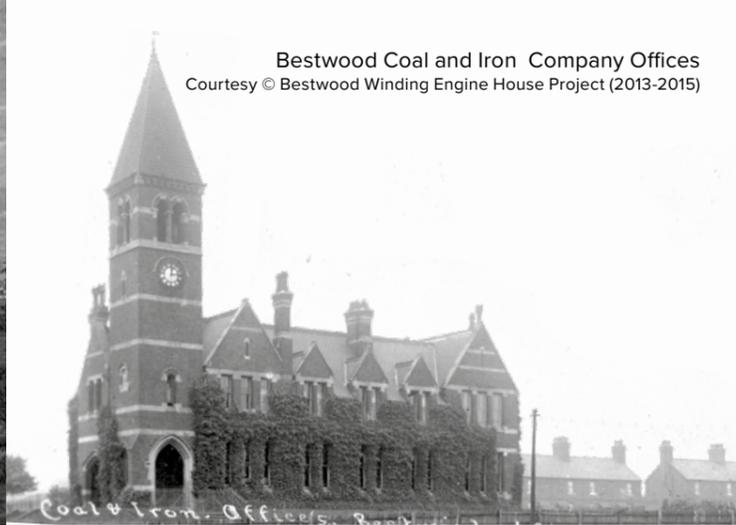




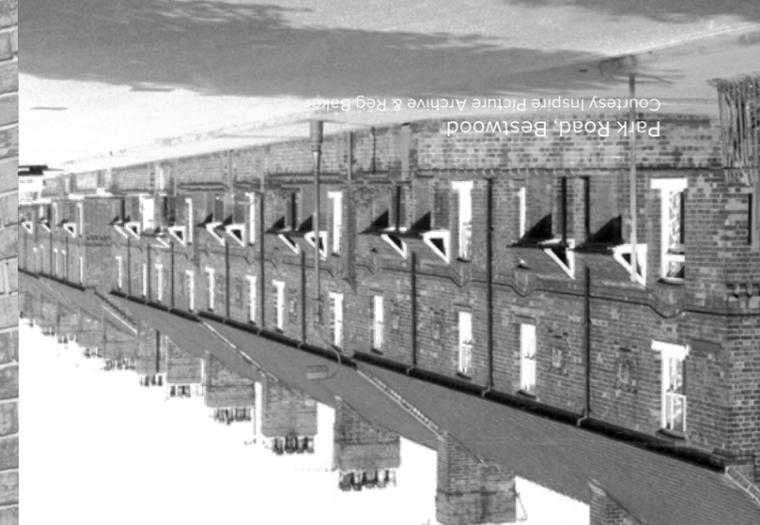
Bestwood Lodge
Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives & Ken Negus



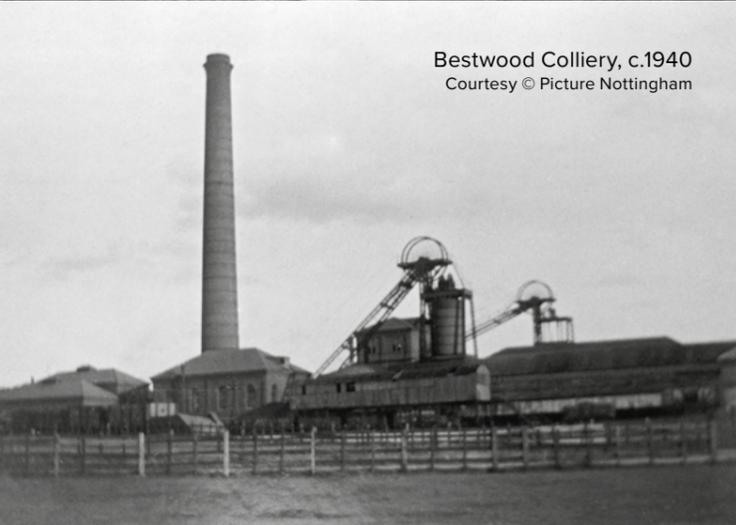
Bestwood Coal and Iron Company Offices
Courtesy © Bestwood Winding Engine House Project (2013-2015)



Construction date plaque 1876
Courtesy © Chris Matthews



Park Road, Bestwood
Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives & Reg Baker



Bestwood Colliery, c.1940
Courtesy © Picture Nottingham



St Alban's Road Housing
Courtesy © Chris Matthews



St Mark's Church
Courtesy © Chris Matthews

BESTWOOD Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield Guidebook 2

COMPANY

Bestwood is a colliery settlement with a range of buildings erected for the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company (BCIC). It is the best designed village of its type in the Leen Valley area. The company was established by John Lancaster, an entrepreneur with coal mining interests in Lancashire, on land leased in 1872 from the 10th Duke of St Albans of Bestwood Lodge. BCIC was a successful enterprise and took over Babbington Colliery Company in 1938 re-styling itself as B. A. Collieries Ltd. The site remained operative until 1967. Most of the industrial building and infrastructure was demolished, except the winding engine house (1), which was restored and opened as an attraction in 1995. The site was landscaped by the County Council.

VILLAGE

Temporary housing was built in 1874 by the contractor J. E. Hall, for workers involved in sinking the shaft. The company started constructing housing almost immediately. The architect of these buildings and very probably additional housing dated 1876 was the noted Manchester practitioner Thomas Worthington. The winding engine house was built to an Italianate design and may also have been designed by Worthington.

It is almost certain that the Duke of St Albans influenced the design of the buildings, as at the nearby Bestwood pumping station, for which the lease of land was conditional on his approval of building designs. His interest in architecture is also illustrated by his choice of the architect S.S. Teulon, noted for his highly individual and inventive designs, for the rebuilding of Bestwood Lodge (2) in 1862-5 and of the estate church (3), Emmanuel, erected in 1868-9.

HOUSING

The housing at Bestwood is an interesting example of relatively high-quality provision during the 1870s. The first phase went up on The Square (4) and St Alban's Road. Foremen's houses stand at either end of a terrace of workers' housing (5). The foremen's houses are arranged in blocks of four houses with entrances in porches of two alternating designs, with tall gabled bays, prominent chimneys originally with stacks set diagonally and shallow bay windows. There is decorative and raised brickwork and a little timbering. The houses have back gardens and modern plans suggest that the porches open to a stair hall, with doors off to front and rear rooms. The terraced housing is simpler two-up two-down accommodation with small back yards and a narrow alley or entry between the rows at the rear. There is some decorative detail, such as characterful hipped dormers originally with finials and slated canopies over the front doors. Plans suggest that a small stair hall was provided so that rooms were not entered directly from the street. The colliery managers resided in large detached houses at either The Sycamores (since demolished) on Moor Road (6) or probably at the Edwardian Keepers House in Bestwood Park (7, private, no public access).

The second-phase terraces on Park Road (8) of 1876 are also two-up two-down, but with both front and rear gardens. The nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps show small buildings, probably privies, in the back gardens; most houses now have single-storey kitchen extensions. Modern plans suggest they have a separate staircase hall giving access to the two ground-floor rooms. Detailing includes plaques with the BCIC logo, shallow slated porches and some attractively decorative raised brickwork. Additional housing was erected in the inter-war period, including semi-detached and terraced housing. The west and north sides of The Square were built

up, as well as the south side of Park Road, north side of Church Road, the east side of St Alban's Road and new streets were also laid out. The housing harmonises with earlier work in terms of scale and materials, extending the grid pattern established with the earliest housing of the village. Additional building took place after the middle of the twentieth century.

AMENITIES & OTHER BUILDINGS

A recreation ground (now cricket pitch) and allotment gardens within The Square and off Park Road are shown on nineteenth-century OS maps. Bestwood Village Social Club (9), at the west end of Park Road became a miners' welfare and community centre; it was built as a village hall in 1928. At its centre is a large arts and crafts brick building with a pitched roof. It was later surrounded by modern flat roofed extensions. The Bestwood Hotel (10) on Park Road was built in 1896 and is marked 'Institute' on early twentieth century OS maps. The building is a good example of late Victorian architecture by an unknown architect. It probably had its origins as a working men's club or miners' institute, for which fundraising events were being held in the 1880s

The former colliery office building (the Clock Tower) (11) was executed in Italianate style, with a tower, to designs by Thomas Worthington. The use of brick with stone dressings creates a polychromatic effect and reflects Worthington's interest in Continental Gothic styles and the influence of John Ruskin. The plans were approved in 1873. The church of St Mark (12) was established as a mission church and built in 1887 to designs by the Manchester architect J. Medland Taylor. The land was donated by the Duke of St Albans and the colliery company, each paid £600 towards the costs. The building is a good example of a modest church by this architect with an exposed timber roof, stained glass of some quality and furnishings with local associations.

BESTWOOD Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield Guidebook 2

The promises of the concealed coalfield in Nottinghamshire had been gradually realised from the 1860s, with developments along the Leen Valley at places like Annesley, Newstead and Bestwood.

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>

BESTWOOD

Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield Guidebook 2

MAP LOCATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Winding Engine House
1874, Grade II* Listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument | 7 Keepers House
Home of the colliery manager (no public access) |
| 2 Bestwood Lodge
Rebuilt 1862-5 by the Duke of St Albans | 8 Park Road Housing
Built 1876, includes plaques with the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company logo |
| 3 Emmanuel Church
Estate church of the Duke of St Albans, built 1868-9 | 9 Bestwood Miners' Welfare
Built as a village hall, 1928 |
| 4 The Square
Housing built in the 1870s and originally site of recreation ground and allotments | 10 Bestwood Hotel
Built in 1896, marked as 'Institute' on early twentieth century maps |
| 5 St Alban's Road End Terraces
Foremans' housing | 11 Colliery Offices
Headquarters of the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company |
| 6 Site of The Sycamores
Home of the colliery manager (demolished) | 12 St Mark's Church
Colliery village church, Built in 1887 and designed by J. Medland Taylor |

BUILDING TYPE



1



2



4



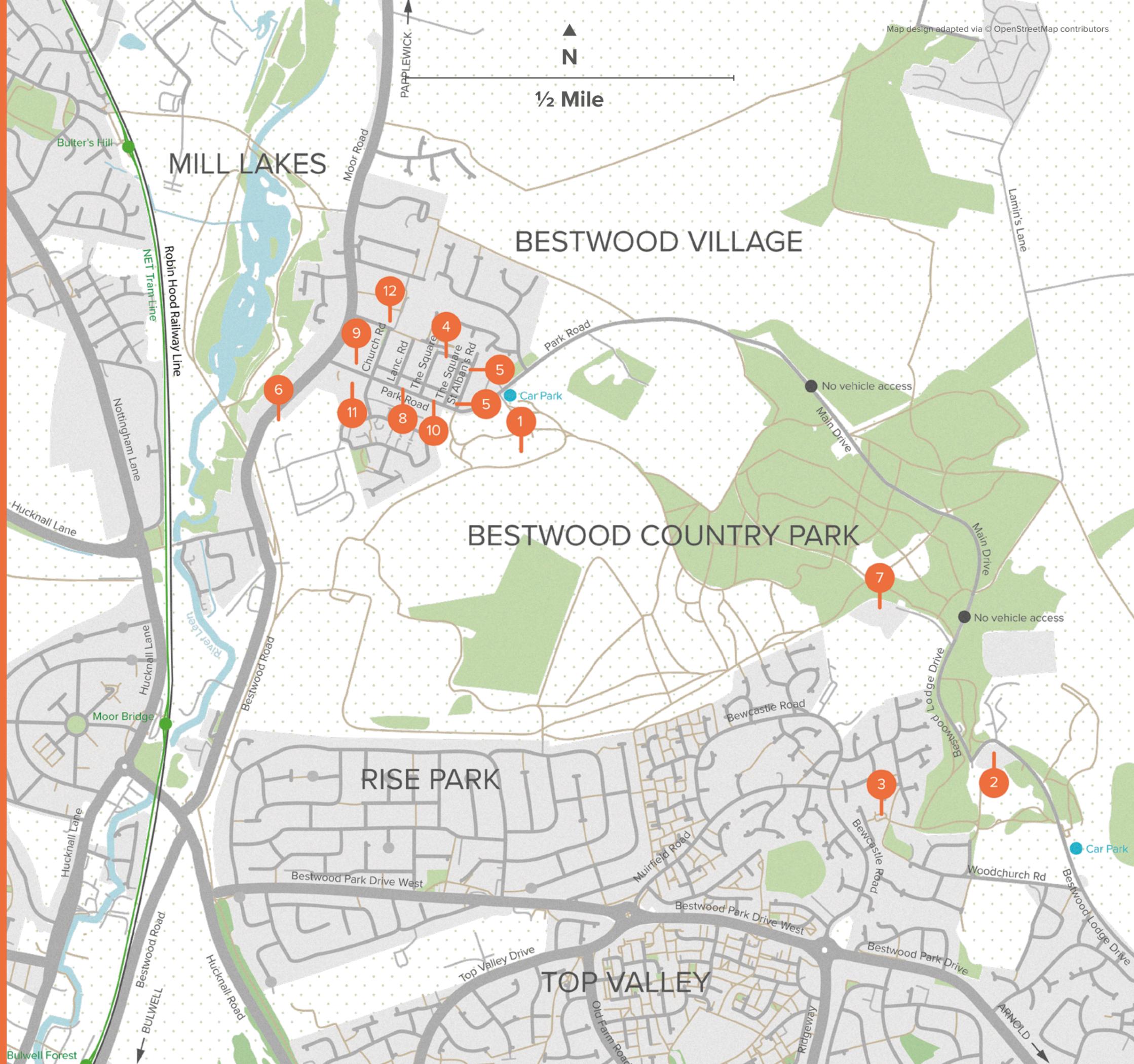
10



11



12



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