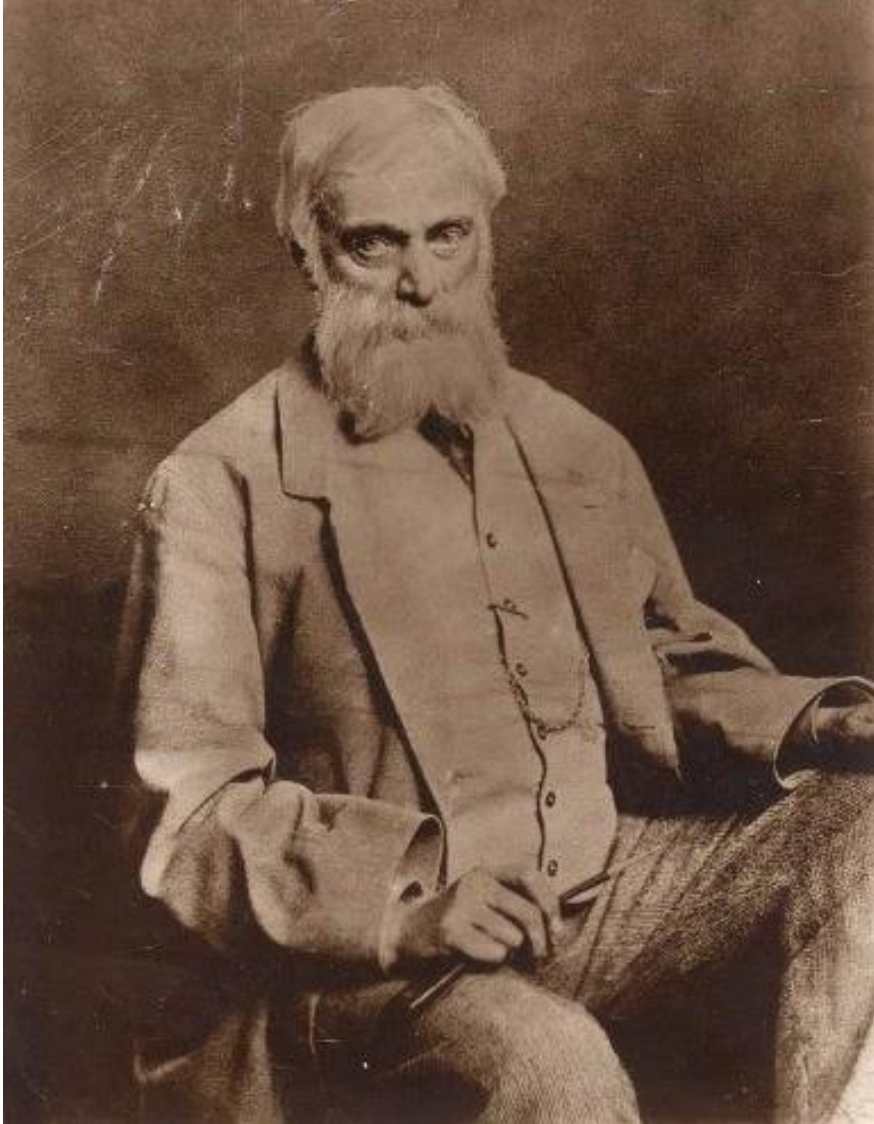


## **George Devey**

**1820 - 1886**

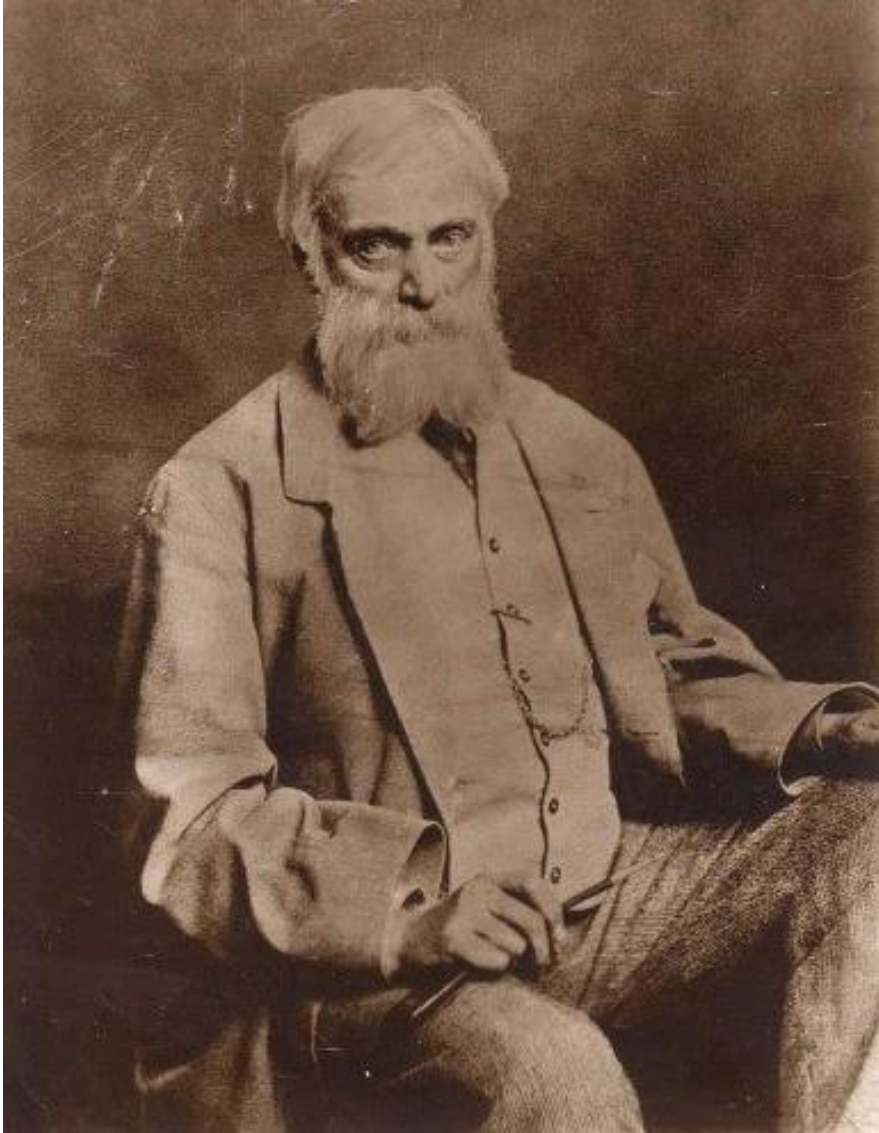
**A brief view of his life  
and selected works**

# Early Life



- **Educated with his older brother in Lincolnshire and then at Kings College School, London**
- **Through his mother he was related to the artist Augustus Egg and George Devey himself showed an early interest in becoming an artist. In the 1840s he had works exhibited in the Royal Academy**
- **In 1837 he was placed as a pupil in the practice of the architect Thomas Little where he developed his skill in draughtsmanship and remained with Little after completing his articles. The work of the practice was mainly in the Gothic Revival Style**

# Early Life - Continued



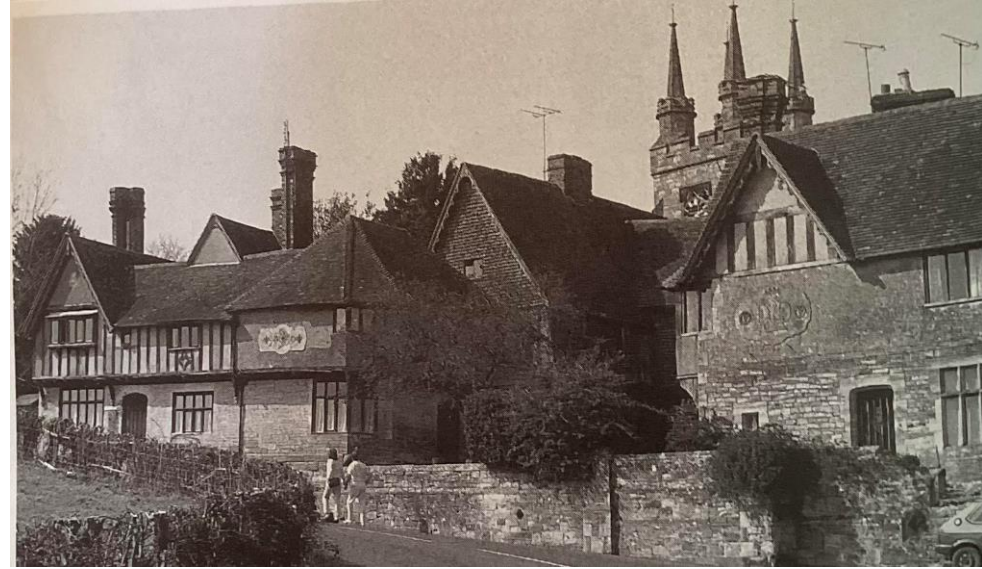
- In 1846 he went on a tour of Europe, visiting Belgium, Germany, Italy and Greece
- On his return in 1848 he set up his own architectural practice at 16, Great Marlborough Street, London though continuing to produce some work for Thomas Little
- Devey developed his own style based on close observation of the vernacular style which included using traditional materials of timber, brick and tile
- Devey died of pneumonia, just before he was due to retire and is buried in Hastings



# Example of work not local - Cottages at Penshurst

Devey's practice was slow to develop but in 1848 he was commissioned to renovate and extend cottages at Penshurst in Kent, including Hammerfield. This was built in 1856 and owned by James Nasmyth who invented the steam hammer, hence the name.

This work was well received and he was then employed to build new cottages such as those in Leicester Square, Penshurst Place by Lord De L'Isle.



Design for Hammerfield





# Example of work not local – Goldings, Hertfordshire

**Goldings** - “Red brick, English bond, with diaper patterns in blue headers, above a coursed rubble stone base, and with ashlar dressings and stone mullioned windows; Welsh slated roofs with multiple stone-coped parapeted gables, numerous multiple shafted moulded brick chimneystacks with moulded bands and oversailing caps.”  
(Historic England description)





# Example of work not local – Ascott , Buckinghamshire

In 1873 Lionel de Rothschild bought a farm at Ascott in Buckinghamshire for his son Leopold who decided to turn it into a fashionable country house to entertain his guests.

George Devey, who had worked on other Rothschild projects, drew up plans for an Old English or Jacobean style house.

Taking the original farmhouse as the core, he created an informal, sinuous range of gables, chimneys and half-timbering.



# Devey's work in Derbyshire

**George Devey worked on Sudbury Hall between 1876-1883 for the Vernon family.**

**He designed the East Wing [now the Museum of Childhood] and the stable block for the Hall, plus a number of cottages in the village, including the butcher's shop, and restored All Saints Church as well as the Sudbury Gasworks.**



Sudbury Hall stable block



Sudbury Gasworks, built in 1874, prior to renovation



# Example of Devey's work for the Sutherlands

George Devey was introduced to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Sutherland by Lord De L'isle, for whom he had designed cottages in Penshurst.

From 1857 onwards Devey was commissioned by the Duke to design a number of new cottages on the Sutherland's Cliveden Estate in Buckinghamshire, as well as modifying other cottages and more mundane buildings such as a cow-house.

The cottages are now holiday cottages on the Cliveden estate.



Spring Cottage, originally a Gothick tea room, which Devey modified and extended



Ferry Cottage built for the ferryman in 1861

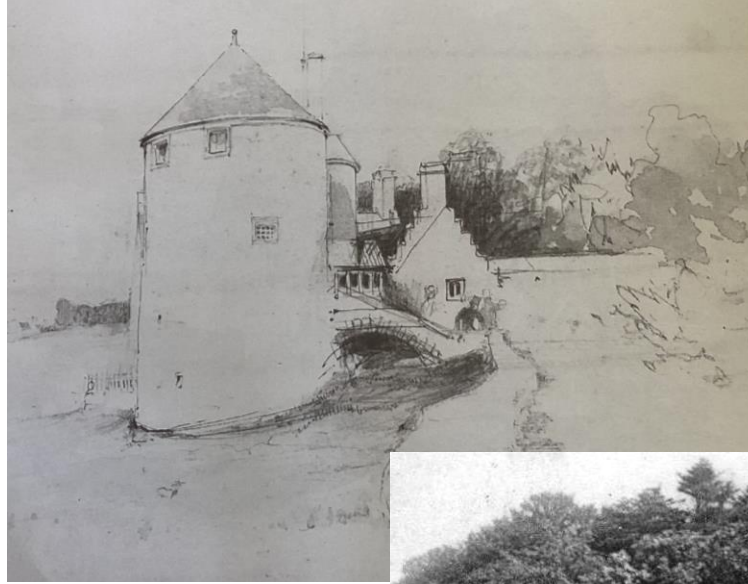


# Example of Devey's work for the Sutherlands

At the Duke's invitation, Devey visited Dunrobin, the Sutherland's ancestral seat in Scotland and produced plans for a number of cottages, lodges and other buildings on the estate and in the nearby town of Golspie.

Tower Lodge was built on the edge of the estate in 1865.

He also designed a couple of cottages for the Sutherland's Lilleshall Estate in Shropshire which sadly cannot now be identified.



Devey's drawing of Tower Lodge



Photo of completed Tower Lodge

# Devey's work on the Trentham Estate

On the Trentham Estate, Devey's designs were mainly confined to cottages, particularly in the Tittensor area, barns and some designs for larger properties which were never executed. Some of his designs cannot now be identified or have been demolished.

It is thought that Devey did not visit the Trentham area, but oversaw the building of his designs by frequent correspondence with Thomas Roberts, the surveyor on the estate.

Plans, tracings and drawings would be exchanged between the two to enable Devey to make any necessary alterations and adjustments.





# Gravel Pit Lodge

Built in 1859 the lodge guarded one of the west entrances to the Trentham Estate at the end of a carriage drive lined with elm and lime trees. It provided oversight of the nearby gravel quarry. This provided the gravel used in the laying out of the Italian Gardens in Trentham and for building work on the estate.

Gravel was also sold on a commercial basis. The quarry closed in 1948 but was reopened in the 1960s to provide gravel for the building of the M6.

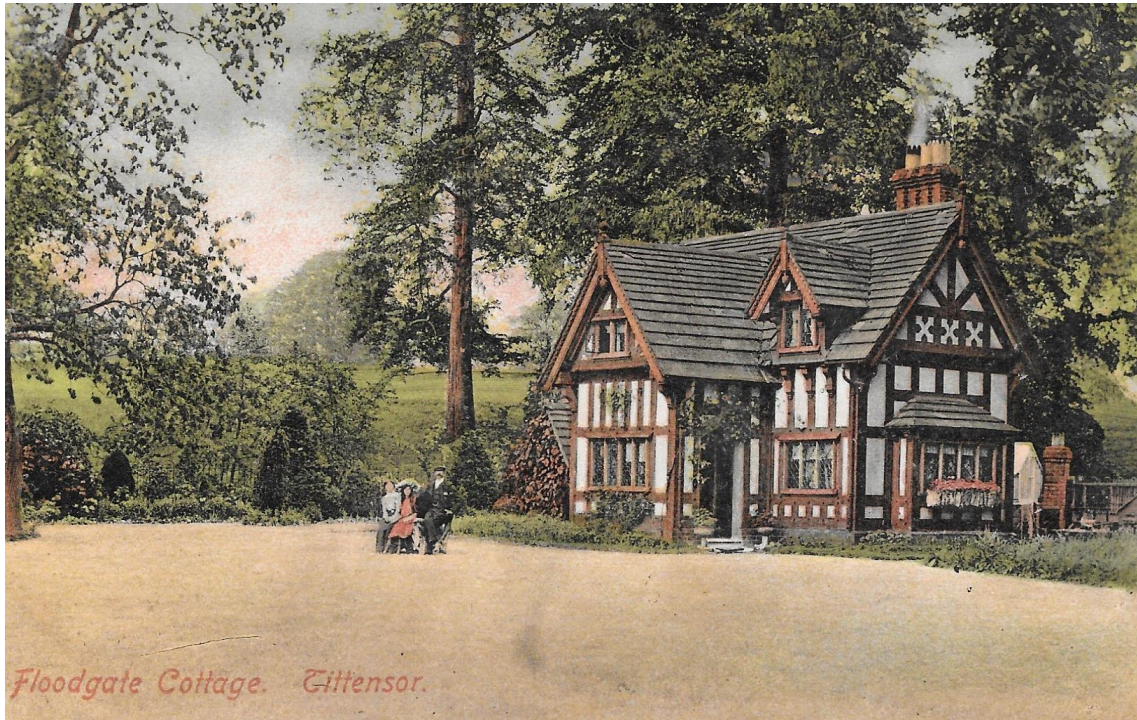
A bridge over the M6 allowed continued access from the Lodge to the grounds of Trentham Park but this was closed off when Gravel Pit Lodge was privately sold in the early 1980s. Gravel Pit Lodge has been a Grade II listed building since 1980.





# Floodgate Cottage

This cottage was built in 1858 at the south end of Trentham Lake. The occupant helped to prevent trespassers and poachers accessing the Estate grounds. They were also responsible for controlling the sluice gates so that the lake could occasionally be drained to remove the silt washed down by the River Trent.

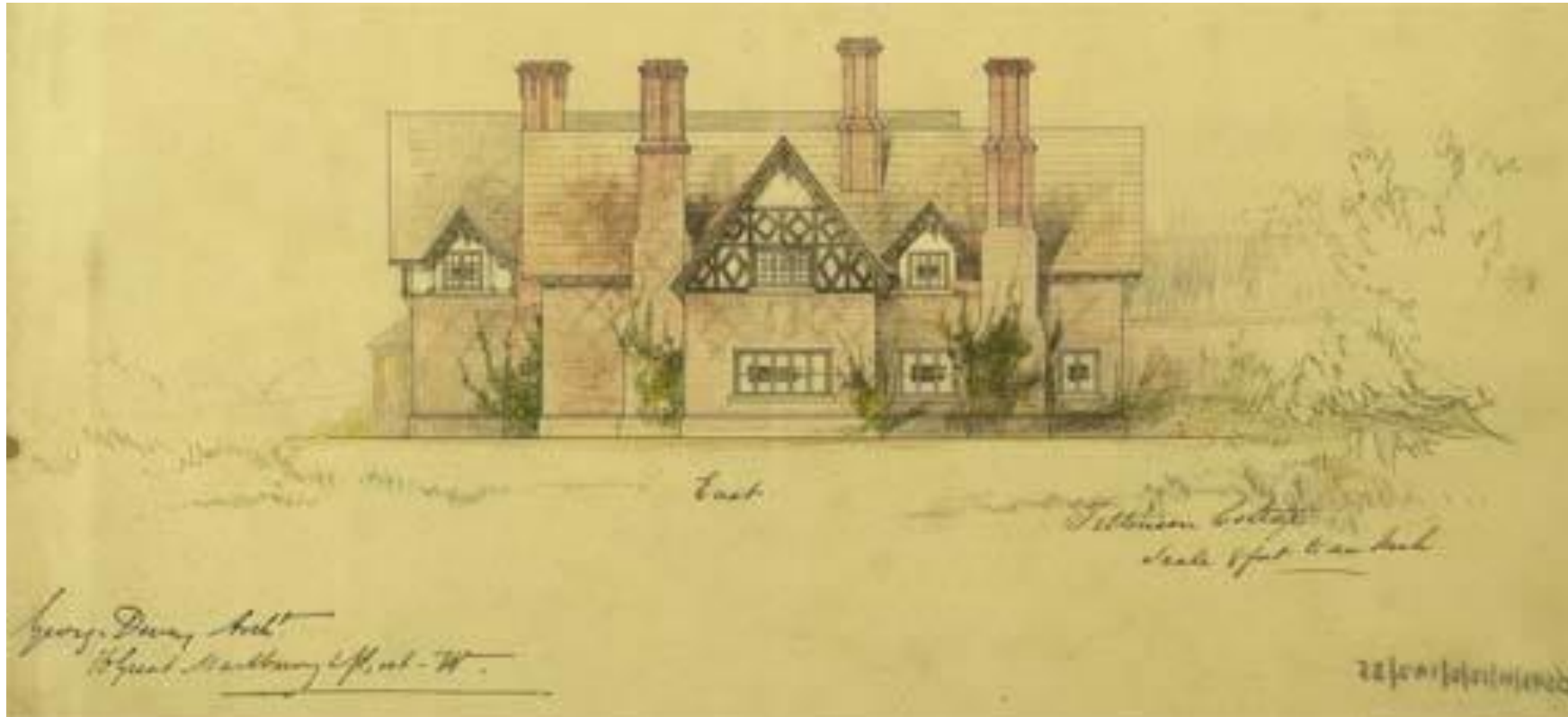




# Tittensor Cottage

This was a plan for a substantial cottage with three bedrooms, a wine cellar and a servant's bedroom. The plan shows Devey's artistic flare with the inclusion of greenery, ivy and shrubs and also demonstrates his concern with the 'external harmony' of his buildings and how they fit into the landscape.

This cottage is also featured under information about Thomas Roberts who substantially altered it in the 1870s.



# Burne House and Burne Cottage, Tittensor

This pair of cottages are in Tittensor and were built in 1861. Although a pair of attached cottages they are different in size and with differently proportioned gables.

This is typical of Devey's style when designing pairs of attached cottages. They were listed Grade II in 2006.





# Tittensor National School

This was Devey's first village school design and it was built in 1861 on land donated by the Duke of Sutherland, who also paid for its construction and contributed an annual donation to the running costs of the school.

It was built to accommodate 100 children but logbooks reveal that rarely more than 70 were enrolled. The school building was put up for sale in the 1914 Sutherland Estate Sale but withdrawn and then in the 1919 Auction it was sold to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Luke's Church.

It continued to function as the village school until 1966 and is now privately owned.



# Toft Cottages, Hanchurch

This pair of cottages were built in 1858 as workers cottages for Toft Farm, near Hanchurch.

They were sold as part of Toft Farm estate in the Sutherland Auction of 1919 and only recently have they been sold into private ownership.

They are now known as Drayton Road Cottages and have been listed Grade II since 1996.



Lot 109—COTTAGES BELONGING TO TOFT FARM.



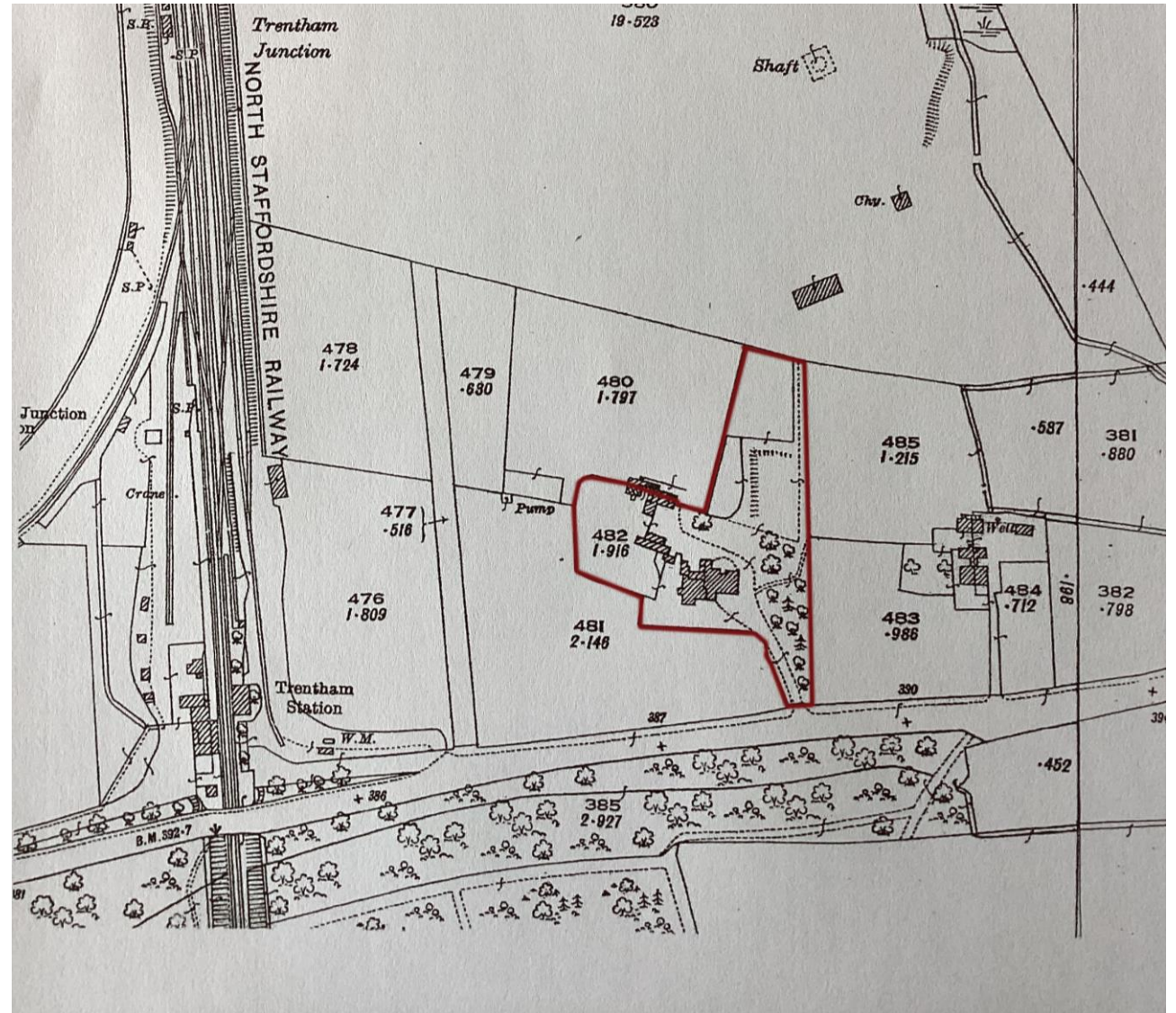
# Hem Heath House

This was built in 1862 and was a large detached house situated to the east side of Trentham Station.

When housing along Longton Road was being developed by the builder William Mould he was referred to this house as an example of the style to be used in the new villa residences that were to be built.

Hem Heath House was listed in the Sutherland Auction Catalogue for the sale in 1919 and at the time it was leased by Florence Iron and Coal Company.

It can be seen on subsequent maps but appears to have been demolished when Hem Heath Colliery expanded in the 1960s.



Outline of Hem Heath House from 1924 25-inch OS map



# Devey's influence

George Devey's style of architecture, although popular with the landed gentry, was not always well regarded in his lifetime as it did not follow the fashion of the time for Gothic Revival.

Devey found his own style, known as Kentish Vernacular or Sussex Wealden, and remained faithful to it. His preference for using bricks, tiles, timber, tall chimneys, gables, barge boards and curves was later developed by Richard Shaw, Charles Voysey and other members of the Arts and Crafts movement a generation later.

In this way Devey had considerable influence on English house building and we are fortunate to have examples of his work in our local area.



The Dairy at  
Coombe Cottage,  
Kingston-upon-Thames



Pair of cottages at Nonnington, Kent

**Produced for Heritage Open Day 2025  
By the Trentham Heritage Project  
Thank you for watching**

