

Building the Metropolitan Railway to Amersham.

**1** A new railway station opened in Amersham in September 1892. Amersham's main landowner, the Tyrwhitt-Drakes, opposed the railway being built in the town. They eventually relented but only permitted a station on the hill. There were few nearby buildings and just a small community around Amersham Common, close to where the Black Horse Bridge is today.



View up Station Road, 1914.

**2** A new road, Station Road, was laid out to link the station to Amersham. It provided a gentler ascent than the existing Rectory Hill, enabling horse-drawn coaches to transport passengers to the station.



International Stores, Station Parade. This was one of the early shops in Amersham-on-the-Hill, having opened by 1915. It moved to Sycamore Road c.1930.

**3** The first businesses were concentrated at the top of Station Road, particularly Station Parade, a small row of shops under the railway bridge. By 1907 there was a grocer and a furniture dealer, followed a few years later by a milliner and a draper.



The Station Hotel, opened by Weller's brewery in 1893.

**4** The Wellers were a significant landowner around the station. They owned the brewery in Amersham and were the largest employer in the town. When the station first opened the Wellers built a new pub and hotel, the Station Hotel, located opposite the new railway station. The pub was later called the Iron Horse. It was demolished in 2004.



5a

Elm Close, designed by J H Kennard.



5b

Oakfield Corner, designed by J H Kennard.

One of the most significant newcomers to the town was a London born architect J H Kennard. Kennard was responsible for designing many of the Arts and Crafts style houses in Amersham-on-the-Hill.

**5a** Kennard also designed Elm Close, just off Hill Avenue. Built in 1920 for the Amersham Public Utility Society, the 30 semi-detached houses were built with a state subsidy. Given the lack of materials after the war, the houses were built of concrete blocks which were cast on site.

**5b** Kennard also designed five shops and three houses in one block at Oakfield Corner in 1912, the National Provincial and Union Bank and the old Free Church (now demolished).



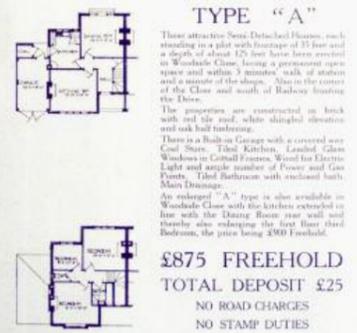
Chiltern Parade. The building was divided into nine shops, with Sainsbury's occupying the central spot.

**6** With the surge of new development after the First World War the new town's commercial centre moved towards Hill Avenue and Sycamore Road. By the mid 1930s Amersham-on-the-Hill was a thriving town, with over 170 shops and businesses catering to every need. In 1937 Sainsbury's built the focal point of Sycamore Road, Chiltern Parade.



The Regent Cinema on Sycamore Road. Iceland now occupies the site where the cinema stood.

**7** The Regent Cinema on Sycamore Road opened in 1928. With seating for 700 people it was built by Colwood Pictures, a partnership of local people including Alfred Woodley. Dwindling audiences in the 1950s resulted in its closure and it was demolished in 1962.



TYPE "A"

These attractive Semi-Detached Houses, each standing on a plot with frontage of 35 feet and a depth of about 125 feet have been erected in Woodside Close, leaving a pronounced open space and within 3 minutes' walk of station and a minute of the slope. Situated in the corner of the Close and south of Railway facing the Hill.

The properties are constructed in brick with tile roof, white shingled elevation and oak half timbering.

There is a Built-in Garage with a covered area Coal Store. Tiled Kitchen, Lined Glass Windows on Corridor, W.C., Wash, Electric Light and ample number of Power and Gas Points. Tiled Bathroom with excellent bath. Main Drainage.

An enlarged "A" type is also available in Woodside Close with the kitchen extended in line with the Dining Room east wall and thereby also embracing the first floor third Bedroom, the price being 500 Freehold.

£875 FREEHOLD  
TOTAL DEPOSIT £25  
NO ROAD CHARGES  
NO STAMP DUTIES

Details of a type 'A' semi-detached house on the Weller Estate.

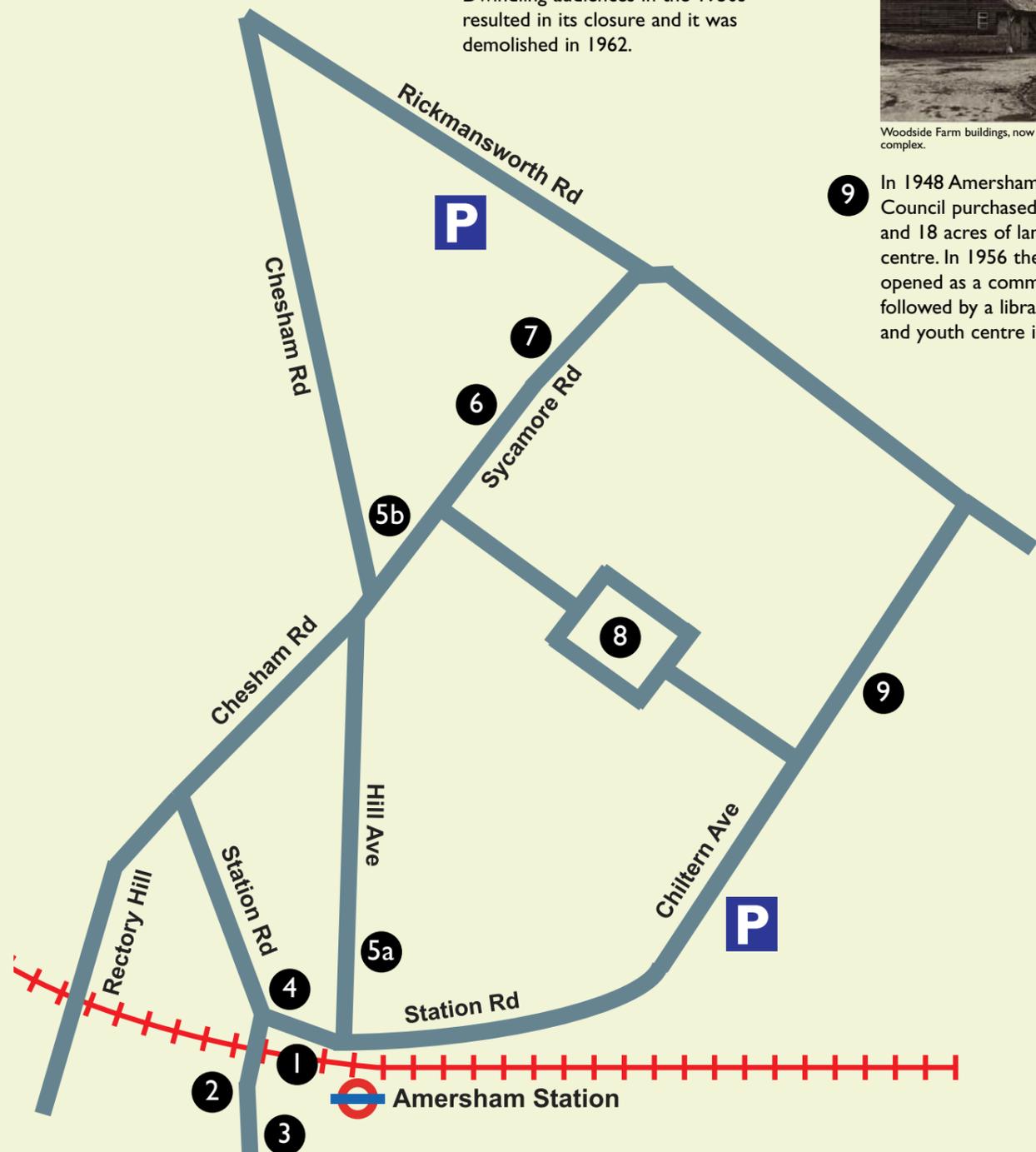
**8** Amersham's Weller Estate was the last and furthest from London of the Metro-land estates. The developments were designed and built to encourage people to move out of London and use the railway for commuting.

The Weller Estate was launched in 1930. It consisted of 78 acres of land north and south of the station. Four types of houses were proposed, ranging in price from £875 to £1,200. Woodside Close, Highfield Close, The Drive and The Rise contain typical Metro-land houses.



Woodside Farm buildings, now part of the community centre complex.

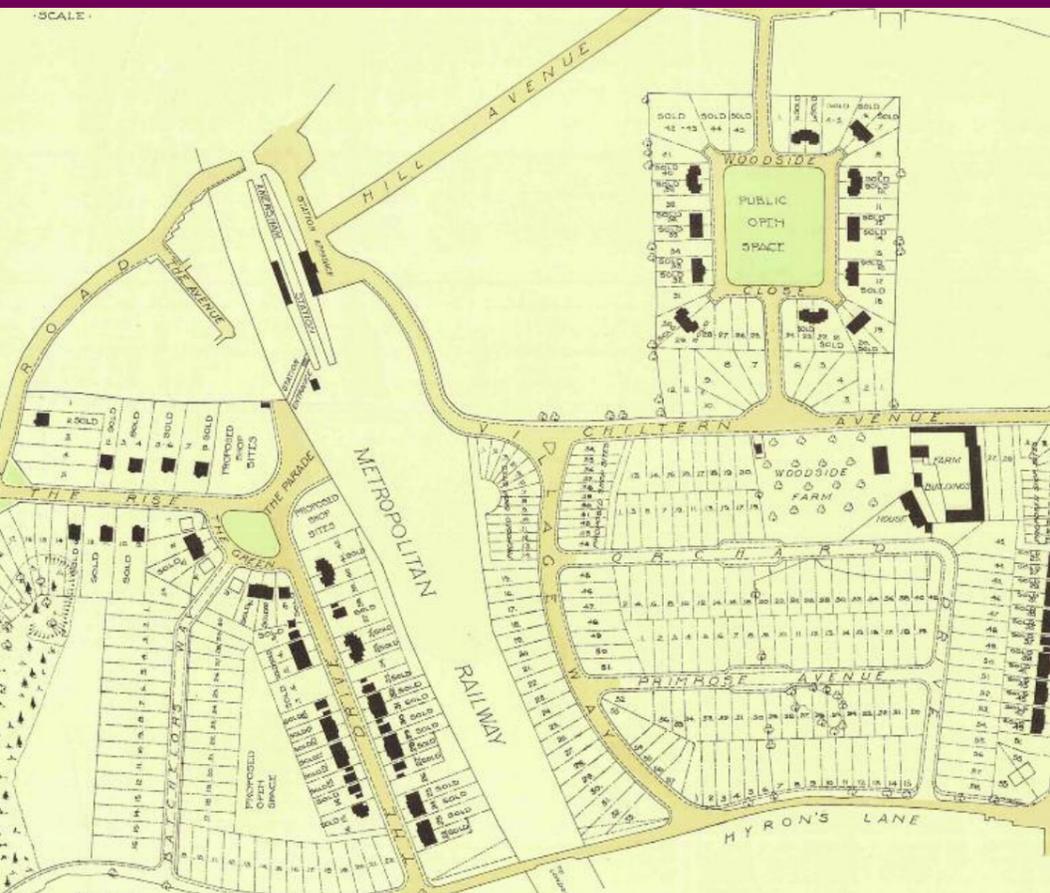
**9** In 1948 Amersham Rural District Council purchased Woodside Farm and 18 acres of land for a civic centre. In 1956 the farm buildings opened as a community centre, followed by a library, swimming pool and youth centre in the 1960s.



# Amersham's Metro-land

## A guided walk of Amersham-on-the-Hill

Cover: Extract from the proposed plan for the Weller Estate, Amersham's Metro-land development. Metropolitan Railway Country Estates, 1930.



Amersham Museum is an award-winning local history museum located in the historic market town. The collection features a wide range of social history objects, photographs and documents and is located in a Tudor hall house, the oldest house in Amersham. There is a wide ranging programme of events and activities for all ages.

The museum is located at:  
49 High Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0DP

[www.amershammuseum.org](http://www.amershammuseum.org)  
01494 723700



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