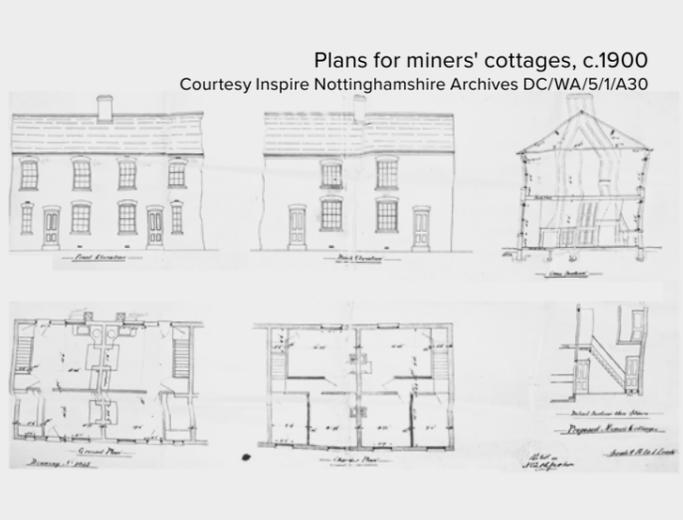




Between Hewett Street & King Street Terraces, c.1980
Courtesy © Michael Dembinski



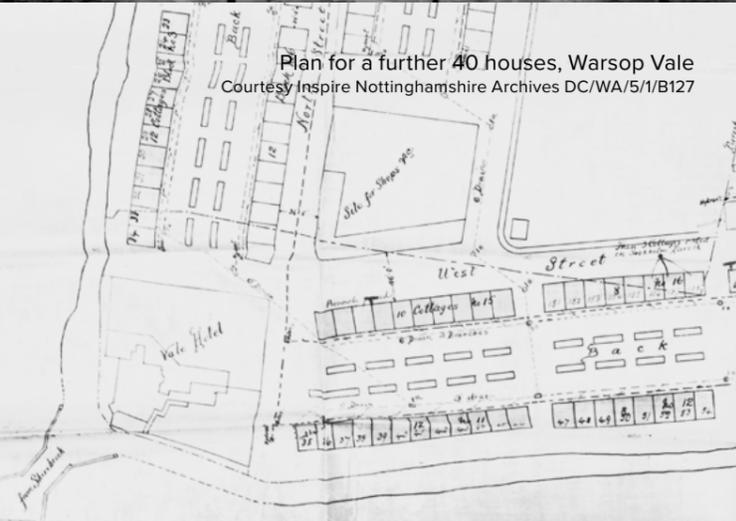
Plans for miners' cottages, c.1900
Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives DC/WA/5/1/A30



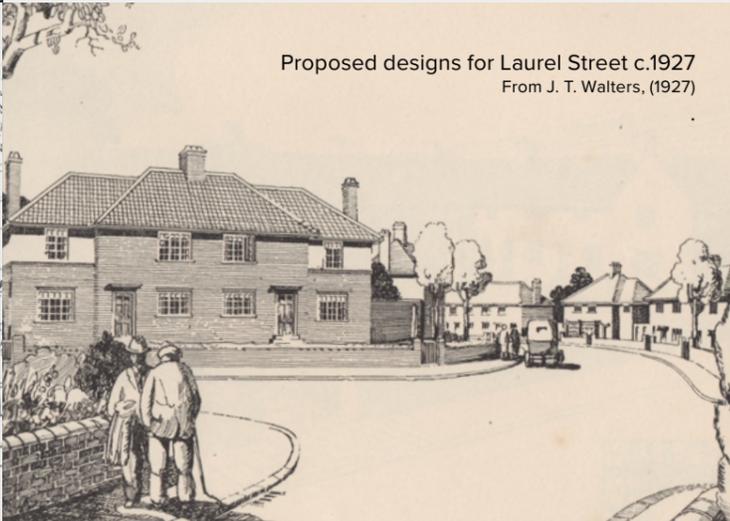
Laurel Avenue c.1927
From J. T. Walters, (1927)



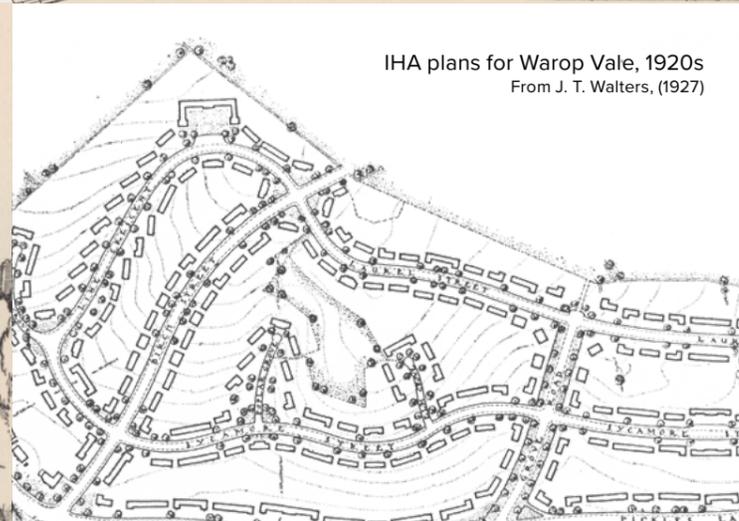
Laurel Street, Warsop Vale, 1920s
From J. T. Walters, The Building of Twelve Thousand Houses
(Ernest Benn, 1927). Courtesy University of Nottingham Manuscripts
and Special Collections, Oversize Em. G15 WAL



Plan for a further 40 houses, Warsop Vale
Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives DC/WA/5/1/B127



Proposed designs for Laurel Street c.1927
From J. T. Walters, (1927)



IHA plans for Warop Vale, 1920s
From J. T. Walters, (1927)

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COMPANY & VILLAGE

Following on from their late nineteenth century success in establishing a series of large collieries in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, the Staveley Coal and Iron Company turned their attention towards the Mansfield district of Nottinghamshire. Developments such as Warsop Vale marked a period of renewed enterprise for the coal industry, following a temporary fall in demand in the mid 1870s. Here, land was leased from the Fitzherbert family of Nettleworth Hall and sinking commenced for Warsop Main Colliery in 1896 (1). By 1923 it was by far and away Staveley's largest colliery, employing over 2,500 people and highly productive. Along with the Bolsover, Butterley and Stanton, the Staveley Coal and Iron Co had become one of the biggest companies operating in the East Midlands.

HOUSING & AMENITIES

By 1914 the company had provided 220 terraced houses at Warsop Vale and like Newstead Colliery before it, they were generally characterised by blocks of terraces arranged along linear routes at right angles from Carter Lane (2). The houses had privies built as separate structures in the yards to the rear. They were built by Moore's from North Derbyshire at a cost of £40 per house. Each house consisted of two rooms downstairs (with a large pantry) and three bedrooms upstairs. By 1907 over 200 houses had been built and a further 40 were planned along Hewett Street and West Street. A cricket ground was established at the centre of the village (3), which gives some indication that there was an attempt to create a model village square like that seen at Bolsover or Creswell. Two streets either side of the Malcolm Sargison Resource Centre (formally the Warsop Vale Co-operative) were never fully developed, while most of the original Hewett Street has since been demolished. Nevertheless, this was an established community with a variety of amenities. Some of these were built by the colliery company,

such as a cricket pavilion, allotments (4), school (demolished) (5), and Warsop Vale Co-operative (6). Others were provided by separate organisations but with support from the colliery company such as the Primitive Methodist Chapel (demolished) and Mission church (demolished). The art nouveau Vale Hotel (7) was planned in 1903 by the Staveley & District Public Houses Trust Ltd and featured a clubroom, 5 bedrooms, parlour, refreshment room, smoke room, kitchen and stable yard.

Again like Newstead by the 1920s the Staveley Company was soliciting the services of the Industrial Housing Association (IHA), to build a large and very different estate to its Victorian predecessor. Unlike Newstead however its scale and location from the colliery were far more significant. One of the directors of the IHA was Arthur Markham, who had an interest in developments at Warsop via his Chairmanship of the Staveley Coal and Iron Co. By 1927 the development of a new estate of 477 houses was underway. This was positioned a mile away from the original colliery village towards Church Warsop and planned on a loose grid roughly following the contours of the slope (8). Roads took their names from trees and shrubs and houses were positioned to take advantage of the south facing sunlight. This was particularly the case with Poplar Grove (9), while others such as Laurel Avenue (10) were originally arranged around a communal garden square with a central sundial. The ethos of the IHA housing schemes can be seen throughout: broken frontage lines, preserving natural features and a variety of elevations and house types, including cottage shops and corner houses.

MANAGEMENT

The colliery management were accommodated in houses built prior to 1914. These houses were positioned at a distance from the miners' houses but in sight of the colliery. Herbert Grant, the Colliery Manager, was residing in a large detached

house called Rock House off Carter Lane (11). Nearby, the under managers and senior engineers were residing at Rock Cottages, a row of 6 houses also known as 'Rhein o' Thorns' and built in local Magnesium Limestone (12). The company had also built a parsonage on Carter Lane south of the railway line (13). The colliery deputies generally neighboured the miners in the terraces of North Lane and Carter Lane.

OTHER BUILDINGS

With management already provided for, the IHA development was subsequently less hierarchical than some of its contemporaries but there were still some important differences in scale and house type. The only detached house on the new estate was intended as a surgery and positioned on the corner of Birch Lane and Wood Lane (14). It was given special treatment via large bay windows on both floors and entablature above the ground floor entrance. The semi-detached housing immediately north-west of the surgery appears to have been the most desirable location for the deputies and engineers (15). The rest of the housing was generally smaller but with a variety of types; semi-detached, right angle plans for corner plots, cottage shops (16) and a nurse's bungalow (17). As was common with IHA housing estates, brick walls form the garden perimeter, while an allotment or playground was earmarked at the rear of houses along Laurel Avenue and Sycamore Street. Facing the estate on Wood Lane is a bowling green, football field and institute (18), which was provided by the Warsop Main Miners' Welfare Committee. Plans were submitted in 1929 and the building was complete by 1933. This Neo-Tudor building was designed by the architects Warner and Dean of Sutton in Ashfield.

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The development of coal mining around Mansfield (Welbeck, Warsop Vale and Rufford) had to wait until the turn of the century when prospects improved. Everything about these collieries was conducted on a large scale.

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>

WARSOP VALE

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LOCATIONS

- 1 **Site of Warsop Main Colliery, Warsop Vale**
Sinking commenced 1896, demolished 1989
- 2 **Warsop Main Colliery Village, Warsop Vale**
220 Houses, built in stages, 1886-1914
- 3 **Site of Former Cricket Pitch**
- 4 **Allotments**
- 5 **Site of Stavelly Company School (demolished)**
Built by the Stavelly Colliery Company
- 6 **Former Co-operative**
Now the Malcolm Sargison Resource Centre
- 7 **Warsop Vale Hotel**
Planned in 1903. Temporary accommodation for mining contractors.
- 8 **1920s Colliery Village Extension**
477 houses built by the Industrial Housing Association
- 9 **Poplar Grove**
- 10 **Laurel Avenue**
- 11 **Rock House**
Formally the Colliery Manager's House
- 12 **Rock Cottages**
For senior engineers and under managers
- 13 **Former Parsonage**
- 14 **Former Doctor's Surgery**
- 15 **Deputies & Engineers Housing**
- 16 **Cottage Shops**
- 17 **Nurse's Bungalow**
- 18 **Miners' Institute**

BUILDING TYPES



2



11



12



14



16



18

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