Petworth

Historic Character Assessment Report

February 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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Cover photo: 346 (Leconfield Estate) High Street (Petworth Cottage Museum).
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 Aims

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

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

1.2.2 Objectives

Key objectives of the project include the:

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

1.3 Outputs

The principal outputs of the project comprise:

• Historic character assessment reports. Documents (of which this is one) that, separately for each town, summarize the setting and 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 Petworth 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 Petworth from 1610 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 Petworth 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

Petworth has been the subject of significant historical and modest 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

Although lacking an authoritative historical study covering the period from the origins of the town to the present, Petworth has been the subject of considerable historical interest. The most significant primary research includes a study of 17th and 18th-century probate inventories by Hugh Kenyon, and, although less relevant to this EUS report, the 14th-century manor by Louis Salzman.

1.5.2 Archaeology

In comparison, archaeological investigation of the historic town is lacking, with no substantial controlled excavations in the town. The recent published archaeological investigations comprise:

- Terrace garden at the south end of Petworth House – 1999
- Somerfield store – 2001
- Trumpers Lane – 2006
- 19 Lombard Street – 2006

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, Petworth has yet to attract systematic internal investigation of the historic buildings that has been a feature of some other towns.9

Some historic building investigations have taken place, however, with surveys by Annabelle Hughes at the building on the western corner of High Street and Middle Street (variously known as Hazelman’s, the Hovis House, and currently occupied by Heather Denham Antiques;10 Boxall House, East Street;11 Monk House and 2 Preyste Cottages, North Street;12 Woodcock Antiques, Coco Café and Saddlers Cottage, Saddlers Row;13 Garden House (previously Bacon & Co.), Saddlers Row;14 Daintrey House, East Street;15 and Angel House, Angel Street.16

Although lacking a comprehensive architectural study, Petworth House has seen recent investigation in the chapel area of the main house in 1995-6 by Andy Waters,17 and in 1997 by Ian Mayes.18 The roof of the main house was investigated in 2005-6 by Maggie Henderson,19 who also undertook a study of the adjacent woodyard buildings in 2007-8.20

English Heritage’s statutory list of historic buildings is also of use, though many of the descriptions date from the mid-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 Petworth (1838: West Sussex Record Office) and earlier maps (most importantly the town plan made by Ralph Treswell in 161021) 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 Petworth covers the historic core of the town and castle as defined by their extent in 1874.
2 THE SETTING

2.1 Topography (Map 2)

Petworth is situated in the Wealden Greensand, on the Greensand Ridge. This runs westwards from Washington, roughly parallel with the scarp of the Downs. At Petworth, the Downs are 5.2km to the south, while the Low Weald lies almost immediately north of the town. On the eastern side of the town a north-south tributary to the River Rother flows through what is known as Shimmings Valley, forming a steeply sloping edge to this side of Petworth. The stream joins the River Rother c.2km south of Petworth, and the river flows east-south-east to join the River Arun near Pulborough, from which point the river flows southwards to reach the sea at Littlehampton, 21km from Petworth. Within the town there is a north-west to south-east ridge, so that the church and Petworth House are on a high point at c.62m OD, with northern part of East Street and Grove Street only a little lower at up to 61m OD. The land slopes away to the south-west to a low point within the EUS study area at the junction of Pound Street and Midhurst Road (c.46m OD). Likewise, to the north-east of the ridge, the land slopes down into Shimmings Valley, with North Street gradually falling to c.48m OD at the junction with Horsham Road.

The Market Square still forms the commercial centre of the town, with shops and businesses in the surrounding streets.

The town is towards the western side of the centre of Petworth Civil Parish, which incorporates the historic parish of Egdean and a small part of Kirdford.

2.2 Geology (Map 2)

2.2.1 Solid geology

Along with the whole of Sussex, the rocks in the vicinity of Petworth are sedimentary. Descending the South Downs and crossing Petworth towards the Low Weald, the rocks become progressively older. The historic core of the town lies entirely on the sandstones and mudstones of the Lower Greensand Group (Lower Cretaceous). From north-east to south-west these comprise the Atherfield Clay Formation (a c.70m-wide band around the Stonemason’s Inn, North Street, south of the extensive Weald Clay Formation), the Hythe Formation (sandstone extending up North Street to the East Street, Angel Street and Grove Street area), and the Easebourne Member of the Sandgate Formation (sandstone underlying Petworth House, the church, Market Square and the south-western part of the town). Both the sandstones and locally extracted shelly limestone from the Weald Clay (known as Paludina Limestone, or Sussex Marble) are used in the buildings of Petworth.

2.2.2 Drift Geology

The drift geology of the Petworth area comprises alluvium following the course of the Shimmings Valley stream (a tributary of the River Rother), together with associated river terrace deposits of gravels, sands and silts, and undifferentiated head.

2.3 Communications

2.3.1 Water

The weir at Hardham water treatment works (previously 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 1888.22

2.3.2 Road

Petworth lies on the A272 (leading eastwards to Billingshurst and Haywards Heath, and westwards to Midhurst, Petersfield and Winchester), the A283 (leading south-eastwards to Shoreham via Steyning, and northwards to Milford, Surrey, thence London), and the A285 (southwards to Chichester).

2.3.3 Railway

The London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) opened a single-track branch line from Horsham to Petworth in 1859. The line was linked from Hardham Junction (east of Petworth) to the south-coast main line in 1863. The line from Petworth was extended to Midhurst in 1866, there joining the London and South Western Railway (LSWR) branch line from Petersfield (1864) and, from 1881, the Midhurst to Chichester line. The Horsham to Petworth line was electrified in 1938. In 1955 the Hardham Junction to Petworth line closed, with the Petworth to Midhurst section closing in 1964.23

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 near the EUS study area, there have been prehistoric find spots, which include:

- Haslingbourne Lane – Mesolithic (10000 BC to 4001 BC) worked flints discovered in field south of lane in 2008 [Chichester District HER reference: CD7955].
- Gunter’s Bridge – prehistoric (500000 BC to 42 AD) worked flint, including five blades and three waste flakes recovered from ploughed field ‘above’ the bridge in 1991 [Chichester District HER reference: CD2515].

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:

- Great White Hart Inn, Market Square – a middle brass of Victorinus (269-71 AD) was found in the foundations during demolition in 1866 [Chichester District HER reference: CD2502]. NB since 1867 the building has been confused with the George Inn, which was in East Street.24
- SE of Gunter’s Bridge – Roman pottery found in field in 2006 [Chichester District HER reference: CD4276].
- Meadow Farm, Gunter’s Bridge – pieces of Roman tegula and other tile found in corner of field c.190m south of farm in 2006 [Chichester District HER reference: CD4275].

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 Petworth.
3 HISTORY

3.1 Medieval origins

Fig. 3. Church of St Mary, from the south-east.

3.1.1 Place-name

The name Petworth is derived from the Old English form Pytta’s ‘toft, curtilage; house-plot and attached land’ (word or wyrth). Evidently pre-Conquest in origin, the name is first recorded in Domesday Book (1086), where it is in the form Peteorde.25

3.1.2 Church

The parish church at Petworth probably originated as a pre-Conquest minster (a mother church serving an extensive parochia from which developed several later parishes). This is evident from post-Conquest records of a series of dependencies surrounding Petworth. In a charter of c.1140 granting Petworth to Lewes Priory, these comprised the chapels at Duncton and River, and the churches at Lurgashall and Tillington. At Egdean c.1145 a new church was evidently carved out of the parochia of Petworth. North Chapel remained a chapel of Petworth throughout the medieval period. The parish of Kirdford may have been carved out of the parochia of Petworth in the mid-12th century, and the parishes in the southern part of Rotherbridge Hundred (Barlavington, Burton, East Lavington and Sutton) may also have derived from the parochia.26

3.1.3 Town

Petworth lies at the centre of the Hundred of Rotherbridge, with the assumed hundred meeting place at Rotherbridge itself c.1km south-west of the modern town. This suggests that the origins of Petworth lie in the combination of minster and hundred meeting place, together providing a focal place in both ecclesiastical and administrative terms.27

Early written sources for the history of the town are sparse. In addition to the church, the Domesday Book entry for Petworth includes 22 villagers, 10 smallholders, nine slaves, and a mill, none of which suggests urbanization. A prescriptive market (weekly, on Saturdays) is first recorded in 1279. Evidently the market had been in existence for some time, as it was then held by Eleanor de Percy, who successfully claimed that the market had been held previously by her late husband (Sir Henry de Percy) and his ancestors:28 indeed, from time beyond memory29 (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 memory30). Moreover, with the association between hundred meeting places and markets,31 and between minsters and markets,32 it is possible that an early market at Petworth provided additional stimulus for the subsequent siting of the town and manor house.33 A fair, on the feast of St Edmund the King (20th November) and the following seven days, was also recorded in 1279, again with reference to it having been held by Henry de Percy and his ancestors.34 Both the market and fair are recorded in the 14th and 15th centuries.35

Petworth had evidently emerged as a market town by the late 13th century. In the 1296 lay subsidy roll for the Villat’ de Pettewerthe there were 62 taxpayers, suggesting a population of perhaps around 250; there were 55 taxpayers in the roll for 1327; and 43 in the roll for 1332.36 In 1327 Petworth’s ranking by wealth of Sussex towns (excluding the Cinque Ports) was fourth, significantly below New Shoreham and just above Lewes and Battle.37 Occupational by-names in the rentals include a fuller, a saddler, a baker, a thatcher and cobbler.38

The Percies had a private prison at Petworth in 1279.39
In 1524 Petworth was still the fourth wealthiest town in Sussex (again, excluding the Cinque Ports), ranking above Eastbourne (hundred) and Horsham, but below Lewes and Battle. The high growth rate (554% from the 1327 base) was seen elsewhere in highly wooded areas of the Weald at Battle, Cuckfield, Midhurst and, above all, at Horsham,40 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 Petworth escaped early 14th-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 15th and early 16th centuries. The 176 taxpayers in the tithing of Petworth (which included North Chapel, but not Duncton) in 1524 suggest a population of c.860.41

3.1.4 Manor house

Given the later importance of Petworth House, and the role of the Percies, the early history is relevant to this study. The manor of Petworth, in 1086 held by Robert fitz Tetbald, passed to Henry I and then his widow, Adeliza of Louvain. Before her death in 1151 she granted Petworth to her brother, Joscelin of Louvain, who, before 1166, married Agnes, co-heir of William de Percy, succeeding to the more important part of the Percy lands in 1175.42 Despite the fact that, as castellan of Arundel, Joscelin doubtless spent time in the locality, and that the Percy estate remained split until 1244,43 Petworth appears to have remained very much subsidiary to the principal Percy holdings in the north of England. Evidence for at least occasional occupation, however, is provided by the fact that Henry Percy, first Lord Percy, was born there in 1273. This date is broadly contemporary with the earliest architectural evidence for the manor house, which was, by this date, of significant size (see section 4.1.1). In 1309 Henry Percy acquired the castle and barony of Alnwick,44 and the same year was granted a licence to crenellate at Petworth (as well as his houses at Spofford and Leconfield, in Yorkshire).45 A park was attached to the manor house by the early 13th century, and was expanded by 42ha in 1499.46

3.2 The town c.1500-1840

3.2.1 Economic history

The population of Petworth increased significantly between the early 16th and the late 17th centuries, rising from c.860 in 1524 (for Petworth and Northchapel),47 to c.1,570 in 1676. Although the last figure is derived from the suspiciously rounded figure of 1,200 adults recorded in Bishop Compton’s religious survey, it underestimates growth since it excludes Northchapel (not formally a separate parish until 169348).49 There were ‘about 370’ families in 1724, suggesting a total population of c.1,665.50 The parish population grew further after 1724, reaching 2,264 in 1801 and 3,364 in 1841: doubtless a significant proportion of this growth was within the town, although the overall built-up area saw no substantial increase (see section 4.2.3): evidently this was a direct consequence of the Percy control of all the land suitable for expansion of the town.51

Petworth House – as one of the great houses of Sussex – became of great economic importance to the adjacent town during this period. So long a second seat in the south and a modest manor house, it was the principal residence of the Percies between c.1574 and 1632 (although Henry Percy, the 9th Earl of Northumberland, was imprisoned at the Tower of London from 1606 to 162155). The renewed interest of the Percies saw substantial expansion of the house, with direct and indirect impacts on the town. In
1574-6 the water supply to the house and town was renewed and the house was repaired. This was followed in 1576-85 by the setting out of formal gardens, and the building of new lodgings. The latter probably represented rebuilding of part of the existing house. Under the ninth Earl of Northumberland (i.e. between 1585 and 1632) the house was extended further westwards and southwards, with new works included a wine cellar, new tennis courts, and large stables for 61 horses.53 Although the 10th Earl was resident intermittently during the 1630s and 1640s, from 1649 until his death in 1668, Petworth was his main residence, and in turn was that of his successors (the house passing, with the end of the male line of the Percies, through marriage of the twice-widowed Lady Elizabeth Thynne, née Percy,54 to the 6th Duke of Somerset). The Duke undertook an almost complete rebuilding of the house in 1688-98, and in 1702-10 extended the formal gardens, involving demolition of several tenements (see sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.3).55

The impact of the great house on local employment was significant, although key sources, such as probate inventories, shed little light: of staff, only a cook, a servant and a stud groom left inventories.56 Local craftsmen and tradesmen can be identified through accounts as working on the rebuilding of Peworth House during the late 17th-century rebuilding, including master woodcarver John Selden; John Bromfield, the principal mason during the last five years of construction; the Burchett family of sawyers; John Croucher, carpenter; Thomas and George Lucas, locksmiths; and the Philpe family of bricklayers. During the period 1689-95, for which complete accounts survive, an average of over 100 local men – skilled and unskilled – were employed in building the new house and on Estate work.57 In 1779 only 11% of properties (of which there were 153 with buildings on them) within the town belonged to the Petworth estate.58

As well as providing economic stimulus to local trades, Petworth House’s importance also attracted attention during the Civil War. The Parliamentarian house, or rather the stables, was raided by Royalist forces in November 1643 and, apparently, garrisoned by Lord Hopton’s forces in December.59 If so, it was almost immediately re-taken by the Parliamentarians prior to laying siege at Arundel on 13th December: the siege at Arundel ending in surrender by the garrison on 6th January 1644, essentially marking the end of the Civil War in Sussex.60

The market and fair at Petworth continued throughout this period. From the late 1790s the November fair separated into a cattle show and fair, located south of Rosemary Lane, and a pleasure fair that continued to be held in the centre of the town.61 The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815) saw an increase in transactions of corn and cattle.62

A major Sussex product in the 16th century was Hampshire kersey, or Guildford cloth. This coarse fabric was mainly made for export, usually sent to Antwerp via Blackwell Hall in London. Although Petworth was a smaller centre for the trade than nearby Midhurst,63 there were 20 Petworth clothmakers c.1549, and it is clear that the industry was of considerable economic significance to the town. Although only 11 clothmakers were recorded in 1574, it was still the main industry in the parish. There was a dye-house in North Street in the late 16th century. The kersey trade declined thereafter and, with only limited evidence for clothmaking after 1600 in the surviving inventories of 1610-1760: a fuller is recorded in 1629, a clothmaker in 1684, and a clothworker (with fulling mill) in 1711. It is likely that clothmaking was not significant in 17th-century or later Petworth, and from c.1600 the town had no dominant, or special, trade.64
Although Petworth 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 48km from Petworth, at Newbridge on Ashdown Forest, in 1496. The industry expanded rapidly in the 16th century, thereafter declining to the point of extinction by the end of the 18th century. There were 12 ironworks of this period within 10km of Petworth. The local ironworks included Shillinglee Furnace and Wassell Forge, both in Kirdford and in existence by 1574 (both bequeathed in 1579 by the Petworth ironmaster Thomas Smith to his son John), and Frith Furnace at Northchapel (owned by the Percies in 1574). Iron workers living in Petworth are hard to identify, although a Petworth charcoal burner who died in 1647 may have been supplying the local forges.

Increasing coach travel in the 17th century saw development of inn accommodation, with provision for guest beds (45) and stablings (122) recorded in a survey of 1686, placing the town on a par with Midhurst, 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 Crown is the earliest recorded Petworth inn, and was in existence by 1576. The principal inns in the 17th century were the Crown, the George, the Swan, and the White Hart. The Crown closed c.1673 (destroyed in 1871 and 1898), the George was divided into tenements by 1760 (demolished c.1800), and the White Hart, which had had 11 painted rooms in 1670, declined in the 18th century, and was a private house by 1779 (demolished 1866). The Swan continued as an inn (rebuilt 1897-9), and the Half Moon, possibly with origins in the early 17th century, emerged in the 18th century as the other main inn of the town (demolished 1900).

Road access to Petworth was improved in this period by turnpiking of the Milford (Surrey) to Duncton Hill, via Northchapel and Petworth, and from Petworth to Stopham Bridge, both under an Act of 1757. Water access to Petworth 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). Coultershaw wharf was c.1.5km south of the town, on the turnpike road.

### 3.2.2 Church and religion

The struggle for Protestant Reformation involved the Percies, but there is little evidence for its impact on the parish church, other than the fact that in 1561 the incumbent, Thomas Mawnfield, was one of 39 parochial clergy in the county that were deprived of their livings by Elizabeth I, following the 1559 Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity. The chapel at Petworth House was in disrepair in 1576 and evidently had not been used as a chapel for some time: the vestry, for example, was a privy kitchen. With Petworth becoming the principal house of the Percies at this time (see above, section 3.2.1), it was brought back into use, and renovated and re-furnished in 1582-3.

Bishop Compton’s census of 1676 recorded two Roman Catholic recusants, and 20 Protestant Nonconformists out of a parish total of 1200 adults. The Chichester diocesan survey of 1724 records four Papist families, 21 Presbyterian families and two Anabaptist families, out of a total of c.370. The Calvinistic Independent (i.e. Baptist) Providence chapel at Petworth was founded in 1775 (closed by 1887). A Congregational chapel, in East Street, opened in 1819 (closed 1849).

### 3.2.3 Urban institutions

The present town hall was built on the site of an earlier market hall (recorded in 1591) by the third Earl of Egremont in 1793. As well as its civic functions, it also provided a space for public entertainment: in 1803, for example, a six week
season was presented by Thomas Trotter’s company.80

Thompson’s hospital, or almshouse, North Street, was built in 1618 for 12 poor people.81 The Somerset, or Upper, Hospital, was founded in 1746, also in North Street, by the 6th Duke of Somerset for 12 widows, increased to 22 under the 3rd Earl of Egremont (1763-1837)

James Crow’s 1779 survey records a gaol, the parish workhouse, Thompson’s almshouses and the Somerset Hospital almshouse (the last three all in North Street).82

In the parliamentary survey of 1776-7 Petworth workhouse is recorded as having 70 places.83 James Crow’s 1779 survey records that this was in North Street.84 Petworth became a single-parish Gilbert Union under the Act of 1782.85 A new workhouse was built, again in North Street, in 1820.86 Following the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, Petworth Union was established, initially comprising the parishes of Billingshurst, Kirdford, Petworth, Rudgwick and Wisborough Green, with Petworth workhouse retained as one of three in the union.87 An additional solution to the burden of poor relief was the assisted emigrations to Canada, of which there were 127 from the parish in the early 1830s.88

Quarter Sessions were held in the town in the 17th and 18th centuries, with the first summer session for the western division held at Petworth in 1687.89

A house of correction at Petworth was ordered at the Quarter Sessions in 1625, to serve the Rape of Arundel.90 James Crow’s 1779 survey records a gaol in the town, which may be the same building.91 The Gilbert Acts of 1782 and 1784 provided for houses of correction for the able-bodied poor who refused to work. That completed at Petworth, probably on a new site, in 1789 is one of the few examples built under the Act.92 The new house of correction served the county, replacing that at Horsham.93 Separation of inmates was achieved by individual cells and exercise yards, and stalls in the chapel: the system of separation was abandoned in 1816.94 In 1843 the house of correction became a common gaol.95

A free school for up to 30 scholars from the town or parish was endowed by the Duke of Somerset in 1691, and, given references to expenditure on a schoolhouse in North Street and to payment of a schoolmaster in 1693, it was evidently founded soon after. Another schoolmaster is recorded in 1725.96 Taylor’s free school was founded in 1753 by the will of the Rev. John Taylor, to provide for the education 10 poor boys and 10 poor girls of the parish.97 A National School for boys in North Street opened in 1816, apparently followed by a Non-Provided (late National) girls’ school in East Street in 1819 (although this date and location is questionable as it may derive from the fact that the girls’ National School later occupied the East Street Congregational chapel, which was built in 1819 and closed in 1849).98 Taylor’s school was combined with the new National schools.99

Early records of sport include the playing of cricket within the parish from 1785.100 Treswell’s map of 1610 shows two fields on the edge of the town used for football and bowls.

3.3 The town: c.1840-2010

3.3.1 Economic history

The railway came to Petworth in 1859, with a station c.2.2km south of the town on the Chichester road. The single-tracked London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) branch extended from Horsham, with Petworth a terminus until the line was extended to Midhurst in 1866 where it joined the London and South Western Railway (LSWR) branch line from
Petersfield (1864) and, from 1881, the Midhurst to Chichester line. An earlier connection to the south-coast main line was provided in 1863 with the opening of the line from Hardham Junction to Lymminster. The market declined in this period, probably as a result of the railway, which allowed better access to the burgeoning market at Horsham. The stock fair, which by 1860 had moved from the fair field at Rosemary Lane to Hampers Common (on the northern side of the town), went into terminal decline and ceased c.1900. Despite attempts to close it, however, the town-centre pleasure fair survived and continues to be held on 20th November today.

The impact of the railway was not apparent in population expansion. Growth earlier in the first half of the 19th century peaked at 3,439 in 1851, and in 1861 had fallen to 3,368, and to 2,486 in 1911. Depopulation at this time in Sussex was largely a rural feature, and, thus, presumably affected the rural parts of the parish more than the town. Indeed, Sue Berry has calculated the urban population growth of Petworth in 1851-71 as 12%, and as 28% in 1871-1901. This is reflected in the addition of c.20 houses along Angel Street and c.50 houses along Grove Street between 1838 and 1912.

Outside the continued employment at Petworth House and estate, and in the shops in the small market town, 19th-century employment included soap manufacture, and brewing (most notably with the Stag Brewery).

Despite the building of c.200 council houses in typically detached locations outside the town by 1958, and, subsequently, modest private estates (most notably on the south-west of the town), the parish population remained stable throughout much of the 20th century: in 1921 it was 2,435 and in 1951, following a slight increase in the parish with the demise of Egdean in 1933, it was 2,729. By 1961 population had fallen slightly to 2,347 and by 2001 had recovered to 2,775. With a reduction in employment on the estate and a lack of significant local industry, 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. Petworth House and the Leconfield estate continue to provide some local employment. Moreover, with the house and park owned by the National Trust since 1947, the town has a significant tourist attraction, which is reflected in the increasing focus on tourism of the retail outlets, in the form of antique shops.

3.3.2 Church and religion

St Mary’s church has remained intact as an institution throughout this period, although the building itself was the subject of further major restorations by Kempe & Tower, in 1903. The row of shops and houses south of the church was pulled down in 1896. Another cemetery was opened, in this case on Horsham Road, probably in the early 1860s: it was provided with an Episcopal mortuary chapel.

The Congregational chapel in East Street closed in 1849, and was replaced by a new church in Golden Square, in 1850. The Ebenezer Strict Baptist chapel, Park Road, opened in 1887 (closed 2006). A Roman Catholic church of the Sacred Heart was built in Angel Street in 1896.

3.3.3 Urban institutions

During the 19th and 20th centuries Petworth has seen the development of a range of social functions that did not exist previously. The detail of these is beyond the scope of this brief account, but the salient institutions are included.
The early 19th-century boys’ and girls’ schools (see section 3.2.3) were supplemented by a National School for infants, which opened in Rosemary Lane in 1862.114 The boys’ school was destroyed in 1942 by a German bomber, killing 28 pupils and two teachers.115 In 1963 the Herbert Shiner secondary modern school opened in South Grove.116 This later became a middle, or intermediate school, which closed at the end of 2008, being replaced by Midhurst Rother College, which teaches 11-18 year olds at campuses in Easebourne and Midhurst. The present Petworth Primary School opened in 2006, on the Herbert Shiner school site.117

The common gaol at Petworth closed c.1880,118 and was demolished. A county police station adjacent to the prison was established by 1874,119 possibly in 1857,120 in and adjacent to the former warden’s building (probably of c.1835) that survived the demolition of the gaol. A new police station was built in 2007-8, and is linked to the refurbished former warden’s building.

Increasing sporting and social activities in the late 19th century led to a need for dedicated recreational facilities. A lawn tennis club (still with grass courts) was established with courts east of Grove Street in the inter-war period, with a bowling green adjacent.121
4 ARCHAEOLOGY

4.1 The medieval town (Maps 6-8)

Fig. 10. St Mary’s church: north elevation looking west showing north transept.

4.1.1 Buildings

The parish church of St Mary is one of the oldest standing buildings in Petworth. The restored windows of the chancel and north transept date these to c.1250, showing that the church – as befits its minster origins – was of substantial cruciform plan by this date. A 13th-century piscina in the upper level of the north transept shows that this was two-storeyed from the outset. This oddity increases the uncertainty as to whether the tower (of which the lower part is late 14th) replaced a south transept or not. The north aisle of the nave is also 14th century, with the chancel north aisle, or chapel, dating to the 15th century.

The earliest remains at Petworth House are broadly contemporary with those at the parish church. The windows of the chapel are of two-light form in the north wall (where they are partly blocked) and the south wall, and of three lights in the east window, all with trefoils over. The restored tracery is heavy, almost plate-like, and combined with the circular abaci of the shafts, suggested a date of c.1260-70 to Ian Nairn, although parallels (such as the eastern two bays of the choir at Chester cathedral) indicate a date in the later 13th century. An archaeological study of the chapel by Andy Waters in 1995-6 proposes an early to mid-14th century date, but without any supporting argument: indeed, this survey failed to undertake analysis of the overall window forms, their moulding profiles and capital types, and the degree to which restoration has altered the tracery forms, all of which would help resolve the matter. More usefully, the 1995-6 survey revealed the survival of 20 roof trusses that had been concealed by a 17th plaster ceiling, with only the upper part of each truss removed for the construction of the old library above: the survey loosely dated the roof as ‘late medieval’. The closely-spaced double arched-brace trusses, often referred to as a wagon roof, were not suitable for dendrochronological dating. In a report arising from subsequent investigations in 1997, Ian Mayes suggests that every seventh truss carried a king post, which would be extremely implausible in this context and would suggest a late date. It is clear from his report, however, that he is in fact referring to a crown post with bracing to the top of the surviving collars: the distinction is important, since it means that there was an upper collar. The roof type, even with the upper collar, is known in England from the early 13th century (e.g. Lincoln Greyfriars’ church) and there is every reason to suppose that it is the primary roof at Petworth. In 1997 remains were found of a blocked central west window in the chapel, with details consistent with the surviving windows.

Other medieval remains survive within Petworth House. These include a two-aisled four-bay groin-vaulted undercroft (of probable 13th-century date) below the Carved Room (i.e. south-east of the chapel), with a room over. Waters suggests that this was a first-floor hall, with a service room and second-floor bedchamber over, but, as Mayes notes, it is more likely to be a parlour with chamber over (the upper storey is evident from the survival of a spiral stair in the east wall with a doorway to this level). 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 – in the 12th century they normally comprised chamber-blocks usually located
adjacent to large ground-floor halls, and, in the 13th century, great chambers, sometimes over parlours, became a fundamental element of the now amalgamated house. Certainly in 1574 the hall (which may well represent a later medieval enlargement or replacement) was a separate ground-level room to the north-west of the probable chamber-block (which was, at that date, a parlour, consistent with its suggested earlier function). Projecting eastwards from the southern end of the east wall of the chamber-block/Carved Room, the Oak Hall (now containing the Oak Staircase) appears to be a wing of late 13th-century date, with a courtyard created between it and the south wall of the chapel; although Water and Mayes, both date it to the 14th century, a blocked window was revealed in the 1990s, which, with its three-quarter hollow and fillet arch moulding and the chapel-like capitals, probably dates to the end of the 13th century. A central tower, of which the east wall at least survives, occupied the approximate space of the Red Room (i.e. immediately west of the chapel, north of the chamber block, and east of the probable position of the hall). It is aligned with the chamber-block and both buildings may well predate the chapel, which is on a slightly skewed alignment.

There are nine other buildings in Petworth that have been identified as being of pre-1500 date, although the lack of systematic survey, combined with the survival of undated and uninvestigated timber-framed buildings behind later façades, almost certainly means that this significantly under represents the actual survival.

The timber-framed medieval houses of Petworth include three of Wealden form (i.e. with recessed open hall flanked by two-storeyed chambers). The building on the western corner of High Street and Middle Street (variously known as Hazelman’s, the Hovis House, and currently occupied by Heather Denham Antiques), is a three-bay Wealden house built along the High Street frontage c.1450-75. A bay was added along the Middle Street frontage, perhaps at the very end of the 16th century. Boxall House, East Street, conceals remains of a five-bay Wealden house probably dating from the late 15th century, with a large single-bay open hall and each end two-storeyed block having two bays. There is a four-bay Wealden at Fairfield Cottage and John Bird Antiques, High Street, with the two-storeyed jettied western end clearly visible today, together with the braced flying wall plate of the former open hall. The service doorways are visible in the side wall of the later wagon way.

Non-Wealden examples include Monk House and 2 Preyste Cottages, North Street, which have remains of a single-bay open hall of c.1400, with a crown-post roof, and a three-bay cross-wing. Exposed timber framing on the street frontage and northern end elevation at the building currently occupied by Pandora’s Box, North Street, opposite the east end of the church, suggests an open hall house of c.1500. The subdivided house on the south side of Saddlers Row, now Woodcock Antiques, Coco Café and Saddlers Cottage, shows a complex development. The earliest surviving part is the rear east-west range (Fig. 4), which was probably built in the late 14th century as a rear cross-wing to an open hall to the north (i.e. facing the road to the public car park). This open hall was replaced by one facing Saddlers Row, possibly in the late 15th century, for which evidence survives within Woodcock Antiques.

4.1.2 Excavations (Map 5)
The creation of a new terrace garden at the south end of Petworth House in 1999 was accompanied by a watching brief. Although significant post-medieval features were identified, the only pre-1500 evidence comprised residual sherds of pottery dating to the 12th century (one sherd), and 13th-15th centuries (four
An archaeological evaluation at a site off Trumpers Lane (i.e. between East Street and High Street) in 2006, prior to residential infill development, saw the digging of two 1.2m-wide trenches, totalling 32m in length. The only possibly medieval feature revealed comprised a small pit of 15th or 16th-century date, although there were residual sherds of pottery dating from the late 13th to 14th centuries, in later contexts.

A watching brief at 19 Lombard Street, during residential redevelopment of the site in 2006, revealed a rubbish pit of mid-15th to mid-16th-century date, with pottery of the same date mostly coming from this feature. Much of the site was affected by a previously unknown and undated sandstone and brick cellar (the floor of possible 18th-century date may well have been secondary). A sandstone-lined feature, 1.8m x 1.2m in plan, and over 2m deep, possibly represented industrial use, but neither its function nor date was clear.

4.1.3 Topographic analysis (Maps 6-8)

In the current absence of significant archaeological or historical evidence for the origins and early development of Petworth, the surviving and historically mapped topography assumes a greater significance. Previous published analysis has focused on the post-medieval changes to the town plan (see section 4.2.3), which are important since they show that the late, and probably substantially earlier, medieval street plan was significantly different to that today.

The main difference between the earlier and the present street plans is the former westwards continuation of Church Street (formerly West Street and, further west, Court Ditch), which would have passed just south of the present southern end of the main range at Petworth House, to Tillington. This was re-routed c.1700-10 (see below, section 4.2.3) with the earlier route recorded on plans by Ralph Treswell in 1610 and, probably, by Robert Norton c.1625. This may equate with the evidence for the east-west road surfaces recorded in the terrace garden watching brief at Petworth House in 1999: although these were dated to the 17th century (see section 4.4.2), the lowest surface was not removed due to the partial nature of the excavations, and, thus, may simply overly earlier surfaces. Alternatively, the excavated road may lie a little to the north of the earlier route, as it is slightly north of the alignment of the surviving part of Church Street. Either way, there can be little doubt that this route represents the medieval route leading westwards from the town. With the post-medieval loss of the western part of Church Street the northern part of Pound Street (formerly Sowter Street) was also removed, so that the medieval street plan was more obviously gridded than it is today. The main north-south elements of the grid comprised the extended Pound Street, Lombard Street (opening into Market Square and continuing southwards as Golden Square) and East Street. The east-west elements comprised High Street, Saddlers Row, and Church Street. Trumpers Lane, which leads westwards from East Street north of later New Street (for which see section 4.2.3), may well be medieval in origins, but it is not clear if it provided access from the west end of Angel Street (i.e. the eastern access into the town) to Market Square, or even Lombard Street: certainly the plans of 1610 and c.1625 do not suggest that this was the case. Market Square was almost certainly reduced by infill comprising the market hall first recorded in 1591 (see section 3.2.3), and by the block of buildings to the south: this infill may have begun before 1500, perhaps even before c.1350. The generally gridded form of Petworth is significant since it suggests that it is a planned town: what remains unclear without significant excavation is whether the town was founded substantially.
before the late 13th century, and whether the planned streets and burgage plots obliterated any earlier organic growth.

While the gridded street pattern of Petworth has been noted before, the quite different plan form of the area around the church has received little attention. The eastwards deviation of North Street is of little surprise, given that it thus skirts the pre-Conquest minster church. The westwards deviation of the northern part of East Street is of more interest, however, as here the gridded plan of the medieval town appears to have been affected by the substantial curia of the rectory. A distinctive feature of the rectory boundary is its projection eastwards from the general eastern boundary of the town and, as Waters notes, this appears to predate the surrounding medieval and post-medieval plots. This area is poorly delineated in the
Fig. 14. Tudor Rose, East Street.

plans of 1610 and 1625, but was certainly of this form by c.1800.\textsuperscript{146} The 17th-century, or earlier, Old Rectory sits within the projecting curia, which confirms that it is an early feature of the town. The proximity and site of adjacent church is significant, since this occupies a very constrained churchyard wholly inconsistent with the extensive scale of minster precincts that John Blair has demonstrated elsewhere, and which typically measure 150-300m across.\textsuperscript{147} The scale of the putative minster precinct at Petworth (north-south c.120m; east-west c.240m or more) and its form are certainly consistent with other minster precincts.

Waters has suggested that the manor house was first established in the late 13th-century within the outer bailey of a castle built soon after 1066. He suggests that a castle motte lay north-west of later Petworth House, and is now represented by Lawn Hill.\textsuperscript{148} He adduces no evidence at all to support this hypothesis, and, amongst many problems arising, it would seem surprising that the seigneurial focus shifted to a site hard against the new town: at nearby Midhurst, for example, the seigneurial residence moved away from the constrained town edge site (in a bona fide small Norman castle) to a new site at Cowdray, in the late 13th century.\textsuperscript{149} A more likely development is that the manor house at Petworth was established on its later medieval site – i.e. the edge of the minster precinct – by the mid-11th century. Although crucial for the ultimate urbanization of the minster site, the medieval manor house seems to have had little direct impact on the topography of the town other than reinforcing the need for the urban area to lie south of the church. The scale of the pre-13th-century manor house, and the northern and western boundaries of its curia are uncertain. By c.1309, when the licence to crenellate was granted, the manor house was evidently substantial (on the basis of the known size of the chapel, chamber-block and central tower), although its northern and western boundaries still remain unknown until the post-medieval period.

4.2 The town c.1500-1840

4.2.1 Buildings

The medieval manor house at Petworth saw the building of a surviving four-storied square tower, which was added to the north wall of the Oak Hall, probably in the mid-16th century.\textsuperscript{150} The rebuilding and expansion of the house between 1574 and 1632 was substantial (see section 3.2.1), but was largely swept away in the Duke of Somerset’s remodelling of 1688-96, which essentially established the current form of the house. Several of the 13th to 15th-century parts remained (see above, and section 4.1.1), although they were remodelled and are not discernible in the principal west front of the late 17th century. Fragmentary survivals of pre-1688 post-medieval features were noted in the 1995-6 and 1997 surveys.\textsuperscript{151} Additionally, study of the woodyard buildings east of the house in 2007-8 confirmed survival of pre-1688 ancillary buildings that include the early 17th-century conduit house, and a pre-1610 perimeter wall.\textsuperscript{152} The strongly French-influenced west elevation of the late 17th-century house is of 21 bays, having two main storeys with, as at Wren’s contemporary Hampton Court Palace, the innovation of an attic storey below a parapet. This saw abandonment of a pediment, although the building initially had a dome: the flattened dome was located above the central three bays, damaged in a fire of 1714, rebuilt and finally removed, possibly in 1777-8.\textsuperscript{153} The interior provides several notable late 17th-century rooms. The remodelled chapel and the Marble Hall are remarkable for the carving and joinery by John Selden, and, despite doubling in length c.1790, the Carved Room is justifiably renowned for the naturalistic carvings of Grinling Gibbons. The sculpture and paintings
Sussex EUS – Petworth

Fig. 15. Somerset Lodge, North Street.

within Petworth House form a remarkable collection, which is reflected in the fact that it was the first example of a collection passing to the Treasury in lieu of death duties, following the death of Charles, 3rd Lord Leconfield, in 1952. The later ancillary buildings at Petworth House include an ice house (built in 1784), later becoming the Fire Engine House, and the substantial stone-built 18th-century servants’ wing, both east of the main house.

Within the town itself, Petworth has numerous examples of houses of this period: 10 from the 16th century, 41 from the 17th century, 70 from the 18th century, and 36 from the early 19th 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 17th century are in fact 16th century or earlier.

All except one of the identified 16th-century houses are timber framed, although nearly all of them have later façades. For example, the building on the west corner of Market Square and Lombard Street has been refronted, but its side (i.e, Lombard Street elevation) has a continuous jetty, and internally it is clear that it is a timber-framed building from the early 16th century. Garden House (previously Bacon & Co.), Saddlers Row, conceals a four-bay timber frame, built with a stack but no ceilings to the first-floor rooms, and dating from c.1600, the cellar, which originally extended under most of the house, is either contemporary with the timber frame, or possibly earlier. The joists of the ground floor western bays suggest partly commercial use from the outset. Daintrey House, East Street, comprises a substantial timber-framed house, possibly of c.1580, to which an 18th-century façade has been applied (see below). A timber-framed rear wing projects rearwards from the southern end of the rear (east) elevation, with timber framing and herringbone brickwork visible externally. Mortices suggest that it had oriel windows, and there is evidence that the main elevation of the front range also had oriel windows, and was jettied. There was a stair turret between the main and rear ranges. Works to the house in 2008 exposed the timber framing of the north elevation of the front range. At the now subdivided house of the Leads, Denne Court, Stringers Hall, and Stringers Cottage, remodelling in the 18th century conceals timber framing that probably dates from c.1570, as well as a 17th-century roof. The one example of exposed timber framing of this period, in this case from the early 16th century, is found at Tudor Rose, East Street. The first floor is a continuous jetty with close-studding (here infilled with brick), with ground-level bay posts and an open wagon bay. At 1 Pound Place, Pound Street, a stone-rubble house has a four-centred front doorway with a simple chamfered square-headed window above, probably of early 16th-century date.

Of the identified 17th-century houses, just over half are timber framed, although over half of these have later façades. Exposed timber framing survives at the Covent, East Street, which has bracing from a sill-level mid-rail. More substantial is the timber framing at 19 Pound Street, which combines braces and square panels. This may be late 16th-century in date, as may be the large square panelling at 293-4, 301-2, and 309 and 309a (Leconfield Estate), North Street: internal investigation, especially of roof structures, would help resolve the dating. More typical of 17th-century work are the thin timbers used for square panels at Sheeling Cottage, North Street; 2 Pound Place, Pound Street; 348-50 (Leconfield Estate), Middle Street; and the Stonemason’s Inn, North Street. The majority of
the non-timber buildings of 17th-century date are built of the local sandstone. In most cases this takes the form of rubble construction. 1-2 High Street is a substantial town centre example that includes an arched wagon way. 343-4 (Leconfield Estate), High Street, is typical of stone-rubble built cottages of the period, here built as a symmetrical pair. Perhaps most interesting stone rubble example (albeit restored in the 19th century and in 1980, and with brick dressings) is the Thompson Hospital, North Street, which comprises a seven-gabled row of almshouses dating from 1618. Squire’s Holt, Church Street and Tudor House, Lombard Street represent subdivision of a substantial ashlar-built corner plot house (the northern part is now stuccoed), with gables facing both streets, and dated 1629. Somerset Lodge, North Street, is a more sophisticated example of the use of ashlar. Dated to 1653, it has a projecting central bay, flanked by slightly wider bays, with all three bays having shaped gables. Adjacent Somerset Hospital (so named since becoming an almshouse in 1746) is a substantial early 17th-century house partly built of sandstone rubble, but also showing wide use of brick: the façade is largely of brick, which is used for the projecting central bay and its shaped gables, and the flanking bay windows.

The 18th century saw the local sandstone become the dominant building material (not least in much of the perimeter wall that separates Petworth House from the town so unambiguously), although brick houses also increased in frequency. In addition to the 70 buildings identified as wholly belonging to this period, many of the earlier buildings were refronted in the 18th century. Examples of earlier houses heavily remodelled in the 18th century include the Leads, Denne Court, Stringers Hall, and Stringers Cottage (which has a mid-18th-century three-storeyed seven-bay brick façade, and a side elevation with a pair of two-storeyed bow windows built using mathematical tiles c.1800); Daintrey House, East Street (which had a seven-bay brick façade added in the mid-18th century, with the attic storey and pediment, and the remarkable iron railings in front, added later in the century); and Wisteria House, Market Square (three-storeyed five-bay ashlar façade of mid-18th century date). North House, North Street (three-storeyed five-bay brick façade) may also represent re-fronting of an earlier house. What appear to be wholly new houses of this period include the substantial ashlar-built town hall of 1793. This free-standing building has its principal elevation on the east side, with a two-
storeyed seven-bay elevation that has a pediment over the projecting three central bays. Other substantial examples include George House, East Street (two-storeyed six-bay house, built in brick, with a parapet); the Institute, East Street (three-storeyed five-bay brick house, with central doorway with pilasters and pediment); Avenings, Golden Square (three-storeyed seven-bay brick house with stone quoins and a pediment, of c.1775); the Stone House, High Street (two-storeyed three-bay house with ashlar façade and stone rubble to the rear, of c.1775); Newlands, Pound Street (large three-storeyed five-bay brick house with parapet of c.1790, with large attached brick stable block to the south); and Old Bank House, or Rosewarnes and Baileys, Market Square (two-storeyed five-bay brick house, with a wide projecting central bay that has a pediment with oculus). More modest stone-built cottages are a feature of the 18th century with a cluster of examples at 329-329a, 330-1, 333-5, and A-H 336 (Leconfield Estate), Grove Street.

The surviving houses of the early 19th century are of a more modest scale than many of their 18th-century precursors. The more substantial examples include 306-7 (Leconfield Estate), North Street (three-storeyed four-bay red brick house, since subdivided). Ryde House, Angel Street, and Culvercroft, Pound Street, are examples, rare in Petworth, of substantial villas, and both are stuccoed. Grove House and Grove Cottage, Grove Street are two of the more remarkable houses of the period, being styled, with their stuccoed façade and three two-storeyed bow windows, as if a terrace in a Regency resort. Bona fide short terraces, of stone-built cottages, survive at 337-40 (Leconfield Estate), High Street; 4-9 New Street; and the Egremont Almshouses, Horsham Road (1836). The Congregational chapel, in East Street, which later became the girls’ National School, dates from 1819 and has a plain (now painted) brick pedimented façade with the former projecting lower storey now reduced to a screen wall with central pedimented doorway (Fig. 6). Civic architecture of the period includes the brick-built former warden’s house, now part of the police station, from c.1835, which is a survivor from the otherwise demolished house of correction in Rosemary Lane.

4.2.2 Excavations

Archaeological excavation has yet to add significantly to the understanding of post-medieval Petworth. The 1999 watching brief at the **terrace garden at the south end of**
Sussex EUS – Petworth

Fig. 20. 337-40 (Leconfield Estate), High Street.

Petworth House revealed foundations for stone walls and roadway surfaces, probably dating to the 17th century. The walls could not be identified with those recorded in early views of the house, and there was no archaeological evidence for their function. Later garden features included early 19th-century steps. The archaeological evaluation at the site off Trumpers Lane (i.e. between East Street and High Street) in 2006 revealed a small pit of 15th or 16th-century date (see section 4.1.2), together with two later pits (the largest dating to the 18th century) and a sandstone wall, probably of mid-19th-century date.

A vaulted cellar was discovered during works at the rear of the Somerfield store (i.e. south-west of the town hall) in 2001. The cellar was built of brick and sandstone, and possibly dated to the 19th century.

4.2.3 Topography (Maps 9-11)

The prosperity of Petworth in the 16th century may account for the northwards expansion of building along North Street, evident by the date of Treswell’s 1610 survey. While there are no identified medieval houses significantly north of the church, however, this is inconclusive, and any 16th-century, and, indeed, 17th-century building here may have simply consolidated a medieval linear suburb. Although the extent of Petworth was not to change significantly between 1610 and 1840, the town saw considerable modification to its street layout due to the revision and expansion of the formal gardens and park at Petworth House. Following the rebuilding of the house to its present general form in 1688-96, new formal gardens were established by George London and Henry Wise in 1702-10, and it was at this time that the westwards continuation of West Street (now Church Street) was removed, along with the northern part of Pound Street, so that the town was entered at the junction of Pound Street and Park Road, c.90m south of the earlier route. Newly built Park Road was a dog-legged street necessary to connect Pound Street to Church Street, and skirted the newly installed high perimeter wall of Petworth House.

A new street connecting the north-west corner of the Market Square to Park Road was also created at this time. Although the expansion of the gardens and re-routing of the roads was the most obvious topographic change at this time, the impact of the new curtain wall was also significant on North Street, where, by 1750, 12 houses along the west side of the road had been demolished.

The early 18th-century formal...
gardens at Petworth House were replaced in turn by the Romantic landscaped park of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown in 1755-65 that included a lake and which forms the basis of the grounds today. This involved another southwards shift of the road leading west of Petworth, in this case by c. 290m to its present junction with Pound Street.\[165] Within the town centre another significant change occurred c. 1802 with the creation of New Street, linking the west end of Angel Street to the Market Square.\[166] Aldsworth and Freke suggest that as late as the mid-18th century the eastern route into the town went via the later Roman Catholic church rather than the more southerly route of the eastern part of Angel Street.\[167] Certainly the latter shows evident signs of re-grading and straightening, but broadly follows the route shown of the town plans of 1610 and c. 1625.

Neither map shows Bartons Lane, which curves around the southern boundary of the ancient rectory curia, although this may reflect its small scale rather than its post-medieval origins: it is shown on the 1838 Tithe Map.

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

4.3.1 Buildings and topography
The majority of the buildings in Petworth date from this period, partly as a result of loss of earlier buildings, but mainly through expansion in the form of 20th-century suburbs mainly lying to the south of the earlier town.

Although the arrival of the railway in 1859, with a station c. 2.2km south of the town, was not accompanied by large-scale expansion, but rather by significant depopulation in the rural parts of the parish (see section 3.3.1), there is evidence of modest building in the town, concentrated in Angel Street and Grove Street. This includes modest terraced housing, in which stone-rubble is combined with brick dressings and porches, at 351-6 (Leconfield Estate), Angel Street; and Percy Row, 328 A-M (Leconfield Estate), Grove Street.

The Congregational church in Golden Square is of the same period (1850): built in the Decorated style, complete with a timber spire, it uses local sandstone rubble, albeit in an overly random style (Fig. 9). Slightly later is the early 1860s
Secular Victorian buildings of note include a substantial three-storied stock brick house on the east side of Market Square, from c.1860 (now the Jacqueline Tudor and Ronald Chambers antiques shop); the former Swan Hotel (c.1900), with jettied and part tile-hung elevations; and the Baroque stone and brick, National Westminster Bank, Market Square (1901). Montier Terrace, Angel Street, is an example of later 19th-century brick-built terraced housing (dated 1888). There are few Edwardian buildings in the town, although the good examples survive at Glebe Villas, North Street (two pairs of semi-detached houses, with canted bays, tile-hanging, and faux timbered gables), and the post office, East Street, which is one of Petworth’s few Vernacular Revival buildings (combining stone and timber framing). Since the First World War, suburbs have developed outside the EUS study area, on the south side of the town. Semi-detached council houses formed a significant part of this development, with c.200 council houses built by 1958 (see section 3.3.1). In the case of the suburb west of Station Road and south of Midhurst Road, this began c.1950 with building of police housing in Downview Road. The new brick-built court building (now redundant) in Rosemary Lane followed soon after. Most recently, Petworth’s new police station was built in 2007-8 by Terence Symmons Architects.
5 STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER

5.1 Town summary

5.1.1 Historic environment overview

The absence of widespread expansion and rebuilding in the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, common to many other Sussex towns, has meant that Petworth preserves much of its pre-1840 character. Although the number of identified medieval townhouses is modest, the early origins of Petworth are well represented by the 13th-century parts of Petworth House and the parish church. The 16th, 17th and early 18th-century growth of the town is evident in the surviving buildings, which include numerous examples of substantial townhouses. Less visible is the archaeological evidence of the earlier town, and the potential of this archaeology has yet to be realized through excavation.

5.1.2 Historic environment designations (Map 4)

There are 178 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, or structures in the EUS study area (two Grade I, 12 Grade II*, and 164 Grade II). Of these, 11 recognizably predate 1500; 10 are 16th century; 41 are 17th century; 69 are 18th century; 36 are early 19th century; five are from 1841-1880; four are from 1881-1913; and two (both telephone boxes) are from 1914-45. There is one additional group of 17th-century and later historic buildings recognized in this assessment that has not been listed.

Petworth has a Conservation Area. There are no Scheduled Monuments in the town.

5.1.3 Historic building materials

The surviving medieval parts of Petworth House are of local sandstone, as is the parish church. Stone is visibly the main material at 70 houses and structures in the town, most dating from the 16th to early 19th centuries, as well as several instances where it is used for re-fronting of earlier timber-framed buildings. Timber framing is used less widely, visibly the main or initial building material at 39 buildings dating from the late medieval period, and the 16th and 17th centuries. Brick is increasingly popular from the 18th century (where it accounts for 21 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 (26 examples on pre-1800 buildings). Horsham stone (a flaggy sandstone used for roofing) is used on a few ancillary buildings at Petworth House. There are two examples of slate-hanging, and one of mathematical tiles.

5.2 Historic Character Types

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

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

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 20th-century housing estate), different historic use of part of that area has been used as a basis for subdivision. This is to allow the application of the types in Table 1 to the mapped polygons throughout the 15 periods of the EUS chronology (Table 2). This means that for any area within the town, or mapped polygon on the Geographical Information System, both the present Historic Character Type and the past land use(s) are defined.

This approach gives time-depth to the 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.

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

Table 2. Sussex EUS chronology.

5.2.2 Historic Character Types in Petworth (Maps 6-12)

Although Historic Character Types represent county-wide types, modern Petworth 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 regular burgage plots reflects the fact that Petworth was a planned settlement set out next to a manor house and minster.

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 1 in Petworth combines six Historic Character Types that represent the market place and regular burgage plots dating from Period 6 (1150-1349), irregular historic plots from Period 6 and Period 10 (18th century), and public from Period 15(1946-present) onwards. Combining this complexity into a single HUCA called Market Square reflects the 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 19th and 20th-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 Petworth (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 Petworth's Historic Urban Character Areas (14)

The following assessments of the Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) of Petworth 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 Market Square (HEV 5)

HUCA 1 comprises the near rectangular market square, which formed the commercial centre of the town as established in or by the 13th century, together with the regular burgage plots ranged around the perimeter. The town hall and the block of buildings to the south represent infill established by the 16th century, although they expanded later, and may represent encroachment from as early as the late 13th or early 14th centuries. Today the HUCA remains the commercial centre of the town.

There are 26 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (two Grade II*; and 24 Grade II) of which three are Period 7 (1350-1499), three are Period 8 (16th century), three are Period 9 (17th century), 11 are Period 10 (18th century), two are Period 11 (1800-40), one is Period 12 (1841-80), two are Period 13 (1881-1913), and one is Period 14 (1914-45). Of these, several are especially noteworthy. The three medieval buildings comprise parts of the single subdivided house on the south side of Saddlers Row, now Woodcock Antiques, Coco Café and Saddlers Cottage (all Grade II), of which the arliest surviving part is the rear east-west range, probably built in the late 14th century as a rear cross-wing to an open hall. The building on the
west corner of Market Square and Lombard Street has been refronted, but its side (i.e., Lombard Street elevation) has a continuous jetty, and internally it is clear that it is a timber-framed building from the early 16th century (Grade II). Wisteria House, Market Square is a three-storeyed five-bay ashlar façade of mid-18th century date, which represents a re-fronting of a timber frame of probable 17th-century date (Grade II). Avenings, Golden Square is a substantial three-storeyed seven-bay brick house with stone quoins and a pediment, dating from c.1775 (Grade II*). The ashlar-built town hall of 1793 is a free-standing building with its principal elevation (on the east side) comprising a two-storeyed seven-bay elevation that has a pediment over the projecting three central bays (Grade II*).

Burgage plots are reasonably well preserved, although there has been much amalgamation. Archaeological investigations have been limited to a minor evaluation just beyond the eastern edge of the HUCA, at Trumpers Lane. This back plot investigation found some minimal evidence of medieval activity, but, more significantly, the medieval origins and the lack of intensive post-1900 redevelopment suggest that it is likely 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 1 has seen modest change in the 20th 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 erosion of the commercial character of the Market Square area.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the different zones in the early town and the development of burgage plots (RQ6-7).

**HUCA 2 High Street (HEV 5)**

HUCA 2 largely comprises the southern part of the gridded town plan probably established in or by the 13th century, albeit cut by New Street c.1802. The area was near the centre of the town and today is predominantly commercial, with some residential properties. There are 18 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (all Grade II) of which three are Period 7 (1350-1499), five are Period 9 (17th century), seven are Period 10 (18th century), and three are Period 11 (1800-40). The four-bay Wealden house at Fairfield Cottage and John Bird Antiques, High Street is one of the more obviously medieval timber-framed buildings in Petworth, with the two-storeyed jetted western end clearly visible today, together with the braced flying wall plate of the former open hall. The service doorways are visible in the side wall of the later wagon way. Another Wealden house survives in the building on the western corner of High Street and Middle Street (variously known as Hazelman’s, the Hovis House, and currently occupied by Heather Denham Antiques). This is a three-bay Wealden house built along the High Street frontage c.1450-75. A bay was added along the Middle Street frontage, perhaps at the very end of the 15th century. 1-2 High Street is a substantial town centre example of stone-rubble construction that includes an arched wagon way.

Burgage plots are moderately preserved, although there has been much amalgamation. The medieval origins and the lack of intensive post-1900 redevelopment suggest that it is likely that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is high.

The surviving medieval and 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 the very highest Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 5.

HUCA 2 has seen modest change in the 20th 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 area.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the early town and the development of burgage plots (RQ5-7).

**HUCA 3 Lombard Street (HEV 4)**

HUCA 3 lies in the centre of the medieval town, with the north-south Lombard Street linking the church and the Market Square. The eastern
edge of the HUCA is formed by properties on the west side of East Street (another component of the medieval gridded street layout), while the west side is formed by the eastern side of Park Road, which was created in 1702-10 during expansion of Petworth House and park (with consequent loss of the rear part of plots along the west side of Lombard Street). Today the area is largely commercial, combined with some residential properties.

There are 25 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (all Grade II) of which two are Period 8 (16th century), eight are Period 9 (17th century), seven are Period 10 (18th century), and eight are Period 11 (1800-40). Petworth’s best example of early 16th-century timber framing, is found at Tudor Rose, East Street. The first floor is a continuous jetty with close-studding (here infilled with brick), with ground-level bay posts and an open wagon bay. Squire’s Holt, Church Street and Tudor House, Lombard Street represent subdivision of a substantial ashlar-built corner plot house (the northern part is now stuccoed), with gables facing both streets, and dated 1629.

Burgage plots are not well preserved, due in part to the cutting through of Park Road in the early 18th century, and the amalgamation of plots in the post office area.

Archaeological investigations have been limited to a minor evaluation at Trumpers Lane. This back plot investigation found some minimal evidence of medieval activity, but, given the medieval origins and the lack of intensive post-1900 redevelopment in much of the HUCA, it is likely that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is moderate, and perhaps locally high.

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

HUCA 4 comprises the eastern side of East Street (together with plots to the rear), which formed one of the broadly north-south streets of the medieval town. It lay east of the town centre and appears to have had a residential rather than commercial function: certainly that has been the case since the 18th century, and remains so today.

There are 10 listed buildings, or structures, (two Grade II*; and eight Grade II) of which one is Period 7 (1350-1499), two are Period 8 (16th century), four are Period 10 (18th century), and three are Period 11 (1800-40). Boxall House (Grade II) conceals remains of a five-bay Wealden house probably dating from the late 15th century, with a large single-bay open hall and each end two-storeyed block having two bays. Daintrey House (Grade II*) comprises a substantial timber-framed house, possibly of c.1580: its front range, which was jettied and had oriel windows, had a seven-bay brick façade added in the mid-18th century, with the attic storey and pediment, and the remarkable iron railings in front, added later in the century. The now subdivided house of the Leads, Denne Court, Stringers Hall, and Stringers Cottage (Grade II*), conceals timber framing that probably dates from c.1570, as well as a 17th-century roof. It too saw addition of a brick façade in the mid-18th-century, and has a side elevation with a pair of two-storeyed bow windows built using mathematical tiles c.1800. Later buildings of interest include the Congregational chapel, which became the girls’ National School: it dates from 1819 and has a plain (now painted) brick pedimented façade (Grade II).

Burgage plots are moderately well preserved. There have been no archaeological investigations, but the medieval origins and the lack of intensive post-1900 redevelopment suggest that it is likely that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is moderate to high.

The surviving historic medieval and, especially, 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 only modest development in HUCA 4 since 1900, in the form of infill development to the rear of the East Street frontage. The considerable Historic Environment Value of the area, however, means that vulnerability is medium, with the main threats
being further infill, and redevelopment of unlisted 19th-century buildings.

**Research questions** especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the early town and the development of burgage plots (RQ5-7).

**HUCA 5 Church (HEV 5)**

HUCA 5 comprises the parish church and churchyard (with pre-Conquest origins), together with the rectory to the east and properties on the east side of North Street that have been carved out of the latter. The whole area may well represent the entirety, or more likely, the greater part of the more extensive curia of the pre-Conquest minster church at Petworth. Certainly the form of the rectory grounds is suggestive, and the present churchyard is far smaller than is typical for a minster.

There are seven listed buildings or structures (one Grade I, and six Grade II) of which one is Period 6 (1150-1349), one is Period 7 (1350-1499), one is Period 9 (17th century), three are Period 10 (18th century), and one is Period 11 (1800-40). The parish church of St Mary is the most significant building (Grade I). The windows of the chancel and north transept date these to c. 1250, and the lower part of the tower and the nave north aisle date from the 14th century. The chancel north aisle, or chapel, dates to the 15th century. The church saw substantial restoration and modification by Sir Charles Barry (1827), then saw restoration by Kempe & Tower (1903), and Seely & Paget (1953). Exposed timber framing on the street frontage and northern end elevation at the building currently occupied by Pandora’s Box, North Street, opposite the east end of the church, suggests an open hall house of c. 1500 (Grade II).

Although there have been no archaeological investigations in the HUCA, the fact that much of the HUCA is a church and churchyard and the rest is part of the putative pre-Conquest minster curia (and certainly occupied in the medieval period) suggests that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is high.

The survival of the medieval church and other medieval and post-medieval buildings, and the archaeological potential give this HUCA the very highest **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 5.

HUCA 5 has seen modest change since 1945, with some infill development near the Old Rectory, and the scope for further infill means that **vulnerability** is medium.

**Research questions** especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the Anglo-Saxon minster and post-Conquest church (RQ2, RQ8).

**HUCA 6 Petworth House (HEV 5)**

HUCA 6 comprises Petworth House and its ancillary buildings, which lie on the north-western side of the historic town. The site was occupied by a manor house by the 13th century, and probably substantially earlier. Today the HUCA is a country house, owned by the National Trust and open to the public, with Petworth Park (outside the EUS study area) extending immediately west of the house.

There are 11 listed buildings or structures (one Grade I, three Grade II* and seven Grade II). Medieval remains within Petworth House include the chapel (late 13th century); a two-aisled four-bay vaulted undercroft (of probable 13th-century date); the Oak Hall (now containing the Oak Staircase), which appears to be a wing of late 13th-century date; and a central tower, of which the east wall at least survives, occupying the approximate space of the Red Room. A four-storeyed square tower was added to the north wall of the Oak Hall, probably in the mid-16th century. The rebuilding and expansion of the house between 1574 and 1632 was substantial (see section 3.2.1), but was largely swept away in the Duke of Somerset’s remodelling of 1688-96, which essentially established the current form of the house. The strongly French-influenced west elevation of the late 17th-century house is of 21 bays, having two main storeys plus an attic storey below a parapet. The interior provides several notable late 17th-century rooms. The remodelled chapel and the Marble Hall are remarkable for the carving and joinery by John Selden, and the Carved Room is renowned for the naturalistic carvings of Grinling Gibbons. The sculpture and paintings within Petworth House form a remarkable collection. The (unlisted) Woodyard buildings east of the house include pre-1688 ancillary buildings (e.g. the early 17th-century conduit house). The later ancillary buildings at Petworth House include an ice house (built in 1784), later becoming the Fire Engine House (Grade II), and the substantial stone-built 18th-century servants’ wing (Grade II*), both east of the main house. The stone wall of Petworth House and park is a major feature, extending along the street frontage throughout this HUCA and beyond: it dates from the 18th century, but incorporates earlier (even pre-1610) elements, such as that on the east side of the Woodyard (Grade II), as well as the 18th-century main gate and lodge (Grade II*) and the rear wall of the 18th-century stables (Grade II*).
A watching brief immediately south of the main house in 1999 revealed significant post-medieval archaeology, which, combined with the evident scope for earlier archaeology, suggests that the archaeological potential is high.

The survival of a major country house of the late 17th century, together parts of the earlier houses and ancillary buildings, and the archaeological potential gives this HUCA the highest Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 5.

HUCA 6 has seen little change in the late 20th century and the site is well protected through listings, so that the vulnerability is low. Perhaps the greatest threat is to conversion of unlisted buildings in the Woodyard and Cowyard.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the manor house (RQ3, RQ10-11).

**HUCA 7 North Street (HEV 4)**

HUCA 7 lies on the northern edge of the medieval town, forming a linear development along the road leading north of the town. The development may be medieval in origins or may date from the 16th century. Certainly it was established by the date of the 1610 map, at which point there were also houses along the west side of the road (cleared with the expansion and walling of the park in the early 18th century).

The HUCA seems always to have been largely residential in nature (with the important but no longer surviving institutional exceptions of the workhouse and school, and the surviving cemetery) and remains so today.

There are 16 listed buildings, or structures, (three Grade II*; and 13 Grade II) of which one is Period 7 (1350-1499), nine are Period 9 (17th century), three are Period 10 (18th century), and three are Period 11 (1800-40). Monk House and 2 Preyse Cottages, North Street, have remains of a single-bay open hall of c.1400, with a crown-post roof, and a three-bay cross-wing (Grade II).

Probable 17th-century timber framing is visible at 293-4, 301-2, and 309 and 309a (Leconfield Estate), North Street, although these may be earlier: the Stonemason’s Inn, North Street, is more typical of 17th-century framing. The Thompson Hospital, North Street, comprises a seven-gabled row of almshouses built in stone rubble with brick dressings, dating from 1618, albeit restored in the 19th century and in 1980 (Grade II). Somerset Lodge, North Street, is a sophisticated example of the use of ashlar (Grade II*). Dated to 1653, it has a projecting central bay, flanked by slightly wider bays, with all three bays having shaped gables. Adjacent Somerset Hospital (so named since becoming an almshouse in 1746) is a substantial early 17th-century house partly built of sandstone rubble, but also showing wide use of brick (Grade II*). North House, North Street has an 18th-century three-storeyed five-bay brick façade (Grade II*).

Historic plots are moderately well preserved. Unusually, most of these preserve their historic interface with the open countryside.

There have been no archaeological investigations, but the late or post-medieval origins and the lack of intensive post-1900 redevelopment suggest that it is likely that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is moderate.

The surviving post-medieval buildings, and the archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA a high Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 4.

There has been only modest development in HUCA 7 since 1900, in the form of infill development along the east side of North Street and on the site of the workhouse. There is limited scope for further infill, suggesting that the vulnerability is low. Perhaps the greatest threat is to redevelopment of unlisted 19th and early 20th-century buildings.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the post-medieval town (RQ15).

**HUCA 8 Pound Street (HEV 3)**

HUCA 8 lies along Pound Street, which formed the westernmost north-south street of the gridted medieval town plan of Petworth. The northern end was replaced by Park Road in the early 18th century, when the Petworth House and park expanded, and again in the mid-18th century, when the present route of Midhurst Road was created. Today the area combines residential properties with some businesses, and there is a public car park on the eastern side of the HUCA.

There are 26 listed buildings, or structures, (two Grade II*; and 24 Grade II) of which two are Period 8 (16th century), six are Period 9 (17th century), 13 are Period 10 (18th century), and five are Period 11 (1800-40). 1 Pound Place, Pound Street, is a stone-rubble house with a four-centred front doorway with a simple chamfered square-headed window above, probably of early 16th-century date (Grade II). Garden House (previously Bacon & Co.), Saddlers Row, conceals a four-bay timber frame dating from c.1600 (Grade II). 19 Pound Street has exposed timber framing that combines
braces and square panels, dating from the 17th century or, possibly the late 16th century (Grade II). More typical of 17th-century work are the thin timbers used for square panels at 2 Pound Place, Pound Street (Grade II). Newlands, Pound Street is a large three-storied five-bay brick house with parapet, dating from c.1790 (Grade II*): it has a large contemporary attached brick stable block to the south (Grade II). Stuccoed Culvercroft, Pound Street, is an example, rare in Petworth, of a substantial early 19th-century villa.

There have been no archaeological investigations, but the medieval origins, the survival of numerous post-medieval houses, and the lack of intensive post-1900 redevelopment suggest that it is likely that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is moderate.

The surviving post-medieval buildings, and the archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA an Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 3.

There has been only modest development in HUCA 8 since 1900, which, combined with the medium Historic Environment Potential, suggests that the vulnerability is low. Perhaps the greatest threat is to redevelopment of unlisted 19th and early 20th-century buildings.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the early town and the development of burgage plots (RQ5-7).

**HUCA 9 Angel Street (HEV 3)**

HUCA 9 lies on the eastern edge of the medieval and modern town, probably representing a linear suburb developed along the road leading east of the town from the 16th century onwards. The area is outside the historic commercial centre and remains largely residential today.

There are 21 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (all Grade II) of which three are Period 9 (17th century), nine are Period 10 (18th century), eight are Period 11 (1800-40), and one is Period 12 (1841-80). The HUCA has numerous examples of stone-rubble cottages built for estate workers. Early examples include 343-4 (Leconfield Estate), Grove Street, which dates from the 17th century. 18th-century stone cottages are more numerous with a cluster of examples at 329-329a, 330-1, 333-5, and A-H 336 (Leconfield Estate), Grove Street, and a late, post-railway, example of terraced stone cottages survives at Percy Row, 328 A-M (Leconfield Estate), Grove Street. Grove House and Grove Cottage, Grove Street are two of the more remarkable early 19th-century houses in the town, being styled, with their stuccoed façade and three two-storeyed bow windows, as if a terrace in a Regency resort. The police station (of which the new part dates from 2007-8) includes a brick-built former warden’s house
from c.1835, which is a survivor from the otherwise demolished house of correction in Rosemary Lane.

There have been no archaeological investigations, but given the location largely outside the known medieval extent of the town and the lateness of parts of the suburb it is likely that the archaeological potential of this HUCA is limited, but perhaps locally high at the east end of High Street. (i.e. within the extent of the medieval town).

The surviving post-medieval buildings, and the archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA an Historic Environment Value (HEV) of 3.

There has been only modest development in HUCA 10 since 1945 (including the court house and, to the rear, Courtlea) which, combined with the medium Historic Environment Potential, suggests that the vulnerability is low. Perhaps the greatest threat is to redevelopment of unlisted 19th and early 20th-century buildings, and further infill.

Broad, or Petworth-wide, research questions only apply to this area

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

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Character Types (HCTs)</th>
<th>Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA)</th>
<th>Archaeological potential</th>
<th>Historic Environment Value (HEV)</th>
<th>Vulnerability</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market place</td>
<td>1. Market Square</td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>High</td>
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<td>Regular burbage plots</td>
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<td>Regular burbage plots</td>
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<td>Regular burbage plots</td>
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<td>Moderate (but perhaps locally high)</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Church/churchyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irregular historic plots</td>
<td>6. Petworth House</td>
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<td>Regular burbage plots</td>
<td>7. North Street</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td>Irregular historic plots</td>
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<td>8. Pound Street</td>
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<td>9. Angel Street</td>
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<td>Regular burbage plots</td>
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Table 3. Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Petworth.
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 Petworth 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 Petworth. Key questions include:

RQ2: What evidence is there for the Anglo-Saxon minster (especially consider date, extent of curia, and buildings)?
RQ3: What evidence is there for Anglo-Saxon secular settlement or activity (including any early manor house), which may have provided an additional focus for the siting of the later town?
RQ4: 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 Early town
Questions that need addressing include:

RQ5: At what date was the town founded and what form did it adopt?
RQ6: What different zones (e.g. the market place) were there during this period, and how did they change?
RQ7: What evidence is there for the development of burgage plots?
RQ8: What was the date and form of the church between the late 11th and 13th centuries?
RQ9: What evidence is there for the economy of the town, especially with regard to its Wealden hinterland?

6.4 Medieval manor house
RQ10: What was the form and development of the manor house during this period?
RQ11: What evidence is there for expansion of the manor house in the late 13th and early 14th centuries?

6.5 Later medieval town
RQ12: How have tenements/burgage plots developed from the first built-up street frontages to the plots that survive today?
RQ13: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider industry) were there during this period, and how did they change?
RQ14: What evidence can the standing buildings provide for their function and date (i.e. through dendrochronology), especially those on the main streets?

6.6 Post-medieval town
RQ15: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider industries, suburbs), were there during this period, and how did they change?
RQ16: 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


2 The Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme is led by West Sussex County Council in conjunction with the borough and district councils, ACNB 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).


6 Chichester District HER reference: CD7956.


8 Priestley-Bell, G., No. 19 Lombard Street, Petworth, West Sussex (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 2369, 2007).


10 Hughes, A., The Hovis House, Middle Street/High Street, Petworth (unpublished report, 2007).


21 WSR PHA 5417: i.e. a copy of original in Petworth House Archives (PHA 1451).


27 I am grateful to Dr Mark Gardiner for discussion of the origins of Petworth.


33 I am grateful to Dr Mark Gardiner for discussion of the relationship of the hundred meeting place to post-Conquest Petworth.


Hudson, W. H. (ed.), *The three earliest subsidies for the County of Sussex in the years 1296, 1327, 1332*, SRS 10 (1910), 75-6, 139-40, 257.


Cornwall, J. (ed.), *The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25*, SRS 56 (1956), 35-6, 38. The calculation for the total population is the author’s and is necessarily indicative, with a multiplier of 490% used for the taxpayers.


Ford, W. K. (ed.), *Chichester Diocesan Surveys 1686 and 1724*, SRS 78, 201. 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 (1724), and 490% for taxpayers (1524).


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79 Kenyon, G. H., Petworth Town & Trades 1610-1670: Pt. 1, SAC 96 (1958), 49.
87 WSRO ref: WG8 viewed on Access to Archives (http://www.a2a.org.uk/)
88 Brandon, P., and Short, S., The South East from AD 1000 (1990), 334.
90 WSRO ref: QAP/5 viewed on Access to Archives (http://www.a2a.org.uk/)
95 WSRO ref: QAP/5 viewed on Access to Archives (http://www.a2a.org.uk/)
96 Kenyon, G. H., Petworth Town & Trades 1610-1670: Pt. 1, SAC 96 (1958), 59, 74.
97 Leach, A. F., in Page, W., (ed.) Victoria County History 2 (1907), 349.
99 Leach, A. F., in Page, W., (ed.) Victoria County History 2 (1907), 349.
100 McCann, T. J., Sussex Cricket in the Eighteenth Century (SRS 88, 2004), xlviii.
111 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Epoch 1 (1874) map.
112 http://www.midhurstandpetworth.co.uk/news/Historic-Petworth-chapel-may-be.4713788.jp
114 WSRO ref: E/149 viewed on Access to Archives (http://www.a2a.org.uk/).
115 Information derived from a memorial on the site of the school. A school grave for those who died is located in the cemetery just to the east.
116 WSRO ref: PHA/3948 viewed on Access to Archives (http://www.a2a.org.uk/).
117 http://www.petworth.w-sussex.sch.uk/prospectus.htm
118 WSRO ref: QAP/5/W15 viewed on Access to Archives (http://www.a2a.org.uk/).
119 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Epoch 1 (1874) map.
120 http://www.gravelroots.net/police4.html#newpet
121 http://www.angelfire.com/sports/pltc/background.html
123 I am grateful to Dr John Crook for discussion of the dating of the chapel windows.
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report for the National Trust, 1997), 12-19; Mayes, I.,

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International Series 1088, 2002), pp. 245-69; Blair, J., 'Hall

Residence in Western Europe AD c800-1600

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125 Ibid., 13.

126 Mayes, I., Chapel Zone Project, Petworth House, Archaeological Report (unpublished report, for the National Trust, 1998), 16.


133 Hughes, A., The Hovis House, Middle Street/High Street, Petworth (unpublished report, 2007).


139 Priestley-Bell, G., No. 19 Lombard Street, Petworth, West Sussex (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 2369, 2007).

140 Kenyon, G. H., 'Petworth Town & Trades 1610-1760: Pt. 1', SAC 96 (1958), 47.

141 WSRO PHA 5417: i.e. a copy of original in Petworth House Archives (PHA 1451).


143 Kenyon, G. H., 'Petworth Town & Trades 1610-1760: Pt. 1', SAC 96 (1958), 47.


146 E.g. on the Ordnance Survey 2' surveyors' drafts.


154 Ibid., 93-4.


161 Chichester District HER reference: CD7956.


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164 Ibid., 53.


170 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.