

## Other Freehold Schemes

The immediate question was to find where such schemes existed, as no convenient list was available. We know that the Midlands were the focus, being the speaking range of Taylor. There are hints as to 'rural' locations and although there are schemes in Birmingham and Sheffield, disentangling them from local housing history might be difficult, and Banbury is, after all, a small and identifiable town.

From the Web there are hints that Freehold Societies existed as far south as Weymouth (a Franchise Street in a conservation area), in Hillfields (Freehold Street) and Earlsdon, Coventry,<sup>23</sup> in Birkendale, Sheffield,<sup>24</sup> and in New Moston, Manchester.<sup>25</sup>

Birmingham deserved attention by reason of its proximity, and the origins of the Freehold movement, although no website provided background information on a particular area. Of available websites, that for Kidderminster<sup>26</sup> was particularly rich; from the same period the Dresden site offered detailed walking information and, in contrast, the Conservation area proposal for Stamford<sup>27</sup> focused on a much later designation in a smaller market town.

### *Birmingham*

Those who have attended the University of Central England will probably know that its Perry Barr site is superimposed on a former Freehold estate – the 'Franchise Street' entrance and, possibly, the pub located there being the only remains. The political importance of Freehold Estates was demonstrated by Carl Chinn<sup>28</sup> in his *Birmingham Mail* column. Here he refers to an area of Small Heath where Muntz Street was cut northwards from the Coventry Road in the mid 1800's. This was on land purchased by the Birmingham Freehold Land Society and the streets,

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<sup>23</sup> Earlsdon (2006): Earlsdon Methodist Church, Coventry. (Online) Retrieved 8:II:2007 from <http://www.earlsdonmethodist.org.uk/where.htm>

<sup>24</sup> Birkendale (2007) Birkendale, Sheffield (Online) Retrieved 8:II:2007 from <http://www.birkendale.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/Birkendale.htm>

<sup>25</sup> New Moston History Society (2007): N.M.H. Society: Elijah Dixon: New Moston's Founding Father (Online) Retrieved 6:II:2007 from <http://82.138.229.146/~content2/nmhs/index.php?page=pages&menuid=10>

<sup>26</sup> Townley, as fn.6.

<sup>27</sup> Stamford (Lincs.) Proposed Conservation Area Northfields, Stamford Draft Appraisal May 2005 (Online) Retrieved 7:II:2007 from <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/publications/publications.aspx?Category=Local Plan>

<sup>28</sup> Chinn, Carl: Signed column in *Birmingham Mail*, 11 March 2006.