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# Our Feltham

Rediscovering the Identity of a Post-Industrial Town



**An Interactive Qualifying Project Report  
submitted to the Faculty of the  
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# Abstract

The London Borough of Hounslow is implementing a fifteen-year revitalization plan for Feltham. Through interviews and community engagement, our project highlighted the elements that make up the identity of the town to be incorporated in the next steps in the redesign of the town center. The team created a website that incorporates project deliverables, a comprehensive list of bibliographical sources, an Encyclopedia of important town assets, a walking tour of key elements of town identity, and a promotional video.

# Acknowledgments

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# Executive Summary

Feltham used to be a predominantly industrial town, but as time has moved on, so has the town. While it is economically stable, people of the town have shown dissatisfaction in the amenities and atmosphere of Feltham. To meet the needs of the people, the London Borough of Hounslow developed the *Feltham Masterplan*, a fifteen-year plan which outlines a general course of action for the revitalization of the town. In this project, we helped the Hounslow Council integrate additional historical perspective into this plan. To do this, we identified the following project objectives:

- To document the cultural heritage and history of Feltham to preserve it for future generations;
- To identify key aspects of Feltham’s identity that can support its revitalization;
- To highlight historical locations, and prominent people that shaped Feltham for both locals and visitors.

To document Feltham’s unique cultural and industrial heritage, we first collected data by interviewing a number of local subject matter experts. **Interviewing local historians and archivists** provided a broad background on both Feltham’s overall history and, more specifically, of its industrial history. We analyzed the **local archives** collection of original documents, maps, and pictures to describe the town’s historical context. Additionally, further interviews with **educators** and other **community members** provided a greater perspective into different points of view on both the town and its history.

From the results of our interviews, we compiled information on both the history of the town, notable locations and people, and avenues for improvement in the town. We developed a number of deliverables: a brief **encyclopedia**, which we dubbed the *Encyclopedia Felthamica*, a digital and in-print **walking tour**, a **promotional video**, and overall **design recommendations**. Given the digital nature of these resources, we made them all available on a **comprehensive website**, shown in Figure 0.1 (<https://sites.google.com/view/ourfeltham/home>).

The website was designed to organize information by the categories we identified. The **Sources** menu contains a complete **Bibliography** as well as the sources we collected information from in **Interviews**. Under the **Identity** tab, we created four broad categories: **Architecture**, **Businesses**, **People**, and **Natural Features**. In addition to providing references to all the history, the website offers digital access to all of the following deliverables as well.

The first deliverable developed was a brief **encyclopedia about Feltham**:

*Encyclopedia Felthamica*. After aggregating all qualitative information into their respective documents, they were parsed for historical information. Notable people, places, and things became entries and relevant information from interviews was sorted into those respective

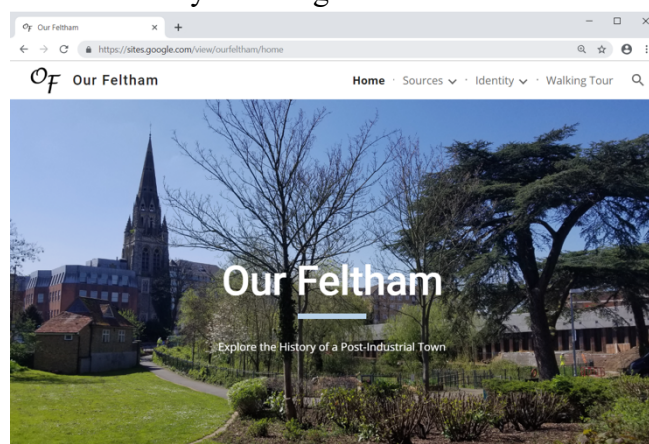


Figure 0.1: Comprehensive Our Feltham website

categories. Other interviews were cross-referenced, and when available, external resources were used to validate the authority on those claims. The final document (Figure 0.2) provides an introductory context on a number of historical assets, highlighting their significance with respect to Feltham.

The information about these same people and places were used to develop another tangible product: a **historical walking tour** called *Feltham Steps Through Time* targeting places that are still standing, have historical significance, and are related to local celebrities worthy of attention. Buildings and locations from around the town were plotted on an online map (Figure 0.3). Routes were carefully chosen to keep pedestrians on main walkways, thus increasing the walkability of the route as well as directing walkers near local businesses and places to rest. Two different routes were developed, a short one (4.8 km) and an extended one (7.5 km), to cater to both able and less able walkers alike.

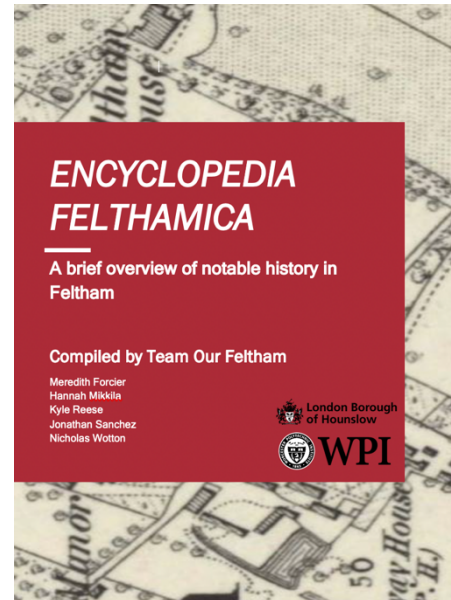


Figure 0.2: The Encyclopedia Felthamica

With the historical information and pictures, both old and new, we developed a **promotional video** entitled *Why Feltham* (Figure 0.4). By using old and new photos, the video

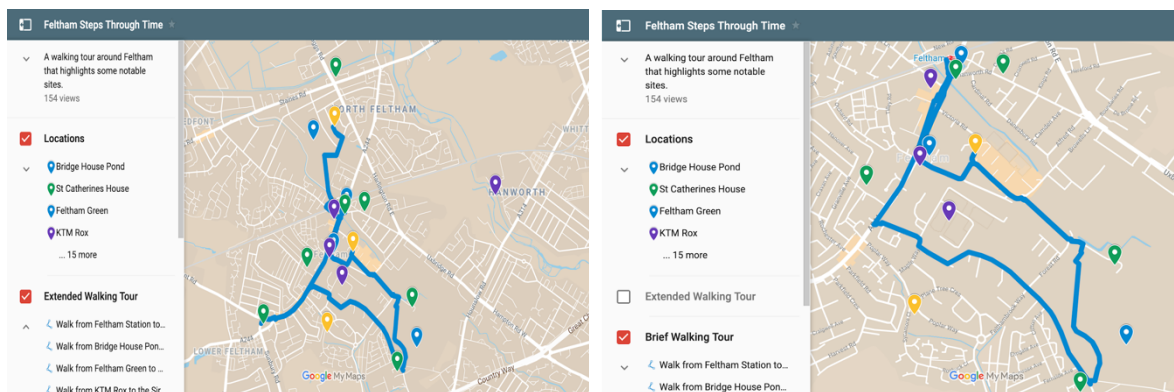


Figure 0.3: A preview of the extended (left) and brief (right) walking tour paths

was designed to draw attention to Feltham’s past and present. We focused on the same categories as in the encyclopedia. Textual captions were used to enhance readability on multiple platforms (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chfXUtFISTs>).

Finally, we used the community suggestions to develop design recommendations for *Architecture 00*, a company selected by the Council and funded by the *Greater London Authority* to deliver innovative designs for the public spaces to reinvigorate the town center and undertake a



Figure 0.4: Why Feltham Video

local economic study that will inform the strategy for development of the Feltham town center. Based on our research, we recommended **eight** areas of improvement including to:

- Incorporate a structure to commemorate Feltham’s **Marshalling Yards**
- Acknowledge **Brian May** for his contributions to the community
- Build a **concert venue** at **Hanworth Air Park** to highlight the town’s music history and improve nightlife as proposed in the *Masterplan*

A full list of proposed design improvements is included in Section 3.2.1, and we produced a map that marks the locations of all of the design suggestions, as shown in Figure 0.5.

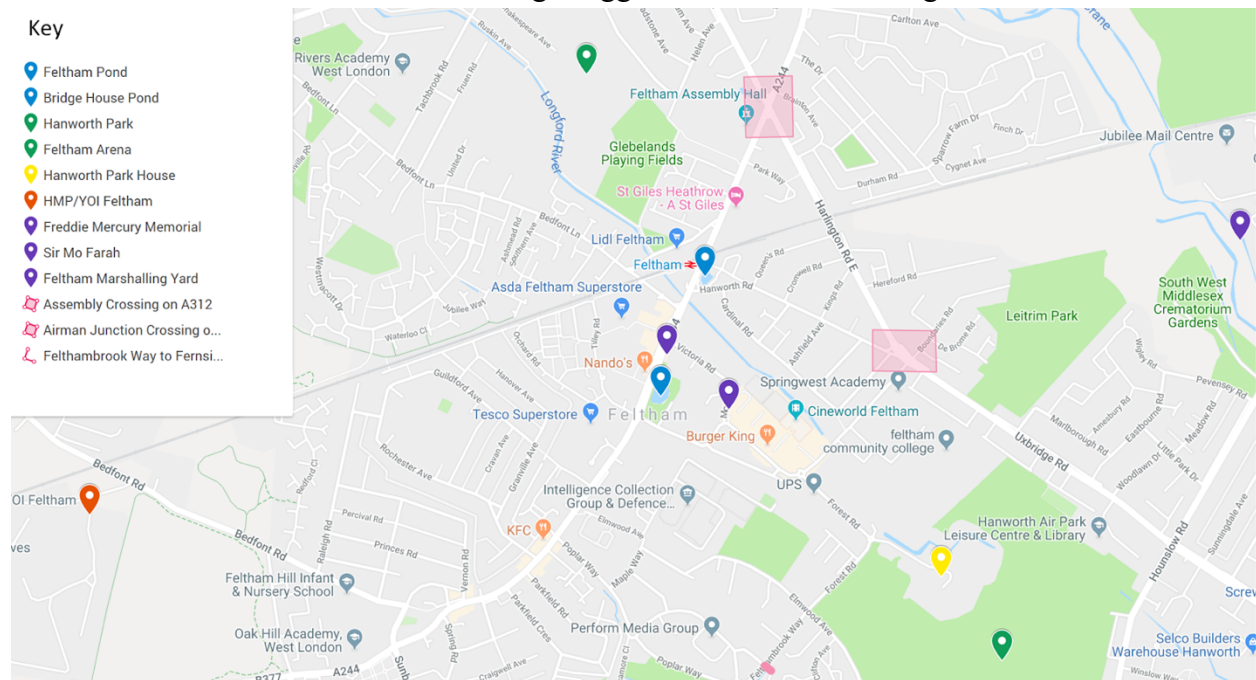


Figure 0.5: Design recommendation locations

Since our project is a part of a longer-term initiative, measuring its outcomes may prove difficult, given its large geographic and chronological scope. However, we hope that our work can be a contribution for a greater acknowledgment and understanding of Feltham’s industrial history, as well as a positive source of concrete suggestions for design changes to the town and its center.

# 1. Introduction

Over time, cities and towns evolve in response to changes, specifically the changes in technology, which may lead to times of growth or generate setbacks, depending on how they impact an area. As these areas develop, they seek to adapt to these changes and make accommodations while preserving their cultural and historical heritage (Bailey, Miles, & Stark, 2004; Yamamura, 2018; Orr, & West, 2002). In doing this, some populations take care to ensure that their identity is preserved through these transitions.

Many cities and towns can lose sight of where they came from during these times of change (Alpopi & Manole, 2013). The town of Feltham in the London Borough of Hounslow is in this position and wants to rediscover its roots and renew its identity to promote a community that is both prosperous and proud of its rich industrial heritage (Reynolds, 1962). The London Borough of Hounslow plans to renew Feltham's identity through a regeneration project. One of the main priorities in this regeneration is to present Feltham's heritage in an easily accessible format. Citizens worry that regeneration and infrastructure changes will result in a loss of identity (Professor Golding, 2018).

In 2017, the London Borough of Hounslow proposed a fifteen-year plan called the *Feltham Masterplan* (2017). The plan is focused on improving the town's center, known as The Centre, but beyond a brief discussion at the start, avoids a direct focus on the town's history. Feltham's rich industrial history was previously under-documented and mostly shared only by word of mouth through small groups in the community. Through communicating with members of these communities, we helped to better incorporate town history into future revitalization and promote town pride.

The London Borough of Hounslow had completed revitalization projects before, including the regeneration of the Boston Manor House and the creation of an affordable makerspace (Greater London Authority, 2019). However, none of the previous efforts have been at the scale of the whole town, nor aimed to leverage Feltham's unique heritage as a catalyst for change. Given the area's current limited industry and its economic reliance on Heathrow Airport, a focus on heritage would provide a unique avenue for cultural and economic development, as well as an opportunity to rebuild the community and its identity (Feltham Arenas Residents Association, 2017).

The intent of this project was to contribute to the Council's revitalization efforts and renew the identity of Feltham by exploring and documenting its industrial and cultural heritage. The objectives of this project were to document the cultural heritage and history of Feltham to preserve it for future generations; to identify key aspects of Feltham's identity that can support its revitalization; and to highlight historical locations and prominent people that shaped Feltham for both locals and visitors. We accomplished these objectives by interviewing various locals and documenting their knowledge of Feltham, thereby obtaining a wide swathe of information regarding the town. We then collated these accounts into a single collection that is easily accessible. With this history in mind, we then devised and suggested a series of changes that could be incorporated into the revitalization of the town. Finally, we used everything we learned to identify key areas within the town relating to its heritage in order to preserve these areas and

accentuate their importance in the public eye. We hope this project has been able to help the residents of Feltham develop pride in their town, as well as its past, as they help to construct the town's new identity during this time of economic and social reinvention.

## 2. Background

The Borough of Hounslow plans to incorporate a larger consideration of heritage into the ongoing *Feltham Masterplan*. This plan describes how Feltham was once known to be a large industrial site; however, over time the town has transformed. Although limited published information on Feltham exists, we obtained the most information from publications such as census data, books, journals, news articles, and briefings provided by our sponsor liaison, Joyce Ip. She is a Regeneration Officer for the London Borough of Hounslow and has served a leading role in the beginning phases of Feltham’s revitalization. In this chapter, we present the context of our own project by introducing the town of Feltham. We describe the town’s population and history, followed by descriptions of famous former town residents, and a presentation of the local issues the town is facing. Finally, we conclude with a description of Feltham today.

### 2.1. Feltham: Population, History, Issues

The town of Feltham occupies the south-western part of the London Borough of Hounslow (Figure 2.1). It is small in size and has a high population density. As of 2011, Feltham had over 27,000 residents living in an area just over 2.5 square miles (Office for National Statistics, 2011). This area has changed significantly over time as Feltham was once mostly fields and has transformed through many industrial eras (London Borough of Hounslow, 2017).

The Borough of Hounslow is an area with a diverse population. According to an extrapolation of the 2011 census by the Greater London Authority, 48.1% of the people living in Hounslow were Caucasian (British, Irish, and other) and 51.7% were Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) (2018). The majority of the ethnic population in the Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) grouping was Indian and Pakistani, at 20.1% and 5.6% of the 51.7%, respectively. Additionally, the area has been home to a community of traveling show people for over 100 years, with some groups settling as early as 1905 (Griffin, 2018). The show people have been a prominent presence within Feltham and have become a notable group recognized by the community.

The town of Feltham is a working-class community. As of 2017, the median annual gross income in Feltham was about £32,860 compared to the Borough of Hounslow’s average of £44,500 (GLA London Data store, 2017). Of the working people in Hounslow,



Figure 2.1: Feltham in Greater London (TUBS, 2011)

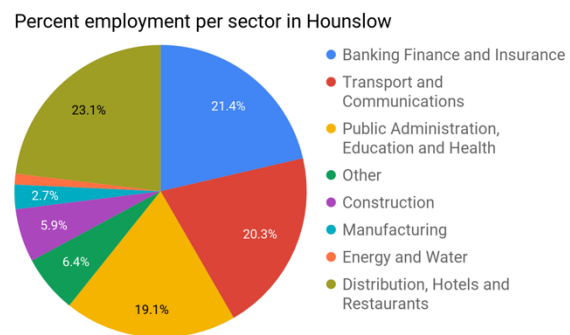


Figure 2.2: Percent employment per sector in Hounslow (Greater London Authority, 2018)

25.3% did not earn the living wage of £10.55 per hour, or approximately £22,000 per year, compared to 21% of working people in all of London (Living Wage Foundation, 2019; Trust for London, 2019). The major sectors of employment in Hounslow are Distribution, Hotels, and Restaurants; Banking Finance and Insurance; and Transport and Communications. The proportion of the population employed by each sector is shown in Figure 2.2 (Greater London Authority, 2018).

According to Joyce Ip, our sponsor liaison, Feltham has often received a bad reputation because of the Young Offenders Institute which is located in town, and news coverage focused on various crimes. Between April 2017 and March 2018, the London Borough of Hounslow had about 25,000 cases of crime, ranging from rare occurrences of robbery and drugs to more frequent instances of vehicle crimes and violence and sex offenses (Greater London Authority, 2018). Ip also confirmed that Feltham has higher crime rates than the average across the rest of the United Kingdom. Often times people forget about Feltham's rich history because they only associate current Feltham with crime and the Young Offenders Institute.

### 2.1.1. Heathrow's Impact on Feltham

Heathrow Airport has had a significant impact on Feltham as a result of its close proximity. One in three working people in western Hounslow depends on Heathrow Airport for employment, which has a positive impact on Feltham's economy (Feltham Arenas Residents Association, 2017). Heathrow is the busiest airport in the world, with sixty-seven million travelers served annually to over 180 destinations across the globe (LHR Airports Limited, 2016). Despite the economic boost Heathrow provides to the town, many residents remain unhappy with heavy traffic (Feltham Arenas Residents Association, 2017). The numerous planes and people who pass through Feltham going to and from the airport create significant noise pollution in the town. This travel and noise have negatively impacted Feltham's environment.

## 2.2. Feltham's Heritage

Originally a small settlement surrounding a church, Feltham became a more appealing place to live and developed in 1848 with the laying of a nearby railway line. Thus, an otherwise rural settlement became an exciting industrial prospect as it became easily accessible from the main city of London. Housing development occurred at the onset of the 20th century, with the establishment of a Ministry of Defense (MOD) site not long after.

Simultaneously, aircraft manufacturing plants and an associated airpark were also opened in the growing town. This rapid influx of businesses and other interested parties caused the area to develop into an industrial town, thus becoming an integral part of Feltham's rich heritage. After many years of transitioning from the industrial era, town resources have limited access to



*Figure 2.3: St. Catherine's Spire from Bridge House Pond*

Feltham's previous identity. While many changes in the town are planned, it is important to still

recognize where the town came from and define its identity such that it can be embraced in the future.

While a significant shift has occurred within the town since its industrial era, Feltham is far from disappearing from the map. In addition to the employment opportunities provided by Heathrow and the local companies, the new shopping area, The Centre, continues to bring new people to Feltham. Many new residents settling in Feltham are unfamiliar with the town's history. While it is easy to see significant locations that are still standing, such as St. Catherine's Spire (Figure 2.3), St. Dunstan's Church, and Hanworth Park House, much of the rich history is not easily visible.

In order for a town to grow and prosper, first, it is important for the town to consider its heritage and history. The people that know the town and its history seek to preserve these aspects of heritage even as the town changes; they want to build the town's new identity on the basis of its rich past.

### 2.2.1. Feltham's Industrial History

In the time before automobiles, trains were of considerable importance. Essential for the movement of goods and people efficiently over long distances, locomotives were engines of



Figure 2.4: Feltham Marshalling Yard with SR 4-8-0T shunting (Brooksbank 1958)

commerce. By 1899, England had the longest network of railroad track in the world, with over 52,000 miles, 20,000 more than the next closest, Germany (Misa, 2011, p. 113). This gap allowed England to firmly establish its dominance with rails on the world stage. With so many miles of railroad track and the accompanying trains, infrastructure for the management and maintenance of these machines and tracks was vital. One of these maintenance sites in England was the Feltham

Marshalling Yards, pictured in Figure 2.4. During the nineteenth century, Feltham was considered the leader in railway repairs (Reynolds, 1962).

The aviation industry was also a large part of Feltham's history and economy (Reynolds, 1962). **Heston Air Park**, located in Hounslow, was opened in 1929 and was used by aircraft manufacturers, local flying clubs, and commercial airlines (American Air Museum in Britain, 2014). The Air Park brought in nine aircraft manufacturers to the Borough of Hounslow area by 1933, including Heston Aircraft (Reynolds, 1962). Unfortunately, after the end of World War II, the airpark was closed to flying, partially due to its proximity to Heathrow, and was turned into a gravel field in 1947 (American Air Museum in Britain, 2014). The town of Feltham also had its own



Figure 2.5: Hanworth Air Park with the landing of the Graf Zeppelin (Parton, 2019)



airpark, **Hanworth Air Park**, seen in Figure 2.5. This park was used to land the Graf Zeppelin on two occasions, which was used to record many aerial photos of the surrounding land. After all the aircraft manufacturers left this area, the Hanworth Park House, situated in the middle of the park, was used as a retirement home for a short period of time (Halpenny, 1984).

Following the events of World War II, most of Europe was in disrepair. Nearly 70% of industrial infrastructure was destroyed (Judt, 2006). In the transition to a civilian economy, with most of the previous factories gone, demand for automobiles both at home and across greater Europe arose (Pilisuk, 2007). Feltham, too, saw the wave of this change. In conjunction with the



Figure 2.6: The DB2/4 (Wikimedia Commons, 2014)

development of road infrastructure being developed in 1928, Firestone opened a tire manufacturing facility in Feltham (Reynolds, 1962). Hanworth Park used to be home to three different aircraft manufacturers, including General Aircraft Ltd, British Aircraft Manufacturing Co Ltd, and Rollason (Halpenny, 1984). In the mid-1950s, Aston Martin's headquarters was based at a site near Hanworth Park (Loveys, 2015). Aston Martin was, and still is, a British manufacturer of luxury cars.

Some cars were even featured in James Bond films, such as the DB5 in the 1995 film, *Goldeneye* (Cooper, Schembri, & Miller, 2010). Following the purchase of the Lagonda Company, an engine manufacturer, Aston Martin moved on to produce the DB2/4, shown in Figure 2.6. They produced 761 vehicles of this model between the years of 1955 and 1957 (Loveys, 2015).

### 2.2.2. Prominent People from Feltham

Beyond Feltham's industrial history, we identified three notable famous people who lived in Feltham, yet few people know of this history. The prominence of these figures in the public eye is an example of the power of Feltham's pop culture legacy.

#### **Farrokh Bulsara (Freddie Mercury)**

Farrokh Bulsara, also known as Freddie Mercury, was the lead singer for the rock band Queen from the 1970s until his death in 1991. His distinctive performances, along with the band's unique sound, had the group enjoy global recognition for their style (Queen, 2019). While smash hits such as "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "We Are The Champions" were popular, it is a little known fact that Mercury spent a number of his early years in the town of Feltham. In fact, Feltham, England is the town Freddie and his family first moved to when they immigrated into the United Kingdom. Freddie Mercury has since passed away due to complications with AIDS at the age of 45 in 1991 (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 2019). His family home, located on 22 Gladstone Avenue, now boasts an English Heritage Blue Plaque shown in Figure 2.8. This plaque signifies a memorial of a significant location tied to a person that has been dead for twenty or more years. Freddie Mercury's blue plaque is one of over 900 that can be found

throughout the city of London (Blue plaque unveiled on Freddie Mercury's first London home, 2016).



Figure 2.7: Freddie Mercury performing live at Wembley Stadium in 1985 (right) (Encyclopædia Britannica); The English Heritage Blue Plaque at 22 Gladstone Avenue (left) (Spudgun67, 2016)

### Brian May

Brian May is known for many things, but most notably for being a founding member of the band Queen and a doctor of astrophysics (Brian May official biography, 2018). Before he gained fame on the world stage, May was a young student from Feltham who started a band in 1963 with some friends. Four years later, he embarked on his academic journey at Imperial College where he studied Physics and Mathematics. During his time at university, he began a new band, playing guitar with what would eventually become Queen, pictured performing in Figure 2.9 (The 20-year reign). After worldwide fame, May continued his education nearly thirty years later and completed his doctoral thesis in astrophysics to earn a PhD from Imperial College in 2007.



Figure 2.8: Brian May playing with Queen (Kentarotakizawa, 2009)

### Sir Mo Farah

Sir Mohamed “Mo” Farah is an Olympic gold medalist in distance running. Originally from Somalia, Farah moved to Feltham at the age of eight due to conflict in his home country. Before taking up running, he was an avid football (soccer) player who aspired to pursue a career in the sport before his athletics teacher and, later, trainer advised him to take up running (Lindstrom, 2019). Mo Farah later attended Feltham Community College before going on to win



Figure 2.9: Sir Mo Farah mural located in Leisure West, Feltham

four Olympic gold medals and make many appearances across the world. Mo Farah has remained a part of Feltham's culture, specifically through a mural (Figure 2.9) which recognizes his beginnings in Feltham.

## 2.3. Recent Efforts to Improve Feltham

A declining sense of identity in residents of Feltham has provoked proposed solutions. The London Borough of Hounslow (2017) refuses to let Feltham fall into disarray and obscurity. They recognize the rich industrial heritage the town has had, which needs to be recorded and disseminated so it can be preserved. However, they also recognize the more immediate threat of a loss of public interest, causing the economy and social atmosphere of the town to decrease. These two challenges each require a planned solution and the resources to execute it, both difficult requirements to fulfill when urban development is concerned. Currently, some of the more immediate threats to the town in the form of loss of public interest have garnered potential solutions; however, the effectiveness of these solutions is debatable.

### 2.3.1. Feltham Arena Petition

By 2017, the Feltham Arena Parklands had allegedly become a place for drinking, drug deals, and unauthorized motor vehicles, which in turn made the park a less desirable space for people to use (Feltham Arenas Residents Association, 2017). The community members took action so that this area would be investigated by the police and thus, started a petition that required 600 signatures to get the police to address the problems in the park. The locals were requesting that the police supervise and enforce:

- No drinking on the Parkland;
- No motorized vehicles on the Parkland except by authorized staff;
- No groups of two or more who may not be obeying these policies can remain in the park or police officers will take action to remove them.

The petition was able to reach the required number of signatures. This petition exemplifies the community's investment in the town's climate to ensure that action is taken to allow for change and a prosperous future.

## 2.4. Moving Forward: Feltham's Fifteen-Year Plan

The above description of Feltham's issues and recent efforts highlight a need for a more robust plan with a clearer vision and a more tangible goal. The London Borough of Hounslow's (2017) proposed answer is the *Feltham Masterplan*. The *Feltham Masterplan* is a document that outlines a series of beneficial changes to the town. Proposing changes first requires outlining the current situation, so the document identifies some unique aspects of the state of the town in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis.

This SWOT Analysis lays out the existing conditions in the town, such as its strong community base; however, it also highlights the areas that need improvements, such as poor travel design and lack of evening amenities. The opportunities section provides abstract solutions to some of the identified weaknesses, such as using "infrastructure investment to leverage regeneration benefits." Notably, the threats section identifies possible avenues of decline for Feltham should measures not be taken to address them. Some of these stated threats include "incremental and uncoordinated approach to development may result in fragmented townscape" and "failure to involve and provide spaces for community may lead to alienation and lost

initiatives that could drive regeneration.” After this analysis, the plan proposes many changes of varying degrees to be accomplished over the following fifteen years; however, they also incorporated more short-term achievements. Towards the end of the document, a proposal is made for “small interventions,” which are small scale and low budget projects aimed to enhance everyday life. This second, smaller proposal highlights the broader vision of the plan to stimulate a sense of pride in Feltham residents, not just pride in the physical aspects of the town but in the town’s new reputation as well.

The council for the Borough of Hounslow was tasked with selecting designers to work on the next steps of the *Masterplan*. These designers were to carry out a variety of projects involving public spaces and other amenities within Feltham. After reviewing multiple bids, the council selected the company *Architecture 00* to carry out the projects.

Currently, Feltham has been analyzed for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth, and threats to its development (London Borough of Hounslow, 2017). Solutions to some issues have been proposed, but there is still much to address. The *Feltham Masterplan* outlines a strategy for renewing the identity of this once proud, industrial town, but it cannot account for everything. Many believe that the input of the people must be taken into consideration on all matters, otherwise, an intent to improve may end in failure.

In this chapter, we described the geographical and historical context of Feltham. We also highlighted the issues of identity and lack of published information. As we learned more about this town from our sponsor and expanded our understanding upon arriving in Feltham, we realized there was a need for better preservation of the town’s history. Our team was tasked with contributing to the revitalization efforts and renewing the identity of Feltham by exploring and documenting its industrial and cultural heritage. In the next chapter, we lay out our objectives for this project and describe the methods we employed to achieve them.

### 3. Methodology

The goal of this project was to recommend ways to revitalize and renew the identity of Feltham by exploring and documenting its industrial and cultural heritage. To accomplish this goal, we developed the following objectives:

1. To document the cultural heritage and history of Feltham to preserve it for future generations;
2. To identify key aspects of Feltham's identity that can support its revitalization;
3. To highlight historical locations and prominent people that shaped Feltham for both locals and visitors

As this is a part of a much longer-term project, measuring the outcomes may prove difficult to quantify or observe, given its large geographic and chronological scope. However, for the purposes of our objectives, we hope to see a greater acknowledgment and understanding in the town of its industrial history, as well as a positive reception to our suggestions of changes to shops, services, and spaces in at least the town center. In order to achieve our objectives and translate them into a tangible product, the team completed four deliverables: *Encyclopedia Felthamica*, design recommendations to *Architecture 00, Feltham Steps through Time (Historical Walking Tour)*, and *Why Feltham (Promotional Video)*, which can all be found on a website we created to present our deliverables. This chapter will outline the steps taken in order to produce these deliverables.

#### 3.1. Documenting the cultural heritage and history of Feltham

Our first objective was to identify the rich cultural heritage and unique history of Feltham in order to preserve it in an accessible way. Since the history of Feltham was preserved mostly orally by members of the community, we took several steps to collect it. With help from our sponsor liaison, we reached out to local historians, archivists, educators, and community members. From talking with these people, we gained a better understanding of Feltham's past, which allowed us to provide suggestions for its future. We obtained primarily history contained in the many stories and memories of the local community by asking interviewees some of the following questions in a semi-structured style (Appendix A):

- What do you know about Feltham's history?
- What was Feltham like fifty years ago?
- How were Hanworth park and house used previously?
- Could you tell us anything about Aston Martin?
- How did industry in Feltham affect you? Did you work in one of Feltham's manufacturing facilities?
- How has the community of Feltham changed over time?
- Do you have any old pictures or maps of Feltham?

This oral and physical information was collected through voice recordings, handwritten notes, and photographs. All of this data was then recorded digitally and organized in a way that is easily accessible to the council and the general public. Digital documents allow for easy search, use, and redistribution. In order to use this information in the most effective manner, further research was required, and additional organizational methods were used.

### 3.1.1. Interviewing key informants

To comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we could not solicit communications with interviewees directly. Therefore, we wrote a brief letter outlining the goal of our project, which was forwarded to local historians in the Feltham area by our sponsor liaison (see Appendix B). Local historians interested in participating in this research were then contacted by our liaison using this letter. Since published historical information about Feltham is limited, we identified **seventeen people** total to interview in order to gain more knowledge about the history of the town. Each interviewee had a different specialty and perspective on Feltham, so we developed questions that would provide us with useful information about the town. We aimed to understand as much of their perspectives as possible, while also striving to minimize bias in our conversations among different individuals. We developed interview protocols to eliminate bias and provide a consistent platform for each interview (Appendices A and C). Each interviewee's perspective and insight into the history of Feltham inspired us to create broad interview questions to allow for an open discussion that did not limit what the interviewee wanted to discuss; this helped us achieve our objective to document the broad history of the town and translate this information to *Encyclopedia Felthamica*.

All oral communication between historians, archivists, community members, and educators were recorded with a secure recorder and notes taken by a member of the team once we received the individual's consent (Appendix D). This allowed us to document important information and have a source that could be referenced in the future if any gaps in information arose. All interviews occurred with at least two members of the team in attendance so that one person could ask the questions while the other person took notes on the individual's responses.

### 3.1.2. Consulting the archives for historical information

In addition to speaking with local historians, we also connected with archivists to visit The Feltham Archives and gain access to historical texts and primary sources that allowed for a better understanding of the town's history. We met with and interviewed **three archivists**. This information allowed us to compile additional references for our research and combine this information with the background chapter of the project. The archives provided a wide range of information, so the group was able to focus on the industrial history of the community and compile information in this general area of study. The archives provided information beyond oral communication, like photographs or artifacts, which the group documented through photos when approved by the archives (Appendix D). The information gathered was widespread, due to the spread of the archives but was focused on the industrial history that was available.

### 3.1.3. Documenting history in *Encyclopedia Felthamica*

Once the team finalized interviews and wrapped up data collection, something had to be done with this information. We decided to create *Encyclopedia Felthamica*, one of our final deliverables, which provides a brief overview of the prominent people and places in Feltham. More information regarding how this was produced can be found in Section 4.1.

## 3.2. Identifying key aspects of identity to support revitalization

The London Borough of Hounslow recently selected designers from the company *Architecture 00* to deliver innovative designs for the public spaces to reinvigorate the town

center and undertake a local economic study that will inform the strategy for development of Feltham town center. In order to work with the designers to incorporate Feltham's heritage in the planning, we compiled information from the interviews and conversations with community members. We used some of the following questions to guide our interviews and collect necessary design recommendation information:

- What aspects of design in Feltham are most appealing?
- What aspects of design in Feltham are most unappealing?
- What design recommendations do you have to incorporate heritage into the town's infrastructure?
- What design changes have occurred in Feltham over time?

In order to identify the key aspects of Feltham's identity and suggestions that will support the future development of Feltham, we met with **eight community members, five council employees, and two main groups within the Feltham area**, the Feltham History Group and Hounslow Rotary Club. During these conversations, we followed the interview protocol as outlined in Section 3.1 (Appendices A and C). From this information, we identified common themes, wants and needs, and a snapshot picture of the town's history.

### 3.3. Highlighting significant locations and people in Feltham

Our third objective was to highlight historical locations and prominent people that shaped Feltham for both locals and visitors. By analyzing interviews and information we collected from secondary sources we developed a list of these important sites and people linked with Feltham. This was important information to collect to support the revitalization efforts. Ultimately, we choose to create a *Feltham Steps through Time* (**historical walking tour**) and *Why Feltham* (**promotional video**) to highlight Feltham's rich history.

#### 3.3.1. Investigating significant visual history

We interviewed **seventeen individuals** in and around the community with the intent to find out more information about the heritage of Feltham, town changes that occurred over time, and important historical locations. Based on our third objective, we used the following questions to guide our interviews and collect necessary information:

- What are some of the most important historical sites in town?
- How do you think historical locations could be better promoted or highlighted?
- What are some town changes you have seen over time?
- Are there any existing documents about important historical sites in town?
- What does Feltham mean to you?

From these responses, we looked for locations mentioned multiple times and recorded information about these places. Additionally, we looked for other places that we found to be either visually or historically significant through our own independent research and investigation. These locations had an interesting story that few people knew about, so we wanted to make this history more visible to anyone visiting these places. This led to the creation of the **historical walking tour**.

Before arriving in Feltham, we were aware of several important people that came from Feltham, the most notable and well known of which are Olympic gold medalist Sir Mo Farah and members of the world-famous rock group Queen; however, the interviews gave us better insight to people and places in Feltham that were notable but not as acknowledged publicly. Throughout

the investigation, we established locations in town that best honored and promoted these prominent people and places. Through finding these visual representations of important town figures and locations, we looked to determine ways to direct people to visit these places within the town.

### 3.3.2. Testing the Walking Tour

Testing our walking tour map was very important to ensure that it would be both comprehensive and useful to people; this would ensure it would be utilized as a resource in the future. The first version of our map was completed on Friday, April 12th and was subsequently emailed to a number of possible stakeholders we identified. The map was created in two formats, digitally on our website and in a printable format (Appendix G).

We also distributed our map to people that we interviewed who helped us formulate it. This map was geared towards people that lived in town, schools that wanted to take field trips with students, and visitors that were coming in to visit Feltham. Our maps were emailed out to these people once the first iteration was completed, along with our contact information so that they would be able to give the map a trial run and respond to us with feedback on what they thought would make the map better. We asked for feedback by April 20th to set a hard deadline to make improvements to the map. The feedback we received focused on the descriptions of the locations, so we made changes to the map based off of the feedback and provided it to the council with a version of the map that they could edit in the future.



## 4. Results and Analysis

When we arrived in Feltham for the first time we had a limited knowledge of its history; however, we had no idea of the depth and richness that it had. Through interviews and analyzing historical documents we collected the information of the story of Feltham. To help this story live on in the future generations we created four major deliverables that can be used by many people: *Encyclopedia Felthamica*, a list of design recommendations, *Feltham Steps Through Time* (a walking tour), and *Why Feltham* (a promotional video). We created a **Google Site** to present all our deliverables in a single place. Ideally these deliverables showcase our work within the town on a level that can be found engaging by any member of the community.

### 4.1. The *Encyclopedia Felthamica*: a documentation of Feltham’s cultural heritage and history

Once interviews concluded and information was documented through notes and audio recordings, we had to organize and compile this information into a usable format. First, information was organized into thematic categories: **architecture, businesses, people, and natural features**. Next, the information was fact-checked with other published information. If

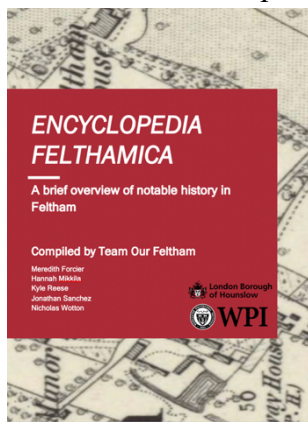


Figure 4.2: The Encyclopedia Felthamica

available, the team used resources from the Feltham Library to cross-reference to ensure that information we would be publicizing was accurate and legitimate. Finally, *Encyclopedia Felthamica* was produced to capture all of this information. A full version of this brief encyclopedia can be found in Appendix H. This process can be followed using the graphic in Figure 4.1.

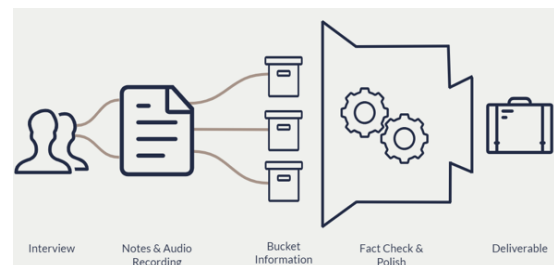


Figure 4.1: Converting interview content into a usable deliverable

Following the numerous interviews conducted, an appropriate data aggregation format had to be chosen. We determined that a small digital booklet, *Encyclopedia Felthamica* (Figure 4.2), would be

both an efficient medium for collecting notable history in one place, as well as supporting our outcome to document Feltham’s history in a more accessible way. We found **thirty-five notable features**, categorized into four types as shown in Figure 4.3. This is a first step in illustrating the notable history beyond the surface of Feltham. We learned about many other notable

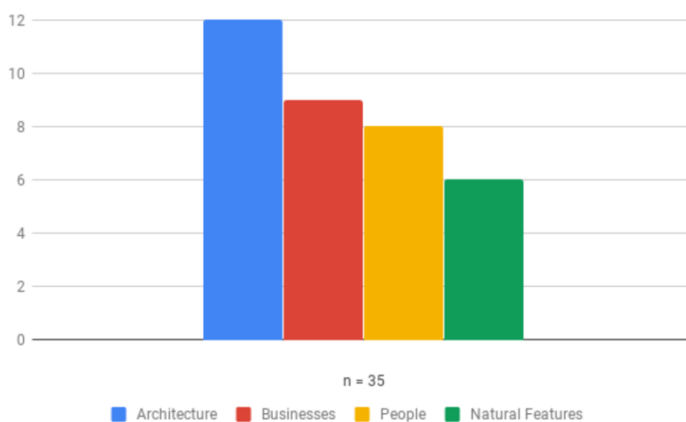


Figure 4.3: Historical topics categorized by type

buildings, and their interactions, such as the construction of the **Longford River** which is generally thought to have been constructed to supply water to the fountains at **Hampton Court Palace** (Richard Clarke, 2019). Table 4.1 outlines each topic that we found to be both supported by multiple sources as well as notable:

*Table 4.1: Historical topics categorized by type*

<b>Architecture</b>	<b>Businesses</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Natural Features</b>
St. Dunstan’s Church	Waterloo Line	Sir Harry Veitch	Longford River
Hanworth Park House	Whitehead Aircraft Limited	David Brown	Feltham Green
Hanworth Palace	Aston Martin	General Roy	Borrow Pits
St. George’s Church	Kempton Steam Museum	Mo Farah	Hanworth Park
St. Catherine’s Spire	Heathrow Airport	Freddie Mercury	Hanworth Air Park
Hampton Court Palace	General Aircraft Limited	Brian May	Feltham Arena
Feltham House	Ministry of Defense Site	A.W. Smith	
Red Lion Pub	Market Gardens	A.H. Moss	
Moon on the Square	Feltham Marshalling Yard		
Bridge House	Hampton Court Palace		
Manor House			
Feltham (Village)			

Many of the places listed were sites of notable industrial and cultural history. **Feltham Village**, for example, served as the original town center and High Street prior to the development of the London & South Western Rail in 1848. Many buildings, some still standing, were sites of a number of famous people and events. **Feltham House**, in particular, used to house the famous Cabbage King, **A.W. Smith**. Now, unfortunately, it is landlocked by the restricted **MOD site** and is inaccessible to the public. Other businesses that came up were linked primarily to Feltham’s previous history, especially its aviation history. **Whitehead Aircraft Limited** and **General Aircraft Limited** in particular were notable centers for repair and construction of aircraft in the first and second World Wars, respectively. Other natural features in the town had frequent mentions to their utilization and otherwise social or functional importance. **Feltham Green** used to be enjoyed as a social hub, and people used to swim in the **Longford River** on hot summer days. Now, however, ducks and swans are the primary swimmers in these bodies of water.

### 4.1.1. A.W. Smith: ‘The Cabbage King’

A particularly noteworthy individual in our findings was **Alfred William (A.W.) Smith**, also known as ‘**The Cabbage King**.’ While we had heard mention of this Cabbage King before we arrived in Feltham, we were met with extreme difficulty in finding any credible and content-rich sources on this person, while in the United States. A few hours spent researching using the phrase ‘Cabbage King’ eventually yielded the surname of ‘Smith,’ which proved to be unhelpful

WIKIPEDIA

#### Draft:A.W. Smith

Alfred William Smith (A.W. Smith), also known as "The Cabbage King," was one of the most successful market gardeners working in South West Middlesex, England in the 19th and 20th centuries.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith was born in Putney in 1855 but lived most of his life in Feltham until his death in 1927.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith was remembered by one of his foremen, Alfred Lucas:

"He was a man of extreme modesty, was deeply but silently religious, did not drink or smoke and I never heard him use a profane expression during the whole 14 years I was in his service. He told me he never had time to read a book. He had no holiday when I was with him and he was absent only 3 months when he had a severe breakdown and fear was entertained for his life."<sup>[1]</sup>

Lucas, as the man who spent much time working with Smith, is the main source of information relating to Smith.

#### Contents

##### Early Life

##### Career

- Humble Beginnings
- The Rise of an Empire
- The Workers
- The Workplace Environment
- Crops of "The Cabbage King"

##### Politics

##### The End of the Story

##### References

##### A.W. Smith

#### Early Life

Smith was not educated in the traditional sense of schooling: at nine years of age he began work with his father and

Figure 4.4: A.W. Smith Wikipedia Page

well as on the list of notable persons, right alongside Freddie Mercury, Brian May, and Mo Farah. Thus, we hope that the information we have gained can be accessed by many more.

## 4.2. Aspects of Feltham’s identity to incorporate in its revitalization

We identified key aspects of Feltham’s identity by gathering information from interviews and developed community design needs to pass on to the design team from *Architecture 00*. From the responses to questions in Section 3.2 (Appendices A and C), we presented a list of community needs and supporting information to *Architecture 00*. From interviews with community members, historians, and archivists, we were able to provide them with the necessary information on Feltham’s industrial heritage, so the team could further implement history into the revitalization.

### 4.2.1. Revitalization opportunities and challenges

Feltham’s **industrial history** includes trains, planes, and automobiles and was once a large part of the town’s infrastructure. The airfield, numerous manufacturing buildings, and railroads were once the image of Feltham. Many people loved how the town had everything they needed in it, but over the years many businesses have moved out. Feltham has experienced a lot

due to the ubiquity of that name. However, once we arrived in Feltham we discovered a wealth of information relating to him, including most importantly, his full name.

A figure this important to Feltham’s history should not be so difficult to learn about. To remedy that issue, we digitized some of the information pertaining to Smith. We created a **Wikipedia page** (Appendix F or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Draft:A.W.\\_Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Draft:A.W._Smith)) about him detailing his career, as well as other parts of his life, as learned from our time studying the town’s history as seen in Figure 4.4. We also added smaller text blurbs in other more visible areas; we mentioned him in the **Feltham Wikipedia page** under the history of the town as

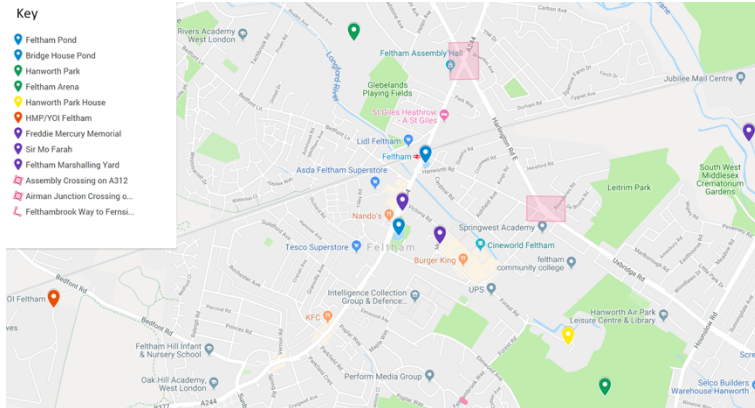


Figure 4.6: Design recommendation locations

**Green** (Figure 4.6), a pond in Feltham, to cool off their wheels on hot days to prevent expansion wear (Eddie Menday, 2019). Ponds are important public spaces both in the past and present; however, over time Feltham's ponds have not received proper maintenance. **Bridge House Pond** has duckweed, which is a sign of bad health (Angela Parton, 2019). Feltham Green has dirty water, due to the lack of an outflow pipe, levels of litter, and high numbers of wildfowl, alongside road run-off from High Street, located parallel to the pond (Richard Clarke, 2019). Additionally, Feltham Green lacks a sense of connection with High Street. Changes to make the ponds more **visually appealing** and **ecologically stable** could persuade residents to better utilize town ponds.



Figure 4.5: Feltham Green

The **green space in Feltham** was once talked about by many. Recently as seen in section 2.3.1, green space in Feltham is often perceived as a place for crime. As such, better design



Figure 4.7: Hanworth Air Park

measures should be taken to help minimize these incidents. The current layout of **Hanworth Air Park** (Figure 2.7) causes the park to be underutilized. The raised banks make the area feel very isolated, and the roads to Hanworth Air Park are narrow, dark, and uninviting according to Ed Vainker (2019). To add, there is a substantial amount of litter in the park due to a lack of trash cans. Another area for improvement is the

**Feltham Sports Arena**, which was once a notable social hub and where Mo Farah previously practiced. Unfortunately, the park has become run down and as a result, fails to offer the same appeal that it once did. **Renovating** both Hanworth Park & Feltham Arena and incorporating a **long-term maintenance plan** will help make these parks social hubs once again.

**Hanworth Park House** (Figure 4.8), located in the center of Hanworth Park, has a great deal of town history associated with it. After its construction following the Hanworth Palace

of changes, but the residents would like to see some of these old aspects of the town properly acknowledged as the town moves forward. Figure 4.5 is a map indicating the locations of opportunities for improvement.

The **ponds in Feltham** have been a defining part of the town for a long time and have become a part of the town's history. In the 1700s, wagons would drive into **Feltham**



Figure 4.8: Hanworth Park House (Angela Parton)

burning down in the 1800s, it became an important site for many different industries and activities (Richard Clark, 2019). In the early 1900s, it became the site of a flying club for elite aviators. Later on, during wartime, it became a military hospital for high ranking officers (Angela Parton, 2019). For a number of years in the late 1900s, it became the site for a retirement home for elderly individuals (Halpenny, 1984).

While many beautiful images of the house remain online, the house is falling apart (Kathy Cox, 2019). Over time the house has become extremely run-down and areas of the home no longer have a floor. The house is no longer being used for anything, and there is much town debate on what should be done with the house. Despite the house's central location, it is very hard to see because of the tall fence, dense trees, and undergrowth that obscure the view. In the future, Hanworth Park House could be a great place to **display** a small museum-like collection of the **town's history**.

The **Young Offenders Institute** is the best-known place in Feltham and gives the entire town a negative connotation (Alan Rice, 2019). From surveys given out by Rivers Academy (Appendix E), Feltham locals expressed that they feel unsafe when passing a group of young people. The town lacks youth programs or purposeful areas for teenagers to socialize, so they often loiter in green spaces (Laura James, 2019). Additionally, the council has not done sufficient research on whether youth programs would be effective for young people in Feltham. Adding an **outlet for young people** could help change many people's outlooks in this age group.



Figure 4.9: Freddie Mercury's star along High Street

Due to its good public link to central London, Feltham is experiencing a lot of pressure for the creation of more housing (Mayor of London, 2018). The *Masterplan* recognizes these needs and intends to add 3,300 homes over the next fifteen years (London Borough of Hounslow, 2017). The town's policy is that corporate zones can be turned into residential zones without approval (Joyce Ip, 2019). Residents have expressed their fears that with the addition of new housing, large businesses, like the Cineworld Complex, and small innovative businesses that drive people to Feltham will be lost in the process due to this policy (Richard Clark, 2019). Updating Feltham's

**zoning laws** could prevent the loss of important business that help create the identity of the town.

Another concern expressed by many locals is that the town is not properly displaying its history. Although there is a Freddie Mercury star on High Street as seen in Figure 4.9 and a mural of Mo Farah near the Leisure West Complex, people believe the town should do more to

showcase its famous residents. Additionally, the town lacks any acknowledgment of or honor for Brian May, a figure who had a strong positive impact on Feltham in the past. Furthermore, there are no **still-standing structures or modern monuments** to showcase the past railroad infrastructure, so just by looking around town it can be very hard to know what history in Feltham exists (William Horgan, 2019). Many residents are not informed on what the town's history is, and only a small group of people that have done their own research are aware.

Some areas in town lack a connection or safe access to the rest of town. The lack of safe **crossings signs** on the A312, Airman Junction and Assembly Hall Junction, make it dangerous (Richard Clark, 2019). Additionally, the **Feltham Marshalling Yard**, a historical site in town, has a poor connection to the rest of the town and has become overgrown. Finally, travel between Feltham Brooks Ways and Fernside is difficult because the existing bridge is closed, **opening the bridge** would allow for easier travel.

Many members of the community are excited about the change that will be happening in Feltham in the future. Residents are passionate about the places they live and want to be **involved in changes** that are happening (Richard Clarke, 2019). The *Masterplan* was not geared towards incorporating heritage into the town, but this is a very important theme to the community members to properly recognize and preserve during this time of regeneration and change.

### 4.3. Highlighting significant locations and people in Feltham

When conducting interviews with community members throughout Feltham, we learned that there is a diverse history within the town, including many notable people and locations. With this new information, we created a list of places and people in the town that we determined to represent heritage in Feltham. While there is a great range of rich history, we learned that there is a gap in the delivery of this information. Many of the locations and people that are an integral part of Feltham's history are not easily accessible or publicized, so others cannot easily learn about this on their own. The team learned about a great range of prominent history that is worth preserving and creating something with, in this case, the team chose to highlight this new knowledge with a walking tour map and short promotional video.

#### 4.3.1. *Feltham Steps Through Time: A Historical Walking Tour*

When reviewing the notes from each interview, there were many overlaps in data received and common themes noticed which helped the team select locations for the map. Upon review of the information from the interviews, there were four main categories which capture the themes of locations and people that make up Feltham's history. The four thematic categories are:

- Architecture
- Businesses
- People
- Natural Features

From the thematic list of people and places, we then mapped out all the locations of interest. After mapping these locations, we shortened the list of places to a number that could be represented on the walking tour. We chose places that were near other locations and eliminated places that were distant from the other locations. Additionally, we prioritized locations with the

most significant impact on the town, as well as those that would bring the most attention because of their names, such as Freddie Mercury’s house.

The streets we directed people along played a significant impact in the town and the success of the walking map. We looked to direct people along streets in town with many local businesses so that as people travel from location to location they can stop into shops, cafés, and restaurants along the way. Visitors could be beneficial to local businesses making the town as a whole better for everyone living in it. Additionally, we wanted to choose roads that were friendly to people walking or biking so that people did not feel like they needed to use a car to get from place to place on our map. Finally, we made sure to avoid choosing streets that would not be well suited for foot travel by visitors. In Figure 4.10 below, you can see a map with all the indicated important locations in Feltham, the brief walking tour, and the extended walking tour.

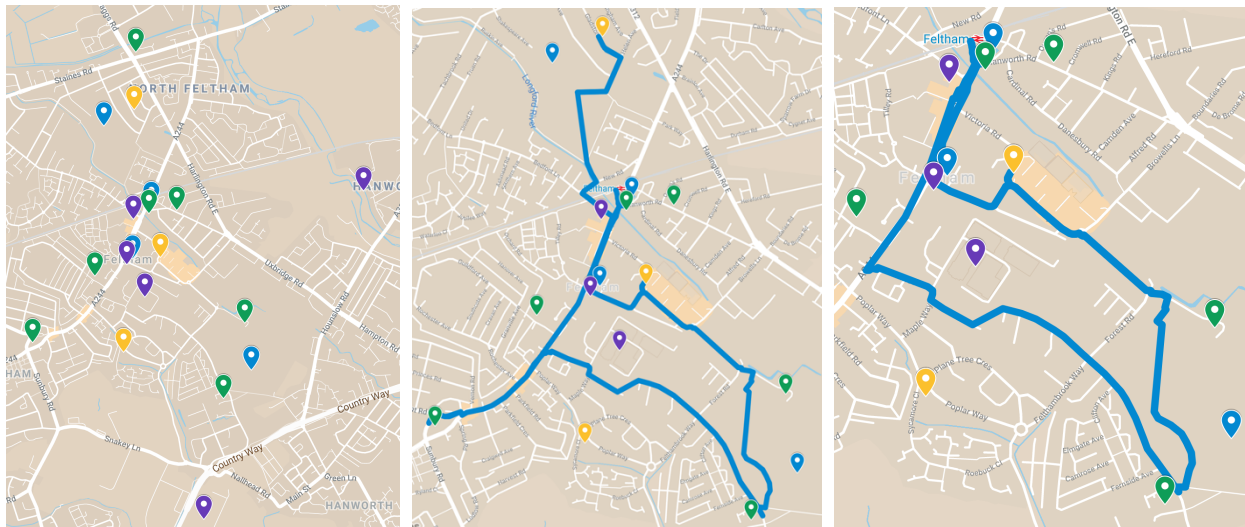


Figure 4.10: Feltham Steps Through Time map locations (left), extended (middle), brief (right)

#### 4.3.2. *Why Feltham*: A Promotional Video on the History of Feltham

When presenting and discussing our project to the people of Feltham and London as a whole, we were often asked, “Why Feltham?” Though we had heard of negative stigmas in our previous research, our first steps in Feltham showed it to be like any other town, with a nice town

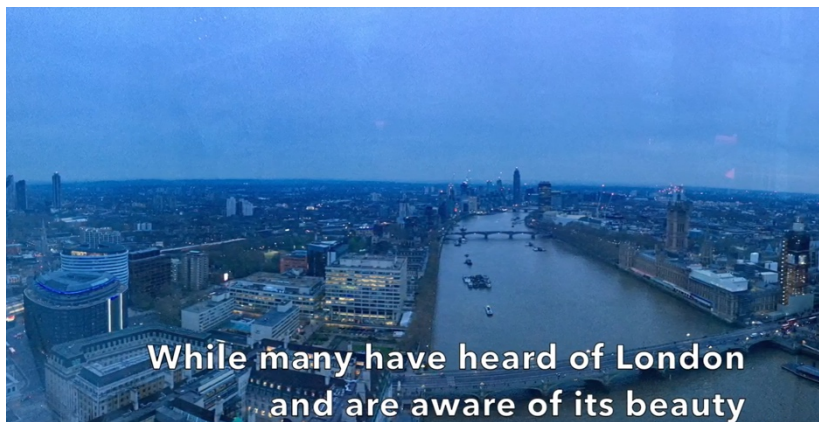


Figure 4.11: Why Feltham video

center and hidden secrets to explore. As we continued learning about the town, we were able to see the great parts of Feltham that not many people were seeing without specifically researching the history of the town. In order to communicate these incredible locations and stories to the community we featured them in a promotional video, as seen

in Figure 4.11, that could be distributed by the Council to inform people about the great history that Feltham has to offer.

Using the major sites from our findings, we compiled a video highlighting the sights and history of Feltham. Our target audience was the people outside of Feltham, deterred from visiting due to its reputation or distance. To best appeal to this audience, we highlighted the best aspects of Feltham that are more general. Townspeople would likely already know about these, but they would be interesting to those that had never been to Feltham. Our video also aimed to be easily accessible, including a readable large font and limited text in a video format that could be posted on all major platforms. Additionally, we kept the video brief to prevent loss of interest, while also encouraging locals and visitors to explore Feltham to see the rest for themselves. By highlighting the prominent parts of Feltham, we hoped to improve people’s perception of the town.

#### 4.4. *Our Feltham*: a comprehensive website of Feltham’s historical assets

Although our deliverables varied in nature, they had the single unifying quality of being almost entirely digital. To further make our encyclopedia, walking tour, and video more

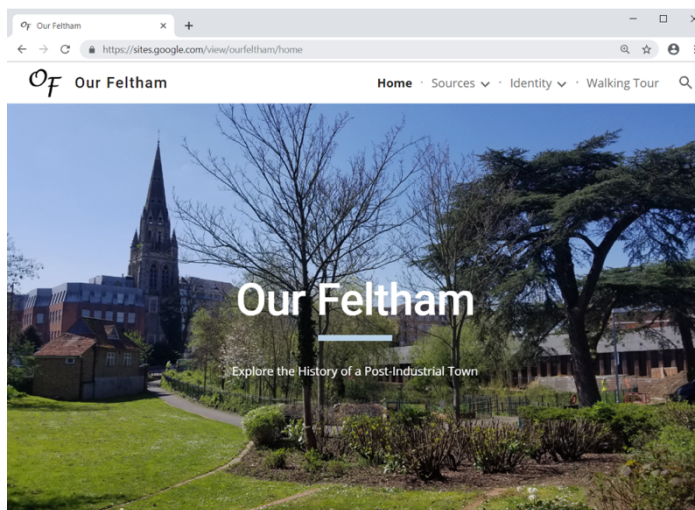


Figure 4.12: The home screen of the *Our Feltham* website

accessible, we created a **Google Site** (Figure 4.12) to host all of our content. The website was designed to organize information by the categories we identified. The **Sources** menu contains a complete **Bibliography** as well as information we collected from **interviews**. Under the **Identity** tab, we created four broad categories: **Architecture, Businesses, People, and Natural Features**. In addition to providing references to all the history, the website offers digital access to all of the following deliverables as well:

*Encyclopedia Felthamica*, *Why Feltham* (promotional video), and *Feltham Steps Through Time* (a walking tour). All of these deliverables had the singular purpose of providing more to Feltham: more history in an encyclopedia, more positive public exposure with a promotional video, and more pride in its history with an inspired walking tour. Thus, by publishing the website, we were able to truly showcase Feltham’s rich industrial heritage.



## 5. Recommendations and Conclusions

While completing this project, residents brought our attention to a need for improvements to the town; however, as we worked on the project, we compiled an additional list of points for growth. The entirety of our lists of recommendations for Feltham, its future, and the future of this project are discussed below in the order in which they relate to our objectives.

### 5.1. Expand *Encyclopedia Felthamica*

Before we arrived in Feltham, we conducted background research into the town from the United States. While we spent seven weeks researching this, we found very few published sources pertaining to Feltham in detail. We obtained most of our knowledge of Feltham through our sponsor liaison, Joyce Ip of the London Borough of Hounslow. As elaborated in the Methodology chapter, we spent time interviewing key stakeholders and historians in the town. As a result, we created a brief encyclopedia.

While this document can serve as a quick-start guide to a number of notable sites, both



Figure 5.1: Example image from website for Encyclopedia Felthamica (Angela Parton)

past and present, it is by no means comprehensive or complete. As most of our interviewees were either long-time residents from the town and mostly older residents, we cannot assuredly claim that this gave us a complete and comprehensive view into both the perspectives of the community as well as all facets of its rich history. Due to both time and travel restrictions, we were limited to both the number of people that we could interview as well as the frequency of interviews that we could have taken place. In the future, a

greater level of community involvement should be achieved to increase comprehension. Cultural and community groups such as the Travelling show people, Indian, and Pakistani should be interviewed.

Currently, the plan for this document is to be purely digital, and due to sponsor policy, will not contain any visuals; however, the website version does contain some visuals like the one in Figure 5.1. Future work for this item would include adapting it for print. This would require formatting text to fit appropriately on pages, and materials for stapling or otherwise binding then distributing these paper copies. Additionally, appropriately credited and helpful pictures and diagrams would also be useful to the educational quality of the product.

### 5.2. Integrate Community Feedback for Design Recommendations

The town of Feltham has considerable potential with the *Masterplan* to regenerate the town in place. Section 4.2 details some of the design needs based on feedback from the community. In order to maximize the progress made in the fifteen-year plan, our list of design

needs will help *Architecture 00* identify some of Feltham’s best opportunities for improvement thus allowing them, as experts, to assess the best methods to undertake those challenges.

After our meeting with *Architecture 00* on April 8th, 2019, we made one major design recommendation. **Hanworth Air Park** is less than one mile from Feltham’s town center and

could be a real asset to the town. This large park has much history and could offer something to Feltham that many towns do not have. Hanworth Air Park is in need of renovations and improved connectivity to the rest of the town. However, the park offers a substantial amount of green space for the designers to work with, in a densely populated area. After reviewing historical interview notes, it was clear that music was a large part of Feltham’s history but was not strongly represented anywhere in town. We recommend that an outdoor



Figure 5.2: Example outdoor concert venue (Park Amphitheater Stage Outdoor Park Ludowy)

stage, similar to the one in Figure 5.2, is added to the park for music performances. This will help honor the musical heritage the town has and bring more people into the Hanworth Air Park to showcase its industrial history. The *Masterplan* aims to improve nightlife in Feltham, as the town once offered a great deal of entertainment at night, and this stage would help do that. Additionally, the construction of an outdoor concert venue would improve the sense of community in town and could help residents feel more a part of Feltham's heritage and identity. While adding a concert venue to Feltham will not complete the revitalization of the town, it will align and assist with many of the goals of the fifteen-year plan.

### 5.3. Improve Feltham Steps Through Time Walking Tour

There are several different possible improvements to be made to the walking tour. These improvements fall into the categories of accessibility, future maintenance, and widespread distribution of the map. A final, more involved recommendation was to digitize and personalize the tour through a mobile application.

#### 5.3.1. Increase Accessibility of the Walking Tour

While our walking tour map is provided both digitally and physically, moving forward in the implementation of the walking tour, **signage** is an important consideration for future implementation. It will allow for easier use and higher visibility to those using it. Two ways to increase visibility are to add markers indicating the route of the walk (for both the extended and brief versions) and **interpretation boards** at each stop, such as the one in Figure 5.3. Markers along the route will help to direct users along the walk so it is easy to follow as designed. Interpretation boards can be placed at each



Figure 5.3: Example interpretation boards (Hewitt)

location marked on the map to provide more detail and images about what the location is highlighting so that users have a better understanding beyond the short description provided on the map.

### 5.3.2. Maintain the Walking Path

An important consideration in any new design feature in a public space is preservation. If the markers and interpretation boards are introduced as a supporting feature of the walking map, the maintenance must be considered and addressed. Some factors that can cause damage to these features are weather and vandalism, thus the markers and interpretation boards should be designed such that they do not wear easily and can be cleaned and repaired should they be damaged or otherwise rendered unrepresentable.

### 5.3.3. Distribute Map to the Public

The walking tour map is a way to highlight the heritage of Feltham, so in order for this goal to be fully achieved, the map must be publicized to the locals and visitors of the town. Since



*Figure 5.4: QR code to the walking map*

the map will be available both digitally and physically, there are two different strategies for publicizing this information. Digitally, the link to the map could be posted on the Council's website and social media, which can then be shared and posted by other people and groups within the town. The physical copy of the map could be printed and made available at social hubs and areas with high foot traffic within the town, including the Feltham Library, Hounslow Civic Centre, Feltham Station, and shops in The Centre. To limit paper copies and increase accessibility, a QR code (Figure 5.4) has also been created so it can be posted throughout the town in high traffic areas. This will allow the map to be accessible and available in multiple ways, so diverse audiences can be reached.

### 5.3.4. Convert Map to a Mobile Application

While the digital and physical copies of the map can be useful and appeal to a wide range of individuals, the implementation of the map can be taken a step further and incorporated into a mobile application. This app could be more streamlined and easily accessible on phones. As digital apps are very common and popular, especially amongst the youth population, this would allow for a wider reach of the Walking Tour.

## 5.4. Enhance Promotional History Video

This promotional video was designed on a limited time frame with limited skills. As a result, we have recognized that the video has some improvements that can be taken into consideration. These include distribution and improvements of the video.

### 5.4.1. Distribute Promotional Video to the Public

In order to reach the target audience for the video, the Council can post it on a number of different platforms and social media outlets. We made the video available on YouTube, so it can be shared with many other sites, such as the Council website and social media platforms.

#### 5.4.2. Improve the Promotional Video

Having someone with more skill, time, equipment, and resources for a promotional video to refine it would certainly improve the possible reach the video could have. On top of improved visual quality, there are many edits that a professional in the field of cinematography would be able to apply to make the video all around more appealing.

The main idea in this category was actual interview clips with townspeople. Many of the townspeople that we met with and interviewed were clearly passionate about Feltham and all it has to offer. **Five** of the people we interviewed said that they would be interested in being interviewed again in the future for a promotional video. Including clips of townspeople talking about why they love the town would be more impactful and personal.

#### 5.5. Improvements to the Comprehensive Website

There are a number of possible improvements to make to the website in the future to increase its effectiveness. A skilled person could take over the site after us and develop it further. Additionally, we recommend that the site is given a live domain name, making it widely available and easily accessible with a simpler URL. These recommendations would expand the reach of the project and increase its overall appeal.

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## Personal Communication Bibliography

Professor Golding	December 8th 2018
Joyce Ip	January 2019 through April 2019
Richard Clark	March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019
David Lawrie	March 15th 2019
Brigitte Faubert	March 18th 2019, April 15th 2019
James Marshall	March 19th 2019, April 12th 2019
Angela Parton	March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019
Alan Rice	March 19th 2019, April 14th 2019
Eddie Menday	March 19th 2019
Chris Hern	March 19th 2019
Kathy Cox	March 19th 2019
Sophia Laird	March 20th 2019
Sean Doran	March 20th 2019
Geoffrey. S. Hugall	March 20th 2019
Ed Vainker	March 21st 2019
Peter Rogers	March 21st, 2019
William Horgan	March 21st 2019, April 12th 2019
Aine Hayes	April 3rd 2019
Laura James	April 3rd 2019
Suzie Munnery	April 10th 2019

# Appendix A: Interview Questions for Historians and Archivists

Name of Interviewers:

Name of Interviewee:

Date of Interview:

Time:

Recorded?:

Citable?:

Anonymous?:

Protocol:

All interviews will have at least two members of the team in attendance so that one person can ask the questions while the other person can take notes on their responses. Before beginning the interview, we will ask for their consent for two items: one, can the interview be recorded, and two, can we use the interview content in our IQP report (referred to by their name and title or anonymously)? Different plans of action occur depending on these two answers. If interviewees are okay with being recorded and for our group to use their information in our report, we will begin the interview recording, and we may use information they talk about in our report. If they would prefer not to be recorded, but they allow us to use information they talk about in our report, we will only take notes on the interview. If they prefer not to be recorded and they would not like information from them to be used in the report, we will take notes on the interview but will not use the information to write our report but rather as a guide for further inquiries and research.

Suggested questions:

1. What is your name and title?
2. How long have you been studying the history of Feltham? How did you begin studying the history? Why?
3. Do you specialize in any specific area of Feltham's history? If yes, what is it?
4. Do you have any knowledge on the industrial history of Feltham? If yes, please elaborate in more detail.
5. In your opinion, how is Feltham's history, specifically its industrial history, incorporated into modern day Feltham?
6. Are there any suggestions you have for how Feltham can better incorporate its industrial history into modern day society? Please explain.

## Appendix B: Letter to Contacts

We are a group of university students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, US. In collaboration with our university, we are working with Joyce Ip from the London Borough of Hounslow on the Our Feltham revitalization project. We are working to help revitalize Feltham to be a more socially and economically sustainable place by leveraging the area's rich heritage.

As a part of our research, we would like to meet with you to explore a range of social and cultural topics concerning Feltham's history. Would we be able to contact you personally to schedule a meeting?

Best regards,

Team Our Feltham- LO19.OF@gmail.com  
Meredith Forcier- mmforcier@wpi.edu  
Hannah Mikkila- hmikkila@wpi.edu  
Kyle Reese- kdreese@wpi.edu  
Jonathan Sanchez- jesanchez@wpi.edu  
Nicholas Wotton- nbwotton@wpi.edu

# Appendix C: Interview Questions for Headmasters

Name of Interviewers:

Name of Interviewee:

Date of Interview:

Time:

Recorded?:

Citable?:

Anonymous?:

Protocol:

All interviews will have at least two members of the team in attendance so that one person can ask the questions while the other person can take notes. Before beginning the interview, we will ask for their consent for two items: one, being recorded and two, if we can use the interview content in our IQP report (referred to their name and title or anonymously). Different plans of action occur depending on these two answers. If interviewees are okay with being recorded and our group using their information in our report we will begin the interview recording and we may use information they talk about in our report. If they would prefer not to be recorded but they allow us to use information they talk about in our report we will only take notes of the interview. If they prefer not to be recorded and they would not like information from them to be used in the report we will take notes on the interview but will not use the information to write our report, but rather as a guide for further direction.

Suggested questions:

1. Did you grow up in Feltham or have you ever lived in Feltham?
  - a. How long have you lived in Feltham?
2. How many years have you been a headmaster?
  - a. How many of years have you been headmaster specifically in Feltham?
  - b. Have you ever been a teacher in the past?
  - c. What subjects/ages did you teach in the past?
3. Do you require teachers to educate students on the local history and promote pride in their town?
  - a. How do teachers incorporate local history in their curriculum? (unit dedicated to Feltham's history? relate topics being taught back to Feltham?)
4. Were you taught about local history as a child?
  - a. How was local history taught to you?
5. Do you think it is the teacher's responsibility to educate children on their local heritage and promote local pride?
  - a. Are you willing to increase teaching students local heritage and promote local pride in the education program at this school?
  - b. Do you know of any teachers that do a particularly good job at promoting local pride?
    - i. What does this teacher do to make them stand out from other teachers?

# Appendix D: Informed Consent Agreement for Participation in a Research Study

Investigator:

Contact Information:

Title of Research Study:

Sponsor:

**Introduction (recommended)** You are being asked to participate in a research study. Before you agree, however, you must be fully informed about the purpose of the study, the procedures to be followed, and any benefits, risks or discomfort that you may experience as a result of your participation. This form presents information about the study so that you may make a fully informed decision regarding your participation.

**Purpose of the study:** (In a few sentences, describe the overall purpose of the study. For this section, and all sections of the consent form, use simple, plain English. This section is required.)

**Procedures to be followed:** (Here describe the research procedures to be followed, including duration of the subject's participation. Experimental procedures must be identified. This section is required.)

**Risks to study participants:** (Describe any reasonably foreseeable risks or discomfort to the subject. This section is required.)

**Benefits to research participants and others:** (Here describe benefits, if any, to the subject or to others which may reasonably be expected from the research. Do not list compensation, if any, as a benefit. If there are no benefits to the subject, indicate that there are none. This section is required.)

**Alternative procedures or treatments available to potential research participants:** (Here list any appropriate alternative procedures or courses of treatment that might be advantageous to the subject. If none are known, omit this section.)

**Record keeping and confidentiality:** (Describe record keeping procedures, including who will have access to records, whether and how confidentiality will be maintained, and what information is expected to be reported. Include the following statement, "Records of your participation in this study will be held confidential so far as permitted by law. However, the study investigators, the sponsor or its designee and, under certain circumstances, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Institutional Review Board (WPI IRB) will be able to inspect and have

access to confidential data that identify you by name. Any publication or presentation of the data will not identify you.” This section is required.)

**Compensation or treatment in the event of injury:** (If the research involves more than minimal risk of injury or harm, explain whether any compensation or whether any medical treatment is available in the event of injury. Explain the nature of any compensation or treatment, and where further information may be obtained. Include the following statement, “You do not give up any of your legal rights by signing this statement.” This section is required.)

**Cost/Payment:** (Describe amount and type of subject compensation, if applicable. If none, omit this section.)

**For more information about this research or about the rights of research participants, or in case of research-related injury, contact:** (Fill in your contact information or make reference to information provided at top of page. In addition, include the contact information for the IRB Chair (Professor Kent Rissmiller, Tel. 508- 831-5019, Email: [kjr@wpi.edu](mailto:kjr@wpi.edu)) and the Human Protection Administrator (Gabriel Johnson, Tel. 508-831-4989, Email: [gjohnson@wpi.edu](mailto:gjohnson@wpi.edu). This section is required.)

**Your participation in this research is voluntary.** Your refusal to participate will not result in any penalty to you or any loss of benefits to which you may otherwise be entitled. You may decide to stop participating in the research at any time without penalty or loss of other benefits. The project investigators retain the right to cancel or postpone the experimental procedures at any time they see fit. (This section is required.)

**By signing below,** you acknowledge that you have been informed about and consent to be a participant in the study described above. Make sure that your questions are answered to your satisfaction before signing. You are entitled to retain a copy of this consent agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Study Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Study Participant Name (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person who explained this study

Additional clauses to add to Consent Agreements, as appropriate:

The treatment or procedures used in this research may involve risks to the subject (or to an embryo or fetus, if the subject is or may become pregnant), which are currently unknown or unforeseeable.

Additional costs to the subject that may result from participation in this research include: (list).

Significant new findings or information, developed during the course of the research, may alter the subject's willingness to participate in the study. Any such findings will be promptly communicated to all research participants.

Should a participant wish to withdraw from the study after it has begun, the following procedures should be followed: (list). The consequences for early withdrawal for the subject and the research are: (list).

**Special Exceptions:** Under certain circumstances, an IRB may approve a consent procedure which differs from some of the elements of informed consent set forth above. Before doing so, however, the IRB must make findings regarding the research justification for different procedures (i.e. a waiver of some of the informed consent requirements must be necessary for the research is to be "practicably carried out.") The IRB must also find that the research involves "no more than minimal risk to the subjects." Other requirements are found at 45 C.F.R. §46.116.

# Appendix E: Town centre survey from Rivers Academy



## Feltham Town Centre User Questionnaire

**Introduction**

**Date:**

Hello our names are \_\_\_\_\_

We are working with the Hounslow council and The Centre to undertake a survey of local and visiting people about what they think of the area and what they think should be improved. All your answers will be analysed by the Hounslow Council and will contribute to the regenerating of Feltham and may contribute to your local community.

This survey should not take longer than 5 Minutes

All the information you provide will be confidential and will not be share with other parties or posted online.



**Background information**

**1. How often do you visit the Feltham town centre?**

First time	Once a month	Once a week	2/3 times a week	More than 3 times a week	Not sure
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**2. What is the purpose of your visit to Feltham town centre?**

Main reason    Second reason

a.	Food shopping-----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
b.	Non-food shopping -----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
c.	Click and Collect -----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
d.	Work/ Education -----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
e.	Visiting friends/ relatives -----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
f.	Leisure i.e. Cinema, Bingo, Bowling, Library etc.-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
g.	Seeing doctor/dentist -----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
h.	Going to café/restaurant -----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
i.	Other; please specify	<input type="text"/>	

**3. In the last 6 months, have you seen/ heard/participated in any the following activities promoted and branded by THE CENTRE?**

a.	Marking events-----	<input type="text"/>
b.	Campaigns -----	<input type="text"/>
c.	Promotions -----	<input type="text"/>
d.	Competitions -----	<input type="text"/>

**Environment**

**4. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following elements of the town centre**

		Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
a.	Town Centre ----- environment and appearance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
b.	Quality of Public --- Space	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
c.	Range of shops -----	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
d.	Range of amenities (places to eat, drink, leisure facilities etc)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
e.	As a place to live ---	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
f.	Range of organised Events	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**5. Based upon the above, please rate your overall level of satisfaction with the town centre:**

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**6. What changes would you like to see in the town centre in the future?**

**7. Generally, how safe do you feel**

Unsafe	Very unsafe	Fairly safe	Fairly safe	Very Don't know	Not sure
a.	Visiting the town centre during the day	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
b.	Visiting the town centre after dark	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- c. Leaving your car unoccupied
- d. Using public transport
- e. Walking past a group of young people

8. Which two town centres / shopping areas do you use the most, include Feltham in the answer if appropriate.

(1)

(2)

9. What one retailer, or type of shop or service is missing from the Town Centre?

**And finally....some questions about you**

*These final few questions are about you and will be used as a means of analysing the results of the survey. Please note that any data you give us will be treated with strict confidence in line with the Data Protection Act and will be only used for anonymous statistical analysis – it will not be reproduced individually anywhere.*

10. Your gender

Male  Female  Choose not to say

11. How old are you?

16 – 24  25 – 44  45 – 59  60 +  Choose not to say

12. Which **ONE** of these categories best describes your current employment status? (*Please tick one only*)

- a. In employment
- b. Unemployed
- c. In education/ training
- d. Retired
- e. Choose not to say

13. How would you describe your ethnic background? (*Please tick ONE only*)

- a. British White
- b. Other White
- c. British Asian or Asian
- d. British Black or Black
- e. Mixed race
- f. Other ethnic group
- g. Choose not to say

# Appendix F: A.W. Smith Wikimedia

WIKIPEDIA

## Draft:A.W. Smith

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Alfred William Smith (A.W. Smith), also known as "The Cabbage King," was one of the most successful market gardeners working in South West Middlesex, England in the 19th and 20th centuries.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith was born in Putney in 1855 but lived most of his life in Feltham until his death in 1927.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith was remembered by one of his foremen, Alfred Lucas:

"He was a man of extreme modesty, was deeply but silently religious, did not drink or smoke and I never heard him use a profane expression during the whole 14 years I was in his service. He told me he never had time to read a book. He had no holiday when I was with him and he was absent only 3 months when he had a severe breakdown and fear was entertained for his life."<sup>[1]</sup>

Lucas, as the man who spent much time working with Smith, is the main source of information relating to Smith.

## Contents

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### Early Life

### Career

- Humble Beginnings
- The Rise of an Empire
- The Workers
- The Workplace Environment
- Crops of "The Cabbage King"

### Politics

### The End of the Story

### References

### A.W. Smith

## Early Life

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Smith was not educated in the traditional sense of schooling: at nine years of age he began work with his father and continued to work for free until he was married.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> In those early days, Smith put in somewhere around 16 hours of work most days, ending the day by hauling the lot to Covent Garden, selling it, and returning home with the money to his father.<sup>[1]</sup> These hard, long days growing up formed the basis for Smith's ideals on how the business should be run; he believed everyone was expected to provide the same commitment that he had provided to his father.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Career

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### Humble Beginnings

In 1890, Smith began his empire with a modest 40 acre fruit garden (Feltham Glebeland) that faced the Staines Road in Bedfont, a single horse, and a few secondhand tools.<sup>[1][2]</sup> When Lucas joined the operation around 1890 Smith only had four employees: Tom Witt, Bob Jackson, Tommy Day, and Polly Jackson.<sup>[1]</sup> After successfully cultivating this garden for some time, Smith expanded his reach by taking over another 40 acres on the Walton Road; this became known as No. 2 Garden.<sup>[1]</sup> This time Smith chose to plant half the field with fruit trees and half with brussels sprouts, onions, beetroots, and cabbages.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith's empire continued to expand with 30 more acres, new employees, and new horses and materials.<sup>[1]</sup> A dramatic new chapter began in Smith's life with the retirement of his father, Henry Smith, in 1891.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

## The Rise of an Empire

After taking over his father's business, A.W. Smith continued to expand his business even further. As he entered this new chapter of business Smith added another crop to his stock: tomatoes.<sup>[1]</sup> To houses these plants, he built five large glass houses (250 feet long by 15 feet wide), predecessor to modern greenhouses, along the Feltham Hill road towards Sunbury.<sup>[1][4][5]</sup> Since these houses were built on land previously used for cereal crops, Smith had to make a few changes; he dug a five foot deep four foot wide passage to allow water to get into the houses.<sup>[1]</sup> This new crop proved to be wildly successful, so Smith proceeded to build seven larger glasshouses (250 ft. by 30 ft.).<sup>[1]</sup> To cope with the water problem for these houses, Smith built a brick water tower nearby.<sup>[1]</sup> These additions of land and crops required new additions as well; Smith acquired more horses, employees, and tools.<sup>[1]</sup> This growth in horses depended upon for work led to some troubles as they often needed to be shod, which could take valuable time, so Smith created his own blacksmith's forge on his property.<sup>[1]</sup> No longer limited by this, Smith continued to expand his landholdings and stables, acquiring many more horses for work.<sup>[1]</sup>

The next notable direction Smith took his business in was when he purchased about 45 acres of land just off of Feltham High Street.<sup>[1][5]</sup> While this seems simple, it is notable because the land was not incredibly well suited or farming; however, Smith had other plans.<sup>[1]</sup> He ordered the construction of 20 glasshouses, the largest yet at 600 ft. by 32 ft. to be populated with tomatoes.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> This massive sea of glass, incredibly expensive at the time, cost £13,500 and came to be known as The Glass City.<sup>[1]</sup> Unfortunately, the site of the City would prove to cause trouble later on as the plants did not yield as much as planned; several solutions were attempted, including individually potting the 200,000 plants, but none completely solved the problem.<sup>[1]</sup> Despite this, Smith chose to move his headquarters from Feltham Hill to this new site of Feltham Farm in the year 1899.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith personally financed and constructed a new complex including a blacksmith's forge, wheelwright, office, and more.<sup>[1]</sup>

This establishment of the new base of operations proved to be advantageous to Smith as his father's lease on a significant portion of land came to a close and was snatched up by his elder brother E.F. Smith.<sup>[1][5]</sup> This land included the former headquarters of the group at Feltham Hill as well as Smith's own residence at Burnham Villa.<sup>[1]</sup> While it was a huge blow to Smith's morale this event proved to be nothing he could not handle; the loss of some fields was overcome, and he found a new residence in Feltham House.<sup>[1]</sup>

Smith made up for the 40 acres he lost to his brother by purchasing another 70 acres in Ashford.<sup>[1]</sup> When showed this land, Lucas points out that it was very far from a point at which it could be useful to a gardener, but Smith was not to be stopped.<sup>[1]</sup> So, teams began to work the field and make it ready for fruit trees, but a snag arose when one plow broke on a large, mushroom-shaped piece of ironstone (about 20 ft. in diameter).<sup>[1]</sup> Even when it was revealed that this land was dotted heavily with these ironstone protrusions, Smith refused to be daunted; he ordered men to hand-drill holes in all the stones large enough to fit a parcel of gunpowder.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith then blasted each chunk of ironstone until he had enough surface room to grow the trees, about 3 ft. of dirt was needed.<sup>[1]</sup> However, Smith wanted to test the land with a crop of brussels sprouts first, so once the field was fully worked this crop would ensure the ground was properly cleaned for the more costly fruit trees.<sup>[1]</sup>

Smith's empire began to take its final form with two noteworthy acquisitions of land.<sup>[1]</sup> The first belonged to a Mr. Batson and was approximately 200 acres in close proximity to Smith's already established holdings.<sup>[1][5]</sup> Naturally, when Batson approached Smith with an offer to sell his land, Smith quickly accepted, thereby closing off the territory and extending his reach far into Feltham.<sup>[1]</sup> The second piece of land was about 300 acres controlled by a Mr. Hatch who, when Smith approached at the end of his lease, agreed to turn the land over to Smith.<sup>[1][5]</sup> While both of these land acquisitions required varying degrees of work to get ready for Smith's plans, it was well worth it to establish his over 900 acre empire.<sup>[1]</sup>

## The Workers

Due to the extreme size of his operation, Smith hired large numbers of workers for various tasks, all of which were paid quite fairly for their work.<sup>[1]</sup> Some of the tasks taken by men were Foremen, Blacksmith, Wheelwright, repairman for glasshouses, diggers, plow workers, pieceworkers, and more.<sup>[1]</sup> The women were employed in tasks such as weeding, hoeing, planting, and harvesting fruit.<sup>[1]</sup> A number of Show Travelers were also employed when they came to Feltham; they were given some of the harder tasks of picking more difficult crops, thereby relieving some of the women of this stress.<sup>[1]</sup> Even so, there was a moment when the women felt unfairly paid at work and attempted a strike; however, Lucas was able to settle the matter without loss of productivity.<sup>[1]</sup> The most interesting aspect was Smith's hiring policy. He was willing to hire anyone, man or woman, who could put in an honest day's hard work, regardless of their background.<sup>[1]</sup> Previous convicts were hired right alongside poor widows trying to get by.<sup>[1]</sup>

## The Workplace Environment

As was to be expected from his upbringing, Smith entertained specific expectations for his workers.<sup>[1][2]</sup> He was never late and would reprimand workers who were late or tried to leave the job early, often outright firing the offender.<sup>[1]</sup> He specified rules and fines regarding any avoidable problems such as careless destruction of plants, eating product, and so on, but was still seen as a benevolent employer due to his wish to keep those who needed work employed.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith also took care of his workers, stopping and resolving feuds before they could grow further.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith also defended his land within his rights; he employed a few people to guard the land at night and keep any poachers or thieves at bay.<sup>[1]</sup>

Besides ensuring security, Smith also ensured quality.<sup>[1]</sup> He developed a special version of hoe specifically for cutting lettuce that did not require the user to constantly bend to the ground; this allowed one man to much more quickly cut the lettuce while two or three others picked it up after him.<sup>[1]</sup> This maintained a single standard of quality since only the one man would choose which heads of lettuce were suitable for cutting.<sup>[1]</sup> Beyond this, Smith outlined several specific procedures for weeding, digging, picking, and packing.<sup>[1]</sup> Thus he ensured all the produce bearing his name was up to his high standards and packed perfectly for the journey to market.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Crops of "The Cabbage King"

As is expected, Smith was very specific with picking what varieties of crops he grew.<sup>[1]</sup> He grew a number of fruits: apples, both the kind for eating and for cooking, plums, pears, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries, and cherries.<sup>[1]</sup> Inside his famous glasshouses, Smith also grew tomato plants.<sup>[1]</sup> These plants produced on average 4 pounds of tomatoes per plant.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith also grew mint, both within the glasshouses and without.<sup>[1]</sup> During various months, he was also a key supplier of parsley, spring onions, leeks, and root crops: potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, mangold wurzel (mangelwurzel), turnips, parsnips, and beetroot.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith also grew several varieties of beans (runner, broad, and longpod) and peas throughout the season.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith also grew smaller quantities of large onions, marrows, and rhubarb. In all, the glasshouses alone produced somewhere around 200 tons of food per year while employing about 40 workers.<sup>[1]</sup>

But the most notable of Smith's crops were his greens.<sup>[1]</sup> He was a very successful grower in that he was able to constantly be shipping greens to market throughout the year: spinach in spring, cauliflower and brussels sprouts in summer until mid Autumn, savoy cabbage in late Autumn throughout the winter, and after Christmas until the following April, kale and broccoli.<sup>[1]</sup> His long cabbage season caused by the adeptness with which the land grew cabbages was what earned Smith the nickname of "The Cabbage King" amongst vendors in Covent Garden and locals of Feltham.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Most notably, Smith produced one million cabbages in a single season.<sup>[1][3]</sup> He very specifically chose the varieties best suited for glasshouses as well as outdoor growing in the later months.<sup>[1]</sup>

Smith also grew lilies for a time, on the advice of his brother E.F. Smith.<sup>[1]</sup> Starting with a small trial venture, Smith was quite satisfied with the product and the money it brought in during the winter months, so he moved to a larger venture and constructed two glasshouses specifically for lilies.<sup>[1]</sup> However, the large number of lilies produced by the Smith brothers drove the market price of the lilies down that year and Lucas reports Smith had a net loss of £500; Smith thus abandoned lilies and turned these two houses over to cucumbers.<sup>[1]</sup> Besides this failed venture, Smith also grew wallflowers, forget-me-nots, honesty, and violets.<sup>[1]</sup>

Managing this vast array of plants required a large amount of fertilizer, namely manure.<sup>[1]</sup> Originally, Smith used a number of carts to ferry manure to Feltham from London; however, as his holdings grew and technology progressed, he chose to try a more efficient method.<sup>[1]</sup> Smith obtained permission to build a railway leading to his farm and purchased three rail carts to carry manure as well as his own driving engine.<sup>[1][4]</sup> This allowed for workers previously engaged in moving manure to spend their time elsewhere, thus creating more efficiency.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Politics

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The passing of the Local Government Act of 1894 caused a rift in Feltham; the once united town began to divide over the issues it raised.<sup>[1]</sup> At this time Smith was approached by some fellow community members and was encouraged to run, so he did in order to maintain the current rates on property.<sup>[1]</sup> He was elected with a majority to be Chairman of the First Parish Council of Feltham; however, he only attended one meeting after which he declared public life was too slow for him.<sup>[1]</sup> He remained nominal chair and a co-chair was elected by the rest of the group.<sup>[1]</sup>

## The End of the Story

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Smith continued work in much the same manner for a number of years.<sup>[1]</sup> He acquired more land in several different purchases as late as 1920.<sup>[1]</sup> He worked tirelessly until his death in 1927 caused by heart failure after a bout with influenza at 71.<sup>[1]</sup> He is buried in Feltham cemetery<sup>[2]</sup>.

## References

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# Appendix G: Feltham Steps Through Time

Feltham Steps Through Time – Brief Walking Tour

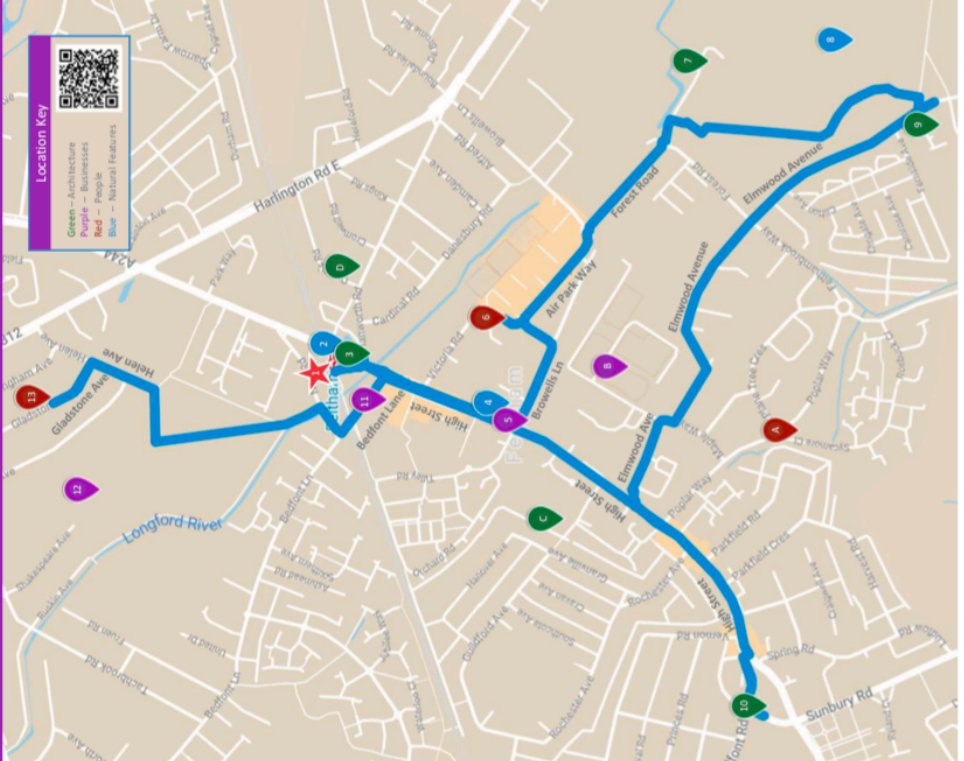
<p><b>1) Feltham Train Station</b></p>  <p>Feltham Train Station will be the starting and ending point of your walk through Feltham's town history.</p>	<p><b>2) Bridge House Road</b></p>  <p>The Bridge House was built around 1850 and was used as a residence for the vicar of the Feltham Urban District Council office space in 1931. In 1976 the house was ruined in a fire, so it was reconstructed in 1989 as office space.</p>	<p><b>3) St. Catherine's Spire</b></p>  <p>This handsome spire stands on the site of St. Catherine's Church, a building constructed in 1880. It has been a symbol of Feltham, as it was visible for miles around.</p>	<p><b>4) Feltham Green</b></p>  <p>Feltham Green is home to Feltham Pond and the Feltham War Memorial. On hot days in the 18th century, the pond was used for cooling down and to prevent damage to the steel mill.</p>	<p><b>5) KTM MOXI</b></p>  <p>Renowned the Red Bull MOXI is one of the oldest buildings in Feltham.</p>	<p><b>6) Sir Mo Farrah Mural</b></p>  <p>The Olympic gold medalist athlete in Feltham and poster of running at the Feltham Arena before hitting the worlds stage.</p>
<p><b>7) Hamworth Park House</b></p>  <p>It was the home of the Hamworth family and a house for Hamworth Air Park and a hotel. It was later turned into a retirement home.</p>	<p><b>8) Hamworth Air Park</b></p>  <p>Once referred to as the "heaven of the skies", Reynolds once owned this land in the 18th century. It was later used as a site for Hamworth Air Park, with the German Graf Zeppelin landing here at least twice.</p>	<p><b>9) St. George's Church</b></p>  <p>This site has been home to a church since possibly before the 13th century. The current day building was completed in 1812. Additions and alterations have continued since that point.</p>	<p><b>10) Moon on the Square</b></p>  <p>A pub with Feltham history plastered all over the walls. A good place to stop for food or drinks. Get some old photographs and other stories.</p>	<p><b>A) The General Roy Pub</b></p>  <p>Named after General William Roy who made the first accurate land measurement in 1794. This allowed Britain to create the first Ordnance Survey map using triangulation.</p>	<p><b>B) MOD Site</b></p>  <p>The Intelligence Collection Centre &amp; Defence Geographic Centre, or former MOD site, in Feltham. It also contains Feltham House.</p>
<p><b>C) Feltham Manor House</b></p>  <p>This was the site of the original Feltham Magistrates Court. Built in 1901, it was used as a court to serve as Town Hall, but was converted into a court in 1906. The 1906 plan was proposed to begin conversion into residential units.</p>	<p><b>Location Key</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green – Architecture</li> <li>Purple – Businesses</li> <li>Red – People</li> <li>Blue – Natural Features</li> </ul> <p>London Borough of Hounslow</p> 		<p><b>D) Magistrate Court</b></p>  <p>This was the site of the original Feltham Magistrates Court. Built in 1901, it was used as a court to serve as Town Hall, but was converted into a court in 1906. The 1906 plan was proposed to begin conversion into residential units.</p>		







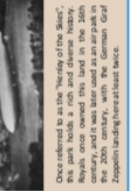









This walking tour is 4.5 kilometres or 2.8 miles long for sites 1 through 10. For more historical sites check out A through D or the Feltham Marshalling Yards & Kempton Steam Museum.

For more information about this map or Feltham check out: <https://sites.google.com/view/6unfeltham/home>.

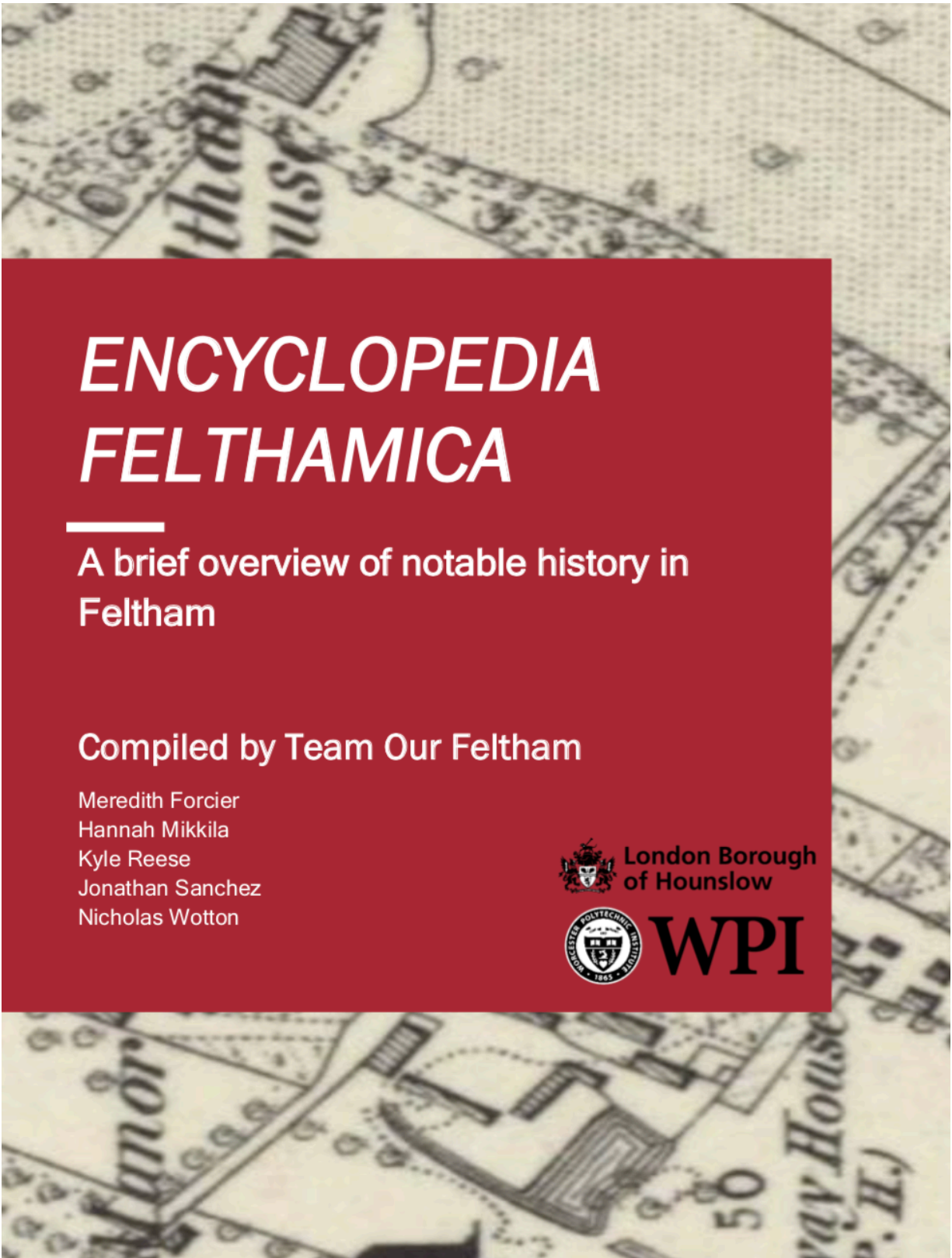


# Feltham Steps Through Time – Extended Walking Tour



 <p><b>1) St. Catherine's Spire</b></p> <p>This building housed the spire on the site of St. Catherine's Church. The original building, constructed in 1888, still stands. It was replaced by the spire built in 2008, still stands. It was designed by a local architect and is a visible landmark around Feltham.</p>	 <p><b>2) St. Mary's Church</b></p> <p>This church has been built since possibly before the 13th century. The present church was completed in 1812. It was designed by Thomas Phipps and is a landmark in Feltham.</p>	 <p><b>12) Feltham Avenue</b></p> <p>This is the site of the former Feltham Aerodrome. The aerodrome was used for the training of the Royal Air Force and was the site of the first flight school in the world.</p>	 <p><b>8) MAD Site</b></p> <p>The Intelnet, Collection Group, &amp; Defence Geographic Centre, or former MAD site, in Feltham. It also contains the Feltham House.</p>		
 <p><b>2) Bridge House Pond</b></p> <p>The pond was built in 1875 by the Feltham Urban District Council. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>5) Formerly the Red Lion Pub</b></p> <p>Formerly the Red Lion Pub, this building was built in Feltham. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>8) Hamworth Park</b></p> <p>Once referred to as the 'Nursery of the Blues', this park holds a rich and diverse history. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>11) Moon on the Square</b></p> <p>A pub with Feltham history placed all over the walls. A good place to stop for food or drink. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>1) The General Roy Pub</b></p> <p>Named after General William Roy who made the first accurate land measurement in 1784. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>10) Magistrates Court</b></p> <p>This was the site of the original Feltham Magistrates Court. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>
 <p><b>1) Feltham Train Station</b></p> <p>Feltham Train Station will be the starting and ending point of your walk through Feltham's history.</p>	 <p><b>4) Feltham Green</b></p> <p>Feltham Green is known to Feltham Road and the Feltham War Memorial. On hot days in the 18th century, carts would drive into the pond to cool off and prevent damage to the horses.</p>	 <p><b>7) Hamworth Park House</b></p> <p>Hamworth Park House was used as a residence for the Duke of Devonshire. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>10) St. Dunstan's Church</b></p> <p>St. Dunstan's church survived the fire of 1814 and was rebuilt in 1815. It was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>13) Freddie Mercury</b></p> <p>The singer of Queen, Freddie Mercury, was born in Feltham. He was designed by the architect Thomas Phipps. It is a landmark in Feltham and is a popular spot for walking.</p>	 <p><b>3) Feltham Manor House</b></p> <p>The Centre for Spirituality and Cultural Advancement was previously known as Feltham Manor House.</p>

# Appendix H: Encyclopedia Felthamica



## **ENCYCLOPEDIA FELTHAMICA**

**A brief overview of notable history in  
Feltham**

**Compiled by Team Our Feltham**

Meredith Forcier  
Hannah Mikkila  
Kyle Reese  
Jonathan Sanchez  
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**London Borough  
of Hounslow**



**WPI**

## About the Authors

We are a group of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts in the United States of America. We are all studying in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. We worked on this project as a fulfillment of a Social Science project that is a degree requirement. For more information about this project process, please visit <https://www.wpi.edu/academics/undergraduate/interactive-qualifying-project>.

## Foreword

This document is intended to provide an introductory context to a number of notable historical people, places, and things that had to do with or existed within Feltham. Our primary sources of information were in-person interviews, conducted in the Spring of 2019. To supplement this information, when available, external text and web resources were utilized to validate unclear or conflicting information. This resource is not intended to be a definitive and comprehensive guide to all things Feltham, but will hopefully encourage readers to use this as a springboard to complete their own exploration and discovery of this lovely town of Feltham.

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# Encyclopedia Felthamica

## A.W. Smith

A prominent Market Gardener in the late 19th century, A.W. Smith grew a plethora of cabbages to support the growing demands in London. He constructed and owned his own portion of a private railway line which aided the transport of London nightsoil. The soil was poor at holding water and on one particularly hot summer day, hand wells were used to pump water into the fields.<sup>1</sup>

## Alfred Henry Moss

Was a prominent florist in Feltham in the mid to late 20th century. He cultivated many breeds of roses and exported many of them to America. Owned a nursery near Feltham House, where a number of glass houses were used to defend against frost in the winters.<sup>2</sup>

## Aston Martin

In 1926, David Brown moved the headquarters of Aston Martin to Feltham. He had taken over buildings that had been previously used by Whitehead Aircraft. While there was only partial manufacturing work that took place in the town, classics such as the DB3 were conceived in town.<sup>3</sup> Even after the company moved again, later on, the factories remained standing until the late 1980s when a car park was constructed. They would have stood where there is now the Leisure West complex.<sup>4</sup>

See also David Brown

## Borrow Pits

Geology of Feltham contains lots of gravel and clay. Generally, it consists of a very small amount of rich topsoil on the surface, followed by lots of mixed gravel, with a London Clay layer at the bottom that is adept at retaining water. These deposits of gravel, sand, and clay were used for road and glass construction. So-called “borrow pits” were created wherever large sites

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<sup>1</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. Feltham and its Library: Past and Present. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Horgan, William and Rogers, Peter. March 21st, 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communication.



for resources were extracted. A number of these locations would eventually be flooded to form artificial ponds.<sup>5</sup>

## Brian May

Brian May is known for many things, but most notably for being a founding member of the band Queen and a doctor of astrophysics.<sup>6</sup> Before he gained fame on the world stage, May was a young student from Feltham who started a band in 1963 with some friends. Four years later, he embarked on his academic journey at Imperial College where he studied Physics and Mathematics. During his time at university, he began a new band that would eventually become Queen.<sup>7</sup> After worldwide fame, May continued his education nearly thirty years later and completed his doctoral thesis in astrophysics to earn a PhD from Imperial College in 2007.

## Bridge House

The pond at Bridge House started as a 'borrow pit'.<sup>8</sup> Around the year 1850, the site was constructed and was owned by a Mr. Edmund Philips.<sup>9</sup> Feltham Urban District Council used the house as office space in 1931 and later served as Civic Centre in 1975.<sup>10</sup> In 1976 the house was ruined in a fire. The house was later reconstructed in 1980 as office spaces.

## David Brown

David Brown was the proprietor of Aston Martin in the 1960s. He was responsible for purchasing old hangars at Hanworth Air Park where they would go on to build some of the classic Aston Martin cars featured in James Bond films.<sup>11</sup>

See also Aston Martin

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<sup>5</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>6</sup> Brian May official biography. (2018). Retrieved from <https://brianmay.com/brian/biog.html>

<sup>7</sup> The 20 year reign. Retrieved from <https://brianmay.com/queen/queendiary/part1.html>

<sup>8</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 2.3

<sup>9</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. *Feltham and its Library: Past and Present*. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. *Feltham and its Library: Past and Present*. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

<sup>11</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

## Feltham (Village)

The name Feltham comes from the phrase “settlement in the field”.<sup>12</sup> Feltham is the only village in the neighborhood which still retains its Doomsday spelling. FELT (Saxon Feld)- an open heath (as in Dutch Veldt). HAM (Saxon Village) - hence, village in the open heath or field.<sup>13</sup> In medieval times it was split into three regions: Highfield, Midfield, and Lowfield. Highfield, in particular, was very windy, took advantage of windmills and wind pumps for irrigation. Five windpumps used to stand in Feltham, none of which still stand today.<sup>14</sup>

## Feltham Arena

Feltham Arena is a running track and field where Mo Farah once practiced.<sup>15</sup>

## Feltham Green

Feltham Green, sometimes known as Feltham Pond, is located on High Street near The Centre in town. It currently has a war memorial adjacent to it. The pond itself is natural, but the island in the center of the pond is manmade. The Green is mentioned as early as 1722 in the licensing of the Red Lion Pub.<sup>16</sup> In the time of wooden carriages, this pond was a useful asset to travellers. Metal rings that supported the structure of a carriage would get hot in summer and pop off, so carts and coaches would have their wheels soaked in the pond, to keep the wooden trims from cracking and the iron rims from buckling.<sup>17</sup>

## Feltham House

Feltham House was built in the 1770s and formerly was called Feltham Place. It was much larger than today's version, but today's version does have a Victorian-era addition. It was built for the Villebois family, though little is known about them. In 1819 the house was still owned by a Frederic Villebois, but Sir William Cooper and his family lived there for about 5 years. George Thackrah, a builder, also lived in and extensively altered the house during the 1830s until Frederick Villebois sold the house and land at an auction in 1841. At the auction it was purchased by a Mr. John Peisley and became known as Feltham House. However, by 1847 Mr.

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<sup>12</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>13</sup> Bromwell, Reverend. "A Short Account of the Village of Feltham." Feltham Notes 5.2 (Summer 2001).

<sup>14</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>15</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>16</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>17</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 1.2:40

Augustus Frederick Westmacott was living here and running a boarding school for young aspiring sculptors. Notably, Augustus's father, Sir Richard Westmacott created the Marble bust of Vicar Edward Vale on display at St. Dunstan's Church. In 1861, the Honorable Charles Peel Esquire and his family inhabited the house. In the 1870s to 80s, Charles Morice Esquire, a member of the stock exchange in the city, and his family lived here. In 1891, Robert Fowler and his family lived here. At the turn of the century, A.W. Smith lived here from 1899 to most likely, his death in 1927.<sup>18</sup> During the war, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) used it to house its officers. Today it is still a Grade II listed building, and is owned by the RAOC and is inaccessible to the general public.<sup>19</sup>

See also A.W. Smith

## Feltham Lodge

Built between 1802-04 for Mr. John Cole Steele; however, he never lived there as before its completion he was murdered by Misters Hanfield, Haggerty, and Holloway. In 1845 it was occupied by Georgina Charlotte Theobald. On September 19th of that year, she was thrown from her horse and died of a head wound the following morning. Other records of ownership were burned during the war.<sup>20</sup> The current day Lodge was built in 1888 by Mr. Woodward who lived there until 1897. At that point Edward Whiteaway moved in. The Whiteway family lived in the lodge for three generations. In 2018 it became the new site for the Hounslow Registry Office.<sup>21</sup>

## Feltham Manor House

Under royal ownership from the 16th to 19th century and then purchased by John Fish.<sup>22</sup> This building, along with many other cottages and barns, were razed during the Great Fire in 1634, but later rebuilt.<sup>23</sup> The building no longer stands as it was demolished in 1966.<sup>24</sup> The space was used for 'modern retail unit housing'. Nearby, was the site of the Four Point Garage from the 1960s to 1980s.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> The Great A.W. Smith book (E., Lucas, Alfred (2000). *"The great A.W. Smith"*. Calder, R. J., Feltham Notes History Group. Ashford: Gables Publishing in association with Feltham Notes History Group. ISBN 0953816508. OCLC 59576929)

<sup>19</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 1.1:10-15

<sup>20</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 2.1:39-41

<sup>21</sup> Cucumber, Robert. "Hounslow register office set to move to Feltham." MyLondon. Last modified May 20, 2015. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/west-london-news/hounslow-register-office-set-move-9261140>.

<sup>22</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. Feltham and its Library: Past and Present. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

<sup>23</sup> Watson, Peter. "The Benedictine Nuns of Feltham" Feltham Notes 5.2 (Summer 2001).

<sup>24</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. Feltham and its Library: Past and Present. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

<sup>25</sup> Watson, Peter. "The Benedictine Nuns of Feltham" Feltham Notes 5.2 (Summer 2001).

## Freddie Mercury

Farrokh Bulsara, more commonly known as Freddie Mercury, was the lead singer for the rock band Queen from the 1970s to the late 90s. His distinctive performances, along with the band's unique sound, had the group enjoy global recognition for their style.<sup>26</sup> While smash hits such as "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "We Are The Champions" are household names, it is a little known fact that Mercury spent a number of his early years in the town of Feltham. In fact, Feltham, England is the town Freddie and his family first moved to when they immigrated into the United Kingdom. Freddie Mercury has since passed away due to complications with AIDS at the age of 45 in 1991.<sup>27</sup> Their home, located on 22 Gladstone Avenue, now boasts an English Heritage Blue Plaque. This plaque signifies a memorial of a significant location tied to a person that has been dead for twenty or more years. Freddie Mercury's blue plaque is one of over 900 that can be found throughout the city of London.<sup>28</sup>

## General Aircraft Limited

General Aircraft Limited was an aircraft company active in Hanworth Air Park in the middle of the 20th century. This company was very involved in the maintenance and repair of Spitfire aircraft during the Second World War. Over 2000 people worked there concurrent with the Battle of Britain, and Spitfires would take off and land over Feltham.<sup>29</sup>

See also Hanworth Park

## General Roy

In the year 1784, he created the first map of the United Kingdom using modern methods.<sup>30</sup> This map served as a baseline for the next 200-300 years of cartography. This research and development was based out of Hanworth Air Park<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Queen. (2019). In Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Retrieved from <https://www.rockhall.com/inductees/queen>

<sup>27</sup> The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. (2019, February 6). Freddie Mercury. In Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Freddie-Mercury>

<sup>28</sup> Blue plaque unveiled on Freddie Mercury's first London home, 2016

<sup>29</sup> Hill, Syd. "Growing Up in Feltham During WWII" Feltham Notes 5.2 (Summer 2001).

<sup>30</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid

## Hampton Court Palace

A palace where notable members of royalty stayed until the site was made obsolete by Buckingham Palace. This structure had many fountains which required a moderate supply of water. The water for these fountains was supplied by Longford River, following a manmade extension of this river.<sup>32</sup>

## Hanworth Air Park

See Hanworth Park

## Hanworth Palace

Also known as Hanworth Manor, a number of prominent figures of royalty owned this property at different points in time. In the 16th century, it changed hands a number of times. Henry VIII gave the Palace to Anne Boleyn. Later, Katherine Parr lived there with Elizabeth I. In the 1800s, this structure burned down, and Hanworth Park House is built in its stead.<sup>33</sup>

## Hanworth Park

See also Hanworth Park House

Formerly known as Hanworth Air Park, this modern-day green space has seen many different uses over the years. This area was originally part of Hanworth-Heath, which ran from Heathrow to the Thames. In the early 1900s, it was sometimes referred to as the ‘Henley of the skies’. In the year 1931, the Kings Air Race was hosted, and a few years later, Amelia Earhart, the first female to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, lands in Hanworth Air Park. There exists a London Times magazine cover of this historic moment. The German Graf Zeppelin also landed at this air park a number of times during its service.<sup>34</sup>

## Hanworth Park House

Located in the middle of Hanworth Park, the Hanworth Park House has seen many different uses over the years. In the 1930s, this house becomes a site for an elite flying club. In the early 20th

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

century, many royals and friends of the royals rotated living in Hanworth House, including Queen Elizabeth I.<sup>35</sup>

## Heathrow Airport

Heathrow Airport also known as London Heathrow Airport is an international airport located just 3 miles from the center of Feltham. Following its initial construction in 1960, this proximity became an economic boon to Feltham. As, previously, road and rail infrastructure required driving through Feltham to reach the airport.<sup>36</sup> However, nowadays, the Piccadilly line and other rail services have largely taken over this role.

## Kempton Steam Museum

In 1927-1928, two triple-expansion steam engines were installed at the Kempton Park Waterworks. These engines were used to pump thirty-nine million gallons of water to residents of North London. In 1980 the site closed down, but the building and the engines still survive. Following six years of restoration and over 100,000 man hours of labor, one of the engines was restored to functioning capacity.<sup>37</sup> Formally opened as a museum in 2004, this site now houses the world's largest operating triple expansion steam engine.<sup>38</sup>

## Longford River

See also Hampton Court Palace and Hanworth Park  
Typically, only natural waterways are known as rivers. The Longford River, however, is manmade, therefore it is actually a canal.<sup>39</sup> This waterway was built to supply water to the ornamental fountains found at Hampton Court Palace.<sup>40</sup> Currently, this river runs across modern-day Hanworth Park and is mostly culverted.<sup>41</sup> The river was commissioned by King Charles I and built by hundreds of soldiers in 1638.<sup>42</sup> In the 1960s, Feltham Pond was connected to Longford river by an underground line.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

<sup>37</sup> Fielding, Stephen. "Kempton Park Waterworks." Kempton Steam Museum. Last modified , 2019. <https://www.kemptonsteam.org/history/the-site/>.

<sup>38</sup> Lawrie, David. March 15th 2019. Personal Communication.

<sup>39</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>40</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 1.2:41

<sup>41</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>42</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 1.2:41

<sup>43</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

## Magistrates Court

Was built in 1902 and served as Feltham Town Hall.<sup>44</sup> During this time, the building housed a number of administrative groups for the town. Previously hosted, in no particular order, a Concert Hall, a Music Hall, and other various functional rooms.<sup>45</sup> This was until it was converted into a Court in 2013. Four years later, it came under development and began conversion into thirty-five residential units.<sup>46</sup>

## Market Gardens

See Also A.W. Smith

In the early 20th century, there was not a large international market for food and trade. The outskirts of London were responsible for growing the massive quantity of food required to sustain the city. Feltham grew a large crop to support this demand, including apple trees and orchards. Notable people and areas of this time include A.W. Smith with his glass houses and the Butt's Farm Estate.<sup>47</sup>

## Marshalling Yards

Construction of the Marshalling Yards was between 1917 and 1922 using German prisoners of war. Following their completion in 1922, they were the largest on the London and South Western Railway lines. At the time, they were the second largest Marshalling Yards in the United Kingdom.<sup>48</sup> The yards were used to split up carriages and sort them onto other locomotives traveling to other destinations. The yards also featured a shed that could hold up to forty locomotives and had an on-site wagon repair shop. The site closed in 1969, following the increased usage of road transport for bulk goods.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Sturley, Ross. "Plans in for Feltham Magistrates Court." Capital West London. Last modified January 31, 2019. <https://capitalwestlondon.co.uk/plans-in-for-feltham-magistrates-court/>.

<sup>45</sup> Watson, Peter. "Justice Finally Done?" Feltham Notes 5.2 (Summer 2001).

<sup>46</sup> Sturley, Ross. "Plans in for Feltham Magistrates Court." Capital West London. Last modified January 31, 2019. <https://capitalwestlondon.co.uk/plans-in-for-feltham-magistrates-court/>.

<sup>47</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>48</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 2.3:75-9

<sup>49</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. Feltham and its Library: Past and Present. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

well.<sup>49</sup> The plan was created for young boys and street urchins to be rehabilitated in a new type of school called an industrial school. The purpose of this was to teach these boys to read and write as well as learn a trade. One of the trade trainings was sailor, a ship christened the “Endeavour” was used for this training.<sup>50</sup> In 1910 it was closed for being “uneconomical to run”. The Prison Commission took it over and opened a Borstal for 300 boys. In 1916, the boys were removed and the location reopened as a prisoner of war (POW) camp. It contained some German POWs but mostly Danish POWs.<sup>51</sup> This was during the First World War.<sup>52</sup> Nowadays, the YOI has similar rehabilitation in mind.<sup>53</sup>

## Ministry of Defense Site

The Ministry of Defense (MOD) has a site in Feltham. In 1943 the Ministry of Defense absorbed present-day land for military use.<sup>54</sup> This sites’ development is widely believed to coincide with the extensive usage of nearby Hanworth Park for service.<sup>55</sup> Four to five depots at this site held supplies for D-Day.<sup>56</sup> Due to budget cuts, this site has planned to move out of Feltham in 2023.<sup>57</sup>

## Mo Farah

Sir Mohamed “Mo” Farah is an Olympic gold medalist in distance running. Originally from Somalia, Farah moved to Feltham at the age of eight due to conflict in his home country. Before taking up running, he was an avid football (soccer) player who aspired to pursue a career in the sport before his athletics teacher and, later, trainer advised him to take up running.<sup>58</sup> Mo Farah later attended Feltham Community College before going on to win four Olympic gold medals and make many appearances across the world. Mo Farah has remained a part of Feltham’s culture, specifically through a mural.

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<sup>49</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 1.2:46

<sup>50</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 2.4:112-7

<sup>51</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 3.1:21-24

<sup>52</sup> Menday, Eddie. “Still Making History” Feltham Notes 5.2 (Summer 2001).

<sup>53</sup> “Feltham Prison Information.” HM Prison & Probation Services. Last modified February 19, 2019. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/contacts/prison-finder/feltham>.

<sup>54</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>55</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>58</sup> Lindstom, S. (2019). Mo farah. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mo-Farah>



and make many appearances across the world. Mo Farah has remained a part of Feltham's culture, specifically through a mural.

## Moon on the Square

A popular pub and restaurant that is located in The Centre of Feltham. The current building, built in the 1990s, replaced the previous building on-site, constructed in 1934.<sup>60</sup> Currently, this pub holds many historic images and facts of Feltham scattered throughout the establishment.

## Red Lion Pub

See also Feltham Green

The pub was built around the early 1700s and is first recorded as belonging to William Carter. The Beauchamp (pronounced Beechum) family owned and operated it for most of the 18th century. It was due for demolition in 1969, but Mrs. Thora Reeves of the Hounslow and District Society together helped get the building listed as worthy of preservation. It is possibly the oldest building in Feltham.<sup>61</sup> Currently, the building is now used as KTM ROX!, a Nepalese restaurant.

## Sir Harry Veitch

Sir Harry Veitch was a prominent horticulturalist in the mid to late 1800s. While not the founder of the Chelsea Flower Show, he played a very important role in the establishment of the festival.<sup>62</sup> A large number of breeds of orchids were created by Veitch, including the first hybridized breed. In addition to orchids, he also cultivated many fruit trees, including developing the Feltham Beauty, a type of apple tree.<sup>63</sup> During his time in the industry, he purchased over fifty acres of land near Bedford Lane to cultivate flowers for floristry.<sup>64</sup>

## St. Catherine's Spire

Once a full church, now only the spire remains. It is an iconic landmark of the town, located just near the Feltham train station and is a short walk from The Centre. The Church was built in 1880

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<sup>60</sup> "The Moon on the Square Feltham." JDWetherspoon. Last modified , 2015.  
<https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/pub-histories/england/london/the-moon-on-the-square-feltham>.

<sup>61</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 1.3:84-6

<sup>62</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>63</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>64</sup> Watson, Peter. "A Year in the News 1898" Feltham Notes 2.2:56

and the spire was constructed in 1898.<sup>65</sup> It is now St. Catherine's House, a hostel for homelessness.<sup>66</sup>

## St. Dunstan's Church

Modern-day St. Dunstan's Church is currently a conservation area. However, this church was originally at the historic center of the village of Feltham.<sup>67</sup> The first known reference to a church in Feltham appears in the 12th century where Hawise de Roumane gave a church to St. Giles in the Fields and was established by King Henry VII. The first known vicar of the church was Petrus Whyt of Lincoln and served in 1322. By the end of the 18th century, it was in need of repairs and in 1801 it was destroyed.<sup>68</sup> The current structure was constructed in 1802 at the cost of 1,138 pounds sterling and was designed by William Walker Chertsey. Bricklayer Joseph Pope and carpenter William Massey played critical roles in the building process. A number of materials from the previously standing church were recycled in this reconstruction process.<sup>69</sup>

## St. George's Church

The first known reference to this church appears in 1293. Little written history of this structure exists, and the building itself survived until 1808. The present structure was completed in 1812 with many of the resources from the previously standing structure.<sup>70</sup>

## Waterloo and Reading Line

The Waterloo and Reading line, operated by the London and South Western Railway (LSWR) provides access to Feltham and beyond from the Waterloo station in central London. However, this railway didn't always exist like it does today. This railway made its first reaches through Feltham in the year 1848.<sup>71</sup> It only provided service from the Nine Elms and Windsor.<sup>72</sup> The construction of this railway played a key role in the early transformation of the town. Following

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<sup>65</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. *Feltham and its Library: Past and Present*. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

<sup>66</sup> Cucumber, Robert. "St Catherine's House in Feltham to become homeless hostel." MyLondon. Last modified November 4, 2019. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/local-news/st-catherines-house-feltham-become-7858325>.

<sup>67</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>68</sup> Watson, Peter. "Some of the Grander Houses of Feltham, St. Dunstan" *Feltham Notes* 5.2:58

<sup>69</sup> Cameron, Andrea, Chris Potter, and James Marshall. *Feltham and its Library: Past and Present*. 2nd ed. N.p.: CIP Group Limited, 2006.

<sup>70</sup> "History." St. George's Church Hanworth. Last modified , 2019. <https://www.s-george.org.uk/history.html>.

<sup>71</sup> Parton, Angela. March 19th 2019, April 13th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>72</sup> Browell, Reverend. "A Short Account of the Village of Feltham" *Feltham Notes* 5.2 (circa 1920)

the completion of this portion of the railway, a massive influx of residents came to Feltham; almost 1,000 people immigrated into the town in the between its construction to 1891, up to a population of 4,000 residents by that year.<sup>73</sup>

## Whitehead Aircraft Limited

Also known sometimes as the Whitehead Aircraft Company

See also Hanworth Park

This aircraft manufacturer was founded by an American from the United States. He purchased land and built in the area of modern-day Hanworth Park. The actual aircraft were built in Richmond, a nearby town, however, much assembly work also took place in Hanworth Air Park. Whitehead wanted to use Hanworth Park as an airfield, but the Longford River cut across its entirety. Therefore, a project was undertaken and the river was diverted and made use of the park into an airspace.<sup>74</sup>

## William Wynne Ryland

A famous line engraver who misused his talents in forging bonds. He was hanged at Tyburn in 1783 and was one of the last people to be capitally punished.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Watson, Peter. "Looking Forward to the 20th Century" Feltham Notes 5.2:79

<sup>74</sup> Clarke, Richard. March 14th 2019, March 29th 2019, April 12th 2019. Personal Communications.

<sup>75</sup> Watson, Peter. Feltham Notes 2.3:61

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## Appendix I: Why is this project an IQP?

An Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP) is an interdisciplinary project that focuses on the role of technology in society and how they interact with each other. The IQP is a required component of the WPI Plan, which aims for students to experience curriculum beyond the classroom via project-based learning. The IQP allows students to work in a community on a societal and/or technical problem and work towards a solution that will improve the future of that area.

Our team's project, Our Feltham, qualifies as an IQP as it satisfies all given requirements of the project definition and classifies as a social science project. We will be working directly with the community of Feltham to understand its rich industrial heritage through desktop investigation, interviews with the townspeople, and observations while in Feltham. We will take this newfound knowledge and translate it to suggestions for revitalization of the town to renew its identity while incorporating its cultural heritage. This project will involve examining the effects of changing technology on the town and will have a lasting impact on everyone involved.