

ANDREWS FARM, Andrews Lane

This was a substantial farm, dating back to the late mediaeval period. When it was sold in 1890 it comprised "70 acres of well-timbered meadow, arable and woodland" stretching from Station Road in the north to what is now the Foxfield Cottages and Oak Close area in the south. This explains why Andrews Lane and Andrews Road were so named, after the farm was sold to CJ Mills for use as a brickworks, even though they are some distance apart.

In 1785 Andrews Farm is shown in Sir Henry Fletcher's rent rolls as being occupied by Edward Stedman. In 1805 the annual rent was £ 17 10s 0d and Edward Stedman had to pay a further £ 3 10s 0d in tax. By



1844 it was occupied by James Baker and his family. His son, Harry, went
Photo by Ida Branton

on to found H Baker & Son (Builders) Ltd. By 1871 the house was split into two dwellings and remained divided until it was sold by the Brickyard in the 1960s to Perce Ridgely, a brickworks' manager, and Norman Sheppard.

The farmhouse comprised two separate three-bay ranges set at right angles. It lay just south of Southwater station, between the railway line and the old brickworks, and was demolished in the 1980s. The area where it stood is now an unused car park in Southwater Business Park !