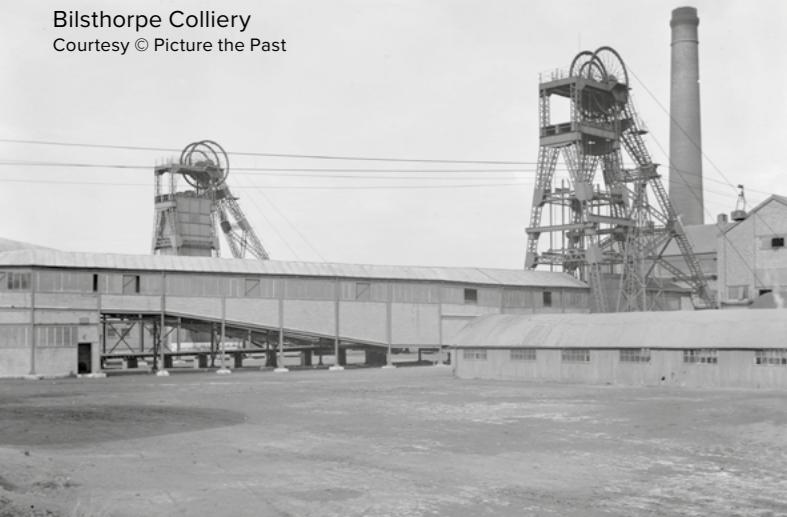


Bilsthorpe Village Hall
Courtesy Inspire Picture Archive & Rex photographs



Bilsthorpe Colliery
Courtesy © Picture the Past



Plans for Bilsthorpe housing, 1920s
Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives DC/SW/4/8/1/4



COMPANY & VILLAGE

Before the arrival of the colliery Bilsthorpe was a small agricultural village with medieval origins (1). In 1925 the Stanton Ironworks Company began sinking a pit (2) to the north of the old village on land leased from Lord Savile of Rufford. A brickyard was started on the site providing material for the works and housing. Part of the Old Rectory opposite the church was taken over as offices by the company (3). Stanton was a highly regarded industrial concern near Ilkeston (Derbyshire), which was established in 1855 and had one of the largest pipe foundries in the country. The company sunk its first collieries in the 1870s at Silverhill and Teversal, which necessitated a new mining village called Stanton Hill. A little later they were pioneering the exploitation of the concealed coalfield to the north of Mansfield at Pleasley. Stanton Hill and Pleasley bear similar architectural characteristics to the inter-war buildings at Bilsthorpe, though these places were considerably less isolated. More building took place at Bilsthorpe after the Second World War, and the colliery eventually closed in 1997. The colliery buildings were demolished and a business park has been developed on part of the site. Oddly, the pumphouse survived (4). This was formally used to transfer colliery water to the lagoons.

HOUSING

The layout and housing was designed by the architects A.E. Lambert and Anderson Trotter of Nottingham. In Nottingham, Lambert has been acclaimed for his work, particularly on the Midland Station and Albert Hall (both Grade II listed). At Bilsthorpe Lambert and Trotter designed in the arts and crafts style with brick, roughcast render and occasional classical proportions. The first housing was laid out on a diagonal grid parallel with Eakring Road towards The Crescent to the rear. The houses are generally arranged in short terraces of four units or

as semi-detached blocks, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map revision of 1939. The houses are of brick, with some blocks completely or partially rendered. Front and rear gardens were provided. Archive plans suggest the houses were designed with three bedrooms with a front door leading to a small stair hall. The contractor was J. C. Short, who was advertising for bricklayers in 1925.

The management structure of the colliery company was neatly underpinned by the design of the estate. The colliery manager's house was positioned at a considerable distance from the estate but in view of the headstocks (5). This can still be seen on Deerdale Lane and is a large detached house, named 'The Hill'. Officials and skilled workers were housed in semi-detached parlour housing on Eakring Road (6), nearest to the colliery entrance. Miners occupied the smaller non parlour housing to the rear, each with 3 bedrooms and ground floor bathrooms. Houses along Saville Road (7) were more spacious and desirable (with hipped roofs) and positioned closest to Eakring Road.

New building took place to the north of Mickledale Road (8) from the 1950s, and more expansion to the west of the original village followed. Some of these houses are of brick, while others are Cornish Type 1 pre-fabricated concrete houses (9) designed by A E Beresford & R Tonkin. Most of the Cornish Type 1 houses were later considered defective and have subsequently been reclad, though some of the distinctive mansard roofs have survived.

AMENITIES

A sports field (10), pavilion (11), village hall (12), shops (13) and institute (demolished) were provided by the colliery company. A miners' welfare (14) was later built to the designs of Michael Moss in 1958, on the site of the demolished St Luke's Church. This modernist building has a horizontal entrance block and an up swooping main hall to the rear.

MEMORIALS AND HERITAGE

A winding wheel has been erected at the site of the colliery (15), and a mining heritage museum was opened near the village hall in 2014. Other memorials include a stone carving of a large miners' Davy lamp (16), inscribed with the names of those who had been killed at the colliery was unveiled in 2011. A statue of a miner was erected outside the pit but was later moved to near the entrance of the Bilsthorpe Heritage Museum (17). Inside, the museum has a wealth of original material relating to the history of the colliery village.

OTHER BUILDINGS

The church of St Luke, on the Crescent was a semi-permanent structure of timber and brick which was dedicated in 1932. It was initiated by the colliery company to counter the influence of the local rector at St Margaret's Church who was encouraging strike activity and membership of the Nottinghamshire Miners Association. Its history though brief, is a neat example of how colliery companies could seek to try and depoliticise miners. Nevertheless it was abandoned by 1939 and was later demolished. The Stanton Arms pub on Mickledale Lane seems to be part of the original layout and is shown on a map of 1939 (18). This is an impressive brick arts and crafts building, with hung tiles, decorated chimney stacks and roughcast render. The Crompton View School (19) was built by the County Council to plans approved in 1926. The building is of brick in classical style, probably to designs by the County architect's team.

After the Second World War the County Council built Bilsthorpe Library (20) using their prefabricated modernist CLASP system, finished with timber cladding. CLASP buildings were specifically designed to be resilient to movement in mining areas. The essential component was a pin-jointed steel frame that could ride on a raft foundation with spring loaded cross bracing.

BILSTHORPE Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield Guidebook 6

The Nottinghamshire colliery villages that were developed during the inter-war period were spectacular in size, modernity, technology, workforce, housing, amenities and investment. They gave the industry a future during a time of contraction.

Only traces of the Nottinghamshire coal-mining industry remain but what have survived are the colliery villages. Together they reflect the evolution of mining in the region and the ambition of the colliery companies who built them.

This guidebook is the result of a research project on the Nottinghamshire Coalfield set by the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership Scheme, managed by Nottinghamshire County Council and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Research was undertaken by Clare Hartwell and Chris Matthews. Design work by Chris Matthews.

For more information please visit:
<https://miner2major.nottinghamshire.gov.uk>

BILSTHORPE

Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield Guidebook 6

LOCATIONS

- 1 Old Bilsthorpe
Centred upon the medieval church of St Margaret
- 2 Site of Bilsthorpe Colliery
Sank 1925, closed 1997
- 3 Old Rectory
Former offices of the Stanton Ironworks Company
- 4 Colliery Pumphouse
- 5 Colliery Manager's House
'The Hill', Deerdale Lane
- 6 Colliery Officials' Housing
Eakring Road
- 7 Aspirant Miners' Housing
Savile Road
- 8 Post-war Housing
Built by the local authority
- 9 Cornish Type 1 Houses
- 10 Sports Field
- 11 Pavilion
- 12 Village Hall
Built by the Stanton Colliery Company
- 13 Shops
- 14 Miners' Welfare
Designed by Michael Moss and built in 1958
- 15 Winding Wheel Memorial
- 16 Davy Lamp Memorial
- 17 Bilsthorpe Mining Museum
- 18 The Stanton Arms pub
Built by the Stanton Colliery Company
- 19 Crompton View School
- 20 Bilsthorpe Library

BUILDINGS



5



6



7



12



14



18

