

# Midhurst

## Historic Character Assessment Report

January 2010



Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

*Roland B Harris*



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in association with Chichester District Council



The Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Sussex EUS) is a study of 41 towns undertaken between 2004 and 2010 by an independent consultant (Dr Roland B Harris, BA DPhil FSA MIFA), supported from January 2008 by a Research Assistant (Elizabeth Ruffell BSc MSc), 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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Contact:

*For West Sussex towns:*

01243 642119 (West Sussex County Council)

*For East Sussex towns and Brighton & Hove:*

01273 481608 (East Sussex County Council)

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*Cover photo: The Spread Eagle, South Street.*

## Contents

List of maps, tables and other illustrations	6
1 INTRODUCTION	8
2 SETTING	11
3 HISTORY	13
4 ARCHAEOLOGY	21
5 STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER	30
6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK	38
7 NOTES	39

## List of maps, tables and other illustrations

Fig. 1. Location of Midhurst within Sussex.

Fig. 2. View from Cowdray south-west across the River Rother towards Midhurst.

Fig. 3. Church of St Mary Magdalene.

Fig. 4. South Pond (i.e. medieval mill pond).

Fig. 5. Ruins of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Cowdray, from the west.

Fig. 6. The Old Market House, Market Square.

Fig. 7. The Spread Eagle Hotel, South Street.

Fig. 8. The Angel Hotel, North Street.

Fig. 9. The new grammar school room of 1821, North Street.

Fig. 10. Methodist church, North Street.

Fig. 11. Almshouses, Bepton Road.

Fig. 12. Church of St Mary Magdalene: view from the north-west.

Fig. 13. Midhurst castle, St Ann's Hill. View northwards across 12<sup>th</sup>-century remains.

Fig. 14. Infill within the early market place, now forming the east side of Red Lion Street and the west side of Market Square.

Fig. 15. Tudor View, North Street: side (north) elevation showing 16<sup>th</sup>-century timber frame.

Fig. 16. Jefferson's and Patrick Muirhen, West Street.

Fig. 17. The Wheatsheaf Inn (elevation to Wool Lane).

Fig. 18. Capron House, North Street.

Fig. 19. St Ann's, Sheep Lane.

Fig. 20. Former town hall, Market Square.

Fig. 21. 413 and 416 Rumbolds Hill (the numbering and colour of the paintwork reflect Cowdray Estate ownership).

Fig. 22. Midhurst tithe map (detail), 1841 (*West Sussex Record Office*).

Table 1. Sussex EUS Historic Character Types

Table 2. Sussex EUS chronology

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

Map 1. Extent of Midhurst EUS study area

Map 2. Solid and drift geology with 5m contours

Map 3. Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Series 25" (1874)

Map 4. Historic buildings and Scheduled Monuments

Map 5. Archaeological excavations in and adjacent to the EUS study area from 1994

Map 6. Period 5 (1066-1149)

Map 7. Period 6 (1150-1349)

Map 8. Period 7 (1350-1499)

Map 9. Period 8 (1500-1599)

Map 10. Period 9 (1600-1699)

Map 11. Period 10 (1700-1799)

Map 12. Historic Character Types (2010)

Map 13. Historic Character Type areas showing principal period from which present character is derived

Map 14. Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

Map 15. Historic Environment Value (HEV)



# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background to the project

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

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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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*,<sup>2</sup> 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 pre-urban 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 respective West Sussex County Council and 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 pre-urban archaeology of the town.

#### 1.4.2 History

The history of Midhurst 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 town 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 historic environment today.

#### 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 non-listed) and the topography, the latter drawing on large-scale maps of Midhurst from 1632 onwards. Again, this section follows a chronological structure, and focuses on aspects of the material evidence of the town'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) explore the development of Midhurst 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 town. 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

Midhurst has been the subject of modest historical and archaeological interest. 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

Midhurst has been the subject of several local histories,<sup>3</sup> but lacks an authoritative historical study covering the period from the origins of the town to the present. **Louis Salzman** explored many aspects of the town's history for the **Victoria County History**, published in 1953;<sup>4</sup> and, more recently, **Kathleen Thompson** has considered the lords of Midhurst.<sup>5</sup>

#### 1.5.2 Archaeology

Although of little archaeological interest until recently, Midhurst has become the subject of increasingly frequent, although mostly modestly scaled, investigation. The recent published archaeological investigations comprise:

**St Ann's Hill (castle)** – 1994<sup>6</sup>

**Capron House, North Street** – 1996<sup>7</sup>

**Spread Eagle (evaluation)** – 1996<sup>8</sup>

**Spread Eagle (salvage)** – 1997<sup>9</sup>

**Spread Eagle (geophysics)** – 1998<sup>10</sup>

There have been minor discoveries during, as yet unpublished, investigations, comprising:

**Birdcage House, Church Hill** – 1998<sup>11</sup>

**Egmont Arms, Rumbolds Hill** – 1998<sup>12</sup>

**St Ann's Hill (castle)** – 2005<sup>13</sup>

There have also been two archaeological investigations that have revealed no significant archaeology. These comprise:

**Former bus garage, North Street – 2000<sup>14</sup>**

**Angel Hotel, North Street – 2009<sup>15</sup>**

The **Chichester District Historic Environment Record (HER)** and the **West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER)** databases have been invaluable for providing the pre-urban archaeological context of the area.

### 1.5.3 Historic buildings

Despite its evident medieval origins and its unusual proportion of surviving pre-1840 houses, Midhurst lacks many identifiably medieval buildings outside the obvious survivals of the church and the ruinous castle. In part this is likely to reflect the absence of systematic internal investigation of the historic buildings that has been a feature of some other towns.<sup>16</sup> Some historic building investigations have taken place, however, with surveys by **Annabelle Hughes** at **‘Richard Green’, West Street;**<sup>17</sup> **Tudor View, North Street;**<sup>18</sup> **The Angel Hotel, North Street;**<sup>19</sup> and the **public library, Knockhundred Row.**<sup>20</sup> **John Magilton** and **Muriel Carrick** have investigated the architecture and wall paintings at **Midhurst Travel, Ye Olde Tea Shoppe and the Tuck Shop, North Street.**<sup>21</sup>

English Heritage’s statutory list of historic buildings is also of use, though many of the descriptions date from the late 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, 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 (1874 onwards) have proved invaluable, especially as these have been used in digital form, allowing overlaying with each other and with other data. The Tithe Map for Midhurst (1841: *West Sussex Record Office*) and earlier maps (most importantly the partial town plan of 1632/3<sup>22</sup>) have 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 Midhurst covers the historic core of the town and castle as defined by their extent in 1874.

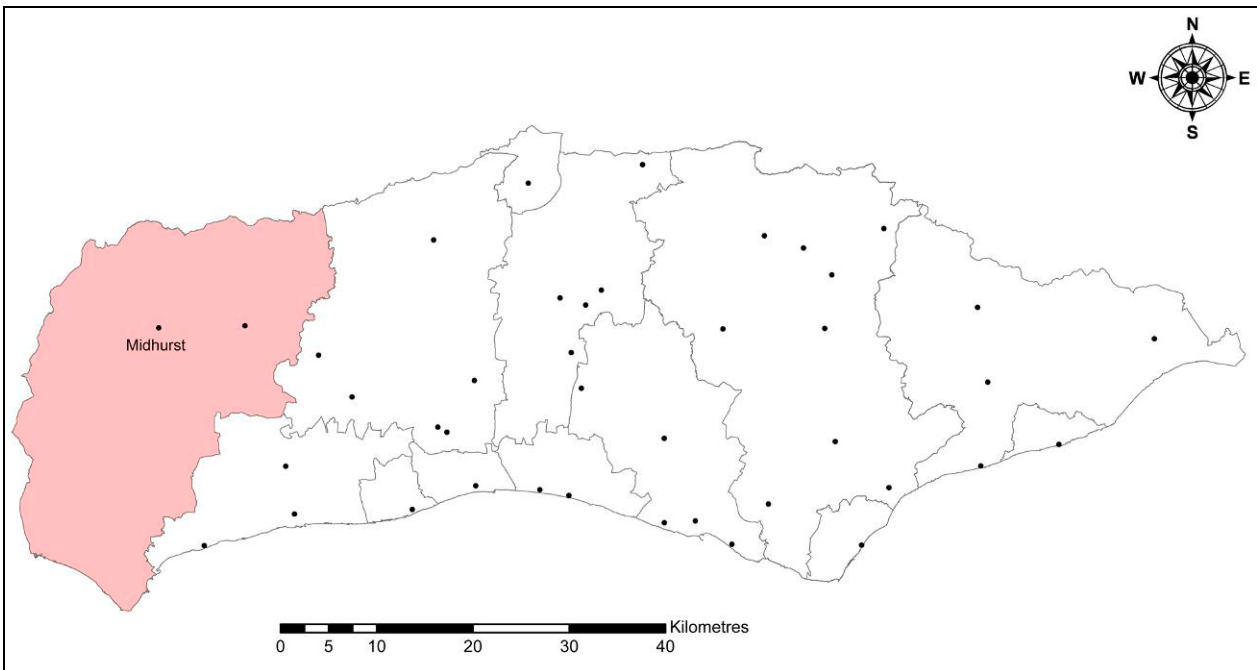


Fig. 1. Location of Midhurst within Sussex. Chichester District is highlighted and points locate the 41 Sussex EUS towns.

## 2 THE SETTING



Fig. 2. View from Cowdray south-west across the River Rother towards Midhurst.

### 2.1 Topography (Map 2)

Midhurst is situated in the Wealden Greensand, which lies between the South Downs and the Low Weald. The town is located in the Rother Valley: the River Rother flows east-south-east to join the River Arun near Pulborough, from which point the river flows southwards to reach the sea at Littlehampton, 25km south-east of Midhurst. On the south-east side of the town, a stream forms a tributary of the Rother. St Ann's Hill (i.e. the castle site) is at the eastern end of a slight spur, with the town to the west. Locally the land rises westwards to over 70m OD on Midhurst Common.

North Street rises from the bridge over the River Rother at its north end, at c.21m OD, to c.28m OD at its junction with Knockhundred Row. Its continuation as Rumbolds Hill rises to c.30m OD at the junction with West Street, with the road further south (i.e. now Bepton Road), continuing at this level to the edge of the historic core of the town. Market Square is at c.30m OD, from which South Street falls away to c.25m OD by South Pond.

The principal street within the town today is North Street, with additional shops and businesses concentrated in West Street, Market Square, Knockhundred Row, and Red Lion Street. The extensive late 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburbs on the south and west sides of the historic town include industrial estates.

The town is towards the eastern side of Midhurst Civil Parish, which incorporates parts of the historic parishes of Cocking and West Lavington.

### 2.2 Geology (Map 2)

#### 2.2.1 Solid geology

Along with the whole of Sussex, the rocks in the vicinity of Midhurst are sedimentary. Descending the South Downs and crossing Midhurst towards the Low Weald, the rocks become progressively older. The historic core of the town lies almost entirely on the Sandgate Formation (or beds), which form part of the Lower Greensand Group (Lower Cretaceous). From north-east to south-west these comprise the Lower Fittleworth Member (extending as far as Ognell's Flats), the Selham Ironshot Sands Member (extending to the Lamberts Lane area), the Upper Fittleworth Member (a c.20m wide band, extending round the east side of St Ann's Hill), the Pulborough Sandrock Member (on which most of the historic town is built), and the Marehill Clay Member (which crosses Bepton Road in the vicinity of the Roman Catholic church). Beyond this the southern suburbs are built on the sandstones of the Folkestone Formation.

#### 2.2.2 Drift Geology

The drift geology of the Midhurst area comprises alluvium following the course of the River Rother and its tributaries, together with associated river terrace deposits of gravels, sands and silts.

### 2.3 Communications

#### 2.3.1 Water

The weir at Hardham water treatment works (previous Hardham Mill), c.100m upstream of the junction with the River Arun, is the tidal limit of the River Rother. Use of the river for navigation was limited, but was improved by works, which included introducing new channels (to bypass meanders) and locks, in 1791-4. Moreover the River Arun was the subject of improvements that, by 1823, provided an inland link between London and Portsmouth. The improvements included the Coldwaltham Cut, authorized in 1785. This avoided the sinuous river between

Greatham and Pulborough, and included the 360m long Hardham tunnel. This canal joined the River Rother c.375m upstream of its junction with the River Arun. Traffic ceased along this section, and the Rother Navigation, in 1888.<sup>23</sup>

### **2.3.2 Road**

Midhurst lies on the A272 (which passes through the town along North Street and Petersfield Road), leading eastwards to Petworth, Billingshurst and Haywards Heath, and westwards to Petersfield and Winchester. To the south the A286 leads to Chichester: originally leading from the Market Square via South Street, this now doglegs along New Road (built beyond the built-up area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century) and Bepton Road. The latter is otherwise a minor route leading to Midhurst Common and Bepton.

### **2.3.3 Railway**

The London and South Western Railway (LSWR) opened a single-tracked branch line from Petersfield to Midhurst in 1864, with a station c.800m from the town centre. In 1866, the London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) extended the 1859 Horsham-Petworth branch line to the town, and in 1881 a line was built to connect Midhurst directly to Chichester. The Midhurst-Lavant section of the latter closed in 1935, the Petersfield-Midhurst branch closed in 1955, and the Petworth-Midhurst branch closed in 1964.<sup>24</sup>

## **2.4 Evidence for pre-urban activity**

### **2.4.1 Prehistoric**

Although the excavations within the EUS study area have not produced evidence of prehistoric archaeology, elsewhere in or near the EUS study area, there have been prehistoric find spots, which include:

- Midhurst Common – Palaeolithic (500000 BC to 10001 BC) axe found before 1930 [Chichester District HER reference: CD1686].
- Midhurst Common – Mesolithic (10000 BC to 4001 BC) handaxe and associated flintworking site at unspecified late 20<sup>th</sup>-century date [Chichester District HER reference: CD1457].
- Midhurst allotments (Midhurst Common) – 54 Mesolithic flints found in the 1950s and 1960s [Chichester District HER reference: CD1502].
- New Pond, Bepton Road – tranchet axe, Mesolithic blades and several wasters found on

adjacent allotment in the 1996 [Chichester District HER reference: CD1503; WSCC HER reference: 5588 – MWS4442].

- Whiphill – Mesolithic flints found in the fields bounded by Whiphill Wood, Starveacre Copse and Midhurst Rother College in 1987-98 [Chichester District HER reference: CD11518].

- Midhurst Common – prehistoric (500000 BC to 42 AD) bowl barrow identified in 1970 [Chichester District HER reference: CD1467].

### **2.4.2 Romano-British**

Although the excavations within the EUS study area have not produced evidence of Romano-British archaeology, elsewhere in or near the EUS study area, there have been Romano-British find spots, which include:

- Whiphill – Roman pottery, roof tiles, and possible flue tile found in the fields bounded by Whiphill Wood, Starveacre Copse and Midhurst Rother College in 1987-98, suggesting that there was a Roman farmstead, or similar, in the vicinity [Chichester District HER reference: CD11518].

- Midhurst (unspecified location) – Roman coins found pre-1953 [Chichester District HER reference: CD1453].

### **2.4.3 Early to Mid Anglo-Saxon**

There have been no discoveries of Early or Mid Anglo-Saxon finds or features in or near the EUS study area.

### **2.4.4 Implications of pre-urban archaeology**

The implication from the pre-urban finds is clear: although the excavations within the EUS study area have been very limited in scale, find spots in the vicinity show that there was human activity in the area from the prehistoric period onwards and the possibility of pre-urban finds and features should be anticipated in any archaeological excavations in Midhurst.

## 3 HISTORY

### 3.1 Origins: 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries



Fig. 3. Church of St Mary Magdalene.

#### 3.1.1 Place-name

The name *Midhurst* is likely to relate to the area and to predate any nucleated settlement. The Old English form means the place in the middle of the *hyrst* (i.e. wooded hill) or the place among *hyrst*s. Evidently pre-Conquest in origin, the name is first recorded in 1185.<sup>25</sup>

#### 3.1.2 Church

The parish church at Midhurst originated as a medieval chapel dedicated to St Mary Magdalene. A charter of inspeximus of 1234-41, citing the foundation charter of c.1216 of a college of priests at Easebourne, lists Midhurst amongst its dependent chapels,<sup>26</sup> as does the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of Pope Nicholas IV in 1291.<sup>27</sup> The church at Easebourne (1.3km to the north-east) was probably a pre-Conquest minster (a mother church serving an extensive *parochia* from which developed several later parishes), which had other dependent chapels at Fernhurst, Todham and Lodsworth.<sup>28</sup> Enguger de Bohon's early 13<sup>th</sup>-century foundation of a

college of priests there was re-established as a dependency of the Benedictine nunnery at Rusper c.1230, and possibly not recognized as Augustinian until the 15<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>29</sup>

Within the castle (see below) there was a chapel dedicated to St Denis.<sup>30</sup> On architectural grounds, it can be dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century (see below, section 4.1.2).

#### 3.1.3 Norman castle

Remains of a minor castle survive on the east side of the present town. Archaeological investigation has produced little clear evidence for the origins of the castle, although the chapel is evidently Romanesque. With the site apparently abandoned in favour of that of Cowdray c.1280, it is indeed probable that the buildings and defences were largely Norman (see below, section 4.1.2). Kathleen Thompson suggests that the castle was built by Roger of Montgomery in the late 1060s, although there is no documentary or archaeological evidence for this.<sup>31</sup> Other commentators have been more circumspect, with Richard Jones, for example, suggesting the possibility of either 11<sup>th</sup>-century or mid-12<sup>th</sup>-century origins:<sup>32</sup> clearly, more extensive excavation is required.

#### 3.1.4 Town

Although the early dating of the castle proposed by Thompson (see above) has neither documentary nor archaeological evidence, John Magilton and Spencer Thomas concur and, moreover, suggest that the adjacent town was also founded by Roger of Montgomery, within the defences of a second outer bailey.<sup>33</sup> This hypothesis is based on town-plan analysis (see below, section 4.1.3), rather than any documentary evidence.

Early written sources for the history of the town are sparse. A market (in 1288, weekly on Tuesdays) was evidently established some time before it was first recorded, in 1223, since at that date the taking of tolls from the men of Lodsworth was contested on the grounds that they were exempt under a charter of King John (1199-1216), with Savaric de Bohun countering that his ancestors (as lords of the manor of Midhurst) had been seised of the tolls even before the Lodsworth charter.<sup>34</sup> The origins of Midhurst as an administrative centre appear to be substantially earlier. In 1278 an ash tree at Midhurst was the location of the court of the hundred of Easebourne and, in response to an attempt to prevent this, it was demonstrated that the court had been held there for the previous 100 years.<sup>35</sup> With no good grounds to suppose



Fig. 4. South Pond (i.e. medieval mill pond).

that the hundred meeting place had been transferred from a site nearer the minster at Easebourne to the new urban centre, this suggests that Midhurst had long been its location and that the siting of the Norman castle and town was influenced by the pre-existing focal place. Moreover, with the association between hundred meeting places and markets,<sup>36</sup> it is possible that an early market at Midhurst provided additional stimulus for the subsequent siting of the castle and town.<sup>37</sup>

The first reference to the borough status of Midhurst dates from 1219-20, and is found in the 1234-41 charter of inspeximus for Easebourne priory (see above, section 3.1.2), which cites an inspected earlier charter of Savaric de Bohun, who granted a wasteland ('super Dadeslye') to the burgesses of the Midhurst.<sup>38</sup> In 1278 the town was described as a 'free borough', and as having been so from time beyond memory.<sup>39</sup> This may reflect the initially limited legal usage, established under statute in 1275, of the accession of Richard I (1189) as the limit of legal memory.<sup>40</sup> As with the castle, the documentary evidence for urbanization at Midhurst thus suggests that the town was founded in the Norman period, but gives no indication as to

exactly when this occurred between the later 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

There were two mills at Midhurst by 1284, to the south and north of the town.<sup>41</sup> Although it has been suggested that both were much earlier in date,<sup>42</sup> Savaric de Bohun's charter of 1219-20 specifically refers to the fact that there was only one mill at Midhurst, which was then granted to the chaplains of Easebourne. Clearly, this was the same mill from which an annual rent of one mark was granted to Waverley Abbey by Enjuger de Bohun and then by Savaric, respectively in 1200-18 and 1210-18.<sup>43</sup>

## 3.2 The later medieval town

### 3.2.1 Economic history

The borough that had been established by c.1200, was of modest size by c.1300. In the 1296 lay subsidy roll for the *Hundr' de Midhurst* (which appears to comprise the borough) there were 46 taxpayers, suggesting a population of perhaps around 180; there were 26 taxpayers in the borough in the roll for 1327; and 32 in the roll for 1332.<sup>44</sup> In 1327 Midhurst's ranking by wealth of Sussex towns (excluding the Cinque Ports) was 13<sup>th</sup>, only a very little lower than that of Horsham and above that of East Grinstead.<sup>45</sup> Occupational by-names in the rentals include butlers, bakers, tailors, dubbars (probably repairers of old clothes), puffers (apparently makers of cloth dresses<sup>46</sup>), a weaver, a dyer, a summoner, a bailiff, a spicer, and tanners: evidently, cloth-related industry was significant. Long-distance trade links are only hinted at by the surname *le Flemeng* in 1296.<sup>47</sup>

In 1301 the importance of the town was such that it sent two representatives to Parliament. It was represented again in 1311 and intermittently up to 1382, from which point onwards (until the 19<sup>th</sup> century) it was represented consistently.<sup>48</sup>

By 1524 Midhurst had become the eighth wealthiest town in Sussex (again, excluding the Cinque Ports), ranking above Steyning and Bramber combined, and Arundel. The high growth rate (689% from the 1327 base) was seen elsewhere in highly wooded areas of the Weald at Battle, Cuckfield, Petworth and, above all, at Horsham,<sup>49</sup> which suggests that the late medieval economic development of the town was part of a more general Wealden trend. Of course, there is no reason to suppose that there was steady growth and that Midhurst escaped early 14<sup>th</sup>-century economic decline (in part possibly suggested by the rolls of 1327 and 1332 compared to that for 1296: see above) compounded by the Black Death, and it is likely

that growth was concentrated during the later 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The 103 taxpayers in 1524 suggest a population of c.500.<sup>50</sup>

### 3.2.2 Cowdray

It must be assumed that the constrained nature of the site at St Anne's Hill was at least partly behind the abandonment of the castle in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century in favour of a new site at Cowdray, within the earlier park, c.250m to the north-east, across the River Rother and in Easebourne parish. The new building was obliterated by its rebuilding as a country house in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (see below), although it was evidently moated and provided with a drawbridge in 1317.<sup>51</sup>

### 3.2.3 Church

The chapel of St Mary Magdalene at Midhurst remained dependent on the church at Easebourne (which continued to function as the priory church) throughout the later medieval period. A brotherhood of the Holy Rood was founded in 1422 by Michael Bageley. This provided for a morrow-mass priest in the chapel of St Mary Magdalene.<sup>52</sup>

The chapel of St Denis at the castle appears to have survived the loss of other buildings in 1284-1311, remaining in use in 1291 and 1367, at which point it was described as located in Courtgrene.<sup>53</sup> Presumably it went out of use and was demolished soon after.

In 1338 the lands of the Knights Hospitallers in Sussex included tenements at Midhurst, together with a grange (the holding being known as the Liberty of St John), under the commandery of the preceptory at Poling. The Hospitallers appear to have had a chapel at the grange dedicated to St Thomas, with chantries, by 1291.<sup>54</sup>

## 3.3 The town c.1500-1840

### 3.3.1 Economic history

The population of Midhurst increased significantly between the early 16<sup>th</sup> and the late 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, rising from c.500 in 1524,<sup>55</sup> to c.960 in 1670.<sup>56</sup> The latter figure is based on the hearth tax list for 'Midhurst towne' and the small Liberty of St John (which formed part of the town), and includes taxpayers and those exempt through poverty) and, thus, appears reliable, albeit in contrast with the population total of c.585 suggested by the Bishop Compton's religious survey of 1676.<sup>57</sup> There were 200 families in 1724, suggesting a total population of c.900.<sup>58</sup> By 1801 the population for Midhurst had



Fig. 5. Ruins of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Cowdray, from the west.

seen little further growth, being only 1,073, but was followed by a steady increase in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1,478 in 1831, before tailing off to a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century peak of 1,536 in 1841. This growth, however, was modest compared to that of many Sussex towns (especially the coastal resorts). The declining significance of Midhurst is reflected in its loss of one of its two members of parliament under the first electoral Reform Act (1832).<sup>59</sup>

Cowdray – as one of the great houses of Sussex – was of economic importance to Midhurst throughout this period. Sir David Owen (an illegitimate son of Owen Tudor, who had married Mary, daughter of the last male Bohun) began the rebuilding of the moated manor house at Cowdray in the 1520s. In 1528 Sir David sold the estate to Sir William Fitzwilliam, but remained resident until his death in 1535. Sir William Fitzwilliam (from 1537, Earl of Southampton, and long-lasting loyal courtier to Henry VIII) largely completed the substantial country house before his death in 1542. Cowdray was inherited by his half-brother, Sir Anthony Browne (another, though less powerful courtier), who died in 1548, with the estate passing to his son, Sir Anthony (1528-92), who was created Viscount Montague in 1554: the house passed through the unbroken succession of Montagues, until the death of the





Fig. 6. The Old Market House, Market Square.

8<sup>th</sup> Viscount in 1793, in which year the house was largely destroyed by fire: it has remained ruinous since then, with Cowdray Lodge succeeding as the principal house.<sup>60</sup> As well as providing economic stimulus to local trades, Cowdray's importance also attracted attention during the Civil War. The lightly garrisoned house was taken by Royalist forces in November 1643, en route to Arundel, and was almost immediately re-taken by the Parliamentarians prior to laying siege at Arundel on 13<sup>th</sup> December: the siege at Arundel ending in surrender by the garrison on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1644, essentially marking the end of the Civil War in Sussex.<sup>61</sup>

The market at Midhurst continued into the post-medieval period. A market hall was built c.1552, in turn replaced c.1820 (see below, section 3.3.3). In 1568 the weekly market was on a Thursday, and there was an annual fair on Whit Tuesday.<sup>62</sup> In 1681 a Tuesday fortnightly market was granted: this appears to have been the only market, but in 1792 the market was again weekly and on Thursdays. In 1681 fairs were granted on Lady Day (25<sup>th</sup> March), and on the feasts of St Margaret (20<sup>th</sup> July) and St Luke (18<sup>th</sup> October): the March and October fairs continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Salzman suggests that the July fair was replaced in 1792 by one on Whit Tuesday.<sup>63</sup> if so, this revived that recorded in 1568.<sup>64</sup>

A major Sussex product in the 16<sup>th</sup> century was Hampshire kersey, or Guildford cloth. This coarse fabric was mainly made for export,

usually sent to Antwerp via Blackwell Hall in London. In the 1560s, there were at least five clothiers in Midhurst.<sup>65</sup> At the end of the century there were seven weavers, eight fullers, four whiteners, two tailors and nine tailors.<sup>66</sup> Although the kersey trade declined thereafter, Midhurst remained an active centre well into the 17<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>67</sup> with an example of a successful coverlet maker founding the school in 1672 (see below, section 3.3.3). Leather-working was also significant in this period, with two shoemakers recorded in 1524, a saddler and seven shoemakers recorded in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, a glover recorded in 1659, and a tanyard mentioned in 1718.<sup>68</sup>

Although Midhurst was located on the fringe of the area of Wealden iron production, this appears to have had a significant impact on the town. The first English blast furnace had been established 57km from Midhurst, at Newbridge on Ashdown Forest, in 1496. The industry expanded rapidly in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, thereafter declining to the point of extinction by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There were nine ironworks of this period within 10km of Battle.<sup>69</sup> The local ironworks included Lurgashall Furnace (c.6km north-east of Midhurst), established before 1585 by Peter Younge of Midhurst, and operated by



Fig. 7. The Spread Eagle Hotel, South Street.



Fig. 8. The Angel Hotel, North Street.

the Montagues in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>70</sup> Earlier involvement in ironworking by the inhabitants of Midhurst may be suggested by the three Frenchmen recorded in the 1524-5 subsidy roll for the town.<sup>71</sup>

Increasing coach travel in the 17<sup>th</sup> century saw development of inn accommodation, with provision for guest beds (53) and stabling (118) recorded in a survey of 1686, placing the town on a par with Petworth, both below Chichester and Horsham, but substantially above the nearby towns of Arundel, Shoreham and Steyning, and reflecting the location of the town on a through route to London. The Spread Eagle probably dates from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century (certainly its fabric does), and in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century there were five inns in the vicinity of the market square.<sup>72</sup> Road access to Midhurst was improved in this period by turnpiking of the Hindhead Heath to Chichester road, via Fernhurst and Midhurst, in 1749 and the Petersfield to Midhurst road in 1825.<sup>73</sup> Water access to Midhurst was improved by works on the River Rother in 1791-4, which allowed access to the River Arun (itself the subject of improvements from 1795 and, by 1823, providing an inland link between London and Portsmouth).<sup>74</sup>

### 3.3.2 Church and religion

The suppression of Easebourne priory in 1536 had little direct impact on Midhurst,<sup>75</sup> although the town's chapel of St Mary Magdelene finally achieved parish church status, and saw substantial rebuilding (see section 4.2.1). The modern additional dedication to St Denis (significantly, the dedication of the medieval chapel at the castle) is first recorded (on its own) in 1764. The brotherhood of the Holy Rood survived until, in advance of inevitable suppression (as a result of the Chantries Acts of 1545 and 1547), its lands were transferred to the town.<sup>76</sup> The church gained additional space for a burial ground on the east side of Sheep Lane c.1790.<sup>77</sup>

With suppression of the Knights Hospitaller in 1540 the order's estate in Midhurst, already leased in 1515 to Robert Gybrishe, transferred into private hands. The chapel was evidently upstanding as late as 1561 when, with the grange and tenements in the town, it was granted to the Earl of Southampton.<sup>78</sup>

Sir Anthony Browne (d.1548) had been a religious conservative, and his son, the first Viscount Montague was a leading Roman Catholic, notwithstanding his success and ambition at court (which saw Elizabeth I entertained at Cowdray as late as 1591<sup>79</sup>). Along with the Browne's house at Battle Abbey, the Cowdray estate became a centre for Roman Catholic recusants: with the decline of the abbey as an aristocratic home in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, in favour of Cowdray House,<sup>80</sup> the parishes of Easebourne and Midhurst became the principal focus of recusancy in the county.<sup>81</sup> The Protestation Returns of 1642 suggest that c.20% of the adult males in Midhurst were Roman Catholic recusants, but it is clear from the Assize Returns of the 1620s, that the true figure was c.40% and that recusancy was more prevalent amongst the female population.<sup>82</sup> Bishop Compton's religious census of 1676 records 56 Papists, out of a total of 447 adults, the highest number in any Sussex parish, and with adjacent Easebourne (in which parish, of course, Cowdray itself was located) having 40 papists, out of a total of 160 adults.<sup>83</sup> Moreover, it has been suggested that the 1676 survey underestimated the extent of recusancy in the county.<sup>84</sup> The Chichester diocesan survey of 1724 records about 12 Popish families, out of a total of 200 families. This appears to be an underestimate, however, for the 1727 returns of Catholic recusants for Midhurst lists the names of 65 individuals, most of whom appear to be adults.<sup>85</sup> The Montague support of the catholic



Fig. 9. The new grammar school room of 1821, North Street.

cause was broken by the 7<sup>th</sup> Viscount (1767-87), although the geographical distribution of Catholics remained largely unaltered and Easebourne was one of six Catholic places of worship in Sussex in 1829.<sup>86</sup>

Given the well-known focus of recusancy at Cowdray, it is perhaps surprising that Bishop Compton's religious census of 1676 records 50 Protestant Nonconformists, out of a total of 447 adults.<sup>87</sup> A licence to hold a Congregational meeting in the house of a clothier was granted in 1672.<sup>88</sup> The Chichester diocesan survey of 1724 records five or six dissenting families, out of a total of 200 families, which, if accurate, appears to reflect a sharp decline in Nonconformity.<sup>89</sup> Certainly, there is no evidence of a significant Nonconformist congregation until the building of the Zion Baptist chapel, Bepton Road in 1835 (closed by c.1900).<sup>90</sup>

### **3.3.3 Urban institutions**

A plot of land in the market place was granted to the burgesses by Sir Anthony Browne in 1552 for the building of a market house, which survives as the Old Market House (Fig. 6). The 1632/3 map of Midhurst, however, shows what is

evidently an open-side market building on the location of the present town hall to the north-east, which appears to date from c.1820 (Fig. 20).<sup>91</sup>

A charity was founded in 1596 by George Ognell for the benefit of the poor of Midhurst.<sup>92</sup> In the parliamentary survey of 1776-7, Midhurst is recorded as having a poorhouse with 30 places.<sup>93</sup> Midhurst then became one of the 17 parishes of the new Gilbert Union of Easebourne, under the Act of 1782, with the new union workhouse built in Easebourne parish in 1793-4.<sup>94</sup> Following the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, in 1835 the workhouse became that of the new Midhurst Union, and was enlarged in 1836 to accommodate the poor of the extended union of 26 parishes (the former workhouse building survives as Budgenor Lodge, since 2006 comprising 42 apartments).<sup>95</sup>

Four cottages on the common west of the town are today known as Pest Houses, and appear to have their origins in a charity established by Viscount Montague in 1741.<sup>96</sup>

A free grammar school was founded in 1672 by Gilbert Hannam, a coverlet maker of Midhurst. The terms of the foundation provided for 12 boys, to have been resident in Midhurst and of Protestant upbringing. The school's first home was the upper floor of the town hall, later moving to North Street.<sup>97</sup>

Early records of sport include the playing of cricket within the parish from 1635.<sup>98</sup>

## **3.4 The town: c.1840-2008**

### **3.4.1 Economic history**

The railway came to Midhurst in 1864, with a station c.800m south-west of the town centre. The single-tracked London and South Western Railway (LSWR) branch line extended from Petersfield, with Midhurst a terminus until reached by the London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) branch from Petworth in 1866 (itself reached by a branch of 1859 from Horsham). In 1881 a line was built to connect Midhurst directly to Chichester, with the town served by two stations.<sup>99</sup>

The impact of the railway was not apparent in population expansion. Growth earlier in the century had peaked at 1,536 in 1841, and in 1861 had fallen to 1,340, before slightly recovering to 1,465 in 1871. In 1901 the long-stable population still only numbered 1,650 and in 1911 had slightly risen to 1,894. The effect of the railway on population in the later 19<sup>th</sup> and

early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, therefore, was probably limited to helping Midhurst escape some of the rural depopulation that many of the Sussex parishes of the western part of the county (which amongst other factors, typically had poorer access to the railway).<sup>100</sup> Brickmaking was one of the more significant Midhurst industries initially dependent on the railway for access to non-local markets: the brickworks of S Pearson & Son opened on Midhurst Common, adjacent to the station, in 1913, initially producing red bricks, but, from the 1930s, white sand-lime bricks (closed 1985).<sup>101</sup>

The relative decline of Midhurst amongst the towns of Sussex was reflected in its final disenfranchisement under the Redistribution of Seats Act 1885.<sup>102</sup> Three years later, under the Municipal Corporations Act 1888, Midhurst lost its borough status.<sup>103</sup> Although there was a weekly corn market on Thursdays in 1878, it had ceased by 1888. In that year the March and October fairs ceased and the Whit Tuesday fair was replaced by one on 19<sup>th</sup> May.<sup>104</sup> this ceased soon after.

Despite building of modest suburbs on the west and south side of the town in 1900-14 and 1918-39, the parish population remained stable throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: in 1921 it was 1,890 and in 1961 it was 1,880. By 1971 population had grown to 2,166 and by 2001 it had reached 4,889, with suburbs substantially enlarged on the west and south sides of the town. The new suburbs include Wyndham Business Park (on the site of the north-western station and goods yard: the line to Petersfield having closed in 1955, that to Petworth in 1964, and that to Chichester in 1935<sup>105</sup>) and Holmbush Industrial Estate. Despite such new employment and the continued existence of shops and businesses (which have seen Midhurst retain something of its role as market town), commuting became the new economic basis for the town. The provision of new housing and the retention of the historic core have also made the town attractive as a location for retirement.

### 3.4.2 Church and religion

St Mary Magdalene's church has remained intact as an institution throughout this period, although the building itself was the subject of a major restoration in 1882.<sup>106</sup> Despite the 18<sup>th</sup>-century extension (see section 3.3.2), the churchyard was insufficient, and a new cemetery was opened c.500m west of the town on Midhurst Common in 1878. Land for expansion of the cemetery was purchased from the Cowdray



Fig. 10. Methodist church, North Street.

Estate in 1950, with the new area coming into use in 2002.<sup>107</sup>

Nonconformism strengthened in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the Ebenezer Baptist chapel built in Bepton Road in 1840 (closed 1936<sup>108</sup>), a Methodist church built in North Street in 1904, and a Congregational church (or 'Temple') built on the corner of Petersfield Road and Bepton Road (bombed 1942 and demolished 1946).<sup>109</sup> Roman Catholicism had remained active in the area, despite the loss of its Cowdray support in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (see section 3.3.2), with purpose-built provision in Midhurst finally provided by the church of St Francis of Assisi, Rumbolds Hill (1868-9). This closed in 1958, and was replaced by a new church (dedicated to St Mary and St Francis) in Bepton Road in 1957.<sup>110</sup>

### 3.4.3 Urban institutions

During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries Midhurst 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 account, but the principal institutions are included.

Following several decades of decline the grammar school closed in 1859 and re-opened,



Fig. 11. Almshouses, Bepton Road.

albeit no longer following the statutes of the original 17<sup>th</sup>-century foundation and under a new board of education, in 1880.<sup>111</sup> A National School for boys and girls was built in 1854 and enlarged in 1897, located c.700m west of the town.<sup>112</sup> A mixed secondary modern school was opened in 1951 on the northern edge of the town, which merged with the grammar school (which had taken girls from 1956) in 1966 to form a comprehensive school.<sup>113</sup> This retained the name Midhurst Grammar School, but with the opening of Midhurst Intermediate School in

Easebourne in 1970, was then restricted to pupils aged 13-18. The comprehensive and intermediate schools closed at the end of 2008, being replaced by Midhurst Rother College, which teaches 11-18 year olds at both the older campuses. The former National School became a county primary school, moving to its current site in Ashfield Road in 1972.<sup>114</sup> St Margaret's Convent school, Petersfield Road, was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1888.<sup>115</sup> the co-educational independent junior school closed in 2009.

Almshouses were built at the north end of North Street in 1840. These are named Ognell's Flats, and evidently derive from this 16<sup>th</sup>-century charity (see section 3.3.3), apparently replacing earlier almshouses on the same site. There are further almshouses in Bepton Road, dating from 1862 (again, apparently replacing an earlier foundation).

A public hall was built in North Street in 1882, later seeing use as a cinema (demolished 1966-7).<sup>116</sup> A parish room was built north of the Methodist church, in North Street, by 1912.<sup>117</sup> The Grange Leisure Centre in Bepton Road opened in 1980,<sup>118</sup> and provides indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and meeting rooms. Other outdoor sports facilities include the bowling green, off June Lane (where the club was established in 1912), and the recreation ground on Midhurst Common (established in the inter-war years). Outside the town, Cowdray Park is the principal venue for polo in Britain, with the first tournament recorded in 1910 and the Gold Cup first contested in 1956.<sup>119</sup>

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGY

### 4.1 The medieval town (Maps 6-8)

#### 4.1.1 Buildings

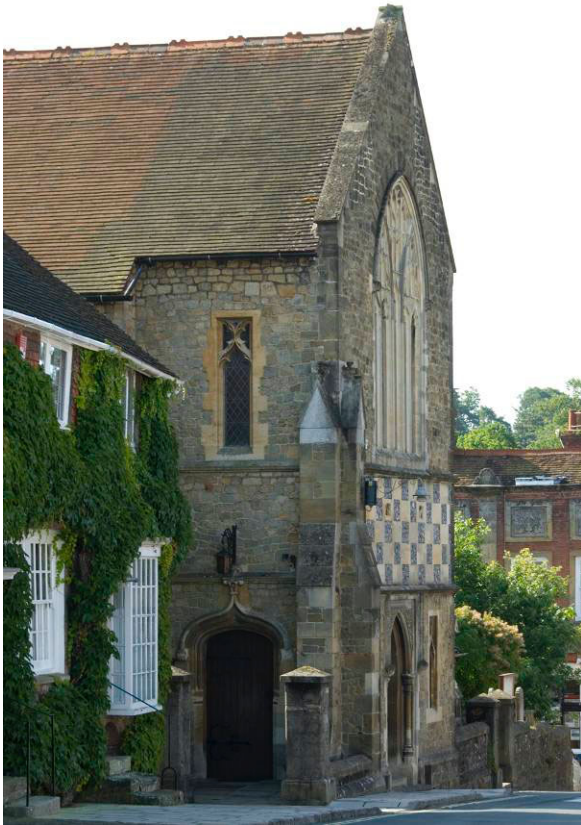


Fig. 12. Church of St Mary Magdalene: view from the north-west.

The parish church is the oldest standing building in Midhurst. The earliest visible fabric is in the tower, where the south wall has a two-stage buttress with weatherings flanked, low down, by two small lancet windows; and the north wall has a single-ordered chamfered arch, which confirms that the tower projected from the south side of the medieval church. These features date from the early 13<sup>th</sup>-century, which this is broadly contemporary with the first documented reference to the church of c.1216 (see section 3.1.2). A fragment of 14<sup>th</sup>-century painting survives on the north face of the tower, again consistent with this being an internal space. Major rebuilding in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries accounts for lack of medieval fabric (see below, section 4.2.1).

Midhurst lacks firmly identified medieval houses, but, given the absence of systematic study of the town's domestic architecture, it is highly likely

that a significant number of medieval timber frames survive. One identified example of pre-1500 building survives at '**Richard Green**' (named after the ironmongers of that name, now closed: the building, at the time of this survey, partly unoccupied, lies immediately east of the Bricklayers Arms), West Street. Here, the upper storey of a four-bay timber-framed house is concealed by a later stone façade. At least one bay was an open hall, and the form of the crown-post roof suggests a late 14<sup>th</sup>-century date.<sup>120</sup> At Wheeler's Bookshop, Red Lion Street, two *ex situ* corbel heads, of probable medieval date, are located in the cellar: they may derive from one of the medieval chapels in the town.<sup>121</sup>

#### 4.1.2 Excavations (Map 5)

The **castle at St Ann's Hill** saw excavations in 1913, principally concerned with exposing walls and re-establishing their plan above ground with new masonry, followed by more systematic, but small scale, investigations in 1994. The recent excavations have been useful in that they have confirmed the Romanesque origins of the chapel: the exposed quoins at the junction of nave and chancel appear to have Romanesque axe tooling (although the excavator does not identify this as such) as well as, less diagnostically, rubble walling which possibly shows some herringbone coursing (even if this is the case, its dating is no more precise than the tooling). A trench excavated at the south-east corner of a building to the north confirmed that the tapered plan of the exposed walls results from misalignment of the east wall in the 1913. The excavator concludes that the foundations represent the lower part of a two-storey stone building, with a ground-floor undercroft.<sup>122</sup> This is wholly reasonable, although the interpretation of the building as a 'first-floor hall' is not tenable. Although such buildings have been considered in the past to be self-contained 'first-floor halls', this has been discounted in the last two decades, and – as demonstrated recently at the archetype of Boothby Pagnell and elsewhere in England and Normandy – they normally comprised chamber-blocks usually located adjacent to large ground-floor halls.<sup>123</sup> The excavation of the small trench against the south wall of the example at Midhurst failed to produce evidence for dating, although the excavator suggests a date no earlier than the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, based on comparative dating for the presence of a transverse wall within the undercroft.<sup>124</sup> Again, this is not tenable, as there are similar examples of 12<sup>th</sup>-century subdivided domestic undercrofts.<sup>125</sup> It is possible that the oblong building to the north of the chamber-block



Fig. 13. Midhurst castle, St Ann's Hill. View northwards across 12<sup>th</sup>-century remains (built up above ground in 1913): the chapel of St Denis is in the foreground, with the probable chamber-block beyond (to the right of the view).

represents remains of an open hall. Certainly it was a substantial building and there appear to be no good grounds for the identification, in 1913, of a kitchen function. Its narrower foundations are consistent with, but not proof of, construction as a ground-level hall. A similar arrangement of ground-level hall and chamber-block (together with fragmentary remains of what appears to be a chapel) along the curtain wall survives at 12<sup>th</sup>-century Beaumont-le-Richard, in Calvados.<sup>126</sup> Like Beaumont-le-Richard, the defences at Midhurst were modest. Initially these appear to have comprised earthworks only with, as the 1913 and 1994 excavations show, the stone curtain wall only built after the northern building (i.e. that identified in 1913 as the kitchen, and possibly a hall) had gone out of use or was substantially shortened: the curtain wall cuts across the east wall of the northern building. The 1913 excavations identified an irregularly-shaped 'keep' at the southern end of the site. Trenching in 1994 clarified that the present doorway-like opening has no basis in the medieval design and that medieval foundations survive below. It appears that the present walls above ground represent more than one medieval structure and that these were of different dates.

It remains possible that some of the walling at least perpetuates the location of a tower, or part of a tower, but further excavation is needed. To the west of the curtain wall, the earthworks define a small outer bailey in which the 1913 excavations identified stone-built remains of what were considered to be stables. Trenching in 1994 revealed survival of rubble foundations of this, or other, stone buildings, but was unable to clarify function, form or date. The overall phasing and dating of the castle remains unclear. The chapel is evidently 12<sup>th</sup> century (see above), and may be contemporary with the chamber-block and northern building, the latter perhaps cut across by the curtain wall as early as the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. The earthworks of at least the inner bailey predate the curtain wall, and may be contemporary with the stone buildings or earlier. John Magilton suggests that the earthworks date from the late 1060s,<sup>127</sup> but this remains unproven. A watching brief during digging of a telecommunications trench across the site in 2005 revealed undated sandstone rubble, but was not able to further the understanding of the castle.<sup>128</sup> More extensive excavation is required to clarify the chronology of the castle.



Fig. 14. Infill within the early market place, now forming the east side of Red Lion Street and the west side of Market Square.

Two evaluation trenches to the south of **Capron House, North Street** in 1996, produced only modest archaeology, doubtless reflecting the scale of the machine dug trenches and their location largely to the rear of the burgage plots. The eastern end of the east-west southern trench, however, extended into the rear of the North Street plots and, significantly, revealed a rubbish pit. Although in his summary Magilton refers to the assemblage of pottery dating to the c. 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries, James Kenny's detailed consideration of the fabric types concludes that the assemblage in fact dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>129</sup>

Three separate archaeological investigations were undertaken at the **Spread Eagle Hotel** in 1996-8. An evaluation in 1996 was restricted by a narrow machine dug trench, which partly collapsed during works, and the fact that no access was possible to the trench. Two layers were found containing pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century date: although inconclusive, it was suggested that the layers resulted from deliberate backfilling of a deep feature (i.e. over 1.5m).<sup>130</sup> Construction on the site without necessary planning permission in 1997 led to the need for salvage recording. Despite the site

conditions the profile of a deep ditch was partly observed and partly detected through probing (the ditch having been dug into bedrock). The ditch profile was of 'W' form, suggesting recutting. It was impossible to retrieve significant dating evidence, although pottery sherds recovered from the upper fills of the ditch broadly dated from the mid-13<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Extrapolation of the recorded profile to the assumed medieval ground level suggests an original width of c. 11m.<sup>131</sup> A ground penetrating radar survey was undertaken in 1998, which appeared to confirm the line of the ditch, but which proved to lie west and to be shallower than the ditch observed in 1997. In an attempt to reconcile the apparently partly conflicting results, it has been suggested that the geophysical survey picked up evidence of adjacent hollow ways.<sup>132</sup>

An undated ditch (possibly medieval or, perhaps more probably, post-medieval) was observed in 1998 during a watching brief at the former **Egmont Arms, Rumbolds Hill**. The ditch was at least 1m deep and 1.8m wide and ran parallel to Rumbolds Hill along the street frontage (although it appeared to veer westwards at the southern end of the observed length).<sup>133</sup>

### 4.1.3 Topographic analysis (Maps 6-8)

In the absence of significant archaeological excavation of the town itself, or standing buildings surveys, recent analysis of Midhurst by John Magilton and Spencer Thomas has focused on historic maps. Their urban

morphological study argues that, notwithstanding any earlier occupation, the origins of the town lie in the building of a castle for purely strategic purposes, soon after 1066, with the Norman castle accompanied by a planned town. This planned town was located within a defensive circuit on the west side of the castle (its western limit roughly approximating to Duck Lane) and comprised a large open market, with a central chapel (i.e. what became the parish church), occupying the entire space between Church Hill/South Street and Sheep Lane, with burgage plots flanking it (i.e. equating with the present plots on the west side of Church Hill/South Street and the east side of Sheep Lane). As the northern ends of this market place became infilled, a second market place developed in the area now bounded by Wool Lane, Rumbolds Hill and West Street, with burgage plots established around the periphery. This was followed by development, probably in the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century, of a third, linear, market place in North Street, widened for the purpose. Infilling of





Fig. 15. Tudor View, North Street: side (north) elevation showing 16<sup>th</sup>-century timber frame.

the first market place and the second market place took place in the medieval period, and perhaps led to the development of the third market place.<sup>134</sup>

Despite the uncertainty that surrounds the date of the castle (see sections 3.1.3 and 4.1.2), the broad sequence of development of the Magilton and Spencer hypothesis is reasonable.<sup>135</sup> It is possible, however, that the earlier hundred meeting place and the putative associated market (see section 3.1.4) may have had an influence on more than the overall siting of the town and castle.

The town ditch is of immense importance to Magilton and Spencer's proposed sequence, and the archaeological evidence – most notably the profile recorded in 1997 – supports the interpretation that the feature, first proposed by analysis of 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps, is indeed a defensive ditch. Moreover, an early date for the ditch is implied by the date of pottery in the ditch infill (13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century in the 1996 excavations, and 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century in the 1997 salvage recording) and by the location of the medieval (probably late 14<sup>th</sup>-century) house at 'Richard Green', West Street (see section 4.1.1), over the line of the infilled ditch.<sup>136</sup> The parts of the town outside the ditch, thus, are likely to have been secondary suburbs, initially around the putative triangular market place, and then northwards

along the road. If, as Magilton and Spencer suggest, the postulated second market was developed by the Knights Hospitallers during the 13<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>137</sup> it must have been followed very shortly by the North Street suburb: the excavation at Capron House indicating occupation here by the 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (see section 4.1.2). Magilton and Spencer suggest that North Street may have been widened to create a market place during Cowdray's expansion into a Tudor great house.<sup>138</sup> There is little to support this later widening of the street and no record of a market here in the late medieval and post-medieval periods. Indeed, despite encroachment, the initial market place by the church was the location of the new market hall c.1552 (see section 3.3.3), so it is more likely that North Street was developed in the 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century with its present width. In addition to the encroachment on the market places proposed by Magilton and Spencer (of which the islands in Church Hill and South Street are clear, though not easily datable, examples),<sup>139</sup> the town plan suggests other areas of possibly medieval encroachment in the form of narrowing at the east end of West Street and the north end of Church Hill.

## 4.2 The town c.1500-1840

### 4.2.1 Buildings

The acquisition of parish church status of the chapel of St Mary Magdalene, following the suppression of Easebourne priory in 1536, appears to have provided the impetus for major rebuilding. The 16<sup>th</sup>-century works saw building of a chapel to the east of the tower (until 1851, the Montague chapel), and a nave south aisle to the west. To the north, the nave and chancel were replaced in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but have been largely rebuilt since, albeit in Tudor style, and a north aisle has been added (all by Lacy E. Ridge, in 1882<sup>140</sup>).

In contrast to the single known survival from before c.1500, Midhurst has numerous houses that date from between 1500 and 1840: six from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, 31 from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, 31 from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and 22 from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. These figures largely reflect external evidence and it is likely that a detailed survey would reveal that many houses are significantly older: in particular it must be suspected that several of the timber-framed buildings conservatively dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century are in fact 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.



Fig. 16. Jefferson's and Patrick Muirhen, West Street.

All six identified 16<sup>th</sup>-century houses are timber framed, although half of them have later façades. The building immediately north of the Angel Hotel on the east side of North Street, and currently occupied by Midhurst Travel, Ye Olde Tea Shoppe and the Tuck Shop, has an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century front that conceals a two-storeyed building of probable mid- to late 16<sup>th</sup>-century date. The three-bay building lies parallel to the street and had a continuous jetty. A rear wing was added shortly after initial construction. Wall paintings survive dating from c.1600. The most substantial is at the rear of the central bay of the front range and depicts the story of Naboth's vineyard, while a fragment of a painting of a beast is located towards the rear of the first-floor of the rear wing.<sup>141</sup> To the south of the Angel Hotel, the house known as Tudor View also dates from the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Although refronted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, timber framing of the north elevation of the northern range is exposed, although it has been underbuilt in brick. The wall is mostly of close studding with a mid-rail, and a post at the west end confirms that the street frontage of the northern range at least was jettied. Both this range and that to the south (which is parallel to the street frontage) have similarly constructed queen-post roofs (Fig. 15).<sup>142</sup> Good examples of

mid-16<sup>th</sup>-century exposed timber framing are found in South Street at the Spread Eagle Hotel and at its detached annexe previously known as Old Market Hall. The latter has gables on all four sides, and jetties on its best preserved north, east and west elevations: the southern elevation is later with the building evidently previously extending a bay further south.<sup>143</sup> The north wall has 16<sup>th</sup>-century bay posts only at ground level and appears to have been open, or arcaded, which is consistent with use as a market hall (Fig. 6). The timber-framed part of the Spread Eagle Hotel occupies the corner site formed by the junction of West Street and South Street. The east elevation faced the former market place, and has a long continuous jetty with, at the northern end, a gable (Fig. 7).<sup>144</sup>

As with the earlier houses, timber framing predominates in the 17<sup>th</sup>-century survivals, accounting for at least 27 of the 31 identified examples of this period. Of these 15 have later façades, and three have refacings in plaster and tile, but which leave earlier jetties plainly visible (a good example of which is 2 Market Square). Examples of exposed timber framing survive at 3 and 4 Knockhundred Row; Jefferson's and Patrick Muirhen, West Street (i.e. opposite the entrance to Duck Lane: the building is dated 1660); Elizabeth House, Market Square (the



Fig. 17. The Wheatsheaf Inn (elevation to Wool Lane).



Fig. 18. Capron House, North Street.

north elevation was the party wall with a building to the north, demolished in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>145</sup>); and the Wheatsheaf Inn, Rumbolds Hill. At the public library, Knockhundred Row, tile-hanging has obscured part of the exterior timber framing, and the internal walls were removed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nevertheless, it is clear that the building is of two phases, with the southern three bays added to the northern four (which had a bracketed oriel window to the main ground-floor room) shortly after initial construction.<sup>146</sup> Stone and brick buildings of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date include modest examples at 7-8 Knockhundred Row, and Rico's Café and Loch Fyne Seafood Bar and Grill, North Street, as well as the more ambitious Capron House. The central part of the latter is brick built with a Dutch gable, and a stone mullioned attic window: the porch and flanking ranges, all of stone, are 19<sup>th</sup>-century additions.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century marked a change in the construction, with stone and brick replacing timber frame. In addition to the 31 buildings identified as wholly belonging to this period, many of the earlier buildings were refronted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Examples of earlier houses heavily remodelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century include The Fernery Granville House, and Johnson & Clarence Solicitors on the east side of Market

Square (remodelled as a terrace of three houses in stone with brick quoins); and the Angel Hotel, North Street (eight-bay façade of three storeys, with a carriage arch and rusticated ground floor). What appear to be wholly new houses of this period include the Chichester District Council office, North Street, which is a substantial late 18<sup>th</sup>-century house, with a brick façade with two first-floor Venetian windows and a two-storeyed five-sided canted bay window faced in mathematical tiles. Other substantial examples include Gate House, Edinburgh Square (three-storeyed five-bay house, with red and grey brick façade, but stone-built to the rear); the southern building of the Spread Eagle Hotel, South Street (seven-bay, two-storeyed house with attic and cellar, built in brick with stone quoins and stringcourse); St Ann's House, Sheep Lane (three-storeyed five-bay house with parapet, in red brick); St Ann's, Sheep Lane (three-storeyed four-bay house, with diaper brick to front ground floor, tile-hanging on side elevation, and stone rear elevation: visibly all consistent with 1789 date on rear doorway); and Birdcage House and Lyndale House (a pair of three-storeyed brick townhouses). Knockhundred House, Knockhundred Row, is a good example of a stucco fronted building. A modest row of one-



Fig. 19. St Ann's, Sheep Lane.



Fig. 20. Former town hall, Market Square.

storeyed (plus attic) cottages, built of rubble and brick, survives at 4, 6 and 7 Duck Lane.

The surviving houses of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century are of a more modest scale than many of their 18<sup>th</sup>-century precursors. Although the town lacks numerous surviving terraces, which are typical of this period elsewhere, a surviving example is 1-8 Bennett's Terrace, and another terrace was replaced by Oxford Court, Bepton Road, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Pairs of brick-built houses of this period are found in more central locations, with examples at 413 and 416 Rumbolds Hill, and 414 and 415 Rumbolds Hill. More substantial buildings of this period are non-domestic, and include the ashlar-built Neo-classical grammar school, North Street, of 1821 (Fig. 9); and the town hall, Market Square (rebuilt c.1820, with the west façade stuccoed and the other walls of rubble with brick dressings). Capron House, North Street, is an example of an earlier building substantially extended in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with battlemented ashlar-built wings added to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century house: to the south, there is a contemporary coach and stable block of stone with brick dressings. The former Zion Baptist chapel, Bepton Road, of 1835 (now a Masonic hall), has a rendered Neo-classical façade.

#### 4.2.2 Excavations

The subsurface archaeology of post-medieval Midhurst has been explored to a lesser degree than that for the medieval period. A sandstone well was discovered below the cellar floor at **Birdcage House, Church Hill** in 1998 and was considered to be 18<sup>th</sup> century or later.<sup>147</sup>

#### 4.2.3 Topography (Maps 9-11)

There was little significant re-organization of Midhurst between 1500 and 1840 to upset the medieval topography, with most of the buildings of this period built within the existing street plan. Infilling of the putative medieval market places (see section 4.1.3) may have continued. Certainly, the churchyard around the former chapel of St Mary Magdalene is likely to have been a post-Dissolution encroachment on the market square following the acquisition of parish church status. Six burgages on the east side of the northern end of North Street were lost to expansion of Cowdray Park before 1599.<sup>148</sup> Linear development of the town along the existing roads was a feature during the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century population growth, with development along Bepton Road.



Fig. 21. 413 and 416 Rumbolds Hill (the numbering and colour of the paintwork reflect Cowdray Estate ownership).



Fig. 22. Midhurst tithe map (detail), 1841 (West Sussex Record Office).

### 4.3 Expansion: c.1840-2010 (Maps 3 and 12)

#### 4.3.1 Buildings and topography

The majority of the buildings in Midhurst date from this period, partly as a result of loss of earlier buildings, but mainly through expansion in the form of 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburbs mainly lying to the south and west of the earlier town.

Despite the arrival of the railway at the town in 1864, with a station c.300m beyond the earlier limit of expansion along Bepton Road, there was almost no growth in the extent of the built up area by c.1875. By c.1914, however, the slight population growth of the town was reflected in expansion of the built-up area. Two new terraces were built in Bepton Road between the Zion Baptist chapel and the station; terraced and semi-detached houses were built in Chichester Road and Petersfield Road; and, most substantially, Edwardian houses (mostly

terraced) were built along newly created Ashfield Road. Notable Victorian and Edwardian buildings include the Tudor-styled almshouses in North Street (1840) and Bepton Road (1862); the former Silver Horseshoe public house (now Pizza Express), 11-13 North Street (1889); and the flint and red brick Methodist church, North Street (Josiah Gunton, 1904<sup>149</sup>).

The inter-war years saw further dense building in the Ashfield Road area, but more spacious detached housing on the west side of the town (e.g. along June Lane) was a feature of this period, together with semi-detached houses (which included council housing). The majority of the suburbs, however, reflect the substantial growth in the population since c.1970. Within the EUS study area, post-1918 development has been minimal. The inter-war years saw the building of the substantial brick post office in Grange Road, with the brick magistrates' court (closed) built adjacent c.1960. The most substantial redevelopment has been at the corner of Petersfield Road and Bepton Road, precipitated by the bombing (1942) and subsequent demolition (1946) of the Congregational church. The Victorian public hall, North Street, was demolished in 1966-7 (see section 3.4.3), and was replaced by the present modernist supermarket (since 2008, Tesco). The present Roman Catholic church of St Mary and St Francis of Assisi, Bepton Road, is a building of stone and concrete, with a fan-shaped plan and a free-standing campanile (Guy Morgan, 1957<sup>150</sup>).

## 5 STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER

### 5.1 Town summary

#### 5.1.1 Historic environment overview

Although lacking numerous identifiably medieval townhouses, the early origins of Midhurst are well represented by the Norman castle and the 13<sup>th</sup>-century church. The 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup>-century growth of the town is evident in the surviving buildings, although – despite population stability – many of the town’s largest houses date from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The lack of later redevelopment in the historic core of the town (or, indeed, significant expansion until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century) has had the effect of preserving a high proportion of the pre-c.1840 buildings and topography. Less visible is the archaeological evidence of the earlier town, and the potential of this archaeology has only begun to be realized through excavation.

#### 5.1.2 Historic environment designations (Map 4)

There are 94 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, or structures in the EUS study area (two Grade II\*, and 92 Grade II). Of these, two recognizably predate 1500; six are 16<sup>th</sup> century; 30 are 17<sup>th</sup> century; 32 are 18<sup>th</sup> century; 22 are early 19<sup>th</sup> century; one is from 1841-1880; and one (a telephone box) is from 1914-45.<sup>151</sup> There is one additional 17<sup>th</sup>-century historic building recognized in this assessment that has not been listed.

Midhurst has a Conservation Area. There is one Scheduled Monument in the town, covering the earthworks and ruins of the castle at St Ann’s Hill. Immediately north-east of the town the ruins of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Cowdray are also scheduled.

#### 5.1.3 Historic building materials

The surviving parts of the castle (albeit mostly rebuilt above ground in 1913) are of stone – mostly local sandstone – as is the church. Stone is visibly the main material at 17 houses in the town, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Timber framing is used more widely, visibly the main building material at 35 buildings, mostly dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Brick is increasingly popular from the 18<sup>th</sup> century (where it accounts for 18 houses, as well as re-frontings of many earlier buildings) and is the dominant

building material from c.1800 onwards. Clay tiles are used for roofs and tile-hanging (15 examples on pre-1800 buildings). Weatherboarding is used extensively (15 examples on pre-1840 buildings). There is one example of mathematical tile.

### 5.2 Historic Character Types

#### 5.2.1 Historic Character Types and chronology (Maps 6-12)

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 time-depth 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 20<sup>th</sup>-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 map-based 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 6-11) 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 Midhurst (Maps 6-12)

Although Historic Character Types represent county-wide types, modern Midhurst 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 *castle* and *regular burgage plots* reflects the fact that Midhurst was a new borough set out next to a minor Norman castle.

## 5.3 Historic Urban Character Areas (Map 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 2 in Midhurst combines six Historic Character Types that represent the *church/churchyard* dating from Period 5 (1066-1149) and Period 8 (16<sup>th</sup> century), a cemetery dating from Period 10 (18<sup>th</sup> century), *regular burgage plots* dating from Period 5 (1066-1149) to Period 7 (1350-1499), *irregular historic plots* from Period 8 (16<sup>th</sup> century), *market place* from Period 5 (1066-1149) onwards, and *suburb* from Period 11 (1800-40) onwards. Combining this complexity into a single HUCA called *Market Place* reflects the largely coherent character of the area 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 or which constitute market places) and waterways (apart from the mill ponds) 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century development and that it is misleading to assume complete destruction. Also, whilst pre-urban archaeology 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 15)

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 Chichester 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 Midhurst (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 Midhurst's Historic Urban Character Areas (14)

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

#### HUCA 1 Castle (HEV 5)

HUCA 1 is on the eastern edge of the medieval and modern settlement.

Today the area comprises the ruinous remains of the Norman castle, erected in either the late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century, which form a Scheduled Monument. The remains comprise earthworks (which utilize the natural spur of St Ann's Hill), which define an inner and outer bailey. Within the inner bailey there are ruins of stone buildings, the above ground elements of which largely date from 1913. Excavation, however, has shown that the subsurface remains are medieval, probably dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (the castle was probably abandoned c.1280). From south to north, the buildings comprise an irregularly shaped building, which may be a tower; the two-cell chapel of St Denis; the remains of the undercroft of a probable chamber-block; and a building – cut by the later curtain wall – that may possibly be the remains of a ground-level hall. With the exception of an area of allotment

gardens in the north part of the outer bailey, the site today is open to the public, comprising informal gardens.

Excavations with little or no archaeological procedure and record took place in 1913. These were followed by smaller investigations in 1994, which have demonstrated the remaining high **archaeological potential** of the castle, and were themselves not sufficiently large-scale to seriously reduce the potential.

The survival of the remains of the Norman castle; the visibility and accessibility of the historic remains; and the archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA the highest **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 5.

Although long ruinous, the castle has seen some destructive developments over the last 100 years in the form of non-archaeological excavations. However, the protection of the site as a Scheduled Monument suggests that **vulnerability** is low.

**Research questions** especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the castle (RQ10-13).

### **HUCA 2 Market Square (HEV 5)**

HUCA 2 largely comprises the initial extent of the Norman borough, contained within a defensive town ditch, which has been identified through archaeological investigation and cartographic analysis. The central area of the initial planned town comprised a market place (within which was a chapel – now the parish church), flanked by regular burgage plots. Expansion of the town from the 13<sup>th</sup>-century onwards has seen building over the ditch, and partial infill of the market place. Today, the HUCA lies east of the commercial centre of Midhurst and comprises a mix of residential, shops, pubs/hotels, and other businesses, together with the parish church and its additional cemetery.

There are 43 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (two Grade II\*; and 41 Grade II) of which one is Period 6 (1150-1349), four are Period 8 (16<sup>th</sup> century), 11 are Period 9 (17<sup>th</sup> century), 20 are Period 10 (18<sup>th</sup> century), and seven are Period 11 (1800-40). Of these, several are especially noteworthy. The church (Grade II\*) dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although only the lower parts of the once projecting tower are visibly of this date. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century a chapel was built east of the tower and a nave south aisle to the west. To the north, the nave and chancel were replaced in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but were largely rebuilt 1882. Good examples of mid-16<sup>th</sup>-century exposed timber framing are at

the Spread Eagle Hotel (which occupies the corner site formed by the junction of West Street and South Street: Grade II\*) and at its detached annexe previously known as Old Market Hall (the northern wall of which has 16<sup>th</sup>-century bay posts only at ground level and appears to have been open, or arcaded, which is consistent with use as a market hall: Grade II). Examples of exposed timber framing of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date survive at 3 and 4 Knockhundred Row; Jefferson's and Patrick Muirhen, West Street (i.e. opposite the entrance to Duck Lane: the building is dated 1660); and Elizabeth House, Market Square (all Grade II). The HUCA contains several examples of substantial 18<sup>th</sup>-century townhouses (all Grade II) at Gate House, Edinburgh Square (three-storeyed five-bay house, with red and grey brick façade, but stone-built to the rear); the southern building of the Spread Eagle Hotel, South Street (seven-bay, two-storeyed house with attic and cellar, built in brick with stone quoins and stringcourse); St Ann's House, Sheep Lane (three-storeyed five-bay house with parapet, in red brick); St Ann's, Sheep Lane (three-storeyed four-bay house, with diaper brick to front ground floor, tile-hanging on side elevation, and stone rear elevation: visibly all consistent with 1789 date on rear doorway); and Birdcage House and Lyndale House (a pair of three-storeyed brick townhouses).

Burgage plots are reasonably well preserved, although there has been much amalgamation.

Archaeological investigations at the Spread Eagle Hotel in 1996-8 demonstrated the survival of medieval finds and features (including evidence of the town ditch) and suggest that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is high.

The surviving medieval and post-medieval buildings, the completeness of historic street-front and the survival of early plot boundaries, combine with the archaeological potential to give this HUCA the very highest **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 5.

HUCA 2 has seen modest change in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (principally through refitting of shops and other business premises). The Historic Environment Value of the area, however, means that **vulnerability** is high. The present shops and business premises are vulnerable to change of occupancy or, even, change of use, with potential for considerable impact on the historic fabric and for further erosion of the commercial character of the Market Square area.

**Research questions** especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the Norman town (RQ4-9).

### **HUCA 3 Wool Lane (HEV 4)**

HUCA 3 lies west of the site of the first Norman borough (see HUCA 2), being over and west of the town ditch. The suburb appears to have emerged around a second, putative, market place established in the triangle formed by the pre-town roads that are now Wool Lane and Rumbolds Hill, probably during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly with the stimulus of the Knights Hospitallers (whose grange lay south of West Street). The triangular market place was later infilled, and today the area combines shops and houses, forming the southern part of the commercial centre of the modern town.

There are 19 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (all Grade II) of which one is Period 7 (1350-1499), eight are Period 9 (17<sup>th</sup> century), three are Period 10 (18<sup>th</sup> century), and seven are Period 11 (1800-40). These include Midhurst's one identified example of a pre-1500 house, which survives at 'Richard Green' (named after the ironmongers of that name, now closed: the building lies immediately east of the Bricklayers Arms), West Street (Grade II). Here, the upper storey of a four-bay timber-framed house is concealed by a later stone façade. At least one bay was an open hall, and the form of the crown-post roof suggests a late 14<sup>th</sup>-century date. The Wheatsheaf Inn, Rumbolds Hill (Grade II), is an example of exposed 17<sup>th</sup>-century timber framing, while jetties are visible at Wool Cottage, Wool Lane and 3 Wool Lane (both 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier). The Asha Tandoori restaurant, West Street, is an example of a stone-built 18<sup>th</sup>-century house, while 413/416 Rumbolds Hill and Regency House, Rumbolds Hill, are examples of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick houses (the former reflecting Cowdray Estate ownership in its house numbering and yellow-painted woodwork).

Burgage plots are reasonably well preserved, especially on the east side of Wool Lane.

A watching brief at the former Egmont Arms, Rumbolds Hill in 1998 confirmed the survival of archaeological features and deposits. Combined with the presence of known medieval buildings and parts of the town ditch, this suggests that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is high.

The combination of medieval and, especially, post-medieval buildings and the significant archaeological potential gives this HUCA a high **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 4.

HUCA 3 has seen little significant change since 1900, with redevelopment of the south side of West Street – associated with the creation of Grange Road – the most significant. Although

there is little scope for further infill development, the high Historic Environment Value of the area means that **vulnerability** is medium, with the greatest threat being loss of unlisted houses, and of subsurface archaeology through such redevelopment.

**Research questions** especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the later medieval town (RQ14-17).

### **HUCA 4 North Street - upper (HEV 4)**

HUCA 4 comprises the part of North Street south of the car park and Capron House, together with the adjacent parts of Knockhundred Row and Lamberts Lane. The area developed as a linear extension of the town, probably in the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century: this dating is based on very limited archaeological excavation. Today the area comprises the main shopping area of Midhurst.

There are 23 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (all Grade II) of which two are Period 8 (16<sup>th</sup> century), 10 are Period 9 (17<sup>th</sup> century), six are Period 10 (18<sup>th</sup> century), and five are Period 11 (1800-40). The building immediately north of the Angel Hotel on the east side of North Street, and currently occupied by Midhurst Travel, Ye Olde Tea Shoppe and the Tuck Shop, is a two-storeyed timber-framed building of probable mid-to late 16<sup>th</sup>-century date. It is of three bays, with a continuous jetty, and has wall paintings surviving from c.1600. To the south of the Angel Hotel, the house known as Tudor View also dates from the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and has exposed close-studded timber framing along its northern elevation. The Angel Hotel itself is a timber-framed building dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but has an 18<sup>th</sup>-century eight-bay façade of three storeys, with a carriage arch and rusticated ground floor. Chichester District Council office, North Street, is a substantial late 18<sup>th</sup>-century house, with a brick façade with two first-floor Venetian windows and a two-storeyed five-sided canted bay window faced in mathematical tiles. Knockhundred House, Knockhundred Row, is a good example of a stucco fronted building from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There is one unlisted building of local interest at 15 North Street, which the north elevation shows to be a timber-framed building probably of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date.

Burgage plots are reasonably well preserved, especially on the east side of North Street.

Archaeological investigations have been limited to minor evaluations at the rear of plots. Combined with the medieval origins and the lack

of intensive post-1900 redevelopment, this suggests that it is likely that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is high.

The surviving historic (apparently post-medieval) buildings, the completeness of the historic street-front and the survival of early plot boundaries, combine with the archaeological potential to give this HUCA a high **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 4.

There has been little development in HUCA 4 since 1900, although the replacement of the Victorian public hall in North Street by a supermarket (now Tesco) in 1966-7 is a notable exception, and there has been recent (2009) infill in the Angel Hotel yard. The considerable Historic Environment Value of the area, however, means that **vulnerability** is medium, with the main threats being further infill, redevelopment of unlisted 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings, and internal refitting of listed buildings in commercial use.

**Research questions** especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the later medieval town (RQ14-16).

### ***HUCA 5 North Street - lower (HEV 3)***

HUCA 5 comprises the part of North Street extending northwards from the car park and Capron House. The area developed as a linear extension of the town, from the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It now forms the north edge of the town, but previously the town extended further than it does today along the east side of the road (six burgages being taken into the expanded Cowdray Park before 1599). Today the area combines public (the car park, the grammar school building, and the Methodist church) and residential use.

There are five listed buildings (all Grade II) of which one is Period 9 (17<sup>th</sup> century), two are Period 10 (18<sup>th</sup> century), and two are Period 11 (1800-40). Capron House is the most noteworthy, and has a 17<sup>th</sup>-century central part built of brick with a Dutch gable, and a stone mullioned attic window. The porch and flanking ranges, all of stone, are 19<sup>th</sup>-century additions. The ashlar-built Neo-classical grammar school has four widely spaced pilasters (dated 1821). The Tudor-styled Ognells almshouses date from 1840; and the unlisted flint and red brick Methodist church dates from 1904 (by Josiah Gunton, 1904).

There have been no archaeological investigations in the HUCA. The combination of medieval and post-medieval origins, a comparatively low density of historic occupation,

and some 20<sup>th</sup>-century redevelopment, suggests that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is moderate.

The survival of several 17<sup>th</sup>-century and later buildings, and the archaeological potential give this HUCA an **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 3.

HUCA 5 has seen significant change since 1945, with some infill development and the creation of the public car park. There is little scope for future infill, however, and, combined with a medium Historic Environment Value, this means that **vulnerability** is low-medium.

**Research questions** especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the later medieval town (RQ14-16).

### ***HUCA 6 South Mill (HEV 2)***

HUCA 6 comprises the area south of the initial Norman town and castle, but north of the stream that runs eastwards into the River Rother. This was first developed by the southern, and later, of Midhurst's two mills (the North Mill, is to the north of the town, outside the EUS study area): the mill was established between 1220 and 1284. The HUCA saw additional development in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when it became the location of the town's wharf, following improvements to navigability of the River Rother in 1791-4.

Today, mill pond survives in an informal public park, and the area to the east comprises modern suburbs and works. The 18<sup>th</sup>-century former mill house is the only listed building (Grade II).

The lack of dense earlier occupation and the substantial redevelopment in the 20<sup>th</sup> century mean that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is limited.

The lack of more than one pre-1800 historic building; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA an **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

HUCA 6 has seen significant change in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, with extensive infill with housing and works buildings (themselves in part replacing a 19<sup>th</sup>-century gas works). Combined with the modest Historic Environment Value of the area, this means that **vulnerability** is low.

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

### ***HUCA 7 Petersfield Road (HEV 2)***

HUCA 7 lies on the western edge of the medieval town, beyond which there are late 19<sup>th</sup> and, especially, 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburbs. Building

probably began at the corner of Petersfield Road and Bepton Road in the late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, but the more westerly development of the HUCA appears to have occurred from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Today the area combines residential use with businesses, which include a petrol station. There is one group of buildings that is listed (Grade II). This comprises 11, 13, 15 and 17 Petersfield Road, which is an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century range of stuccoed cottages. Opposite, the former St Margaret's Convent school (founded 1888; closed 2009) is one of Midhurst's few examples of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century detached villas in spacious grounds.

Despite the probable medieval origins of at least the corner site, the density of 20<sup>th</sup>-century redevelopment here and the fact that other parts of the HUCA lie outside the medieval town suggest that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is limited.

The lack of pre-1800 historic buildings; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA an **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

HUCA 7 has seen significant change in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, with substantial redevelopment at the corner of Petersfield Road and Bepton Road, precipitated by the bombing (1942) and subsequent demolition (1946) of the Congregational church. Combined with the modest Historic Environment Value of the area, this means that **vulnerability** is low. Perhaps the greatest threat is to the unlisted villa at the core of the now closed St Margaret's Convent school.

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

### ***HUCA 8 Bepton Road (HEV 2)***

HUCA 8 lies on the south-western edge of the medieval and pre-1900 town, along the road that led to Midhurst Common and, from 1864, the railway station. It comprises a linear suburb, probably begun (at its northern end) in the 17<sup>th</sup>-century, but largely dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was the location for two Baptist

chapels, which opened in 1835 and 1840, and some of the more modest early 19<sup>th</sup>-century housing in the town.

Today the area remains largely residential. There is one listed building (Grade II), comprising the Tudor-styled almshouses (1862). The unlisted Baptist chapels (closed) survive, as does Bennett's Terrace (a rare Midhurst survival of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century terraced housing).

The location of the HUCA outside the medieval town suggests that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is limited.

The lack of pre-1800 historic buildings and plots; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA an **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

HUCA 8 has seen modest change since 1945, with the most significant change being the replacement of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century housing by the flats of Oxford Court. Given the modest Historic Environment Value of the area, the **vulnerability** is low, with the greatest threat being further loss of the unlisted 19<sup>th</sup>-century houses and chapels.

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

### ***5.3.7 Summary table of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Midhurst***

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 town, and helps to draw out key points. As such it supports the preparation of guidance for the town (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, contributes to the assessment of the Historic Environment Value of each HUCA. The assessment of vulnerability of each HUCA is important for developing guidance.

<b>Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Midhurst</b>				
<i>Historic Character Types (HCTs)</i>	<i>Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA)</i>	<i>Archaeological potential</i>	<i>Historic Environment Value (HEV)</i>	<i>Vulnerability</i>
Castle Town defences	<b>1. Castle</b>	High	5	<b>Low</b>
Church/churchyard Market place Regular burgage plots Irregular historic plots Cemetery Suburb	<b>2. Market Square</b>	High	5	<b>High</b>
Regular burgage plots Irregular historic plots	<b>3. Wool Lane</b>	High	4	<b>Medium</b>
Regular burgage plots Suburb	<b>4. North Street - upper</b>	High	4	<b>Medium</b>
Regular burgage plots Irregular historic plots Public	<b>5. North Street - lower</b>	Moderate	3	<b>Low/Medium</b>
Inland water Mill Irregular historic plots Regular burgage plots Light industry Suburb	<b>6. South Mill</b>	Limited	2	<b>Low</b>
Irregular historic plots Suburb	<b>7. Petersfield Road</b>	Limited	2	<b>Low</b>
Irregular historic plots Public Suburb	<b>8. Bepton Road</b>	Limited	2	<b>Low</b>

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

## 6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

### 6.1 Pre-urban activity

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

**RQ1:** What was the nature of the palaeo-environment (ancient environment), and the prehistoric, Roman, and early to mid-Anglo-Saxon human activity in the area?

### 6.2 Origins

Archaeological and historical analysis has provided insufficient understanding of the origins of the settlement at Midhurst. Key questions include:

**RQ2:** What evidence is there for Anglo-Saxon settlement or activity, which may have provided a focus for the siting of the later Norman castle and town?

**RQ3:** What was the road layout, how did this evolve, and how did it relate to major routes, river crossings, and a transhumant Downland-Wealden economy?

### 6.3 Norman town

Questions that need addressing include:

**RQ4:** What was the extent of the town in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and to what degree did it change over this period?

**RQ5:** What different zones (e.g. the market place) were there during this period, and how did they change?

**RQ6:** What evidence is there for the development of burgage plots?

**RQ7:** What were the location, form and chronology of the town defences?

**RQ8:** What was the date and form of the Norman church?

**RQ9:** What evidence is there for the economy of the town, especially with regard to its Wealden hinterland?

### 6.4 Norman and medieval castle

Excavation has been limited, and key questions include:

**RQ10:** What was the construction and chronology of the castle defences and buildings?

**RQ11:** What evidence is there for occupation of the castle?

**RQ12:** What provision was there for road/water access to the castle?

**RQ13:** When, and for what reason, was the castle abandoned, and how long did the chapel remain in use?

### 6.5 Later medieval town

**RQ14:** How have tenements/burgage plots developed from the first built-up street frontages to the plots that survive today?

**RQ15:** What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider industry, the putative multiplication of markets, and the role of the Knights Hospitallers) were there during this period, and how did they change?

**RQ16:** What evidence can the standing buildings provide for their function and date (i.e. through dendrochronology), especially those on the main streets?

**RQ17:** When did the town defences go out of use?

### 6.6 Post-medieval town

**RQ18:** What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider industries), were there during this period, and how did they change?

**RQ19:** How were the medieval and early post-medieval buildings adapted for new functions and changing status (e.g. creation of carriageways, or subdivision of hall houses)?

## 7 Notes

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).*

<sup>3</sup> E.g. Gundry, D., *Midhurst, Yesterday and Today* (1984); Johnson-Davies, F., *Midhurst – a brief history* (1996).

<sup>4</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History 4* (1953), 74-80.

<sup>5</sup> Thompson, K., 'Historical Notes: the castle of Midhurst, its builders and occupants', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 21-5.

<sup>6</sup> Magilton, J., 'Excavations at St Ann's Hill, 1994', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 26-48.

<sup>7</sup> Magilton, J., 'Excavations south of Capron House, North Street, in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 67-72. This published account is an expanded version of the original report: Anon, *Archaeological Evaluation, land south of Capron House, North Street, Midhurst* (Southern Archaeology Ltd. report, 1996).

<sup>8</sup> Magilton, J., 'The borough ditch. Investigations at the Spread Eagle Hotel', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 49-52. This published account derives from the original report: Stevens, S., *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at The Spread Eagle Hotel, Midhurst, West Sussex* (South Eastern Archaeological Services report, project no. 507, 1996).

<sup>9</sup> Magilton, J., 'The borough ditch. Investigations at the Spread Eagle Hotel', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 53-5, 59-63. This published account is largely based on the field notes of Murray Marr, with soil sampling allowing analysis of beetle fauna by Katherine Grove, bark and wood by Rowena Gale, and Pollen by Rob Scaife.

<sup>10</sup> Magilton, J., 'The borough ditch. Investigations at the Spread Eagle Hotel', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 55-9. This published account derives from the original report: Barker, P. P., *Geophysical Survey carried*

*out at Spread Eagle Hotel, Midhurst* (Stratascan report, for Archaeology South East, 1998).

<sup>11</sup> Woodward, S., *Archaeological Monitoring, Birdcage House, Midhurst* (unpublished Southern Archaeology Ltd. report, 1998).

<sup>12</sup> Wildman, J., *Watching Brief at the former Egmont Arms, Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst* (unpublished Southern Archaeology Ltd. report, 1998).

<sup>13</sup> Wildman, J., *Work on the Motte and Bailey Castle on St Ann's Hill, Midhurst, West Sussex* (unpublished Southern Archaeology Ltd. report, 2005).

<sup>14</sup> Griffin, N., *An Archaeological watching Brief and Evaluation of the Former Bus Garage Between Lamberts Lane and Capron House, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology-South East report, project no. 1194, 2000).

<sup>15</sup> Hall, N., *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the Rear of The Angel Hotel, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex* (unpublished Development Archaeology Services Ltd. report, 2009).

<sup>16</sup> E.g. Steyning: Lacey, H. M. & U. E., *The Timber-framed Buildings of Steyning* (1974).

<sup>17</sup> Hughes, A., 'Richard Green', *West Street, Midhurst* (unpublished report, 2006/7).

<sup>18</sup> Hughes, A., *Sth of Angel Hotel, Midhurst* (unpublished report, 1998).

<sup>19</sup> Hughes, A., *The Angel Hotel, Midhurst* (unpublished report, 1998).

<sup>20</sup> Hughes, A., *Midhurst Library, Knockhundred Row* (unpublished report, 2002).

<sup>21</sup> Ballantyne, A., Carrick, M., Hassall, C., and Magilton, J., 'Ye Olde Tea Shoppe, North Street, and its wall paintings', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 73-84.

<sup>22</sup> WSR0 Add. MS 24,110.

<sup>23</sup> Vine, P. A. L., *West Sussex Waterways* (1985); Vine, P. A. L., Vine, *London's Lost Route to the Sea* (1996), 21-2; Farrant, J., 'Growth of Communications 1720-1840', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 78-9.

<sup>24</sup> Farrant, J., 'Growth of Communications 1840-1914', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 80-1; Griffiths, I. L., 'Road and rail in Sussex', in Geography Editorial Committee (eds.), *Sussex: Environment, Landscape and Society* (1983), 239.

<sup>25</sup> Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.M., *The Place-names of Sussex* (1929-30; reprinted 2001), 27; Gelling, M. & Cole, A., *The Landscape of Place-names* (2000), 236.

<sup>26</sup> Vincent, N., 'A nun's priests' tale: the foundation of Easebourne Priory (1216-1240)', *SAC 147* (2009), 111-23, at 113.

<sup>27</sup> Online edition of the 1291 Taxatio produced by University of Manchester, under the supervision of Professor Jeff Denton: <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/taxatio/info.html>.

<sup>28</sup> Gardiner, M. F., *Medieval Settlement and Society in the Eastern Sussex Weald* (unpublished. Ph.D. thesis, University of London, 1995), 62; Gardiner, M., 'Late Saxon Sussex c.650-1066', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 30-1.

<sup>29</sup> Vincent, N., 'A nun's priests' tale: the foundation of Easebourne Priory (1216-1240)', *SAC 147* (2009), 113.



- <sup>30</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 74.
- <sup>31</sup> Thompson, K., 'Historical Notes: the castle of Midhurst, its builders and occupants', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 21-5, at 21.
- <sup>32</sup> Jones, R., 'Hastings to Herstmonceux: The Castles of Sussex', in Rudling, D., *The Archaeology of the Sussex to AD2000* (2003), 171-8, at 172-4.
- <sup>33</sup> Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., 'The origin and growth of Midhurst', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 109-26, at 117.
- <sup>34</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 76.
- <sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 40.
- <sup>36</sup> Britnell, R. H., 'English markets and royal administration before 1200', *Economic History Review*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ser., 31 (1978) 183-96.
- <sup>37</sup> I am grateful to Dr Mark Gardiner for discussion of the relationship of the hundred meeting place to post-Conquest Midhurst.
- <sup>38</sup> Vincent, N., 'A nun's priests' tale: the foundation of Easebourne Priory (1216-1240)', *SAC* 147 (2009), 111-23, at 113.
- <sup>39</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 75.
- <sup>40</sup> Cheney, C. R., and Jones, M., (eds.), *A Handbook of Dates* (revised edition, 2000), 96.
- <sup>41</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 76; Cooper, W. D., 'Midhurst: its Lords and its Inhabitants', *SAC* 20 (1868), 1-33, at 4-5.
- <sup>42</sup> Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., 'The origin and growth of Midhurst', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 118.
- <sup>43</sup> Vincent, N., 'A nun's priests' tale: the foundation of Easebourne Priory (1216-1240)', *SAC* 147 (2009), 115, 120.
- <sup>44</sup> Hudson, W. H. (ed.), 'The three earliest subsidies for the County of Sussex in the years 1296, 1327, 1332', *SRS* 10 (1910), 93, 115, 226.
- <sup>45</sup> Cornwall, J., 'Sussex Wealth and Society in the Reign of Henry VIII', *SAC* 114 (1976), 1-26, at 16.
- <sup>46</sup> Cooper, W. D., 'Midhurst: its Lords and its Inhabitants', *SAC* 20 (1868), 7, n. 16.
- <sup>47</sup> Hudson, W. H. (Cooper, W. D., 'Midhurst: its Lords and its Inhabitants', *SAC* 20 (1868), 1-33, ed.), 'The three earliest subsidies for the County of Sussex in the years 1296, 1327, 1332', *SRS* 10 (1910), 93, 115, 226.
- <sup>48</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 76.
- <sup>49</sup> Cornwall, J., 'Sussex Wealth and Society in the Reign of Henry VIII', *SAC* 114 (1976), 16.
- <sup>50</sup> Cornwall, J. (ed.), 'The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25', *SRS* 56 (1956), 7-8. The calculation for the total population is the author's and is necessarily indicative, with a multiplier of 490% used for the taxpayers.
- <sup>51</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 47-53.
- <sup>52</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 78-9.
- <sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, 74; Thompson, K., 'Historical Notes: the castle of Midhurst, its builders and occupants', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 21-5, at 25.
- <sup>54</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 77-9; Page, W., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 2 (1973), 93.
- <sup>55</sup> Cornwall, J. (ed.), 'The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25', *SRS* 56 (1956), 7-8.
- <sup>56</sup> Williams, I. L., 'The inhabitants of Midhurst: An amendment', *SAC* 130 (1992), 244-6.
- <sup>57</sup> Cooper, J. H., 'A Religious Census of Sussex in 1676', *SAC* 45 (1902), 142-8, at 146.
- <sup>58</sup> Ford, W. K. (ed.), 'Chichester Diocesan Surveys 1686 and 1724', *SRS* 78, 200. 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 households and families (1670 and 1724), and 490% for taxpayers (1524).
- <sup>59</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 76.
- <sup>60</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 77.
- <sup>61</sup> Howard, M., 'Civil War', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 58-9.
- <sup>62</sup> Magilton, J., 'The borough constitution', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 135-6.
- <sup>63</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 76.
- <sup>64</sup> Magilton, J., 'The borough constitution', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 135-6.
- <sup>65</sup> Cornwall, J., 'Sussex Wealth and Society in the Reign of Henry VIII', *SAC* 114 (1976), 1-26, at 18.
- <sup>66</sup> Yates, T., 'Life in the post-medieval town', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 86-7.
- <sup>67</sup> Cornwall, J., 'Sussex Wealth and Society in the Reign of Henry VIII', *SAC* 114 (1976), 19.
- <sup>68</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 76; Yates, T., 'Life in the post-medieval town', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 86-7.
- <sup>69</sup> Cleere, H., and Crossley, D., *The iron Industry of the Weald* (revised edition, 1995).
- <sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, 342, 388.
- <sup>71</sup> Cornwall, J. (ed.), 'The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25', *SRS* 56 (1956), 7.
- <sup>72</sup> Pennington, J., 'Inns and Taverns of Western Sussex, England, 1550-1700: A Documentary and Architectural Investigation', in Kümin, B., & Tlustý, B. A., (eds.), *The World of the Tavern: Public Houses in Early Modern Europe* (2002), 116-35, at 120, 124, 132; see also, Pennington, J., 'Inns and Alehouses in 1686', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 68-9.
- <sup>73</sup> Johnston, G. D., *Abstract of Turnpike Acts relating to Sussex* (transcript at SAS, c.1948), 2, 19.
- <sup>74</sup> Farrant, J., 'Growth of Communications 1720-1840', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 78-9.
- <sup>75</sup> Page, W., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 2 (1973), 85.
- <sup>76</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 78-9.
- <sup>77</sup> Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., 'The origin and growth of Midhurst', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 114.
- <sup>78</sup> Salzman, L. F., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 4 (1953), 78.

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- <sup>80</sup> Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 15.
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- <sup>89</sup> Ford, W. K. (ed.), 'Chichester Diocesan Surveys 1686 and 1724', *SRS* 78, 200, 257-8.
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- <sup>106</sup> Nairn, I., and Pevsner, N. *Buildings of England: Sussex* (1965), 271.
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- <sup>111</sup> WSRO ref: E/138 viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk/>).
- <sup>112</sup> WSRO ref: E/138A viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk/>).
- <sup>113</sup> WSRO ref: E/138B viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk/>).
- <sup>114</sup> <http://www.midhurst-primary-school.co.uk/about/>
- <sup>115</sup> <http://www.conventofmercy.org/pages/ourschool/about.htm>
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- <sup>118</sup> Gundry, D., *Midhurst, Yesterday and Today* (1984), 81.
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<sup>133</sup> Wildman, J., *Watching Brief at the former Egmont Arms, Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst* (unpublished Southern Archaeology Ltd. report, 1998).

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<sup>135</sup> I am grateful to Dr Mark Gardiner for discussion of the development of Midhurst.

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<sup>137</sup> Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., 'The origin and growth of Midhurst', in Magilton, J., and Thomas, S., (eds.), *Midhurst* (2001), 120.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid.*, 122-4.

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<sup>144</sup> Early dates have been suggested for this building – e.g. *ibid.* – but I concur with Janet Pennington that the style of timber framing firmly assigns the building to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. Janet Pennington suggests that the present building may have been erected at the same time as the adjacent market house (i.e. c.1552): Pennington, J., 'Inns and Taverns of Western Sussex, England, 1550-1700: A Documentary and Architectural Investigation', in Kümin, B., & Tlustý, B. A., (eds.), *The World of the Tavern: Public Houses in Early Modern Europe* (2002), 124.

<sup>145</sup> OS 1:2,500 maps Epoch 3 (1912) and Epoch 4 (1938).

<sup>146</sup> Hughes, A., *Midhurst Library, Knockhundred Row* (unpublished report, 2002).

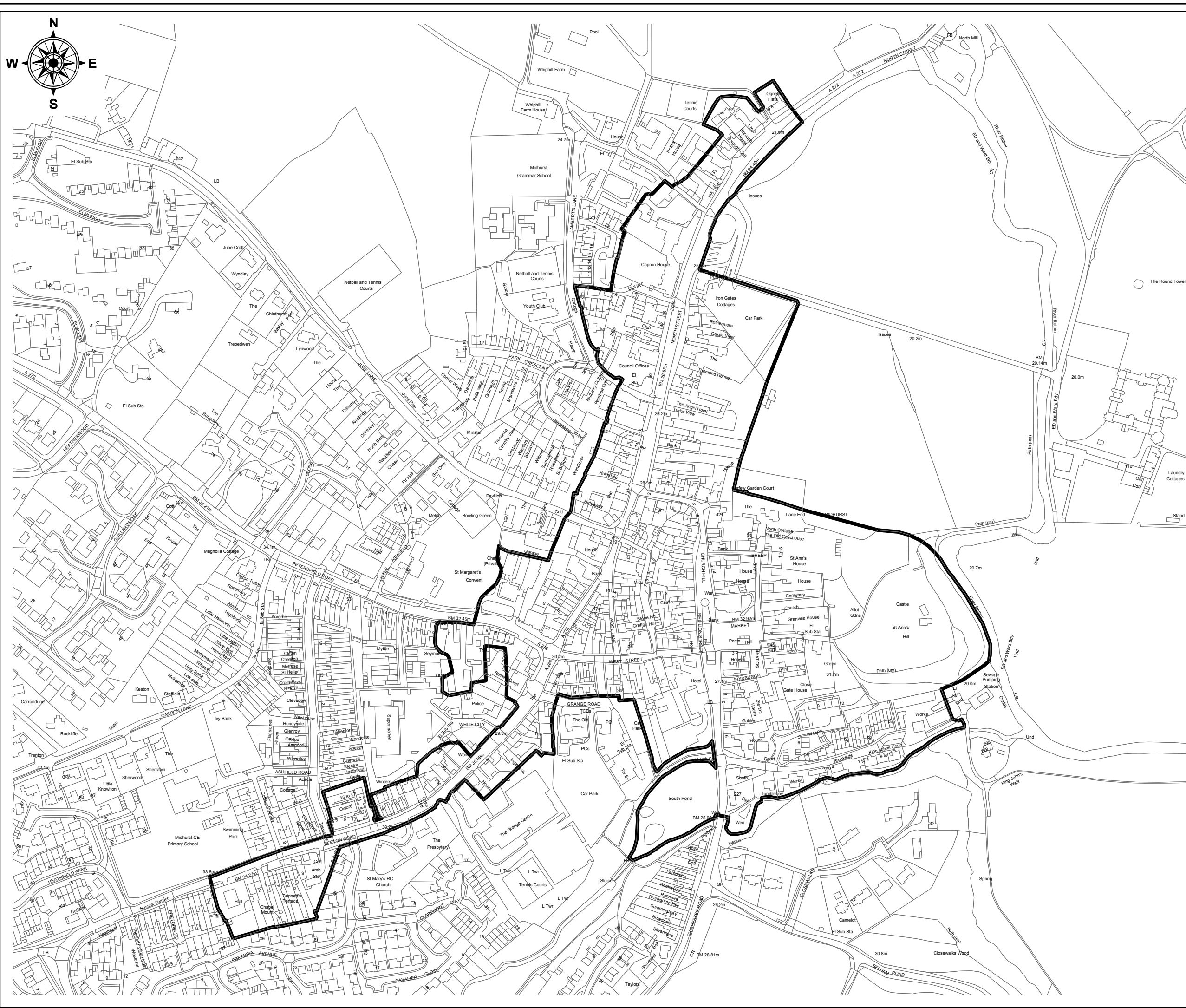
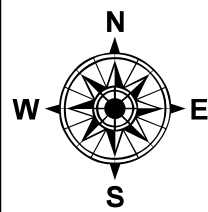
<sup>147</sup> Woodward, S., *Archaeological Monitoring, Birdcage House, Midhurst* (unpublished Southern Archaeology Ltd. report, 1998).

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<sup>150</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>151</sup> 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.



Sussex EUS




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### MIDHURST MAP 1

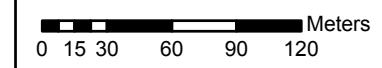
Extent of Midhurst EUS study area

**KEY**

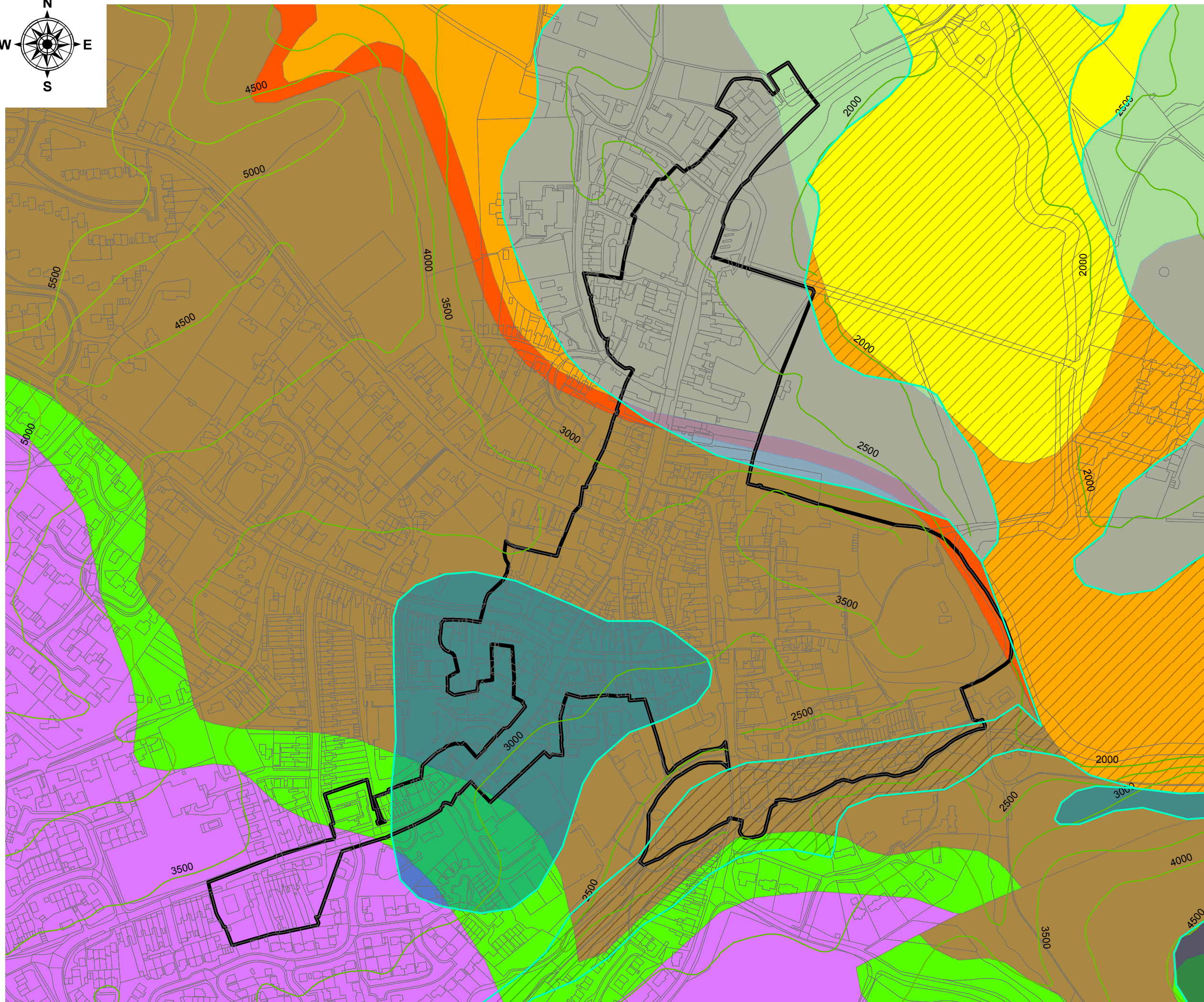
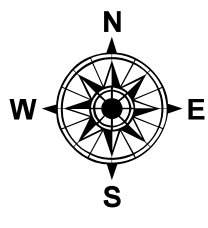
 EUS boundary

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January 2010

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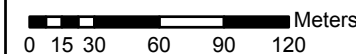
## MIDHURST MAP 2

### Solid and drift geology with 5m contours

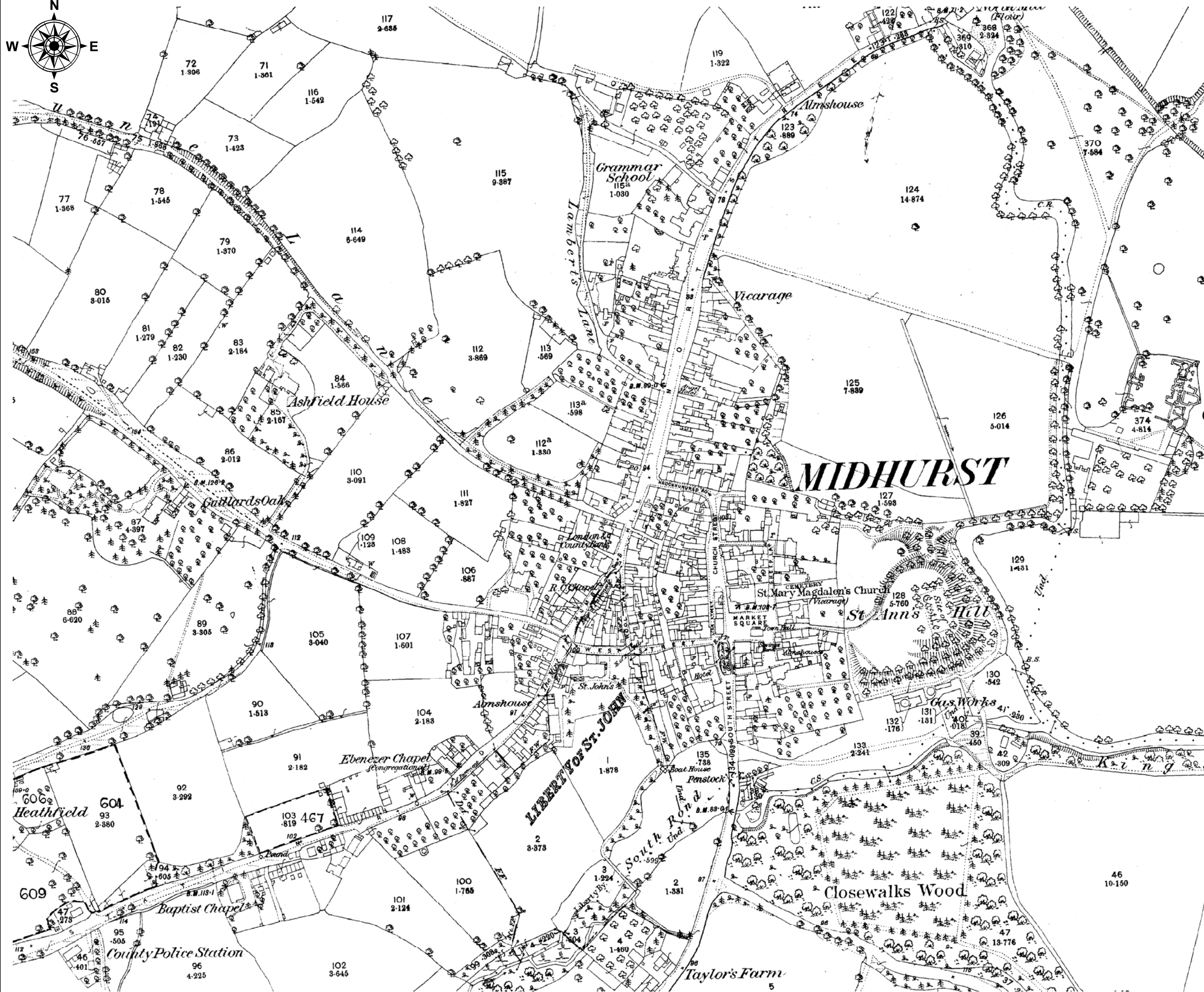
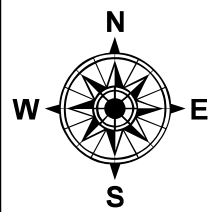
- KEY**
- Solid geology**
- FOLKESTONE FORMATION
  - LOWER FITTLEWORTH MEMBER
  - MAREHILL CLAY MEMBER
  - PULBOROUGH SANDROCK MEMBER
  - SELHAM IRONSHOT SANDS MEMBER
  - UPPER FITTLEWORTH MEMBER
- Drift geology**
- ALLUVIUM
  - RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 1
  - RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 2
  - RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 3
- EUS boundary**

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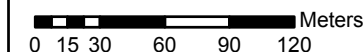
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### MIDHURST MAP 3

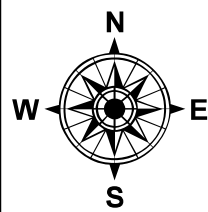
Ordnance Survey  
1st Series 25" (1874)

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### MIDHURST MAP 4

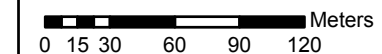
### Historic buildings and Scheduled Monuments

#### KEY

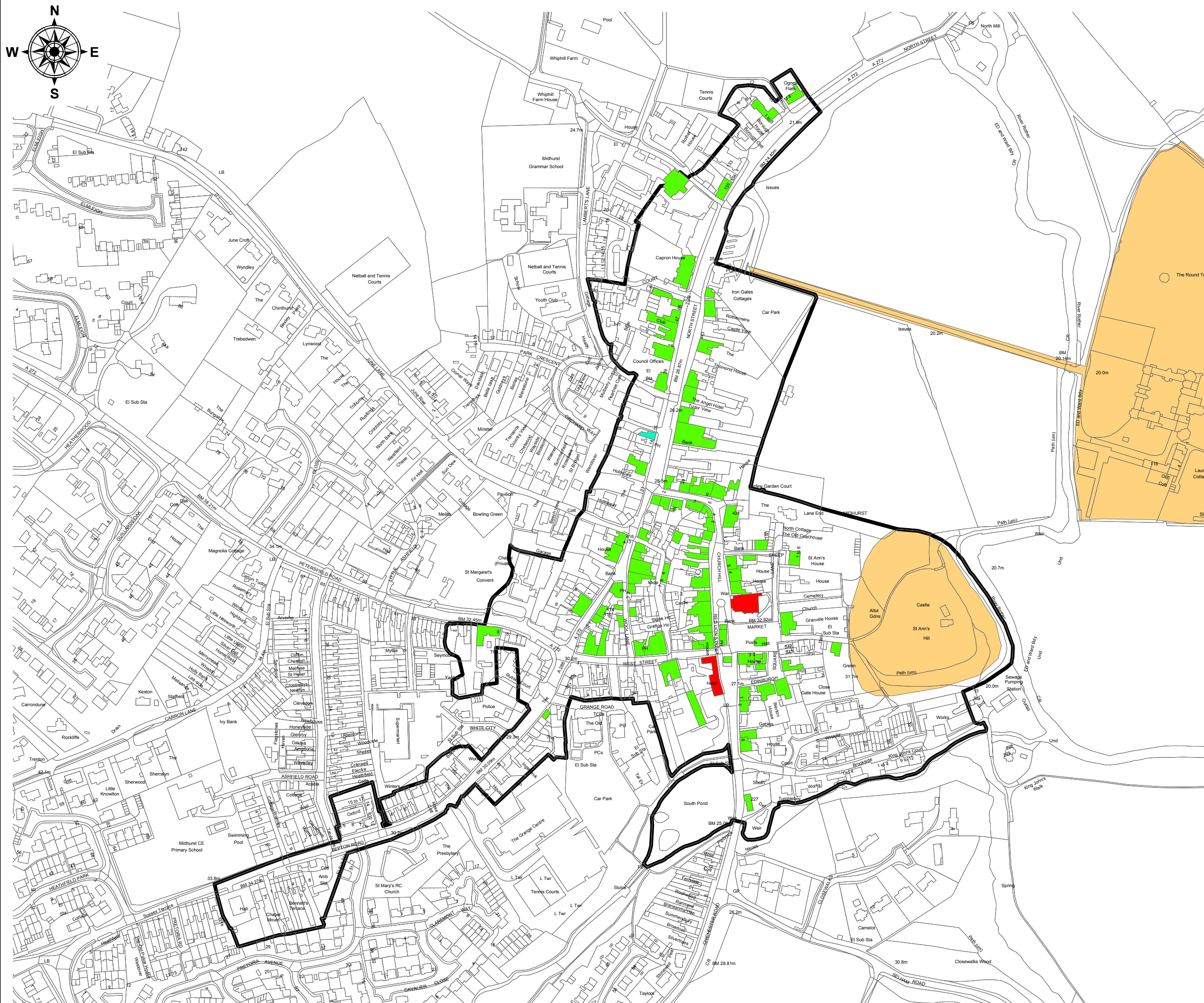
- Scheduled Monuments
- Midhurst buildings**
- Listing grade**
- II
- II\*
- None
- EUS boundary

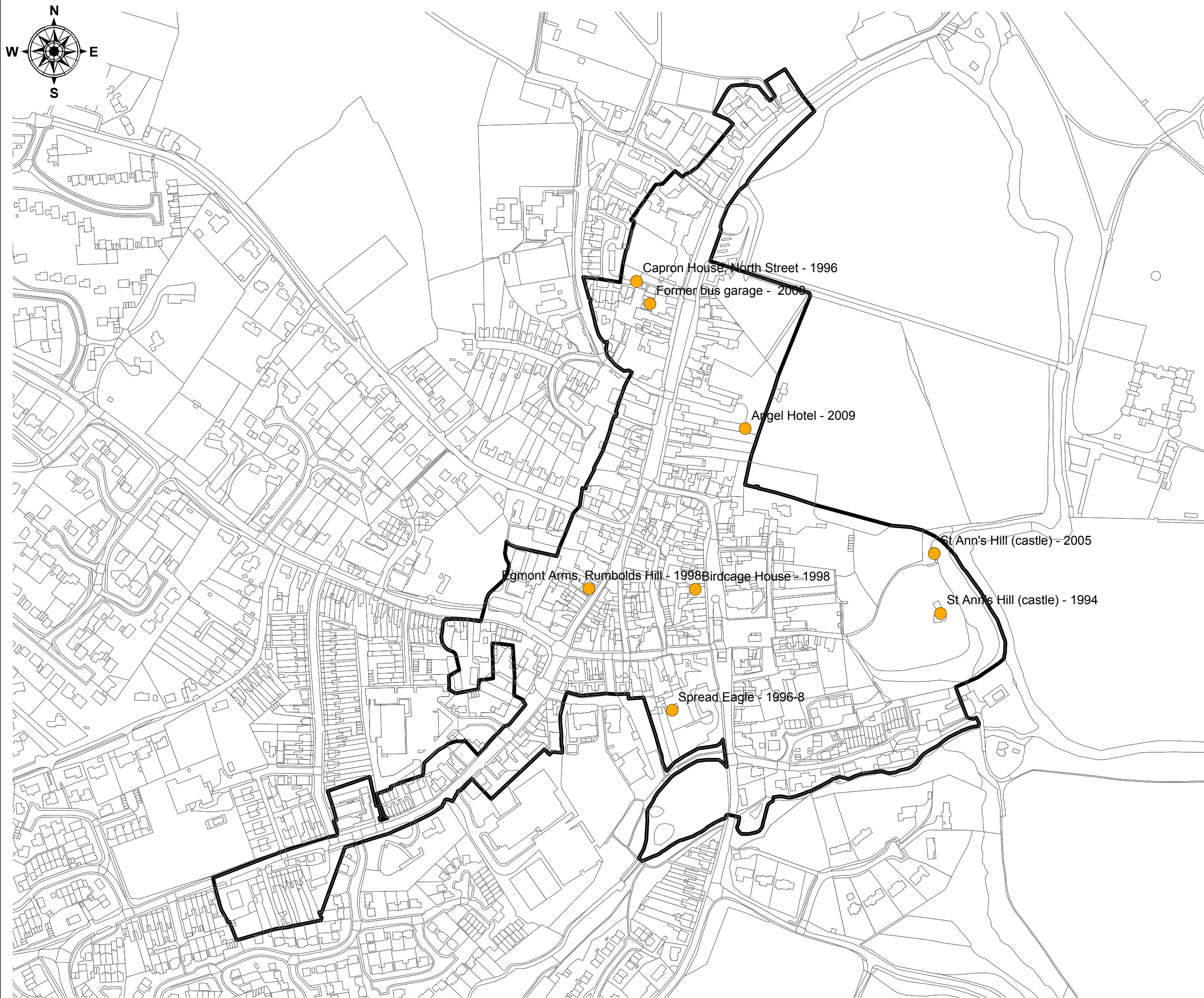
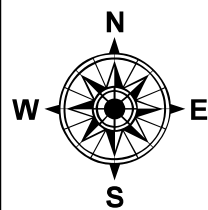
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## MIDHURST MAP 5

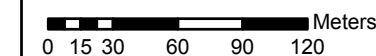
Archaeological excavations in and adjacent to the EUS study area from 1994

### KEY

- EUS boundary
- Midhurst excavations

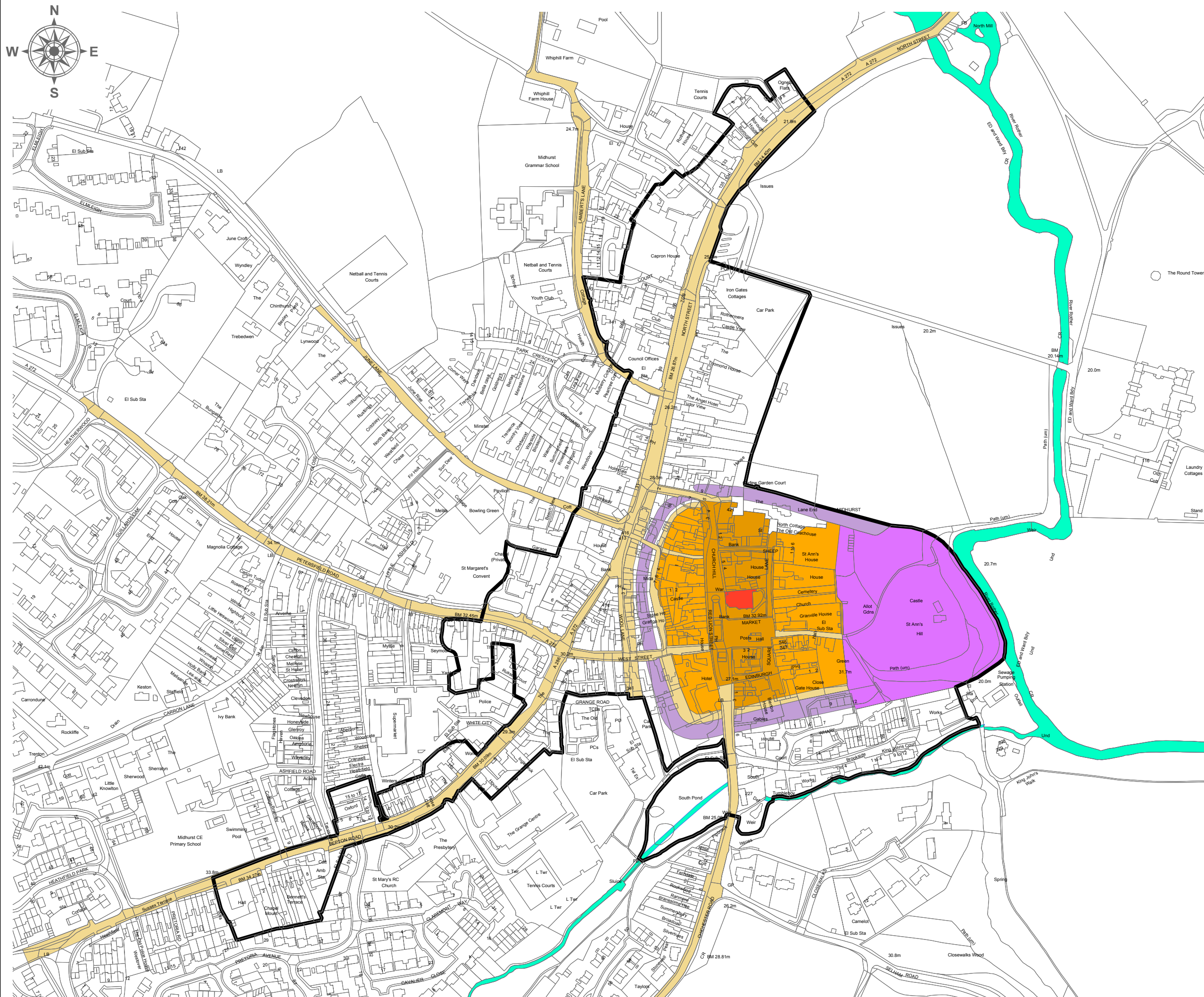
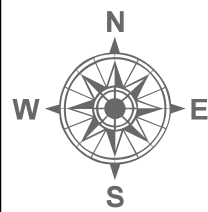
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### MIDHURST MAP 6

Period 5 (1066-1149)

#### KEY

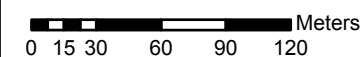
##### Midhurst EUS

##### HCT

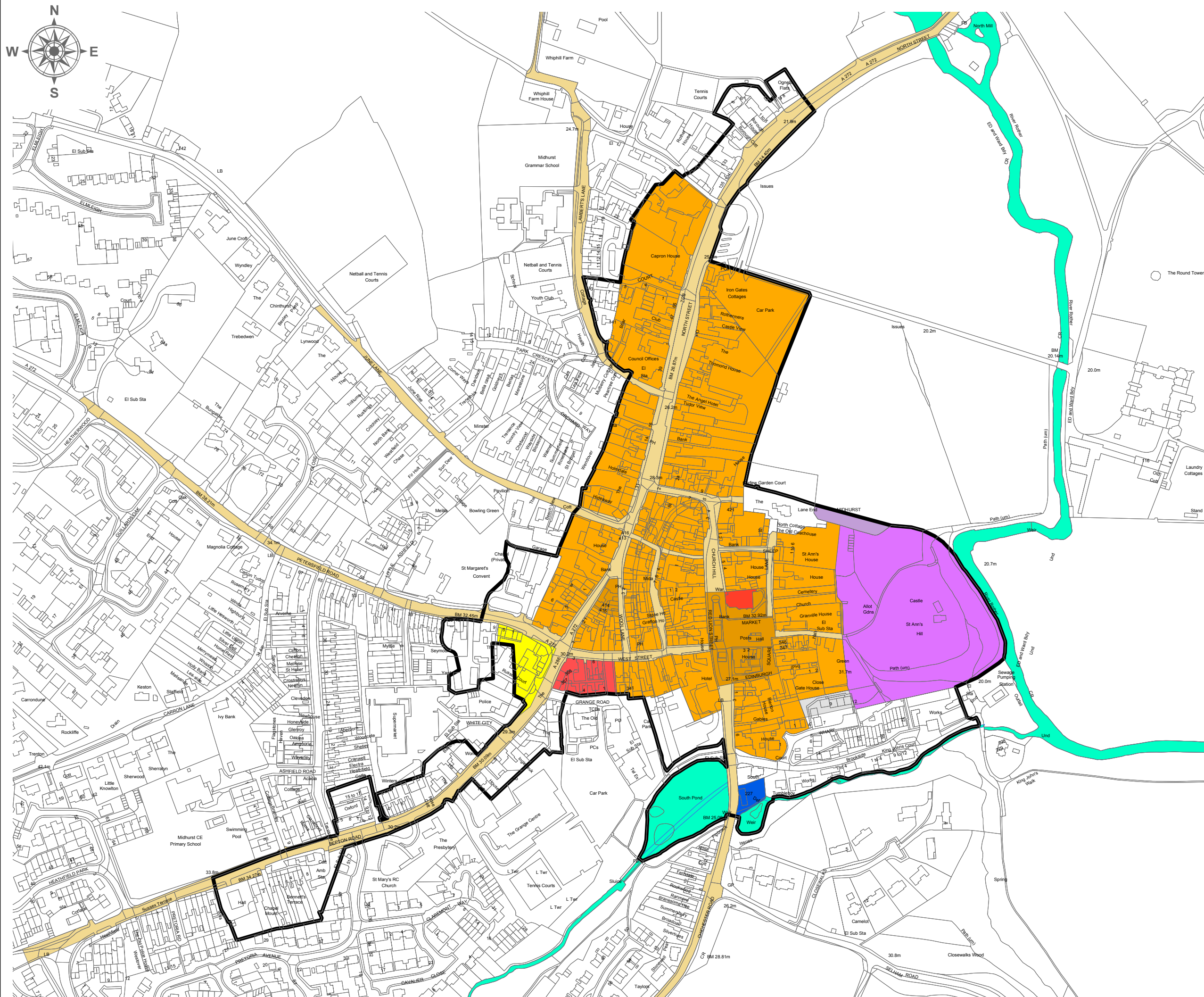
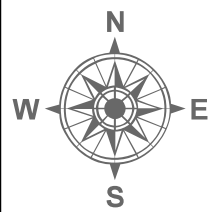
-  Castle
-  Church/churchyard
-  Inland water
-  Lane/road
-  Market place
-  Regular burgage plots
-  Town defences

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### MIDHURST MAP 7

Period 6 (1150-1349)

#### KEY

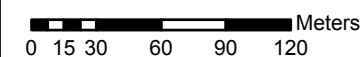
Midhurst EUS

HCT

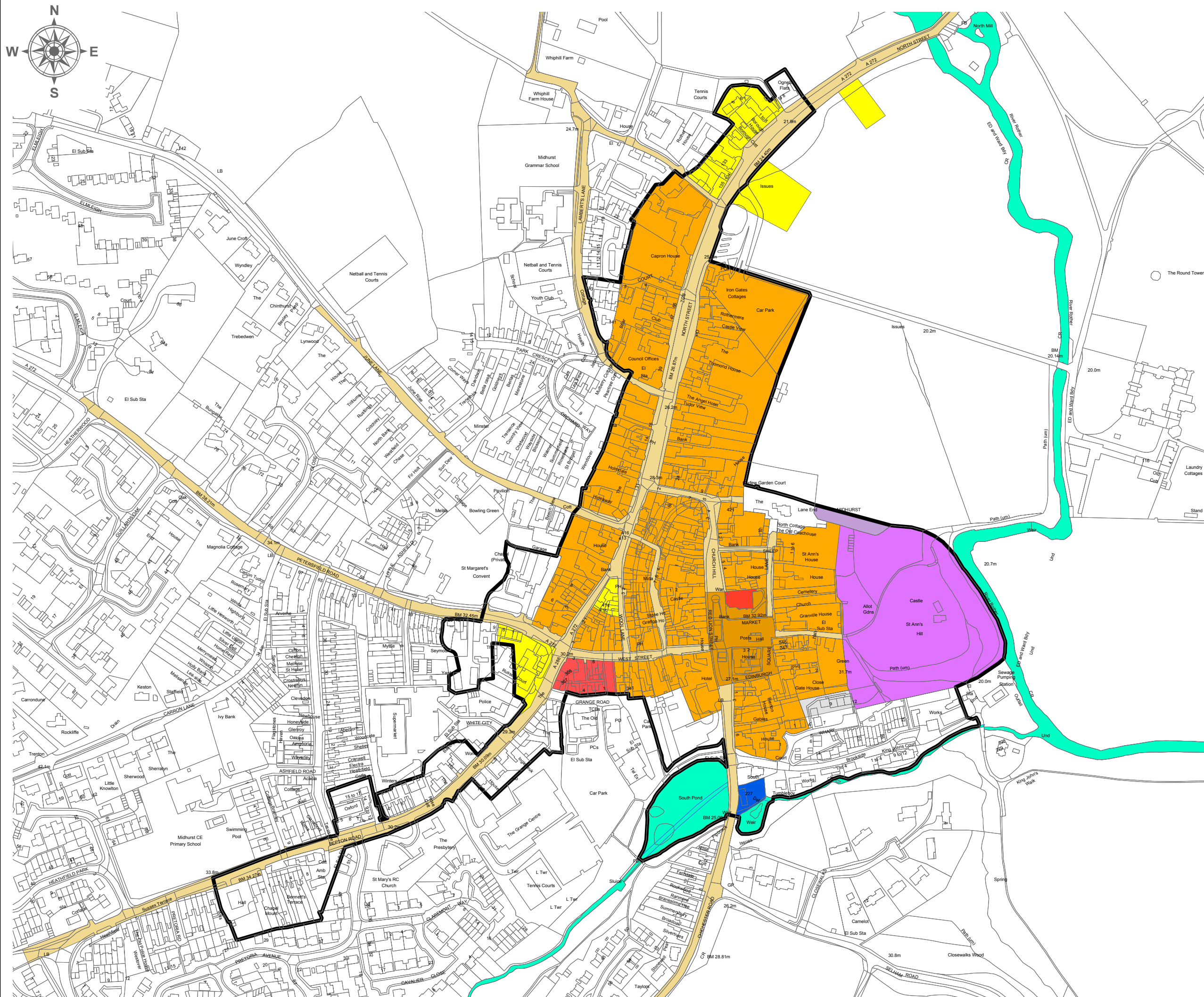
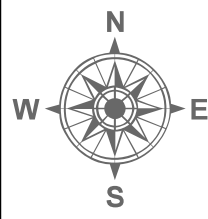
- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Market place
- Mill
- Regular burgage plots
- Religious house
- Town defences
- Vacant

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### MIDHURST MAP 8

Period 7 (1350-1499)

#### KEY

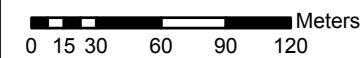
##### Midhurst EUS

##### HCT

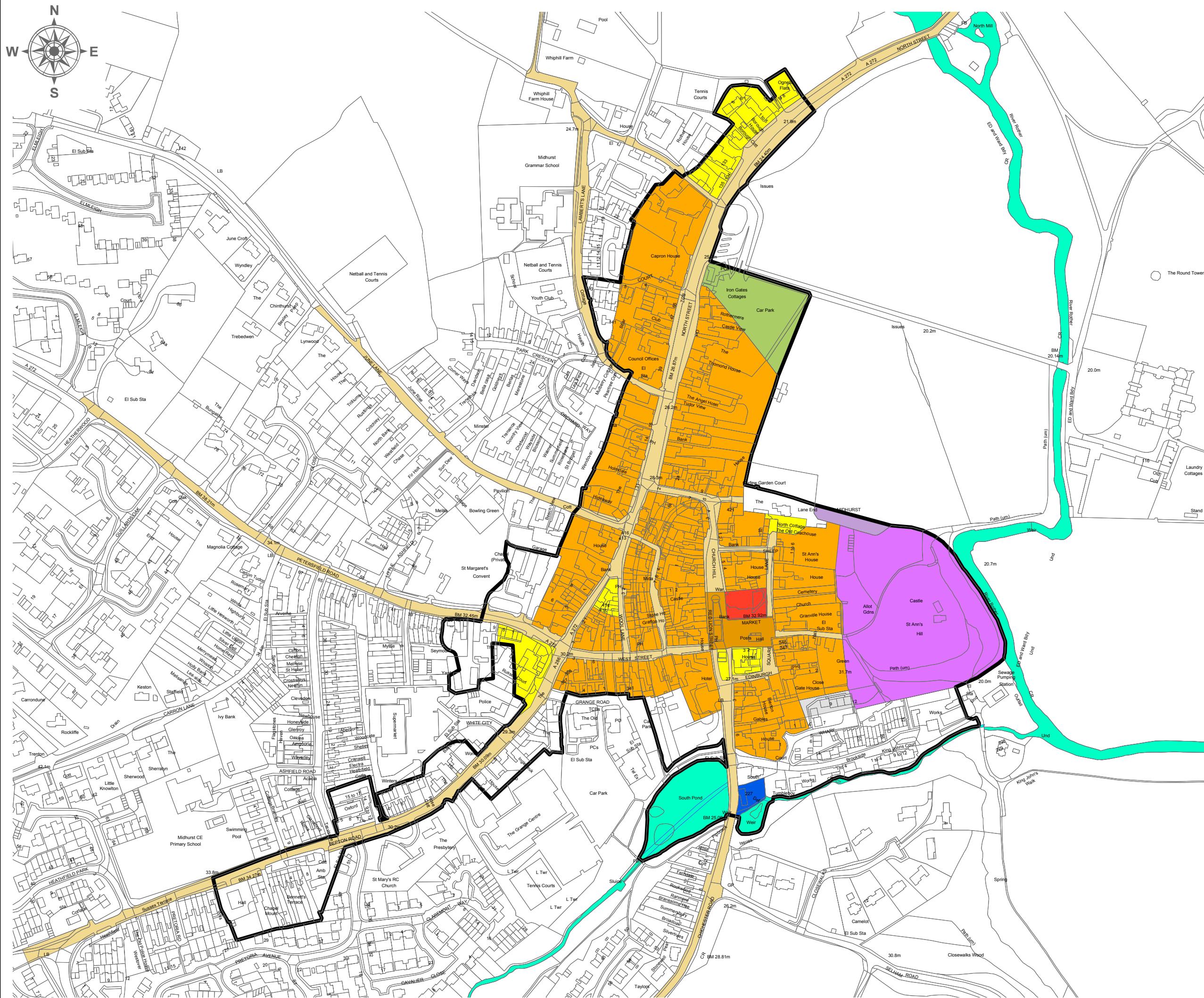
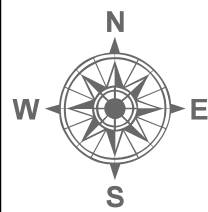
- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Market place
- Mill
- Regular burgage plots
- Religious house
- Town defences
- Vacant

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### MIDHURST MAP 9

Period 8 (1500-1599)

#### KEY

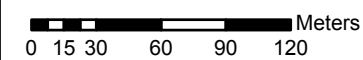
Midhurst EUS

HCT

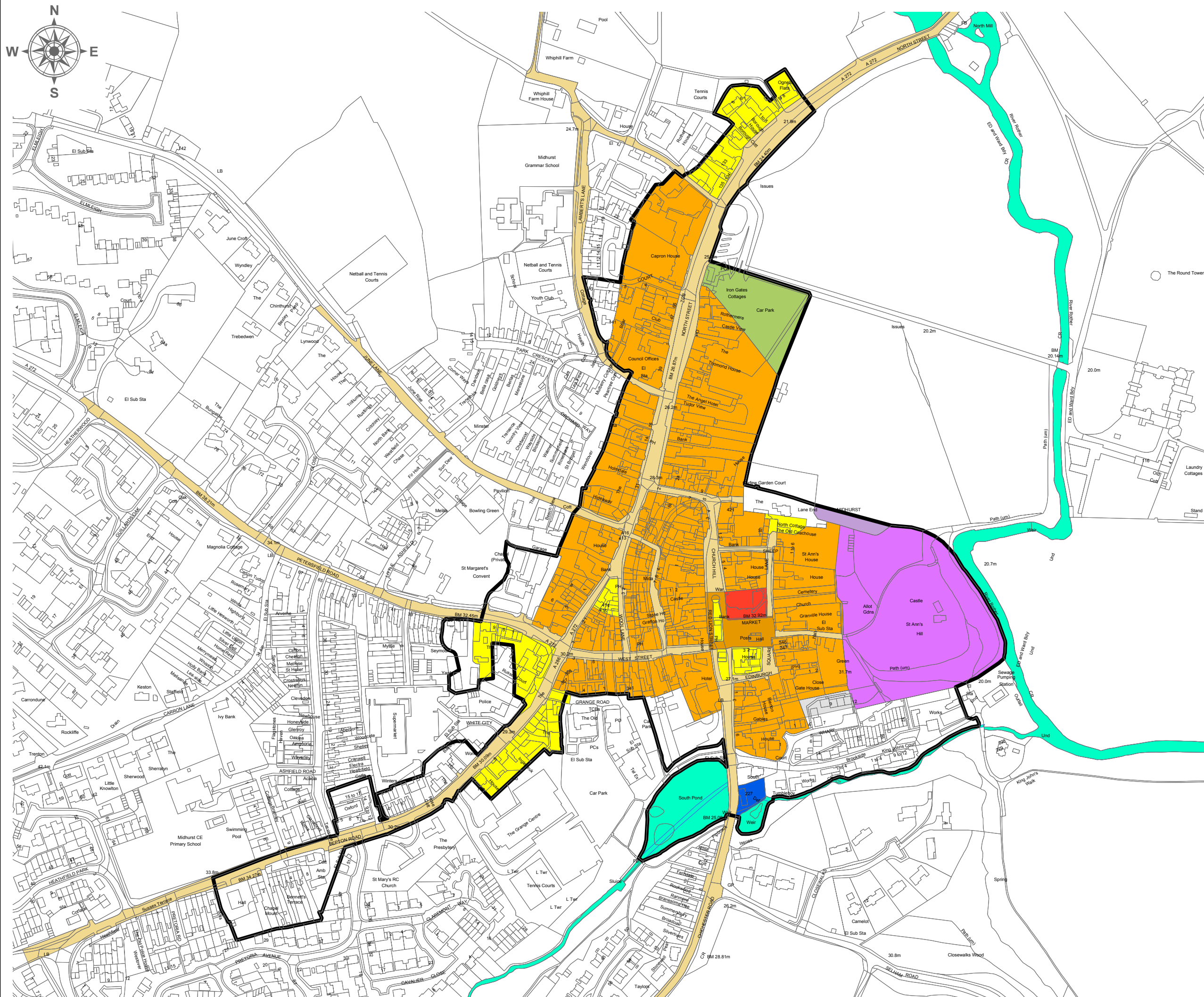
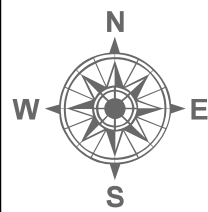
- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Market place
- Mill
- Park
- Regular burgage plots
- Town defences
- Vacant

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**MIDHURST MAP 10**  
**Period 9 (1600-1699)**

**KEY**

**Midhurst EUS**

**HCT**

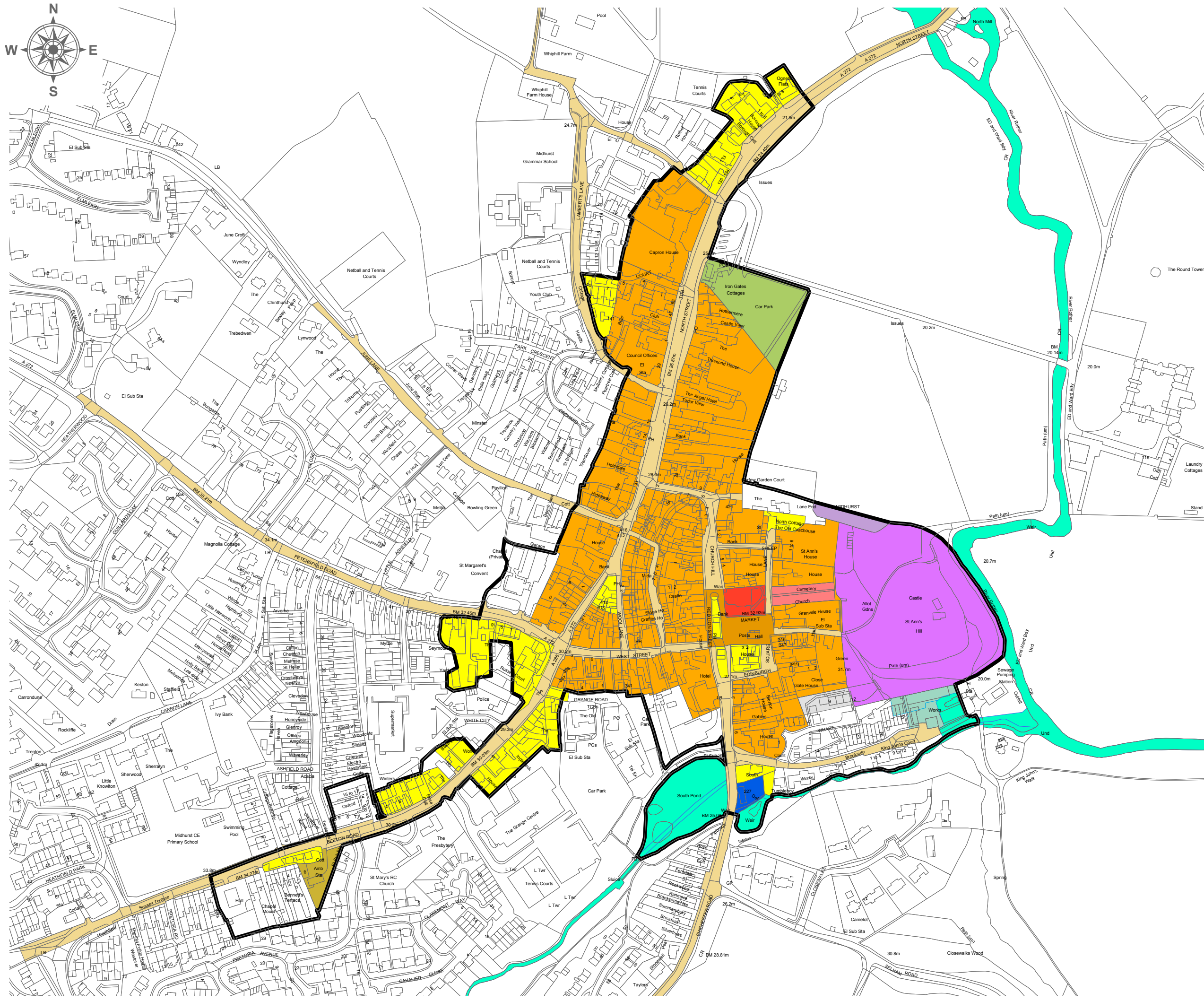
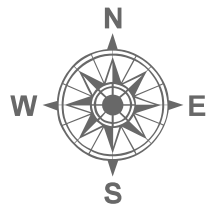
- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Market place
- Mill
- Park
- Regular burgage plots
- Town defences
- Vacant

EUS research and mapping:  
 Dr Roland B Harris BA DPhil MIFA  
 January 2010

**SCALE 1:3,500**

Meters  
 0 15 30 60 90 120

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Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

### MIDHURST MAP 11 Period 10 (1700-1799)

#### KEY

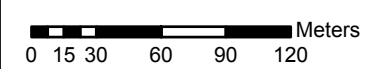
#### Midhurst EUS

#### HCT

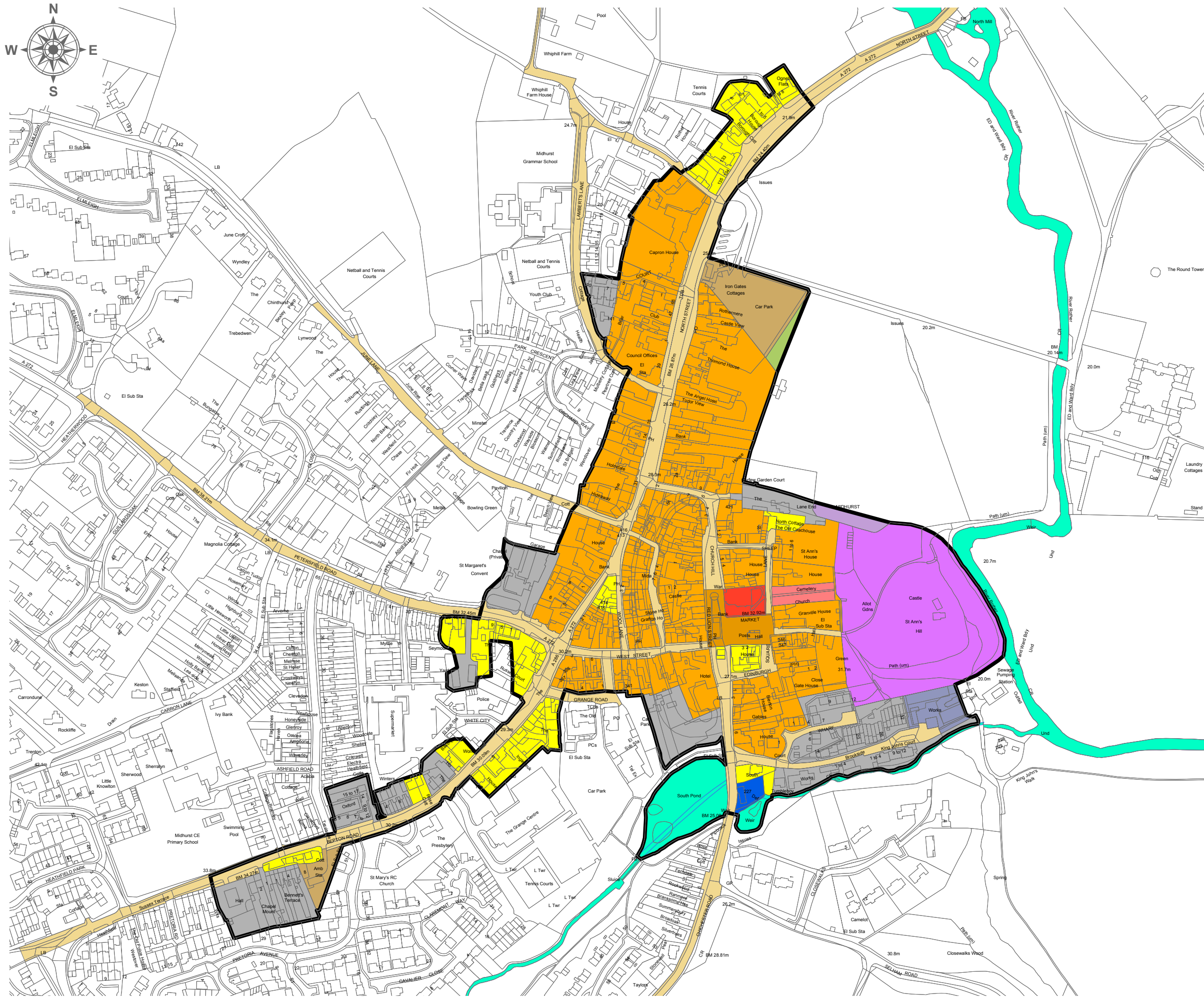
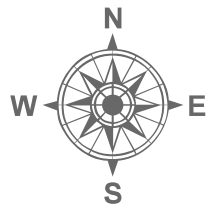
- Castle
- Cemetery
- Church/churchyard
- Farmstead/barn
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Market place
- Mill
- Park
- Quay/wharf
- Regular burgage plots
- Town defences
- Vacant

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### MIDHURST MAP 12 Historic Character Types (2010)

#### KEY

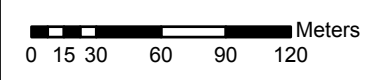
Midhurst EUS

HCT

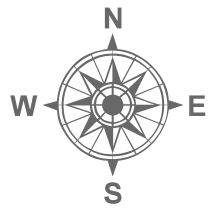
- Castle
- Cemetery
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Light industry
- Market place
- Mill
- Park
- Public
- Regular burgage plots
- Suburb
- Town defences

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### MIDHURST MAP 13

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

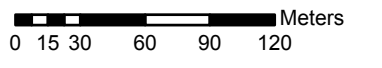
**KEY**

**Midhurst EUS PERIOD**

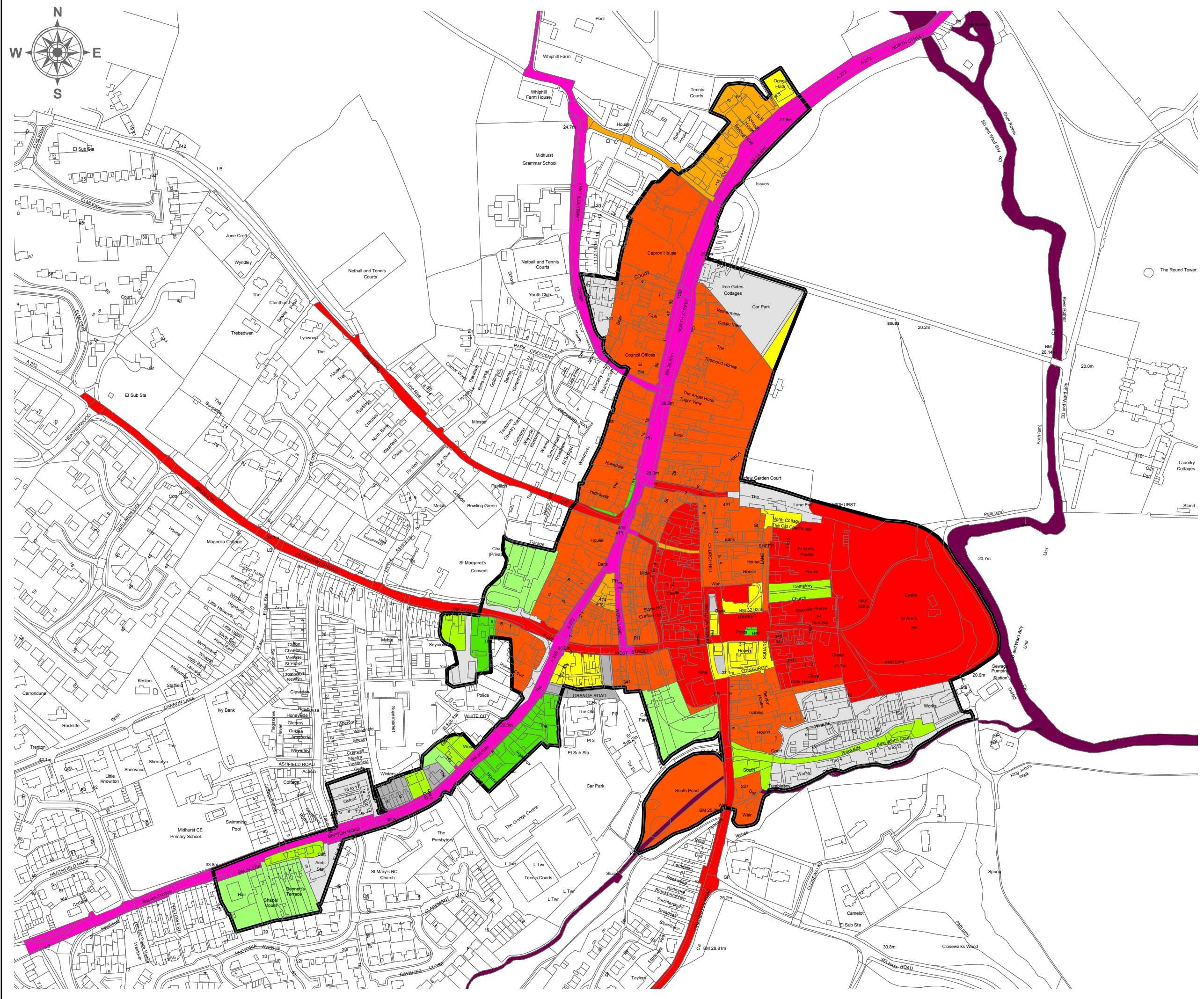
1
3
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15

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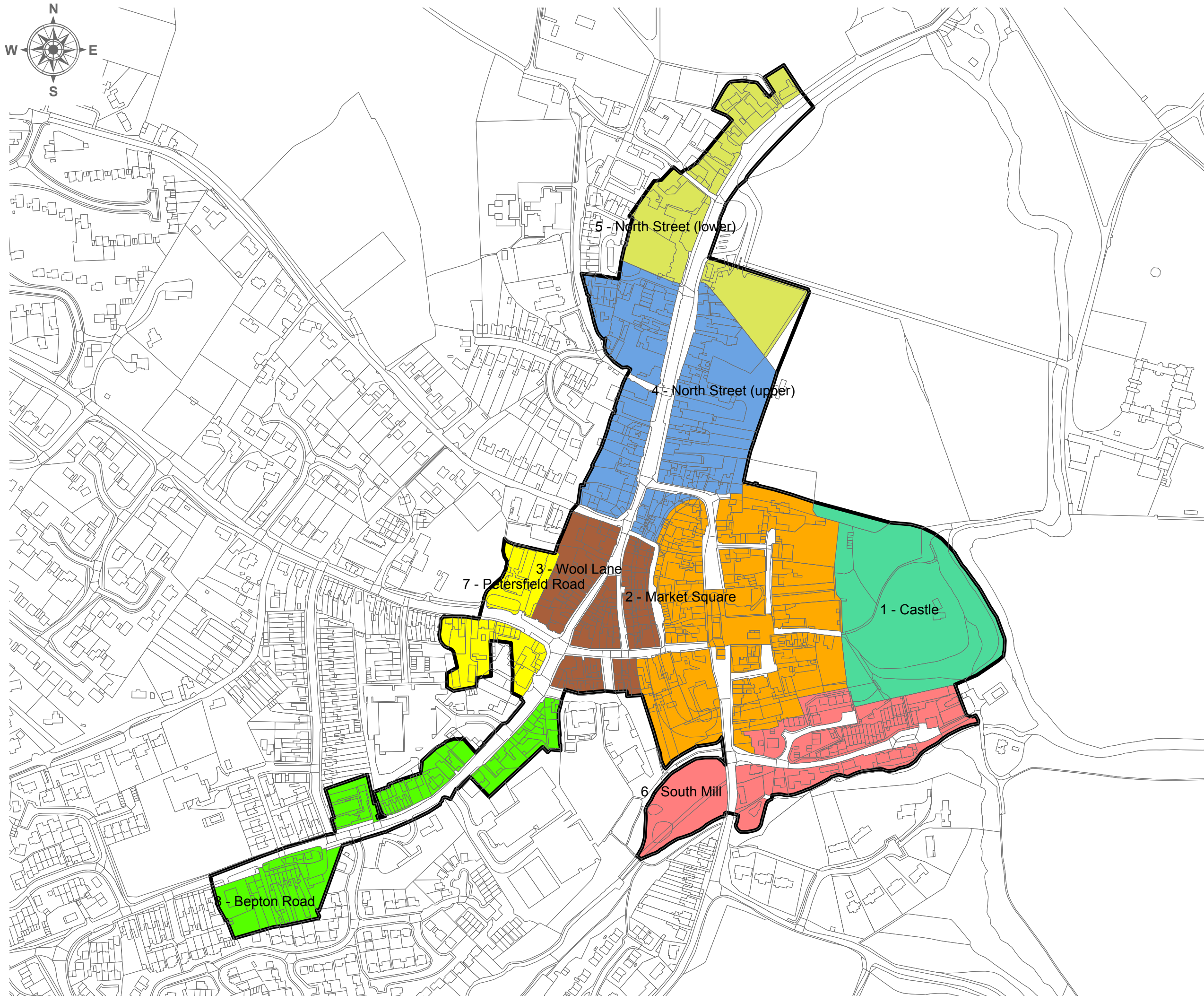
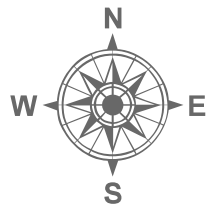
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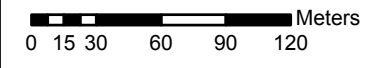
### MIDHURST MAP 14

#### Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

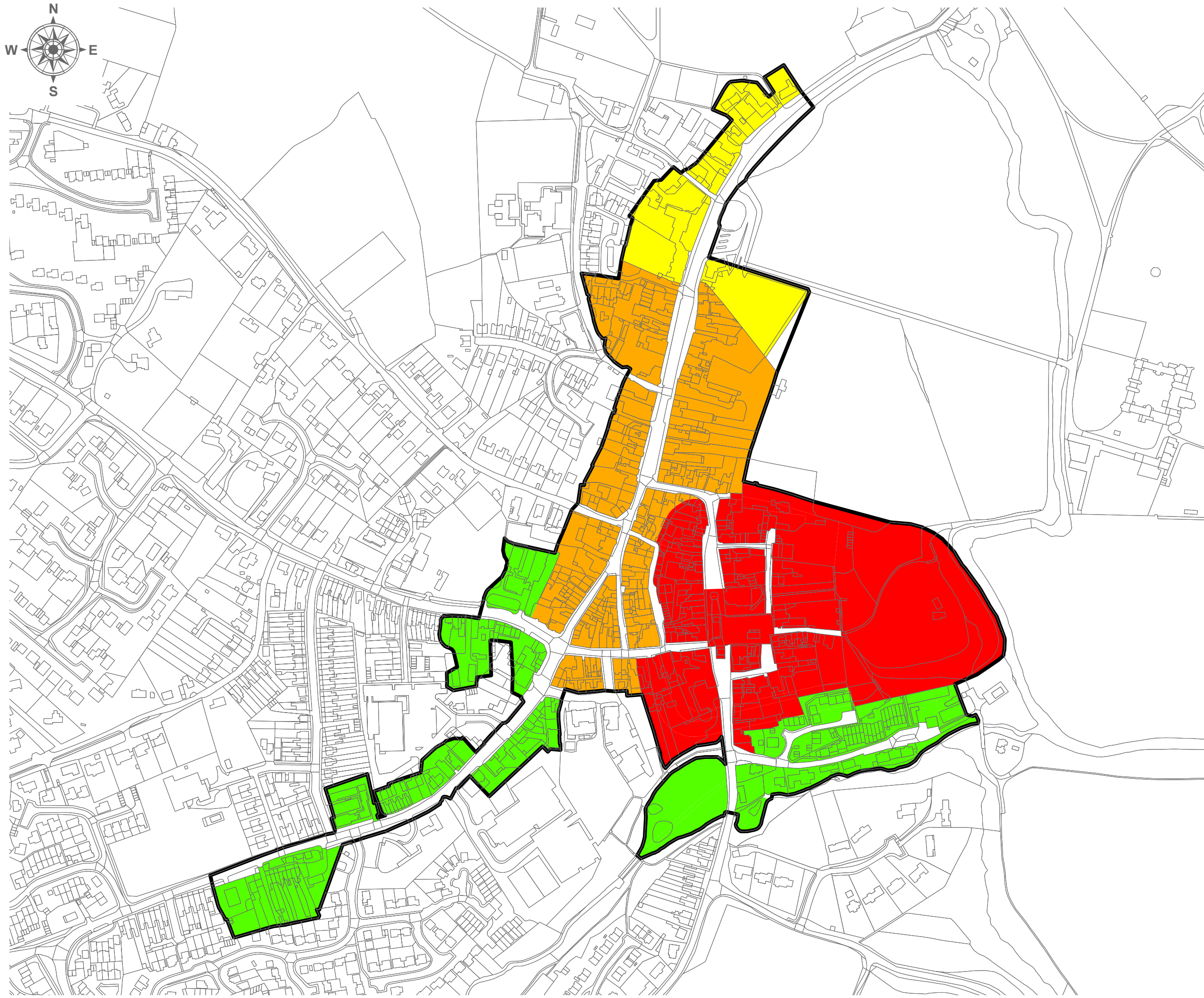
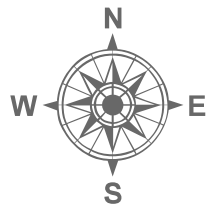
KEY	
Midhurst EUS HUCA	
	1 - Castle
	2 - Market Square
	3 - Wool Lane
	4 - North Street (upper)
	5 - North Street (lower)
	6 - South Mill
	7 - Petersfield Road
	8 - Bepton Road

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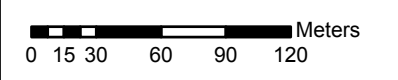
### MIDHURST MAP 15

Historic Environment Value (HEV)

KEY	
Midhurst EUS	
HEV	
	2
	3
	4
	5

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