

Batley Green, Scottow

The small settlement or farmstead known as Batley Green was swept away in late 1938 when RAF Coltishall was constructed. It was located close to the centre of the flying field as it is today, just to the east of the Cold War runway.

There are maps of Batley Green from 1828, 1839, 1889 and later. To date, no ground-level photographs of the area have been located, and it seems a little improbable, apart perhaps from long-lost family snaps, that it was ever the subject of photographic record. It is just possible that photographs might exist in the Scottow Estate records, in other archives or in family collections. The earliest military aerial photographs found so far date from 1941, after demolition.

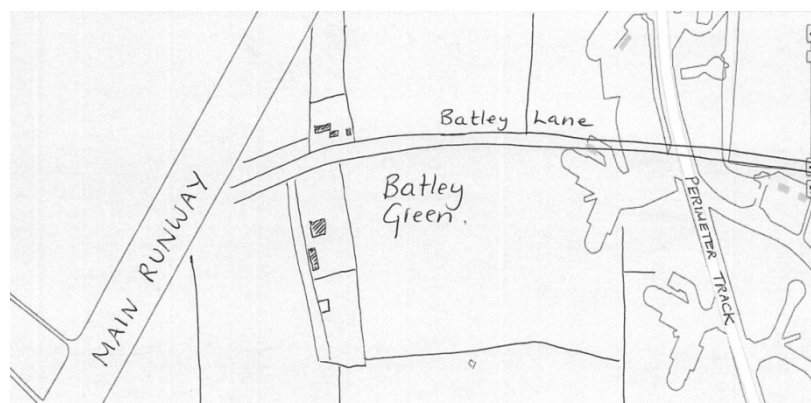
In 1938, Batley Green comprised three tenanted cottages occupied by two pensioners and an agricultural labourer. These lay in a cluster at the west end of Batley Lane, a loke which ran east from Batley Green to the Coltishall road (the modern B1150). The map of 1828 suggests perhaps three or four smallholdings, nestling amongst fields which probably date from Enclosure in the early 19th century, so the settlement remained fairly static over a period of more than 100 years.

The residents in 1938 were:-

- Mrs T. Buck, an old age pensioner aged 83 years old, having lived there for 64 years. Mrs T Buck moved in with the Newstead family at 42, The Fairstead. See below.
- Mr Herbert J. Newstead, aged 65 years with his wife (Nannie Newstead) and their four sons, James 'Jimmy', Sidney 'Tiddler', Freddy and Jack. He ran a smallholding of two and a half acres, employing all four sons, and had been resident there for some sixteen years. He and his son Sidney use to deliver firewood from a pony and trap around the area. To accommodate the building of RAF Coltishall, the Newstead's were moved to no. 42, The Fairstead (School Lane or Loke).
- Mr Harry Forster (an agricultural labourer), with wife and two children.

The pre-airfield landscape at former RAF Coltishall in the parish of Scottow is an important part of the story of the changing landscape, and more detailed research may help to paint a fuller picture of Batley Green in due course.

Sketch of the centre of the flying field, with features shown on the 1839 map superimposed on the modern landscape.



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February 2015.