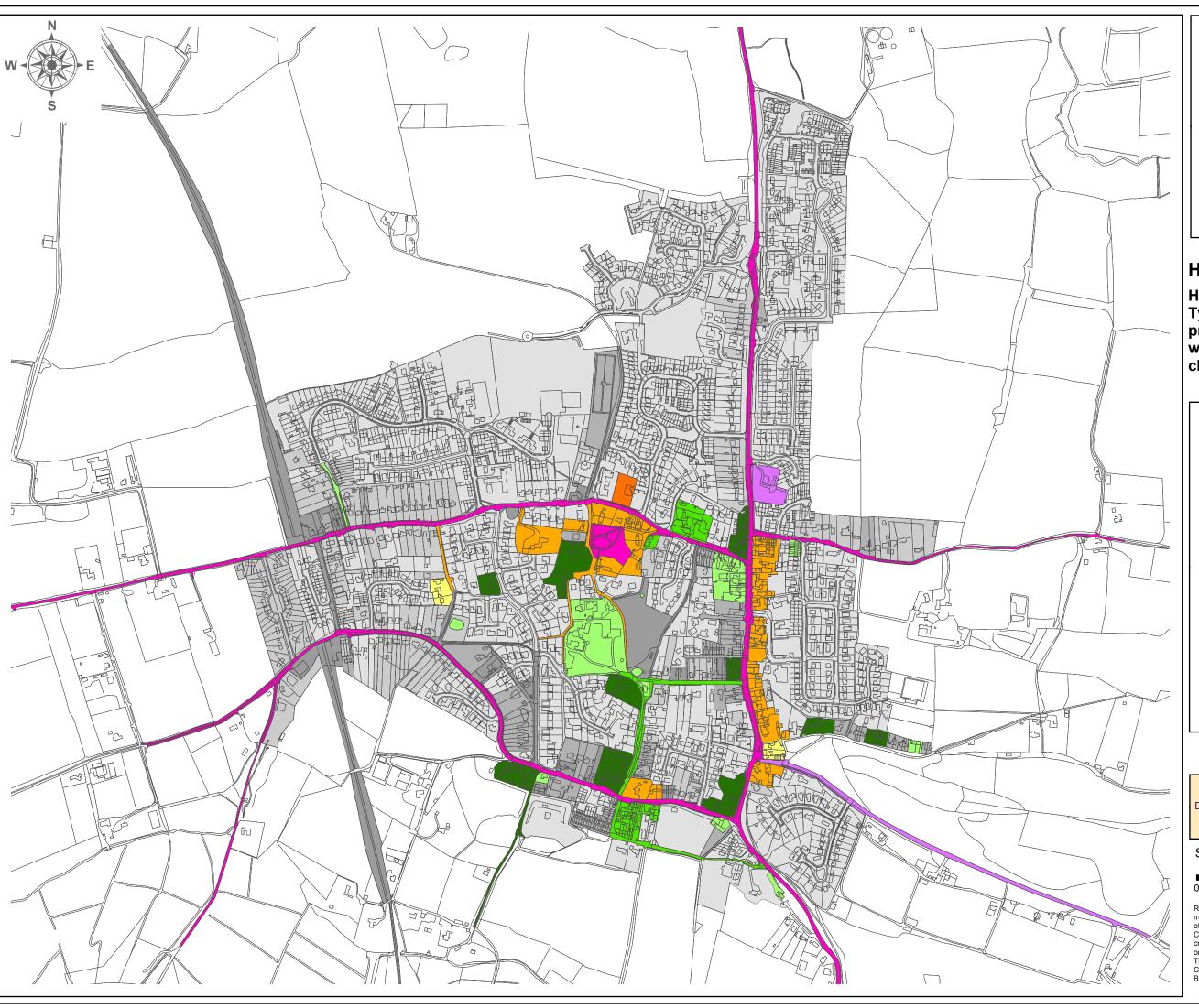
Historic Character Types (2004)



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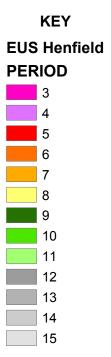






HENFIELD MAP 11

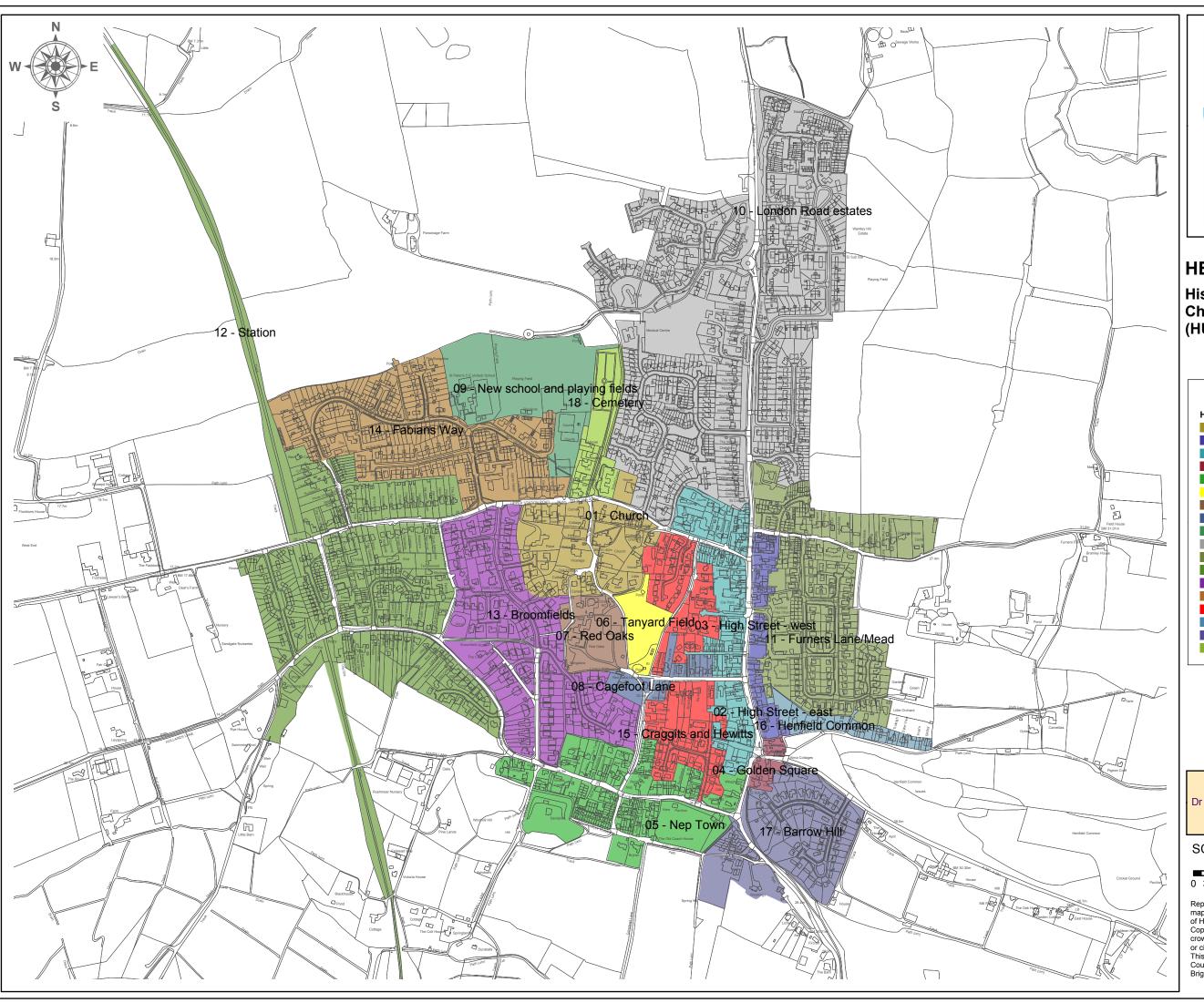
Historic Character Type areas showing principal period from which present character is derived.



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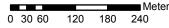
HENFIELD MAP 12

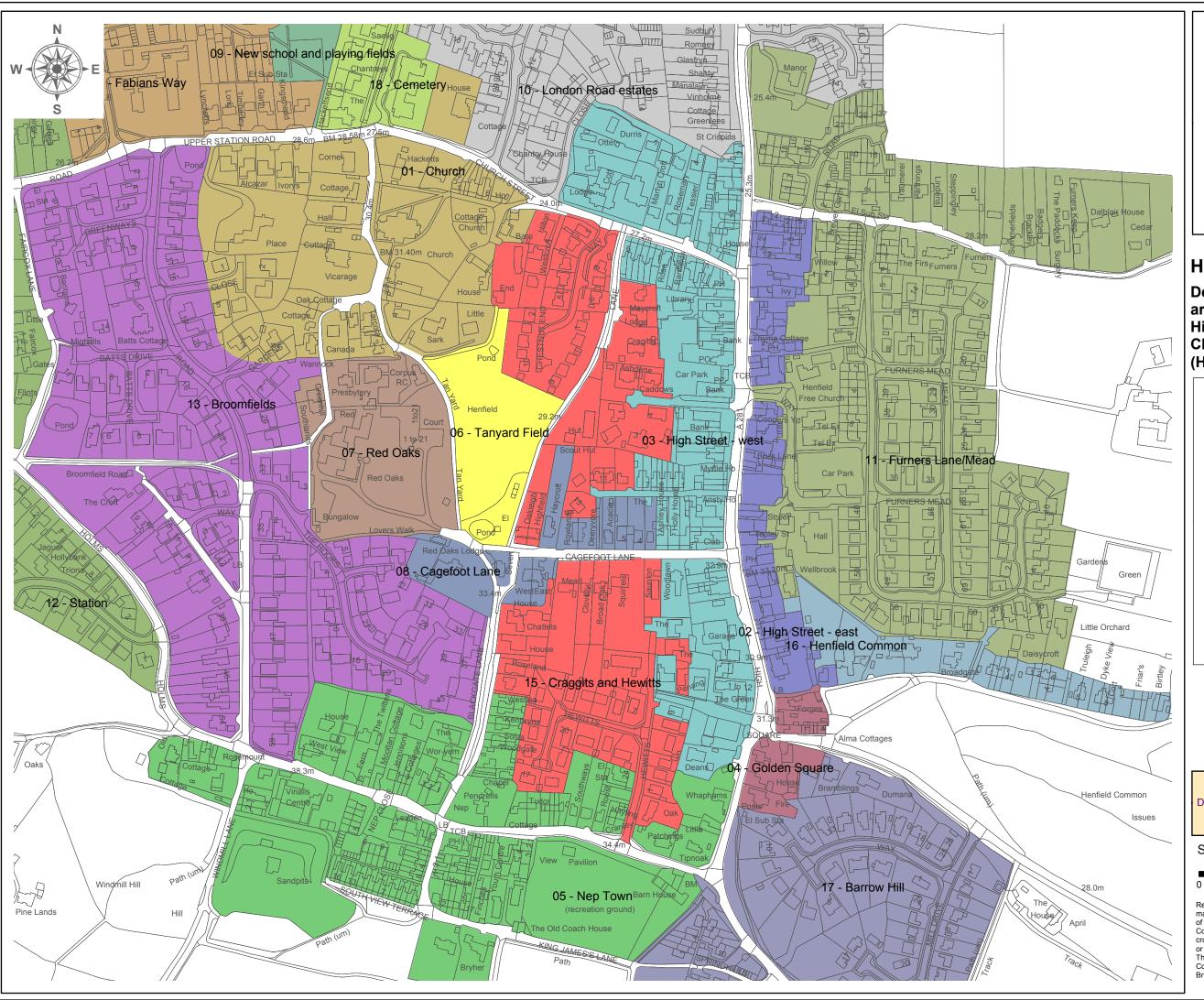
Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)



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Sussex EUS west sussex county council

HENFIELD MAP 13

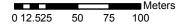
ENGLISH HERITAGE

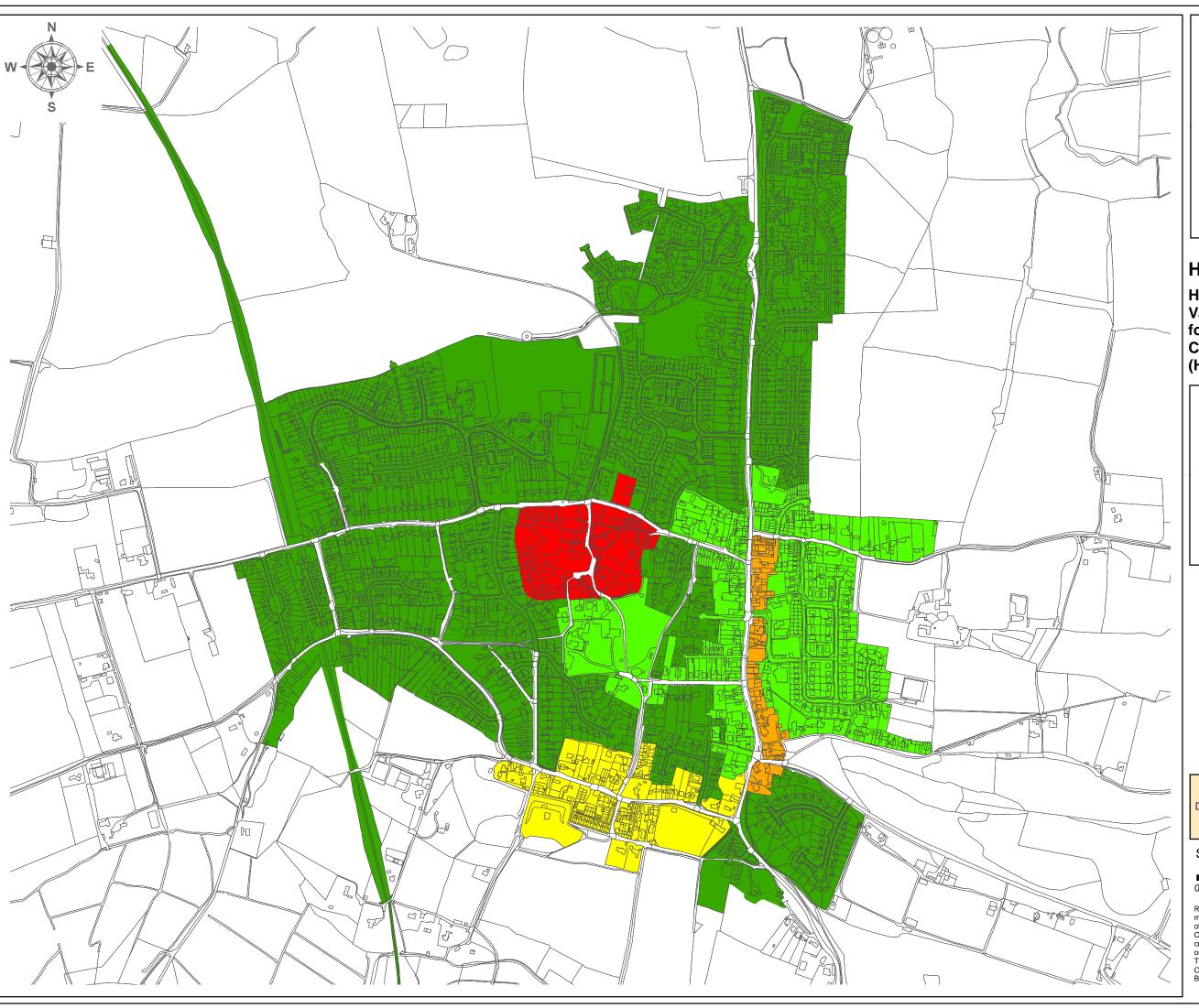
Detail of central area showing Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)



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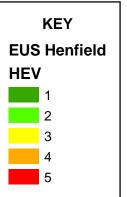






HENFIELD MAP 14

Historic Environment Value (HEV) - assessed for Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)



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