



Lower Mitcham heritage map

Roman/Saxon period Mitcham was identified as a settlement long before the Roman occupation of Britain, and by the 7thC, was the site of a thriving Saxon settlement. It is thought the inhabitants may have been encouraged to settle in the area to protect the approaches to the city of London from sea-borne raiders.

Settlements in the late Saxon and early Norman periods centred on the current greens – Upper Green (Fair Green) and Lower Green (Cricket Green) which even then were central to road networks (tracks) leading to surrounding villages.

Medieval/Tudor period By the 11thC there were six main estates in Mitcham held by tenants of King Edward the Confessor. These Saxon landowners were dispossessed by Norman nobles rewarded with English estates for their part in the Conquest.

From the mid 14thC there is evidence that wealthy merchants and bankers from the City of London were seeking estates in Mitcham, as a means of attaining the higher status of landowners. Thus by the 16thC Mitcham was becoming renowned for its good company. Also in its favour was its closeness to London and Royal Palaces, and its reputation for fresh air and pure water – both scarce in Tudor London. By the end of the 16thC many notable people had estates or land in Mitcham – too many to mention here, but important enough for Queen Elizabeth I to visit on five separate occasions.

By the 17thC Mitcham was a prosperous agricultural village with open fields in strip cultivation, extensive commons and water meadows. By the mid 17thC Epsom had become a Spa much favoured by Londoners. The road system had been improved and Mitcham was a busy thoroughfare for travellers and coaching parties, with many inns with stabling facilities for horses.

Georgian Mitcham became best known in the 18thC for the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic herbs (which had actually started in the 14thC) but increased on an industrial scale through innovative methods used by Ephraim Potter and William Moore. By 1802 nearly



18 Burn Bullock Public House

500 acres of land in Mitcham supported herb growing. At the same time, textile processing industries in the River Wandle area with mills, printing and dye works were flourishing in the increased demand for coloured and printed fabrics, alongside flour, paper and snuff mills. Transport for goods and coal to serve the various industries was a problem, so the Surrey Iron Railway, the first public railway in the world, was opened in 1803 – running from Wandsworth, through Mitcham to Croydon.

Victorian The mid-Victorian period saw Mitcham thriving. The local gentry were active in philanthropic activities to alleviate the lot of the poor. Mitcham Cricket Club, the oldest in the country, could field a team to take on all comers. The annual Mitcham Fair (said to be chartered by Queen Elizabeth 1) was looked forward to by everyone. Gypsies attracted by the Fair and

territorial boundary before the Roman period, was crossed by a ford from which, by the Norman Conquest, Lower Mitcham had derived its alternative name of Wicford; incorporating cycle tracks.

4 **RIVER WANDE & WATERMEADS** – London Road/Bishopstow Road – Wandle was most important river during early industrial revolution, spawning greatest number of mills per mile than any other; Watermeads formed as a mill stream run-off; one of most picturesque areas in Mitcham nearly lost to a factory estate in early 20thC were it not for an appeal to purchase the 12 acres of Watermeads, launched by Miss Octavia Hill (one of founders of National Trust) in 1912; land given to National Trust in 1913 by Wandle Open Spaces Committee; NT returned site to water meadow in 1990's; historic 'Watermeads Island' chosen by London Wildlife Trust, NT and Environment Agency to reintroduce water voles to the River Wandle in 2007, to aid the future survival of this endangered species.

5 **THE HUB** – Bishopstow Road – south of the Wandle in Morden Parish; land has been sports ground for at least 60 years and was for many years the NAFFI sports ground; used for football practice until early 21stC when it was sold to provide accommodation for Tooling & Mitcham FC who had to vacate ground at Sandy Lane as it needed upgrading; Hub provides many sporting facilities as well as football, and is used as venue for community events.

6 **SITE OF MITCHAM GROVE** – London Road – built on the site of a medieval house; 16thC to mid-17thC home of Smythe family (Thomas Smythe – Clerk of ye Greenclot to Queen Elizabeth 1); 1788 home of Henry Hoare, partner in Hoare's Bank; last purchased by John Lubbock in 1828; demolished in 1840's having failed to find a buyer.

10 **RAVENSBURY PARK** – Morden Road – the manufacturers of synthetic upholstery stuffing (Lyxhay) until 1905; converted to residential apartments in 2006; Glover's Mill leased by Glover in 1782 grinding snuff until 1835; fell into disuse and demolished in 1922. Crown Mill continued as snuff mill until 1850; factory producing felt for boots and jenkins for British troops in Cornear War; burnt down and rebuilt 1870; continued making felt items until 1905; occupied by Lyxhay in 1910 continuing production until 1964 when building burnt down again and was not re-built.

6 **MILL COTTAGES** – London Road (spur) – three cottages date from c1750; 477 home of John Chesterman who rented Grove Mill from Edward Nash; 479 home of the Rutter family, famous for many varieties of snuff and Mitcham Shag tobacco; now disused, contains a fine pair of under-shut water-wheels.

12 **MORREN HALL PARK** – Morden Road – estate owned by the Hatfield family for 69 years until the death

Heritage Walks – Lower Mitcham
River Wandle and Ravensbury

Start Mitcham Tramstop

1 **TRAMWAY PATH** – close to the course of the Surrey National Watermeads property was marked as Bennett's Hole on a 16thC map of the Howard estate; there are references to 'Bennyestield in Wykeford' as early as 1362 but the derivation of the name is unknown; land on the eastern bank is now site of Willow Lane Industrial Estate; Borough of Sutton; designated Nature Reserve in 1993; supports a variety of habitats including woodland, scrub, marsh, herbs and roughland.

2 **BENNETT'S HOLE NATURE RESERVE** – off Brooklands Ave – a bend in the river Wandle above the National Trust's Watermeads property was marked as Bennett's Hole on a 16thC map of the Howard estate; there are references to 'Bennyestield in Wykeford' as early as 1362 but the derivation of the name is unknown; land on the eastern bank is now site of Willow Lane Industrial Estate; Borough of Sutton; designated Nature Reserve in 1993; supports a variety of habitats including woodland, scrub, marsh, herbs and roughland.

3 **WANDLE HOUSE** (all listed) – 10 Riverside Drive, also known as Wandle Grove – built around 1750; successor of private owners and occupiers until 1937 when bought by Howards (Mitcham) Ltd, a building firm who used it as offices; house has had office/commercial use since that date.

4 **THE MILLS AT MITCHAM BRIDGE** – site of Grove Mill leased by Glover in 1782 grinding snuff until 1835; fell into disuse and demolished in 1922. Crown Mill continued as snuff mill until 1850; factory producing felt for boots and jenkins for British troops in Cornear War; burnt down and rebuilt 1870; continued making felt items until 1905; occupied by Lyxhay in 1910 continuing production until 1964 when building burnt down again and was not re-built.

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employment in the herb gardens came to Mitcham in droves and many settled in the Phipps Bridge area in what is still known as Redskin Village. But Mitcham had been skirted by the expanding railway network, and was losing its popularity amongst the wealthier classes, attracting instead, more than its fair share of offensive industries – paint, varnish and lino manufacturers employing noxious processes. A gas works was established in 1849, and even the smell from the herb distilleries was becoming overpowering. Change was inevitable.

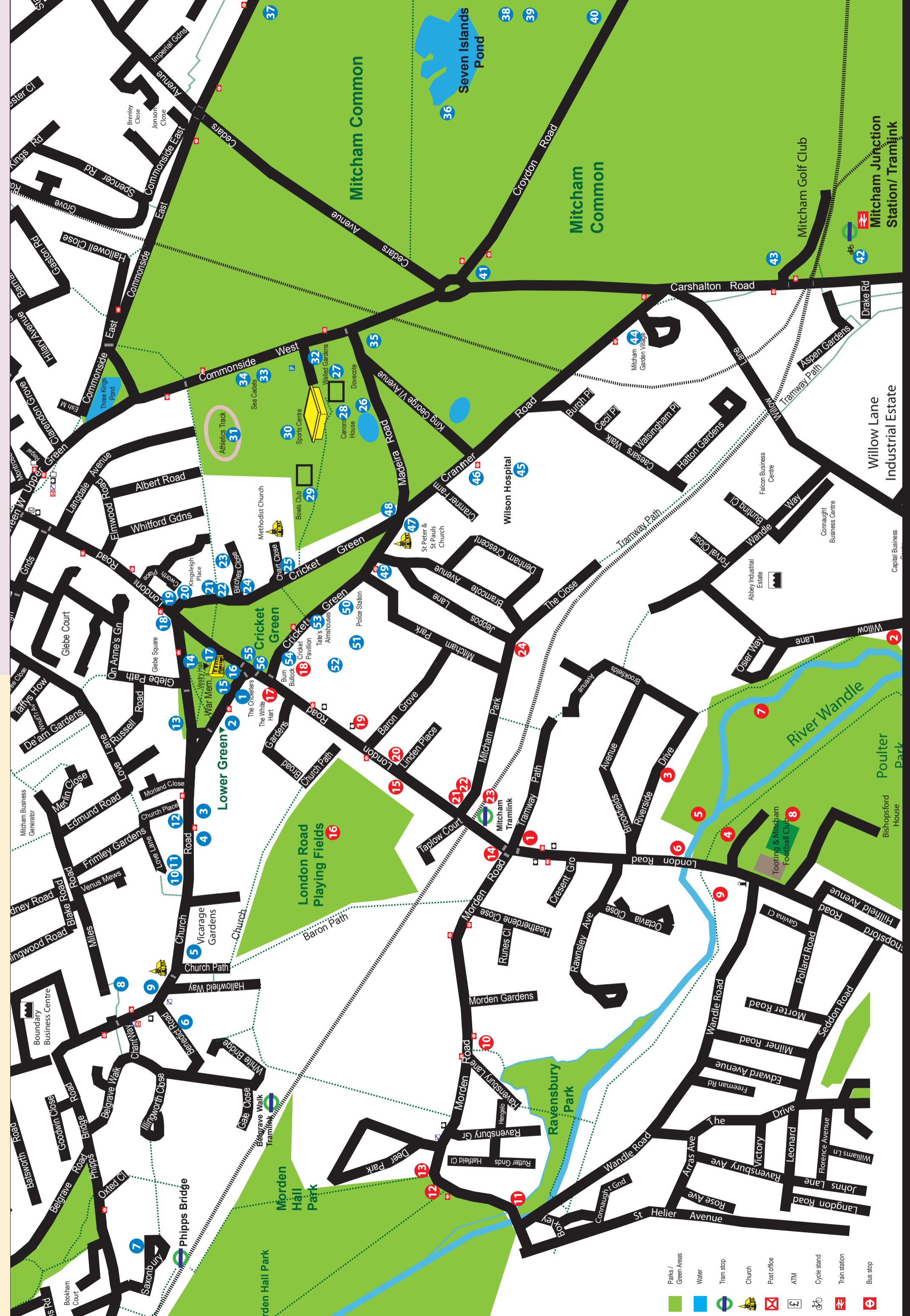
20/21st Century The old ecclesiastical parishes of the Church of England were being divided into smaller parishes, plus the growth of the Free Church and Non-Conformist movement saw other churches and chapels springing up. New parishes were formed to serve the spiritual needs of the many new estates being developed across Mitcham. In the first decade of the 20thC the population doubled, reaching 29,606. The growth of civic awareness, and the increasing complexity of local government responsibilities, called for an advance in administrative status, and the area of the ancient medieval parish was created the Urban District of Mitcham in 1915. Mitcham was granted Borough status in 1934, and by 1965 joined Wimbledon and Morden to become the London Borough of Merton (named after the 11thC Merton Priory – central to the borough)

Historically, Mitcham has always had a reputation for merry-making, and was always first in line to celebrate important occasions. In the 21stC Mitcham continues to use any excuse to hold a celebration, and many events still take place throughout the year, including the Mitcham Status Fair and the Mitcham Carnival in June.

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Heritage Walks – Lower Mitcham

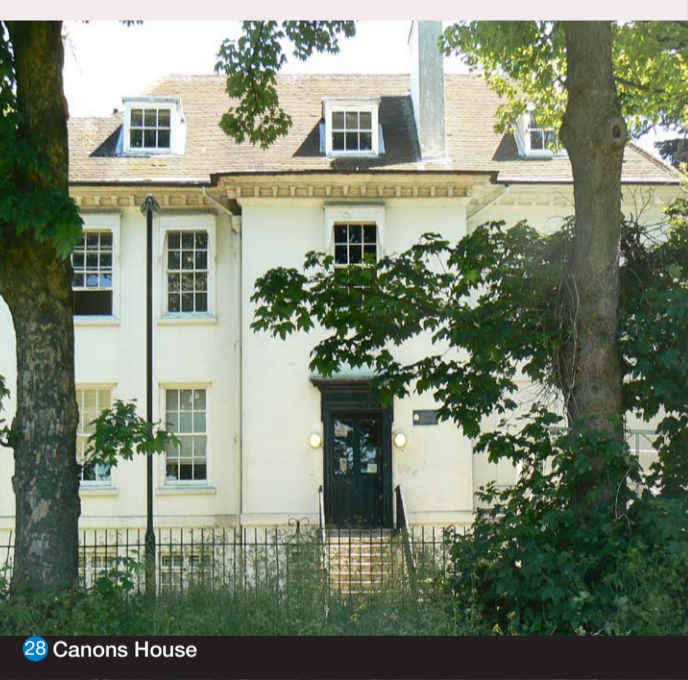
River Wandle and Ravensbury (cont)

of the last Lord of the Manor, Gilliat Hatfield, in 1941 when it was bequeathed to the National Trust; the Hatfields introduced deer to the park, where they remained until the mid-20thC; much of the River Wandle running through the park has been diverted for ornamental uses or canalized for industrial purposes; the original stream forms the boundary between the ancient parishes of Mitcham, Merton and Morden; the house was constructed early 18thC with a succession of occupants until 1872 when acquired by the Hatfields; grounds still contain a number of historic features, including several weatherboarded cottages, an ice house and stable block.

13 **SURREY ARMS PH & ‘THE WHITE COTTAGE’** [Gll listed] – small row of early 19thC weatherboarded cottages on site of current pub, one of which was operating as an inn in late 19thC under provision of the Beerhouse Act of 1830; present building dates from 1930’s; White Cottage built late 18thC and in late 19thC was home of Robert Ellis who had a small mineral water factory (the Ravensspring Works) behind the house.

14 **CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**, former **BARON GROVE HOUSES** [Gll listed] – 482/484 & 470/472 London Road – built c1830 by architect Thomas Finden on the estate of Elizabethan mansion known as Baron House in the 18thC; the third pair of houses was demolished early 20thC; many of occupants were from families prominent in Mitcham life. In 1973 approval was sought to demolish 482/484 (at the time headquarters of the Mitcham Constituency Labour Party) to provide site for the Church of Latter Day Saints; this was refused, so the church built a large hall at the rear and adapted the building.

15 **Site of BARON HOUSE** – London Road – built c16thC, no records of original Tudor mansion, but known that Queen Elizabeth 1 visited Lady Blanke there twice in 1591 and 1594; in 1768 tenancy held by Oliver Baron until his death in 1786 and now referred to as Baron House; for the last 30 years of its life it was sub-divided – a boarding school for young ladies, and then an academy for young gentlemen (visited by Admiral Lord Nelson in 1801); the academy transferred to Eagle House in 1825; another tenant was William Fenning; much altered and extended, Baron House was bought by Thomas Finden c1826 and demolished shortly afterwards; Finden built a new Baron House for himself; he also erected three pairs of semi-detached houses (see 14); Finden died in 1861; house saw succession of tenants until the outbreak of war in 1914; appears to have been demolished during 1940’s; much of the land had been exploited for sand and gravel; in 1954 Mitcham Council erected the block of maisonettes – Baron, Fenning and Gedge Courts.



26 Canons House

16 **LONDON ROAD PLAYING FIELDS** – behind Baron, Fenning & Gedge Courts – land belonging to the Baron House estate where sand and gravel was excavated, leaving the land full of pits; reinstatement of the land was attempted using all manner of refuse as backfill, including old buses and trams; 1930 land purchased by Surrey County Council for use as playing fields, but the poor state of the ground was a constant problem. 1985 the LBM declared site surplus to requirements for educational purposes and proposed housing; this was strongly opposed and with a change in administration in 1990 the land was designated a park; formally opened in 1992 by the Mayor of Merton.

17 **THE WHITE HART PH** [Gll listed] – London Road – coaching inn recorded here in a sale document of 1609; amongst property purchased by Robert Cranmer; rebuilt in 1750; post chaises to any part of country hired from Holden’s Stables next door; coaching trade declined with the coming of railways mid-19thC; used for vestry and political meetings; hall built at rear in inter-war years to serve sharp increase in population; fell into disuse in 1960’s; developed a bad reputation over next 30 years; after several changes of landlord was completely refurbished and re-launched as the ‘Hooden on the Green’ in 2000; name changed back to the White Hart in 2010.

18 **BURN BULLOCK PH**, former **KINGS HEAD** [Gll listed] – London Road – the rear dates from late 16thC early 17thC; Georgian front added c1760 to provide for increased customers on this important coaching route; renamed the

Burn Bullock in memory of the popular local cricketer who held the license from 1941 to 1954; some windows bricked in to avoid paying ‘window tax’ introduced in 1797 by William Pitt, to help pay for the war against France; replaced in 1851 by Schedule D income tax on the grounds that poor lighting and ventilation encouraged poor health.

19 **Site of THE MANOR HOUSE & BERKELEY HOUSE/COTTAGE** – London Road – mainly of 18thC; built on land which formed part of a larger estate in the 16th/17thC where Sir Julius Ceasar lived (Cancellor of the Exchequer 1606); housed various notable Mitcham people including the Wilford family; a listed building, it was gutted by fire in 1961, shortly after acquisition by a local builder who had assured worried conservationists that it would be restored; after some yerars lying derelict it was demolished and Justin Plaza, an office block, was built. Nearby was Berkeley House/Cottage; residents here included Thomas Pratt (set up Zion Chapel) Samuel Killick (father built Mitcham Workhouse) and members of the Potter & Moore families.

20 **Site of MITCHAM HALL** – London Road – erected late 17thC between what is now Baron Grove and Mitcham Park, with extensive grounds, orchards and water features; notable families occupying the mansion were the Wyches, the Hampsons who were the guardians of the 7 Cranmer sons, left after their parents died during the plague in 1665, Henry Hoare, George Parker Bidder, and finally Sydney Gedge who purchased the property in 1864; Gedge was a solicitor to the School Board of London and had a great interest in the welfare of children; established the Sydney Nursing Home for children at the Elms in Upper Mitcham; Gedge died at Mitcham Hall in 1923 aged 94; the house was demolished and by 1937 all signs of Mitcham Hall had disappeared under the houses and gardens of Mitcham Park.

21 **MITCHAM PARK** – London Road to Cricket Green – built c1898 on land formally owned by the Wyford family since the 18thC and site of a wealthy mansion (allegedly with a moat) which attracted visits from Queen Elizabeth 1 on two occasions in 1592 and 1595; Mitcham Hall was built late 17thC after what remained of the extensive grounds of the Wyford mansion was broken up and sold (see 20); estate completed in 1937.

22 **THE CROWN INN PH** – London Road – an inn has been on the site since mid-17thC; replaced and enlarged in 18thC to respond to the increased trade generated by the turnpike leading to Sutton, also Morden, Ewell and Epsom Spa; current building erected in inter-war years in mock Tudor style; the building is now a bar/restaurant.

23 **MITCHAM OLD STATION/STATION COURT** [Gll listed] – London Road – present tram track follows the route of Surrey Iron Railway; closed in 1846 and replaced in

1855 by Wimbledon to Croydon steam passenger railway; electrified in 1930; closed in 1997 to permit opening of Croydon Tramlink in 2000. Station Court was built c1801 as a private house; became Mitcham Station ticket office in 1855 and was reputedly the oldest station building in the world, pre-dating the railway by 54 years; sold to British Rail c1980; currently offices.

24 **JEPPOS LANE** – off Tramway Path – the south-eastern boundary of Mitcham Hall was formed by Jeppos Lane, the ancient bridleway which still survives as the rear access way to houses in Mitcham Park. Jeppos Lane pre-dates Mitcham Park by centuries; it formed part of the Domesday ‘vill’ of Whitford, which lay between the Lower Green and River Wandle.

25 **MITCHAM PARISH ROOMS/former NATIONAL SCHOOL** [Gll listed] – Lower Green West – erected 1788 as Sunday School; enlarged in 1812 to establish a day school; repeatedly extended to try and accommodate the ever increasing number of children; regularly condemned as unsanitary late 19thC; closed in 1898; used for variety of parochial purposes until sold by church in 1987; restored and converted to flats and artists studios; now known as the School House.

Lower Green, Cricket Green & Common

Start White Hart PH

1 **346/348 LONDON ROAD (OLD COACHING HOUSE)** [Gll listed] – London Road – thought to be much older than 18thC façade which covers a timber frame; in 1738 rented by George Holden who set up a stage coach business; in 1855 Philip Sampson ran a horse-bus business from there; use ceased with coming of railways in 1869; property became tailors and general drapers; in 1910 became barber’s shop and tobacconists/confectioners; 1970 converted to offices; in 1999 became two houses and three flats.

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3 **Site of HALL PLACE** – Church Road – Gothic style building erected in 1867 by William Worsfold in place of old medieval house previously on site; demolished 1940’s.

4 **HALL PLACE ARCH** [Gll listed] – Church Road – all that remains of the private chapel for which Henry de Strete obtained a licence in 1349; partially rebuilt and preserved by the Worsfold family in Hall Place garden.

5 **VICARAGE HOUSE** [Gll listed] – Church Road – built 1826 by Samuel Killick for Rev Richard Cranmer; extension built c1846 when Rev Henry Wharton ran boarding school for boys at vicarage; building converted to flats in 2001 and new vicarage at 11 Vicarage Gardens.

6 **BENEDICT PRIMARY SCHOOL** [local listed] – Benedict Wharf off Church Road – formally Lower Mitcham Board School; erected 1897 by Mitcham School Board;

housed 890 children from Church Road and slums of Phipps Bridge area; dubbed the Star School after a nearby pub and name persists even though pub demolished some time ago.

7 **WANDLE VILLA** [Gll listed] – Phipps Bridge Road – built c1788 for John Rucker, merchant and calico printer; factory constructed behind house; calico printing continued until 1870 when site bought by Gilliat Hatfield who lived in house couple of years before moving into Morden Hall; factory demolished and in 1941 house was willed to the National Trust by Hatfield’s son.

8 **Site of CEMETERY CHAPEL** – Church Road/Miles Road – this no longer exists and has been replaced by a 1950’s maintenance store and mess room.

9 **MITCHAM PARISH CHURCH** [Gll* listed] containing TOMBS of RICHARD CRANMER, ANN HALL and THOMAS STANLEY [Gll listed] – Church Road – a church has been on this site for close to 800 years with many alterations over time; discussions in 1819 to build a larger church on corner of Lower Green/London Rd, but rejected as being too small; 13thC church therefore demolished to make room for larger one currently on site; many notable Mitcham people buried here, including members of the Mizen family.

10 **60/64 CHURCH ROAD** [Gll listed] – dating from about 1740, these houses are included in the 1969 Cricket Green Conservation Area.

11 **GLEBELANDS HOUSE** – Love Lane – built c1793; Rev Richard Roberts established a highly regarded academy for young gentlemen here, educating several now famous people; severely damaged by bombs in WW2; substantially rebuilt in 1950’s; now private residential accommodation for elderly people.

12 **Site of THE BULL PH** – Church Road – mentioned in a guide book c1789 as the Black Bull “a genteel and good accustomed public house”; behind in Bull Yard were grossly overcrowded labourers dwellings; now replaced by modern housing in Church Place.

13 **Site of VINE HOUSE** – Lower Green West – dates from mid-17thC; late 19thC was private school and then home of Billy Hills, the last beadle of Mitcham; demolished 1932 and replaced with police housing aptly named Vine House and Beadle Court.

14 **WANDLE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE MUSEUM** – Vestry Hall Annex, London Road – in the early 1940’s an outbuilding was erected to provide accommodation for expanding Borough Council staff; intended to be temporary but still there and now used as premises for Museum.

15 **MITCHAM FIRE STATION** [local listed] – Lower Green West – until the present fire station was opened in 1927, Mitcham’s no 1 engine was housed in Vestry Hall,

while the second engine was stationed in Colliers Wood; the Mitcham Brigade was integrated with the London Fire Service after WW2; in 1972 there was talk of relocating the station to Goat Road but nothing happened; current station is no longer big enough for modern equipment and the Brigade is looking to develop a larger site near Tramlink station.

wood bench pews, choir stalls, organ pit with organ, altar rail, east end wooden cross, lectern and pulpit; Edward Mills was foremost architect of Methodist churches in the post-war period being a Methodist himself; Mitcham Methodist Church was showcased in “The new Churches of Europe” of 1964 by GE Kidder Smith, alongside St Paul’s Bow Common (Grade II*) and Coventry Cathedral (Grade I)

26 **THE DOVECOTE at THE CANONS** [Gll listed] – Madeira Road – built with knapped flint and dressed chalk with thin ‘Tudor’ bricks at the quoins; dated MDXI and pre-dates the Dissolution; overlooks a former carp pond; formerly in possession of the prior and convent of St Mary Overie of Southwark; this is the oldest standing structure in Mitcham.

27 **PEACE GARDEN at THE CANONS** – Madeira Road – original walled garden constructed in 1761 under direction of James Cranmer who owned and lived in The Canons; a millstone from the front step of a beerhouse (Hole in the Wall) salvaged from demolition in Nursery Road in 1966, was set in paving at the entrance to walled garden; dedicated as a Peace Garden in 2009.

28 **CANONS HOUSE** [Gll* listed] – Madeira Road – John Cranmer granted a building lease to John Odway in 1680, for a new house to be erected on part of land belonging to the Rectory; house remained in possession of Cranmer family and their descendants, the Simpsons, for over 250 years; building now part of the Canons Leisure Complex, and used by LBM for community purposes.

29 **MITCHAM BOWLS CLUB** – The Canons, Madeira Road

30 **CANONS LEISURE CENTRE** – opened c1974 and included new swimming pool which replaced the Baths Hall in London Road.

31 **MITCHAM SPORTS GROUND** – former News of the World sports ground; bought with Park Place in 1922; originally intended just for employees; became the training ground for many of Britain’s 1936 Olympic team.

32 **PARK PLACE** [Gll listed] – now Toby Carvery – main part of property dates from c1780; prior to 1391 site is referred to as ‘Almannesland’ suggesting it was originally common land; Elizabethan farm house on site demolished mid-18thC and new house built; notable occupants include William Herbert, Lt Gen Forbes Champagne and William Simpson III lord of the manor of Mitcham; Park Place used after WWI by YMCA until bought by News of the World for use as clubhouse; sold to Surrey County Council in 1963; converted as council offices by LBM; major fire in 1988 – renovated and re-opened in 1996 as a pub/restaurant.

33 **The Windmill PH** – Commonside West – built c1870; record of an earlier beerhouse on the site in 1846; name

18 **MILESTONE** at Sibford [Gll listed] – London Road – c1755; moved slightly from original position at kerbside; described in 18thC as 9th from the Standard Cornhill; one of the remaining stones along the old turnpike road from Kennington to Reigate and beyond, the other being on Figges Marsh. (cross road to Cricket Green)

19 **THE WHITE HOUSE** [Gll listed] – Cricket Green – built late 18thC with exterior of 1826; stucco; 3 storeys; central bowed solid sided pilastered porch with square headed entrance and Greek Doric half columns; occupied by local doctor; it became the residence of Lady Worsfold on the death of her husband Sir Cato Worsfold MP in 1936; still remembered for her dedication to local affairs and in particular her wartime work with the WVS and Girl Guide movement.

20 **MITCHAM COURT** [local listed] – Cricket Green – erected c1824 as residence for local doctor; extended late 1860’s; last private resident was Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley MP who sold the house in 1936 to the Mitcham Corporation on the understanding the land would be used for new public buildings; war intervened so site never redeveloped; house used by the Borough Housing & Public Health departments, continuing when Mitcham was incorporated into LBM, until 1983; sold to McAlpine in 1985 and used as offices until 1996; currently in use as private school.

21 **COLD BLOWS** – Cricket Green to Commonside West – a lane of great antiquity; carries on to the Sandy Lane area where the herb growing fields were; named since at least the 16thC because of the cold winds blowing down it.

22 **ELM LODGE** [Gll listed] – Cricket Green – erected c1807 by Edward Worsfold a local maltster; was almost always occupied by local doctors.

23 **BIRCHES HOUSE** [local listed] – Birches Close off Cricket Green – locally listed Queen Anne-style building constructed for Sir Isaac Wilson, a local benefactor, on site of the Birches estate owned by Sir Isaac; land and house were bequeathed on Sir Isaac’s death “for the well-being of Mitcham residents” and used for health purposes; with the inception of the NHS in 1948, the site was absorbed and now remains under the control of the local PCT.

24 **CHESTNUT COTTAGE** [Gll listed] – Cricket Green – believed to date from 1740’s; originally dwelling for ostlers to Canon’s estate; front elevation is timber framed lath and plaster; rendered in 20thC; tiled double pitched roof to parapet; central projecting porch with fluted ionic columns; sashes, glazing bars, 6-panelled door and tall chimneys to gable ends.

25 **METHODIST CHURCH** [local listed] – Cricket Green – original 1877 building replaced in 1958, architect Edward Mills; majority of original fittings survive including

factory producing waterproof clothing for troops in Crimean war; workhouse site taken over by Wood family of Woodlite; mock-gothic Woodlite Towers built in 1890’s; from 1903 was Tower Creameries Wargine factory; bombed in 1941; 1944 rebuilt as part of Windmill Trading Estate; whole site demolished 2009 for current housing estate.

probably inspired by an unusual horizontal windmill which was working nearby in the late 18thC.

34 **TS TRAFALGAR SEA CADETS** – Commonside West – previously a pre-fabricated building; current building opened in 2008.

35 **CRANMER GREEN** – Cranmer Road/Madeira Road/ King George VI Ave – 12 acres of former parish ‘waste’, Cranmer Green passed under the control of Mitcham Urban District Council in 1923, and is now maintained by LBM as part of green corridor; the pond is seasonal. (across road to Common)

36 **SEVEN ISLANDS POND** – the only surviving pond formed from gravel extraction; in first half of 20thC was deep enough for boating, used for swimming and fish were abundant; reduced to a contaminated puddle in the 1980’s; Conservators took action and pond was dredged and vegetation controlled; now forms important natural area bounded by rare pockets of acid grassland.

37 **Site of MITCHAM WORKHOUSE & TOWER CREAMERIES** – Windmill Road – built in 1782 to replace workhouse that had been overlooking Figges Marsh for about 40 years, because vestry officers wanted it out of the public gaze; land owned by the Manship family; used as workhouse until 1838; building extended 1853 for Hooper’s



34 TS Trafalgar Sea Cadets

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38 **MILL HILL** viewing point – the highest point in Mitcham

(thanks to landfill). In early 19thC the Common was well-wooded, surrounded by gracious houses and private parkland, crossed by gravel roads, game still abundant and rough pasturage was provided for those with grazing rights; by the end of the 19thC the combined efforts of gravel digging, turf removal and golf course construction had all left their mark; the Board of Conservators was formed in 1891 to manage the Common; ploughing for food production during wartime and tipping of domestic waste by the local authority until early 1960’s alarmed local people and the Conservators; more recently with increased public awareness and the hard work of Conservators, Friends groups and the Common Preservation Society, the area has been renovated and preserved for our enjoyment.

39 **WINDMILL AND STUDY CENTRE AT MILL HOUSE** [Gll listed] – Windmill Road – permission granted 1806 to erect windmill; damaged in 1862 by violent thunderstorm; never rebuilt and superstructure dismantled in 1905 leaving just the base; Mill House saw succession of occupants until 1950 when sold to Mitcham Corporation; various schemes not realised and property sold in 1992 with proviso that pre-1900 structure of house and mill base be preserved and an environmental study centre provided; plans under way to protect mill base from the elements.

40 **BIDDER MEMORIAL** [Gll listed] – Croydon Road – George Parker Bidder MA QC is best remembered for securing the preservation of Mitcham Common as public open space; first chairman of Board of Conservators; first chairman of Mitcham Parish Council in 1895; a generous benefactor to the church; died in 1896 and the monument was funded by public subscription.

41 **THE RAVENSBURY PH** formerly **THE BLUE HOUSE PH** – Croydon Road – Blue House PH built c1800; weather boarded building exactly a mile from the Red House PH towards Croydon; so route regularly used by gypsies for horse racing; replaced by current building in 1906. (left at roundabout down Carshalton Road)

42 **MITCHAM JUNCTION RAIL & TRAM STATION** [local listed] – Carshalton Road – opened in 1868 – a mile from the village centre and in the middle of Mitcham Common; not conveniently situated so had little impact on development in the area; now an important Tramlink and overground rail junction.

43 **MITCHAM GOLF CLUB** – beyond Station, Carshalton Road – in 1891 the Mitcham Common Conservators leased a large part of the Common to Princes Golf Club; course designed by Tom Morris of St Andrews; large clubhouse erected close to Station; originally engendered ill-feeling locally, but this ceased when course was made public in 1924; clubhouse burnt down in 1933 and replaced by current smaller building.

44 **MITCHAM GARDEN VILLAGE** [local listed] – off Cranmer Road – part of Rowcrofts, a meadow occupying a corner of the grounds of the Cranmers, was used as the site of Mitcham Garden Village; erected between 1928 and 1932; construction by Higginson a local builder, to the design of Chart, Son & Reading; funding provided by Sir Isaac Wilson; houses designed to accommodate the elderly and the estate looks much the same today as when it was built, with some internal modifications.

45 **THE WILSON HOSPITAL** [local listed] former site of **THE RECTORY & THE CRANMERS** – Cranmer Road – home of Sir Robert Howard, knighted by Charles 1 in 1644; purchased by Robert Cranmer during the Commonwealth, an Elizabethan house with substantial front additions dating c1650 and a Tudor barn; King George VI Ave leads to its original entrance gates; known as the Cranmers; Robert Cranmer only had a short time to enjoy the position of squire of Mitcham as he and his wife died during the plague in 1665 leaving the estate in trust for his 7 young sons; Rev John Evanson lived there from 1752 to 1767, followed by 3 curates until 1783, so during this period it was known as The Rectory; the last residents James and Ernest Peat lived there from 1899 to 1924, calling it The Cranmers; demolished in 1927 to make way for the Wilson Hospital, made possible by the generosity of Sir Isaac Wilson a building developer; opened in 1928 by Princess Mary the Princess Royal; funded largely by donations; enlarged 1934; absorbed into the NHS in 1947/8.

46 **CRANMER PRIMARY SCHOOL** – Cranmer Road – erected on site of Cranmer Farm; opened in 1929 as Mitcham County School for Girls; became a middle school and is now a primary school; the Cranmers and their descendants the Simpsons, were major landowners in the parish for some 250 years, holding the lordship of the manor of Mitcham Canons, with three large houses in the area, occupied by various notable people – East India merchants, a Cavalier, Huguenot émigrés, officers serving in the American War of Independence and Napoleonic Wars, a leading churchman and botanist to name a few; each had a place in the story of Mitcham, but sadly few are remembered now.

47 **SS PETER & PAUL RC CHURCH** [local listed] – Cranmer Road – from c1291 RC services were held in the church in Church Road; after 1535 there was no RC facility in Mitcham; by 1853 masses were being held, probably in Elm Lodge occupied by the Simpsons; when they moved to Manor House they continued to hold masses in an outhouse; in 1862 they built a chapel on part of their land which is now the playground of SS Peter & Paul Primary School; in 1889 the current church was built on Cranmer Road on land donated by the Simpsons.

48 **THE OBELISK** [Gll listed] – Cricket Green/Madeira Road – erected in 1822 by Rev Richard Cranmer, to mark

the discovery of an artesian spring in the grounds of The Canons, which was considered miraculous as Mitcham had been suffering from exceptionally low rainfall for several years.

49 **46 CRICKET GREEN** former **WESLEY CHAPEL** [local listed] – built 1789; used until 1877 when Methodist Church built on other side of Cricket Green; now a wvprivate house.

50 **40 CRICKET GREEN** former **BRITANNIA PH** [local listed] – built in 1785 on what was then called The Causeway; used as pub from 1832; beer was reputedly brewed on site for sale at the pub; emblem remains above the door; headquarters of the Old Buffers Cricket Club; nearby was the old Police Station, rebuilt in 1962.

51 **SS PETER & PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL** and site of **RC CHAPEL** – Cricket Green – the school moved into the brick chapel when the new RC church was erected in 1889; substantial extensions over the years with none of original building remaining.

52 **Site of TATE’S HOUSE** – Cricket Green – a large 18thC mansion on part of the site of the current almshouses.

53 **MARY TATE’S ALMSHOUSES** [Gll listed] – Cricket Green – built in 1828 on land formerly occupied by the Tate’s family home; finance provided by Mary Tate who stipulated that the 12 tenants should be elderly women of good character; ownership passed from trustees to Family Housing Association; now modernised internally and reduced to 9 units.

54 **MITCHAM CRICKET CLUB PAVILLION & CRICKET GROUND** [local listed] – Cricket Green – cricket pitch has been in use since 1685 and claims to be the oldest continuously used cricket ground in the world; reportedly watched by Admiral Lord Nelson during his time in the area; the pavilion dates from 1904 when rural traffic on the road between the pavilion and pitch presented no hazard to players – unlike now.

55 **RUFF MEMORIAL STONE** [local listed] – Cricket pitch – erected to commemorate Tom Ruff who ran a cobblers shop on Upper Green East until his death, whilst Mayor of Mitcham, in 1962; Tom was a strong supporter of Mitcham Cricket Club and captained the Wednesday side for many years.

56 **HORSE TROUGH** [Gll listed] – Cricket Green/ London Road – drinking fountain and horse (or cattle) trough dates from late 19thC; installed to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee by Metropolitan Drinking Fountain Association, founded in 1867 because of poor supply of clean drinking water for people; also includes a dog trough below; nearby flowerbeds planted with golden roses to commemorate Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2003. (finish at Burn Bullock or White Hart)