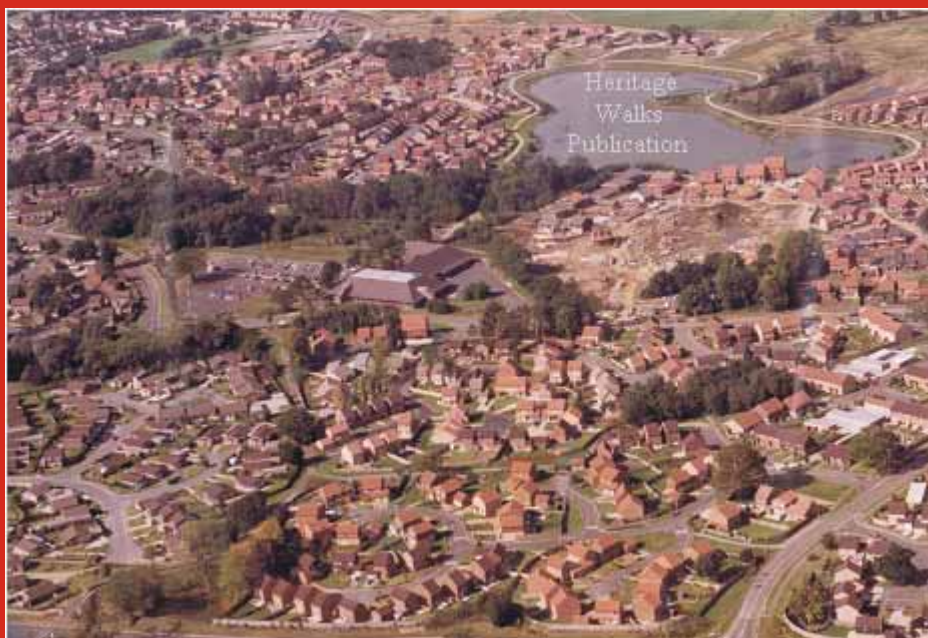


# **GOLDSWORTH PARK**

**A SELF-GUIDED HERITAGE WALK**



**WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS  
ON THE HISTORY OF THE AREA**

**Based on the Heritage Walk  
on Sunday 15th January, 2012**

**By Iain Wakeford**  
[www.heritagewalks.org](http://www.heritagewalks.org)

## A HERITAGE WALK AROUND GOLDSWORTH PARK

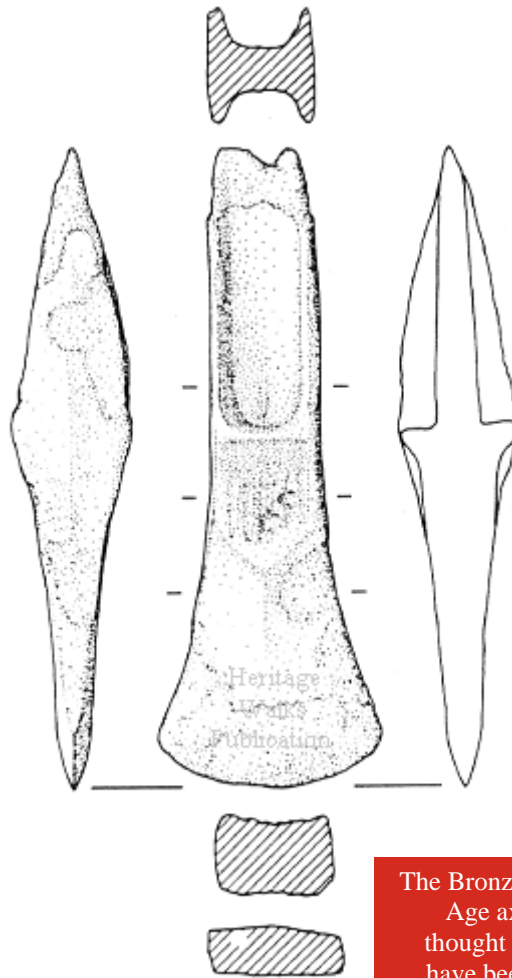
### Introduction

As well as being one of Woking's most modern residential areas, Goldsworth Park also contains one of the area's oldest sites of habitation. In the 1920s and 30s on the site now occupied by the Goldsworth Park playing fields, thousands of flints tools and 'flakes' were found dating from the Upper-Palaeolithic period of the Old Stone Age – 10,000 – 40,000 years old!

Evidence of Bronze Age man was found on the opposite side of the estate at Harelands where the 'Palstave' or axe (right) is thought to have been discovered. It dates from about 3,500 years ago – proving that man has found the Goldsworth area a wonderful place to live for thousands of years!

The name 'Goldsworth' is a corruption of 'Goldhord' first recorded in the early 13th century

and is thought to record the discovery sometime before then of a hoard of gold - possibly Roman coins.

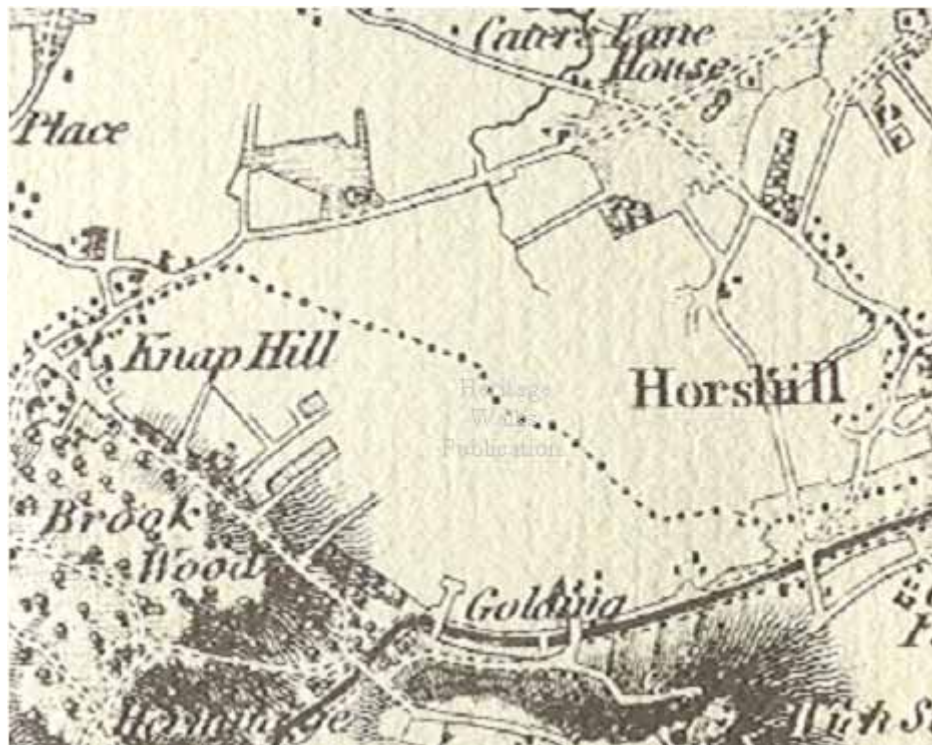


The Bronze-Age axe thought to have been found by Dr Hall in the 1920's somewhere near the canal by Langman's Bridge

Goldsworth, or 'Goldings' was also the name of one of Woking's ancient tithings, a Saxon term originally meaning the land owned or occupied by 'ten theigns'. The Goldsworth Tithing covered a large area (including much of what is now Knaphill, Brookwood, St Johns and Goldsworth), showing that the area must have been quite sparsely populated at that time.

**This Walk starts from outside the Fox & Flowerpot public house in the Central Area of Goldsworth Park (although it can, of course, start and finish at any point along the route). There is parking, for use of the shopping centre and users of other Central Area facilities and bus stops (route 92 from Woking to Knaphill) on Bampton Way.**

The Goldsworth Park area in the early 19th century



**From the pub, cross Bampton Way and follow the footpath signposted towards the Basingstoke Canal. Keep on this path, over the bridge across Lockfield Drive, to Langmans Bridge.**



### Langmans

The name Langmans comes from Thomas Langman who owned the property in the late 19th

century. Before then it appears to have been called 'Brooker' or 'Brooking' (presumably another former owner), but we do not know by what name it was known when it was first built in the mid 16th century.

It was originally an 'open-hall' house with an internal jetty over part of the hall (giving extra floor space to one of the upstairs rooms) showing signs of soot on its beams.

Unfortunately other historic buildings nearby, such as Langmans Cottages (illustrated overleaf) and Harelands Farm have not survived.

Langmans -  
one of several  
Grade II  
listed  
buildings on  
Goldsworth  
Park







**More details on the history of Langmans is contained in the Heritage Walk around St Johns—which also has notes on the Basingstoke Canal and Goldsworth Nursery.**

#### Langmans & Woodend Bridges

Both bridges, although extensively restored, are now 'Scheduled Ancient Monuments' even though they are by no means the most 'ancient' (nor 'monumental') features of the area!

They were originally built in the late 1780's / early

Langmans Bridge

Langman Cottages before they were demolished



1790's when the Basingstoke Canal was constructed. Originally all bridges over the canal would have been of similar construction, but whereas most of the others in this area have had to be rebuilt to carry ever-increasing traffic, these survived as they only served a few houses and the horses and carts of the nursery.



**At Langmans Bridge, turn right onto the towpath of the Basingstoke Canal (heading towards St Johns).**

Lock-Keeper's Cottage

In street directories up to at least 1919 Woodend Bridge is recorded as 'Walker's Bridge', probably commemorating the family of lock-keepers who lived in the cottage



beside lock nine. The 1871 census records a Stephen Walker, lock keeper (aged 57) living there with his wife, Harriet and his 81 year old father (also Stephen) a retired lock keeper.

Lock Ten

**For more details on the history of the property, including a picture showing which part of the present building is the original cottage, please see the self guided St Johns Heritage Walk booklet.**

**Turn off the canal towpath just below Lock ten, and take the path to Copse Road.**



**At the end of Copse Road turn right onto Robin Hood Road (named after the pub, which itself has no connection with the famous north-country outlaw).**

### Copse Road and the Brick Kilns

Marked as 'Long Copse' on the 1871 Ordnance Survey map (below), the Tithe Map of 1841 records the name 'Low Coppice' as covering just over 4 acres and belonging to the Earl of Onslow.

The coppice would have provided the fuel for some of the brick kilns in the area (recorded on maps in the early 18th century), and owned in the later 19th century by the Jackman and Slocock families.



**Cross Amstel Way (built in 1989 as a by-pass to St Johns and named after one of Woking's 'twin towns') to join the other half of Robin Hood Road, past Friary Court on the right and Foresters Close on the left to Locksley Drive.**

1871  
Ordnance  
Survey map  
showing  
Long Copse  
(and the Lock  
keeper's  
Cottage)



### Brookwood Farm

The 'Brook' (or 'Brock—as in Badger) 'wood' covered a much larger area than the village that presently bears its name, and is marked on old maps as covering much of the area between Knaphill and St Johns (where the Inkerman and Brookwood Hospital estates are today), as well as Brookwood village and the cemetery.

Brookwood Farm in Robin Hood Road was therefore on the edge of the wood, although its farm-land was to the east,



Brookwood Farmhouse in the early 1980's, before restoration.

Brookwood Farm now





on what is now  
Goldsworth Park.

The house dates back in  
parts to the 16th century  
with some timber-framing  
still visible on the  
northern side (look back  
at the property, through  
the trees, as you walk up  
the hill).

On the 1841 tithe map  
the farm is marked as  
being occupied by George  
Jackman, nurseryman,  
and covering just over 82  
acres.



**Continue up the hill to  
the Robin Hood Public  
House, where you  
should take the footpath  
immediately on the  
right, back down the hill  
to Lockfield Drive.**

### The Robin Hood

It is not known exactly  
how old the Robin Hood  
is, although the front of  
the building is evidently  
Victorian. It has been  
suggested that the original  
'beer house' served the  
nursery workers and  
faced in the other  
direction, but when the  
Woking Invalid Convict  
Prison (and later  
Inkerman Barracks)  
opened, the building was  
extended upwards and  
turned around to face the  
road.

The 1871 census records  
John Palmer and his wife  
Jane as 'innkeeper'  
together with three  
lodgers all recorded as  
'assistant warders'  
(presumably at the

The Robin  
Hood





Long Lane  
Cottage

Prison).

**Carefully cross  
Lockfield Drive into  
Denton Way**

#### Long Lane Cottage

Denton Way follows the line of an old track known as 'Long Lane' that has been in existence since medieval times.

In 1536 the Manor Court Rolls of Woking record a Henry Milward as having 'croft land' and a grove at Long Lane (or Longland), and in 1554/5 a William Atwatter left to his brothers Thomas and John 'the yearly rent of my land at Long Lane'. The house itself dates from the 16th century and, like Langmans and Brookwood Farm, is a

Grade II listed building. **Continue along Denton Way until just after Newsham Road (on your left), take the footpath, through to Armadale Road and then on to the lake.**



**Before turning off, however, look towards the end of the road and the Brockhill Old People's Home (the building with the solar panels on the roof).**

### Brockhill

The Stone-Age site where the playing fields are now, was on land originally belonging to a house called 'Brockhill', off Littlewick Road, so it can be confusing when 'Brockhill' is referred to as the home of Woking's oldest residents.

The old people's home, Brockhill (on the corner of Denton Way and Clifton Way), was officially opened April 1990 but does not have, as far as we know, any connections with people living in the Stone Age!

**Much of the history of Goldsworth Nursery is covered in the St Johns Heritage Walk, but it is worth repeating some of the facts here as they relate to this part of Goldsworth Park.**

### Goldsworth Nursery

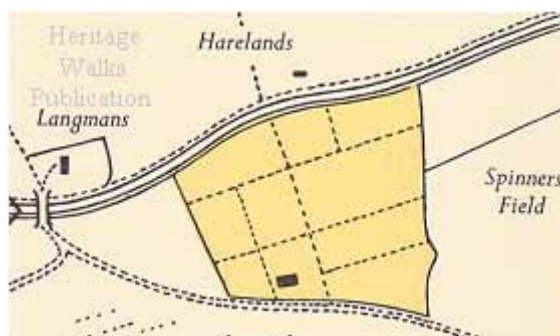
The original 'Goldsworth Nursery', was between the canal and St John's Road (the Winnington Way area), started by James Turner in the



Brockhill Old  
People's Home

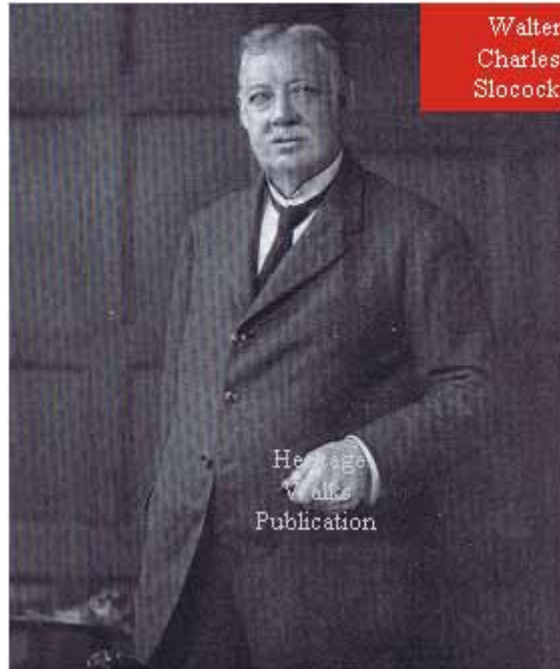
1760's and acquired by Walter Slocock in the 1870's. Slocock started out with just 24 acres, employing three men and two boys, but gradually he expanded the business, so that by the time he died in 1926 it covered over 400 acres (not just in Goldsworth but around Bisley and Chobham too).

Goldsworth  
Nursery in  
1877

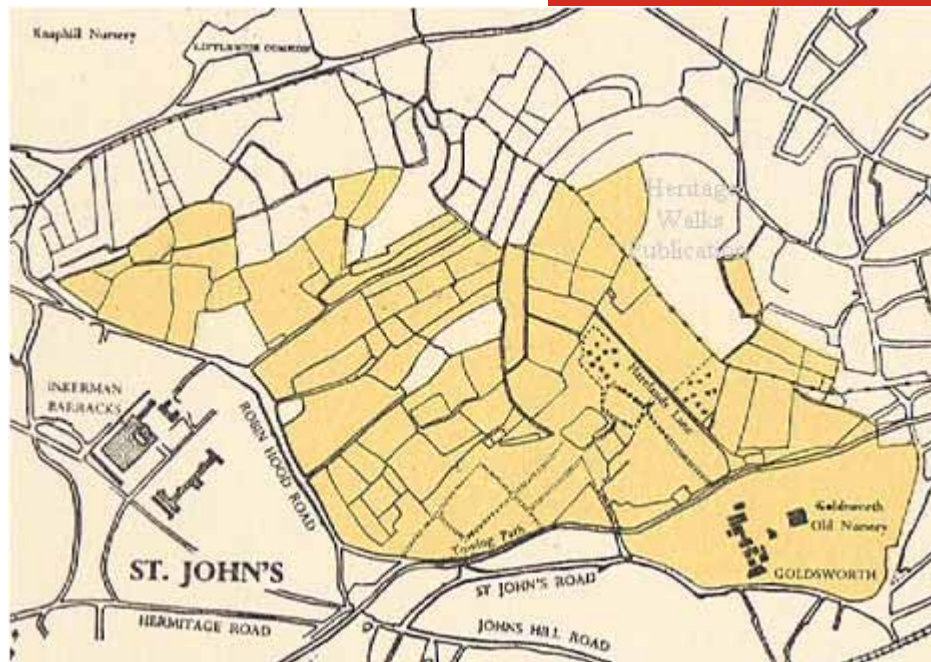


Walter Charles Slocock was said to be a quick-tempered, but fair and forgiving person, who would often 'sack' a worker one day and then enquire why they hadn't turned up for work the next day!

**At the lake, look left towards the playing fields and Goldwater Lodge, before turning right to follow the path beside the lake. Turn right to return to the Goldsworth Park Central Area.**



Goldsworth Nursery in the 1960's.







### Goldsworth Park

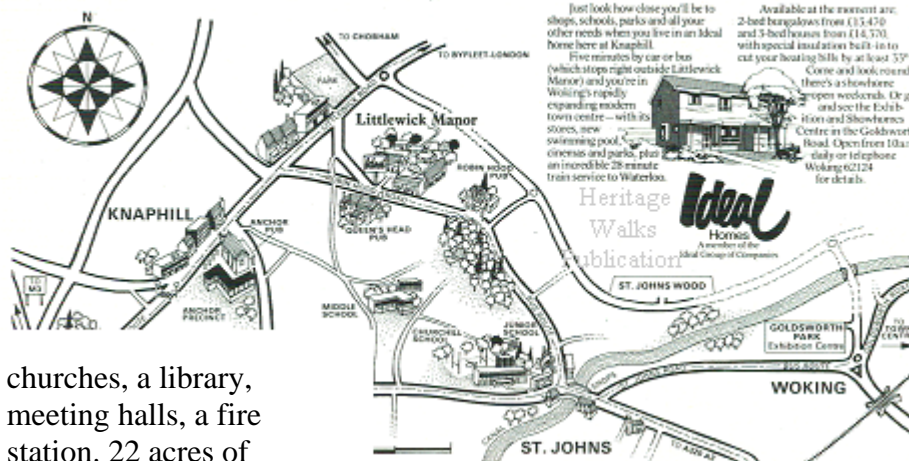
It was in the 1950s that the southern portion of what is now Goldsworth Park was designated as suitable for housing in the draft Surrey Structure Plan. In 1967 Woking Council announced a plan for the site, but the cost of drainage was a major problem and it was not until the following year when the Labour Government formed the 'Land Commission' that there was any prospect of the whole site being developed. In 1970 the

new Conservative Government abolished the Land Commission, but by then Woking Council had already got the 'bit between their teeth' and in 1971 agreement was reached between the council and New Ideal Homes Ltd for the development of the 575 acre estate. At the time it was said to be the largest single development by a private developer in Europe.

The original plan was for 3,750 homes, shops, pubs, two youth centres,

The start of construction on Goldsworth Vale in the early 1970s.

## Everything's within easy reach at Littlewick Manor.



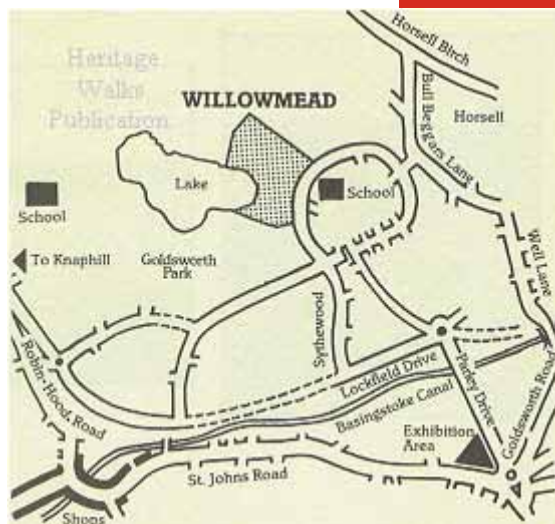
churches, a library, meeting halls, a fire station. 22 acres of warehousing, 42 acres of playing fields, 14 acres of public open space and a 17 acre lake (to help drain the site). The estimated population was 14,000. Planning permission was granted in March 1973 (after a Public Inquiry) and in June 1973 revised plans were announced (this time with more houses, a health centre and Adult Education Centre). Work began on the first stage – known as Goldsworth Vale – in August 1973 with the first buyer moving in during May 1974.

By 1978 1,000 new homes had been occupied, with over 3,000 built by

1988. By 1991 the population of Goldsworth Park had reached 12,443 – 15% of the population of the entire Borough of Woking!

An advert from May 1976 for Littlewick

Willowmead was built in 1982





### Goldwater Lodge

The original plan was for a meeting hall to be built in the central area, but in 1985 the Goldsworth Park Community Association realised that the site that had been allocated for them was not all that satisfactory. Part of the problem was the restrictions placed on the site regarding 'trading hours' and the selling of alcohol, but they also discovered the site had technical problems when it came to building and so

the decision was made to integrate the new hall with the council's proposed 'social pavilion' by the lake and playing fields - Goldwater Lodge. The Lodge was finally opened in July 1988.

Brookwood  
Mews was  
eventually  
named  
Friary  
Court

Goldwater  
Lodge





### St. Andrew's Church

The parish of St Andrews, Goldsworth Park, was formed on the 1st April 1981, although it was not for another seven years before the church was built.

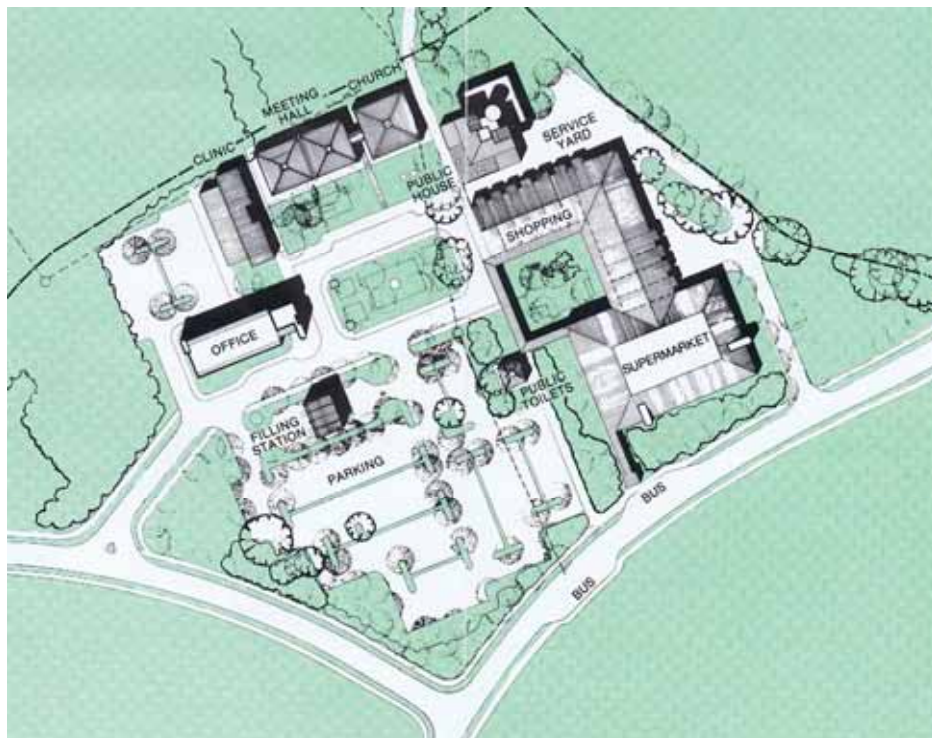
The name comes from a chapel of ease to St Mary's, Horsell, that was dedicated to St Andrew and which used to be in Viggory Lane.

After much controversy the site was sold for development and the



St Andrews  
Church

proceeds given towards the construction of the new church on Goldsworth Park.







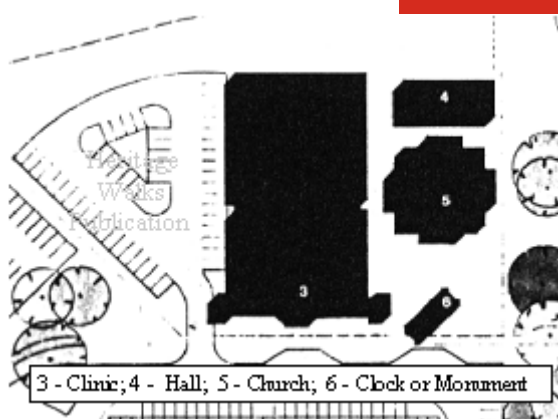
Another early 1970's plan and artist's impression, showing the scheme almost as built (minus the clock tower in front of the church)

### Central Area

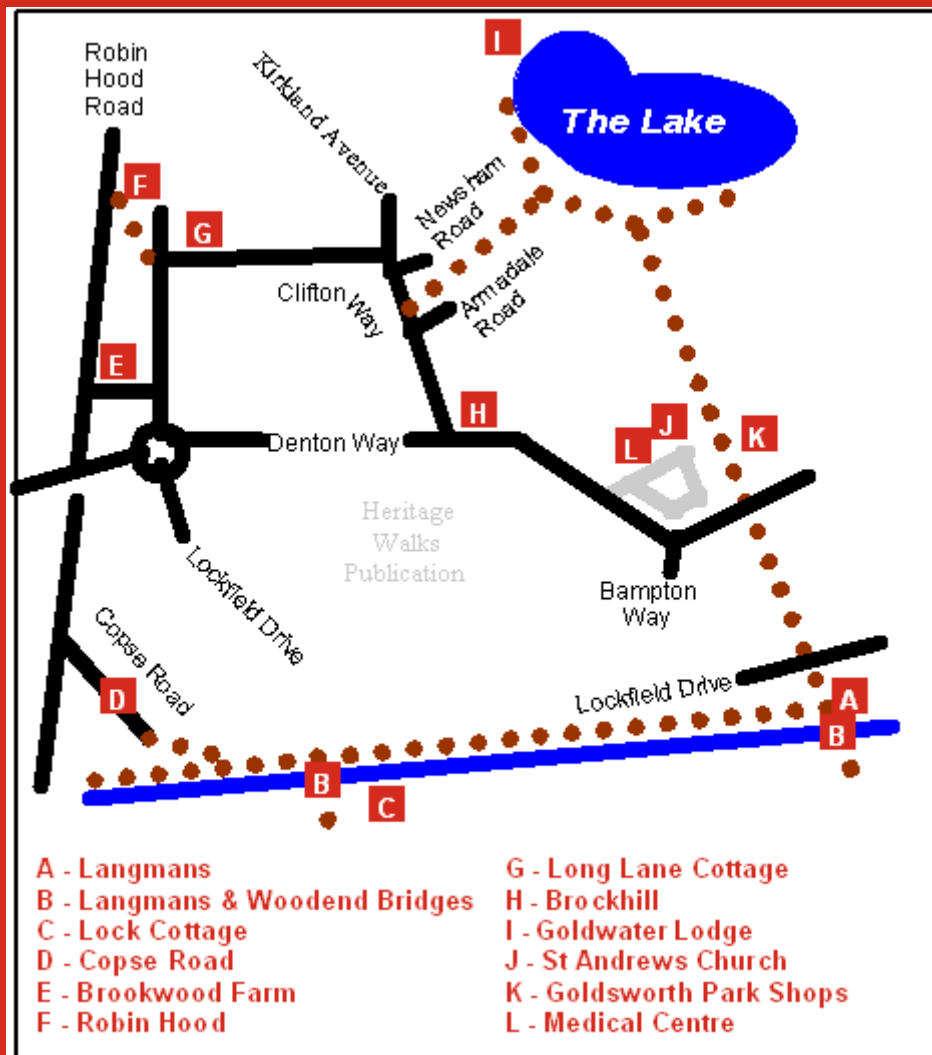
Of course not all that was planned for the estate was built, but in July 1982 (after years of debate over the best arrangement for the Central Area), work began on the shops, pub and petrol station (with the community hall, church, and clinic left until later).

Although a doctors surgery opened on the park in 1979, it was not until 1986 that the Medical Centre was opened, with Lakers Youth Centre opening in

March 1993 and work on the Generation Centre starting in May that year. We are still waiting for the Library to be built, along with the Adult Education Centre and Fire Station!



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**GUIDE**  
**No. 7**

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