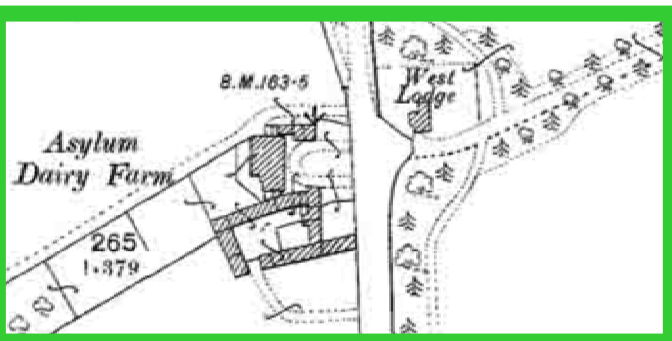


# MORE FARMS & FIELDS FEARED LOST IF WOKING LOOSENS ITS GREEN BELT (PART ONE - THE NORTH & WEST OF THE BOROUGH OF WOKING)

Iain Wakeford 2014

Last week I looked at some of the lost public houses in the Woking area, but it is not just pubs that have gone over the years, we have lost fields, farm buildings and in most cases whole farms in the last couple of centuries too.

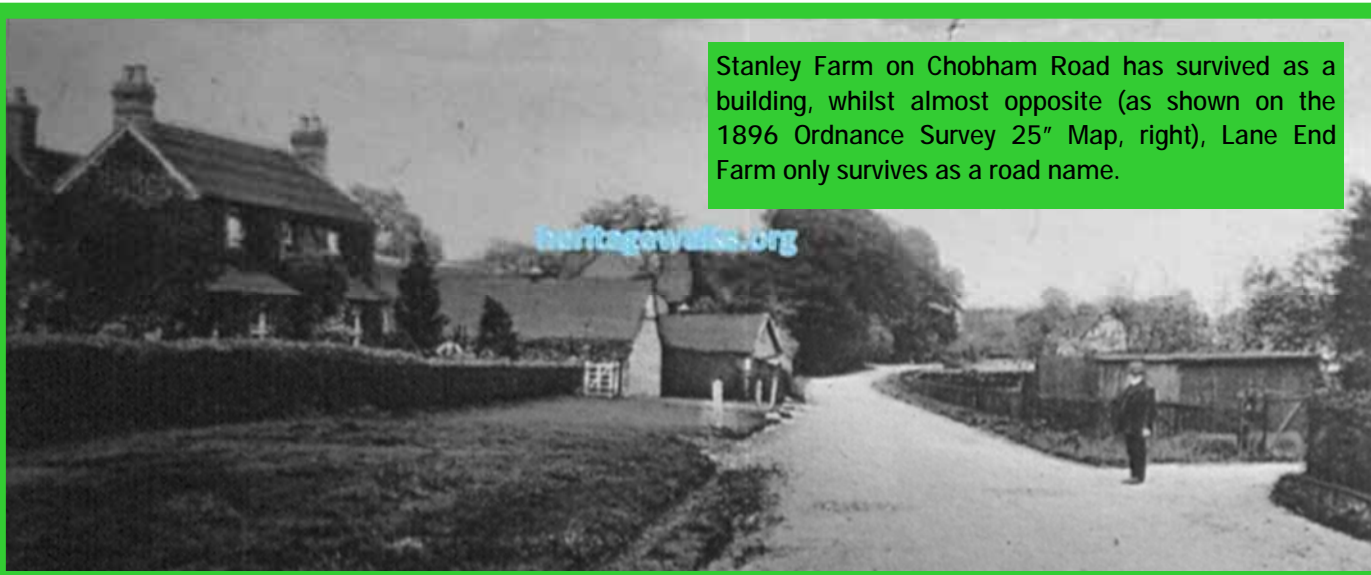


One of the most recent has been Brookwood Farm on the Bagshot Road at Knaphill, which was once the dairy farm to the hospital across the road where the 'Asylum' or Home Farm has also recently been demolished to make way for more houses.

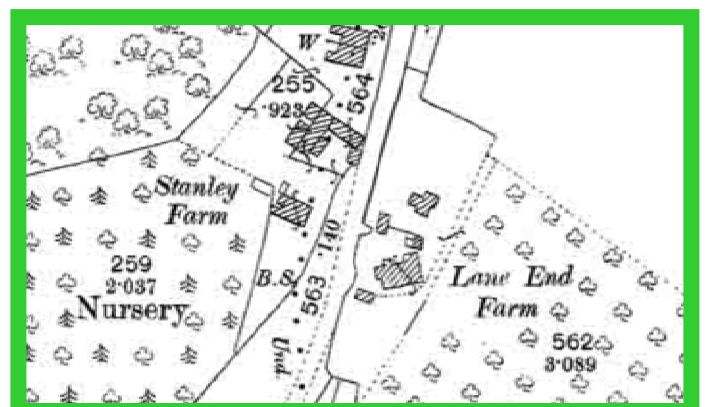
There are a few old farmhouses left in the Knaphill area, such as Stanley Farm on

Chobham Road, and Whitfield Court and Inwoods on Littlewick Road, but they are no longer working farms, and at the latter the outbuildings have long since been demolished.

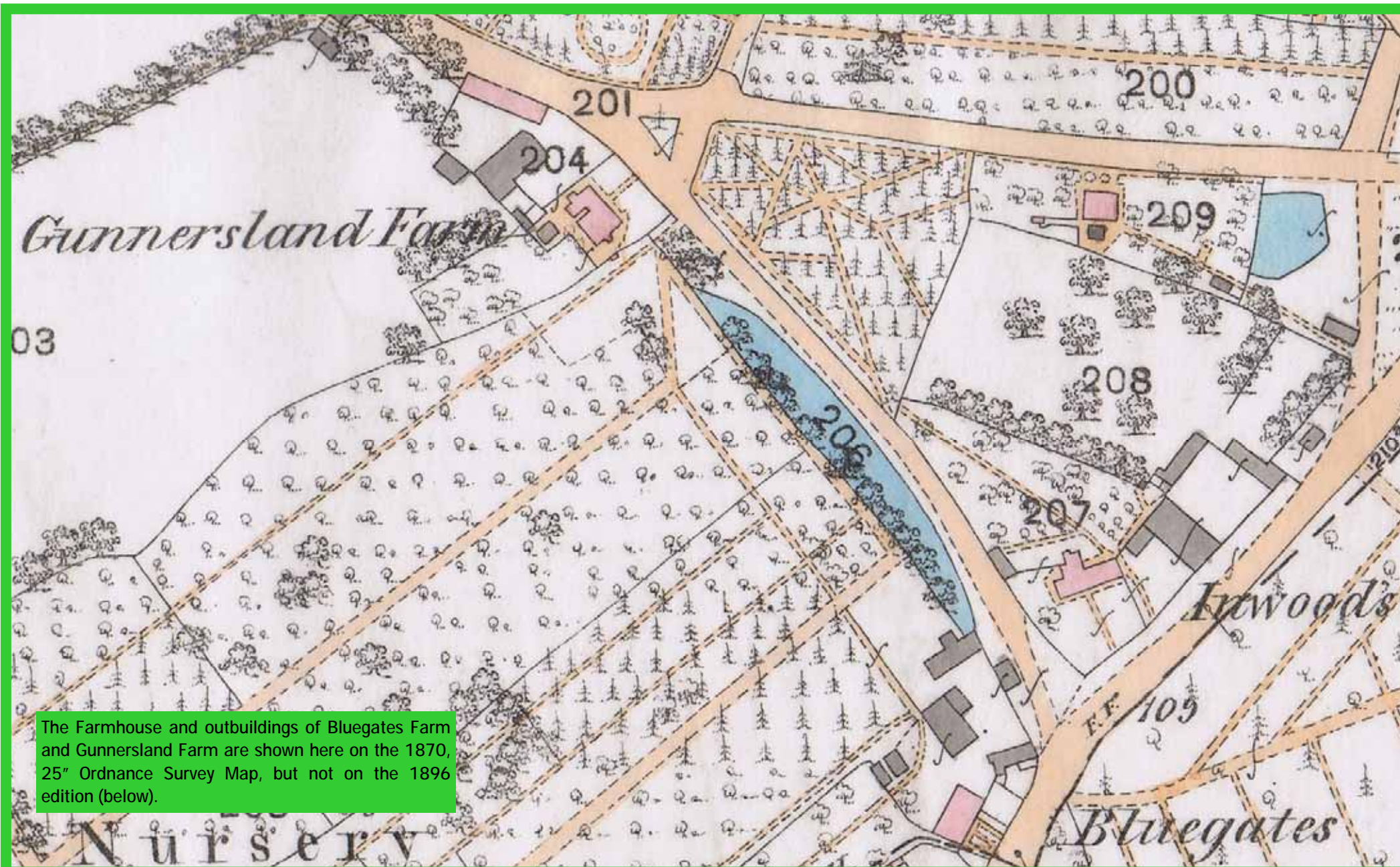
There were other farms in Knaphill, of course, that have been replaced by houses – such as Knaphill Farm (or Lane End Farm as it was later known) and Halls Farm, but on Barrs Lane two farms have been replaced by woods and parkland rather than houses - Bluegates Farm (behind the Royal Oak) and Gunnersland Farm (where the woods start to the north of the



Stanley Farm on Chobham Road has survived as a building, whilst almost opposite (as shown on the 1896 Ordnance Survey 25" Map, right), Lane End Farm only survives as a road name.



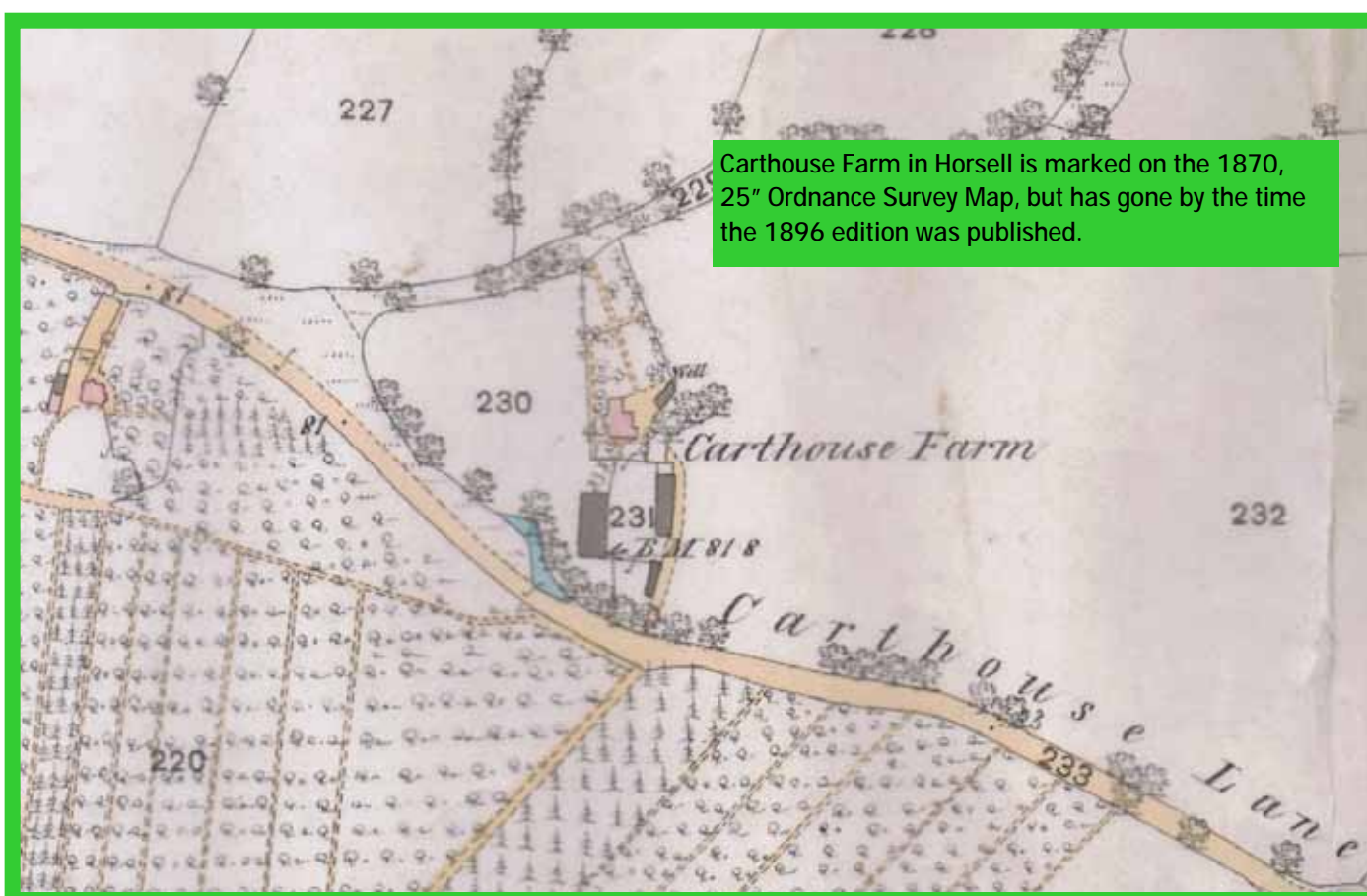
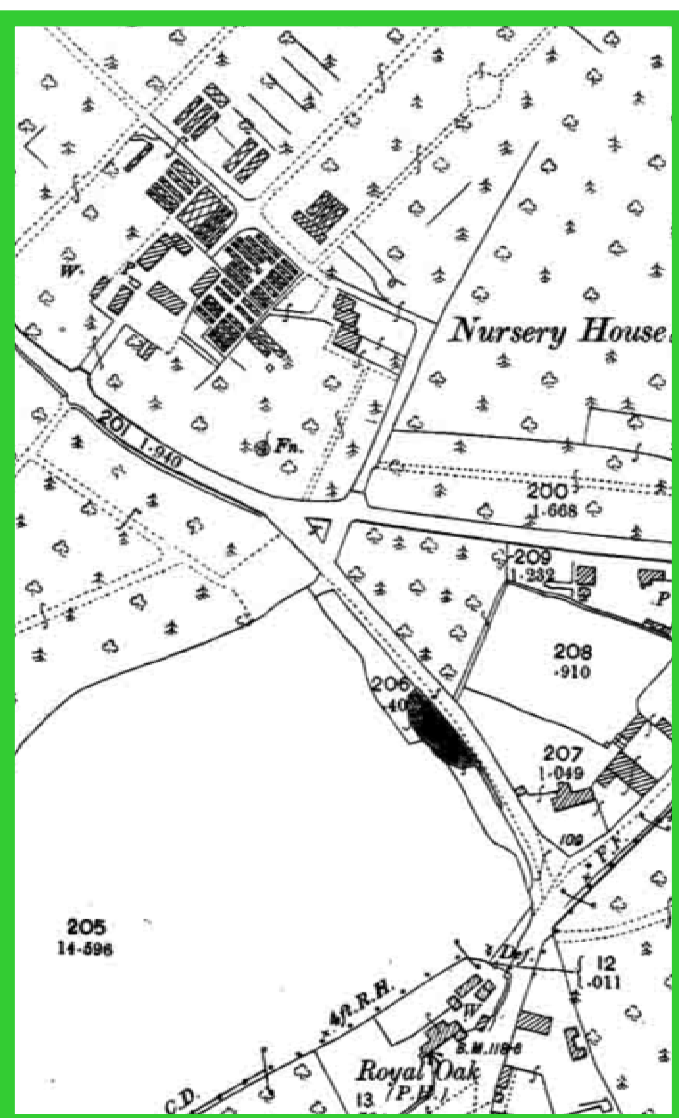




Waterers Park). Both are marked on the 1870 Ordnance Survey map (above), but are gone by the time it was re-drawn in 1896 (below).

The same applies to Carthouse Farm in Carthouse Lane, Horsell (which was to the north of the lane halfway between the Chobham Road and the Parley Brook), although Cartchers Farm (once called Carthouselane Farm) does survive as a building at least at the other end of the lane, closer to Littlewick Road.

In Horsell village itself the names of Grove Barrs Farm, Thornash Farm, Waldens Farm, and Kettlewell Farm have been preserved in



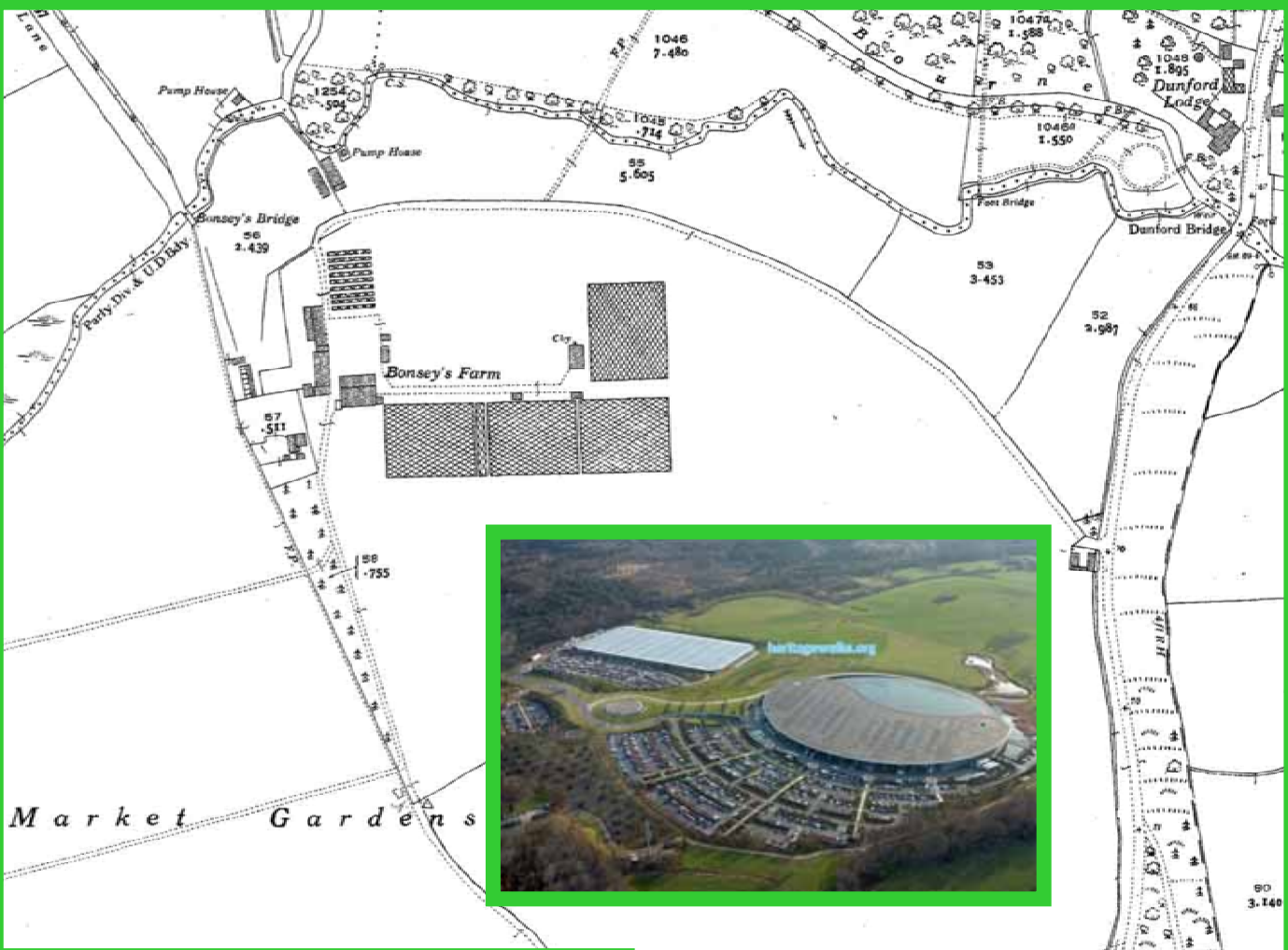




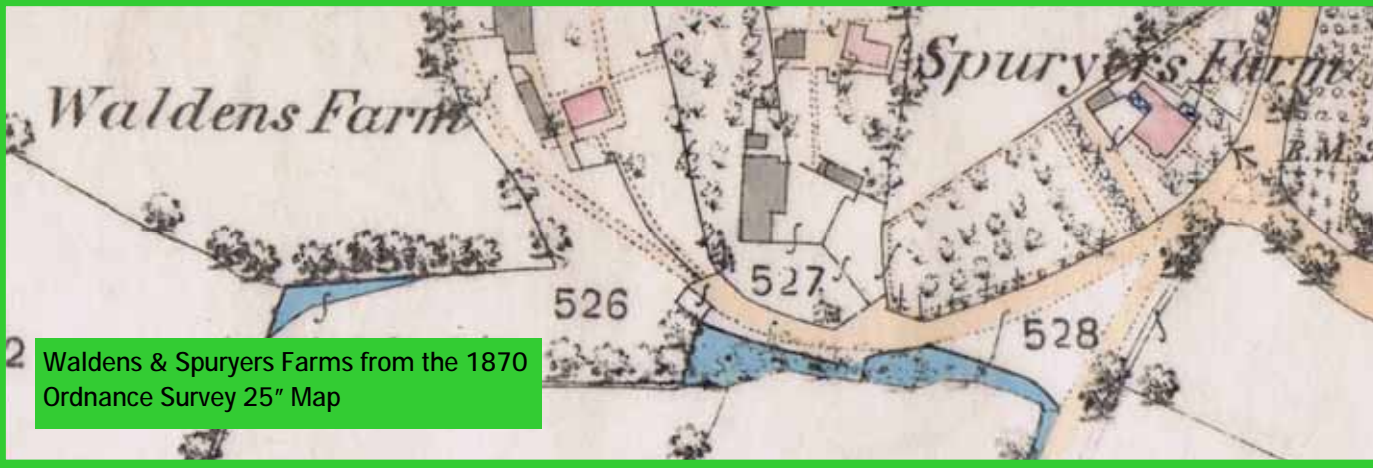
Grove Barrs and Thornash Farm in 1870. Deep Lane (on the left) is now called South Road.

road names, even if their buildings have been lost, but Spuryers Farm next to Waldens Farm, Bonsey's Farm (where McLaren are now) and Potterscorner Farm, near the Six Crossroads are not even commemorated in name, let alone survived!

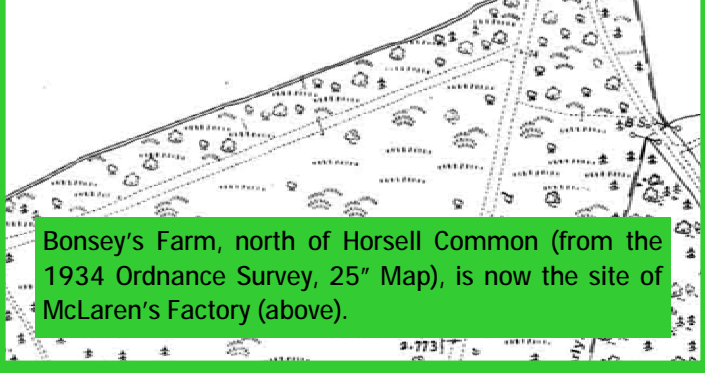
Even where the old houses are still extant at Well Farm, Whapshot Farm and Birch Farm the old outbuildings have not – some being demolished in relatively recent years to make way for more houses.



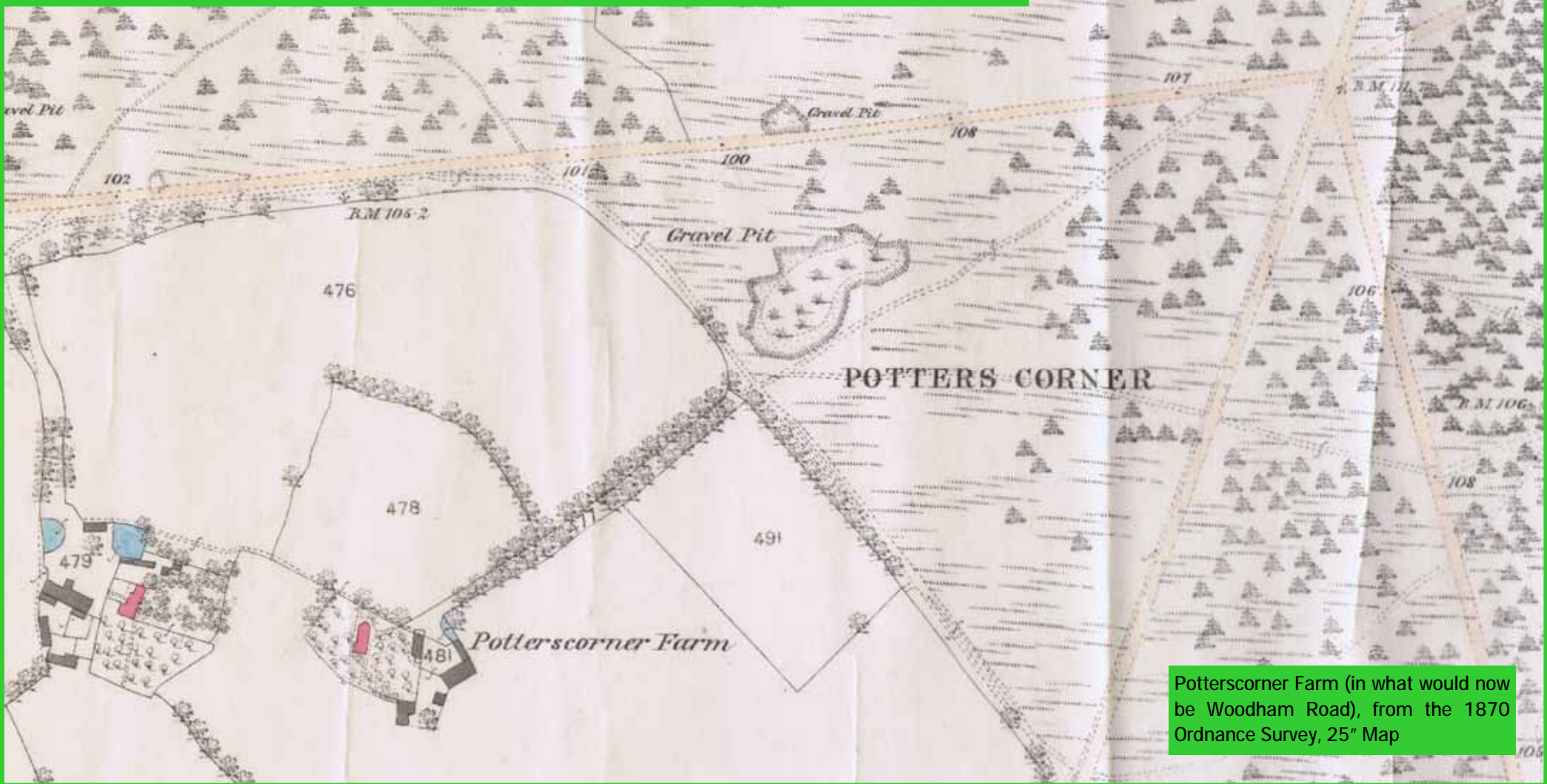
At Horsell the old 16<sup>th</sup> century Whapshot Farm has survived, but the barn next door has been demolished and replaced by the new Whapshot Farmhouse.



Waldens & Spuryers Farms from the 1870 Ordnance Survey 25" Map



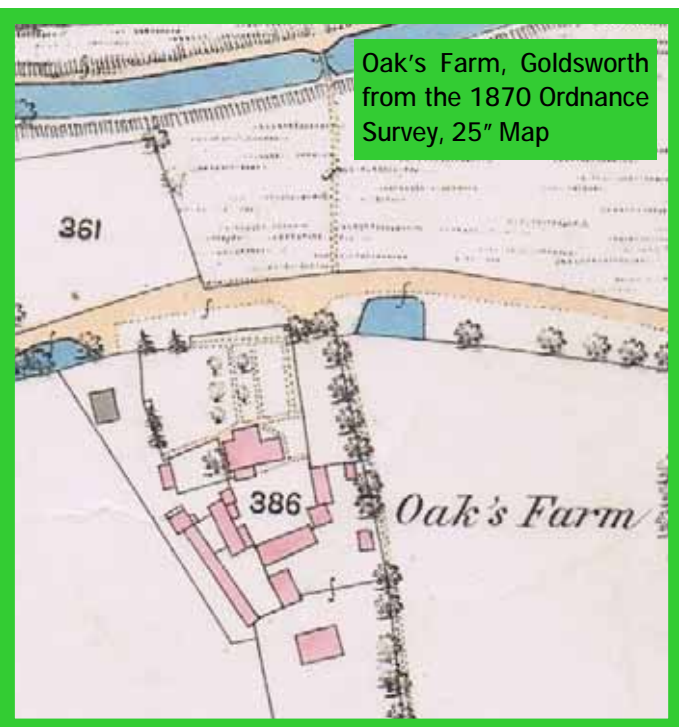
Bonsey's Farm, north of Horsell Common (from the 1934 Ordnance Survey, 25" Map), is now the site of McLaren's Factory (above).



Potterscorner Farm (in what would now be Woodham Road), from the 1870 Ordnance Survey, 25" Map

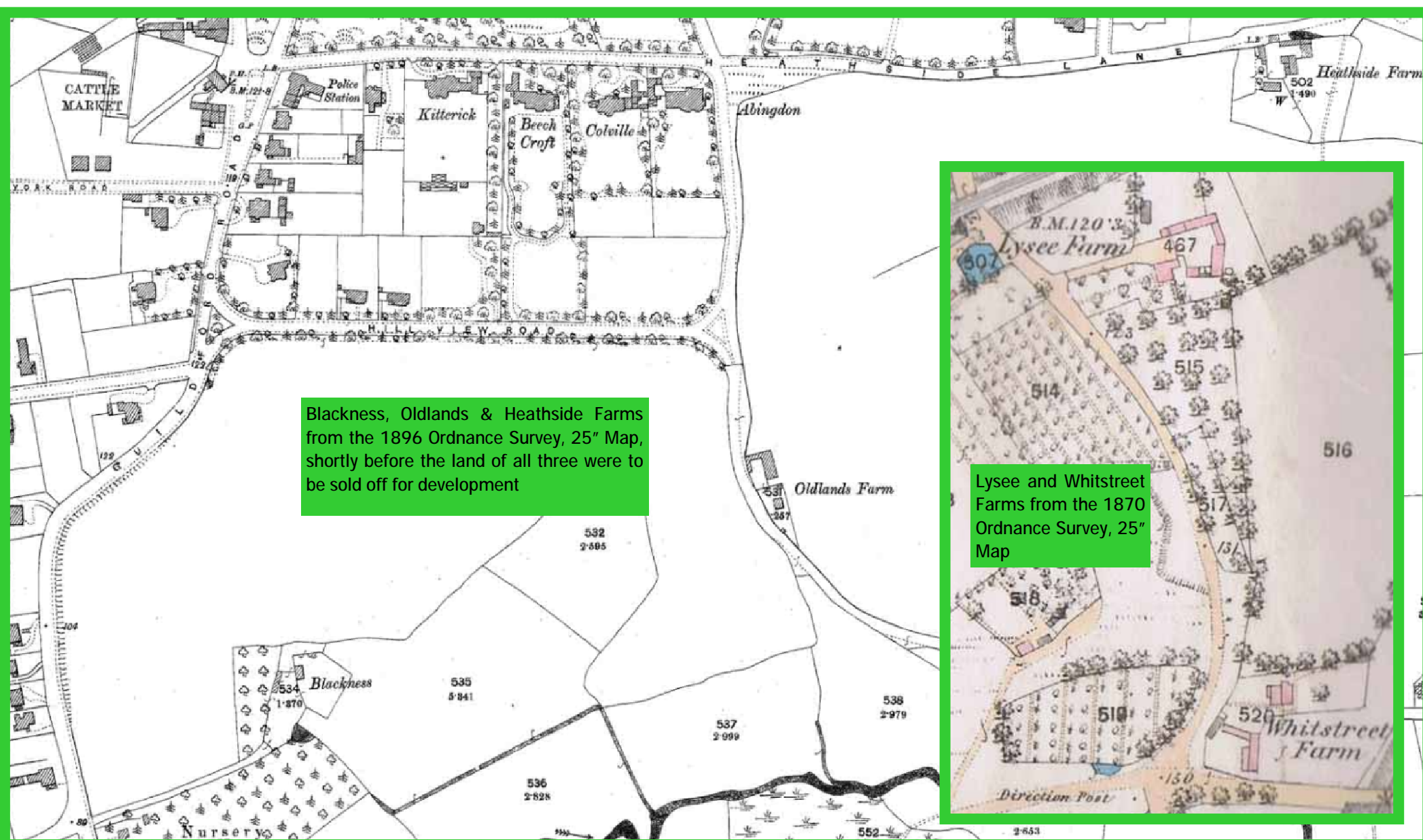
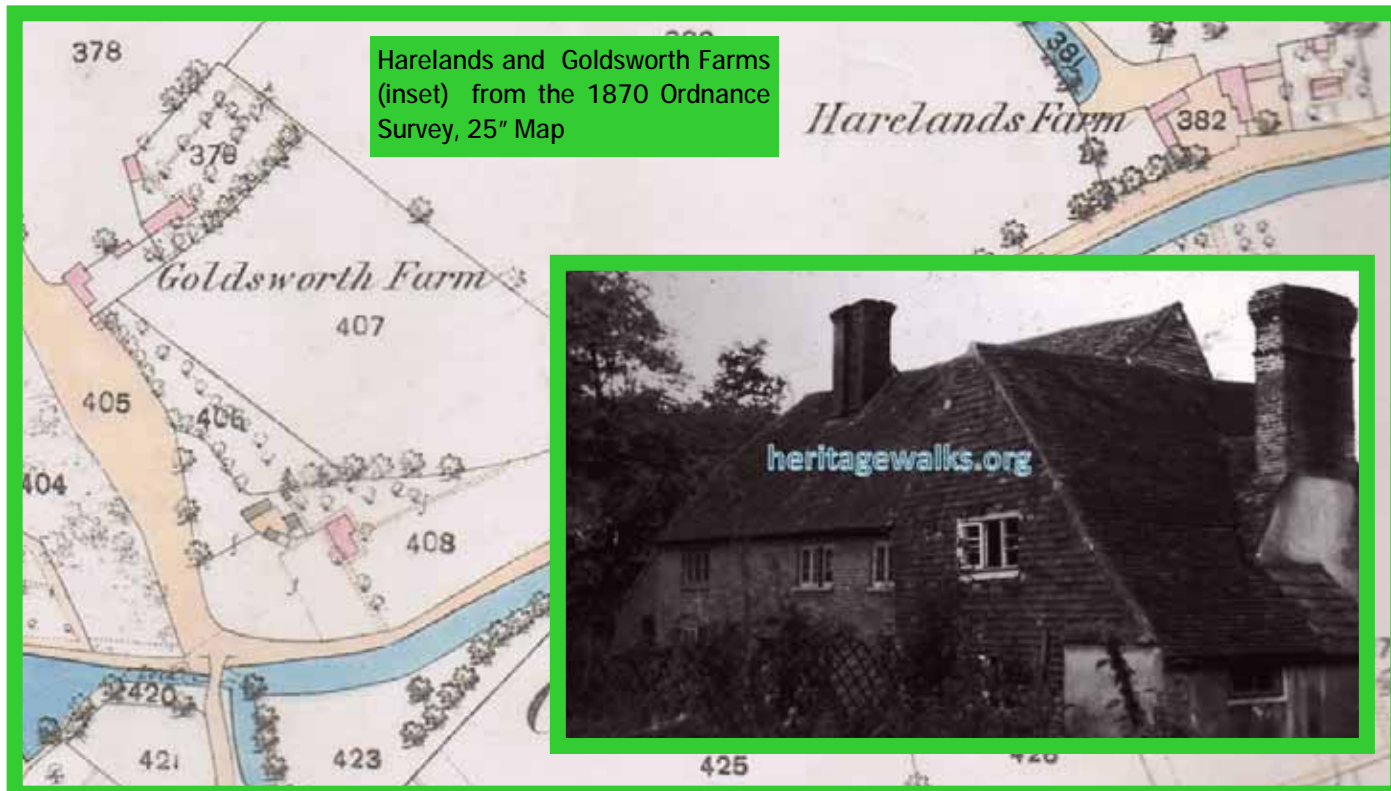


Goldsworth Park (like Lower Knaphill), of course, was mainly nursery land but even here small farms such as Harelands Farm and Goldsworth (or Langmans) Farm, by the canal at Bankside have been completely obliterated, whilst Oaks Farm in Goldsworth Road succumbed to development in Victorian and Edwardian times – some of the outbuildings occupying the site of what was once Goldsworth School and is now the Surrey History Centre.

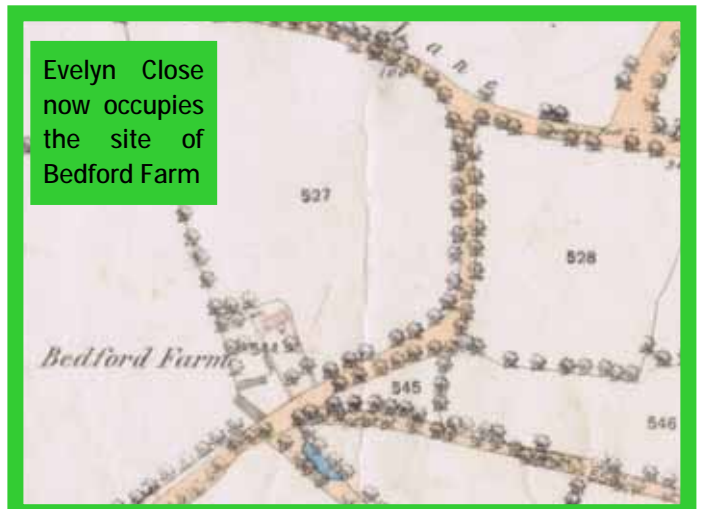


Around the corner in Triggs Lane the Farm Hotel (pictured last week) was once Lysee Farm (or Royal Oak Farm or Triggs Farm depending on which map you read), whilst up the lane could be found in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Whitstreet Farm where Wych Hill Park is today.

The southern part of Woking if anything has fared worse than the north and west. What is now the bowling green in Woking Park was once the site of Blackness Farm, whilst Oldlands Farm was opposite the White Rose Lane entrance to the Park and Heathside Farm was at the junction of Heathside Road and Heathfield Road. All trace of them has long since gone.



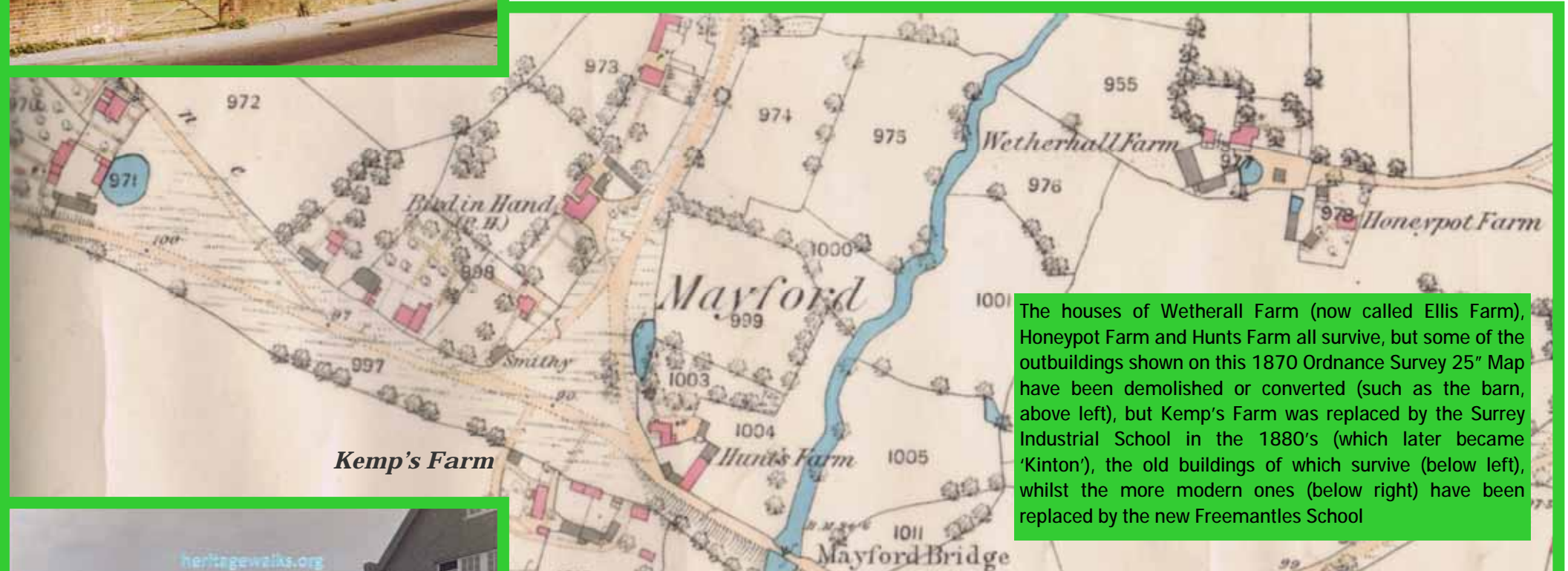
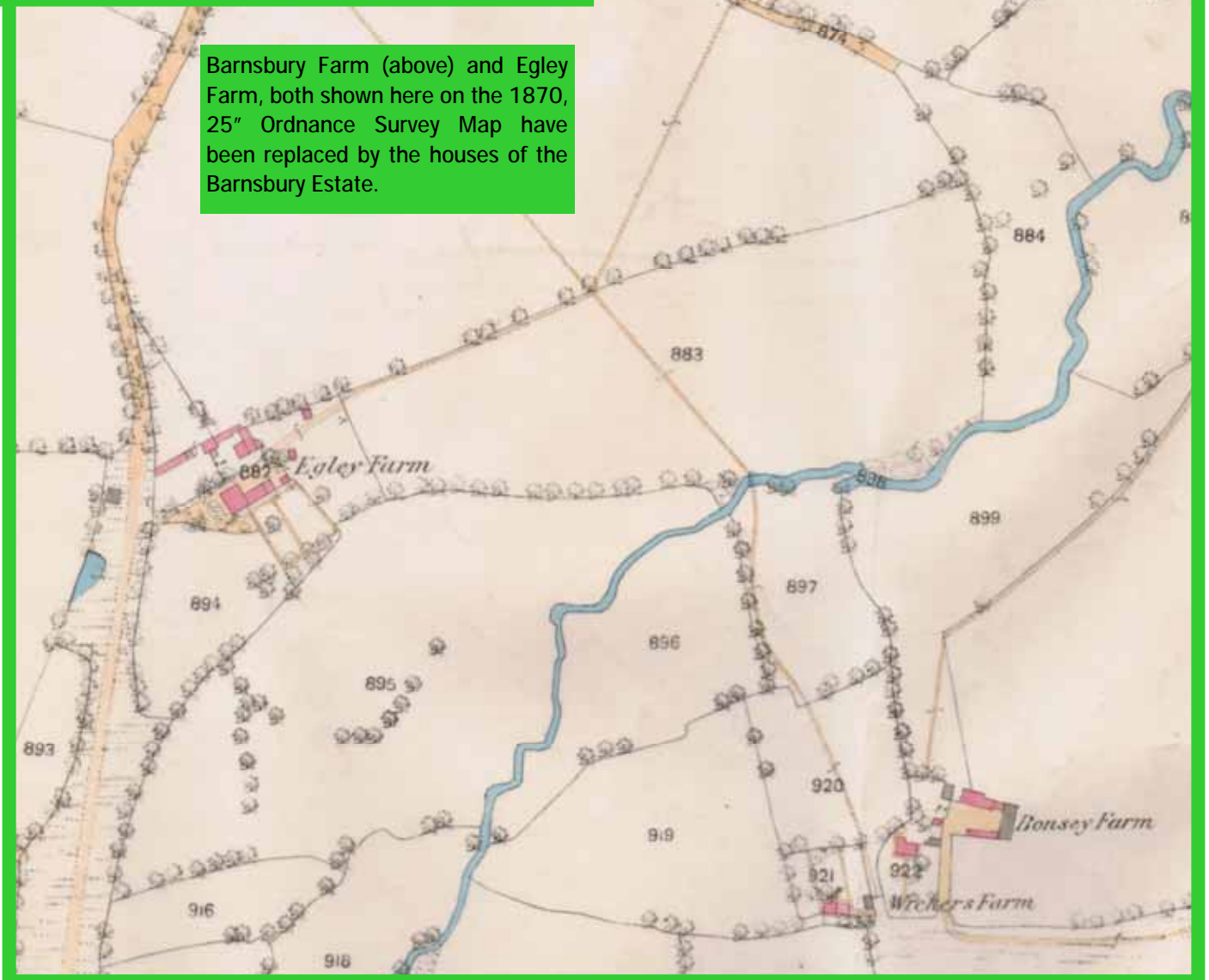




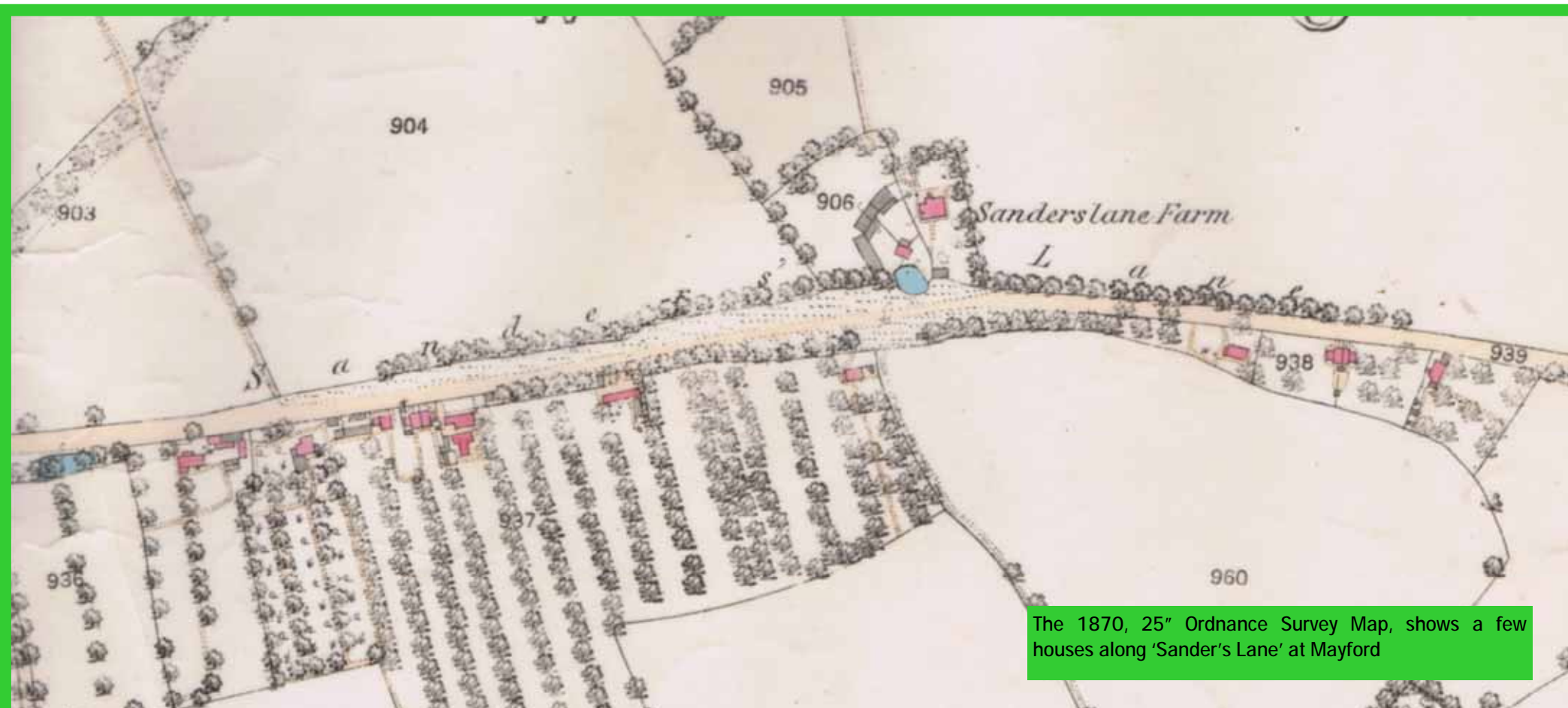
Likewise Bedford Farm on Egley Road has been replaced by Evelyn Close whilst Egley Farm and Barnsbury Farm across the road were completely destroyed when the Barnsbury Estate was built in the 1950's.

Across the Bourne Stream, Bonsey's Farm and Wickers Farm also suffered the same fate, although part of the latter is possibly still intact. At least the farmhouses of Honeypots and Ellis Farms (once called Wetherhall Farm) have survived, although around the corner in Mayford the old Kemps Farm was not so lucky, being taken over in the 1880's and replaced by the Surrey Industrial School (now a business park with the Freemantles School on part of the site).

Across the road the old Hunts Farm has survived and is a listed building but it's 18th century barn has been converted into accommodation and it is no longer a working farm.





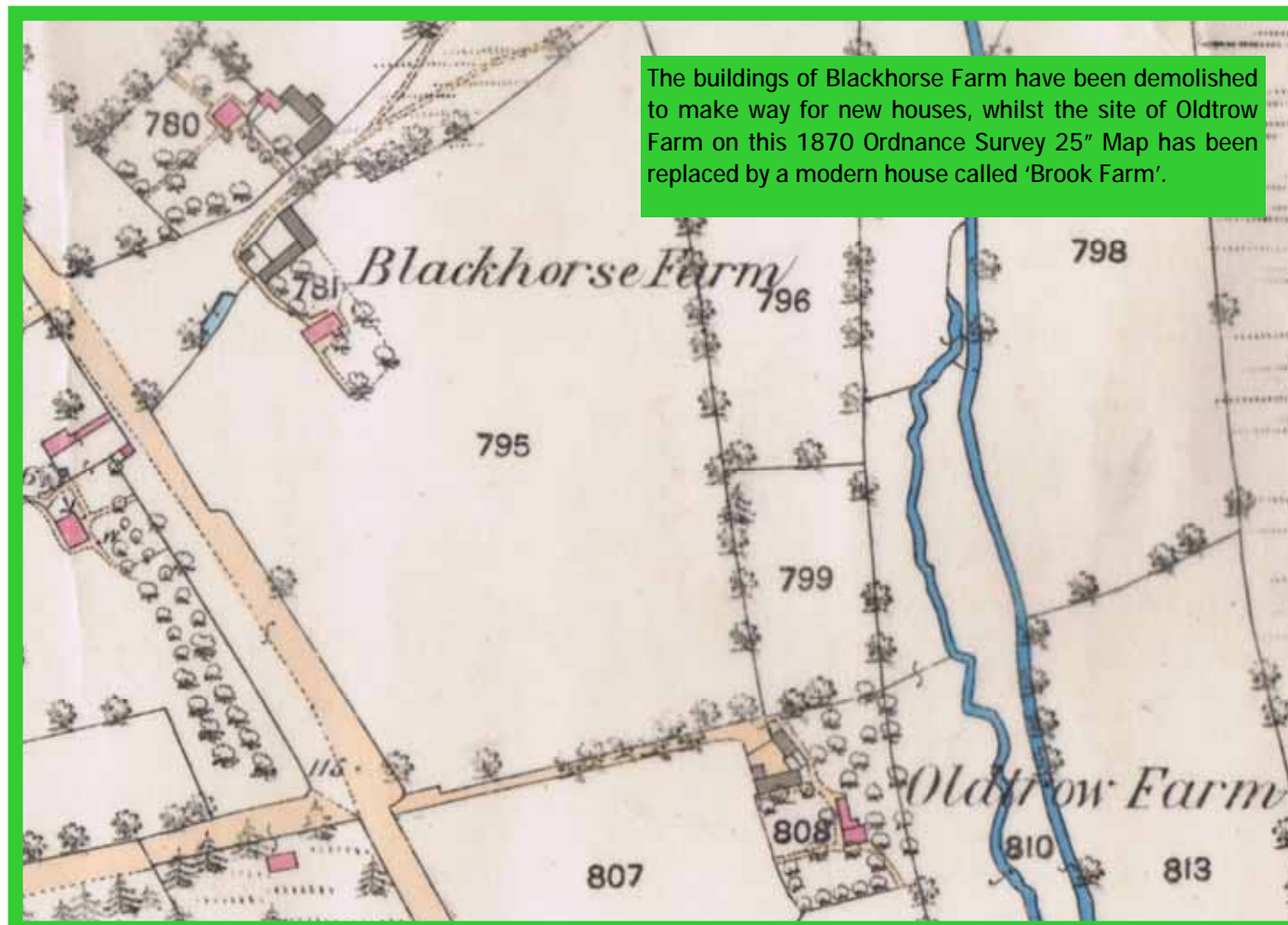


The 1870, 25" Ordnance Survey Map, shows a few houses along 'Sander's Lane' at Mayford

Of course this part of Woking is still quite rural, with horses and nursery stock mainly replacing the crops and cattle of the past. But with pressure on council's to alter their 'green belts' and release more land for development, for how much longer it will remain like that is anybody's guess. Hook Hill Farm (on Hook Hill Lane), Brook Farm, Oldtrow Farm and Blackhorse Farm in Blackhorse Road have all been replaced by modern houses and without the green belt many more will doubtless follow.

Having said that, listed buildings such as Little Gorsewood (or Sanderslane Farm as it is marked on the above map) should still survive no matter what development goes on around them, although other modern farm and nursery buildings may well be lost.

We can only hope that the Government and local authorities come to their senses and realise that there are many more brown-field sites in the country that can be developed long before any green fields need to be touched - otherwise it will not be long before Surrey and the South-East in general is just one large conglomeration.



The buildings of Blackhorse Farm have been demolished to make way for new houses, whilst the site of Oldtrow Farm on this 1870 Ordnance Survey 25" Map has been replaced by a modern house called 'Brook Farm'.



Will the fields to the north of Egley Road and around Saunders Lane at Mayford remain in the Green Belt or be allowed to be developed with housing?