

*Conservation Area*



LIPHOOK



## *Introduction & Brief History*

Liphook was first designated as a Conservation Area in April 1977. It was extended in October, 1992.

The area around Liphook has been occupied since the Palaeolithic era. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Romans settled in the vicinity.

During the Saxon Period settlement is believed to have been more concentrated and by 1086 the village was sufficiently well established to be recorded in the Domesday book. At this time Chiltlee, the forerunner of the present day Liphook, was recorded as being "held of the King in persons", and was important to the King as a hunting lodge on the eastern extremity of the Royal Forest of Woolmer. Gradually a manor house and small settlement were established in and around the grounds of the present Chiltlee Manor.

Although Liphook is mentioned in 1388 it is not until the 15th century that the name Liphook began to be used formally in place of Chiltlee. It refers to The Square and means "corner near the leap"; the 'Leap' was an area between London and Headley Road which contained the deer in a park.

During the Middle Ages Liphook gradually became established as a small centre serving travellers on the main London-Portsmouth road. It became a main staging post, with a butcher, a food seller and six 'brewers' recorded as being present in 1405.

The construction of the London-Portsmouth 'Direct' railway, which opened in 1859, included a station at Liphook and resulted in the rapid expansion of the village. The village has continued to develop and could now almost rank as a small town, having far outgrown Bramshott (the site of the Parish Church).

## *Character of the Conservation Area*

The Conservation Area centres upon The Square and the roads leading off it.

Until recently the volume of traffic on the A3 through the village meant that neither residents nor drivers had much opportunity to enjoy the setting of The Square. With the opening of the A3 Petersfield/Liphook bypass in 1992 and the traffic calming measures introduced in 1993 there is now an opportunity to re-instate The Square as an important public space in the village.



*Recent Environmental Improvements.*

The buildings in the Conservation Area are mainly one and a half and two storey buildings set close up to the roadside; they create a feeling of enclosure and intimacy. Around The Square two larger buildings dominate: The Royal Anchor Hotel and Ship House.



*View looking West into The Square.*

Trees, hedges and boundary walls, such as those at Childerstone, play an important part in creating the character of Liphook Conservation Area.

## *Buildings*

The Square and the roads leading into it all have a slightly different character. Although the buildings are predominantly small scale cottages and terraced houses, interspersed with larger, more formal buildings, the different architectural styles and materials used in each area create its own particular character.

Around The Square are a number of notable buildings, including:

- **The Royal Anchor Hotel** : It is the only three-storey building in the Conservation Area. It dominates the Liphook townscape. This building dates mainly from the late 17th century and occupies the site of an earlier Inn. The hotel is known to have had a number of notable visitors including "Liberty" Wilkes, who was a frequent visitor; Lord Nelson; and Marshal Blucher and the Tsar's sister, who broke their journey here when the Prince Regent staged a Naval Review at Portsmouth in 1814. The name "Royal" was bestowed upon the Hotel by George III; previously it was known as the "Blue Anchor".



*The Royal Anchor.*

- **The Tap House** : A 16th century single storey house with modern dormers in its steeply pitched tiled roof. This building possibly marks the original edge of the Square, and lies back from the road.



The Tap House, The Square.



Ironstone pavement outside the Tap House.

- **The Ship House (now Lloyds Bank)** : A plaster faced building with a late 18th or early 19th century frontage, forming the southern end of the original square.
- **15-17 The Square** : A broad plaster-faced 19th century building, forming the northern end of the original square.

Fronting the east side of The Square, and leading into London Road, is an almost continuous curving frontage of mainly two storey buildings, some dating from the 16th and 17th centuries. **The Green Dragon**, a painted building of the 17th century, and **Nos. 10-14, The Square** (1550-1600) are of interest; they are set on narrow burgage-like plots with long thin rear gardens.

Continuing north-eastwards along London Road, the buildings are built close-up to the roadside as far as **Liphook library**, once a Girls' Schools (from 1872 to 1973). Directly opposite is **Childerstone**, an unlisted large stuccoed house of the late 1800's, contained in its own extensive wooded grounds. The long back gardens of the red brick **Jubilee Terrace houses** (Nos. 32-48, Headley Road) built in 1887 by local builders Tom and William Rapley, run back to the north west of the Childerstone site.

Returning to The Square, one can either continue southwards along Portsmouth Road or eastwards along Haslemere Road. In **Haslemere Road**, the character changes from the densely positioned terrace-like buildings, visually broken by the occasional alleyway leading to land at the rear, to a different configuration comprising of regularly positioned semi-detached buildings slightly set back from the road. The houses on the south side (Nos. 12-26), are of a late 19th century character, and are built in a similar manner of "crazy" sandstone on the ground floor with decorative tile hanging at first floor level, and steep gabled roofs. **No. 28, Haslemere Road** is earlier, possibly late 18th century two storey plastered building situated at the entrance to the grounds of Childee Manor.



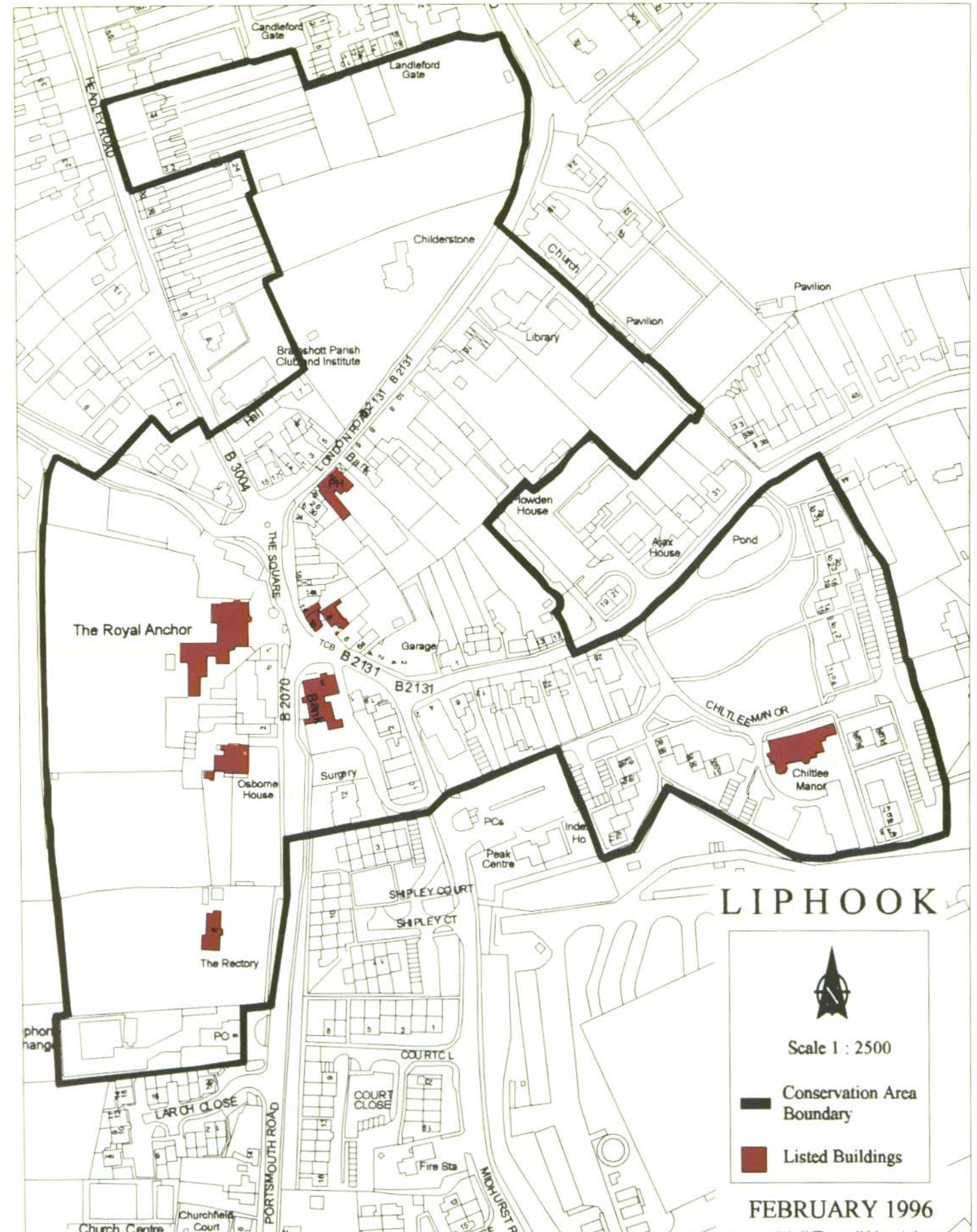
Haslemere Road.

On the north side of Haslemere Road the buildings are more varied. **No. 1** is of coursed, galled ironstone, somewhat marred by the projecting shop front. **Nos. 3-7** form a typical gabled building in the "rural" Victorian style, built of coursed stone, with some drip moulds around the windows and stone quoins; the tiled roof is steeply pitched and bears two large chimneys reminiscent of the Elizabethan era; the windows are latticed and there are decorative barge boards. The "rural" image is completed by a small well in the front garden. **Nos 9-17** form a series of two storey 19th century terraced cottages built of coursed and galled ironstone with brick quoins; **No. 9** is of an earlier date than the other four buildings.

**Childee Manor** is believed to have been built in the late 17th century but was extensively altered and added to in the 19th century. The north frontage is of white plaster and supports a porch with two pairs of columns supporting an entablature with dentilled detailing. The porch was carefully preserved when the house was sympathetically converted to offices in 1980.

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South of The Square, along Portsmouth Road, a more open spacious arrangement of buildings can be seen:

- **Osborne House** : It is a handsome plaster faced building, begun about 1730 and enlarged in the early nineteenth century. It has a wide cast-iron Regency verandah and stands in attractive grounds.
- **The Rectory** : This is one of the many local houses designed by the Arts and Crafts Architect H I Triggs, in his "English Vernacular" style. It was built in 1912 and its garden is on the national register of important gardens.
- **The Old Post Office** : This Building still houses the local sorting office and telephone exchange which closes the Conservation Area on this side. It is a handsome brick building (1933) in Post Office Georgian. In front of it stands a bust by Philip Jackson of Flora Thompson, author of "Lark Rise to Candleford".

### **Materials and Other Building Details**

The use of indigenous sandstone and the frequent application of ironstone as building materials for the buildings, walls and pavements has contributed to the special character of Liphook. As a result, coursed sandstone blocks are used habitually, with red brick dressings for variety and colour. Decorative patterned tile-hanging at first floor level is also popular for aesthetic and functional reasons.

Many of the earlier buildings, particularly the timber-frame structures, have been plastered, smoothly rendered or white-washed for protection against the weather: this gives a pleasant visual contrast to the stonework in the street scene.

Many of the roofs are steeply pitched and clad in clay tiles. Others have shallower pitches and are clad in slate. A range of window types are apparent, including sliding sashes, casements, latticed, gabled dormers and modern windows.

### **New Development**

The character of Liphook is generally of small scale buildings, set close to the roadside which creates an intimate and enclosed atmosphere.

The design of new buildings, extensions and alterations to existing buildings and new uses within Liphook Conservation Area will all affect its character. The design of development will need to respect the details, overall form and materials used within the Conservation Area. Those who undertake development should do so with care.

Further advice is given in the following leaflets which are published by East Hampshire District Council as part of the Conservation Directory:-

- East Hampshire's Conservation Areas.
- Caring for East Hampshire's Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings

#### **Further Reading**

- Liphook. R. Newman.
- Buildings of England: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. N. Pevsner and D. Lloyd, 1985. (Penguin Books)
- The Victorian County Histories.
- Hampshire Treasurers. Hampshire County Council, 1982.

**For further information contact:**

**The Conservation Officer  
Heritage Team  
East Hampshire District Council  
Penns Place Petersfield  
Hants GU31 4EX**

**Telephone: 01730 234214**

**Tel: 0730 266551 FAX: 01730 234214**