

HAMSTERLEY MILL ESTATE

The land on which Hamsterley Mill Estate stands was owned by Lord Gort of Hamsterley Hall. He sold some plots of land for houses in the late 1940s.

His vision for Hamsterley Mill was each house to be of individual design, using local stone or antique brick, many representative of the Arts and Crafts movement. Grass verges replaced footpaths and areas of ancient woodland and parkland were left at intervals across the Estate, in keeping with the Derwent Valley landscape.

The character of his vision still remains to this day.

Hamsterley Hall/Lord Gort

The present two storey, 4 bayed castellated Gothic style Hamsterley Hall was created around 1769 by Henry Swinburne, younger brother of Sir John Swinburne, who gave it to his brother in 1762.



Hamsterley Hall

Robert Smith Surtees, a member of an old County Durham family, acquired the property in 1838. He was an editor, novelist and sporting writer. He created the character Jorrocks who appeared in his novel Handley Cross.

Another hero Soapey Sponge appears in Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour. All were composed at Hamsterley Hall.

After his death in 1864 he left the estate to his daughter Eleanor who married John Prendergast Vereker, 5th Viscount Gort in 1885. Their first son, 6th Viscount Gort, served in the Grenadier Guards and was awarded the VC in 1918 and in 1939 was given command of the British Expeditionary Force. He was also Governor of Gibraltar and Malta and at the end of the war was High Commissioner for Palestine/Jordan.

He died in 1946 and his estate passed to his brother Standish Vereker, 7th Viscount MC, who served under his brother in the first World War and was awarded the MC. He lived at Hamsterley Hall until his death in 1975.



Hamsterley Hall 'Old Lodge' Gatehouse