



**Esher Conservation Area**  
**(Designated by Surrey County Council – 31 July 1973 and extended by**  
**Elmbridge Borough Council – 21 June 1983 and 27 February 2008)**

**Statement of Designation**

Esher lies along the main London – Portsmouth Road (A3) some 4 miles south-west of Kingston and 4 miles north-east of Cobham. It sits at the north end of a line of higher land running north-south with the Mole Valley to the west and the valley of a small tributary stream that enters the Thames at Long Ditton to the east. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the north is the east-west railway line from London, with the local station a mile to the north-east of the historic centre. Esher grew with the thoroughfare of the Portsmouth Road and because of its proximity to London. The village and most of the parish lie on the only considerable elevation of Bagshot Sand, which rises east of the Mole Valley, and are thus picturesque, dry and favourite locations for houses. In 1839 Pigot and Company's Director said of Esher that "as a place of business, it is not to be regarded: but as one where nature and art have delighted to wanton and harmoniously united to deck its neighbourhood, it cannot but be noted."

Some earlier forms of the place-name have been ESSHERE (1062 et al), AISSELA (1086), ASSERE (1242) and ASSHIRE (1538). The derivation is uncertain but probably indicates a ridge or boundary of ash trees.

In 1868 (1st Edtn. O.S.), Esher was an elongated settlement on the Portsmouth Road with a relatively tighter concentration around Esher Green where Christ Church and the neighbouring school had been built in 1853 and 1859 respectively. A high proportion of the buildings were large houses in substantial grounds, although development had commenced in the Park Road area with small terraced houses. By 1896 (2nd Edtn. O.S.), this Park Road/Wolsey Road area was substantially complete; the significant trend now being the laying out of the roads to the east of the Portsmouth Road and the commencement of construction of substantial houses in large gardens. Sandown Park racecourse had been established earlier to the north of the historic centre. By the late 1930's, the whole area to

the east of the main road (A3) had been comprehensively developed and the grounds of Esher Place were being gradually built over. Of the old buildings in the northern part of the High Street only the early 18th Century mansion occupied by the District Council remained. However, at the southern end and around Esher Green more of the buildings of architectural or historic interest remained. Since the 2nd World War there has been little change and these parts form the basis of the Conservation Area.

For more information, please email us at [\*\*tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk)

