

= Southgate , West Sussex =

Southgate is one of the 13 residential neighbourhoods in Crawley , a town and borough in West Sussex , England . Crawley was planned and laid out as a New Town after the Second World War , based on the principle of self contained neighbourhoods surrounding a town centre of civic and commercial buildings . Southgate was one of the four in the " inner ring " closest to the town centre , and was intended to be the largest of the nine designed in the original master plan . It was built in two stages between the 1950s and the 1970s , but retains some older buildings from before the New Town era and has " significant areas of pre New Town character " .

The area was settled by pre Roman people , and industrial and other artefacts from that era were found during construction of the neighbourhood . In the 19th century , after Crawley was connected to the national railway network , housing developed south of the line around the Brighton Road , which divides the modern neighbourhood in two . New Town era expansion produced a large residential area with a high proportion of terraced houses and a range of schools , places of worship and community facilities ; but some historic buildings and areas of open space remain , including an award winning park . The population at the time of the United Kingdom Census 2001 was 8 ,016 .

= = History = =

In the century before the Romans arrived in Britain , the area now covered by West Sussex was ruled by the Atrebates , a Belgic tribe led by Commius . They were found to have been present in the area now covered by Southgate when building work took place in 1969 . The Southgate West development was underway on land covered by Hogs Hill Farm , which occupied a ridge of land between the Horsham and Brighton Roads . Land clearance revealed two ditches filled with debris such as bones and pieces of pottery . The next year , a large house on Horsham Road was demolished to make way for a new road of houses ; the builders discovered similar pits , and the remains were identified as pre Roman using carbon dating techniques . The remains of crucibles , slag and other ironworking materials were also discovered ; these were confirmed as being from the same era , the 2nd and 1st centuries BC . It was later confirmed that the Hogs Hill Farm remains dated from the Roman era , meaning that the ironmaking and pottery producing activities of the Atrebates were continued by their conquerors . By the time the excavations and investigation finished , evidence of three iron bloomeries , a small flint mine , roof tiles ( possibly from a building on the site ) and many pieces of pottery had been found and catalogued .

These discoveries confirmed for the first time the existence of Iron Age , pre Roman ironmaking and industrial development in the area of northern Sussex now occupied by Crawley . Despite this , investigation and analysis were initially discouraged . The Commission for the New Towns , responsible for the town 's development at that stage , did not want building work to be delayed , and tried to prevent archaeologists , other professionals , enthusiasts and the general public alike visiting the Hogs Hill Farm site and searching for remains . Workers on the site were expressly forbidden from doing so , although the first discovery had in fact been made by one . By the time the second site was developed in 1970 , attitudes had changed , and professional groups were involved from the beginning .

Crawley began to develop slowly from the 13th century , when it was granted a royal charter for a market . Its ecclesiastical parish , centred on St John the Baptist 's Church , was tiny in comparison to neighbouring Worth and Ifield . The parish had an unusual shape : very narrow , long from north to south , and gradually widening to the north until it met the county boundary with Surrey . This directed development northwards along the High Street , part of the ancient London to Brighton road which had provided the impetus for development to begin . The road was partly turnpiked after an Act of Parliament in 1696 , and became fully turnpiked in 1770 . By this time the distinction between the name " London Road " ( the section north of the church ) and " Brighton Road " ( southwards ) had been made ; and tollgates were built north and south of the town : these became known as the North Gate and South Gate .

Crawley was connected to the railway network in 1848 when a line was built from Three Bridges to Horsham . It crossed the High Street at a level crossing at the south end of the built @-@ up area . The provision of fast , regular trains to London and other destinations stimulated residential and commercial development , especially around the station . South of the line , around the Brighton Road , there was plenty of land for building ; in the second half of the 19th century , two building firms ? the most important in Crawley 's pre @-@ New Town history ? exploited it by building two areas of housing which still exist today , forming the northernmost part of the Southgate neighbourhood . Richard Cook set up a building firm next to the railway line soon after its completion ; in the early 1870s he built some streets of mainly terraced houses west of Brighton Road . Confusingly in the context of Crawley 's later history , this area was called " New Town " , a name which persisted for many years ; it had no connection with the later establishment of the New Town of Crawley under the New Towns Act 1946 , the name being merely a coincidence . Based around Springfield Road and West Street , at the junction of which was Cook 's yard , the " New Town " area had 43 houses in 1875 . In the early 1880s , James Longley established his building company nearby , which by 1909 had built an estate of houses east of the Brighton Road . The roads East Park and Malthouse Road had a mixture of terraced cottages , semi @-@ detached houses , detached houses and large villas , all built from red brick . Large houses were also built down both sides of the Brighton Road . Goffs Park Road , between the Brighton and Horsham Roads , began to be built up in 1895 , and saw more residential development in the interwar period .

Apart from these residential buildings , farms and their associated land , there was little else in the area now known as Southgate until Crawley Development Corporation started building the neighbourhood in the 1950s . Some shops , a corn merchant 's premises and a brewery were built near the level crossing in the late 19th century . Crawley 's first permanent cinema , the Imperial , was established nearby in 1911 , replacing a temporary structure ; it burnt down in 1928 but was rebuilt , only to be superseded by a larger building in the town centre in the 1930s . It has been a car dealership since the 1940s . Further down the Brighton Road , near the Hogs Hill Farm where Iron Age remains were later found , the Half Moon Inn and Hotel was built in the late 19th century , and rebuilt in 1890 . To the west , Goffs Park was established as a parkland and recreational area by the early 20th century . It covers more than 50 acres ( 20 ha ) , and its recreational features now include play areas for children , playing fields , sports pitches , lakes , a golf course and a miniature railway .

During World War II , the Crawley area was hit by about 50 high explosive bombs and 2 @, @ 000 incendiary bombs . The attack which caused the greatest loss of life happened on 10 July 1944 , when Southgate 's Victorian streets were hit by two V @-@ 1 flying bombs . One landed in Malthouse Road and did not detonate , but another destroyed 15 houses , killed seven people and injured 44 more when it exploded at the junction of Oak Road and West Street .

= = = New Town era = = =

Crawley was designated as a New Town in January 1947 after the New Towns Act 1946 identified it as a suitable site for one . A Development Corporation was formed , led by the architect Thomas Bennett , and planner Anthony Minoprio provided a master plan for the town 's development . He proposed a double ring of nine neighbourhoods surrounding an extended town centre . Southgate was to form the southern part of the inner ring , between the town centre and the southern section of the planned Crawley ring road ( which already existed , formed by Crawley and Southgate Avenues ) . Its built @-@ up area , excluding Goffs Park ? which would lie within the neighbourhood 's northwest corner ? was to be 138 hectares ( 340 acres ) .

The development was intended to take place in two stages : Southgate East , east of the Brighton Road , was to have been built in the early 1950s , and land west of Brighton Road ( Southgate West ) was to be reserved for expansion of the neighbourhood in the early 1960s . Both stages were delayed : the Development Corporation did not finalise their plan for Southgate East until 1954 , several years after building should have started . Work was eventually carried out between 1955 and 1957 , making Southgate the seventh neighbourhood to be started .

Southgate West suffered even longer delays , partly because of problems with the planned construction processes . Work should have started in 1961 but had to wait until 1968 ; plans were not submitted until 1966 . The archaeological discoveries in 1969 and 1970 caused further delays , and Southgate West was not complete until 1972 .

The master plan proposed that a neighbourhood centre , consisting of community centre , public house , school , church and shopping parade , should be an integral part of each neighbourhood . Initially the Development Corporation provided temporary community centre buildings ; West Sussex County Council provided a permanent facility in 1974 . A shopping parade was built on Wakehurst Drive in Southgate East in the mid @-@ 1950s ; the Development Corporation tried to provide some architectural diversity between the neighbourhoods , and as such it was designed as an arcade . St Mary 's Church was built opposite the parade in 1958 ; and infant and junior schools were provided in both halves of the neighbourhood .

In the early 21st century , commercial development spread along Southgate Avenue south of the railway line : a series of seven @-@ storey office blocks were built . The Arora International Hotel Gatwick / Crawley also stands nearby .

= = Location within Crawley = =

Southgate is south of the Northgate neighbourhood ( which includes Crawley town centre ) and West Green ; the Arun Valley railway line forms the boundary . Gossops Green lies to the west , Broadfield is to the southwest , Tilgate is to the south and Furnace Green shares a small border to the east . These are separated from Southgate by the A23 ( Crawley Avenue ) ? part of the Crawley bypass built in the 1930s ? and the A2004 Southgate Avenue . The A2219 Brighton Road , part of the original turnpike , coaching route and later main road from London to Brighton , runs through the heart of Southgate from north to south . The neighbourhood is roughly pentagonal and covers 181 hectares ( 450 acres ) .

When the New Town was planned , each neighbourhood was allocated a colour , which appears on street name signs together with the neighbourhood 's name . Southgate 's colour is dark brown .

= = Governance = =

When Crawley Urban District was formed in May 1956 , it was divided into eight wards whose boundaries were identical with those of eight of the extant and planned neighbourhoods . By 1983 , nine years after the district became a borough , the town had thirteen wards . This position remained the same until an electoral review in 2002 , which created two new wards . Throughout these changes , Southgate 's ward boundaries remained the same , and they are still coterminous with those of the neighbourhood . The ward elects three councillors .

= = Demography = =

The neighbourhood is coterminous with the administrative ward of the same name , which is one of the fifteen wards in Crawley . These divisions are used for collecting census and other statistical and demographic data . Southgate 's population of 8 @, @ 106 at the time of the 2001 United Kingdom Census made it Crawley 's fifth most populous neighbourhood . Based on its 181 @-@ hectare ( 450 @-@ acre ) area , its population density was 44 @.@ 75 inhabitants per hectare ( 18 @.@ 11 / acre ) ? more than twice as high as the 22 @.@ 18 inhabitants per hectare ( 8 @.@ 98 / acre ) density for Crawley overall .

At the census date there were 3 @, @ 421 households , of which 2 @, @ 317 ( 68 % ) were owned by the occupier , 756 ( 22 % ) were rented from Crawley Borough Council or another public @-@ sector landlord , 274 ( 8 % ) were rented privately and 74 ( 2 % ) were occupied rent @-@ free . These proportions are almost identical to the housing tenure mix of Crawley as a whole . The relatively high population density is partly explained by the relatively high proportion of residents who live in purpose @-@ built flats or maisonettes of various types : 16 % compared to the Crawley

figure of 11 % . Many low @-@ rise blocks of flats were built in Southgate West in the 1970s ? in particular the extensive Caburn Heights development of three @-@ storey blocks . The most prevalent housing type in Southgate , in which 52 % of residents live , is the terraced house . The proportion is about ? in Southgate West .

According to the census , 90 @.@ 6 % of Southgate residents were White , 6 @.@ 3 % were Asian or Asian @-@ British , 0 @.@ 8 % were Black or Black @-@ British , 1 @.@ 5 % were mixed @-@ race and 0 @.@ 7 % were from another ethnic background . The proportion of white people was slightly higher , and that of Asian people slightly lower , than in Crawley overall ; other proportions were comparable to Crawley as a whole . Southgate 's age profile at the census date was older than that of Crawley as a whole , in common with the other inner neighbourhoods : 1 @,@ 609 residents ( 19 @.@ 8 % ) were under 18 years old , 4 @,@ 853 ( 59 @.@ 9 % ) were between 18 and 64 years old , and 1 @,@ 644 ( 20 @.@ 3 % ) were 65 years old or older . The corresponding figures for Crawley were 23 @,@ 748 ( 23 @.@ 8 % ) , 61 @,@ 338 ( 61 @.@ 5 % ) and 14 @,@ 658 ( 14 @.@ 7 % ) .

= = Economy = =

Modern Southgate is primarily residential , and the area was mostly undeveloped before the New Town was created . Nevertheless , some commercial and industrial development existed around the Brighton Road and railway line , and farming provided employment . Two sets of local shops serve the modern neighbourhood , but its proximity to Crawley town centre and main transport routes mean that , as intended in Anthony Minoprio 's masterplan , residents travel outside Southgate for most of their employment and shopping requirements .

In common with other areas around Crawley , the land to the south was held by several large farms . Malthouse Farm had its own small @-@ scale brickworks as well ; Hilltop Farm was at the highest point in the area , 315 feet ( 96 m ) above sea level ; and Hogs Hill Farm , named after the herds of pigs farmed there , stood on a ridge east of the Brighton Road .

Crawley 's two main building firms had their yards and works in the Victorian streets near the railway line . Richard Cook 's firm , which built the houses and streets of the 19th @-@ century " New Town " development , was founded in 1861 and was based at the corner of two of the new streets . The works included a brickyard ; poor drainage led to soil and dirty water from it polluting the surrounding area . The Crawley and Ifield Vigilance Committee , an amateur pressure group , demanded improvements for several years , and proper drains were eventually laid . Cook and Sons ' advertisements revealed the range of products manufactured : the works made bricks , tiles , pipes and pottery , and his team of labourers carried out all types of building and contracting work . James Longley and Sons became the most famous business in Crawley and one of its largest : in 1898 more than 700 people worked for it . Longley moved his small firm from Turners Hill in 1881 when he bought Malthouse Farm and its brickworks . Expansion was rapid , and they received commissions for Christ 's Hospital school near Horsham , the King Edward VII sanatorium in Midhurst , Graylingwell Hospital in Chichester , the choir stalls in Westminster Abbey and almost every railway station owned by the London , Brighton and South Coast Railway . Longley and Sons , which soon became Longley and Company , quickly became one of southeast England 's main building firms ; but it was nearly ruined on 20 March 1924 when the joinery and timber works , all stock inside it and sixty machines were destroyed by fire . The firm recovered , though , and was able to tender for a wide range of contracts in the New Town era , including Hazelwick School , much of the Manor Royal industrial estate , Crawley fire station , the Queen 's Square shopping area and Crawley College 's tower block extension .

Neither building firm survives . Cook 's lasted into the New Town era but wound down after that ; their work survives in the streets of Southgate and at St Peter 's Church in West Green , a school in Handcross , the churchyard of St Margaret 's Church , Ifield and elsewhere . Longley and Company ceased trading in 2000 , and the works and associated buildings were demolished soon afterwards to make way for housing and a hotel . The Arora International Hotel Gatwick / Crawley , which has conference facilities , a large health and fitness suite and restaurant , was built on the site at the end

of East Park in 2001 . The 4 @-@ star hotel has 432 bedrooms .

= = Public buildings and facilities = =

St Mary 's Church is the Anglican parish church of Southgate . The churches in the Broadfield , Furnace Green and Tilgate neighbourhoods are linked to it as daughter churches . Architects Henry Braddock and D.F. Martin @-@ Smith designed it in 1958 . The concrete and glass structure has a small flèche on top of a bell tower , and has an adjoining hall which can be opened out to increase the capacity of the church . It is on Wakehurst Drive opposite the main shopping parade . The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints has a meetinghouse on Horsham Road ; it was designed by the chief architect of the town , Sir Thomas Bennett , and built in 1964 on land provided by Crawley Development Corporation . ChristChurch ( formerly Gateway Church International ) on Brewer Road is a non @-@ denominational church associated with the New Covenant Ministries International movement ; its barnlike building has a semicircular roof .

St Wilfrid 's Catholic School is a 900 @-@ pupil voluntary aided secondary school , which opened in 1952 in the former Oakwood House next to Goffs Park . It was extended several times and became a comprehensive in 1967 . Former pupils include Robert Smith of rock band The Cure . A Roman Catholic primary school , St Francis of Assisi School , is located on Southgate Drive . Southgate Primary School was formed in 2004 from a merger between a first school and a middle school on the same site . The school is now a 400 pupil fast @-@ growing school . These had in turn been formed from the original Southgate County Infant and Junior School , opened in 1956 . Residential development in Southgate West resulted in the opening of first and middle schools there , in 1969 and 1970 respectively ; these closed in 2004 and were replaced by Hilltop Primary School .

The Development Corporation set up a sub @-@ committee in 1953 to decide how public houses should be provided in the New Town neighbourhoods . The Downsman pub was built shortly afterwards next to the shopping parade . Elsewhere , Goffs Manor pub and restaurant is near Goffs Park , and the Half Moon remains on the Brighton Road . As at July 2014 , The Half Moon is closed for refurbishment and is due to reopen in August 2014 as the New Moon .

St. Catherine 's Hospice , a charity which provides hospice care to patients throughout West Sussex and Surrey , is based on Malthouse Road in the 19th @-@ century part of Southgate . Crawley 's new skatepark was built on playing fields at Southgate Avenue in 2007 .

= = Heritage = =

Two of the 100 listed buildings and structures in the Borough of Crawley are in Southgate . Goffs Manor , in Goffs Park , is a Grade II @-@ listed 16th @-@ century farmhouse which is now a restaurant and pub . Before its conversion , actor Peter Vaughan owned and lived in it . The building is timber @-@ framed , as many Crawley houses of the time were , although little of this is now visible . The upper floor is hung with red tiles . The roof is made of slabs of Horsham Stone . An original open fireplace remains inside . The signal box next to the level crossing on Crawley High Street , another Grade II @-@ listed building , is just on the Southgate side of the railway line . It was built in about 1860 and has a hipped roof .

Crawley Borough Council has designated a conservation area around the level crossing on Brighton Road . Part of this falls within Southgate 's boundaries . Elsewhere , Goffs Park Road has been given the status of an Area of Special Environmental Quality . Goffs Park itself was given a Green Flag Award in July 2008 in recognition of its high standards .

There were 59 locally listed buildings in Crawley as of 2010 ; seven are in Southgate . Crawley Museum is based in Goffs Park House in Goffs Park , although in March 2010 plans were announced to move it elsewhere in the town ? possibly to Tree House , a vacant council @-@ owned listed building in the town centre . Goffs Park House was designed in 1882 by architect William Buck and built by a Horsham @-@ based firm on behalf of banker Edwin Henty . The red @-@ brick , Bath stone and sandstone building combines the Queen Anne Revival and Vernacular

styles . Its large grounds have become Goffs Park . Nightingale House on the Brighton Road dates from 1901 and was originally a bank branch . Its " striking corner turret " , oriel windows and detailed treatment of the ground @-@ floor elevation make it a local landmark . The four villas at 108 ? 122 Malthouse Road , forming eight semi @-@ detached houses , are of a similar date and retain most of their original features such as carved timber porches and stained glass panelling . The local building firm James Longley & Company built them . Goffs Park Road was developed with large houses in the early 20th century , and Park Lodge and Masons Hall ( now offices ) are two examples . Park Lodge has been considerably altered but retains the character of a " late Victorian red @-@ brick villa " ; Masons Hall is later ( 1905 ) and " rather eccentric " , resembling a Tuscan villa and featuring a campanile @-@ style projection at one corner . Nearby , 49 Brighton Road , a large detached villa , is an example of Richard Cook 's late @-@ 19th @-@ century housing in the " New Town " area of Southgate . It has red @-@ brick walls with ornate mouldings , timber @-@ framed gables and original sash windows . St Mary 's Church is also on the local list .

= = Transport = =

Metrobus , which operates most local bus services in Crawley , serves several stops in Southgate on route 1 . Longer @-@ distance route 23 runs via the Horsham Road to Worthing and Horsham . The nearest railway station is Crawley , which has a rear entrance on East Park Road in the north of the neighbourhood .

Levels of vehicle ownership , as measured by the 2001 census , are lower than in Crawley as a whole . At the census date , the mean number of vehicles per household was 1 @. @ 09 ( the overall Crawley figure was 1 @. @ 21 ) , and 25 @. @ 4 % of households had no transport of their own , compared to 20 @. @ 4 % in Crawley overall .