

Our Edwardian Town

(a short walk of 1 mile (approx 3/4 hour) or a long one of 2 ¾ miles (approx 1 1/2 hours)

*- indicates an illustration of a building which no longer exists

Leave the Forest Community Centre and cross Pinehill Road to the Shopping Centre. Walk through and leave by the path between Martin's newsagent and the library. (If you have a dog with you, turn left from the Community Centre, walk up Pinehill Road to Forest Road and turn right). Turn left into Heathcote Road. Walk to the T junction and turn right into **Forest Road**. This in 1901 was an unmade up track known as Sandy Lane and was one of the original trails through Woolmer Forest. At the junction of this road with Chalet Hill, on the right hand side stood **Phillips Stores**, which in 1905 moved further up the hill to occupy the corner of Lynton Road. The old building was sold to the **Bordon Working Men's Club (1*)**, now in Alma Road.



Bordon Working Mens Club

The original burnt down in 1928, and the site is now occupied by Amery Farm Veterinary Group. Cross Forest Road to **Lyndhurst Cottage (2)**. This is an old house and in 1903 was occupied by Henry Blundy, a tinsmith, and his family. Turn left into Chalet Hill and walk towards the top. Behind Lyndhurst Cottage was a wood and field used by a fair for overwintering. Next to this was a farmhouse (now the bottom end of the layby). By 1910 **Allen and Lloyd (3)** were bottling mineral water here and selling drinks, such as ginger beer. Their slogan was 'We follow the troops'. **Tilbury's Close** is where in 1927, Tilbury's grocery shop once stood with King's, the outfitters next door.

All the rest of the shops to the top of the hill are much as they were in Edwardian times, but with different occupants and in places some second storeys have been added. They were built on the land occupied by **The Chalet (4*)**, which burnt down in 1905.



The Chalet

Stoneman's (5) was the second shop up from Somerset Road and this was a baker's with dining rooms. Near the top of the hill in 1905, the newly built corner stores were occupied by **Phillips Bros (6)**. The shop with the copper dome, was opened by **J. Frisby (7)** as a shoe shop, in 1907. On the left hand side at ground level, the cellar window can be seen. This room down here is where the cobbler worked.

FOR THE SHORT WALK turn left into High Street. Next to Coral's, **W. H. Smith (8)** built a newsagents in 1908, having moved from the bottom shop in Chalet Hill. Look up to the white disc and it is possible to decipher WHS. Further on pass an **Edward VII Post Box (9)** one of only three left in the town. The Edwardian shops finish just before the Indigo Club. This was built in 1913 and was the first **Palace Cinema (10*)**.



Palace Cinema

The front was revamped in the 1930s to the more regular oblong shape seen today. On the opposite side of the High Street is the Highview Business Centre. This area was the **Military Cemetery (11)** and brick pillars marked the entrance, where the road enters the Centre today. It was there from 1903 to

1910, when the new cemetery in Bolley Avenue was opened.

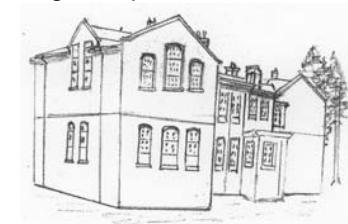
Continue on down to the Tesco entrance. Turn left, first left again and then first right into Devon Road. On the far corner of Devon Road and Manica Close is a small building, now a workshop. This was the **bakery for Stoneman's (12)** shop in Chalet Hill. In the roof of the workshop is a board with the goods for sale and prices:- Tea 2d, Ham rolls 2d, Sausage rolls 2d, Cakes 1d, Lemonade 2d, Ices 2d. Those were the days!

Continue down the hill though Woodside Park, turn right into Forest Road and retrace your steps to return to the Forest Community Centre.

FOR THE LONG WALK cross over the High Street at the traffic lights. Turn right towards the car park. This was the site of the gardens of **Guadeloupe House (13)** the Commanding Officer's residence for Guadeloupe Barracks.

Continue down the hill to Budd's Lane and turn left into it. On this corner stood **Budd's** bakers shop, but he retired to Lindford on the arrival of the army. Prince Philip Barracks on the left was not built until 1935. After 100 yds from the corner, cross the road to the **Edward VII Post Box**.

Enter Hampshire Road, the first on the right. Follow the road down the hill. At the bottom, where there is a large car park, stood **Bordon Infants' School (14*)**



Bordon Infants' School

This was built in 1906 by the army to educate both the soldiers in the morning, and their children in the afternoon. On the right hand side of Hampshire Road were the huts of **Guadeloupe Barracks** and the parade ground, now it is houses.

Continue up the hill and admire the view over the **Daly Sports Ground** (1919) to the left. Keep left on the path, and where the houses start, the **Empire Club(15*)** once stood from 1913 to 1987, when it burnt down.



Empire Club

The gardens of the club, which included a bandstand, occupied the western slope of the hill and were opened by King George V.

At the top of the hill on the right hand side and also taking advantage of the view, stood the **Wesleyan Soldiers Home (16*)**.



Wesleyan Soldiers Home

This was opened in 1905 and boasted a large hall, reading rooms and baths. Behind this and originally surrounded by a large garden stands **Martinique House (17)**, the Commanding Officer's residence for **Martinique Barracks**. The soldiers' hutted encampment lay further on at the bottom of the hill. Bear left and join Haweswater Road. At the junction with Ennerdale Road turn left and then next but one right into Beaufort Road. Follow this to the end and turn left into Windermere Road. Continue on this road and turn right when it joins **Station Road**, This once led to Bordon Station, which opened in 1905 and closed to passengers in 1957.

On the opposite side of the road is the **Garrison Church (18)**. This was built in 1906 as the Royal Artillery Institute and served Louisburg Barracks. In 1983 it was consecrated as the Garrison Church of St George, receiving much of its internal furniture from the old corrugated iron church in Budds Lane.

Behind the new church, **Louisburg Barracks** can be seen. In 1906 this was the first brick built accommodation for the soldiers in Bordon and it also housed around 2,000 horses and mules.

Continue towards the traffic lights and the last building on the opposite side of the road, which is now the Phoenix Theatre, was **Bordon Junior School (19)**. In 1950 the school was taken over by Hampshire County Council and in 1967 moved to new premises in Budds Lane.

At the traffic lights turn right past the **Fire Station (20)**. This was also built in 1906 and served both the army and civilians. The stables behind housed the horses, three of which were needed to pull the fire engine. Opposite stood **St. Lucia Barracks** occupied by troops in 1903. Continue along Camp Road to **Lloyds Bank (21)**. In 1924 a bank clerk was murdered and money stolen by a soldier. The culprit was soon apprehended and put on trial in Winchester, where he was found guilty and hung.

After crossing Ennerdale Road, the One Stop shop has replaced the **Church of England Soldiers and Sailors Home (22*)** opened in 1904.



Church of England Soldiers and Sailors Home

This had the Brownlow Institute added to it in 1908, which held dances and cinema shows. Pinewood Village Hall occupies the site of the **Nat West Bank (23)**, a corrugated iron hut, which lasted into the 1990s.

On the opposite side of the road **Quebec Barracks** were the first to be completed in the new camp. In 1903 the Somersetshire Light Infantry took up residence having just returned from the Boer War in South Africa. When the camp first opened one of the huts was designated as a Post Office, but with more troops and civilians arriving, a permanent home was required.

The **Bordon Post Office (24)** was opened in 1908 and the original name Bordon Camp Post Office can still be seen on the front.

Continue along the main road and pass the land on the right hand side where **Guadeloupe Barracks** stood. On the opposite side there was a recreation ground. This later housed the Canadian troops in wooden huts, which were only demolished in 1998.

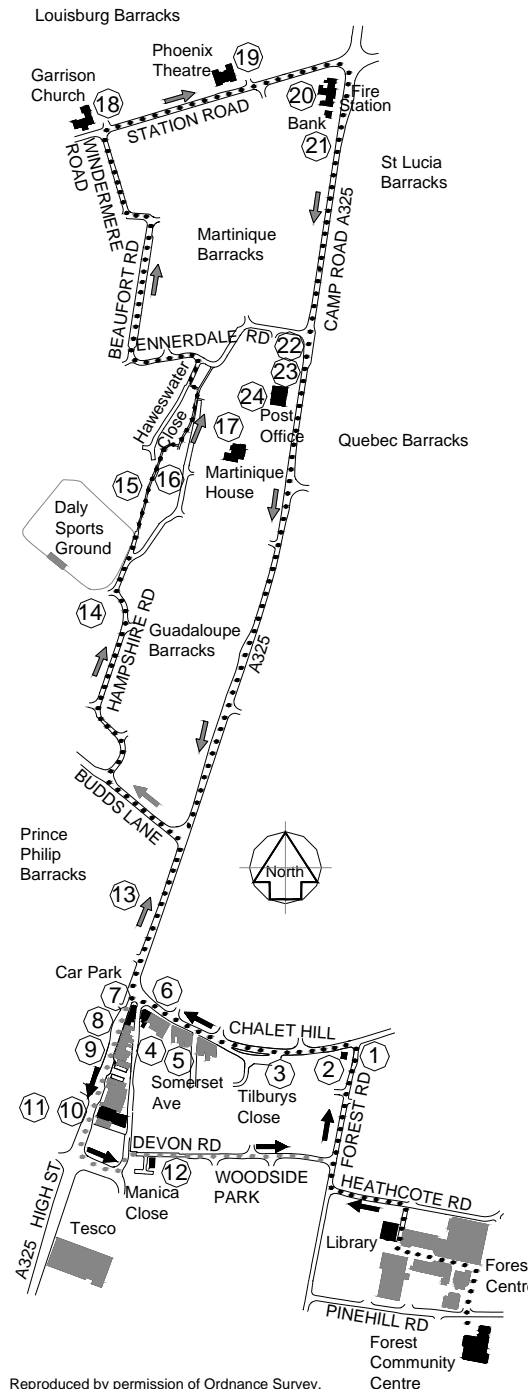
At the top of Chalet Hill join **THE SHORT WALK** along the High Street and back to the Community Centre.

Refreshments during your walk may be obtained at Millennium Café – Forest Shopping Centre
 Tesco's Café – Tesco's Store, High Street
 Woodlarks PH – Petersfield Road, Whitehill
 Woodlands PH – Lindford Road, Bordon

Further information on the history of Bordon or Whitehill please visit our website on www.woolmerforest.org.uk. Alternatively contact the Woolmer Forest Heritage Society's Secretary on 01420 472329.



Map by TJB Architectural Services



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey, all rights reserved. O.S. Licence No. 100046818.



Town Trails

OUR EDWARDIAN TOWN

A short or long walk around Bordon, looking at past and present Edwardian features.



Phillips Brothers stores

Frisby's

Bordon at the start of the Edwardian era was little more than a hamlet of 107 inhabitants. The construction of a military camp in 1903 rapidly increased that number 100 times.

By Chris Wain,
 Woolmer Forest Heritage Society
 © 2008