

# **Building Report**

## **Railings Comberton Hill, Kidderminster**

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### Description



**Railings in Comberton Hill (otherwise known as Station Hill) 2007**

The railings shown in the above photograph were made by Herbert Bale of Kidderminster. The company name is stamped on the side of support pillars. The railings have recently been refurbished by Wyre Forest District Council.

## Location

The National Grid reference is: SO836764 and the position is marked Pink in the 1883 OS map below.



1883 OS Map. The area where the railing are now situated is indicated by Pink marker

## **A Brief History of the Herbert Bale Foundry**

See "The Herbert Bale and Albion Foundry" for further information about this topic [1]

Trade Directories show that Herbert Bale's foundry was called the Albion Foundry and was situated in Pitts Lane.

The Albion foundry was earlier in the ownership of John Turton as recorded in Littlebury's Directory of Worcestershire for 1873, Page 407 [2]. An advertisement on page 5 of the commercial prospectuses provides the information: "*General Iron and*

*Brass founder, castings of every description used in flour mills, Machines, factories, agriculture and other purposes, turning , boring, fitting, and screw cutting. Palisading, Tombs etc. Wheels Bevel and spur gear Pulleys etc made on geometrical Principles with out patterns. Smiths Work neatly executed. Conservatories Heated upon economical principles with hot water"*

The Post Office Directory of 1876 [3] gives no mention of Herbert Bale, but The 1879 Littlebury's Directory of Worcestershire, page 265 [2], shows that the Albion Foundry had by then gone in his ownership.

Kelly's Directory [4] for Worcestershire 1896 records on page 133: "*Bale Herbert engineer and iron founder and agricultural implement maker Albion Founder, Pitts lane*". The same source, page 131, indicates that a Herbert Bale lived at 48 Bewdley Hill. (Also noted was a Herbert Percy Bale living in Yew Tree Road.)

It is recorded on page 255 of the Kidderminster Corporation Minutes for 1899 [5]: "*H Bale repairs at 11 shillings and 3d*".

Kelly's Directory for 1884 gives on page 17 the address for H. Bale as 117 Wood St.

There are further entries in Kelly's Directory for 1912, 1916, 1924 , 1932 with 1940 being the latest entry found. In 1916 H. Bale is recorded on page 148 as living at Bewdley Hill.

Of note is that in the 1928 edition of Kelly's Directory the foundry is recorded as Bale Brothers, Iron Founders, Pitts Lane, Telephone: Kidderminster 284. However, in 1940 only Bale Herbert is mentioned.

According to census records [6] Herbert Bale was 2 years of age in 1841 and 62 years of age in 1901 with similar consistent entries in the intervening census years. He was married in December 1862.

## References

1. "The Herbert Bale and Albion Foundry". A report number by Stephen Bragginton for the Historic Kidderminster Project. Report number 042
2. Littlebury's Directory 1873, 1879, Kidderminster Library
3. The Post Office Directory 1876, Kidderminster Library
4. Kelly's Directories of Worcestershire. Various dates. Kidderminster Library
5. Kidderminster Corporation Minutes 1899. Kidderminster Library
6. Census records for 1841 to 1901, Ancestry.co.uk.

My thanks are due to the staff at Kidderminster Library for the unstinting help.