

Aston Cum Aughton

What used to be 2 villages, and a farm on a crossroads, have now merged into a small town with the gaps between them filled by houses. The 1905 map shows how Aston consisted of just a few houses around the parish church.

It is a popular place for commuters to live in as it is next to the M1\M18 motorways, and the A57, and is also the focus of many bus routes. Sheffield, Rotherham, and Worksop are all under 30 mins away.

Rother Valley and Ulley Country Parks lie on Aston Swallownest's southern border.

At the time of the Domesday book (1086) Aston was called Estone (east farmstead) and Aughton was Hacstone (oak-tree farmstead) and had a combined value of about £1 (1 pound sterling!). This was way down on their pre Norman invasion value of £3.50 (all of England was assessed as having a taxable value of £73,000).

About 60 people lived here in 1066. In 1801 it was still only around 600. By 1871 it had leapt to 1,700 as coal mining, steel making etc. drew in workers. In 1991 the parish population was circa 15,000. Since 2000 there have been numerous housing developments so the population will have grown.

Swallownest is named after the Swallow family who had a farm on the site. It is not listed in the Domesday book and only came into existence in the 18th century and even in 1840 consisted of only 10 houses. Today few of the original stone farm buildings survive, and Swallownest is now mainly modern housing estates, with plenty built since 2005.

The grave of Bill Swallow, who gave his name to the place, used to be in the local cemetery.

West Riding of Yorkshire

The 1889 act saw the creation of five urban borough councils, Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax and Sheffield, plus the addition of York.

The area became known as the "County of York West riding.

The abbreviated form "Yorks WR" can still be seen written above a hollow circle on signposts that were made before the mid 1960s, especially on rural roads.

The administrative headquarters for the riding was at County Hall in Wakefield.

The photographs are my attempt to show the utter banality of being brought up in a small mining village in the mid 50 through to the early 70's when I left home for Uni'.

01. The Rec
02. Swallownest Primary School
03. Swallownest Miners Welfare. Home of the 534th team in the English Football League.
04. "Drink Beer Smoke Tabs" famous Viz slogan not allowed on football shirts
05. Sunday morning whippet racing
06. "Travel South Yorkshire". The new name for South Yorkshire Transport.
07. "Go out and wait for the lights to change"
08. "Park Street" There isn't one.
09. "Comfort Stop" This row of terrace houses still retains their outdoor toilets.
10. "The Swallownest Inn" The Traditional Chinese take away no longer exists.
11. "4x4" The surrounding area is relatively prosperous
12. "Swallownest 1954" The year I was born someone took this picture, why?
13. "Rose Cottage"
14. "Aston Cum Aughton" as mentioned in the Domesday Book. (see above).
15. "A sense of place" (see above).

Most of our school holidays and weekends were spent outdoors just messing about in the countryside. Something similar to Billy Casper in Kes but without the older brother and the kestrel.