

- 2.6 The development of the Whitestone Business Park with its wide range of business activity is a major source of employment even if the majority of people working there do not actually live in Withington. Elsewhere there are still a wide range of independent businesses based in or close to the village. Some are obvious like the garden centre, garage, car sales operation, furniture producers and kennels, but many operate more discreetly using the internet or phone to serve their customers. The major farms employ less direct labour for traditional arable and cattle work but much of this is done by those who work as local contractors. Diversification has created employment in trees, turf, chickens, soft fruit etc



Whitestone Business Park

Westhide

- 2.7 (Extract from Littlebury's Directory and Gazetteer of Herefordshire 1876-7)
"Westhide is a parish situated between the main road leading to Worcester (over Fromes Hill) and the Bromyard Road. The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire canal forms its northern boundary. Westhide is situated 6 miles NE of Hereford, 9½ miles SW of Bromyard and approximately 2 miles NE of Withington station on the Worcester Hereford branch of the Great Western Railway (West Midlands Section). It is in the Radlow hundred, Hereford union, petty sessional division, and county court district, and Ocle-Pychard (Burley Gate) polling district. The population in 1861 was 174. The soil is deep clay, subsoil is red marl, chief produce is wheat, hops, beans, fruit, roots etc. The land is very fertile and well wooded, but rather hilly. There are two quarries in the parish, one of road stone the other of an inferior kind of wall stone."
- 2.8 Westhide has changed somewhat from the detailed description above. The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire canal, which arrived in the 1840's, forms the northern boundary of the parish. The canal was never a financial success and closed within 30 years. It is now being restored by volunteers.
The number of houses now is only 33. There are very few children under the age of 17. The Church, dedicated to St Bartholomew, still holds regular services and is an important feature of the community, holding several village events. The school which was built to

accommodate 42 children at the cost of £400 in 1863 is now a private dwelling. The land is still very fertile with a wide range of crops.

Preston Wynne

2.9 Preston Wynne is a small village situated to the north of the A465 Hereford to Bromyard road. There are just over 60 houses on a 3 mile loop through the parish, and at Preston Marsh. There is a variety of building stock, the oldest being a Grade 2 listed C14 hall house and the newest built in the last decade. There is no identifiable village centre. The land is mainly used for farming. The church of the Holy Trinity was built in 1727, probably on the site of an earlier chapel. It has a marble monument to Henrietta Pugh who left an endowment to the poor.

The old local school is now a private house, and the designated schools today are Burley Gate VC primary school and Queen Elizabeth Humanities College in Bromyard. The local children utilise a bus service to get to these schools. The Memorial Hall was erected by the villagers of Preston Wynne and Felton to remember those who fought in the Great War 1914-1918. The building was originally a receiving station on the south coast for returning wounded soldiers. After the war it was brought to Withington by train and from there it was transported to Preston Wynne.