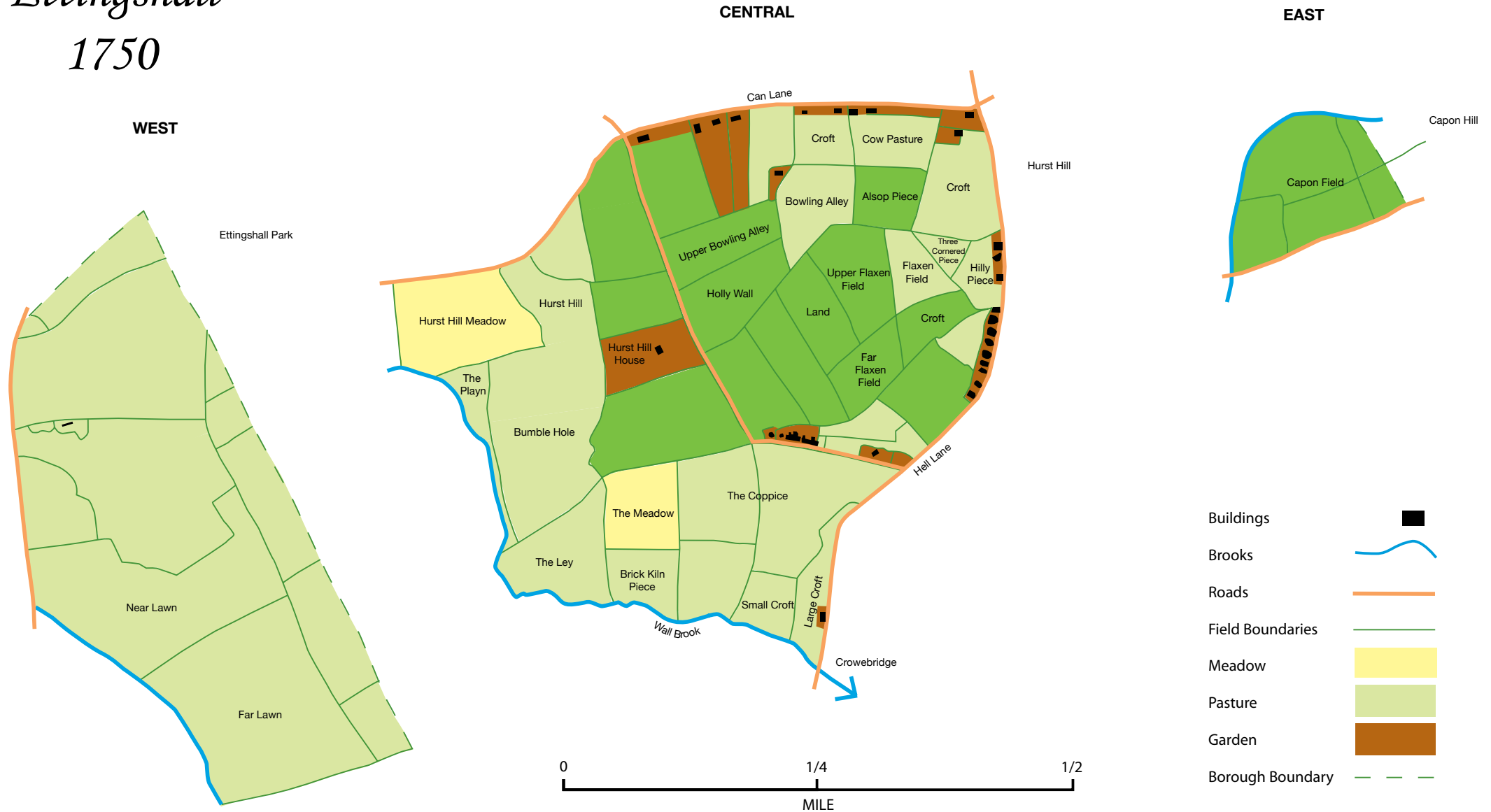


# Part of Township of Ettingshall 1750



## **Ettingshall Township**

Ettingshall is in the parish of Sedgley and within the county of Stafford. The place-name is in Early English (Anglo-Saxon) and is the personal masculine name *Eatte*, with *ing* – the descendants of..., and *hale* – the corner of nook of land where they live. Only a small part of the parish has been included in the Borough; part of Ettingshall Park in the west, Hurst Hill and part of Highfields. The geology of the area is limestone in the west and coal measures with fireclay in the east.

Ettingshall was first mentioned in an AD994 charter relating to a gift of Lady Wulfruna to the church of *Hampton* (Wolverhampton). By Domesday Book (1086) it had devolved to the Norman William fitz Ansculf. A wood is mentioned as being there at the time which probably was on the site of Ettingshall Park. The fact that it had originally been part of Wolverhampton's land was proven in a land transaction in 1261, when the Baron of Dudley held Ettingshall Park by giving so many pounds of wax to the Church of Wolverhampton.

### Ettingshall Park

The lands were part of the estate known as Ettingshall Park. This was used as a park through the medieval period and due to it being on a slope has still not been developed. From the late 16<sup>th</sup> century the Gibbons family occupied the park. A *Willielmus Gybbyns* is recorded as holding it in 1588. This went to the Fereday's in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Samuel Fereday started in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century as a mason in Upper Gornal. He sold freestone which was used for the beds of furnaces and died in 1796. His son Samuel became a farmer at Park Farm but eventually resided at Ettingshall Park and was one of the largest owners of blast furnaces of his time. His son Dudley Fereday of Ettingshall Park was recorded as a gentleman and died unmarried and Dudley's cousin John rebuilt Ellowes Hall, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Hurst Hill

This is an Early English place-name and means a wood on a bank. Another early form in the 13<sup>th</sup> century is *Hurstmore* which indicated it was close to a moor. By the late medieval period the landscape of Hurst Hill included an oval shaped open field called Flaxen Field. This was surrounded by pasture land and an area bordering the Wall Brook called Bumble Hole.

The Bumble Hole area was a site of early limestone mining activity. The earliest record of lime-working is in the reign of Elizabeth I. Documentary references refer to John Hall (1576) and Steyne Eyton (1601) as being '*lyme-makers*' and in 1614 Edward Hall is recorded as "*holding a pasture called the Playne Hurst Fields conteyning by estimation 10 acres with the mynes called lyme pits.*" The limestone quarries still exist in the present Hurst Hill Wood.

In a Survey of the Manor of Sedgley in 1614 *John Pershouse* of Walsall is said to have held *Flaxalls* as a tenement. The area he held seems to have been most of the Hurst Hill block including *Lymepitt Leasowe* next to the limestone workings. Only two cottages are

recorded on the site in this document. It is probably the lime-workings that took the life of William Baker of Synderhill in 1657, when he was *killed by the earth falling on him*.

Both coal and limestone were available at Hurst Hill and the area began to be used for these industries. The mining of the minerals accounted for the population increase as a lineal development along the various roads of the area. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century these routes had undergone name changes that were supposed to relate to the people who lived in them. Hell Lane (now Upper Ettingshall Road) was supposed to be particularly relevant and a verse was composed which ran.

*The devil ran through Sedgley  
All booted and spurred;  
With a scythe at his back  
As long as a sword.*

This association with the devil's works brought John Wesley to preach from a cottage in 1798. A Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was built on the opposite side of the road in the same year and a Mr Hayward, a noted Methodist, had a school erected in Ivy House Lane in 1805. Hells Lane was turnpiked in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Catchems Corner relates to a toll house that 'caught' people. Most of the coal deposits were worked out by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but brick works still operated. The established church was a little late to get to Hurst Hill as St Mary the Virgin was built in 1872. The ecclesiastical parish of Hurst's Hill was founded in the following year, in 1873. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the demand for housing led to most of the area being developed.

### Highfields

This area was composed of two open fields; Capons Field in the north and Highfields in the south. In a Survey of the Manor of Sedgley in 1614 *Thomas and William Gybbyns* are said to hold closes in this area as did Roger Hickman. By that date numerous coal pits had been excavated around the area.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century Birmingham Canal looped across Highfield and from that time on the coal that lay under the ground was mined in greater quantity. Blast furnaces grew in the area and Highfield Furnace, which made bedsteads and safes was the late 19<sup>th</sup> century version of these. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the decline in industry residential houses started to be built over the area.

John Hemingway, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005.

Notes: The base material for the composition of the 1750 map is the parish map of 1826, with other material gathered from local histories and documentary research.

## Select Sources

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