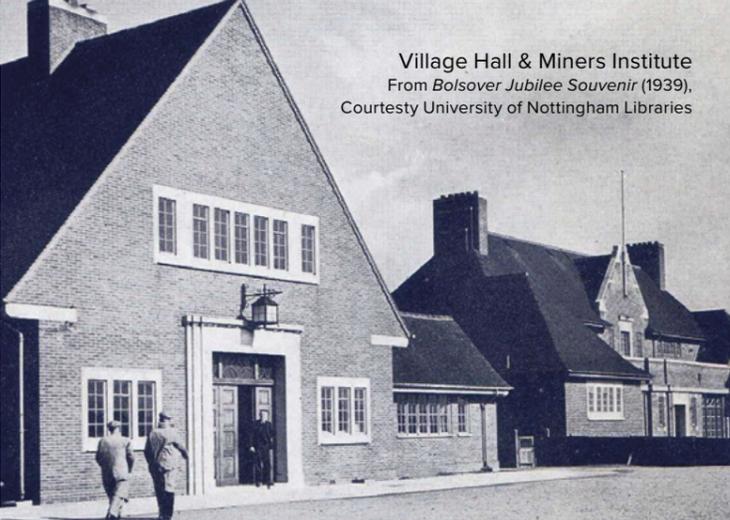




Clipstone Headstocks
Courtesy © Chris Matthews



'The Cottages', Colliery Management Housing
Courtesy © Chad newspaper, photography by Roger Grayson



Village Hall & Miners Institute
From *Bolsover Jubilee Souvenir* (1939),
Courtesy University of Nottingham Libraries



Clipstone Housing
From *Bolsover Jubilee Souvenir* (1939),
Courtesy University of Nottingham Libraries



Samuel Barlow School, 1920
Courtesy Inspire Picture Archive



Church Road, c. 1920s
Courtesy Dave Fordham



CLIPSTONE
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COMPANY & VILLAGE

While Rufford was being sunk, the Bolsover Colliery Company was busy securing a new lease at Clipstone from the Duke of Portland. This was the first of three collieries along the Maun valley in Sherwood Forest and as such it is an archetypal Dukeries coalfield village. Sinking operations were interrupted by the First World War and coal was finally won in 1922. Nevertheless Clipstone became one of the most productive mines in Britain and still presents the best surviving example of twentieth century coal mining technology. It was also home to Bolsover's largest colliery village. The headstocks and powerhouse were listed at Grade II in 2000 in recognition of their historical and architectural significance.

THE HEADSTOCKS

More than any other structure the headstocks at Clipstone (1) express the sheer productivity of the Nottinghamshire coalfield. Following nationalisation the colliery was modernised by the National Coal Board, between 1950–53, in order to extract coal from much deeper levels. The new shafts at Clipstone were among the deepest in the country; extending 1006 yards into the earth. When built the headstocks were the tallest and most advanced in Europe. They were designed by the architects Young and Purves and built by Head Wrightson Colliery Engineering. Between the latticework steel towers is the central modernist brick powerhouse which contains two Koepe winding engines. The 'Koepe' system was originally a late nineteenth century German invention rarely adopted in Britain but finally perfected at Clipstone.

HOUSING

In 1914 the plan for Clipstone was simply to extend Bolsover's older colliery village at Forest Town rather than build a new community. However the realities of securing a regular supply

of labour must have forced the company to reconsider their plans. During the 1920s the company erected 648 houses and by 1931 the population of the village had grown six fold in the space of ten years to 3443 people. The original geometric plan and earliest housing was designed by the architects Houfton & Kington. The rectilinear plan form of the estate was broken by an oval circus at the centre (2) and occasional crescents and cul-de-sacs setback from linear routes (3). Houfton had previously designed New Bolsover, Creswell and Rainworth, and his cousin was the general manager of the company until 1929. His garden city style housing was characterised by steep pitches for supporting pantiles, contrasting roof tiles, facing gables with air vents, entrance entablature and cogged lintels supporting end terrace chimney stacks.

Unlike Rainworth, housing for colliery management at Clipstone has survived. These large semi-detached houses with spacious gardens were deliberately positioned on Mansfield Road either side of the colliery entrance. To the east are 'The Villas' (4) in two pairs, numbered 1–7, and to the west 'The Cottages' (5), in four pairs numbered 41–55. By 1939 these buildings housed a variety of managerial occupations including colliery manager, chief superintendent, overman, surveyor and chief electrician. Like Rainworth it appears that colliery deputies generally mixed with hewers on each street, yet there was some preference for Forest Road (6) and Mansfield Road (7).

AMENITIES

Some of the amenities necessary for community life were positioned towards the middle of a geometric plan. At the central entrance beside Fourth Avenue is the Miners Institute (8), which was opened in 1933 and financed by the District Welfare Committee. Built to accommodate 420 members the building was equipped with an impressive range of facilities including library, reading room, concert room, sun room,

kitchen, bar, billiards room and bowling green. Adjacent to this is the Village Hall (9), which was commissioned by the Bolsover Colliery Company and built in 1935 to house a main hall, dance floor, balcony, gymnasium, stage, dressing rooms and kitchen. Both these buildings exhibit motifs familiar with the arts and crafts movement and were designed by the architect G. Warner who had worked on similar schemes throughout the region.

Beyond these buildings is a central playing field originally with a Methodist chapel (10) to the west, which was built in 1927 and since demolished. To the east was the more impressive All Saints Church (11), which was designed by Louis Ambler in the neo-Romanesque style and built in 1928. This was financed chiefly by the Bolsover Colliery Company with significant contributions from the Duke of Portland, the Marquis of Titchfield and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The adjacent vicarage (12) is the largest detached house on the estate, built with facing gables, rear stable/garage and a cat slide roof above the central entrance. Further east along church road the Samuel Barlow School (13) was built in 1926 by Nottinghamshire County Council. The building is in a brick classical style on a quadrangle plan with pitched roofs and clay tiles.

SHOPS

Like Ollerton and Blidworth the shopping district is the only irregular layout of the inter-war period (14). Here the colliery company leased plots of land for retail developments, which prospective traders built themselves. In the case of Clipstone this was along Mansfield Road and here the most interesting structure was the Ritz Cinema (recently demolished), which was built in 1937 and designed in the Art Deco style by Mansfield architects Bocock and Kirk.

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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>

CLIPSTONE

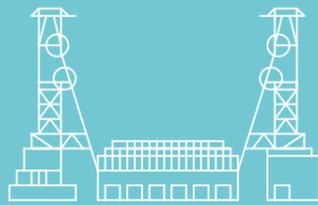
Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield

Guidebook 7

LOCATIONS

- 1 **Clipstone Headstocks**
1953, Grade II Listed
- 2 **Oval Circus**
At the centre of a model village of 648 houses built in the 1920s by the Bolsover Colliery Company
- 3 **Cul-de-sac**
Setback from the street
- 4 **The Villas**
Housing for colliery management
- 5 **The Cottages**
Housing for colliery management
- 6 **Forest Road Houses**
Popular with colliery deputies
- 7 **Mansfield Road**
Popular with colliery deputies
- 8 **Miners' Institute**
Opened 1933
- 9 **Village Hall**
Commissioned by the Bolsover Colliery
- 10 **Site of former Methodist chapel**
- 11 **All Saints' Church**
Designed by Louis Ambler and built in 1928
- 12 **The Vicarage**
- 13 **Samuel Barlow School**
Built in 1926 by Nottinghamshire County Council
- 14 **Forest Road Shops**
Begun during the inter-war period on land leased by the Bolsover Colliery Company

BUILDINGS

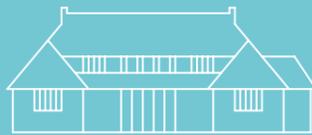


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4



6



8



9



11

