

Gazetteer

A-Z guide to past and present houses, roads and placenames in Hamstead Marshall

Several houses have had their names changed in recent years. Entries in the gazetteer use the current names, but there are also references from familiar old names.

Numbered houses: Hamstead's house numbers defy all logic. Duplication is caused by parallel but separate numbering sequences for the older estate cottages, Ash Tree Grove, Elm Farm Cottages and Hamstead Mill. Below is a definitive guide to the system, including some history for those houses without names, and which are not listed under the A - Z sequence.

Nos 1 - 8 = the former council houses in Kintbury Road, 1,2,3,4 dating from 1928, and 5,6,7,8 from 1955. Their addresses are generally given as "No X, The Village, Hamstead Marshall".

But some of these numbers are duplicated elsewhere:

No 2 is also the number of the Old Post Office.

No 5 also used to apply to one of the two cottages now combined into Holtwood Cottage.

Nos 7 and 8 also refer to the semi-detached cottage opposite Salters, also on the south side of the Kintbury Road. These cottages are marked on the Rocque map of 1761 and on the 1775 survey map. The tenants in 1840 were Joseph Green and John Hockley, a brickmaker. No 7 was put up for auction by the Craven estate in 1977, and is now much extended. No 8 was where John Parr the photographer lived from the beginning of this century until the Second World War. When No 8 was vacated by a Craven tenant a few years ago, it was bought by the owner of No 7 but has since changed hands again, and is owned by another neighbour.

The following numbered houses are listed in the A-Z Gazetteer under their names:

Nos 9 and 10 = Salters

No 12 = Lamellion

No 14 = Midsummer Cottage

No 17 = Gully Cottage

No 18 = Hayseed Hollow, formerly Clareville Cottage

Nos 23, 24, 25 form a terrace on Chapel Corner, marked on the 1775 survey map. At that time they were held by Jonathan Tub. Ann Plumb occupied No 23 in 1840. The Rolfe family lived in No 23 in 1922, and shortly afterwards the Dixons. It was put up for auction by the Craven estate in 1977. No 24 was held by William Fisher in 1924, then the Durbridge family, and later by May Pocock née Burton. After she died in 1987 it was put up for auction. In 1840 No 25 was held by Moses Martin, a carter from Wiltshire, with his wife Charlotte and children Maria and Thomas. They eventually moved to Brixton. The Taylor family occupied the house in the 1930s, and it was sold at auction by the Craven estate in 1977.

No 27 = Hawthorne Cottage

No 41 = Craven Keep

No 43 = Harvest Cottage

No 44 = Dairy Cottage

No 48 = Hillside Cottage

No 50/51 = Craven Lodge

No 53 = Parterre

A to Z

April Cottage is a detached house built in the early 1980s in **Park Lane**.

Ash Tree Corner used to be called just the Ash Tree. It has had houses on three of its four corners for centuries.

Ash Tree Cottage is the other half of **Midsummer Cottage** on **Ash Tree Corner**. There used to be a small cottage at the back as well, and both were owned by the Toomer family in 1840, when the occupants were Frederick Owen and Thomas Wernham. Mark Myram, rabbit-catcher, lived here in 1891. The Gibbs family held it in the early to mid-1920s, followed by the Bushnell family around 1928. It was sold at auction in 1987, when one of the last remaining Craven tenants died.

Ash Tree Grove site was built upon in the late eighteenth century, although it was green field again by the twentieth century. Four wooden **Swedish houses** were built by the council after the Second World War, and later more land was acquired to build council bungalows. Fire gutted two of the Swedish houses in 1990, and the rest were then pulled down to make way for seven new brick houses which, together with the bungalows, belong to the Sovereign Housing Association.

Ash Tree Plantation is 10.5 acres of woodland on the north-eastern corner of **Ash Tree Corner**. It used to be called Glasses Park. Planted with Scots pine and larch in 1928 and 1965, it was offered for auction by the Craven estate in 1984.

Barn House in **Holtwood** is a converted barn, formerly belonging to **Holtwood Farm**. Before its present domestic use it operated briefly as a nursing home. In more recent years a second, smaller barn has been developed, also for residential use, and is called **Barn House Cottage**.

Barr's Farm used to lie in Kintbury parish, but a 1991 adjustment to the parish boundary has brought it into Hamstead Marshall. Barr's Farm is shown in the 1775 estate survey. The origin of its name is uncertain, but a Thomas Barr was one of Lord Craven's tenants in the village in 1702, Frederick Snook had Barr's Farm in 1893, and William Clark by 1924 through to at least 1931. He was the first person in the village to acquire a car, a large, square Ford much admired by his neighbours. C J Parsons had the tenancy in the 1950s and 1960s, when the land was used chiefly for growing barley.

Benham Marsh Farm is the name by which Ordnance Survey continues to describe **Marsh Benham Farm**.

Briff's Copse lies south-west of **Elm Farm**. Its 11 acres form part of a mass of woodland through which runs the parish boundary with Kintbury.

Chapel Corner got its name from the Congregational chapel built here in the mid-nineteenth century. Before that it was three acres of common land called Upper Green, surrounded by houses. In 1810 a lane ran along what is now the back of the houses from **Clove Cottage** in a straight line to **Whitehill Farm**, with buildings on both sides. By 1840 this road had disappeared, and the common land had been fenced off and allotted for cultivation. There were also several houses from where the post box is now, up to **Whitehill Farm**; these were let by the churchwardens. These cottages seem to have gone by 1840, when the field was called Slocketts. It is still a field, now

containing an ornamental lake. The name Chapel Corner is widely used in the village, but is not recognised by Ordnance Survey.

Chapel Cottage was built as a Congregational chapel in 1846. Before that the plot was known as the Enclosure, probably because it was carved out of the common land which existed here as Upper Green before the Enclosure Act of 1810.

Clareville was the old name for **Hayseed Hollow**.

Clove Cottage lies on the western side of **Chapel Corner**, on the **Kintbury Road**. It is a Grade II-listed cottage of sixteenth-century origin. On the 1775 survey map it appears as two cottages held by Thomas Watts and John Waters. Francis Shephard of Kintbury had the house in 1775. He died in 1811 aged 75, and is buried in the churchyard. In 1840 the tenancy appears to have been shared by Robert Punter, George Miles and Elizabeth Russ. This house seems to have usually had relatively well-to-do occupants. The Punter family moved in here from next door **Maythorne** (now called **Vine Cottage**) in 1920s, although the house did not have a name then. It was converted into one large cottage in the early 1960s. Until the 1991 change the parish boundary ran under the kitchen floor.

The field opposite Clove Cottage used to contain the village allotments until the Second World War.

Common Cottage lies at the bottom of the old **Holtwood Common** track, and is the last remaining one of several which once edged the common. One of these in the nineteenth century was occupied by Thomas Payne from Shropshire; his job was described as "warrener", although this term was by no means limited to watching over rabbit warrens. Harriet Hill also lived here in 1871. One branch of the Punter family lived here at the turn of the century.

Copse (Copp's) Lock is the next lock westwards along the canal after **Hamstead Lock**. It lies opposite **Morewood**, and marks the confluence of the canal with the Kennet river.

Craven Cottage on the **Kintbury Road** near the Craven Arms is not within the parish boundary, although the village sign implies otherwise. The house was the site of a bizarre suicide case in the late 1970s. It was sold at auction in 1980, with 1.5 acres, having been empty for some time.

Craven Hill was known to older villagers as the **Stableyard**. This was the site of the old Home Farm (sometimes called Hamstead Farm), which worked the land now belonging to the **Morewood estate**. The first buildings of the Stableyard were laid out in the early 1660s with the building of the first earl's mansion, but were subject to changes in the eighteenth century. In aerial photos of 1947 and 1962 the outlines of the original buildings could still be seen stretching behind the agricultural buildings of that time, but much of this evidence has now been destroyed by landscape gardening behind the redeveloped barns. The Stableyard underwent its first conversion to six dwellings in the early 1960s. Sold first to Dreamlodge Ltd in the 1984 auction, the site was sold on immediately to Mayfern Properties, a development company headed by Newbury solicitor Jim Woodhead. A cottage on the northern side was demolished. Planning permission was obtained for seven separate dwellings based on new and existing buildings along the straight driveway, but conversion and development work

awaited specific instructions from each purchasers. Craven Hill is now a private road and public footpath with four houses on each side.

Craven House is a large, neo-Georgian executive-style house within the old, four-acre **Walled Garden**, which is listed as a Garden of Special Historic Interest due to its seventeenth-century raised bowling green on the roadside. The 1989 gales took down part of the house roof and a large part of the seventeenth-century wall at the back of the garden.

Craven Lodge lies on the southern side of **Craven Hill**, one of two semi-detached cottages. The first house was the home of William Billingham, Cornelia Craven's Daimler-trained head chauffeur, who was still living there in 1968. It is numbered 50. Second was the bothy or gardeners' cottage, No 51. Thomas Craven, the seventh earl, lived here briefly in the 1970s.

Craven Keep, No 41, is at least eighteenth-century in origin, if not much older. In 1775 Henry Paine held "a cottage at the Lamps" (this being the 12-acre field above Craven Keep, and site of twentieth-century gravel extraction). John Watts lived at Craven Keep in 1840. In this century Miss Myram, who helped to run the Sunday school, and her two brothers lived here, before retiring to **Keeper's Cottage/North Lodge**. The house was used briefly as an estate office in the 1970s, and in 1978 it was sold at auction with a five-acre paddock.

Craven View in **Craven Hill** has been so called since 1992, but was at one time known (as were several houses in the village) as **Keeper's Cottage**. It is Grade-II listed, and consists of a barn and cottage.

Dairy Cottage No 44 and **Harvest Cottage** No 43 are a pair of semi-detached cottages on **Warwick Hill**, appearing on the 1840 tithe map schedule as lease-owned by John Burton, but uninhabited at the time. Harvest Cottage was sold at auction by the Craven estate in 1977.

The **Dower House** is a large bungalow and garden in **Hamstead Park**, begun by the sixth earl close to the **Sham Castle** site, and finished after his death in 1965 by Elizabeth, his widow, and her second husband Kenneth Banner. They moved into it on letting **Hamstead Lodge** to **Edgecombe Nursing Home**. Lady Craven and her husband left Hamstead to live in Sussex in 1977 when her son Thomas, the seventh earl, attained his majority; he lived there until his death in 1983. The Dower House was sold with Hamstead Lodge at the 1984 auction.

The **Dreamland** was the name given to the park gardens created for Cornelia, Countess of Craven, inspired by her dream. A 1960s bungalow was built on the site for domestic staff by the sixth earl. This bungalow has been demolished.

Dreweats Lock is the second lock on the canal westwards from **Hamstead Lock**.

East Gate Cottage is the last house on the northern side of **Craven Hill**. It is built into the old estate wall. This conversion brought together a group of stables and out-buildings which were thought perhaps to have been the Craven Hunt kennels in the years when the lords Craven of 1739 - 1800 were Masters. A recent rebuild started from the original Craven buildings, now much extended. The curtilage of this property takes in the seventeenth-century gatepiers at the eastern end of the Craven Hill.

East Gate House stands at the end of **Craven Hill** on the southern side. It was built from new on a green plot, taking in as an annexe the old gate-house, which at one time had served as the estate office. East Gate House has part of the original mansion garden walling around its garden.

Edgecombe Nursing Home was set up in **Hamstead Lodge** in the 1960s when the dowager Countess of Craven (widow of the sixth earl) moved out and leased the manor house to Frances Cox. The building was sold to Dreamlodge Ltd in the 1984 auction, but the nursing home continued until the expiry of its lease in 1987, whereupon the 45 remaining patients transferred to Woolton Hill.

Elm Farm Cottages 1, 2 and 3 form a terrace of 1960s farmworkers' houses opposite **Elm Farm**. There used to be a line of fine elm trees here, said to have been cut down in the 1960s and sent to the Inkpen sawmills for coffins. In 2007/08 two of the cottages were sold off, still with an agricultural tie, to fund Elm Farm's development of other buildings. The third cottage was sold in 2019.

Elm Farm seems to have acquired its name in the twentieth century, although this former Craven landholding was one of the major tenancies of the village. The name The Elms appears in Edwardian directories, but the name Village Farm appears on the 1911 OS map, and was used well into the mid-twentieth century. The present farmhouse, three storeys high, is hard to date because it has been rendered in all-concealing grey pebbled-ash. The early eighteenth-century barn is still Grade II-listed, despite having been rebuilt from the ground up recently. There was a house here in 1775 held by Eliza Hamlin. James Cokes from Ramsbury held the farm in 1840 with around 120 acres of land nearby, including some which was enclosed from the common land of **Lower Green** after 1810. By 1851 he had 132 acres, increasing by 1861 to 200 acres, and then employing five men and five boys. He also ran a tailoring business from here. James Cokes is buried in the churchyard, having died in 1888 at the age of 81. Elm Farm was held by the Clarks early in this century, then by Herbert Thatcher in 1924, Albert Edward Cox in 1928, and Gus Punter (in addition to **Plumb's Farm**) in 1937 through to at least 1950. Elsie Punter, Gus' daughter, farmed here in the 1960s; she ran 230 acres with a dairy herd. From 1980 it was owned by the Organic Research Centre (ORC, formerly known as Elm Farm Research Centre), and the farmland rented out to an organic dairy farmer. In late 2018 the tenancy changed to a sheep farmer. ORC moved out in 2020, with most of the land sales completed in severalty. The farmyard buildings have been converted to residential use, with the farmhouse as a separate dwelling.

Elm View is a modern house on an old cottage site. In 1775 this was held by George Castle. In 1840 the occupant was Maria Lewis, then the recent widow of John Louis or Lewis, a Caribbean boy brought to England in 1797 by the sixth Lord Craven. In the first half of this century there were two cottages on this site, the eastern one being a shop in the early 1930s. One was also rented by Mildred Rose, the *Newbury Weekly News* columnist of the 1940s, who kept a donkey in the **Hatchbridge** field opposite. The present day house was built for Fred and Peggy Punter of **Elm Farm** in the early 1960s, on the site of these two cottages.

The **Enborne river** marks the southern boundary of the parish (and the county boundary) from **Smith's Bridge** to Hatt Common, where the parish meets Enborne. Old maps mark it as having a significant flood plain to either side. The river, which until

the nineteenth century was called the Aleburn, is fed by four headwater streams rising in Inkpen and West Woodhay, which feed into one stream near **Smith's Bridge**. The Enborne river joins the Kennet near Woolhampton.

Enborne Valley Farm was created in the 1990s from land on **Watery Lane**. Here is a pheasant-raising business, and is one of the few sites on which planning permission for a new house has been granted in recent decades.

Fishery Cottage is on land between the river and the canal, just downstream of **Hamstead Mill**. It does not appear on the 1840 tithe map, so perhaps was built later. The fishing bailiff for 60 years up to his death in 1887 was – appropriately – a Mr Pike. A *Newbury Weekly News* report named Robertson Maw was the water-keeper in 1896; that year he lost his baby son to drowning in the river. Robertson Maw was succeeded by William Tustin. Alexander Fraser was the fisherman in 1915, and had the job up to the Second World War. He died in 1942, and was buried in the churchyard. His widow then returned to her home in Inverness, but when she died three years later her body was returned to Hamstead for interment with her husband. In the Scottish tradition she is described on the headstone by her maiden name: Christina Mackenzie. Mildred Rose, one-time occupant of Elm View, also lived in the Fishery Cottage for a while during the war, and her *Newbury Weekly News* column under the pen-name Penelope made frequent reference to her idyllic surroundings there. The cottage was sold in the 1984 auction with the fishery and 28 acres, and became part of the Eddington estate. It was sold again in 2009. In 2020 planning permission was obtained to rebuild the cottage.

Foxlee Farm is the name given to a smallholding in **Watery Lane**, on which a house was built in the 1990s.

Frog Hall was a one-time holding right down by the river, reached by a track which used to turn north-westwards off **Milkhouse Lane** as it bends east towards **North Lodge** (where unwary drivers are apt to leave the road in icy weather). In 1840 Frog Hall was two separate holdings, occupied by George Miles and Marcella Goddard. By 1861 the tenant at Frog Hall was James Darling, a labourer from Kintbury, together with his wife Harriet and three sons. George Russ, writing in retrospect around 1900, recalled the occupant as George Goddard, variously employed as a bricklayer's caddy, roadscraper and gravedigger. He hailed from Chilton, and his wife's name was Elizabeth. Today there is no trace of the track, nor of Frog Hall, and no-one in the village recognises the name.

Gore End Road leads from **Holtwood** down to Gore End. The bridge over the **Enborne river** marks the point at which Berkshire meets Hampshire.

Gully Cottage No 17 is the rear half of the house whose roadside half is now called Hayseed Hollow. Both are thought to date from the sixteenth century, and are Grade II-listed. The house appears on Rocque's map of 1761. The tenancy in 1840 was shared by Daniel Beakhust, Richard Fraide and Charles Crocker. One room in Gully Cottage was converted to make a private kindergarten for Thomas, Simon and Ann Craven, the three children of the sixth earl, in the 1960s. Gully Cottage was sold off by the Craven estate in 1980.

Hall Cottage was built around the 1840s as the schoolteacher's house adjoining the village school (now the village hall). The adjoining school was rebuilt to more modern standards in 1892, but the teacher's house was not. When the school became a hall

the inter-connecting doors were bricked up, and the cottage became Hall Cottage, let separately by the Craven estate until it was sold at auction in 1982.

Hamstead Common was first marked in the 1775 survey map as 71 acres of open, poor-grade land with settlement around its edge, stretching from **Red Hill** in the north down to the parish boundary of the **Enborne river**. East-west the common land spanned from **Gore End Road** across to the point where it merged with Enborne's common, the two forming a long strip along the southern edge of both parishes. Sometimes it was called Holt Common, or Red Hill Common, all three names lasting for many decades after the land's enclosure by Act of Parliament in 1810. Much of Hamstead Common then became part of Thomas Coxhead's 1840 holding of Holtwood Farm, later planted with trees and called **Red Hill Plantation**. Part of the northern end of the common is now a burial ground called Acorn Ridge. The last remnant of the common survives in **Common Cottage**. Hamstead Growers was first set up by the Minett family in the **Walled Garden**, from which they moved to **Holtwood** in 1984. Some 30 acres of the former Hamstead Common was under cultivation as a market garden with pick-your-own facility in the summer. The business was sold in the 1990s, since when it has been an equestrian centre.

Hamstead Holt Farm is an old farmhouse with a modern bungalow in its yard. The farm was often not listed with Hamstead in directories because it lies closer to Kintbury than to the village centre, and the 1991 boundary changes have removed it from Hamstead to Kintbury. It was for a long time the largest farm in the parish. At the time of the 1830 Machine Riots it was held by Joseph Randall, together with a 322-acre land-holding stretching from the **Kintbury Road** to the **Kennet river**, and from Kintbury itself to **Old Lane**. Joseph Thatcher ran 400 acres here in 1861 with six labourers and four boys. When Joseph died his widow Elizabeth continued to run the farm, at one time employing 18 labourers and a bailiff. This complement had reduced by 1871 to eight men and four boys, probably reflecting the national onset of agricultural depression and the local switch from cereal growing to milking herds. In 1910 the farm comprised 350 acres, tenanted by Charles and W Moore. One of the many farm buildings on this large holding was a big shed used in the early twentieth century for storing the product from the whiting factory on **Irish Hill**, to which it was linked by a track. From the early 1930s Harry Vowles farmed over 300 acres here. He had 108 head of cattle, 58 pigs and 247 fowls, with 100 acres under wheat and oats. Thomas Porter had taken over by 1950, and in the 1960s ran a Guernsey milking herd. The farm then became a racing stableyard until the late 1980s. The yard has recently been redeveloped into several residential units.

Hamstead Lock had a keeper, Henry Salter in 1896, although canal traffic had been declining for many years before then. The lock-keeper may have occupied an old cottage which used to stand between the canal and the railway, and which was demolished in the middle years of twentieth century. The lock, the road bridge and the pillbox are all Grade II-listed.

Hamstead Lodge. In recent years this name has been taken up by the modern house formerly known as the White House on the western side of Old Lane (now in Kintbury). For centuries however the name Hamstead Lodge referred to the mansion in **Hamstead Park**, a rectangular building with an L-shaped extension, two-storey with attics, and a large semi-circular porch supported on iron columns. In the 1920s and 1930s this porch and its columns were heavily encased in shaped shrubbery, and the windows all had shutters, now removed. In the Grade-II listing of Hamstead Lodge

(which also covers the garden wall, garden rooms to the south-west, and a nineteenth-century garden house) the house is described as being of 1720, enlarged in the nineteenth century. It is almost certainly older. Twentieth-century restoration uncovered brickwork and roundels dating from the seventeenth century, but the original house was no more than a hunting lodge, and has probably undergone at least two expansions. There is still an ice-house in the grounds. It is marked and named as Hamstead Lodge on the Rocque map of 1761. Fulwar Craven (the fourth baron, of 1739-66) probably initiated some expansion, but much more work took place during the Regency period. Occasionally occupied by Cravens, and then in the latter half of the nineteenth century by tenants, the Lodge's most memorable occupants have been the doughty dowager countesses Louisa (from 1825 until 1860) and Cornelia (from 1921 until 1961). After Cornelia's death her grandson Robert Craven, the sixth earl, took up residence. An ardent Roman Catholic, he built a chapel within the house. However, his occupancy was brief, due to his death from leukaemia in 1965. In 1967 the house was leased to the **Edgecombe Nursing Home**, then sold to Dreamlodge Ltd in the 1984 auction, but the nursing home continued until the expiry of its lease in 1987. A lengthy programme of restoration brought the house back into family occupation for its new owner, who changed the address to Hamstead Park.

Hamstead Mill was mentioned in the Domesday Book and other medieval documents. In medieval times it was a fulling mill, used in the processing of woollen cloth, on which the area's prosperity was based. By the time it appeared on the Rocque map of 1761 it had long been a corn mill. The 1775 estate survey indicates that the mill had its own small farm attached. In 1785 Daniel Beakhust was in residence with five acres. The present day mill was built to replace one burnt down in 1810. It is a Grade II-listed building, and is mentioned in Nikolaus Pevsner's book *The Buildings of England*. The parish register indicates that in 1818 the miller's family was called Bunce. The 1840 tithe map schedule notes John Batten as the occupier. Robert Dixon was milling in 1851, Henry Everard in 1854. George Wallis was both miller and farmer of 183 acres with eight men in 1871. The 1881 census has Edmund White, a labourer living at the mill, and in 1891 William Croikey[?] and a servant. Benjamin Smith was miller 1893 - 1903. In 1924 the embalmed body of Mrs Bradley Martin (mother-in-law of the fourth earl) was laid out here in an improvised mortuary before her funeral and eventual shipment back to the USA for burial. From the 1920s the mill supplied electricity to the manor house, and was occupied by successive electricians until 1950, when mains electricity came to the village. One electrician, George Wood, died after falling into the machinery around 1941. Then Herbert Dodd lived there for a while. The last electrician was Mr Webb, after which Annie Cushing, former lady's maid to Cornelia Craven, came to live here after the countess' death in 1961. The mill was sold at the 1984 auction, and then offered for re-sale with two cottages at £150,000, a price which rose to £200,000 when the sitting tenant moved out. Now it has been converted into six flats and the separate **Millstream Cottage**.

Hamstead Park was much smaller in medieval times. Within the original pale lies a rough oval of about 150 acres, probably never cultivated. The fishponds, fed by the stream that originates in the **Mayhouse Gully** and flows into the river **Kennet**, are believed to predate the park itself. By 1841 the Hamstead side of the park measured 325 acres, and a further 135 acres lay on the Enborne side. The parkland was reduced in area during the Second World War to increase agricultural production, and these fields have mostly been retained as pasture or arable land on the western and southern edge of the park. Public right of access is limited to the footpaths, one of which runs past a monument created in 2004 – a simple limestone block – to the American troops

of the 501st Parachute Regiment who camped here prior to the D-Day landings. Buildings within the park include the Regency manor house formerly known as **Hamstead Lodge**, the **Dreamland**, the **Dower House**, the converted mews cottages and some newer houses.

Hamstead View (called **Hawthorns** when first built) is a detached house in **Park Lane** on a site auctioned by the Craven estate in 1983. The site was once part of the garden of **Midsummer Cottage**.

Hankin's Lane is a footpath running from **Mason's Farm** to **Hamstead Holt Farm**. Until the late nineteenth century this was the route of the **Kintbury Road**, probably abandoned for the more southerly alternative because of its poor drainage. It used to mark the parish boundary, which has now moved to **Old Lane**.

Harvest Cottage No 43 is one of a pair of semi-detached cottages on **Warwick Hill**, appearing on the 1840 tithe map schedule as lease-owned by John Burton, but uninhabited at the time. Harvest Cottage was sold at auction by the Craven estate in 1977.

Hatchbridge is the old name for the piece of waste ground on the **Kintbury Road** between **Elm Farm** and **Little Orchard**.

Hayseed Hollow, formerly **Clareville Cottage** No 18 on the **Kintbury Road** between **Ash Tree** and **Chapel Corners** is one of few three-storey houses in the village. In the mid-twentieth century it was known as the High House. George Gibbs, a building inspector, bought the house from the Craven family in the early 1930s, when it was called Park View. He must have been one of very few owner-occupiers in the village at the time. William Kent, a decorator, lived here with his family in 1950. The house enjoys a unique view of the park from its attic windows. Parts of the house are thought to be sixteenth-century, and it is Grade-II listed.

Hawthorne Cottage No 27 is on **Warwick Hill**, next to **Chapel Cottage**. The house was held by George Russ in 1775. In the 1840 tithe list the house here as three cottages, one void, one occupied by John Hallett, a carpenter, and one by James Beakhust, another Hamstead name going back to the early eighteenth century. James Beakhust had a lifetime's lease on all three cottages. The three dwellings survived to the turn of the century, but by the 1920s the house was split into two, one being the post office in the 1930s kept by Harriet Hall. Coxheads, a name that has been prominent west of Newbury from time immemorial, lived on the other side.

Hawthorns is the former name of **Hamstead View**.

Hillside Cottage No 48 was briefly called called **Hobson's Cottage** in the early 2000s. It stands on the northern side of the **Kintbury Road**, between **Ash Tree Corner** and the Craven Arms. The Rocque map of 1761 shows a building on this site. The parish boundary runs along the eastern edge of the garden. Thomas Cuin occupied the house in 1840. Hillside was sold at auction by the Craven estate in 1983.

The **Holding** is a Georgian detached house on the **Kintbury Road** between **Chapel Corner** and the **White Hart**. It is marked on the 1775 survey map, when it was held by George Matthew. By 1840 the property, comprising the house, wheelwright's shop, garden and Admons meadow behind, was held by the estate carpenter, John Burton,

and it remained in the Burton family through several generations. The inscription JB 1896 was found carved into a sash window frame here recently, probably by James, son of John, also the estate carpenter and undertaker, as was John's grandson Walter, who also lived here. In 1906 Walter built the brick barn for his wheelwright's business, also leaving his initials carved into the brickwork. The same initials, WJB, were found in the church belfry and on a table from the former village school. The barn across the road (which now belongs to **Little Orchard**) was the Burton timber store. There was a well close to the south-east corner of The Holding at the turn of the century, and the 25in OS map of that time marks a saw-pit to the north-west. The Holding has also been run as a smallholding at various times since the Burtons, a role from which it no doubt acquired its name. Arthur Beaver, plumber, lived here in 1937, William Osborne, farmer, in 1939. Edith Punter's father Bill Clark lived there when he retired from **Barr's Farm** around 1950. Arthur Lambden, smallholder and keeper on the estate, was in residence from 1963 to at least 1968. In the 1970s it was rented by Major and Mrs Sly, art gallery owners who are now buried in the churchyard. The Holding was sold at auction by the Craven estate in 1976, at which point it became detached from Admons Meadow, but the link has now been restored.

The name **Holt Farm** is found listed in several sources; it usually refers to **Holt Manor Farm**, but somewhat confusingly also describes **Hamstead Holt Farm**.

Holt Manor Farm. The Holt manor referred to here is probably Kintbury Holt, in medieval times known as Kintbury Eaton. The parish boundary may have shuffled slightly here over the centuries, bringing some Holt territory into Hamstead. The farmhouse itself lies outside the parish boundary but some of its land falls within. As Holt Farm it is listed as held by William Thatcher in 1854. It was auctioned with 412 acres (with tenants W and J G Marsh, a father and son who had held it for many years) by the Craven estate in 1976.

Holtwood was at one time part of Kintbury Holt manor. The name first appears in documentation of 1547. It describes an area on the eastern side of the old Holt Manor, consisting mostly of common land.

Holtwood Cottage(s) used to be two houses, once of which was held by Rose Matthews in 1840. Mrs Marriner lived in one for many years in the mid-to-late twentieth century, after moving up from the (now demolished) riverside cottage near the lock. Coxheads lived in the other, which was sometimes known as No 5. Thomas Craven, the seventh earl, also lived here before moving into the park on reaching his majority. No 5 was put up for auction in 1978, and the other became vacant in the late 1980s. The two have now been converted into one house.

Holtwood Farm house dates back to the sixteenth century and is Grade-II listed. In 1840 the tenancy included nearly 100 acres, farmed at that time by Thomas Coxhead. By 1847 until his retirement in the 1860s it was held by Anthony Holloway, who farmed 84 acres with three employees. He also had a housekeeper Hannah and a son John; the three of them led a secluded life according to George Russ. By 1868 Charles Holloway held the tenancy. It was farmed by Richard Thatcher in 1895, Thatchers being an old village family who farmed almost every local Craven farm at one time or another. (By 1903 Richard Thatcher had Elm Farm as well.) Ernest Liddiard had this farm by 1932, Albert Ambler in 1935, William Ireland 1937, and in the post-war years Tom Maddock from Kent farmed here. The farmhouse was auctioned with Waterman's and Holt Manor Farm houses in 1976. Around 1990 the barns opposite Holtwood Farm

house were converted into a rest home for the elderly, which lasted for a few years before the buildings underwent a second conversion to become a family house, now called **Barn House** from which **Barn House Cottage** was later created.

Holtwood Gate is marked on the Rocque map of 1761. In 1840 it was owned and occupied by Joseph Toomer, of the Newbury bankers and traders, who also owned properties at **Ash Tree Corner**. The house was then known as Toomer's Cottage, renamed by the turn of the century as The Limes, after some magnificent specimens around the garden. This must have been one of the grander houses of the village, because it had its own coach house. Later in the century it was the home of Edward Neale, steward to the Hon and Lady Louisa Howard of Hazelby House in East Woodhay. Edward Neale was a Baptist of such terrifying zealotry that even his obituary referred to him as "austere and unbending". The house, by comparison, was considered to be charming. William Taylor, the carpenter son of the family at Little Farm, occupied it in 1911. Later came the Waite family, who supplied the village with an organist and a parish clerk in the middle years of the twentieth century.

Holtwood Corner is a large house built in 2009 on the site of Holtwood House, a 1960s building now demolished, and which itself replaced an earlier cottage, on the edge of **Hamstead Common**. In 1840 the tenant here was William Cuen (or Cuin), one of Hamstead's last brickmakers, who emigrated to Utah.

Honeypot Cottage now refers to the eastern extension to the house which was for many decades called **Maythorne**. In the 1990s, when Maythorne was still one house, the name was changed to Honeypot Cottage, and the house was extended on the eastern side. The house was then divided into two dwellings, the western side being called **Vine Cottage**, and the eastern side Honeypot Cottage.

Honeysuckle Cottage is one of two modern detached houses on the site of several earlier cottages in **Warwick Hill**, opposite **Whitehill Farm**. Richard Cannon held a house here in 1775. The 1840 tithe map shows three cottages, a yard and a garden owned by James Bodman, with tenants William Parker, Daniel Colley and Thomas Cose. In the 1920s the Raymonds lived in one, Miss Dodd in another. These cottages were demolished by the 1970s. The Honeysuckle Cottage site was offered for auction with planning permission by the Craven estate in 1977.

Illwills Border is a thin strip of woodland running from **Warwick Hill** (just behind **Whitehill Farm**) northwards to **Irish Hill Road**. The land belongs to **Barr's Farm**. The name was first recorded in 1547.

Irish Hill was catalogued as a manor in its own right in the Domesday Book, not much smaller than Hamstead itself. Little is known of the community until 1761, when the Rocque map showed a cluster of cottages on the hill, as did the Craven estate survey map of 1775. The enclosure map of 1810 shows a small area of common land next to this habitation, still evident in maps published in the early years of this century, although it was enclosed in 1810. In the early twentieth century there were still four cottages at the top of the hill, served by a well. Nothing now remains of the hilltop settlement; the last few cottages burned down in 1922, ending more than 1,000 years of continuous habitation on this exposed and windy site. One of the Irish Hill cottages was held by Jonathan Ballard in 1775, and sublet to Richard Goddard. William Waters and Moses Crocker also had cottages here in 1775. The Hall family of Daniel, Harriet and their three children lived here in 1840. By 1881 only one of the Halls, George, an

army pensioner, remained on Irish Hill; Harriet, by now a pauper, had moved down into the village. She lived until 1923 by which time she was 81, and is buried in the churchyard. Thomas Edwards was another mid-nineteenth century resident here. Halfway down the track from the hilltop to Irish Hill Road there were two separate cottages on the western side. John Cully and his family of five children lived here. He was in charge of Lady (Louisa) Craven's mule team in the mid-nineteenth century. Next-door to him lived George Cully, who held a lifetime lease on both the houses. The 1861 and 1891 censuses list Thomas Cully, widower aged 78 by 1891, living here and still working at the whiting factory. Two more cottages on the eastern side were occupied by James Stone and William Pounds 150 years ago. By the 1920s the Pounds and the Dixon families lived here. Close to the road there was (in the 1920s) a ruin of another old cottage.

Irish Hill Cottage is the present-day name of the old houses on the western side of the track. Now one dwelling, and recently extended, it is all that remains today of the original Irish Hill houses. In 1981 the site was offered for auction at the **White Hart**, with a pair of derelict semi-detached cottages and 1.5 acres of land.

Irish Hill House was built in the 1980s on the site of the two cottages on the eastern side. These were offered for auction at the **White Hart** in a 1981 Craven estate sale, but failed to reach their reserve price and appeared again in an auction catalogue the following year, with 1.5 acres and planning permission for the redevelopment of what became Irish Hill House.

Irish Hill Road runs across the northern edge of the parish from Kintbury eastwards to where it meets Park Lane.

Irish Hill Wood is an area of woodland on the **Morewood estate**, bordering the canal.

Keeper's Cottage is a name which has applied at various times to several houses in the village, most notably **Whitehill Farm, Craven Keep, North Lodge** and **Craven View**.

The **Kennet and Avon Canal** was built through Hamstead, linking Reading (and, via the Thames, London) with Bristol and Bath. In some stretches both the canal and the Kennet river share one channel; elsewhere the two diverge, such as at the Benham sluice, where the river runs off to the north. The Kennet river used to be Hamstead's northern boundary, but this has now shifted further north to the railway line. The river intertwines with the Kennet and Avon Canal, running confluent for a short distance between **Copse Lock** and **Hamstead Mill**. Thereafter the river runs south of the canal, taking in the Craven Fishery and a Victorian bathing place (for the exclusive use of **Hamstead Lodge** residents). It rejoins the canal only to diverge almost immediately at Benham sluice. The river was at one time famous for eels and crayfish, and later for trout. In the eighteenth century the river osier beds supported a local basket weaving industry.

Kintbury Holt Farm lies outside the parish boundary, though some of its land falls within it. William Clark farmed here until his death in 1892, and is buried in the churchyard with his wife Eliza Ann and daughter Ellen Jane.

Kintbury Road runs roughly east-west through the village. It used to be called Hamstead Street. Neither name is used by Ordnance Survey. The local highways authority sometimes refers to it as an "un-named road", and sometimes as "Holt Road" which is the official name for the same road when it reaches Kintbury.

Knowle House and its neighbour **Meadow View** are modern detached houses built in what was once part of the cottage garden of **Maythorne**, on the **Kintbury Road** just west of **Chapel Corner**.

La Salle Cottage was incorporated into **Lamellion** in the late 1980s. Lamellion No 12 lies on the south-east side of **Ash Tree Corner**. It was once the end cottage of three, the two on the eastern side later combined as La Salle Cottage. The cottages were occupied by Solomon Owen, a shepherd, and William Russ, his wife Hannah and their four children in 1840. The building appears still to be three dwellings on the 1911 OS map. Lamellion was sold by the Craven estate in 1981, and La Salle was auctioned in 1987 after the death of one of the last remaining Craven tenants. In the late 1980s the two cottages were knocked into one. The whole house is Grade II-listed, and thought to date from the late sixteenth century. The field to the east used to be known as Stacey's, and in 1840 included a one-acre allotment for poor relief.

Lanyaka is a modern house on the corner of **Old Lane** and the **Kintbury Road**. The 1991 parish boundary change moved it from Hamstead into Kintbury.

Little Farm in Holtwood appears on the Rocque map of 1761 and the 1775 survey map. Richard Mariner held it in 1775. Sarah Buckingham from Suffolk, widow of James who had died three years earlier, farmed a few acres here in 1840, and was able to retire on her savings by 1851. Thomas Wernham had it next, his son Homer (or Omer) taking over after his death in 1852. In 1861 Thomas's widow Mary was working 49 acres here with two employees. Thomas is buried with some of his family along the east wall of the church, although the headstones make no mention of Homer. In Thomas's time the farm was noted for its fine herd of cattle, a tradition which endured until the mid-twentieth century. William Taylor was here from at least 1891 until 1924, and described himself variously as carpenter and cowkeeper. The National Property Valuation of 1910 reported its 34 acres to be "fairly stiff clay, wet in winter" and the house to be in bad repair. Edgar Warner was the tenant in the 1930s, and the National Farm Survey of 1941-43 noted the house to have been put to rights. Edgar Warner ran a dairy herd of 32 cows and delivered milk around the village, straight from the churn. Brenda Crump arrived from Herefordshire as the post-war tenant farmer of 66 acres, on which she ran a herd of pedigree Friesians. She bought the freehold from the Craven estate in the 1970s, and continued working the land until the late 1970s. Little Farm now has light-aircraft hangars and an airstrip.

Little Orchard is the name by which **Sunnyside**, near **Chapel Corner**, is now known. It is probably the same cottage as the one shown on this site on the 1775 estate map, then held by John Knowles. The adjoining land called Shockles was held separately by Charles Nock. At the time of the 1840 tithe map assessment it was leased and occupied by Sarah Wernham, widow of James and possibly mother of Peter Wernham who was landlord of the **White Hart**. Sarah and James are two of several Wernhams buried in the churchyard. At one time in the first half of the twentieth century its occupants were the Haywards (possibly descended from the Charles Hayward who also ran the White Hart in the nineteenth century) – an appropriate name, given that next to Sunnyside's barn there was once the village cattle pound, as well as pig-pens.

Mansard is a modern detached house built on what was at one time the orchard attached to the the **Old Post Office**. It was auctioned as a vacant plot with planning permission by the Craven estate in 1977.

Marsh Benham House (also known as Benham Marsh Farm) falls just within the parish boundary, which now runs along the railway rather than the river. Once technically in Speen parish, it remained part of the Craven estate after Benham Park was sold in the nineteenth century, and its inhabitants have traditionally been counted as parishioners. It featured in the 1830 Machine Riots. Henry Gibbons held Benham Farm in the late 1860s. In the first quarter of this century it was where the Misses Lamb lived and farmed, and it became a mushroom farm for a while after the war. The house was put up for auction by the Craven estate in 1977 but it was withdrawn because it failed to reach its reserve price of £34,500.

Mayhouse Gully is a wooded valley running from **Briff's Copse** north-eastwards to the **Kintbury Road**. The name first occurs in documentation of 1547.

Maythorne (Villa) was a substantial house on the **Kintbury Road** west of **Chapel Corner**, held in 1775 by Richard Russ. It had a large garden, leased and occupied by Clarissa Russ in 1840. Robert Punter was here by 1911 by which time the house name was obviously well-established. There was a village shop here run by the Fyfe family in 1921/22. It was renamed **Honeypot Cottage** in the 1990s, then split into two semi-detached dwellings, the older side being renamed **Vine Cottage** and the newer extension taking the name Honeypot Cottage.

Meadow View and **Knowle House** are modern detached houses built in what was once part of the cottage garden of **Maythorne**, near **Chapel Corner**.

Merrowmead is a 1960s house, built in part of the meadow that became chapel property in 1840.

Middle Barn is in **Craven Hill**, and Grade II-listed. It was previously known as the Garage, where the coaches and later Cornelia Craven's Daimlers used to be kept.

Midsummer Cottage No 14, is the northern half of a pair of semis set at right-angles to each other on **Ash Tree Corner**, the other being **Ash Tree Cottage**. In 1840 it was one of several village properties owned on lease from the Cravens by Toomers of the local banking and retailing family. The tenant at that time was William Canning. Midsummer Cottage was sold at auction by the Craven estate in 1977.

Milkhouse Lane refers to two roads running southwards from the A4 through Marsh Benham. They meet just west of the Red House, at which point one road continues around **Marsh Benham Farm**, into Hamstead over the railway, river and canal, and uphill past the church to the point where it meets **Park Lane**. Here it becomes **Irish Hill Road**.

Morewood is an L-shape of woodland bordering the canal. Morewood estate comprises 472 acres of former farmland now used as a sporting estate. In the 1980s it had a UK Chasers course, but this has not been maintained. Although in the same ownership as **Morewood House** (in trust for the ninth Lord Craven), the estate is usually leased separately to a sporting syndicate.

Morewood House is Grade II-listed as being of sixteenth-century origin, and may have started life as a dovecote for Thomas Parry's manor house. Some holes in the original brickwork suggest this, plus its older name of Pigeon House. It features on the Kyp engraving of 1709. The clock tower building beside the main house is believed to have been an orangery, and is so called today. It was not a building of much significance in 1761, and did not appear on the Rocque map, but on maps of 1775 and 1840 it was named as Pigeon House. In 1840 the premises included a timber and carpentry yard (usage which continued well into this century) and the house was partly occupied by George Sims. In the earlier part of the twentieth century it was called Ivy House/Cottage, and was also known locally as the Agent's House because successive agents to the Craven estate lived here: Victor Schmidt until 1929, Charles Severs until 1936, Frederick Rhodes until 1938, Richard Cave 1939, Gunning in the 1940s, William Kyle in 1950, Gabriel Grisewood from 1962. When the whole estate was put up for sale in 1984 Morewood House was sold together with the 472-acre sporting estate to Robert Reid for around £900,000. (Much of this land had previously been attached to the old Home Farm.) Lavish restoration and extension followed, turning the Ivy House into the five-bedroomed Morewood House by building onto the front, and fitting rooms into the roof. The name Morewood was not new; the adjoining woodland had been known as More or Moor Wood for centuries. Following Robert Reid's death in 1990, the estate came on the market again at £1.75 million, and was bought by Kenneth Banner, second husband of the dowager countess of the sixth Earl of Craven. Kenneth Banner died in 1996, and the house is now in trust for the ninth Earl of Craven. It is let on a three-year lease.

Morewood Stable Cottage was built as staff accommodation in the one-time saw-yard, which later became a stableyard.

North Lodge is a much expanded late-Georgian cottage in **Milkhouse Lane**, overlooking the river. In 2010 it was split into two properties, one with a meadow on the opposite side of the road. This meadow was used for filming *A Quiet Life* in 1945. The garden on the house side includes the area that was probably most of the Saxon village of Hamstead, plus two of the castle mounds. A "bothy" on the southern edge of the garden appears on the Kyp engraving of 1709 and is marked on the 1775 estate map, although the house itself is not. The name North Lodge is of recent origin. With a smaller plot of land the house was occupied by John Earley from Brightwalton, park-keeper to the Cravens in 1840, and used to be known as Keeper's Cottage. It is probably the same house of that name in the 1891 census, occupied by Samuel Benson, gamekeeper, who came from Suffolk with his family. At the turn of the century the house was occupied by James Gammon, who was head gardener to the Craven estate, and in the late 1920s it was Mr Jackman, the head-keeper. Within living memory, the Myram brothers, keeper and nightwatchman to Cornelia Craven, and their sister retired here from Craven Keep. At some point in the 1950s a substantial extension at the back turned the cottage into a house, and Williamina, the dowager countess of the fifth Earl of Craven, lived here briefly before going into **Edgecombe Nursing Home** just before her death in 1974. It was at this time that the house began to be called North Lodge. North Lodge was sold in the Craven estate auction of 1984. The barn in the grounds was later turned into an artist's studio, which was formally separated from the main house, and renamed **Park Lodge**.

Nursery Copse is a small area woodland attached to **Whitehill Farm** on the north side. It has been so called since at least 1841.

Old Lane used to be known as Pounds' Lane, after the Pounds family who lived there, and before that it was called Rawlins' Lane (there was a Craven tenant called Simon Rawlins in 1727). The 1775 survey map shows houses on the corner and a little way down on the western side. James Pounds lived here in 1851, with his wife Martha from Welford, and their family of three sons and two daughters. Both cottages were demolished to make way for modern houses some years ago, one being **Lanyaka** on the corner; the other was for several years called the **White House**, before taking the discarded name of **Hamstead Lodge**. The parish boundary now runs up Old Lane, moving these houses from Hamstead into Kintbury.

The **Old Post Office** No 2. This Grade II-listed, sixteenth-century house appears on the 1775 survey map as held by Richard Dore, who died in 1792 and is buried in churchyard. In 1840 it was held by Joseph Deem. The house became the village post office in the mid-1930s when business was transferred from **Chapel Corner**. Mrs R A Crocker is recorded as postmistress here by 1937, having taken over from her husband. There was a call box outside. She transacted business in her living room until the post office closed in 1968. Later the house was named Pegadeb Cottage. More recently it has been extended and named the Old Post Office.

Park Lane runs from **Ash Tree Corner** northwards towards **Morewood House**, where it meets **Irish Hill Road**.

Park Lodge is the former barn and later artist's studio in the grounds of **North Lodge**, converted to a family house around 2010. Around 2016 it burned to the ground, and has been rebuilt.

Parterre No 53, in **Craven Hill** is the original Home Farm house, now Grade-II listed. The 1785 estate survey noted that James Roberts, the tenant of 264 acres here, had wrought "untold damage" with bad farming practices. Jesse Scott farmed here in 1939, William Smith in 1968.

Pear Tree Cottage lies in a dip on **Irish Hill Road**, and is of seventeenth-century origin. It is shown on the 1775 Craven estate survey map and on the first one-inch OS map of the early 1800s, with another more substantial cottage across the road. One or other of these was held by Abraham Wheeler in 1775. In 1841 the present-day Pear Tree Cottage was held by Thomas Pearce with his five children aged eight to 20, but apparently no wife. He worked in the sawyard at the Pigeon House (**Morewood**) where his woodworking skill was such that he was known as Cooper King. In the 1920s the occupant was a shepherd called Oliver Waite and his wife. It is the only remaining thatched cottage in the parish, and is Grade II-listed.

Pegadeb was the name by which the **Old Post Office** was known during the late 1970s and 80s.

The **Plain** is the name given to an area of **Hamstead Park** around the old mansion site, and contains the surviving gatepiers, which are Grade-I listed. In the early years of the twentieth century village sports were played here, and there was for a time a golf course. The Plain was put to the plough in the Second World War. In the 1970s Hills of Swindon aspired to extract gravel from the Plain, but this never happened. Today it is used for grazing or maize-growing.

Plumb's Farm is off the **Kintbury Road**, up a former green lane now a private roadway to the farm, continuing as a footpath through fields and woodland to **Smith's Bridge**. On eighteenth and nineteenth-century maps this route was marked as a substantial road. At the village end it opened out opposite the **White Hart** into nearly three acres of common land called **Lower Green**, lost to enclosure in 1810. Richard Lovelock held **Plumb's Farm** house and barn here in the 1775 survey, although it was not so named. The name Plumb was in use for nearby fields, probably originating from an eighteenth-century family of that name noted in the parish register. The land-holding attached to the house expanded in the nineteenth century, and more farm buildings were added. Peter Mathews held Plumb's Farm in 1840, but by 1871 he had retired. The 1881 census lists John Freebody as the farmer of 100 acres here, helped by two men and a boy, and by 1891 the farm had been taken over by Thomas Chandler, aged 27 and his wife Caroline, both from Lavenham, Wiltshire. William Vincent Snook held it as Plumb's Farm in 1903. Frederick Punter came here in 1904, and ran a mixed-farming operation on 103 acres. His son Gus succeeded him, and ran the farm jointly with **Elm Farm**, the tenancy of which he acquired in the 1930s, through to 1950. Since 1980 it has been a rescue centre for dogs, operated by the Dogs Trust.

Prairie View and **Honeysuckle Cottage** are modern houses on the site of several earlier cottages. Richard Cannon held a house here in 1775. The 1840 tithe map shows three cottages, a yard and a garden owned by James Bodman, with tenants William Parker, Daniel Colley and Thomas Cose. In the 1920s the Raymonds lived in one, Miss Dodd in another. These cottages were demolished by the 1970s. The Honeysuckle Cottage site was offered for auction with planning permission by the Craven estate in 1978.

Red Hill is the ridge to the south of the parish, in **Holtwood**. It gave its name to the former common land thereabout, which was also called **Hamstead Common** or Holt Common.

Red Hill House was held by John Riley in 1840, together with three acres. In 1892 Thomas Joyce from Wiltshire held the house, known then as Red Hill Cottage, and died there in 1899. He is buried in Hamstead churchyard. The next tenant was probably the photographer J W Righton. Mrs Lionel Barlow lived there in 1911, Frances Lewis between 1915 and 1939 with her artist sister, Beatrice Flower, and was the Sunday school teacher. They share a grave in the churchyard, both having died in 1945. Harold Johansen had the house in 1950. There is now a little cottage in the garden.

Red Hill Wood was identified in the 1980s by the Woodland Trust as a relic of ancient, primeval forest. Its 73 acres appear on all the oldest maps. Across the road is Red Hill Plantation, 14.5 acres of woodland planted with mixed conifers in 1953 and 1965. Both plots were offered at auction by the Craven estate in 1984.

Russ' Copse on the **Kintbury Road** west of **Clove Cottage** was named after an old Hamstead family of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; there are several of them in the churchyard.

St Mary's Church dates from the late twelfth century, with later medieval additions, and is Grade II* listed. The roof was re-tiled by two parishioners in 1983, and the tower was relouvred in 1990. In 2005 the bells were taken down from the tower for the first time since they were hung, and taken away for refurbishment.

Salters Nos 9 and 10, are semi-detached cottages on the **Kintbury Road** between **Ash Tree Corner** and the Craven Arms. There was a house here marked on Rocque's map and on the 1775 estate survey map, when it was held by Giles Crocker. No house is shown in the 1840 tithe map, but it is listed as a void plot. The western half is No 10, and was at one time known as Salter's Farm, having some adjoining land and buildings (some of which still exist to the west of the house) plus Spicer's Pond opposite. Frederick James Burton was listed as the tenant farmer here in 1924, John (Jack) Burton the carpenter 1928 to at least 1935. By 1968 it was occupied by Elsie Burton, his widow. Her sister Nellie Collier, "Teacher Nell" of Enborne School, used to live next door at No 9, but later moved in with her sister. The house without its land sold for £122,000 in 1988, at the height of the property boom, attracting national publicity because of its high price and unconverted condition.

The **Sham Castle** was a mock-medieval ruin in the park, probably built in the 1790s and pulled down around the time of the First World War.

Shepherd's Bridge crosses the canal on the parish boundary with Kintbury.

Smith's Bridge marks the southernmost point of the parish, where it meets West Woodhay.

Spicer's Copse is a small patch of woodland on the northern side of the **Kintbury Road** between **Ash Tree Corner** and **Salters**.

Spicer's Pond is on the **Kintbury Road** between **Ash Tree Corner** and the Craven Arms, nearly opposite **Salters**. Before the Second World War this was a well-maintained pool, favoured by wildfowl and small boys with a punt.

The **Stableyard** is now called **Craven Hill**.

Sunnyside was renamed **Little Orchard** in the early 1990s, but the field behind it, known as Home Meadow in 1775 and Shockles in 1840, is still called Sunnyside today.

The four wooden **Swedish Houses** were built in **Ash Tree Grove** after the Second World War. In the 1990s two were gutted by fire, after which Sovereign Housing replaced all of them with seven new brick-built houses.

The **Village Hall** in **Park Lane** was built in 1894 as the village school, which closed in 1933.

The **Walled Garden** was the name given to four acres at the western end of the gardens of the former Craven mansion site. Having fallen into neglect in Cornelia Craven's later years, the land was taken over by the Minett family in 1963 and run as Hamstead Growers, a successful market garden with several glasshouses. The business moved to **Holtwood** in 1984 when the Walled Garden, like the **Stableyard**, was offered as a development site by Mayfern and Highcross. The Walled Garden, now part of the grounds of the 1980s Craven House.

War End is marked on the eighteenth and nineteenth century maps as just to the east of **Little Farm** in **Holtwood**. The name has now fallen out of use, but may have referred to the extent of the fighting during the first battle of Newbury in 1643.

Warwick Hill is the road which runs off the **Kintbury Road** at **Chapel Corner**, heading for Marsh Benham. The name first appears in Craven Estate papers of the early eighteenth century, but is not recognised by Ordnance Survey.

Waterman's Farm is a seventeenth-century house just outside the parish boundary (in West Woodhay), with some of its farm land falling within it. George Russ recalls it so named and held by Henry Holloway in the mid-nineteenth century, before he emigrated. Henry Goddard held it in 1893, and was still there in 1928. Percy Bance had it in 1931. The house was offered for auction with 15.75 acres by the Craven estate in 1976.

Watery Lane used to be called **Holtwood Lane**. It runs westwards from opposite **Little Farm**, crossing **Smith's Bridge**. Today the lane then bends northwards to the Three Cornered Hat (now renamed Old Hat), but on eighteenth and nineteenth century maps, as Holtwood Lane, it continued westwards to West Woodhay. This continuation is now marked on maps as a byway called Holly Lane.

Waverley and **Woodside** are twentieth-century bungalows built on site of older cottages. There was a building marked here on the Rocque map of 1761 and on the 1775 estate survey map, which named John Pickernell as tenant. James Shuttle and James Pickernell, a brickmaker, shared this tenancy in 1840. In the late nineteenth century there was a post office on this site. The cottage was still in existence at the turn of the twentieth century.

Wayside and **Meadowbank** are modern bungalows built on a green-field site that was originally part of the plot known in 1840 as the Ash Tree, and farmed by Anthony Heath in 1840. Retained when the southern portion was sold by the Craven family for building **Ash Tree Grove**, it was later offered for auction with planning permission by the Craven estate in 1976.

West Barn Bothy is the first house on the left in **Craven Hill**. Formerly a huge barn and later a garage for Cornelia Craven's Daimlers, it is Grade-II listed.

The **White Hart** Inn stands on the **Kintbury Road**. Hamstead Marshall was recorded as having an (un-named) inn in 1577 but the White Hart was not named on a map until 1824. After two successive failures the pub closed in September 2015, reopened in 2019, and then closed again at the end of the year. Its future is uncertain.

Whitehill Farm is marked on 1775 survey map as held by William Cannon. It is eighteenth-century in appearance, and it is said that a pit in the adjoining **Nursery Copse** was the source of clay for its bricks. In 1840 it was called **Keeper's Cottage**, a name that seems to have moved easily around the village. The occupant was then James Arnold, who in addition to his gamekeeping duties held 10 acres of adjoining fields. Mrs John Goddard was farming here in 1903. William Clark had it in 1915 before moving to **Barr's Farm**. Herbert Dodd by 1924, describing himself as a poultry farmer in 1935, and he was still here in 1950. It was often called Hill Farm until about 1965, when William Smith was listed as tenant, and it started to be called Whitehill Farm. White Hill itself (so named for its chalk), to the north of the farm, is a name with a history which goes back on record to 1727. The Craven estate put the farmhouse up for auction in 1977 with 27.5 acres of paddocks and woodland. It fetched £32,000. The house has since had stabling added.

The **White House** is a large modern house in Old Lane, somewhat confusingly renamed **Hamstead Lodge** when the mansion in the park ceased to use the name. It was built on the site of an old cottage which existed at least until the 1960s. Since 1991 it falls just outside the parish boundary.

Woodcote is the 10-acre coppice between **Whitehill Farm** and **Elm Farm**. It belongs to Whitehill Farm.

Woodside is a modern bungalow next-door to **Waverley**.