



# Homezone History

**The origins of the Five Roads Forum streets**

Two hundred years ago, the area now occupied by the Homezone was prime agricultural land known as Susswell Common Fields, farmed by John and Ursula Ward.

The opening of the Great Western Railway in 1838 set the northern boundary of FRF, but the local railway station (originally called "Castle Hill and Ealing Dene") was not opened until 1871. The first domestic building started in the 1840s, along a new road extending North from the Uxbridge Road - seventeen homes on the West side of today's Arden Road and on the North of today's Denmark Road at the intersection with Arden Road. The road was named Denmark Villas (reputedly in honour of the marriage of Princess Alexandra of Denmark to the Prince of Wales – but this didn't happen until 1863!).

The remainder of the FRF land was still orchards, fields and a gravel pit between today's Broughton and Hartington Roads. Building didn't really start in earnest for 20 years, though. In 1880, Broughton and Hartington roads were laid out and Denmark Villas was extended west to Broughton Road (and was by this time named Denmark Road). House building on Denmark Road continued for another five years.

Hartington Road was probably named after a prominent Liberal politician, the Marquess of Hartington - there is the small town of Hartington, Nebraska, USA founded at the same time! Records in 1887 show forty homes on the street plus two un-numbered developments (at the Uxbridge Road end), Richmond Villas and Ann's Terrace - but who was Ann?

Broughton Road was named after a Staffordshire village where the local landowner, Sir George Wood, had coal-mining interests. Only the West side was developed initially - by 1894, South of Denmark Road was still orchards, and there was a big open area up to Hastings Road.

The following year, 1895, Sussex Road was created, linking Denmark Road Eastwards to St Leonard's Road. However, by 1900 Sussex Road was absorbed into Denmark Road (though maps up to 1934 still showed the old name), creating a "T"-shaped street - very confusing for house numbering.

Hastings Road was the final street to be laid out. It is rumoured that many of the houses were built for staff at Castlehill Lodge (at the top of Castlebar Hill). By 1887, Hastings Road was built up from St Leonard's Road as far as the "dogleg", but it wasn't until 1934 that this road was fully developed.

A parachute mine in December 1940 and a V1 bomb in July 1944 created major destruction at the South end of Broughton and Hartington Roads – Broughton Court was built in the 1950s on the site of the destroyed houses.

The final change in street names was in 1971 when Arden Road was split off from Denmark Road. Perhaps a long-term resident can remember the source of the name - it's a mystery to me.