

## 2.0 Hayfield

### 2.1.0 A Local Perspective

#### 2. 1.1 From ‘Hedfeld’ to Hayfield

The Parish of Hayfield lies on the Western side of the Kinder Plateau in the Peak District, consisting of some 33.5 square kilometres of land. The landscape ranges from the extremes of the heather and peat moorlands to upland farming and woodlands, and more sheltered farming and woodlands in the lower valleys.



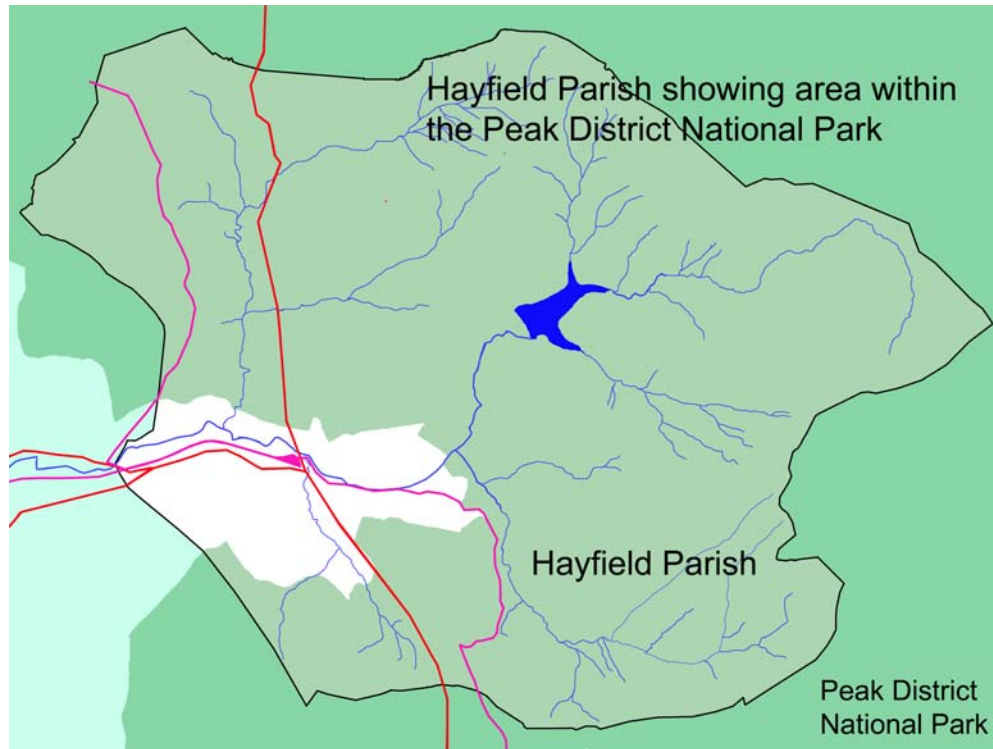
View of the Parish of Hayfield looking West down the Sett Valley from Highgate Head showing Lantern Pike in the distance Birch Vale is to the left and Little Hayfield to the right. The village centre or ‘Hayfield Town’ is hidden by tree cover; the open space in the centre is the cricket field.



View looking East up the Sett Valley from Lantern Pike; to the right is Birch Vale centre right is the Birches Quarry, left foreground sewage farm, with Kinder Low and the Kinder Massif on the sky line

The Parish is some 30 kilometres east-southeast of the Greater Manchester conurbation, and has currently a population of 2,817 people. It consists of the village of Hayfield (Hayfield Town ward), lying on the river Sett, the hamlet of Little Hayfield, part of the settlements of Birch Vale and Rowarth, with the outlying small settlements of Far Phoside, Kinder Valley and upper Sett valley communities, Highgate and Carr Meadows. Some 80% of the natural landscape is situated within the Peak District National Park (about 20% of the built environment), and the whole Parish lies within the administrative district of the High Peak Borough of Derbyshire. The village centre lies at approximately 600 feet above sea level, rising to 2088 feet at the Kinder plateau.

The Parish is bound to the northwest by the Parish of Charlesworth, to the north by the town of Glossop, to the east by the Parish of Edale, to the south by the Parishes of Chapel en le Frith and Chinley with Buxworth and Brownside, and to the west by the town of New Mills.



There is evidence from preserved tree stumps in the peat of the Kinder plateau that human habitation occurred soon after the last ice age, and much of the moorlands were cleared of forest for Neolithic agriculture, and there are a number of Neolithic and pre-Christian era remains in the Parish. The Romans, who mined the Peak District extensively for lead occupied the area of the High Peak, and it is likely that the Roman road through the Parish linked the fort of Melandra (Glossop) and the spa of Aqua Arnemetia (Buxton). By the time of the Domesday Book, Hayfield had become a small Anglo-Saxon settlement, referred to as 'Hedfeld'.



Early 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages in the centre of Hayfield, known as the Bear Pits. In an earlier age bear baiting was carried out on this site.

A church was founded on the site of the present St Matthew's in 1386, and the present day Public House, the Bulls Head Inn, was originally an Ecclesiastic Inn and brew house for the Church. The Parish at this time was a collection of small hamlets, mainly devoted to sheep farming. The oldest dated farmhouses are Hazelhurst, not far from the village centre, built in 1525, and the nearby Fox Hall, built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**In Pigot's Commercial Directory of Derbyshire, 1835, the professions of Hayfield were listed as follows:**

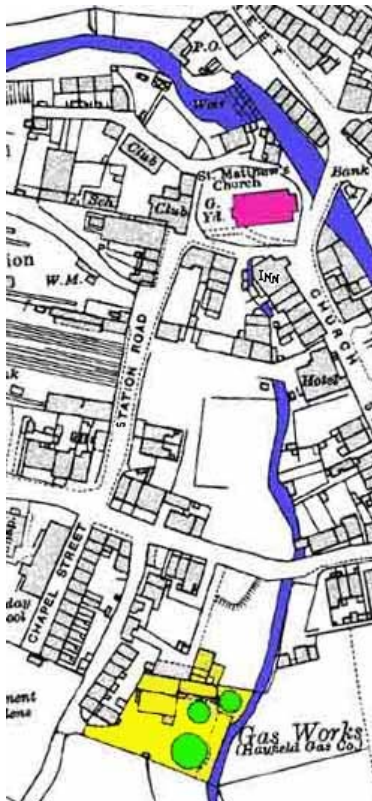
Tailor (2)	Stonemason
Wheelwright	Bleacher
Shopkeeper (7)	Cotton Spinners (4)
Butcher	Blacksmith (2)
Printer	Parish Clerk
Painter & Glazier	Woollen Manufacturer
Miller	Cooper
Boot & shoemaker (5)	Beer retailer (2)
Joiner & Builder (3)	Gentry and Clergy (7)
Cotton manufacturer (2)	Professional persons (3)
Horse dealer	Inns and Public Houses (4)
Tanner & paper maker	Cotton Spinners (4)

By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the cottage weaving industry had arrived in 'Hayfield', and many of the properties in the centre of the village date from this period.

The deeds of the Bulls Head Inn show that it was sold in 1747 to one Josoph (sic) Lingard Cotton Manufacturer and 'Clothier' from the 'Parish of Leigh in the county of Lancaster'. Was this the start of the cotton industry in the village? The village prospered, as can be seen from the amount of building that took place and in 1788 the Bulls Head Inn was extended with a new set of 'front rooms' incorporating the then state of the art sash windows allowing large panes of glass to be used in opening sashes.

The census of 1841 shows 'Hayfield' to be a small manufacturing Town, with several mills engaged in textiles, both cotton and woollen, and in printing.

### Hayfield even had its own Gas Works



In 1836 the New Mills and Hayfield Gas company was established by Act of Parliament, but its right to supply Hayfield lapsed. Then in 1858, the Hayfield Gas Co was formed. It supplied gas for street lighting in the village as well as for domestic and industrial use. The Gas Works closed in the 1950's. It was situated on the site of the now new houses off 'Ridge Top Lane', formerly known as Gas House Lane.



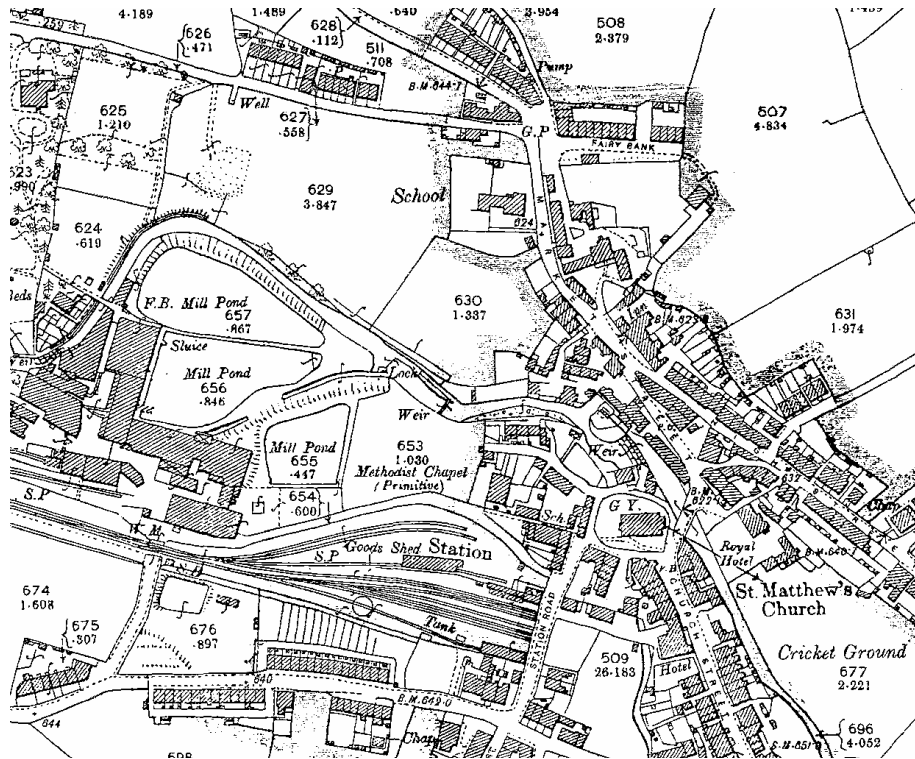
The first Street Gas Lamp in Hayfield was lighted on 27th January 1859.

Gas and Oil lamps were still in daily use in Hayfield in the 1950s as the village was slowly wired up for the use of electricity.



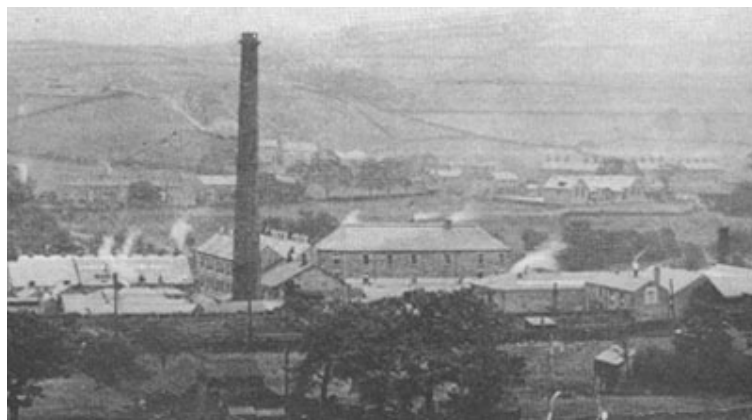
Hayfield Station showing a train standing at platform, goods yard and the Wood Print Works, centre right.

With the arrival of the railway on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1868 and the easy transport of coal for steam power, town gas manufacture and transport for manufactured goods, the village rapidly expanded into a small industrial town, with for example the Kinder Print works (Now the Bowden Bridge Camp site) employing several hundred people.



Population In 1901	of Hayfield
Under 16	30%
16 - 19	4.5%
20 - 29	20%
30 - 59	35%
60 - 74	9%
75 +	0.9%

The numerous 19th century workers' cottages throughout the central area of the village accompanied this expansion. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Hayfield was a prosperous manufacturing town with a population of 2,615, the majority employed in the textile, printing or paper manufacturing industries.



Wood Print Works site, adjacent to the Railway station closed in the 1980's and the site was used for a 'Executive' housing Development.

The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen the gradual disappearance of manufacturing industry, to the point where now (2004) there is only one small paper converter still in existence, with a much reduced workforce. The municipal housing built in the middle of the century gave way in the latter half to 'executive' homes, over 120 being built since the late 1970's.

During much of the twentieth century Hayfield was a popular destination point for urban day-trippers and the ramblers' movement, being only 15 miles by train from Manchester, a journey time of some 45 minutes. It was the stage for the famous Mass Trespass of 1932, which led to numerous long-term reforms in access to the countryside. Sadly, the disappearance of the railway link in 1970 caused much of this tourism to decline.