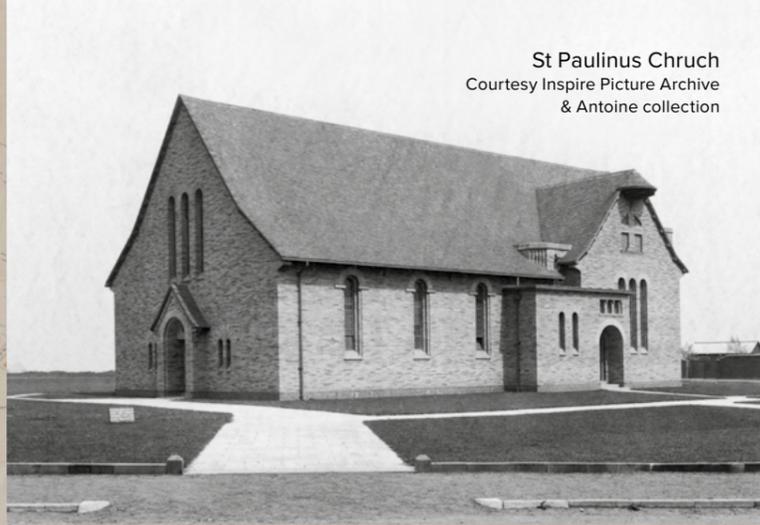


Ollerton village layout plan, 1929
Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives, DC/SW/4/8/20/26



St Paulinus Church
Courtesy Inspire Picture Archive
& Antoine collection



Savile Row
Courtesy © Chris Matthews



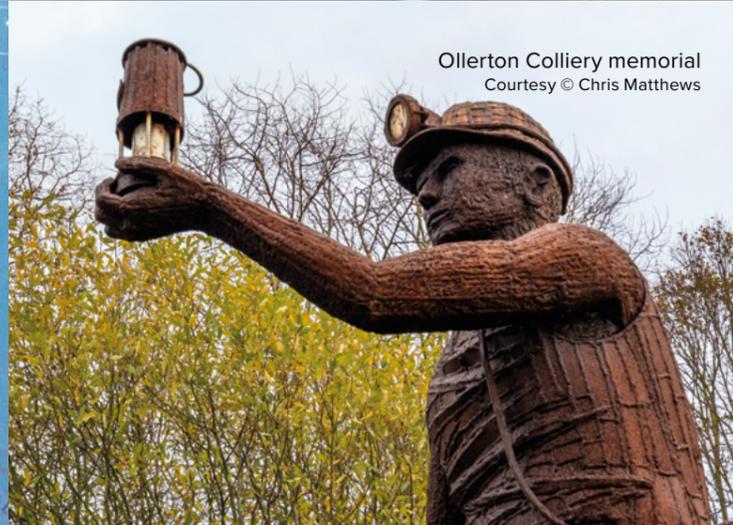
Miners' housing, Forest Road, 1930s
Courtesy © Picture Nottingham



Housing plans, 1926
Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives, DC/SW/4/8/20/16



Ollerton Colliery memorial
Courtesy © Chris Matthews



COMPANY & VILLAGE

The Butterley Company was one of the most prestigious businesses operating in the region. It was at the heart of the industrial revolution in the East Midlands, instigating the turnpikes, canals and railways, and its ironwork was nationally sought after, most famously for the roof span of St Pancras Station in London. Butterley was established as a joint stock enterprise in 1790 to work the iron and coal reserves of the exposed coalfield near Ripley in Derbyshire. The undertaking was successful, not least because it could ensure a steady demand for coal via its ironworks. By 1890 the firm was moving into the concealed coalfield with Kirkby Colliery in Nottinghamshire, which was one of the biggest collieries in the country and provided housing with bathrooms for employees. Further expansion developed when Butterley sank Ollerton Colliery (1) between 1923–25.

New Ollerton became one of the largest model villages in the Dukeries with approximately 932 houses by the Second World War. The housing at New Ollerton is very similar to Butterley's accommodation at Kirkby in Ashfield and was built by a company from the same town, Messrs Coleman and Blackburn. However, in terms of scale, planning and amenities, New Ollerton was far greater, partly owing to its relatively isolated position. Like Edwinstowe there was often a conflict of attitudes between miners and rural villagers. However, compared to Edwinstowe this conflict was mitigated by the relative distance of the new model village (2) from Old Ollerton (3).

HOUSING

In some respects the distance between Old and New Ollerton was used to the advantage of the colliery company when planning their model village. At the top of the village hierarchy was Ollerton Hall (4), a Georgian mansion located close to the

centre of the old village. This was rented from Lord Savile to provide accommodation for the colliery manger Montague Wright and served to perpetuate a tradition of aristocratic deference and paternalism. East along Forest Road, the colliery village began with 3 pairs of large semi-detached parlour houses known as Savile Row (5). These were earmarked for second tier management; under mangers, clerks, surveyors and deputies. Further east between 1 and 44 Forest Road (6), officials and skilled miners were accommodated in similar though slightly smaller houses. The miners' accommodation (7) was positioned in the eastern most part of the village, all of which was semi-detached housing with variation created through a diversity of house types influenced by the style of the arts and crafts movement; recessed elevations, hipped roofs and facing gables. Most were designed with 3 bedrooms, with ground floor living room, kitchen and water closet. The layout largely follows the ideals of the garden city movement, with a strong radial route around St Paulinus church and Briar Road forming a central axis.

AMENITIES

The model village at Ollerton was well provided with amenities. Originally pithead baths were seen as unnecessary because water was heated at the colliery and circulated to miners' homes via external pipes. A Miners' Institute was built in 1928 along Whinney Lane (8) and a new modernist building (9) was established in the post-war period. In recent years both structures have been demolished and replaced with housing. Uniquely for the Dukeries the Butterley Company built a hosiery factory (10) in 1937 to employ miners' wives. This was located south of the railway line along Newark Road and demolished in the early 2000s.

Like Clipstone and Blidworth the shopping district (11) is the only irregularly laid out area from the inter-war period. Here, the colliery company leased plots of land for retail developments, which prospective traders developed. The Butterley Company did not allow pubs near the village centre; The Plough Inn (12) was built in 1926 and positioned as far west as possible. This building was designed by Aubrey Lane for the Mansfield Brewery in the neoclassical Queen Anne style. It is impressive in scale and architectural ambition; originally featuring a snug, smoke room, vaults, lounge hall, billiard room, club room and five bedrooms. Pubs like these were built to accommodate social activities and provide temporary accommodation for mining contractors.

The most notable surviving public building from the original colliery village is the Church of St Paulinus (13). This was billed as 'the cathedral of the new coalfield' by the Butterley Company and is located at the very centre of the model village plan. Originally the company employed the nationally renowned architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1926 but later dismissed him. Subsequently they appointed Naylor, Sale and Woore of Derby and the church was consecrated in 1932. It is built in the Romanesque style and listed at Grade II. To the west of the church stood the doctor's house (14) and to the east the curates house, overlooking the church (15).

MEMORIALS

There are two mining memorials which are both positioned near the former entrance to the colliery. The earliest is a simple steel bench (16) beside the entrance to the Asda supermarket. This pays tribute to the striking Yorkshire miner David Gareth Jones, who died while picketing at Ollerton Colliery in 1984. On the opposite side of the road is a statue of a miner (17) commemorating the workers of Ollerton Colliery by the steel fabricator Ray Londale and commissioned in 2019.

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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>

OLLERTON

Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield

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LOCATIONS

- 1 Ollerton Colliery
Sank 1923–5, closed 1995
- 2 New Ollerton
Developed 1923–39
- 3 Old Ollerton
- 4 Ollerton Hall
Formerly the colliery manager's house
- 5 Savile Row
Management housing
- 6 1–44 Forest Road
Skilled miners' housing
- 7 Ordinary Miners' housing
- 8 Site of Miners' Institute
Built 1928, demolished
- 9 Site of modernist Miners' Institute
Built post-war, demolished
- 10 Site of Hosiery Factory
Built 1937, demolished
- 11 Shopping District
Built by Messrs Coleman and Blackburn
- 12 The Plough Inn
Built in 1926 and designed by Aubrey Lane
- 13 St Paulinus Church
Consecrated in 1932, Grade II listed
- 14 Doctor's House
- 15 Curate's House
- 16 David Gareth Jones Memorial
- 17 Ollerton Colliery Memorial
By the Ray Londale, commissioned in 2019

BUILDINGS



4



5



6



12



13



14

