



Gedling Borough  
**Heritage**  
Brought Alive



**The history  
and heritage  
of Gedling  
Borough**







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# The history and heritage of Gedling Borough

Compiled and edited by  
**Stephen Walker**

*Abstract:*

The Borough of Gedling, formed in 1974, is an administrative district in Nottinghamshire. The area has a long history of human occupation. During the industrial revolution, in the 18th and 19th centuries, it was an important centre for textiles, brickmaking and coal mining. In the 20th century it became one of the suburbs of Nottingham. Since the decline of manufacturing and mining in the late 20th century the district has become important as a residential area, with a thriving economy based increasingly on tourism and the service sector. Historically the borough was within the medieval Sherwood Forest and the partially wooded farmland, containing several country parks, still provides an attractive location for leisure and recreation.

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# Introduction

For several decades diligent local historians and dedicated societies across Gedling Borough in Nottinghamshire have been researching the history of their communities and have consequently produced fascinating works, including books, films, websites and leaflets. Some have created and led heritage walks, given talks, held exhibitions and installed plaques to help us remember the people and events of our borough. However, in recent times it was realised that nowhere could we find a collective history of the Borough of Gedling, which was formed in 1974. To this end Gedling Borough Council, working with local history groups, developed a project and successfully applied for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to produce that collective history.

From the commencement of the project, in January 2018, volunteers from across the borough have worked hard, alongside council officers, to celebrate our heritage through a variety of ways, such as the borough's first ever heritage festival, writing and producing interpretation boards, mosaics, a large wall mural depicting a thousand years of history, guide leaflets, a web site and heritage films designed to immortalise our heritage and encourage people to become more engaged with our fascinating past. Residents have been engaged by entering several heritage-based competitions, joining walks or attending a talk or local heritage film show. However, this book has become its flagship project, available for decades to come, to enthral its readers with our exciting past.

The purpose of this book is to introduce the reader to the historical features and exciting heritage of Gedling Borough, which is not just another corner of England but possesses a wealth of world-class heritage and takes the visitor from city suburbs into the iconic English countryside. Gedling Borough has previously been little known outside its own community, but this book will bring it out of obscurity and into the limelight; we have a great story to tell. This book will whet your appetite to learn more about our borough and its personalities.

The book concentrates on providing the framework of a general history, and only discusses places in more detail if they can be visited and seen, thus enabling it to be a guide to tourists visiting the area, or indeed to our own residents. Features which have been

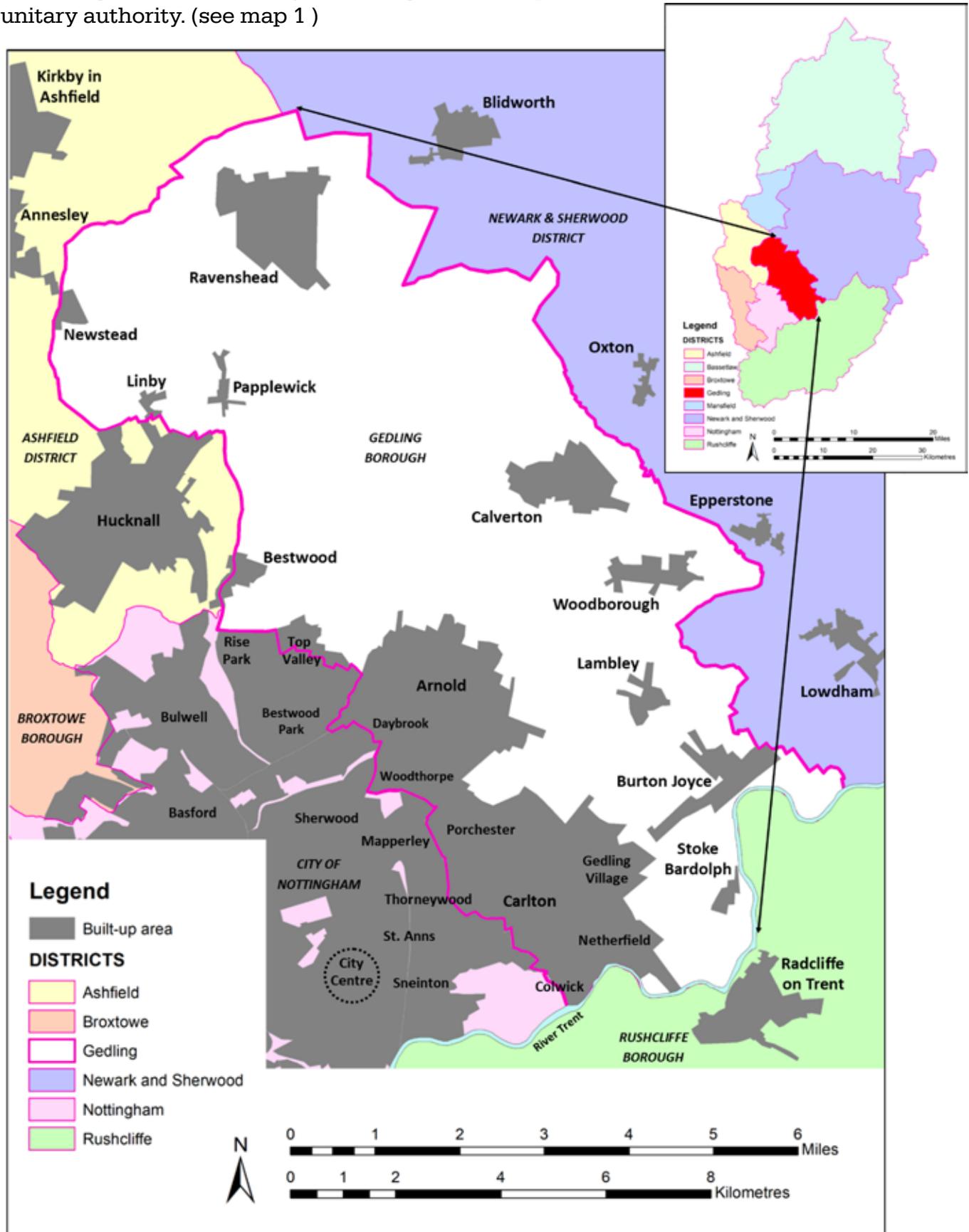
redeveloped, demolished or disappeared are not generally discussed. However, a visit to our extensive local studies libraries would soon provide the reader with more in-depth information. Scattered throughout the text are postcodes and website details that will allow you to find the attractions.

As the Leader of Gedling Borough Council I am proud of our heritage and invite you to read this book and then enjoy many exciting days discovering our heritage and our natural beauty. You will not be disappointed.

**Councillor John Clarke**  
Leader of Gedling  
Borough Council

# Map 1 - Position of Gedling within Nottinghamshire

The Borough of Gedling is one of seven districts in the county of Nottinghamshire. The city of Nottingham is a separate unitary authority. (see map 1 )

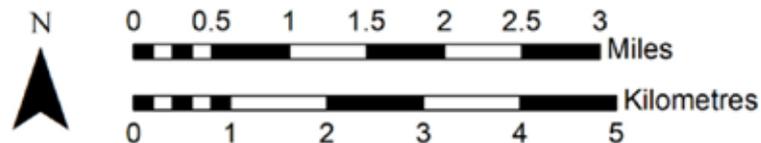
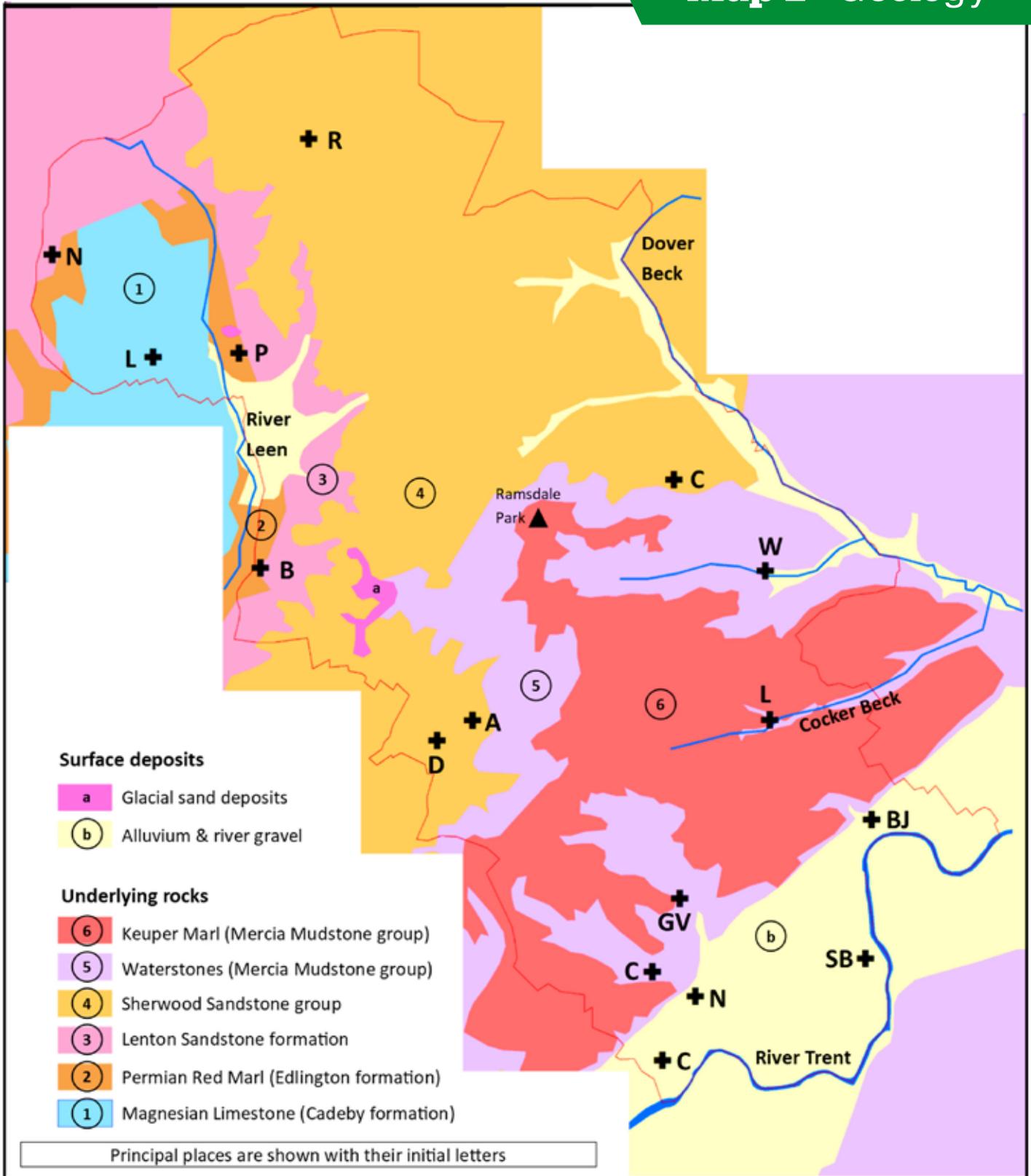




1

## **Geology and Landscape**

# Map 2 - Geology



Gedling Borough boundary

Main streams in the Borough

Over the years, the rocks and the landscape have influenced the lives of people in the borough. The underlying geology is shown on map 2. The oldest surface rock, the Magnesian Limestone strata (also known as the Cadeby Formation), occurs around the village of Linby. This honey-coloured, sandy limestone has been widely used as a building stone in the north-west of the borough. (1)

The clay-rich Permian Red Marl (also known as the Edlington Formation) is found in the Leen valley between Papplewick and Bestwood and was once used to make bricks and tiles. After the 18th century Mercian Mudstone (formerly known as Keuper Marl), which forms the ridge between Mapperley and Dorket Head, was also used for brick-making. The highest point in the borough of Gedling is on the ridge close to Dorket Head, in Ramsdale Park near Calverton, where the surface is 157m above sea-level. The clay soils and open valleys in the east of the borough provided fertile farmland. (2) The villages here are traditionally characterised by buildings constructed of brick.

The dry soil developed on the soft red sandstones in the north of the borough naturally supports heath and open oak woodland. This was the area where the royal



1: Stone cottages in Papplewick

hunting forest was created. The land here was so dry that it was traditionally used only for rough grazing. In the last century, these dry, sandy soils have increasingly been used for growing root crops such as potatoes and carrots. However, a more important use of the porous Sherwood Sandstone beds was as an underground source of water. Bestwood and Papplewick pumping stations were both constructed over deep wells which collected pure water from under the ground.

Sherwood Sandstone is also quarried near Ravenshead to provide builders' sand. One of the main influences of geology after the middle of the 19th century was the development of coal mining. In the west of Nottinghamshire coal occurred near the surface, so the earliest mines were located west of Nottingham and along the border with Derbyshire, where the coal was easy to extract. Within the borough of Gedling, coal occurs in seams deep



2: The landscape at Woodborough

beneath the surface, so the mines here all had deep shafts.

The presence of glacial sands over the higher parts of the borough is evidence that ice sheets directly affected the area. At the end of the Ice Age, the Trent valley was an important route for the passage of flood water from the melting glaciers, and powerful flows of meltwater carved deep valleys into the soft rocks. These valleys are known locally as dumbles; the Lambley Dumbles are an example. The meltwater also left deep layers of sediment on the floor of the Trent valley. This has become a source of sand and gravel, quarried at Netherfield and

elsewhere in the borough. In the south-east, the borough boundary follows the river Trent from Colwick to Burton Joyce. The land on the valley floor is only 20m above sea-level. This major waterway was used for transport and influenced human occupation of the area from before Roman times. Saxon and Viking settlers travelled up the Trent Valley and developed farming communities. The bank of the river Trent has become a valued recreation zone for anglers, bird watchers, walkers and cyclists. (3) Stoke Lock Woods is an attractive small reserve while a mile upstream there is access to Netherfield Lagoons, a nature

reserve developed from old gravel pits and colliery slurry lagoons.

With the enlargement of Nottingham and its suburbs onto the flood plain of the river, the impact of flooding became more severe. The record floods of 1947 highlighted the need for improved flood defence. The old Colwick Weir was replaced by the massive floodgates known as the Holme Sluices. This allowed a sharp bend in the river at Colwick to be removed. Colwick Country Park, on the border of the borough, occupies the reclaimed site of the former loop.



3: Stoke Lock on the river Trent



2

**Early  
History**

The area we call Gedling Borough is known to have been occupied for several thousand years. Bronze Age defensive works have been identified in Arnold (constructed between 3,000 to 4,000 years ago) and tools from the Bronze Age were also discovered at Bestwood. Earthworks at Fox Wood in Woodborough and Lodge Farm in Burton Joyce are thought to be the remains of small Iron Age forts (The Iron Age is generally considered to be 2,000 to 2,500 years ago) and Iron Age pottery was found near Dorket Head, together with the remains of a Roman military camp. A second Roman camp was located near Calverton, on a low spur of land between Lodge Farm and Dover Beck. Investigations revealed a large 26 acre (10.5ha) temporary marching camp, with a smaller (later) four acre (1.7ha) camp positioned within the boundary of the earlier fort. Although no earthworks survive above ground level, the camps are clearly visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Two hoards of Roman coins were found in Calverton some sixty years ago. Roman coins were also discovered in Newstead in 1990.

In the years after Roman rule, what is now England reverted to a series of British kingdoms. Very little is known of these political entities in Nottinghamshire, but some surviving British place-names in north Nottinghamshire and the survival of British inheritance customs into the medieval period suggest a significant British survival in the post-Roman period. At the same time, groups of Angles and Saxons, originally from North Germany, were settling along the north bank of the Trent. In time these Germanic peoples became politically and culturally dominant, with the area that is now the Borough becoming a part of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia by around the year 600. The old name for Arnold, 'Ernehale', was given to an Anglo-Saxon settlement, while an Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been discovered in Netherfield.

In 868, the army of Danish warlords of Halfdan

Ragnarson and Ivar the Boneless captured Nottingham. The town became one of the Five Boroughs of the Danelaw, an area which was under Viking control for the next 50 years. Danes settled in the area, creating a hybrid Anglo-Scandinavian society. Within the borough this has left us with place-name elements such as '-by' (farm) and 'thorpe' (outlying settlement) and words such as 'beck' for stream. The Vikings in Nottingham submitted to Edward the Elder in 918, returning the area to a combined Mercia and Wessex, which formed the basis for the development of a single, united English kingdom.

At the time of the Norman invasion in the 11th century, several places in the borough were already thriving population centres, listed and described in the Domesday Book. These were at Arnold, Burton Joyce, Calverton, Carlton, Colwick,

Gedling, Lambley, Linby, Papplewick, Stoke Bardolph and Woodborough. The Royal Hunting Forest of Shirewood, Sherwood Forest, was created around this time, to provide a space for sporting pursuits. Nottingham, as well as Gedling borough, lay at the southern fringe of the Forest. In 1966 more than 1,200 coins and a collection of jewellery were discovered in Ravenshead, becoming known as the Fishpool Hoard. (4) The coinage, dating from the 15th century, is thought to have been hidden there during the Wars of the Roses.



4: A brooch from the Fishpool Hoard



3

**Green  
Heritage**

The Royal Forest of Sherwood, created by the Norman kings to provide an area for hunting, and extending northwards from Nottingham through central Nottinghamshire, included most of the borough of Gedling. In the Middle Ages, the legend of Robin Hood and his Gang grew up, based on this part of the county. Several places in the borough have links to the legend, with St James' church in Papplewick reputedly where Alan A'Dale, a minstrel with the Outlaws, was married.

As late as the eighteenth century, the roads north of Nottingham crossed wild, unpopulated forest areas and were considered unsafe for travellers. Road travel was so dangerous that groups of soldiers were stationed at Redhill and at the Hutt, near Newstead Abbey, to protect travellers. The highwayman Dick Turpin, executed at York in 1739, is said to have been active in the region. The Sheppard Stone, which lies on the borough boundary beside the A60 at Thieves Wood, commemorates the murder and robbery in 1817 of Bessie Sheppard from Papplewick, killed while

returning home from the market in Mansfield.

Nowadays the wooded areas are less forbidding. Across the borough, what remains of the ancient Sherwood Forest still makes up the countryside, used for farming and nature conservation, a network of footpaths and bridleways providing access. (5) In other areas there are urban parks, nature reserves and woodland where access to the countryside can be enjoyed. (Map 7 shows the main rural sites accessible to the public for leisure and recreation.)



5: Moor Pond Woods

## Arnot Hill Park

Arnot Hill Park in Arnold [NG5 6LU] was originally the grounds of the mansion home of an 18th century industrialist, John Hawksley. (6) The ornamental lake in the park is the remnants of the pond which provided water for a worsted mill, until 1810. The park, maintained by Gedling Borough Council, is laid out with paths and now houses the Lake View Café, a bowling green and a children's play area.

6: Arnot Hill Park



## **Bestwood Country Park**

Bestwood Country Park, once part of the 3,700 acre (1500ha) Royal Deer Park of Bestwood, is accessed on its north side via Bestwood Village [NG6 8ZA] and on its south side via Bestwood Lodge Drive in Arnold [NG5 8NE]. There are also several points for entering the park on foot. Almost 700 acres (282ha) of woodland, meadows, reclaimed colliery ground, a river and lakes are all managed by a small on-site staff. Bestwood Lodge, now the Best Western Bestwood Lodge Hotel, replaced the original centuries-old Bestwood Hall when the latter was demolished in the mid-1850s. Nearby, Alexandra Lodge, in the centre of the park and spanning the north access road, was named in honour of Queen Alexandra when she visited the house with King Edward VII.

In the Middle Ages, the woodlands were mainly of English oak but there are now numerous varieties which are listed in the 'Trees of Bestwood' booklet. Wherever possible, the meadows are managed by means of sheep- and cattle-grazing, to preserve the native flora.

Various wildlife species make their homes in the park, including hares, rabbits, foxes and fallow deer; 130 species of birds have also been recorded. The Friends of Bestwood Country Park have developed a rolling programme of studying and recording the plants and wildlife there. The park

is 'dog-friendly'. Activities include walking, horse riding, running, Nordic walking, field crafts, cycling, as well as, on Saturdays, children's crafts in the Dynamo House community café run by the Friends group. [To find out more, see their website [www.fbc.org.uk](http://www.fbc.org.uk) ].

On the colliery site is the unique Bestwood Colliery Winding Engine House, its vertical steam winder and headstocks still in working order. Restored and Grade II-listed, it is cared for by a group of ex-miners, who on Saturdays offer free guided tours of the building and machinery.

### **Bestwood Lodge**

Bestwood Lodge stands in Bestwood Country Park [NG5 8NE]. The site was for many years a royal retreat and in 1485 Richard III was in residence there when he received the news that Henry Tudor had invaded England. Richard went from the lodge via Nottingham to give battle at Bosworth Field, where he perished. In the 17th century the lodge and deer park were given to the Duke of St Albans, son of Charles II and Nell Gwyn. The current lodge, in the Gothic Revival style was completed in 1865 by the 10th Duke, to replace the medieval royal hunting lodge dating back to the 1100s. The architect of the rebuild, Samuel Sanders Teulon, also designed St. Pancras station in London. The Lodge is a Grade II\*-listed building. During World War 2 the lodge became the headquarters of the Northern Command army. Although the lodge is now

a hotel, volunteers maintain the original Japanese Water Gardens which adjoin the building. These gardens were created for the then Duke of St Albans around the end of the nineteenth century. [For more detail about this historic garden see <http://www.fbc.org.uk/japanese-garden.html> ]

## **Burnt Stump Country Park**

The thirty-seven acres (15ha) of parkland [NG5 8PQ] is what remains of the estate formerly surrounding the large house built in 1790 by Henry Coape, later occupied by Sir Charles Seely, a local mine-owner and MP. The house was subsequently demolished and the site now includes the headquarters of Nottinghamshire Police and the site of The Park Hospital. The playing fields and woodland walks, close to the A60 and maintained by Gedling Borough Council, are accessible to the public all year round.

## **Fox Covert Plantation**

Fox Covert Plantation near Calverton [NG5 8PQ] is a mixed deciduous woodland managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Believed to be on the site of part of the ancient Sherwood Forest, the main wood covers more than seventeen acres (7ha), with oak and birch the principal species, as well as several others, including sycamore, sweet chestnut, rowan and coppiced lime. The wood is linked by a grassy ride to two open areas of sycamore and acid grassland, with

over thirty common species of ground flora. In winter, goldcrest, redpoll and long-tailed tit can be seen, with occasional sightings of woodpecker. [For more information see [www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/nature-reserves/foxcovert-plantation](http://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/nature-reserves/foxcovert-plantation) ]

## **Gedling Country Park**

Gedling Country Park [NG4 4PE] covers 580 acres (235ha) of open space, created since 2000 through reclamation of the spoil heap from Gedling Colliery. With outstanding views over the surrounding area, the park has a visitors'

centre and café, as well as marked trails, footpaths and wildlife habitat. Opened in 2015, the park (7) is managed by Gedling Borough Council with the assistance of the Friends of Gedling Country Park. [For more information see <https://www.gedlingcountrypark.org.uk> ] and café, as well as marked trails, footpaths and wildlife habitat.



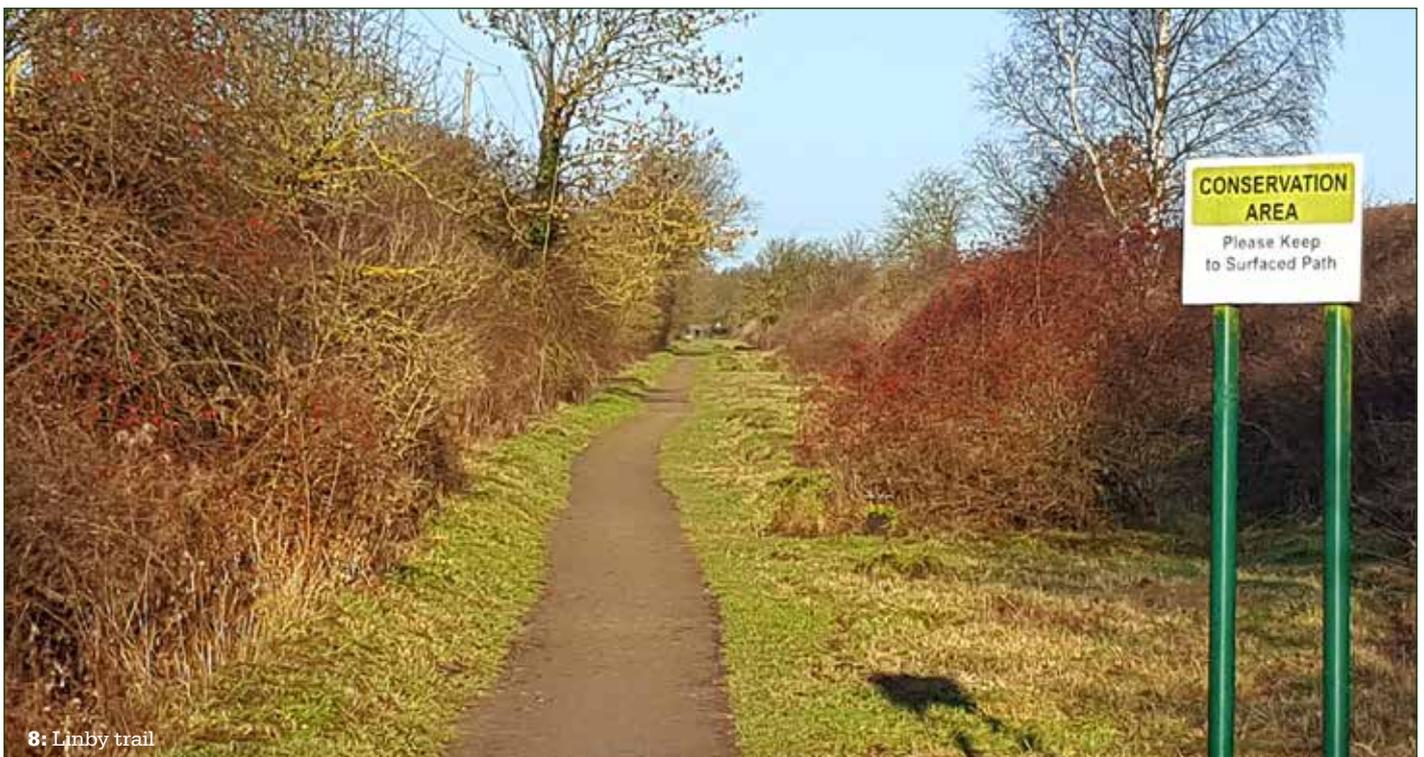
7: Gedling Country Park

## **Linby Trail and Freckland Wood**

The Linby Trail is a linear nature reserve along the line of the former Great Northern Railway. It links Linby village to Freckland

Wood at Newstead (a landscaped colliery tip), a multi-user trail providing access to horseriders, cyclists and walkers. (8) The railway cuttings were excavated through the Magnesian limestone;

the trail is an important geological reserve showing the strata and is also home to limestone flora and fauna. Freckland Wood provides an excellent viewpoint over the surrounding countryside.



8: Linby trail

## Moor Pond Woods

The seventeen acres (7ha) of woodland are a publicly accessible space between Linby and Papplewick [NG15 8FB], with paths laid out by Papplewick Parish Council as its Millennium project. The site was used in the

18th century to store and transport water to cotton mills and the preserved remains of stone sluices are visible there. The site, which includes woodland, wetland and meadows providing important habitats for a variety of animals

and plants, is maintained by a partnership between Nottinghamshire County Council and the Friends of Moor Pond Woods. (9) [See <http://moorpond.papplewick.org> for more information.]



9: Moor Pond at Papplewick

## Netherfield Lagoons

Netherfield Lagoons Local Nature Reserve is situated on the flood plain of the river Trent [Ordnance Survey grid reference SK638402]. Part of the site was used as a dump for coal slurry, but there are two remaining gravel ponds. A causeway, raised around fifteen metres (50 feet) above the pits, gives a commanding view of the three main compartments; the Slurry Lagoon, the Deep Pit and the Gravel Pits. The larger tank, virtually full but still able to retain some water, provides muddy edges attractive to waders, roosting gulls and terns. The smaller tank is mainly of deep water, attracting large numbers of wildfowl, with smaller birds, especially warblers, feeding and breeding around the edges. The reserve is managed by Gedling Conservation Trust.

[For more detail see their website - [www.gedlingconservationtrust.org](http://www.gedlingconservationtrust.org) ]

## Newstead Abbey

After the priory at Newstead was closed by Henry VIII in 1539, the site was converted into a country home for the Byron family, and was renamed Newstead Abbey, remaining as a private residence throughout the 19th century. (10, 12) The house, park and gardens [NG15 9HJ], are now owned by Nottingham City Council and are open to visitors,

with a tea-room as well as regular events held on site. [For details, see [www.newsteadabbey.org.uk/visit](http://www.newsteadabbey.org.uk/visit) ]

The poet Lord Byron (1788-1824) inherited the house and grounds from his great-uncle in 1798, when he was only ten years old. After his 21st birthday in 1809, he lived intermittently at Newstead until the estate was sold in 1817. During this period some of his most famous poetry was written. After moving from Newstead, Byron spent most of his time travelling abroad.



10: Newstead Abbey gardens



12: Newstead Abbey, west front

## **Newstead and Annesley Country Park**

Newstead and Annesley Country Park [NG15 0BS], a beautiful, eco-friendly park, is five minutes' walk from Newstead railway station and less than ten minutes' drive from Junction 27 of the M1. The park, covering an area of 220 acres (89ha), is situated on the site of former colliery spoil tips and lagoons. The whole area is of significant interest for its wildlife, (11) a number of volunteers working on the site to protect and enhance this. [For more details, see [www.ruralcommunityactionnottinghamshire/newstead-annesley-country-park](http://www.ruralcommunityactionnottinghamshire/newstead-annesley-country-park) ]



11: Orchid at Newstead and Annesley CP

## **Stoke Lock Woods**

Stoke Lock and Woods on the River Trent near Stoke Bardolph [NG14 5HX] provide an area of peace and tranquillity. The mature woodland around Stoke Lock was planted just after the lock was built in 1927, creating an excellent site for walkers and nature lovers. There are also fascinating conservation projects taking place nearby, for instance, at Netherfield Lagoons. [For further details see the interpretation panel and listening posts on site.]



# Urban Growth & Settlement

Today 80% of the population of the borough of Gedling live in the urban areas clustered in the south around Arnold and Carlton. This has not always been the case; until about 1800 most of the land now occupied by the borough was farmland, woodland and grazing, with scattered villages, much as it had been in the Middle Ages.

From the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) the Church of England parishes became more important in the administration of peoples' lives. Parish officials were responsible for registering births and deaths, for relief of the sick and poor, for road mending and for enforcing the law. The parishes within the area now occupied by the borough remained unchanged for the next 400 years. (13) The boom in framework knitting after 1770 encouraged new building in Arnold, Burton Joyce, Calverton, Lambley and Woodborough, while the development of spinning mills in Linby, Papplewick and Arnold also attracted workers to early factories. The ancient parish of Gedling stretched from Mapperley ridge to the river Trent, and included hamlets at Stoke Bardolph and Carlton as well as the village of Gedling. During the 19th century some of these centres grew to become settlements in their own right. By the mid-19th century, housing and the population from Nottingham spread towards the surrounding villages. Arnold, Carlton and Netherfield expanded with the addition of rows of terraced houses, built to house newly arrived industrial workers for the textile factories, brickyards and railways.

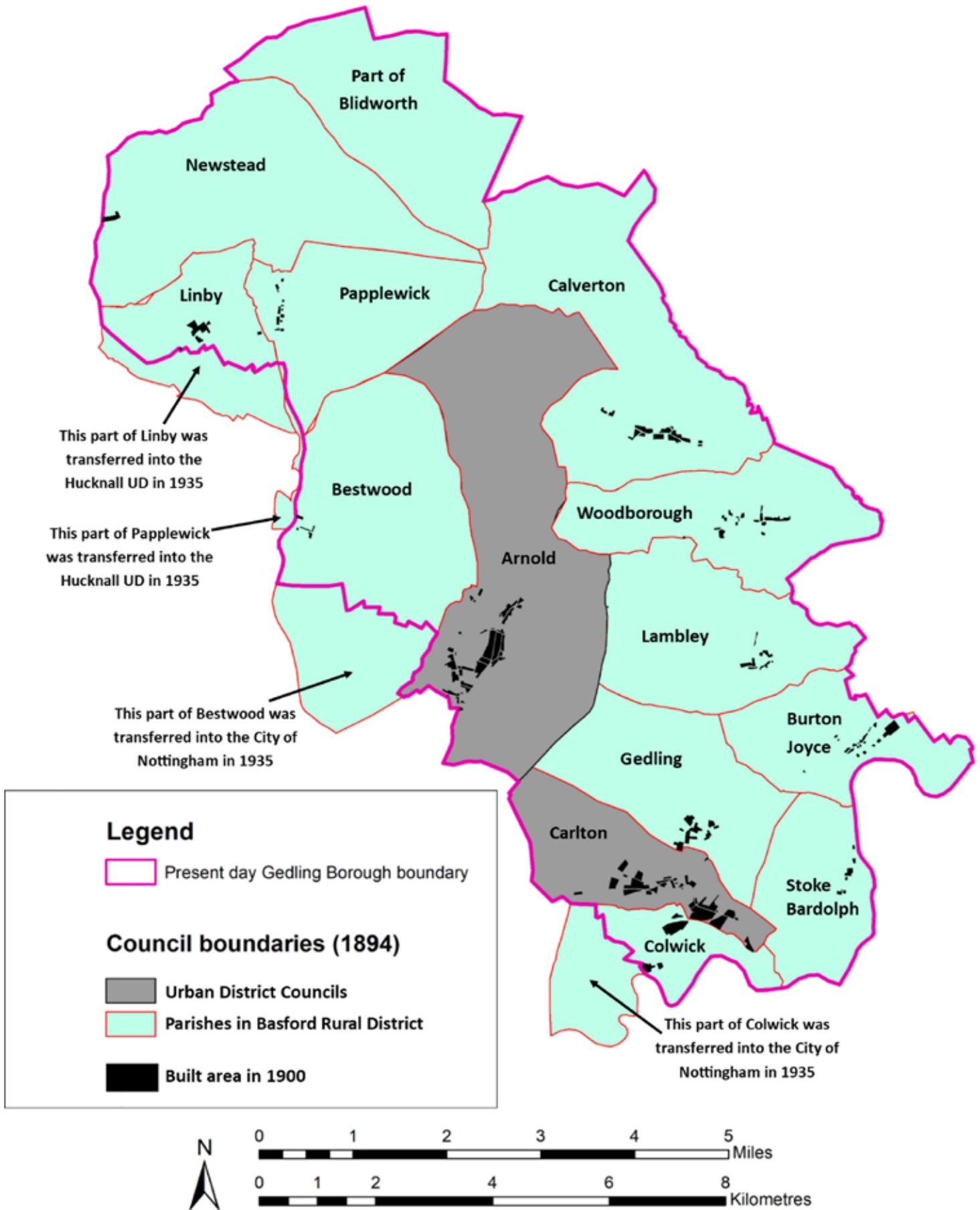
During the late 19th century local government in Britain was re-organised. Nottinghamshire County Council was created in 1889, with elected councillors taking over decision making. Arnold Urban District Council and Carlton Urban District Council were created in 1894, also administered by elected councillors. This second tier of government recognised the fact that the new town-dwellers needed a different style of localised administration. Map 3 shows the council areas that were defined locally. Nottingham became a City Borough in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Elsewhere the area was administered by Basford Rural District Council but Civil Parish Councils remained in place as a localised tier of government. The new County and District councils were given responsibility for building control, town planning and for regulating the provision of public facilities such as waste collection, schools, cemeteries and libraries.

Map 3 also shows the extent of building by 1900, by which time the centres of Arnold, Carlton and Netherfield had become built up and the present-day street patterns established. During the late 19th century the villages within the rural parishes grew slowly, and developed facilities such

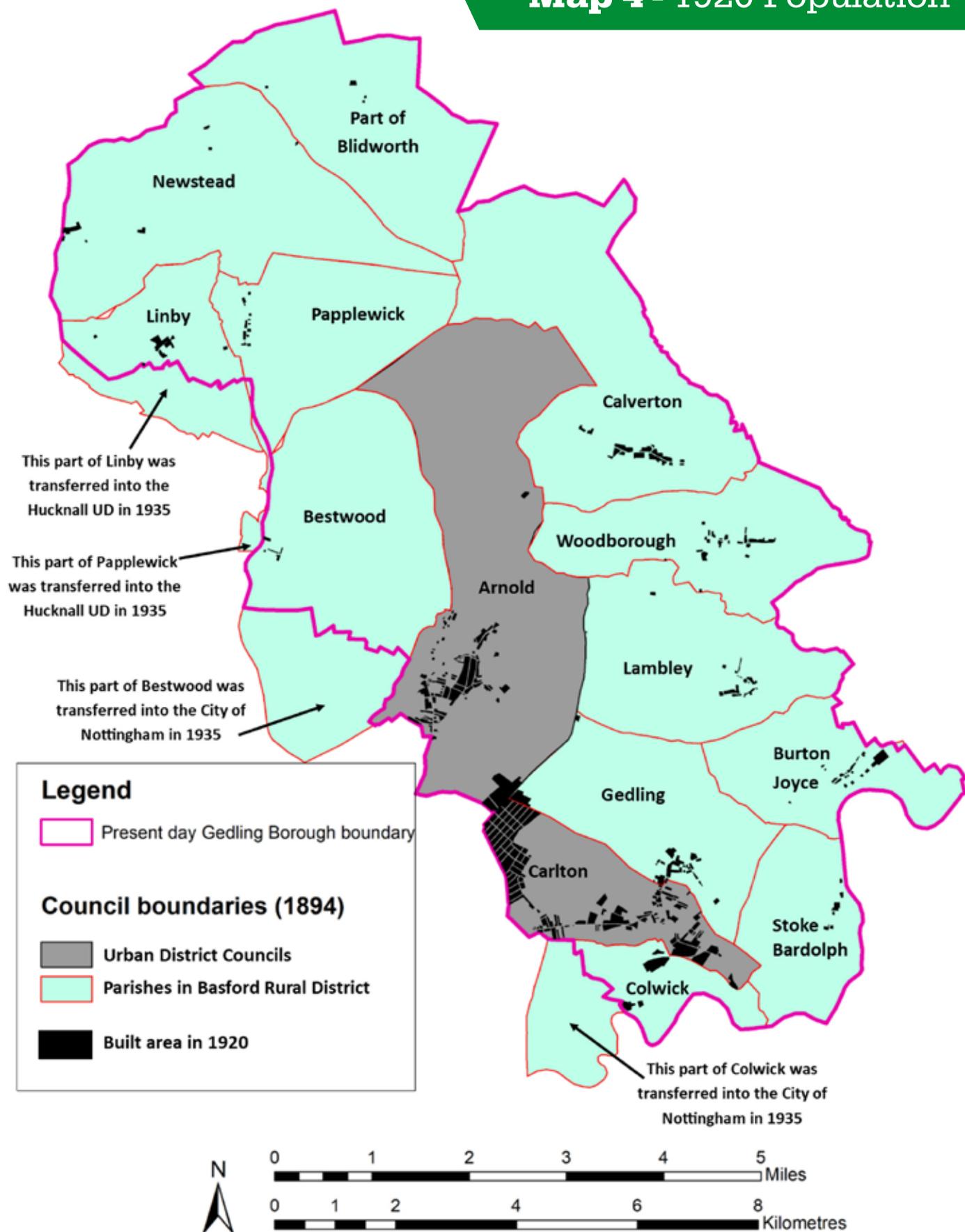
as pubs, general shops and a post office for their inhabitants. The urban districts developed as small towns, with their own suburbs. The population was served by a variety of specialist shops in addition to services such as banks, cinemas and libraries. The construction of deep mines brought additional urban development to Bestwood, Linby and Newstead in the 19th century, and later to Calverton and Gedling.

Building which took place in both the borough and in nearby Nottingham during the 19th century was dominated by the use of brick. The complexes of mills and factories provided opportunities for mass production. Large numbers of brick houses were built, to cope with the influx of people coming to live and work there. These schemes, developed on a scale never before seen in the country, also required huge civil engineering projects to provide access to clean water and effective sewage disposal, as well as fast, reliable transport links. Although a local canal network had operated for many years, Nottingham gained the benefit of being connected to the national railway network, providing access to both freight and passenger services across the country.

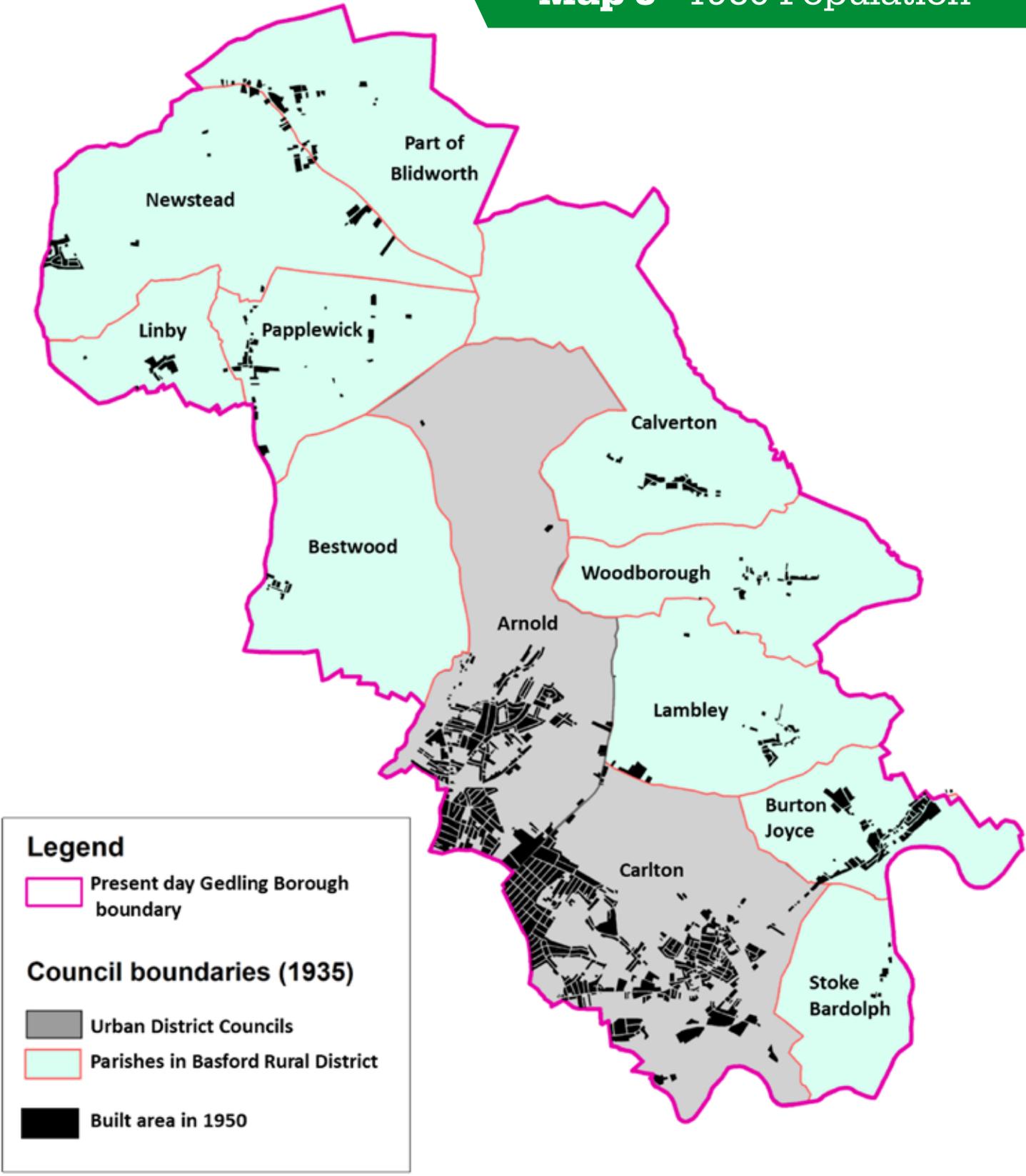
# Map 3 - 1900 Population



# Map 4 - 1920 Population



# Map 5 - 1950 Population



In the 1890s the Government empowered local councils to improve housing quality by demolishing slums and adopting by-laws setting minimum standards of drainage, ventilation and paving for new homes. The so-called 'by-law housing' took the form of rows of terraced houses which became home for ordinary workers. Many examples of such housing have survived. (Map 4 shows that considerable amounts of construction had occurred before World War 1.) The greenfield sites known as Porchester Gardens and Thorneywood Gardens, situated between Mapperley Plains Road, Porchester Road and Westdale Lane, had been divided into smallholdings in the 1880s, with some developed for housing. Public transport was improved with the arrival of railways and electric trams in the borough, encouraging speculators to build houses for commuters. The industrial suburbs gradually became linked into a continuous conurbation with the development of housing in Daybrook, Mapperley and Woodthorpe. Those districts built before 1920 are characterised by straight roads in a grid pattern.

After World War 1, the Government recognised the need for new housing and encouraged local councils to provide this. Planned suburban estates were to be laid out around urban centres. Contemporary thinking was that these estates should have closes of houses around a green space, with access to



13: Woodborough traditional farm buildings

recreation grounds (green play areas). Houses were to be a mixture of detached, semi-detached and short terraces, each featuring an interior toilet and bathroom. Many of the houses were built in the fashionable Arts and Crafts style with a mock-Tudor timbered frontage and bay windows. These estates were intended to become self-contained and were provided with shops and schools. Another feature of the interwar period was the requirement by the Government for the construction of estates of Local Authority housing.

Outside the urban areas, along several of the main roads there were ribbon developments of suburban houses, taking advantage of easier access to private cars and of improvements in public transport. Examples of these houses are seen along the road between Gedling and Burton Joyce, and along the roads leading into Papplewick. In some of the villages new development took the form of smallholder plots, each with a small detached house standing in a large garden. (14)



14: 1920s smallholding at Burton Joyce



15: Council housing from 1930s and 1960s in Carlton Valley

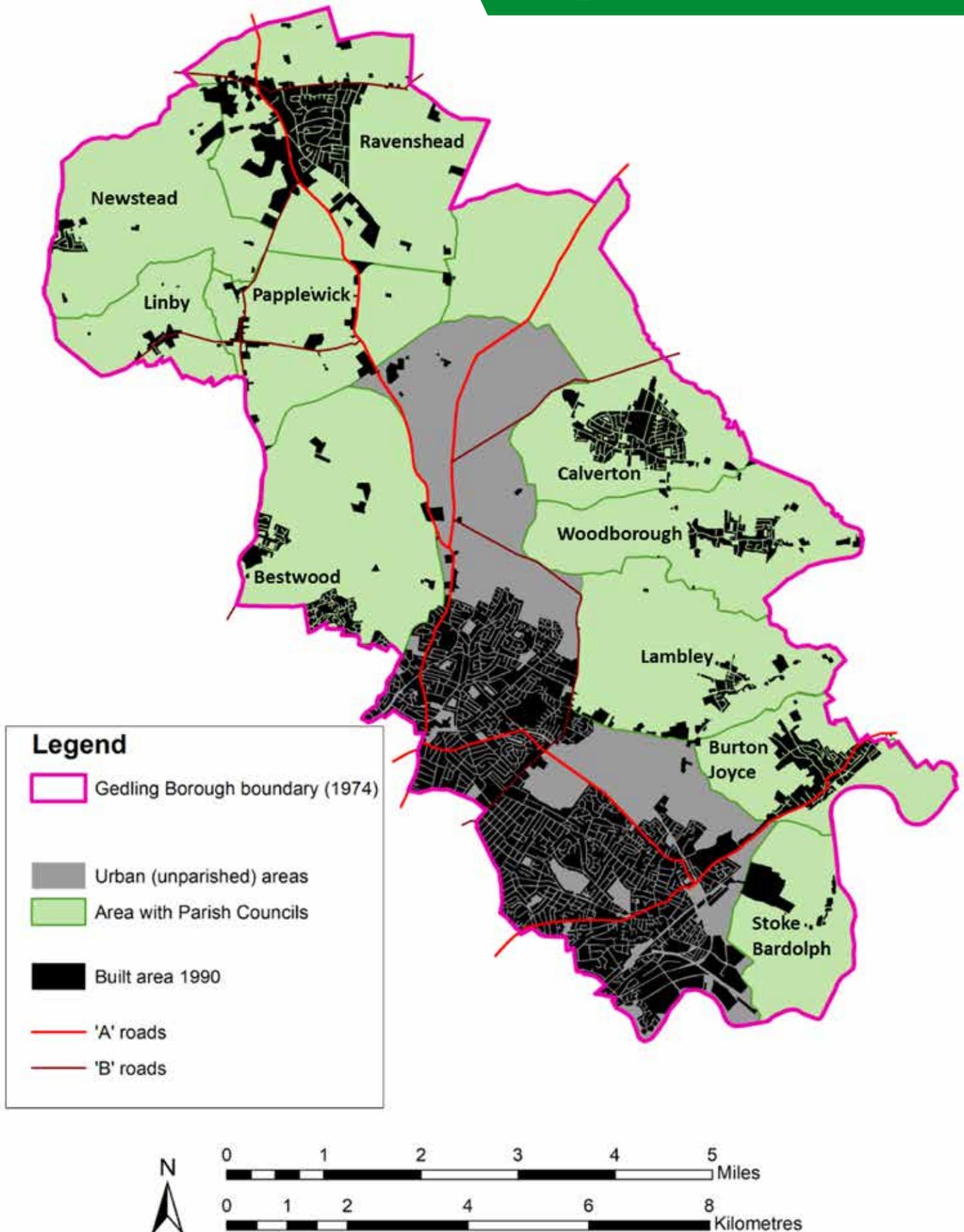
In the 1930s Carlton Urban District was enlarged by absorbing Gedling parish and part of Colwick parish, both previously included within Basford Rural District. At the same time, Papplewick and Linby parishes were reduced in size by the enlargement of Hucknall Urban District (see Map 3). The City of Nottingham was expanded with model estates of Council-owned houses around the outskirts. Parts of Bestwood and Colwick parishes were transferred into the city to allow for additional building. In the late 1930s and immediately after World War 2 there was considerable building activity to provide both privately-owned and council-owned housing.

Arnold and Carlton Urban District Councils followed the example set by Nottingham and developed Council estates. Some building had occurred before 1939 and in the late 1940s this recommenced. (Map 5 shows the extent of the built-up area in 1950.)

Throughout the 1950s and 60s, additional estates were added to the urban areas. (15) At this time, the bigger villages also received small housing estates. A small town was gradually constructed at Ravenshead, and a new Ravenshead Civil Parish was created from portions of Blidworth and Newstead parishes. Calverton and Gedling saw considerable development of housing for mineworkers.

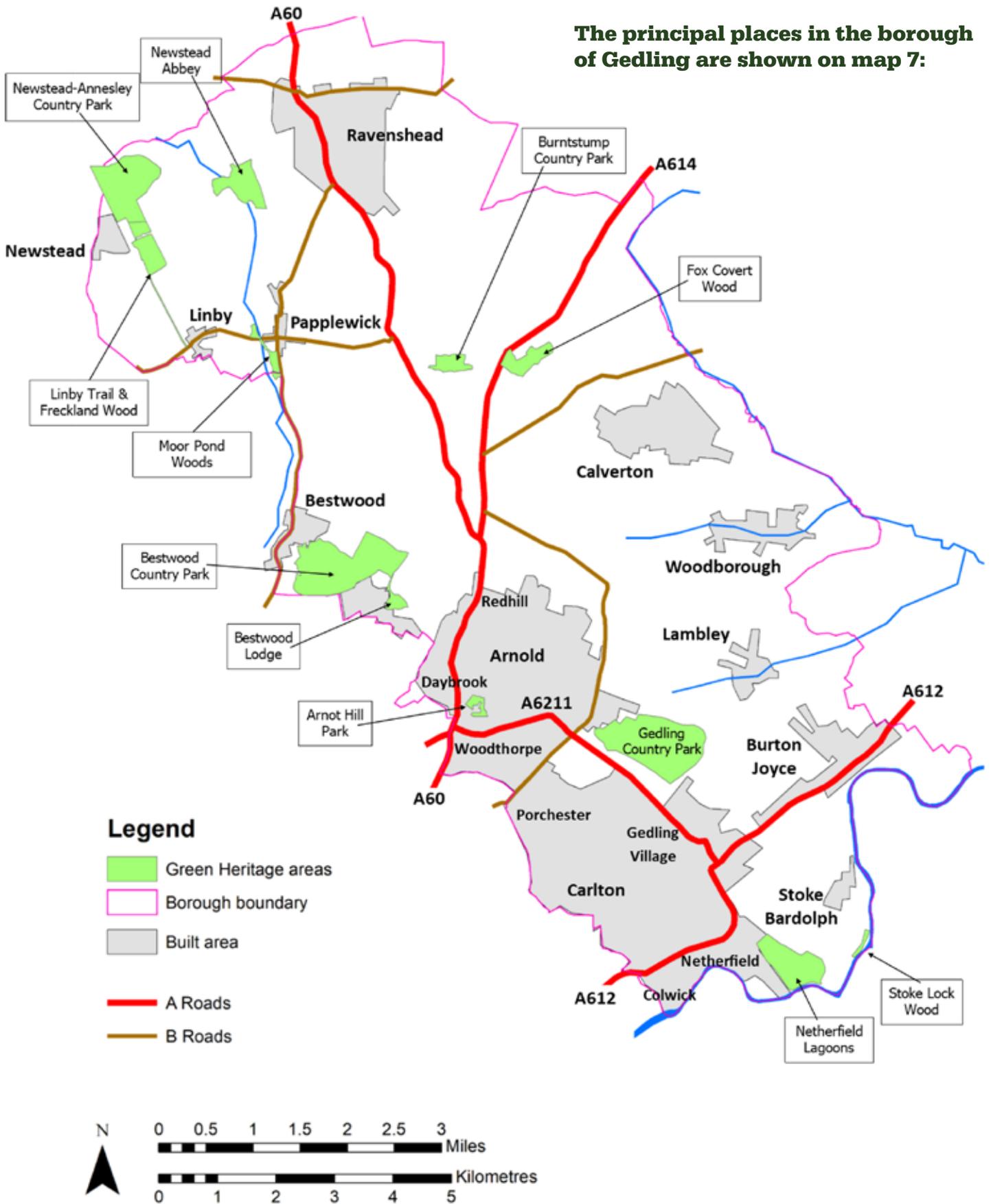
Local government in Nottinghamshire was re-organised once again in 1974. Gedling Borough was created through the amalgamation of Arnold and Carlton Urban Districts with parts of the former Basford Rural District. Elected Parish Councils were retained at Bestwood, Burton Joyce, Calverton, Lambley, Linby, Newstead, Papplewick, Ravenshead, Stoke Bardolph and Woodborough. The contrast between the urban areas within the south-west of the borough and the rural north-eastern flank has become very marked. (Map 6 shows the borough in the 1990s.)

# Map 6 - 1990 Population



# Map 7 - Gedling Places

The principal places in the borough of Gedling are shown on map 7:



## Arnold

Arnold, like other places in the borough, was settled by groups of both Angles and Vikings. It was referred to as 'Ernehale' in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it had some 150 residents, mostly agricultural workers. It has been suggested that the name 'Ernehale' might mean 'Place frequented by eagles' or 'Valley of eagles'. However, it may also refer to herons, which occur locally, rather than to eagles.

Arnold, a centre for framework knitting in the 18th and 19th centuries, was the location of frame-breaking incidents during the Luddite riots, including on 11th March 1811, when sixty-three frames were smashed. Between 1792 and 1810 a large worsted spinning factory in Arnold provided

the first mass employment. Children were brought from workhouses, including from London and Bristol, to work as apprentices at the factory and the thread from the mill was used by local knitters. Although this early factory closed and was subsequently demolished, Arnold continued to be an important textile centre throughout the 19th century. One of the larger companies was I.& R. Morley, whose original factory still stands near Daybrook Square, now converted into housing.

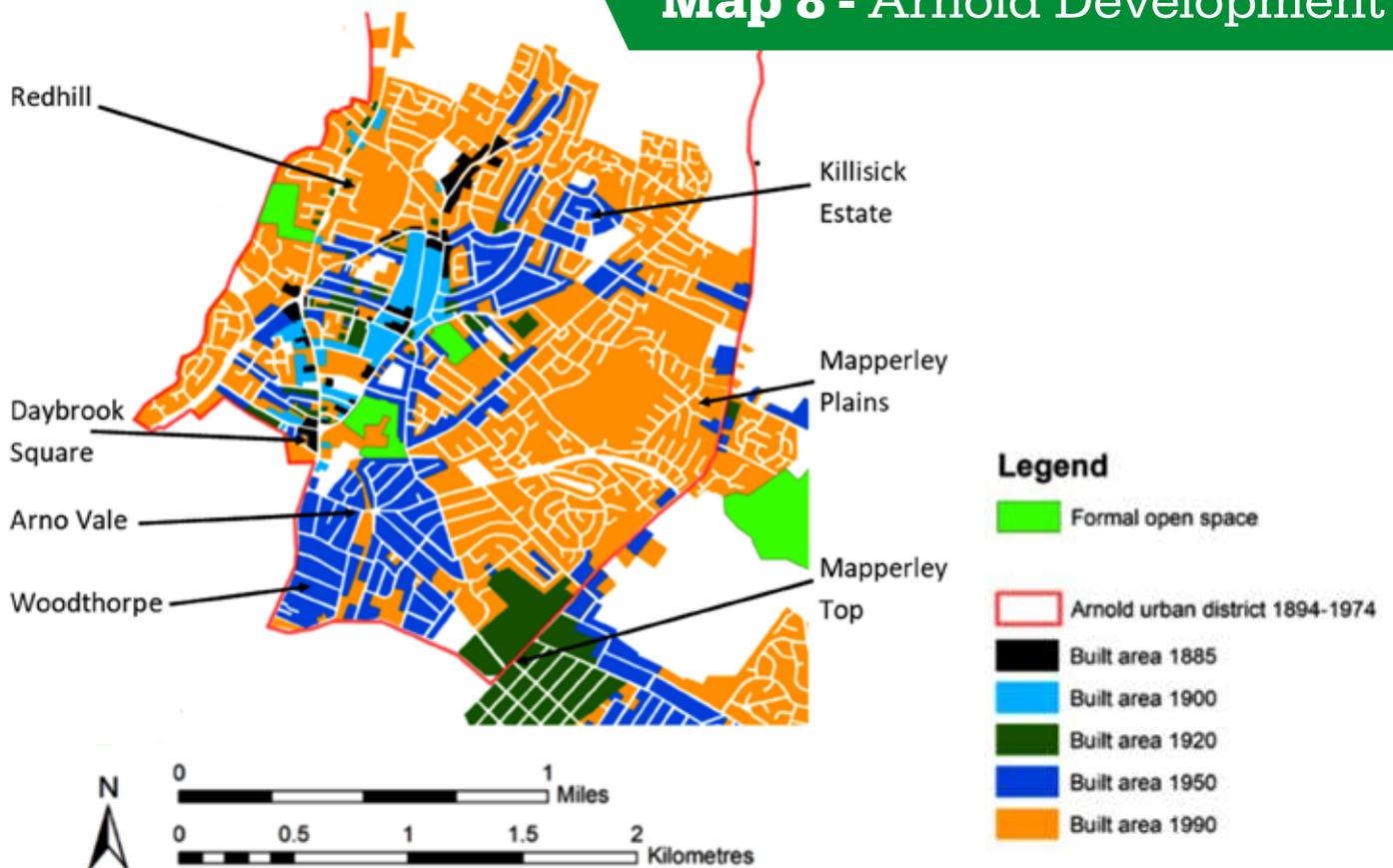
The offices of the former Home Brewery on Mansfield Road form a long, brown brick building of three storeys, with a tall central square tower providing a fourth storey. (16) The Grade II-listed building, designed by a local architect, T. Cecil



16: Home Brewery in the 1960s

Howitt, has a decorative frieze on the front depicting brewing processes. Now officially known as Sir John Robinson House, the building provides office space for Nottinghamshire County Council. Close by, on Mansfield Road, are the alms houses built by John Robinson for poor people in Arnold; these twelve cottages were opened in 1899 as a memorial to Robinson's son, killed in a horse-racing accident.

## Map 8 - Arnold Development



The earliest settlement in Arnold was around St Mary's church, with outlying hamlets at Daybrook and Redhill. The arrival of hosiery factories around Arnot Hill led to additional housing and in the second half of the 19th century Daybrook and Redhill merged. By 1854 when the Local Board of Health was formed, Arnold still had no piped water, gas or sewers in the town. Following the creation of Arnold Urban District in 1894, and with improved transport provided by the railways and trams, the Arnold conurbation began to expand more rapidly. (17) (Map 8 shows the gradual growth of the built-up area.) The inter-war period saw the development of streets of private houses in Woodthorpe and of council

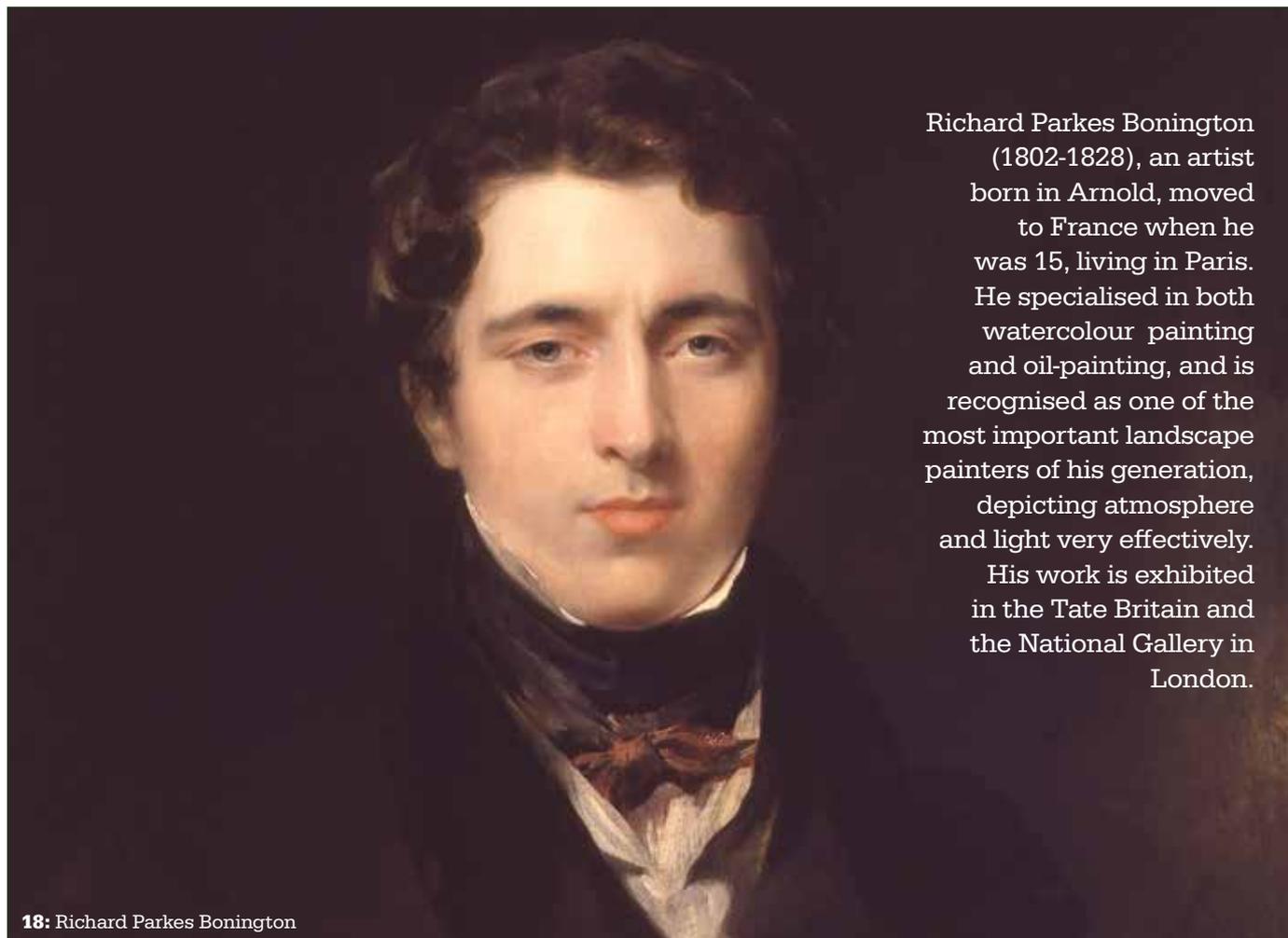
17: Former Methodist chapel in Arnold



houses surrounding Arnold town centre, as well as the development of roadside housing along the main routes. The first council-owned houses on Brookfield estate were built in 1929, the Arno Vale estate was started in 1933, and Coppice Road development commenced in 1938. Since World War 2 there has been considerable expansion of the built-up area, with the development of housing estates, schools and play areas in the area

north and east of Arnold town centre, starting with the Killisick estate in 1947.

Arnold is the largest service centre in the borough, with a wide choice of shops and a range of restaurants, pubs and bars. The Carnegie Library opened in 1906, the first cinema in 1911, a theatre in 1929 and a fire station in 1935. Arnold Market opened in the town centre in 1968, with market days three times a week. Since 2018 the market has been managed by Gedling Borough Council. Arnold also has a leisure centre with sports and swimming facilities, located next to the Bonington theatre and the library.



18: Richard Parkes Bonington

Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-1828), an artist born in Arnold, moved to France when he was 15, living in Paris. He specialised in both watercolour painting and oil-painting, and is recognised as one of the most important landscape painters of his generation, depicting atmosphere and light very effectively. His work is exhibited in the Tate Britain and the National Gallery in London.

## Bestwood

Until the late 19th century Bestwood was an enclosed deer park, with few residents. The estate had been given to Nell Gwyn by the King, and Bestwood Lodge was passed down through the family of their son, the Duke of St Albans. Huge changes occurred after 1870, when a colliery was established. Bestwood Colliery Village is the planned industrial community built in the 1870s by the Lancaster family for their workers. The streets are set at right angles, with short brick terraces; each house was built with a tiled porch, a slate roof, and decorated with the colliery company's crest. In the 1880s the colliery company provided a church and a school. In 1894, the civil parish of Bestwood was created within Basford Rural District. Half of the land in the parish was transferred to the city of Nottingham in 1933, to allow the Bestwood Park housing estate to be built, the borough boundary now following the ridgeline above Top Valley.

The mine at Bestwood was enlarged in the 1920s and 1930s and the original village was extended with additional mineworkers' houses. Although the ironworks closed in 1928 and mining ceased in 1969, the former offices of the Bestwood Iron and Coal Company, with its prominent clock tower, have survived. At the end of Park Road in

the village is an entrance to Bestwood Country Park, where the Winding House and Dynamo House are located [NG6 8TQ]. Both survive as remnants of the colliery and are frequently opened for visitors. In the last forty years Bestwood Village has expanded and is now a commuter suburb, linked to Nottingham by bus and tram services. The oldest part of the village is a conservation area, preserving its historical features.

## Burton Joyce

The village of Burton Joyce is situated on the banks of the river Trent, approximately five miles from Nottingham. During the Middle Ages several ways of spelling Burton were used, such as Byrton and Birten. For some 200 years after the Norman Conquest, the lords of the manor were members of the Jorz family, from which the village acquired the second part of its name.

The village grew slowly, with outlying farms being built after the enclosure of the open fields in 1769. Traditionally, a large proportion of the male population worked on the land while others worked as framework knitters. The knitters' wives worked as seamers, shaping the stockings. These were then taken to Lambley for 'finishing' and from there on to Nottingham. By 1841, a quarter of the 450 residents of Burton Joyce

were framework knitters. A number of interesting old buildings such as the manor house and stockings' cottages have survived from that period.

The Earl of Carnarvon's family became prominent landowners in the area. The 5th Earl discovered the tomb of King Tutankhamen and in his honour there is a Carnarvon Drive in the village, as well as a Carnarvon reading room, used by the Local History Society and housing the Parish Church office. After the railway was constructed in 1846, the population increased as businessmen from Nottingham built large houses in the village. Many of the villagers used the train to travel to work in factories and warehouses in the city. In the 1960s large numbers of new houses were built on green spaces in and around the village, followed by a range of shops and services. Today Burton Joyce is a thriving commuter village, well served by buses and a railway station. A heritage trail and riverside walks attract visitors to the village and surrounding area.

The well-known cricketer, Alfred Shaw was born in Burton Joyce in 1842, becoming an apprentice framework knitter before embarking on his cricketing career. Shaw had the distinction of bowling the first ball at Melbourne in the first ever Test match in Australia, in 1877.



19: Calverton from the south

## Calverton

The village of Calverton, seven miles north-east of Nottingham, is situated on one of the small tributaries of the Dover Beck. There is evidence of settlement in the area going back several thousand years, including during the Iron Age. Evidence of Roman occupation includes the site of a military camp and two hoards of coins found in the area. In 1086, mention was made in the Domesday Book of a church in Calverton, while in medieval times Calverton was the location for one of the Forest Courts administering the Royal Forest of Sherwood.



20: Calverton, former textile workshops

Over 400 years ago, during the Elizabethan era, William Lee of Calverton invented the framework knitting machine, which became the

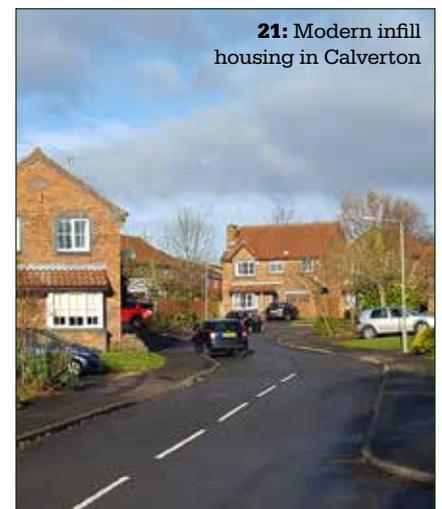
basis of an important cottage industry for several hundred years afterwards. Lee's invention is still at the core of the computer-controlled machinery used in the worldwide hosiery industry today.

A famous Calvertonian, Sir John Sherbrooke, a hero of the Napoleonic Peninsular Wars and later Governor-General of Canada, is buried in the family tomb at nearby Oxton. A somewhat unusual character was John Roe. Roe founded a religious sect known as 'Roeites' or Reformed Quakers in Calverton in the 18th century and members of the sect were baptised in the pond in his garden. John Roe is also remembered for developing a fine species of plum tree, grown locally to this day.

There are a number of buildings surviving from the early 19th century. (20) Most of them are former farm buildings. A former hosiery factory, (recently used as a printing works) dating from about 1830 still stands on Main Street. Until the 20th century the existence of Calverton continued to be linked to the domestic knitting industry

as well as to agriculture. A hosiery factory was built in the 1890s. In 1952 Calverton Colliery opened, the first new mine under the nationalisation scheme.

In 1950 Basford Rural District Council published a plan for the development of a New Town at Calverton, with development of industrial estates alongside housing for miners and the factory workers attracted to the new town. Calverton began to assume its present identity, with new housing and a marked growth in population. A shopping precinct opened at St Wilfred's Square in 1963. Although the colliery closed in 1994, population numbers continue to rise as Calverton acquires the characteristics

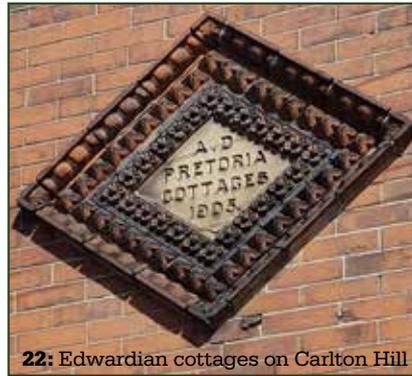


21: Modern infill housing in Calverton

of a large commuter village. (21) Calverton Folk Museum showcases the history and heritage of the community [NG14 6FG]. It is open on Sundays in summer [For more information, see [www.nottsheritage.co.uk/directory\\_listing/calverton-folk-museum](http://www.nottsheritage.co.uk/directory_listing/calverton-folk-museum)].

## Carlton

For many years Carlton was a township of a few houses within the manor and parish of Gedling, home to farmers and framework knitters. From the 1840s, owing to its position on the edge of Nottingham and lying close to the railways, the population of Carlton steadily increased to become an urban settlement in its own right, and developed housing, churches, schools, workplaces and facilities. Carlton Urban District Council was created in 1894, recognising the status of the new township.



22: Edwardian cottages on Carlton Hill

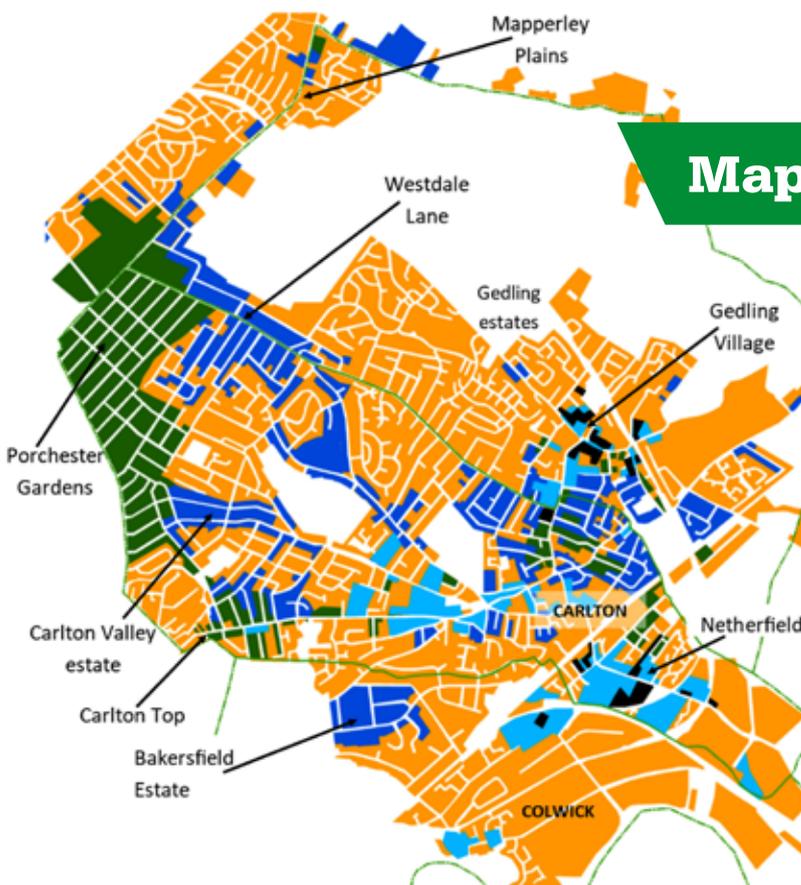
The Carnegie library and fire station were both opened in 1902. By 1914 the tram route from the centre of Nottingham to Carlton was completed, ensuring Carlton's role as a dormitory settlement where people lived, and from which they travelled to work. (22) Porchester Gardens in Carlton were slowly developed for housing.

(Map 9 shows the development of the Carlton built-up area.) After 1930 Carlton Urban

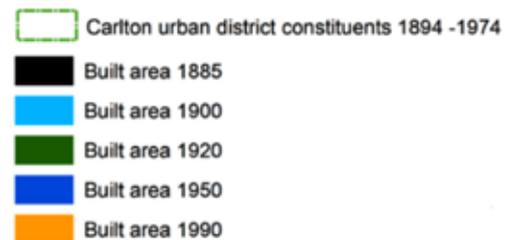
District Council began to build new housing close to the centre of Carlton, along Westdale Lane and in Carlton Valley. (23) In 1935 the parishes of Colwick and Gedling were absorbed into Carlton Urban District. In the late 1930s the Bakers Field area of Carlton (newly absorbed from Colwick parish) was developed as an extension of new estates of Nottingham City Council housing stretching from Sneinton. In the post-war period new estates were laid out in Gedling, stretching up the valley to Mapperley Plains.



23: Housing of mixed ages in Porchester valley, Carlton



## Map 9 - Carlton Development



## Colwick

Colwick was listed as a community in the Domesday survey. For centuries, it was a farming hamlet on the banks of the river Trent, where the Byron and Manvers families were the major landowners. Until World War 1 Colwick was still a small farming community clustered around a manor house.

In 1917, construction of a new light industrial estate was begun on the flood meadows and the former gravel pits between Colwick and Netherfield. At the time, a planned estate of industrial units was a new initiative of the government.

The site became the location of a petroleum depot, established to distribute fuel for motor vehicles and served by barges along the river Trent. The estate was serviced by a light railway connected to the Great Northern Railway marshalling yard, and by 1924 was occupied by oil

storage facilities, engineering works and concrete manufacturing. Later additions included a soap factory, a sugar beet factory and pet food production.

The parish of Colwick was included as a detached part of Basford Rural District in 1894. In 1933 the parish was divided; the western half was transferred to the city of Nottingham and, in 1935, the remaining portion of the parish merged into Carlton Urban District. Colwick Village is the name now given to the settlement lying between the railway and the river Trent. Since the mid-1980s new housing has been located on land formerly occupied by the industrial estate.

## Daybrook

Daybrook was a hamlet on the Nottingham to Mansfield road, which became a toll road in 1787. It had places where travellers could stay and the coaches could



24: Daybrook

replace horses, The Old Spot public house (recently renamed The Cooper's Brook) is a surviving example of a coaching inn. The Davison and Hawksley worsted mill first brought industry to the area, the growth of Morley's textile factory, Home Brewery and Daybrook laundry bringing further industrialisation. Daybrook subsequently became an industrial and residential suburb within Arnold Urban District. (25)



25: 1930s Art-deco shopping parade, Daybrook

## Gedling Village

Although Gedling Village has become part of the suburban area radiating out from Nottingham city, it still has the nucleus of its original village setting. The location of an Anglo-Saxon settlement gave a safe area just above the Trent valley banks, offering a fertile area for farming as well as a supply of fresh water from numerous springs. At the time of the Domesday Book (1086), this settlement included Stoke Bardolph, Carlton and Colwick, with at that time households of fifteen villagers, twenty-one smallholders, six slaves and a priest and four plough-hands, two lord's plough teams and eight men's plough teams. Other entries describe land use, and include thirty acres of meadows, three furlongs of woodland, two mills, a fishery and a church.

Most of the early farm buildings fell into decay, replaced in the 18th century by farmhouses set at right angles to the main roads, such as Manor Farm, Church Farm and Duncroft Farm. Early field systems can



27: Gedling drinking fountain



26: Modern housing surrounds the ancient church in Gedling

still be seen in the present street plan. The industrial revolution started to have an impact and in the 18th century there were workers in silk and cotton hosiery, framework knitters, lace makers and a large number of basket makers. Some frame workshops still existed in the village at the end of the 19th century.

Further development was triggered by the building of the Great Northern Railway line in 1874 and by the traffic that developed from the enormous increase in the Colwick railway sidings. Farm workers' cottages became railway workers' homes and more cottages were built. Gedling Colliery opened in 1902, with a workforce of 1,400 men and boys and a capacity to handle 3,000 tons of coal per day. This resulted in the Phoenix Farm housing development. The Hardstaff Almshouses opened in 1936, designed by local architect T. Cecil Howitt, for the use of widows and orphans of former miners.

The civil parish of Gedling was created in 1894, but in 1935 was merged into Carlton Urban District. Map 9 shows the development of the built-up area. The old village of Gedling is clustered around All Hallows Church, dating back to the mid-13th century, (26) the Drinking Fountain of 1874, (27) a War Memorial, the WW1 Memorial Hall and the Gedling Miners' Memorial Lamp. (28) There is a Heritage Walk around the parish, based on the church. [This can be viewed at [www.allhallowsgedling.co.uk](http://www.allhallowsgedling.co.uk) ]



28: Gedling miners' memorial

## Lambley

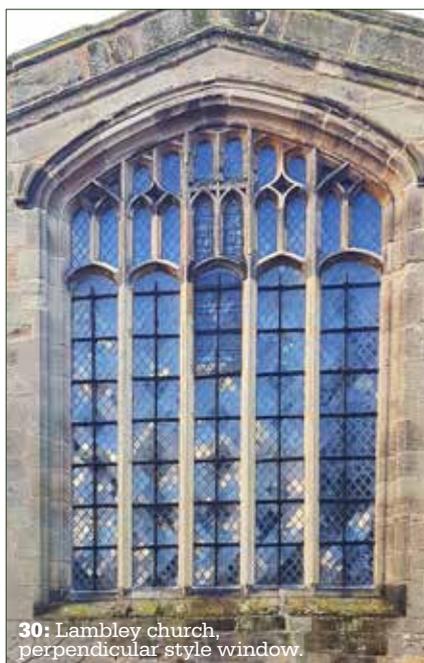
The village of Lambley, mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, is situated in the south-east of the borough, close to Cocker Beck, a tributary of the river Trent. The villagers were predominantly engaged in agriculture until the development of framework knitting in the 18th century. Today agriculture, horticulture and market gardening are the prime occupations.

The church in Lambley, originating in the 12th century, was described by Pevsner as "one of the few entirely Perpendicular village churches in Nottinghamshire". (30) A legacy left by Lord Ralph Cromwell financed the rebuilding of the church, rededicated in 1480 as the church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. Ralph Cromwell (1393 - 1456) was born in Lambley and became a great statesman of the period, having fought with King Henry V at Agincourt and becoming Lord Treasurer to Henry VI. Cromwell's badge of office, a bulging purse, can be seen on the stone panels on both sides of the window in the east wall. The influence of framework knitting can still be seen in some of the cottages on Main Street and Green Lane, where long windows allowed as much light as possible onto the knitting machines. An account from 1844 reports that there were 381 stocking frames in the village. In the 1920s there was some development of smallholdings, and in the



29: Landscape at Lambley

post-war period additional housing has been built. A bus service links the village to Nottingham. (29)



30: Lambley church, perpendicular style window.

Lambley is also known for its dumbles, a local term for small, steep-sided valleys. These are thought to have been created when the meltwater streams from glaciers crossed the area ten thousand years ago, carving out twisting gullies. Today these areas are valuable for wildlife and visitors can walk along the dumbles and through picturesque

meadows. Lambley is surrounded by countryside with nature trails and also has historical buildings of interest [A heritage trail around Lambley can be downloaded at [www.lambleyheritage.co.uk](http://www.lambleyheritage.co.uk)]. Gedling Country Park is within walking distance of the village, using footpaths which in part run alongside Top Dumble.

## Linby

The village of Linby is nine miles north-west of Nottingham. The name is said to originate from the two streams alongside the main street, known as 'the Docks', which run into the river Leen. A local tale recounts that the humble pancake was invented by the women of Linby to celebrate the defeat of Danish invaders. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, originates from the 13th century. Stone cottages border a long green with two stone crosses. The cross at the top of the village, with a seven-sided base, is of medieval origin and is thought to be unique in Britain. It was damaged by the Puritans in 1650 and



31: Linby, church at night

not renovated until 1869. The lower cross dates from 1660 and is thought to celebrate the restoration of the monarchy. The village stream runs underneath this cross. Until 1853 there was a thriving if turbulent



32: Linby, top cross

framework knitting industry in the village, a target in 1812 for Luddite frameworkers. There is still a row of stone-built knitters' cottages near the village pub, and the village has been designated as a Conservation

Area. (31, 32, 33) The main source of employment since the colliery closed in 1988 is agriculture. Linby once had two railway stations, the Midland and the Great Northern, both of which were closed by the 1960s. The Great Northern Goods Weigh Office has been converted to form Linby Heritage Centre while the Great Northern trackbed forms a multi-user route to Newstead Abbey.



33: Linby, heritage centre

## Netherfield

Netherfield was not officially a township until 1885, when it became a separate parish. Before that the land was common pasture known as the Nether Field, enclosed in 1792 and lying in the parish of Carlton. A central trackway divided these enclosed fields, a route still followed by the main street of Netherfield, Victoria Road, with many other streets following the lines of old field edges. Building in Netherfield (34) began in about 1840; however, as late as 1871 the population was still only sixty-seven, with a few additional houses and one or two farms having been built.

The Grantham to Nottingham railway line was built in 1850, and was operated by the Great Northern Railway Company (GNR) after 1855.

The construction of engine sheds and sidings in 1875 followed the construction of the Derbyshire Extension Line, and required the expansion of housing to accommodate railway workers. The GNR built a row of twelve houses, called Traffic Terrace in 1874, and by 1881 had built a second row, called Locomotive Terrace. Eventually, another terrace of thirty-nine houses was built by the London and North Western Railway to accommodate their workers

and families. Unfortunately, none of these developments has survived.

By 1881 the population of Netherfield had risen to 735; in 1891 it was 2,648 and by 1901 had nearly doubled, to 4,646. In 1885 St. George's church and vicarage were built and by 1900 several non-conformist chapels were also in existence. (35) A number of large factories were built, taking advantage of cheap land and of a railway line that brought workers



34: Netherfield, Victoria Road

from Nottingham. A ready supply of water from the Sherwood sandstone beds, only a short distance below ground, was used to supply the factory boilers. The factories included Britannia cotton mill (Bourne's mill), Lawrence's furniture factory, Shaws' printing works and several smaller businesses.



35: Netherfield, Methodist chapel of 1886

By 1910 Netherfield had become a township. Large numbers of women worked in the factories, notably in Bourne's mill, where they were known as Bourne's Angels. Three schools had opened, and Victoria Road became a modern shopping street, shoppers coming by train even from Nottingham to purchase goods from shops such as Bessy Harlock's Ceylon Tea Store. A large area of land was opened up for allotments, some of which still exist. A large number of Netherfield children and their parents turned out in 1928 when King George V visited the area, which by then had become a place of employment for many local workers.

The decline in railway traffic resulted in the closure of the marshalling yard in 1970 and by 1985 all the large factories in Netherfield had closed. Colwick Light Railway also closed at this time, and modern housing was built on their former sites. Two of the

three schools closed, several of the non-conformist chapels shut, and by the early 21st century Netherfield was becoming a dormitory town, with few shops. The site of the old marshalling yard became Victoria Retail Park, with an array of supermarkets, shopping outlets, eateries, and a large car auction site.



36: Netherfield, New community centre

## Newstead

Newstead village is situated in the north of the borough, nine miles north-east of Nottingham, and close to the A611 Hucknall to Mansfield road. The original village consisted of rows of terraced brick houses built by Newstead Colliery Company to house workers at the mine, which was sunk in 1873 and 1874. Commentators at the time remarked that the housing and its layout were functional and basic. With the success of the mine and the consequent demand for greater manpower, the mine owners built additional housing from 1923 to 1925. These houses were of an improved design, with gardens and a more generous layout. Most of the new miners came from outside Nottinghamshire.

Initially there was no place of worship in Newstead and

villagers used the chapel at nearby Newstead Abbey. The mine owners eventually made provision within the colliery premises and by 1889 services alternated between the colliery and the abbey. Later there were also Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist chapels. St. Mary's church was built in 1928, with two acres (0.8ha) set aside for the graveyard. The colliery at Newstead closed in 1987 and a country park is now being created on the former site of the mine and spoil tips. Mining has been replaced by light industry and commerce, and with the advantages for commuters of good road access and a station on the Robin Hood railway line, Newstead is a thriving community.

## Papplewick

The village of Papplewick lies seven miles north of Nottingham, with an estimated population within the parish of around seven hundred. Since 1812, a pub known as the Griffin's Head has stood at the crossroads in the centre of the village. Main Street retains two terraces of 18th century cottages and many of its old stone-built agricultural buildings, most now converted into housing. Papplewick Hall was built in 1785 by Frederick Montagu, an MP and government minister. The Palladian-style mansion, visible from the road to the north of Papplewick village, is still surrounded by the remnants of the original parkland. (38) Although it is a privately owned residence the gardens [NG15 8FE]



**37:** The river Leen in Moor Pond Woods

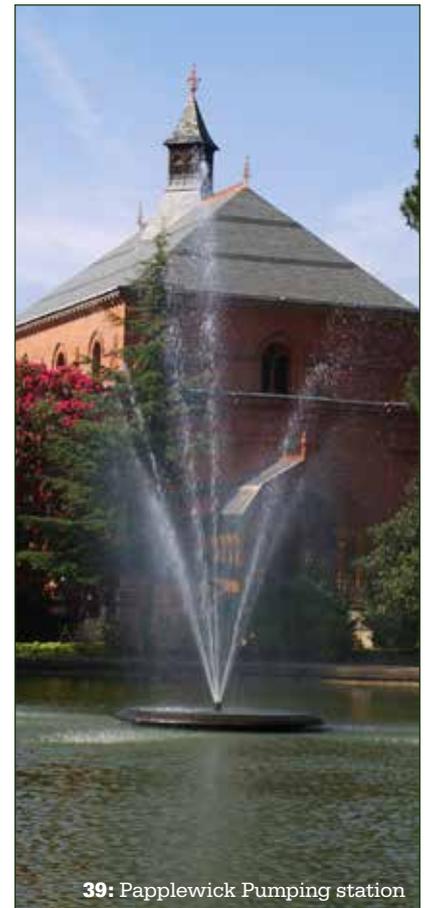
form part of a registered parkland and are regularly opened for charity. The church, dedicated to St. James and accessed via Church Lane, was rebuilt in 1795 by Montagu, whose

fenced tomb is close to the south door. However, the church tower dates back to the 14th century and there is a very old yew tree in the churchyard.

In the 1920s the Hall and estate were bought by the Co-operative movement, which retained the farms, although land was sold off for housing and for smallholdings. Suburban development took place along Moor Road, Mansfield Road, Forest Lane and Linby Lane. The historic core of the village centre, consisting of several listed buildings, and hall grounds has been designated a Conservation Area. [For more information see [www.papplewick.org](http://www.papplewick.org) ]

Along the Papplewick to Linby road there is a building known as Castle Mill. Standing in the parish of Linby, the building owes its name to the castle-like decoration on the front. A purpose-built, water-powered cotton mill (built in 1782), after closure in 1828 was converted to grind corn. After 1950 it became a

private dwelling. Meanwhile, the mill water-system became overgrown and now forms the Moor Pond Woods



**39:** Papplewick Pumping station

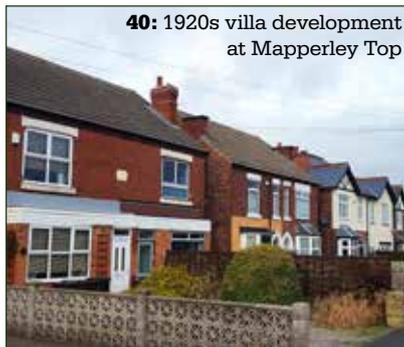
nature reserve. (37) A steam-driven pumping station was built in the 1880s to supply water to Nottingham. Although remote from the village, it is nevertheless called Papplewick Pumping Station (39) as it lies within the parish of Papplewick. Both the ornate buildings and the wooded grounds are listed by English Heritage (see, below, the section on water supply). The pumping station, managed in working order by a charitable trust, is a well maintained piece of Victorian heritage with frequent 'steaming days'. [for more information see <http://www.papplewickpumpingstation.org.uk> ]



**38:** Papplewick Hall

## Porchester

Porchester is a residential suburb lying in the valley between Mapperley Top and Carlton. In 1887, the Porchester Freehold Garden Estate was established by a consortium of businessmen, including Charles Bennett (see 'brickmaking' below) and Sir John Robinson (see 'brewing' below). The land acquired was divided into 400 plots to be used as allotment gardens.



40: 1920s villa development at Mapperley Top

The road junction at Mapperley Top became the tram terminus early in 1902, prompting housebuilding. (40)

Around World War 1 some of the plots were used for building, and by 1925 four hundred houses had been built. The result is an area where hedgerows and trees have survived, and houses are a mixture of different styles and ages. Most houses



41: Porchester Gardens

are small, standing within the original plot. (41)

The names of the principal streets, for example Bennett Road, Robinson Road, Whittingham Road and Haywood Road, commemorate the original trustees.

## Ravenshead

Ravenshead developed in the 20th century from several distinct suburban residential areas, including Fishpool, Larch Farm, Abbey Gates and Kighill, all of which used to form parts of the parish of Blidworth and the Liberty of Newstead. The names Ravenshead and Kighill for parts of the area can be traced back to at least the 12th century. Much of this part of the borough was originally covered by tracts of sandy heath, consisting of gorse and heather, interspersed with deciduous mixed woodland of oak, beech, silver birch and sweet chestnut. With land enclosure and improvements in agriculture in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, new farms were built and the hamlet of Fishpool was established, with sixteen cottages erected on Fishpool

Hill, now Robin Hood Terrace, in about 1833.

Most housing development occurred after World War 1. Initially, in the 1920s and 1930s, houses were built in the Abbey Gates and Larch Farm areas, on Nottingham Road, Main Road, Sheepwalk Lane, Vernon Avenue and Longdale Lane. Large-scale building commenced after 1952, with the greatest increase in housing in the 1960s and 1970s, when estates on the north side of Longdale Lane were developed. With the rising population, the original village store and post office of Fishpool became inadequate and Milton Court Precinct was built. (42)



42: Shopping precinct at Ravenshead

In 1968 Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, laid the foundation stone for the village hall. The population soon outgrew this social amenity and Cornwater Barn on Longdale Lane then became the site of a leisure centre. Ravenshead now has health and social services and primary schools. In 1966, when the area became known officially as Ravenshead, there were approximately 3,000 inhabitants. A new ecclesiastical parish was formed in 1971 and a Civil Parish in 1987; by 2011 the population had increased to 5,629.



43: Ravenshead, St Peter's church

## Stoke Bardolph

The earliest known recording of the village name, in 1086, is Stoches, later written as 'Stokes'. Rosa Alselin or Hanselin, who had inherited the lands her grandfather Ralph had been given after the Norman Conquest, married Thomas Bardolf in the 12th century. It is believed that the couple had the Bardolph Manor House built, in the field behind what is now Stanhope Crescent. Excavation in the 1950s and 1960s revealed the foundations of a substantial hall with a large open hearth,

and smaller finds of pottery, knives and coins from the 12th to the 15th centuries. The Manor House appears to have been abandoned in the early 15th century.

In the late 19th century land in the parish was mainly owned by the Earl of Carnarvon and the Earl Manvers and most of the inhabitants were tenant farmers. When it was decided that Stoke Bardolph would be the site of the sewage works and farm, Nottingham Corporation first leased, then bought all the land in the village as well as at Bulcote to form the Stoke Bardolph Estate. In addition to the sewage treatment works, the Corporation farmed cattle and extensive arable crops, employing a large workforce. Although the farm and sewage works still exist, they have been modernised and are now owned by Severn Trent Water. The village no longer consists of estate workers in tied cottages but of privately owned houses, occupied mainly by commuters.

The church, dedicated to St Luke, dates from 1844; built of plain brick, it was altered and extended in 1910. In 1883 Nottingham Corporation contributed towards the cost of building a school opposite the church to accommodate workers' children. The school played an important part in village life until in 1983 it was closed and sold for residential use. The Corporation also converted one of the farm buildings to provide a village hall, later extended by Severn Trent as its social club.

There are no shops nor a post office in Stoke Bardolph. The Ferry Boat Inn has been a popular public house for at least 200 years, although considerably altered during that time. The ferry to Shelford, which crossed the river Trent at this point, dated back for about 700 years until it ceased operating some forty years ago. The locks and weir were built in 1923 and the attractions of the lock, the river wildlife and the Ferry Boat pub make the village a popular place for visitors, especially in the summer.

## Woodborough

Woodborough is an ancient settlement, known in early times as Udesburg, or Udes Fort. In nearby Fox Wood there is evidence of an Iron Age earthwork and hill fort, as well as of later Roman occupation.

For centuries the village was notable for farming and framework knitting. The importance of knitting declined during the 19th century as textile factories developed, although there were still 191 knitting frames recorded here in 1844. Many of the old knitters' cottages are still recognisable from the typically large windows. As it declined, employment in the cottage knitting industry was replaced by market gardening, to provide fruit and vegetables for the growing population of Nottingham and the surrounding settlements. The village church in Woodborough, dedicated to St. Swithun, has a Norman north porch and font; (46) the tower was built in the



44: Woodborough, 18th century Hall Farm

1200s, with additions made in the 1400s. In the 1300s the chancel was funded by Sir Richard de Strelley, who represented Nottinghamshire in Parliament from 1331 to 1336. A well-known villager, born in 1759 and buried in the churchyard in 1833, was the Reverend George Brown, son of a local framework knitter, who became an itinerant preacher and was known as the 'Walking Concordance' because of his deep knowledge of the Bible. The old vicarage on Lingwood Lane has a bell tower; by tradition, the bell is rung at 11am on Shrove Tuesday to tell the housewives of the village to prepare the pancake batter. The Woodborough Festival, originating from the Frumenty Feast, is held on

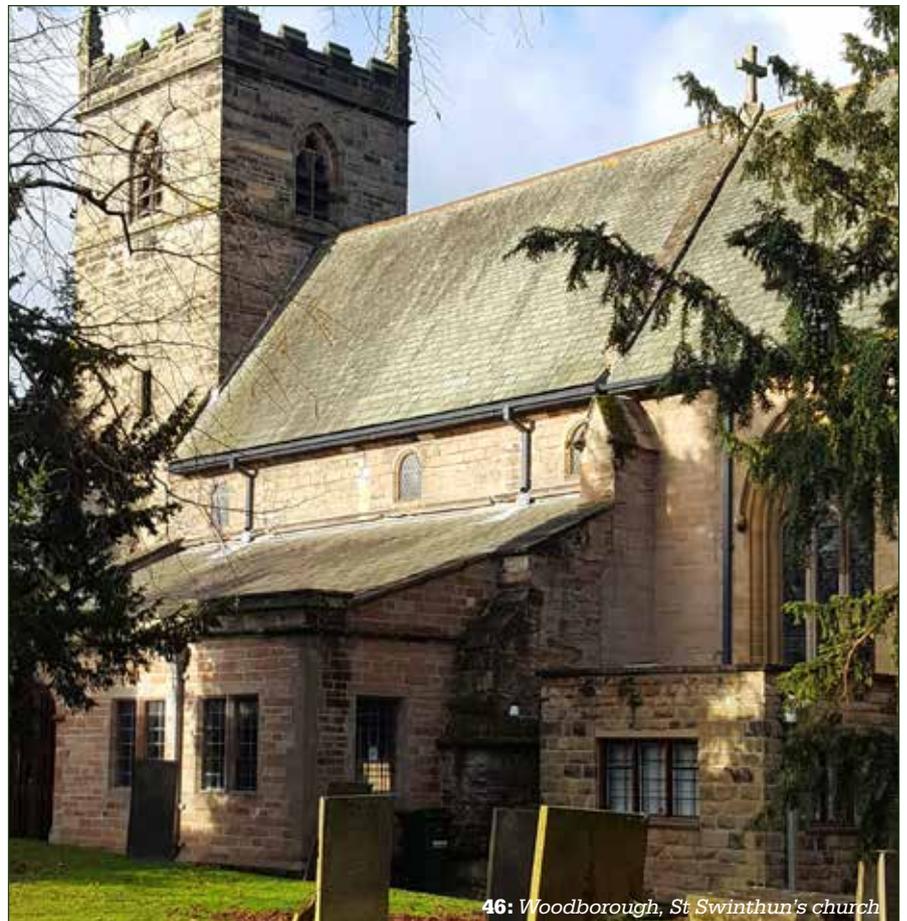
the first Sunday after July 2nd. The festival takes the form of a special service, followed by sports and teas for the children as well as by a small fair and by steam engines. Another celebration takes place on Plough

Monday, when ploughboys traditionally used to enact a Mummings' play.

Numerous heritage agricultural buildings have survived. (44, 45) Hall Farmhouse was built from brick in 1710. The Manor stables are a Grade II-listed structure on Main Street, built in 1878 to house racehorses. The stables fell into disuse in 1986 and the site has since been converted for housing, (47, 48) in 1832 there were four ale houses in Woodborough. Although the village has grown considerably, there are now just two pubs. The Four Bells was rebuilt by Home Brewery in the Arts and Crafts style in 1927. Farming and market gardening are still prominent occupations, although most residents now are commuters.



45: Woodborough, traditional brick built cottages



46: Woodborough, St Swinthun's church



47: Woodborough Manor Stables



48: Woodborough new homes blend with old, Manor stable development.

## Woodthorpe

Woodthorpe is a residential suburb that evolved on the boundary of Nottingham. It lies on the sloping ground between Arnold and Sherwood, in the low-lying area known as Arno Vale. (50)



50: Woodthorpe, inter-war suburban



49: Woodborough, entering the village



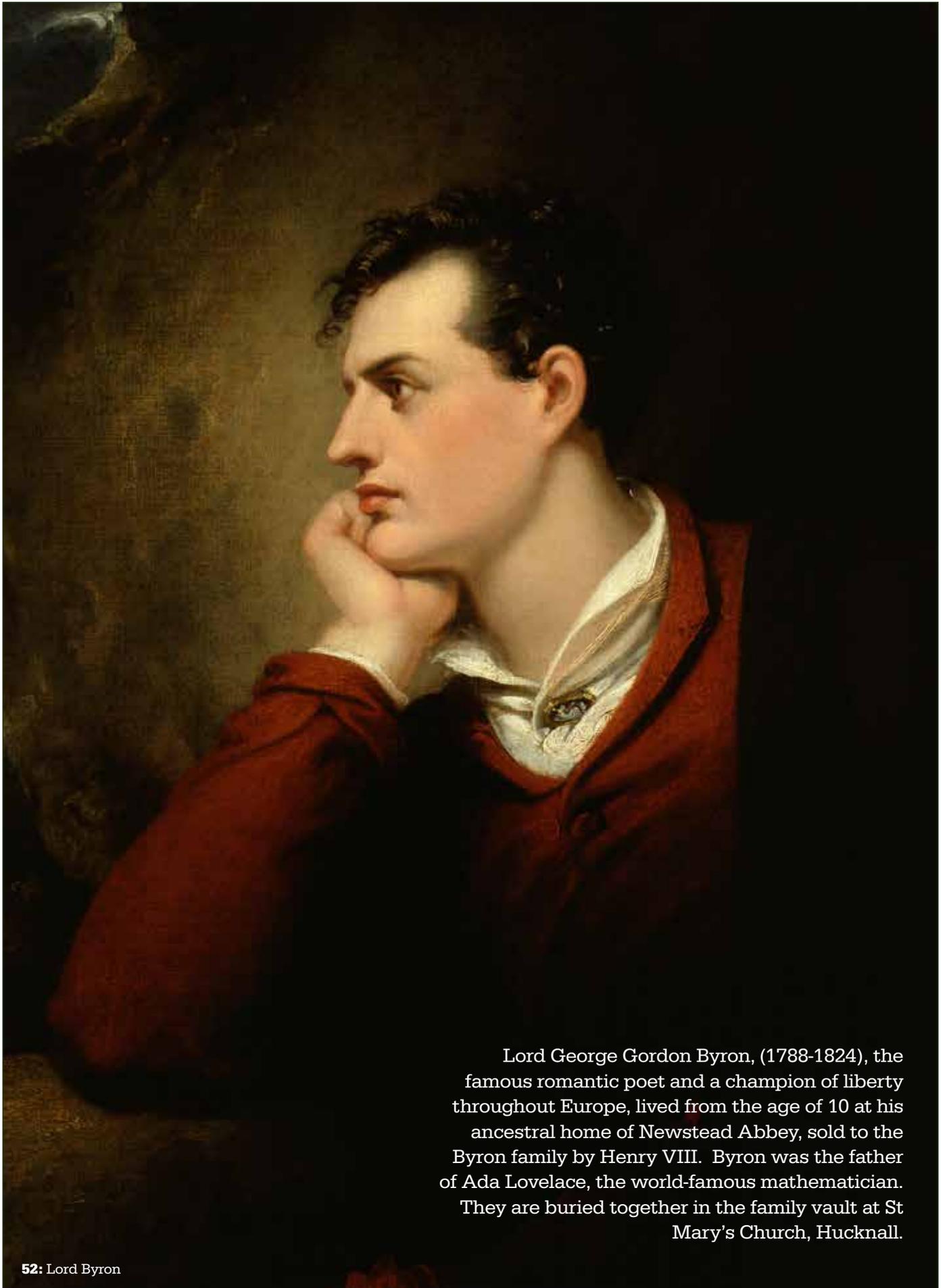
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## Churches & Religion

Newstead Priory was developed in the 12th and 13th centuries by Augustinian priors. It was closed during the Reformation in 1539, with the land and buildings sold to Sir John Byron of Colwick Hall the following year. He converted the priory into a grand residence, which was passed down through his family and became known as Newstead Abbey. (51)



51: Boatswains monument, Newstead Abbey



Lord George Gordon Byron, (1788-1824), the famous romantic poet and a champion of liberty throughout Europe, lived from the age of 10 at his ancestral home of Newstead Abbey, sold to the Byron family by Henry VIII. Byron was the father of Ada Lovelace, the world-famous mathematician. They are buried together in the family vault at St Mary's Church, Hucknall.

52: Lord Byron

The Newstead Abbey estate, sold by the poet Lord Byron to the Wildman family, was occupied as a house until the 1930s, since when it has been owned by Nottingham City Council. The West Front of Newstead Abbey is the most extensive part remaining of the religious buildings. (51) The chapel is still used for services.

In the years after the Reformation in the 16th century, the only places of worship were the parish churches of the Church of England. In the 18th century, however, several non-conformist groups outside the 'established' church were founded. In what is now the Gedling borough area, the strongest of these were the Methodist Societies, although several Baptist chapels were also built. Non-conformist religions appealed to working people because they appeared more democratic. Initially, congregations met in private houses but eventually chapels were built in most villages, though few have survived in their original condition. A survey in 1829 listed five non-conformist chapels in Arnold, one in Burton Joyce, four in Calverton, two in Carlton, one in Lambley, one in Papplewick, one in Stoke Bardolph and one in Woodborough. The chapels in several of the villages were rebuilt in the 19th century. Woodborough and Calverton both have Baptist chapels dating from 1832; the Methodist chapel in Lambley dates from 1849, though it is now occupied as a house, and Woodborough chapel was rebuilt in 1887. A simple

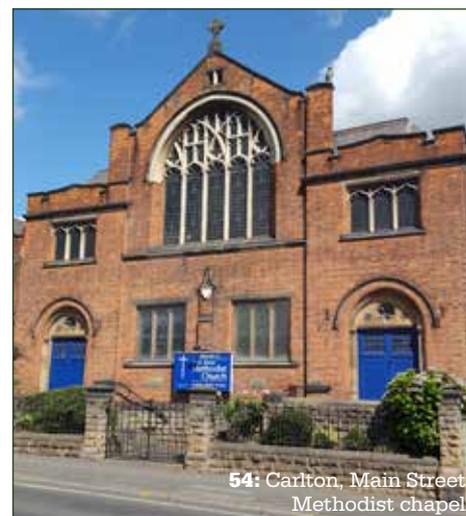


53: Carlton, Methodist Free Church

brick chapel for the United Methodist Free Church was built on Carlton Hill in 1888, and is still used as a Christian meeting place. (53)

The increase in the population after 1820 led to new Anglican churches being built. Examples of small parish churches are found in Netherfield and Bestwood, each built in 1887, while in Carlton and Daybrook larger churches were constructed, the former in 1885 and the latter in 1895. The process of building new churches continued in the 20th century, with additional parish churches opening in Carlton in 1956 and Ravenshead in 1972. Many of the non-conformist chapels were replaced early in the 20th century. The most striking survivors include Main Street Methodist chapel on Carlton Hill, (54) opened in 1903 on the site of the 1854 chapel, Cross Street Baptist chapel in Arnold in 1909, and Daybrook Baptist chapel in 1912, all three designed by W.H. Higginbottom, a local architect. Front Street Methodist chapel in Arnold was built in 1968.

The first Catholic church in Carlton was built in 1884 and then replaced with a new church in 1931. Other Catholic churches followed, in Woodthorpe in 1964 and Calverton in 1993. Other former churches in the borough can still be seen, although now converted to alternative uses.



54: Carlton, Main Street Methodist chapel



55: Good Shepherd church, Woodthorpe

## Historic churches in the borough:

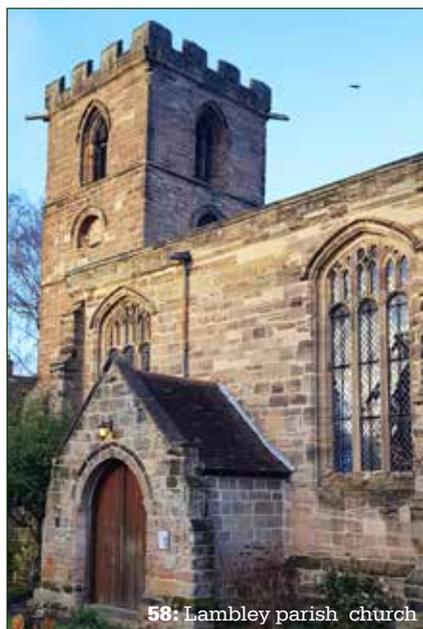
**Arnold, St Mary:** a 14th century building remodelled by George Gilbert Scott in the mid-19th century.

**Burton Joyce, St Helen:** dating from the 13th century; extensively rebuilt in the late 19th century due to severe disrepair.

**Calverton, St Wilfred:** a 13th century church containing stonework surviving from the 12th century, extensively rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries.

**Gedling, All Hallows:** built in the 13th century, in Early English and Decorated styles. The tower was added in the 14th century, with the second highest spire in Nottinghamshire.

**Lambley, Holy Trinity:** dates from the 12th century. The present structure was rebuilt in the 15th century with a bequest from Lord Ralph Cromwell, a statesman for Plantagenet kings. This is the most complete church in the Perpendicular style in Nottinghamshire, with its medieval glass surviving. (58)



58: Lambley parish church

**Linby, St Michael:** most of the fabric of the church was constructed between the 12th and 15th centuries.

**Papplewick, St James:** probably originated in the 12th century, the tower dating from the 14th century; the church was extensively re-modelled by Frederick Montagu in the 1790s.

**Woodborough, St Swithun:** built in the 14th century on the site of a smaller 11th century Norman building.

## Other notable churches:

**Arnold, Methodist chapel:** a modern building, opened in 1968 on Front Street, with an unusual circular floor plan.

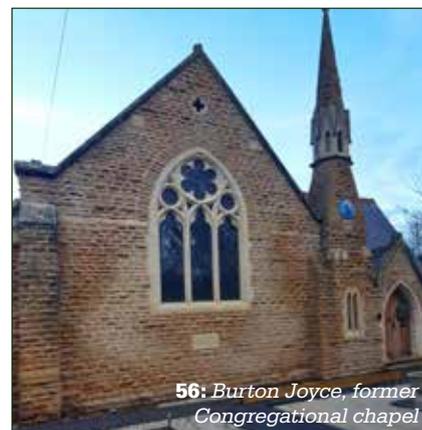
**Bestwood, Emmanuel church:** a small stone church close to Bestwood Lodge, built in 1869 for the Duke of St Albans. The church is now surrounded by new houses.

**Bestwood Village, St Mark:** a small brick church consecrated in 1887, to serve the industrial community settled around the mine and ironworks.

**Burton Joyce, Methodist chapel:** the existing building replaced an old chapel in 1907.

**Burton Joyce, Congregational (United Reform) chapel:** the chapel was built in 1896, was closed in 2016 and has been converted into a house. (56)

**Calverton, Baptist church:** a brick-built chapel, opened in 1907, formerly used as the Primitive Methodist chapel.



56: Burton Joyce, former Congregational chapel

**Calverton, former Baptist chapel:** built in 1832, the old chapel is now used as the Baptist church hall.

**Calverton, St Anthony:** a modern Catholic church, opened in 1993, with a triangular floor plan.

**Carlton, Sacred Heart church:** a small church opened in 1884 after Carlton was made a Catholic parish in 1877. In 1931, a new church was consecrated; this is a large brick structure in Romanesque style, with overhanging cornices on the front elevation. (57, 59)



57: Carlton, Sacred Heart church

**Carlton, St John:** built in 1956, one of the large modern Anglican churches in the borough.

**Carlton, St Paul:** the parish church, built in the style of a Roman Basilica, was consecrated in 1885, funded entirely by the 4th Earl of Carnarvon, who also gave the land on which it stands.

**Daybrook, St Paul:**

completed in 1895 with the expansion of the urban area in the 19th century, replacing a small missionary chapel; the imposing spire was added in 1897.

**Netherfield, St George:**

a small brick-built church opened in 1887 to serve the needs of the growing community of railway workers.

**Ravenshead, St Peter:**

completed in 1972, with an unusual circular floor plan and a sweeping curved roof.

**Woodborough, Baptist**

**chapel:** a small, brick-built chapel dating from 1831.

**Woodborough, Wesleyan**

**Methodist chapel:** built on Roe Lane in Woodborough in 1887 to replace an earlier smaller chapel, it was extensively rebuilt following subsidence damage in the

1970s. The last service was held in 2017 and in 2019 the building is vacant.

**Woodthorpe, Good**

**Shepherd church:** opened in 1964. The architect was Gerard Goalen, with stained glass by Patrick Reyntiens. The modern design won an award from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1966. Unusually for a modern building, the church is Grade-II listed.



59: Carlton, interior of Sacred Heart church



6.

**Transport**

In the Middle Ages the river Trent was used for transport, with flat-bottomed cargo boats hauled through the shallow water by teams of up to twelve men, who would have slept rough at night on the river banks. The boats would have had to be shallow to negotiate the many shoals and rapids. Owing to the limitations of these boats, in 1782 merchants in Nottingham commissioned a renowned canal engineer, William Jessop, to make improvements allowing larger boats to be used. Jessop surveyed the river bed from Nottingham to Gainsborough to identify the problems, then set out to rectify them by digging channels and narrowing the stream. He also created a towpath to allow the use of horses for pulling the boats.

By 1787 the Trent Ketch had been developed, with a sail in addition to being horse-drawn and could carry up to 100 tons, ten times more than any earlier boat. Inns such as the Ferry Boat at Stoke and the Lord Nelson (now The Nelson) at Burton Joyce were built to accommodate stabling, as well as the needs of the boatmen.

In the 20th century, the river Trent was deepened by means of dredging. Stoke Lock was rebuilt in 1924 to accommodate much larger vessels, including petrol barges coming to the sizeable new storage depot at Colwick. These barges became obsolete in the 1970s, when an oil pipeline was laid from the Humber. Today nearly all the river traffic is leisure craft.

## Roads

The roads of the district evolved to serve local people travelling between the places where they lived, worked and traded. Until the late 19th century, roads were maintained by the people of the parish through which the road passed. From

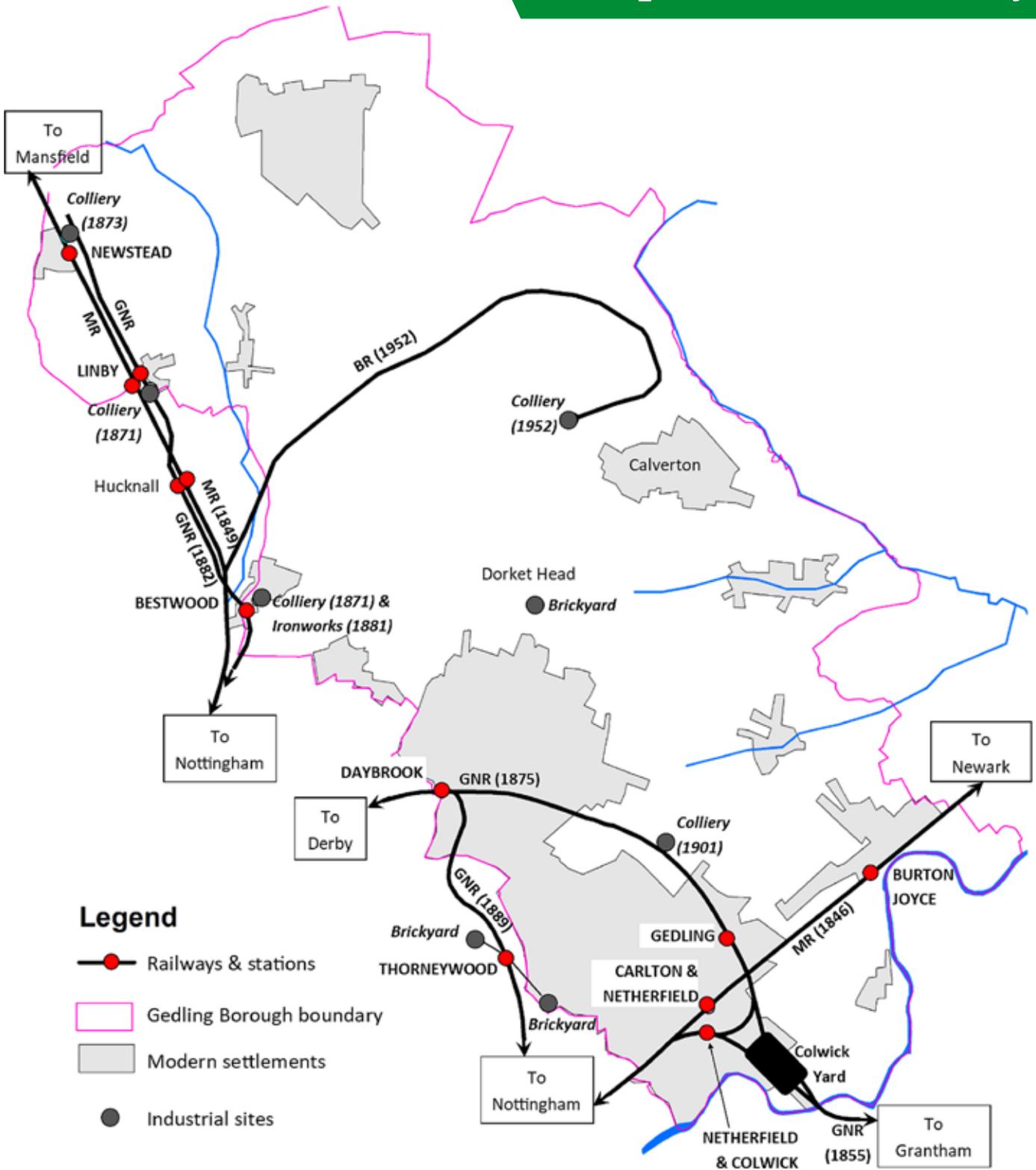
Norman times, the road from Nottingham to Mansfield was recognised as one of the King's Highways; a road of national significance. By the 18th century, the road was in a poor a state and its care and maintenance were privatised. It was taken over by a Turnpike trust in 1787, travellers paying for using it when they passed the tollgates installed at Daybrook and Redhill. This is now the A60; all other roads in the borough were classed as local roads. Responsibility for the turnpike was transferred to a Local Board in 1877 and the tollbooths were removed. Maintenance of all roads passed to the County Council in 1888.

Road transport was improved in the 20th century. The first development was the linking of the borough to Nottingham by electric trams. From the city centre, passengers could catch a tram to Mapperley Top from 1902 (extended to Westdale Lane from 1926), to Arnold via Daybrook from 1913, or to Carlton Square from 1914. The tram network was expensive to run and maintain, however, and in the financial crisis following

1929 other alternatives were tried. Motorbuses replaced the tram service to Arnold in 1930, and along the route to Mapperley in 1936. Trams to Carlton were replaced by electric trolleybuses in 1932, but these gave way to motor buses in 1962. The borough of Gedling is still well served by buses radiating from the city centre, though journeys from north to south of the borough are less direct.

In the 20th century several of the roads were becoming congested and sections have been rebuilt or replaced. Main Street in Burton Joyce was bypassed by a new road in the 1930s. After the railway workshoops and sidings at Colwick and Netherfield closed in 1970, road was constructed to bypass Carlton Hill and remove through traffic from Netherfield, Carlton and Gedling. This is known as the Colwick Loop Road and was planned to allow derelict land to be opened up for redevelopment.

# Map 10 - Rail & Industry



Abbreviations:  
 MR = Midland Railway  
 GNR = Great Northern Railway  
 BR = British Railways

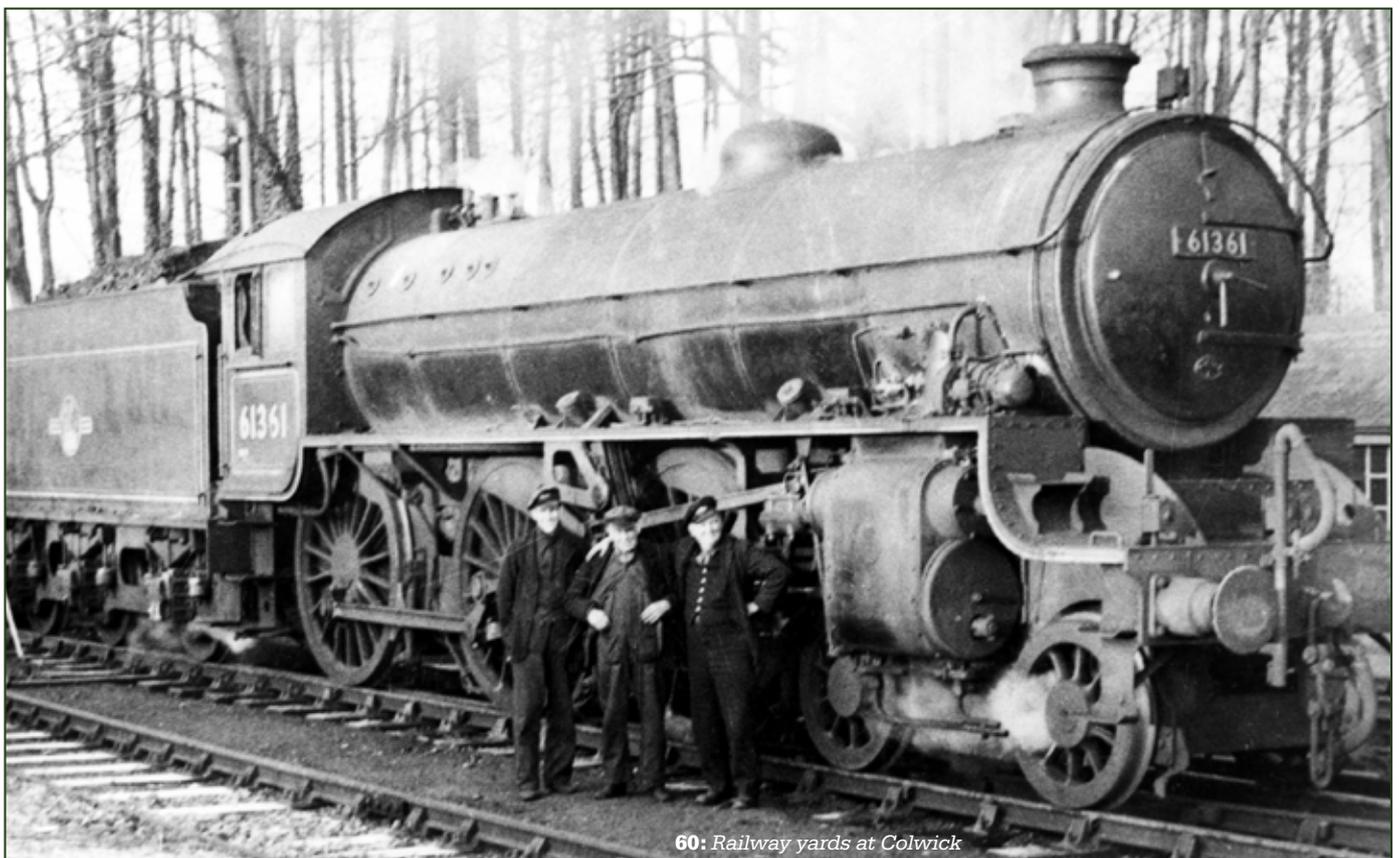
## Railways

The earliest railways were built following the low ground along the river valleys. (Map 10 shows the pattern of railways constructed in the borough.) In 1846 the Midland Railway (MR) opened a line along the Trent valley, between Nottingham and Lincoln. The stations at Carlton and Burton Joyce are still in use, although the original buildings have gone. MR built its Leen Valley line between Nottingham and Mansfield in 1849. The station at Linby closed in 1964 and was demolished soon afterwards. The station site at Newstead is still in use, but the original buildings have gone. The Leen Valley line closed to passengers in 1964 but was retained for coal traffic. After the mines closed, this route was reopened for passengers

in 1993 and is now known as the Robin Hood Line, linking Nottingham to Worksop via Newstead.

In 1855, the Great Northern Railway (GNR) adopted a branch line along the Trent valley, from Grantham to Nottingham. The site of the GNR station at Netherfield is still used, although without any of the original buildings. GNR constructed a line westward from Colwick, through the hilly countryside north of Nottingham towards Derby. This line, known as the Derbyshire Extension, opened in 1875. Heading westwards, there were stations at Gedling and Daybrook. In 1878 GNR reached an agreement with the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) allowing LNWR to share Colwick yards and access to Nottingham station. The substantial volume of coal traffic generated by

these developments led GNR to construct a locomotive maintenance depot and marshalling yards at Colwick in 1875. The sidings, sheds, and workshops on the site were continually expanded during the following fifty years. LNWR built its own shed and housing after 1881. Colwick yards and engine sheds closed in 1970 and the site has since been cleared for redevelopment. The Derbyshire Extension line fell into disuse after 1960, due to the poor state of the Mapperley tunnel; most of the route has since been redeveloped. The site of Daybrook station is now a retail park. A section of the trackbed bordering Arnot Hill Park has been preserved as a green walkway. (61) However, Gedling station buildings and the short length of trackbed which served Gedling colliery have all survived.



60: Railway yards at Colwick



61: Arnold, railway trail

In 1882 GNR opened an additional branch line through the Leen valley, in an attempt to capture some of the coal traffic. The station building constructed in Bestwood Village has survived, as a private house. In Linby the station building has gone, but the goods weigh-house is used as Linby Heritage Centre, open to visitors in summer. The trackbed northwards to Newstead forms the Linby Trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders heading to Newstead Abbey. (63)

In 1889, the Nottingham Suburban Railway was built



62: Woodthorpe tunnel

to link Daybrook station, via Thorneywood station, where bricks were the main goods to be dispatched, to the GNR terminus on London Road in Nottingham. Although this was a shorter route from Daybrook to Nottingham, it was expensive to maintain with deep cuttings and tunnels. After the early years of the 20th century it competed for passengers with electric tram services. Closed to passengers in 1916, it was abandoned altogether in 1951. The railway has since been totally demolished except for the former station

house on Porchester Road and the preserved remains of the short tunnel under Woodthorpe Drive, which can be seen in Woodthorpe Grange Park. (62)

The final railway construction project in the borough was the goods line linking Bestwood Park junction (Moorbridge) in the Leen valley to the colliery at Calverton. This line opened in 1952 when the first coal was brought to the surface, and the track was lifted in 2016. The trackbed has been reserved as a possible route for a cycleway.



63: Linby trail



64a: Colwick locomotive shed



64b: The GNR bridge over the Trent dating from 1850



**Industry**

In Nottinghamshire the oldest mining activity took place further west than Gedling, starting in the 12th century in the Bramcote, Strelley and Wollaton areas. This was carried out where the coal seams emerged at the surface and the coal could be extracted from shallow pits. In the 19th century the discovery and working of deeply buried coal transformed employment and living standards in the borough. With the development of mining there was a need for railways to transport the coal.



## Coal Mining in the Borough

Although coal gave out more heat than charcoal or wood, it was not immediately popular, owing to the fumes given off. Nottingham gained a reputation for air pollution, as illustrated by the recorded departure in 1257 from Nottingham Castle of Queen Eleanor, wife of Henry III, complaining about the foul atmosphere. London also suffered from coal smoke and in 1306 the burning of coal there was banned by Royal Proclamation. The ban was short lived, however, owing to the scarcity of wood for fires. Accounts for Nottingham Castle in the following year still show a charge, of 5s 4d, for coal. Records from the 1640s show that coal mined

near Nottingham was sold locally and also transported down the river Trent to Newark, Gainsborough and elsewhere.

Coal mining near Gedling first took place in 1630, when the Common Council of Nottingham sank a shaft in the town's woods, where Ransom Road, Mapperley is now. As there is no further mention of this venture, it is likely that it failed. The use of steam power and other advances in engineering enabled great progress to be made. A national pioneer in deep mining was Thomas North, who sank shafts at Whitemoor, Broxtowe, Cinderhill, Kimberley, Hempshill Vale and Bulwell in the 1840s and 1850s. These were the models for the three mines sunk in the borough of Gedling soon

afterwards, at Bestwood in 1871, Linby in 1871 and Newstead in 1873. In the 20th century deep mines were constructed at Gedling in 1901 and at Calverton in 1952.

### Bestwood Colliery (1871 to 1967)

Bestwood was the first major coal mine sunk in the borough. Two shafts 5.5m (13¼ feet) in diameter and 55m (60 yards) apart were sunk to a depth of 378.5m (1,242 feet), reaching the Top Hard seam, which averaged 1.8m (6 feet) thick. The instigators were the Lancaster family, mining entrepreneurs from Scotland. Shaft-winding used steam engines with 36-inch diameter cylinders; the ventilation fan, also steam-

driven, used an engine recovered on the bed of the Mediterranean Sea from the Royal Sovereign steamship. (65)

Bestwood was always profitable and miners there earned good wages. It was the first coal mine in the world to produce a million tons of saleable coal in a single year. This was at a cost of more than a hundred lives, commemorated on a plaque in the engine house. By the 1930s, the Top Hard workings extended so far from the shaft that it was decided to sink another at Calverton, for ventilation and to transport men to their work more easily. This second shaft was completed and operational in 1939.

After a drift was constructed from Bestwood to the High Main Seam in 1946, efficiency improved. Mining finished at the colliery in 1967, although coal was brought underground from nearby Linby colliery for a further two years. A winding house, headstocks and engine are all preserved in working order at the site of the mine [NG6 8TQ]. Visits are available free of

charge from 10 to 12 every Saturday morning as well as on Sundays in the summer months. The restored spoil tips from the colliery now form part of Bestwood Country Park. (66)

### **Linby Colliery (1871 to 1988)**

The Linby Colliery Company sank two shafts 54.9m (60 yards) apart, each 4.27m (14 feet) in diameter, extending 395m (1,296 feet) and 427m (1,400 feet) respectively, in order to reach the Top Hard seam. The first coal was produced in 1873. Uniquely in the area, Linby colliery mined coal from eight different seams. When first built, the surface buildings were in Linby parish, though transferred into Hucknall in 1935. Between 1947 and 1988, a total of approximately twenty-nine million tons of saleable coal was produced, with its highest output in 1963, when 1,113 men produced 1,300,000 tons of coal, earning them the title of the most efficient miners in Europe.

Linby was considered a safe mine, with fifty-five fatal accidents in 115 years

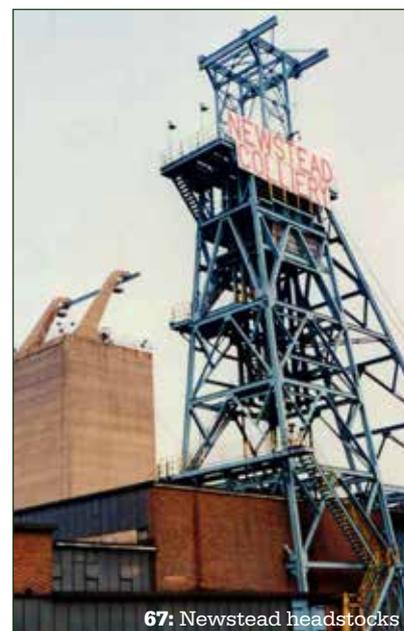
of operation. The Linby winding engines were the last in the Midlands to be electrified; one of the steam winders can still be seen working, preserved at Papplewick pumping station. The official closure date of Linby colliery was March 1988, with no remains to be seen on the site.

### **Newstead Colliery (1873 to 1987)**

Newstead colliery was sunk by the Newstead Colliery Company. (67) The two 3.96m (13 feet) diameter shafts were 457m (almost 1,500 feet) deep. The unusual winding engines were vertical steam engines with 40-inch diameter cylinders and a 72-inch stroke, replaced in 1961 by electric winders. The number one (up-cast) shaft had a unique copper-lid air-locking system to maintain mine ventilation during coal winding. By 1880, the colliery workshops and the nucleus of the miners' housing were complete, the housing in the village expanding to 1,200 dwellings by 1923. Between 1947 and



66: Bestwood winding house



67: Newstead headstocks

mine closure in 1987, a total of 30,200,000 tons of saleable coal was produced from seven seams. Forty-one lives were lost during the 104 years of operation. Although nothing of the colliery itself remains, the original colliers' housing forms a conservation area within Gedling borough, while the spoil heaps are being transformed into a country park.

### **Gedling Colliery (1901 to 1991)**

Digby Coal Company sank two shafts 5.5m (18 feet 2 inches) in diameter at Gedling colliery to reach the Top Hard seam 428m (1,404 feet) below the surface. Gedling colliery did not produce only coal as there was also a bakery attached to the pit canteen, supplying bread, pies and other bakery goods to over 11,000 customers. The colliery became known as the United Nations Pit, with more than thirty-one different nationalities employed there. Gedling colliery (68) produced more than seventy

million tons of saleable coal from four seams, at a cost of 128 miners' lives. Peak production was in 1958, when a workforce of 2,485 produced 1,100,000 tons of coal. The colliery closed in November 1991 after a working life of eighty-nine years. The spoil heap has since been redeveloped to create Gedling Country Park, but all the buildings have been cleared from the site.

### **Calverton Colliery (1952 to 1995)**

To allow access to the Top Hard workings of Bestwood colliery, a downcast shaft was sunk between 1936 and 1938 at Calverton, for ventilation, man-riding and materials. The 5.5m (18.2 feet) diameter shaft was 378.5m (1,241 feet) deep. No further development occurred until after 1945.

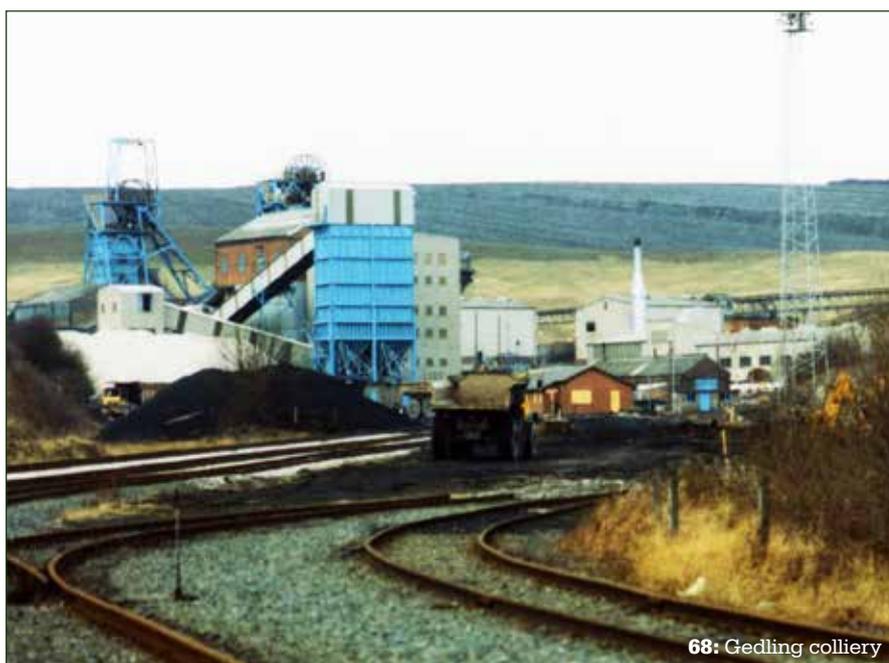
In 1946 Colonel Lancaster, chairman of B.A. Collieries, performed the ceremony of Breaking the First Sod to begin sinking a second shaft. The ground was frozen to allow the sinking, completed

in June 1950. This was the first new colliery opened by the recently formed National Coal Board. During forty-one years of operation, the colliery produced more than 31,500,000 tons of saleable coal, with nineteen miners killed during the same period. Peak production occurred in 1963-1964, when 1,487 workers produced 1,200,000 tons of saleable coal. Calverton colliery finally closed in 1995 and the site was cleared.

### **Pit Ponies**

Any account of coal mining would be incomplete without the mention of pit ponies. Although referred to as ponies, some of the breeds of these 'equine miners' were, in fact, Clydesdale and Shire horses. During the time before mechanisation took over most of the load, there would have been hundreds of ponies operating in the mines of Gedling borough.

Contrary to popular imagination, the ponies were well looked after, loved by their handlers almost as much as the miners' own wives or girlfriends. There were a great number of 'characters' within the ranks of the pit ponies, too many to mention individually. One pony, OXO, is worthy of singling out, however. OXO worked at Bestwood colliery and was then transferred to Gedling before being retired through injury. After this he was adopted, going on to become very popular at local shows as well as at the Horse of the Year show, where he met the Queen Elizabeth on several occasions.



68: Gedling colliery

There is a permanent exhibition devoted to OXO at the National Coal Mining Museum for England.

## Metalworking

### Bestwood Ironworks

The friars from Newstead Priory developed a water-powered ironworks near Bestwood in the 16th century. Known in the 18th century as Bulwell Forge, it was recorded as using water-powered tilt-hammers to shape the iron. The ironworks was closed in 1780 and the site was converted into a water-powered cotton mill by the Robinson family. The present Forge Mill, close to Bestwood Mill Lakes Country Park, was built on the foundations of the cotton mill after this was gutted by fire in 1842.

Following the success of the coal mine at Bestwood, the development of Bestwood ironworks was the next step in industrial progress. The ironworks opened in 1881 with two furnaces, a further two added in 1890.

The lads of Bestwood Village were said to have made good use of the flames of the furnaces, using the light to play football late into the evening. During World War 1, with the threat of German Zeppelin raids, the manager of the ironworks would receive a warning from the military to douse the furnaces. Bestwood ironworks was, in the end, short-lived, closing in 1928.

## Textiles

The Gedling area has a long association with textiles. In the 16th century, William

Lee, curate of Calverton, invented a knitting machine for making long stockings, or 'hose'. The machine became known as a stocking



69: Framework knitting machine

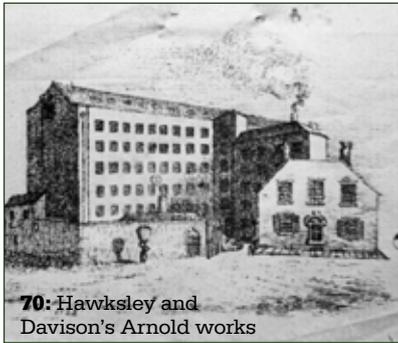
frame and the workers were called framework knitters or 'stockingers'. (69)

By the 18th century, framework knitting was used for making gloves as well as long stockings or hosiery. It was known as a 'cottage industry' as workers had a frame installed in their home or in a nearby workshop. The framework knitters were supplied with cotton, linen or worsted (woollen) thread (known as 'yarn') by merchants or 'hosiers', who also collected and sold the knitters' wares. Most villages in the borough had framework knitters living and working there. The women and children in the family would usually do the work of preparing the yarn or 'finishing' the completed work. In other parts of Nottinghamshire, similar knitting frames were later adapted for making bobbin-net lace.

In 1778, George Robinson and his sons built their

first cotton spinning factory, between Linby and Papplewick, to make cotton thread. During the next 15 years they opened 5 more mills along the river Leen between Papplewick, Bestwood and Bulwell. George Robinson & Sons was, famously, in 1785 the first company in the world to use a steam engine for powering a textile factory. Although by 1790 the company had installed two steam engines, it relied on waterwheels to power its factories. The cotton mills were some of the first factories in the area, attracting workers from the surrounding villages. In the 1790s the mill-owners brought children from the workhouses in Marylebone, London, and in Birmingham to boost their labour force. The cotton mills closed in 1828, but the remains of the storage ponds and channels supplying the mills with water have been excavated and are preserved in Moor Pond Woods.

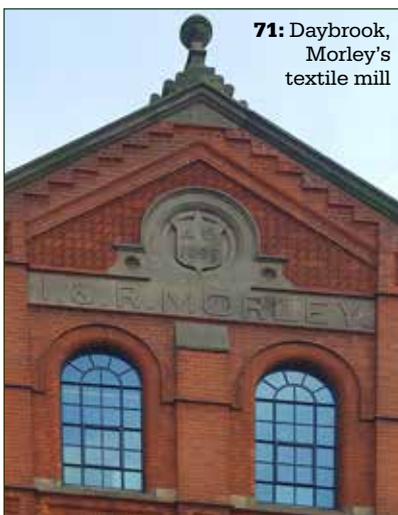
In 1794, John Hawksley and Robert Davison built a mill in Arnold to make worsted yarn from long fibres of wool. (70) They also installed an early steam engine, using it to pump water onto their waterwheel. Davison & Hawksley did not confine themselves to thread production, also employing framework knitters to make clothing. The firm brought more than 600 poor children, from as far away as London and Bristol, as apprentice workers, and by 1803 employed 2,000 people. To meet the enormous number of orders, especially for cloth



70: Hawksley and Davison's Arnold works

for army uniforms, the firm introduced shift working so that the mill could operate 24 hours a day. The factory closed in 1810 and was quickly demolished. John Hawksley lived at Arnot Hill House and Robert Davison at Bonington House on Arnold High Street. Both houses still exist, Bonington House now the Labour Club. The remains of the factory millpond can still be seen in Arnot Hill Park, now transformed into an ornamental lake.

After 1830 cotton and worsted spinning were uneconomic, owing to the high cost of importing raw cotton to this inland location. Some companies still supplied cotton yarn, using imported spun cotton which was doubled to produce thicker thread. In Netherfield, Bourne's steam-powered Britannia Mill was



71: Daybrook, Morley's textile mill

a major supplier of doubled yarn.

I. & R. Morley, a family firm, began trading in Nottingham in the 1790s. They were 'merchant hosiers' who employed large numbers of framework knitters to make clothes they sold from their warehouses and from a London showroom. In the 1860s, I. & R. Morley began to develop and use hosiery machinery in its steam-powered factories. The firm expanded in the 1870s, buying a small hosiery factory in Daybrook and rebuilding it in 1883. The premises were extended in 1911 and although the factory closed in 1963, the imposing building has been conserved and converted into homes, still visible on Nottingham Road, near Daybrook Square. (71)

## Brickworks

In the 19th century brick became the building material of choice, with advantages of versatility, supply and cost over other materials such as stone and timber. Supply and cost were, as today, major considerations in any building project. Vast numbers of bricks needed to be available from local manufacturers. The area now covered by Gedling borough had a significant advantage for the large-scale production of high-quality bricks. The basic raw material in the brickmaking process is clay and the geology of the area offered large deposits of clay that is reasonably easy to extract. Other attractions were the availability of large numbers of hard-working people and

a good supply of local coal, which was essential for firing the bricks to transform the clay into a durable building material.

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, brickmaking was well established, though based on small family-owned businesses supplying local needs, in many cases working only through the spring and summer seasons. All these businesses were reliant on the horse and cart for either local delivery, carrying about 250 bricks, or for onward travel to a canal wharf for loading onto a barge capable of carrying approximately 10,000 bricks. There are known to have been pre-industrial brickyards at Wighay (in Linby), on Bonner Hill at Calverton and on Bank Hill at Woodborough.

Like many local collieries, Bestwood had a dedicated brickworks, shown on several maps dated between 1886 and 1908, but which by 1913 was disused. The brickworks was located in the Leen valley about a mile to the north of Bestwood Village, beside the B683 road (Moor Road), between Westhouse and Goosedale farms. Using the clays of the Edlington Formation (Bunter Marl), the yard was the source of the bricks used to build the original sixty-four dwellings and colliery buildings in Bestwood Village. The bricks were brought to the site on a tramway, the route of which still forms a water-filled ditch beside Moor Road south of Goosedale.

With the demand of the

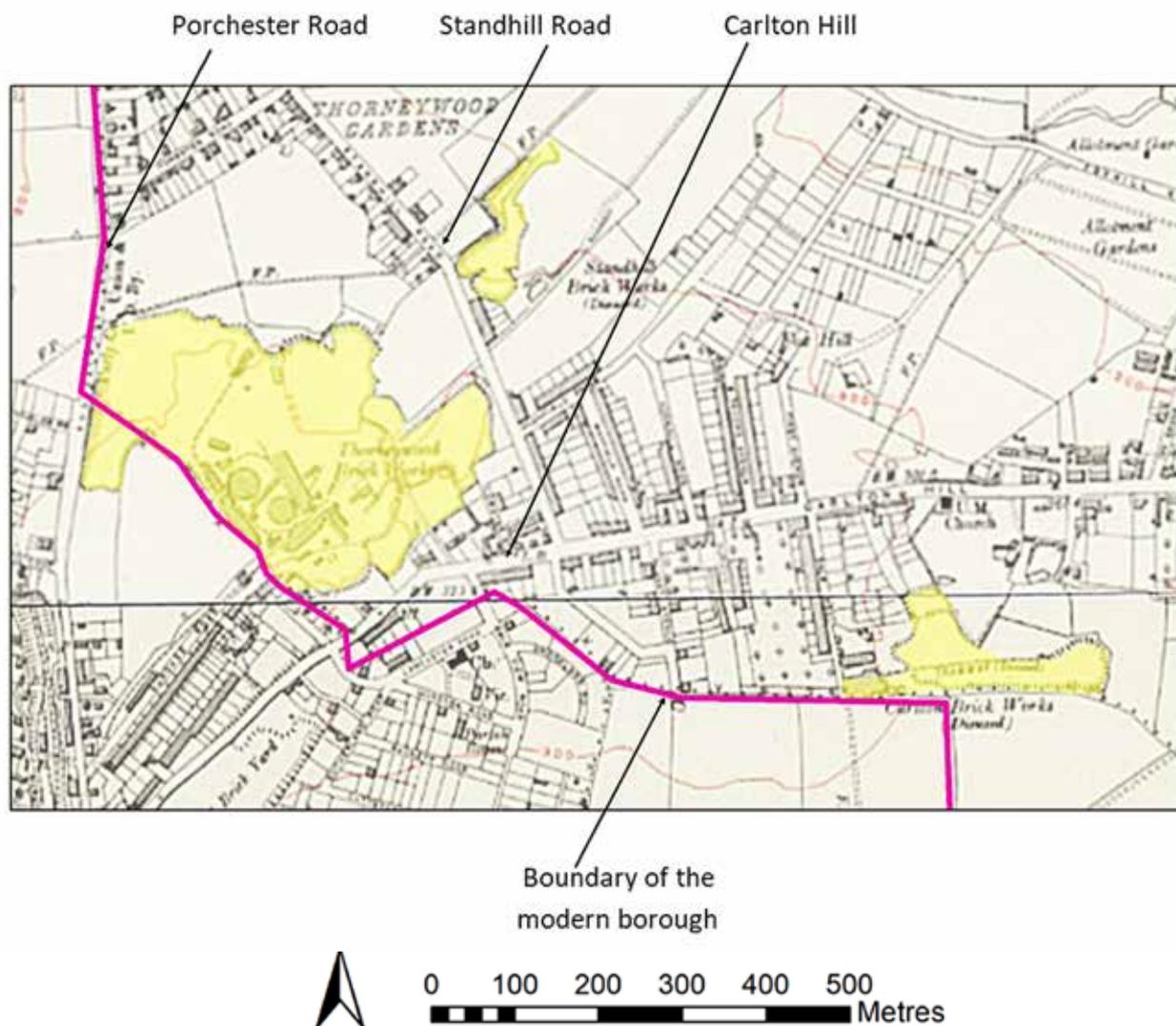
numerous building projects throughout the area, the capacity of the local brick industry needed to be vastly increased. Responding to the opportunities available, businessmen established new, large-scale brickmaking companies to replace a collection of small family businesses. Several such companies were formed after the 1850s, financed by local investors, enabling large areas of clay-bearing land to be purchased. Revolutionary techniques in brick-making were introduced by the companies, enabling mass production of high-quality

bricks at low cost, to satisfy the needs of the market, and to provide secure employment as well as a good return on investment made by the company's shareholders.

The Nottingham Patent Brick Company (NPBC) was established in 1867 by William Burgass, a local brickmaker and coal merchant from Carlton, in partnership with Edward Gripper, originally an Essex farmer. The latter had already established a large works at Mapperley. NPBC ultimately supplied some

sixty million bricks to the Midland Railway (MR) for its St Pancras Station terminus. The company acquired the patent for a revolutionary type of kiln for firing the bricks, named a Hoffmann kiln after its inventor. The kiln had a circular floor plan which enabled continuous firing, resulting in marked improvements in brick quality and cheaper cost of production. The kiln had a considerable advantage over the previous 'intermittent' type of kiln as the 'continuous' operation of the Hoffmann kiln enabled the entire brick-making process

## Map 11 - Gedling Claypits



Large-scale brickmaking took place along both sides of Carlton Hill, alongside Woodborough Road (as far as Mapperley Plains), and on to Dorket Head, using the easily worked supplies of the Keuper marl (Mercian Mudstone). (Map 11 shows the extent of the major brickyards around Carlton in the 20th century.) The largest, between Porchester Road and Standhill Road, was the Thorneywood Works of NPBC, which operated until the 1960s. The former access road from Porchester Road is named Burgass Road, after the original owner of the brickyard. (The aerial photograph (72) of Thorneywood brickpit was taken in 1938.) Nearby, the Nottingham Builders Brick Company (NBBC) occupied a site located south of the junction of Porchester Road and Carlton Hill (which is also shown on map 11, but not shaded). This brickworks closed in the late 1950s. NPBC acquired the Dorket

Head works of Messrs. Robinson & Sykes in 1897, continuing to invest by securing further supplies of clay and updating the brick-making process. London was a prime market for the company's products, using large quantities of bricks to construct the capital's sewer system, all of it still in use today. Brick making was also helped by the construction of the Nottingham Suburban Railway in 1889, with sidings serving the works of NPBC at Thorneywood and Mapperley and also the works of NBBC on Carlton Road. Coal for firing the kilns as well as the finished bricks could now be transported more easily and cheaply to markets around the country.

The continued success of NPBC throughout the early and middle years of the 20th Century was firmly linked to another local family, the Bennetts, who had already established several works around Derby. In the late

19th century, at a time when child labour was common in the brickyards, Charles Bennett joined NPBC at the age of 9 and gradually worked his way up to become the Works Manager of the Mapperley brickyards. The family connection continued with C. Lawrence Bennett and C. Leslie Bennett, both of whom became Managing Directors of the company, the latter responsible for introducing further mechanisation into the manufacturing process. Charles Bennett also became a councillor, a trustee of the Porchester Garden estate, and a benefactor of the Mapperley Methodist Church.

By the 1960s clay supplies for the works at Carlton and Mapperley were exhausted and NPBC focused on its operations at Dorket Head, still the site of a significant brick factory. Additional clay supplies were acquired and a new factory was constructed, based on a continuous 'tunnel kiln', which was at the forefront of technology. Following further expansion during the 1970s and 1980s, the company is now owned by Ibstock PLC, the largest brick manufacturer in the UK. The factory is one of the most modern and highly productive plants in the country, providing local employment across the borough and supplying bricks for both local and national housebuilding schemes. A distinctly local enterprise meeting a national need, the company represents a notable success for Gedling borough.



## Brewing, Food & Drink

By the start of the 19th century, the area which is now the borough of Gedling had alehouses and coaching inns serving the needs of local people and of travellers. However, the largely rural nature of the area at the time meant that these establishments were comparatively few and far between.

Between 1552 and 1828, anyone wishing to operate an inn or an alehouse had to become a licensed victualler in a system administered by the local magistrates. As a guarantee of good behaviour, the licensed victualler paid a financial bond to ensure compliance with the conditions of the licence. Two local citizens also had to vouch for the victualler by making similar commitments. Any breach of the licensing conditions could lead to the forfeiture of both the money and the licence. In the area that now

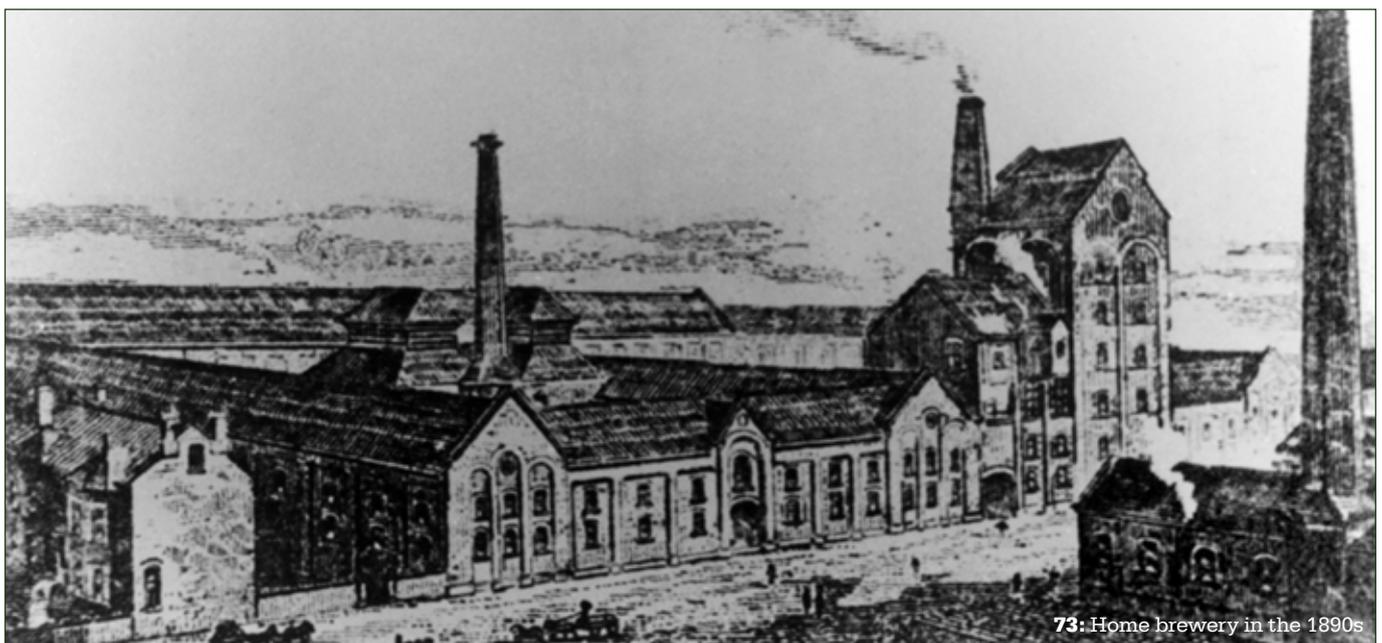
forms Gedling borough, surviving records show that there were twenty-eight licensed victuallers in 1823.

Many of the borough's publicans in the early 19th century would have brewed their own beer and ale. At that time, ale was a hop-free malt liquor quite distinct from hopped beer. The ingredients for brewing were usually locally sourced; hops were grown within the borough. There was, for example, a large hop garden where Waverley Avenue now is in Gedling village. Similarly, local farmers and specialist merchants provided the malted barley which was the key ingredient for both ale and beer.

The trade of maltster often seems to have prospered regardless of the economic fluctuations of the area. One such trader was William Robinson of Home Farm, on Oxclose Lane in Bestwood. Like many businessmen at the time, he derived income from different occupations,

including, in his case, farmer, wool merchant, maltster and brickmaker. When commercial opportunities arose, maltsters were well placed to take over breweries and public houses.

William Robinson's son, John Daniel Robinson (1839-1929), was an entrepreneur with several successful businesses to his name. In 1875, he founded the Daybrook Brewery, which was developed by the construction of an up-to-date brewery complex. Urban growth in the mid-19th century created a growing market for low-cost beers of consistent quality delivered directly to local public houses and off-licences. In 1890, John Robinson transferred the business to the Home Brewery Company Limited, which retained the original connection to Home Farm in Bestwood. Robinson went on to establish the Daybook Laundry and was also involved in the tobacco trade and in cement production.



73: Home brewery in the 1890s

Home Brewery at Daybrook used water from a deep well under the site. By 1986, when the business was sold to Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, the Home Brewery Company served its beer in 450 tied public houses, mainly in the Nottingham area. The unique identity of Home Ales was gradually phased out. The Art Deco office building on Mansfield Road in Daybrook, designed by local architect T. Cecil Howitt and completed in 1936, has a Grade-II listing. Brewing ceased on this site in 1996 and the administration building was subsequently adapted by Nottinghamshire County Council for use as office space. Howitt also designed the Vale Hotel at Daybrook for Home Brewery. The Art Deco pub, which opened in 1937, has survived the closure and sale of the brewery, and is also a listed building.

In addition to his brewing and other business activities, John Robinson was a Justice of the Peace and was also High Sheriff of

Nottinghamshire in 1901, receiving a knighthood in 1905 for his work with the allotment garden movement. A keen country sportsman, in 1890 Robinson purchased the stud farm at Worksop Manor, where he bred race horses. His horses would go on to win the Derby, the 2000 Guineas, the Ascot Gold Cup and the Kentucky Derby. A horse racing accident led to the death of Sir John's son, John Sandford Robinson, in 1898. The John Robinson almshouses on Mansfield Road in Daybrook were built in his memory.



75: Carlton Brewery building

A less well-known part of the Borough's brewing history sits at the junction of Marhill Road and Primrose Street in Carlton. Built as the Carlton Brewery in 1899, the building is unmistakable

as a design by noted local architect Watson Fothergill. The brewery was short-lived, and the premises were sold in 1909, to later be used as a laundry, dye factory and printing works. The Grade II-listed building has since been converted for residential use. (75)



74: Horse and Groom at Linby

Of the twenty-eight public houses recorded in the borough in 1823, sixteen are still trading on the same site, (74, 77) including such well-known institutions as the Horse and Groom at Linby, the Griffin's Head at Papplewick, the Robin Hood and Little John at Arnold, the Ram at Redhill, the Volunteer and the Royal Oak in Carlton and the Four Bells in Woodborough. (The list of pubs licensed in 1823 can be found in Appendix C.)



77: Woodborough, Four Bells inn

Although several others have recently closed, the fact that more than half of the pubs noted in 1823 still exist almost two hundred years later is a remarkable example of continuity in the heritage of the borough.



76: Daybrook, Vale Hotel of 1937

## Windmills

In former years, windmills were used to grind cereals such as wheat and barley for flour, brewing and animal feed. The simplest windmills were temporary structures known as post mills, which could be moved from site to site. More permanent structures, on a brick or stone base, were called tower mills. Typically, windmills would be erected on the highest ground, ridgelines for example. There were tower mills at Redhill and on Mapperley Plains, as shown on Chapman's map of 1776. Redhill windmill survived until 1903, when the site was taken for the

cemetery. In Arnold there were two post mills recorded during the 19th century. In Lambley visible evidence survives of the foundations of two windmills: Smith's mill stood at the top of Mill Lane and to the east of the church a grassy mound in the field marks the site of a second mill.

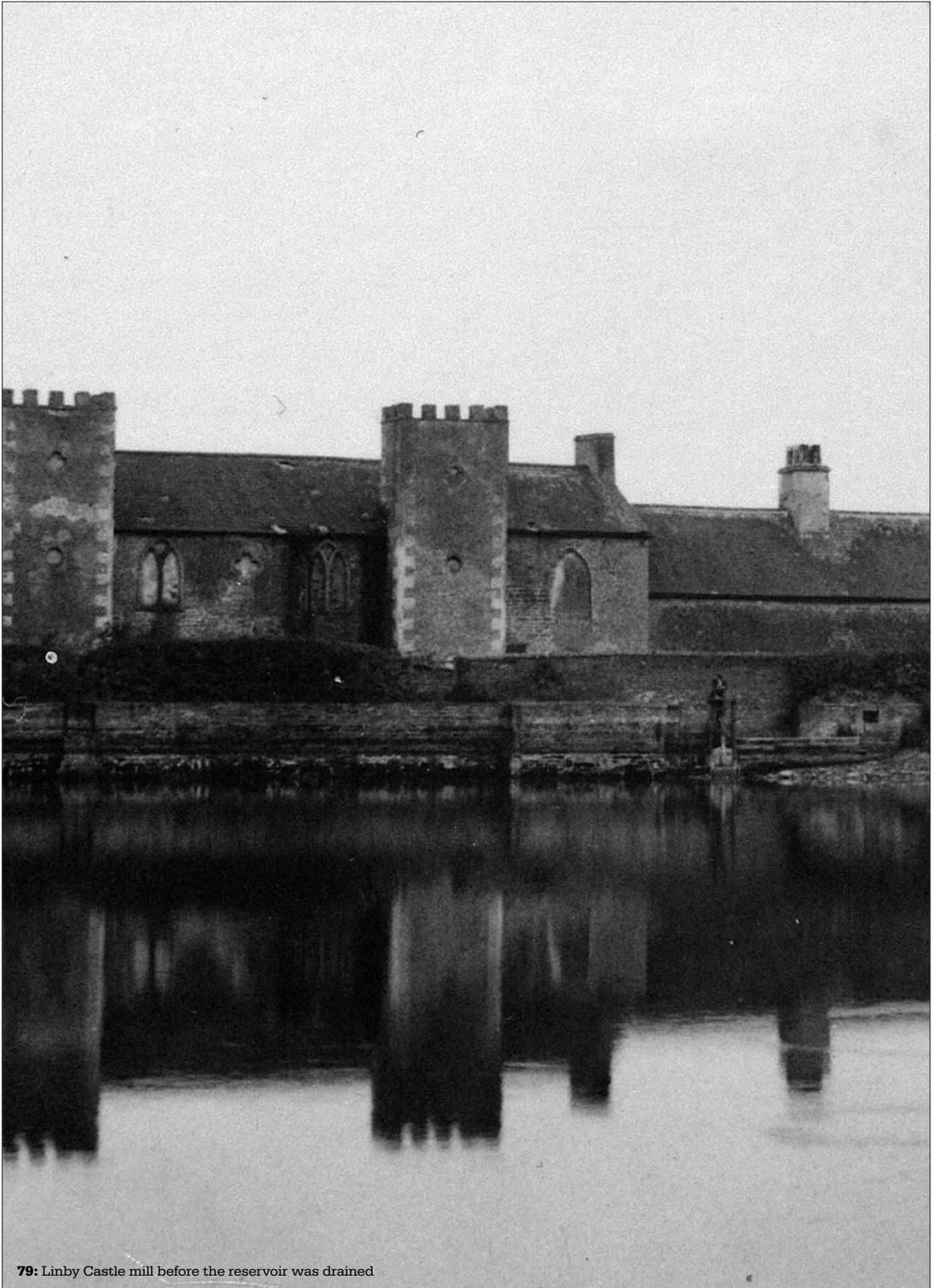
## Watermills

Water-powered mills were also used to grind grain and prepare fodder and flour. A watermill needed a constant supply of flowing water and within Gedling borough there were water-driven corn mills on the river Leen in Linby, Papplewick

and Bestwood. Walk Mill in Linby, now a private house, was the site of a medieval corn mill. Castle Mill, also in Linby, was one of six purpose-built water-powered cotton-spinning factories. After Castle Mill closed in 1828, it was converted in about 1850 for grinding corn, last working in the 1930s. (78, 79) The building still stands and is now residential accommodation, beside Linby Lane, on the outskirts of Papplewick. Three of the farms in Linby also have surviving waterwheels, formerly used to power machinery for grinding cereals for fodder as well as for chopping straw.



78: Old view of the waterwheel at Linby Castle mill



**79:** Linby Castle mill before the reservoir was drained



8

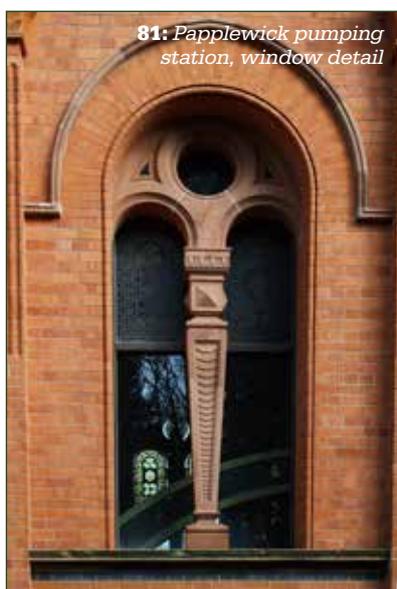
## **Water Supply & Treatment**

Until the 1840s, the people of Nottingham suffered from the effects of polluted water. Most inhabitants were forced to use water from the rivers or from surface ponds, which led to frequent outbreaks of disease. After 1845, the chief engineer of the Nottingham Waterworks Company was Thomas Hawksley (1807-1893), born at Arnold, where his father owned the worsted mill. In 1844 he gave evidence to a government enquiry into public health, where he argued that there was a link between living conditions, water supply and water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Hawksley designed a network of pumping stations with steam engines, to bring the water to the surface from deep wells in the porous Sherwood sandstone. The water was stored in reservoirs on the higher ground, before being supplied to homes and businesses through a network of pipes. Hawksley also helped to design the valves which regulated flow and went on to design water supply systems in several other cities including Leicester, Liverpool and Leeds.

Hawksley's scheme for supplying clean water used a network of linked sites in the landscape northwards from Nottingham. Two of the pumping stations were in the borough of Gedling. Bestwood pumping station, visible alongside the A60, opened in 1874 and was taken out of use in 1964. The ornate Gothic building and lodge, are Grade II-listed. All the original machinery has been removed, and the wooded grounds have been used recently as a health club and restaurant. Papplewick pumping station [NG15 9AJ], designed by

the Nottingham Borough Engineer, Marriott Ogle Tarbotton, was completed in 1884. The ornate engine house and buildings, in Gothic style, are Grade II-listed structures while the wooded grounds are listed parkland. The interior of

well as the buildings and grounds, are frequently opened to the public. [For more information, see the Pumping Station Trust website: <http://www.papplewickpumpingstation.org.uk> ]



81: Papplewick pumping station, window detail



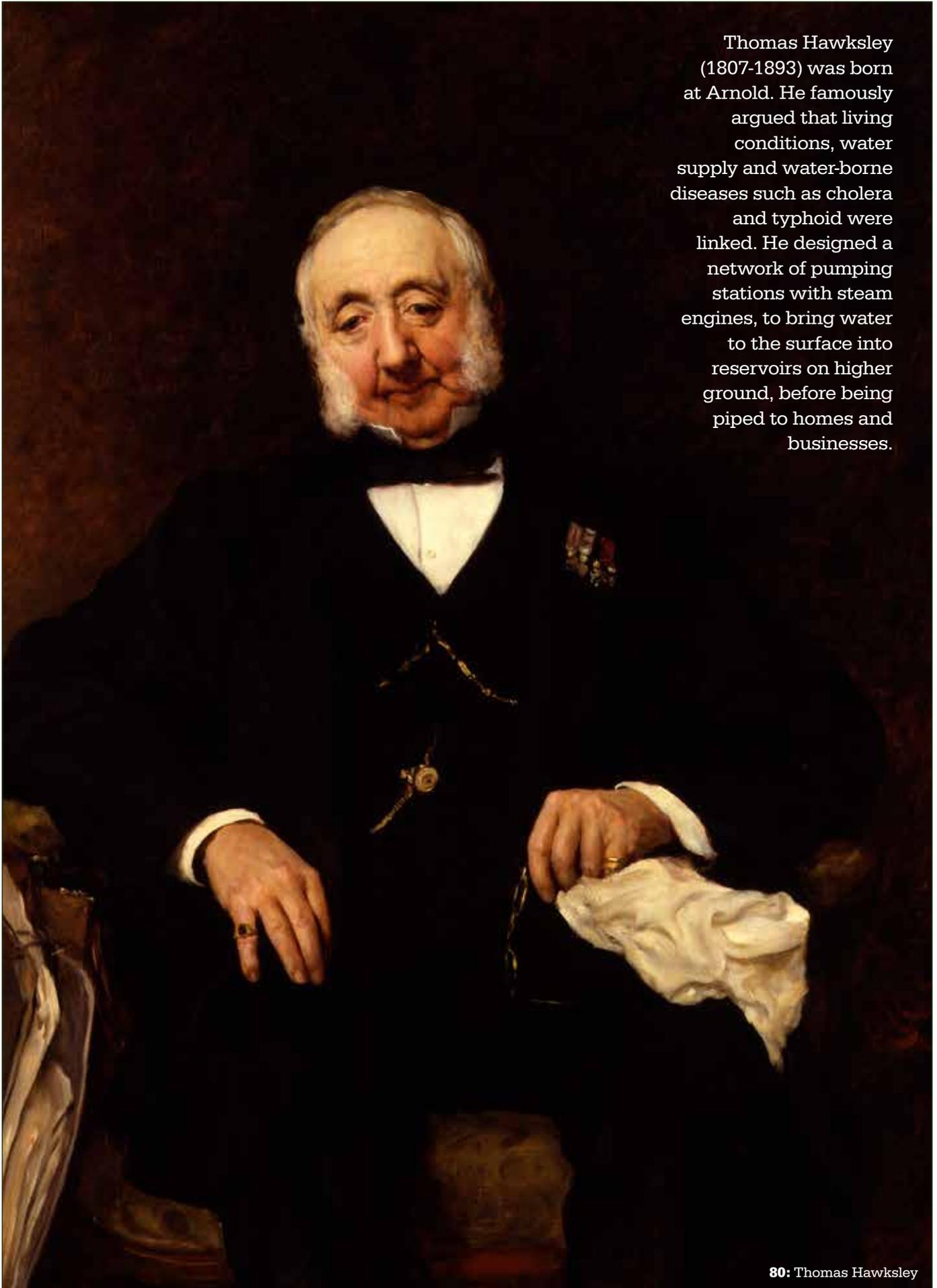
83: Papplewick pumping station, decoration



82: Papplewick pumping station, engine hall

the engine house is richly decorated, following a theme of fresh water. (81, 82, 83) The steam pumping engines were replaced by electric pumps in 1969. Conserved in working order by a charitable trust, the steam engines, as

Thomas Hawksley (1807-1893) was born at Arnold. He famously argued that living conditions, water supply and water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid were linked. He designed a network of pumping stations with steam engines, to bring water to the surface into reservoirs on higher ground, before being piped to homes and businesses.



80: Thomas Hawksley

## Water Treatment and Sewage Disposal

The population in Nottingham increased rapidly in the 19th century. Large numbers of terraced houses and tenement courts were built with shared privies or outdoor closets, the contents of which were removed by 'night-soil' men. When water closets were introduced after about 1850, these effectively drained effluents into the river Leen, already contaminated by discharges from tanning works and from local dyeing and bleaching factories.

In an effort to control the situation, the Leen Valley Sewage Board was established in 1872 and Marriott Ogle Tarbotton was appointed to devise a scheme to dispose of sewage. In 1874 the Nottingham Corporation leased land at Stoke Bardolph for use as a 'sewage farm'. Open channels were dug from the city and in June 1880 raw sewage started to flow, to be spread on the land at Stoke Bardolph. The liquid percolated through the soil and gravel into pre-dug drains, finding its way into the river Trent. Solid matter remained on the surface, was allowed to dry and was later ploughed in, creating fertile land on which a wide variety of crops could be grown.

Workers' cottages were built at the sewage farm in the 1880s, together with stabling for the horses working on the farm. Cowsheds, a

dairy, pigsties, cart sheds, granaries and hay lofts were added and a school was built in the village. By 1900, so much land was being flooded with sewage that it was decided to extend the farm. Additional land was leased and a new 'model' farm was built at Bulcote, together with additional cottages.

It was recorded that in 1910 the estate was home to 777 cattle, 724 sheep and 649 pigs, 141 horses and some 100 men. Steam tractors and ploughing engines were in use and crops were grown for animal feed, with additional amounts brought in by river and train. The large labour force, together with their families, formed close-knit communities, very much involved in social functions such as dances and major events like Harvest Home.

As the years passed, the growth of Nottingham increased the volume of sewage arriving at the site, necessitating improvements in sewage processing. In the 1930s screens were installed to remove solids, with pumping facilities distributing the sludge to prepared lagoons through buried pipes. Sludge digesters were incorporated by 1960 and the resulting sludge gas was used to generate electricity. In 1974 responsibility for sewage disposal was transferred from local authorities to the newly formed Severn Trent Water Authority, later Severn Trent PLC. Major changes were introduced and in 1983 the lagoon system was replaced

by the injection of the sludge directly into the ground, thus releasing more land for growing crops. The legacy of more than a hundred years of depositing sewage and effluents on the land meant that the ground was contaminated and rendered unsuitable for growing crops intended for human consumption. Wheat was sent to be converted into bio-fuel, and rapeseed was sent to be made into plastic bags. The maize grown could be processed for fodder for the dairy herd as the milk was not affected by any contamination.

In 2012 the dairy herd was sold and all the land has since been devoted to energy crops such as maize, rye and energy beet. The processed crops are fed into a digester which generates methane gas. This, together with the gas from the sludge digester, is either burnt to produce electricity or fed into the gas-grid. Together with the electricity produced from the wind turbine built in 2015, more than sufficient energy is generated to run the entire plant, the excess being fed into the electricity grid.

Nowadays, few workers are directly employed on the farms as work is carried out by contractors. The sewage works is an impressive modern plant, the farm buildings reminders of a bygone age.



9.

# Social History

Much of the social history of the residents of the borough of Gedling has not been researched. So often the lives of ordinary people go unrecorded. It is recognised, however, that over the years people in the district have struggled to improve their living standards and that local people have sometimes been caught up in national events.

## **Welfare & Rebellion**

During the Civil War in the 17th century, troops loyal to Charles I were stationed in Newark, while Nottingham was taken by Parliament. On one occasion it was recorded that Royalist soldiers were engaged by a group of Parliamentary Dragoons at Redhill, coming off second best.

In the 1770s there was a round of rioting and frame-breaking in the area, in protest against the hosiers who controlled the trade. Between 1795 and 1815 several more episodes of crowd violence occurred, workers reacting to decreasing pay, increasing prices, shortages of food, poor standards of living and to conditions of employment in the textile trades. The sustained rebellion was also prompted by reduced employment opportunities in the economic slumps during the wars with France. At the same time, changing fashions decreased demand for the style of hosiery produced in the borough.

The Luddite riots which took place between 1811 and 1817 were one phase of the civil agitation. Arnold became a hot-spot for trouble, which then spread to the surrounding villages where framework-knitting was carried out. In March

1811, a mob of protestors assembled in Nottingham and walked to Arnold, where they destroyed 63 frames. The Nottingham Journal reported in November 1811 that more than a thousand rioters had met at Seven Mile House, between Papplewick and Arnold, before marching to Sutton to break up machinery. In January 1812, Charles Shipley's workshop in Linby, which had twelve frames, was attacked by a mob of Luddites. The government viewed the activity of the Luddites as a serious threat, amending the law in order to make the punishment for convicted frame-breakers transportation or execution.

The Chartist movement arose in the 1830s. This was a national campaign to introduce voting rights for ordinary people and to reform the Houses of Parliament. In and around Nottingham, the Chartist cause was strong and in August 1842 there were demonstrations and meetings across the area. A crowd estimated to have been of about five thousand met on Mapperley Hills, just outside the boundary of Nottingham. Although the meeting was peaceful, the local magistrate called on the police and soldiers to disperse the crowd. Four hundred people were arrested in violent scenes and were marched into

Nottingham, towards the prison, crowds attacking the column of prisoners along the way. Eventually most of the rioters were either released without charge or acquitted at trial, although a few were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for their role in the disturbance.

Early in the 19th century there was a high level of poverty and hardship in the borough parishes, because of economic reliance on framework knitting. The Poor Law was altered in 1834 to reduce the cost of looking after the poor and create a system which would be the same all over the country. Under the New Poor Law, parishes were grouped into unions, with each union required to build a workhouse if it did not already have one. The parishes in this part of Nottinghamshire contributed to the workhouse at Basford. Basford Union workhouse, the source of welfare and relief for local people at that time, later became Highbury Hospital. The City of Nottingham used part of their Newstead Abbey estate to build a new hospital for the care of children with tuberculosis. Newstead sanatorium opened in 1942. The hospital finally closed in 1992, and the site was reused for a housing development.

## Wartime in the 20th Century

All the towns and villages in the borough of Gedling were affected in some way by the two World Wars.

During World War 1, men in the borough, as elsewhere, were exhorted to enlist and many were killed or maimed in the fighting. More than 550 names recorded on war memorials across the borough are testimony to the heavy losses felt by local communities. At home, shortages of food and supplies affected the population. On 25th September 1916, civilians living in the borough were directly affected by the conflict when six houses in Dunstan Street, Netherfield were demolished by an exploding bomb dropped from a Zeppelin airship. The same raid damaged houses on Hickling Road in Porchester.

Also during World War 1, Arnot Hill House, built by the Hawksley family and later owned by Arnold Urban District Council, was used by the Red Cross as a convalescence hospital for

wounded servicemen. (84) The stables at Woodborough Manor were used to house German prisoners of war.

In 1919, a landing strip was constructed at Papplewick as a training base for the emerging Royal Air Force. The original aim was to create a full-scale aerodrome but the water-logged soils of the chosen area made this unsuitable. The development was relocated to nearby Hucknall, though the original site on Papplewick Moor was briefly reactivated during World War 2 as an emergency landing site. In October 1940, a 'Fairey Battle' flown by Polish airmen based near Lincoln crashed into the fields near Calverton, killing all three occupants. The memorial erected in Watchwood Plantation is accessible by footpaths through the woodland (Ordnance Survey grid reference SK 605 517) and a ceremony of commemoration is held at the site each year.

In 1941, the schoolroom at the Ebenezer Chapel on Front Street in Arnold was converted into a 'British Restaurant' – a community

facility which served cheap, nourishing hot meals. Nottingham was attacked in air-raids on 8th/9th May 1942. Most of the damage was in the city centre, the Meadows and Sneinton. However, it is known that within Arnold and Carlton Urban Districts one family were killed, when their house on Morley Road (Porchester) was destroyed by a bomb.

Some local estates and businesses were taken over to assist the war effort. In Netherfield, Lawrence's furniture factory was converted to assemble aircraft and Bourne's Mill was used to manufacture parts for aero-engines. Bestwood Lodge was requisitioned by the army in 1939, becoming the Northern Command headquarters, and remaining in military hands until 1976. Woodborough Hall, requisitioned as the home of the commander of 12th Fighter Group in charge of air defence in the Midlands, was later transferred to the use of the commander of the 49th Infantry Division.

On the hilltop between Lambley and Burton Joyce was a base used by Royal Observer Corps spotters. Another hilltop site, Arnold Lodge (near Dorket Head and on the boundary of the parish of Lambley), became the location for a heavy anti-aircraft battery. A hexagonal concrete and brick pillbox still stands here, next to the junction of Woodborough Lane with Nottingham Road. The site was later used as a camp for Italian (and later German) prisoners of war.



84: Arnot Hill House

The relative safety of the area allowed the government to evacuate civilians from other parts of the country to local villages. Linby, for example, became home to evacuated school children, Woodborough to children from northern cities, mainly Sheffield, and Burton Joyce to children from Leeds.

## **Post-war development.**

Since 1945 Britain has undergone a gradual process of change. The borough of Gedling, created in 1974, typifies many of these developments.

### **Housing and population**

The population of the borough has continued to expand in the post-war period. Housing development has been particularly marked in the Arnold-Carlton conurbation, where the borough borders the city of Nottingham, but each of the other settlements has also seen some expansion. In the early 1950s, a shortage of housing prompted the erection of pre-fabricated concrete homes in Arnold. By 1955 Arnold Urban District Council had celebrated building the 1000th council house, and in 1963 the 2000th. In the period between 1894 and 1974 more than 10,000 private houses were built in Arnold, as well as 2,500 council-owned homes. The enlargement of the conurbation has continued since 1974, with the building of large numbers of new homes to replace sub-standard older properties and to regenerate former industrial sites, such as

those in Colwick and Netherfield.

Calverton has expanded significantly since 1950. Ravenshead is a comparatively modern development, large-scale building not commencing until the early 1950s, with the greatest increase in housing occurring during the 1960s and 1970s.

### **Industry and employment**

Since 1970 the closure of the mines and railway yards and the decline of manufacturing industry, such as textiles, have affected employment in the borough. The service sector, including retail, transport and IT services, has become a more important source of employment. Development of smaller industrial units has provided employment locally, although many of the residents now work from home, are self-employed or travel out of the borough for work.

### **Leisure and recreation**

After 1945 there was a movement to create spaces for outdoor play. Playing fields were laid out in the major towns as well as in most villages. A swimming pool was opened in Arnold in the inter-war period, and more recently modern pools have been provided at Arnold, Carlton and Calverton. A late 20th century trend was the creating of leisure centres, such as those built at Arnold, Carlton Forum, Calverton and Ravenshead. Libraries were opened in Arnold and Carlton in the Edwardian period, becoming the responsibility of the County Council after 1945. Carlton library was expanded and

refurbished, while there are now modern libraries in Arnold, Burton Joyce, Calverton, Calverton, Gedling, Mapperley, Ravenshead and Woodthorpe, all now the responsibility of Inspire Culture.

Film-going was a popular recreation between the wars. Four cinemas survived in the Borough in 1950. These were the Bonington Cinema in Arnold, which had been rebuilt in 1929, the Cozy Cinema in Netherfield (rebuilt in 1930) and the Regal (rebuilt in 1930) and Ritz (purpose-built in 1936) in Carlton. The Cozy closed in 1955 and was thereafter used as a workshop space. The Bonington closed in 1957 and was demolished in 1963. The Regal closed in 1959 and was re-used for several purposes before being converted into a church in 1980. The Ritz survived as a cinema until 1968, when it was converted into a bingo hall. It finally closed and was demolished in the 1990s. The present Bonington Theatre in Arnold is part of a modern complex which includes the leisure centre and library, built in 1979. The Bonington is used for music events and stage shows as well as being used as a cinema, and it is now the responsibility of Gedling Borough Council.

### **Shopping**

Victorian and Edwardian housing developments included general shops, usually located at street corners. Estates built after the 1930s included parades of shops in accessible roadside locations. Since the 1960s, shopping in

the borough of Gedling has been transformed. In Arnold shopping streets in the town centre were rebuilt in the 1970s and 80s, and part of Front Street was pedestrianised in 1975. Pedestrian precincts including shops, libraries and healthcare facilities were built in Carlton (1965), Calverton (1963) and Ravenshead (1969). By the 1980s supermarket chains had expanded. Fine Fare (later Asda) moved onto Front Street in Arnold in 1973 and in 1985 Tesco was built next to Carlton Square. The redevelopment of former industrial sites in the 1990s presented opportunities for the development of retail superstores such as those found at Daybrook, on the site of the railway station, Arnold, on the Home Brewery site, and Victoria Retail Park, on the site of Colwick railway yards. (85)

### **Transport**

The decline of the railway system has been a feature of the borough during the period since World War 2, including the closure of the former Great Northern suburban lines. The surviving passenger stations, Burton Joyce, Carlton, Netherfield and Newstead lost their original buildings but still provide commuter services to Nottingham. There are no goods stations remaining. Public road transport has also been remodelled. Although trolley buses no longer travel to and from Carlton, an extensive network of motor bus routes in the south of the borough has been developed by Nottingham City Transport. Since 1945 private

ownership of road vehicles has greatly increased. Roads have become noticeably busier with both cars and goods vehicles. An important road improvement of the post-war period has been the construction of the Colwick Loop Road to remove through traffic from Carlton, Gedling Village and Netherfield.

### **Environment**

Throughout the borough the post-war period has brought greater emphasis on environmental improvement of derelict sites. The claypits formerly serving brickyards on Carlton Hill and Standhill Road in Carlton and at Thorneywood fell into disuse in the late 1950s. The Thorneywood brickworks was subsequently landscaped for housing, while the Standhill Road and Carlton Hill sites have been reclaimed as playing fields. The spoil heaps bordering former collieries at Bestwood and Gedling have been transformed into country parks, while sites at Newstead and Calverton are in the process of reclamation. At Burntstump Hill and Dorket Head former quarries have been used for landfill and the gravel pits and sludge lagoons at Netherfield have become wetland habitat. At Linby and Arnold derelict railway lines have been transformed into linear nature reserves.

Throughout this period there has been increasing emphasis on using the countryside for recreation. Since 1948 the network of rights-of-way has been defined and improved, with signage and improved

access. Numerous nature reserves with open access have been created, as well as the country parks mentioned earlier. Many of the nature reserves and country parks have Friends, groups of volunteers who maintain them.

### **Heritage**

Since the advent of the 21st century, there has been a greater awareness of heritage in the borough of Gedling, as elsewhere. The present project is one outcome of this, with further scope still for detailed work to be carried out on oral history, recording the history and heritage of everyday life and lives. Increased awareness of the importance of heritage is accompanied in the borough by an increase in re-purposing historic buildings. Within the borough, noteworthy examples are the conversion of the Home Brewery building to offices, and the adapting of the Bestwood Hotel, Morley's factory at Daybrook and the former Carlton Brewery as housing schemes.



85: Victoria Retail Park

## For More Information

### Appendix A: Printed publications

The following books and publications provide further information about various strands of the history and heritage of the borough of Gedling.

Adamson, D. & Dewar P., 1974. *The House of Nell Gwyn: The Fortunes of the Beauclerk Family 1670-1974*, London.

Beckett, J. V., 2002. *Byron and Newstead: The Aristocrat and the Abbey*, Newark, Delaware.

Brecknock, A. 1926. *Byron: A Study of the Poet in the Light of New Discoveries*, London.

Buckland, W.E., 1897. *The History of Woodborough*, Nottingham

Chambers, J.D., 1932. *Nottinghamshire in the Eighteenth Century*, 2nd ed Nottingham.

Coope, R. & Smith J., 2014. *Newstead Abbey, A Nottinghamshire Country House: Its Owners and Architectural History 1540 -1931*, Nottingham.

Doona, E. & Torell, P., 2007. *Turning Back the Pages of Old Carlton*, Nottingham.

Doubleday, W.E., 1942. *Notts villages: Bestwood*, Nottingham Guardian.

Gerring, C., 1908. *A History of the Parish of Gedling in the County of Nottingham*, Nottingham.

Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.M., 1940. *The Place-names of Nottinghamshire*, Nottingham.

Guilford, E., 1924. *Nottinghamshire in 1676, Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, 28, pp.106–113.

Illingworth Butler, L. 1953. *Linby and Papplewick Notebook*, Nottingham.

Jennings, G., 1992. *Carlton, Netherfield and Colwick*, Keyworth.

Jones, P., 2009. *Turning Back the Pages in Ravenshead*, Nottingham.

Keyworth, T., 2018. *The Nottingham Works of Thomas Hawksley*, London.

King, R.W. & Russell, J. eds., 1913. *A History of Arnold, Nottinghamshire*, Nottingham.

Marshall, J.D., 1956. *Early Applications of Steam Power: The Cotton Mills of the Upper Leen, Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, 60, pp.34–43

Massey, Bob, 2015. *Snippets from History, vol 1: Arnold and Mapperley*, Leamington Spa.

Massey, Bob, 2016. *Snippets from History, vol 2: Arnold, Mapperley and the Villages*, Leamington Spa.

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Mastoris, S. & Groves, S. eds., 1997. *Sherwood Forest in 1609: A Crown survey by Richard Bankes*, Nottingham.

Mellors, R., 1913. The Old North Road. in R.W. King & J. Russell, eds. *A history of Arnold, Nottinghamshire*, Nottingham: pp.21-24.

Mellors, R., The Arnold Mill, In R. King & J. Russell, eds. *A history of Arnold, Nottinghamshire*. Nottingham: pp. 87-90.

Negus, K. 1993. *Arnold on Old Picture Postcards, Vol 2*, Keyworth.

Parr, A., 1987. *Bestwood, the story of a village*, Chorley.

Spick, M.W., 2000. *Images of England: Arnold*, Stoud.

Swift, R.C., 1982. *Lively People, Methodism in Nottingham 1749-1979*, Nottingham.

Tann, J. ed., 1981. *The Collected Papers of Boulton and Watt*, London.

Throsby, J., 1796. *Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire*, Nottingham.

Waite, P.B., 2007. *Loco village, The birth and growth of Netherfield*, 2nd edn, Nottingham.

Walker, S.J., 2015. The Leen valley cotton mills of George Robinson and Sons, 1778-1830. In C. Wrigley, ed. *The Industrial Revolution: Cromford, The Derwent Valley and the Wider World*. Cromford: pp.72-107.

Walker, S.J., 2017. A review of the archaeological remains of the Robinson mills in the Leen valley, Nottinghamshire. *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, 121, pp.117-148.

Walker, V., 1940. *Newstead Priory Cartulary 1344 and other archives*, Thoroton Society record series, 8.

Weir, C. ed., 1986. *From village to town, Arnold 1800-1900*, Nottingham.

White, W., 1832. *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Nottinghamshire*, Nottingham.

Womble, C.J., 1998. *A place called Papplewick volume 4*, Privately published.

## Appendix B: Web-based resources

These webpages are particularly useful. The list only covers specific sites, rather than those which might be revealed by a general search for places. (sites accessed in January 2019)

<http://moorpond.papplewick.org>  
Moor Pond Woods nature & archaeology site

[http://nottsheritage.co.uk/directory\\_listing/calverton-folk-museum](http://nottsheritage.co.uk/directory_listing/calverton-folk-museum)  
Calverton folk museum

<http://www.allhallowsgedling.co.uk>  
Gedling village trail

<http://www.fbc.org.uk>  
Friends of Bestwood Country Park

<http://www.gedlingconservationtrust.org>  
Netherfield Lagoons nature site

<https://www.gedlingcountrypark.org.uk>  
Gedling Country Park

<http://www.gedlingheritage.co.uk>  
Gedling Borough heritage digital gateway

<http://www.lambleyheritage.co.uk>  
Lambley village trail

<http://www.newsteadabbey.org.uk>  
Newstead Abbey house and gardens

<http://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org>  
Foxcovert plantation nature site

<http://www.papplewick.org>  
Papplewick conservation area

<http://www.papplewickpumpingstation.org.uk>  
Papplewick pumping station

<http://www.ruralcommunityactionnottinghamshire.co.uk>  
Newstead-Annesley Country Park

<https://www.woodborough-heritage.org.uk>  
Woodborough village history group

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HycVeagmFdA>  
Pit ponies

## Appendix C:

### Licensed Victuallers in the Borough of Gedling in 1823

No.	Alehouse	1823 Licensed Victualler	Settlement	Pub Still Trades 2018	Notes
1	Black Swan	John Cokayne	Arnold		Arnold
2	Cross Keys	William Dickenson	Arnold	✓	Arnold
3	Horse & Jockey	John Rhodes	Arnold	✓	Now named Eagles Corner
4	Joiners Arms	Thomas Rhodes	Arnold		Arnold
5	Old Spot	Peter Bramley	Arnold	✓	Now named The Coopers Brook
6	Ram	Robert Atkins	Arnold	✓	Arnold
7	Robin Hood & Little John	Elizabeth Rimmer	Arnold	✓	Arnold
8	Seven Stars	John Robinson	Arnold		Closed and demolished in 1969
9	Three Crowns	Peter Bramley	Arnold		Arnold
10	White Hart	Sarah Hickling	Arnold		Replaced in 1964; the new pub also now demolished.
11	Horse & Groom	Elizabeth Merrill	Linby	✓	Linby
12	The Hut	Martha Mealey William Palin	Newstead	✓	Now named The Hutt
13	Griffin's Head	William Bell	Papplewick	✓	Grade II-listed building
14	Swan & Salmon	John Blatherwick	Burton Joyce		Burton Joyce



86: Redhill, The Ram



87: Calverton, The Admiral Rodney

No.	Alehouse	1823 Licensed Victualler	Settlement	Pub Still Trades 2018	Notes
15	Wheatsheaf	Samual Taylor	Burton Joyce	✓	Replaced earlier pub building in the 1930s
16	Rodney	Christopher Beckett	Calverton	✓	Now named Admiral Rodney
17	White Lion	Joseph Brunt	Calverton	✓	Now named Oscars
18	Blacks Head	George Savidge	Carlton	✓	Carlton
19	Royal Oak	Thomas Cave	Carlton	✓	Rebuilt in the 1930s, now named Inn for a Penny
20	Volunteer	George Savidge	Carlton	✓	Now named Old Volunteer
21	Windsor Castle	Elizabeth Rowe	Carlton		Carlton
22	Chesterfield Arms	Thomas Brierley	Gedling	✓	Now named Gedling Inn
23	Chequers	Samuel Kirk	Lambley		
24	Free Masons Arms	Mordecai Brownley	Lambley		
25	Boat	Elizabeth Bosworth/ William Cupit	Stoke Bardolph	✓	Now named The Ferry Boat
26	Cock & Falcon	Thomas Wood	Woodborough		
27	Four Bells	John Gadsby	Woodborough	✓	Replaced earlier pub building in the 1920s
28	Punch Bowl	William Hogg	Woodborough		



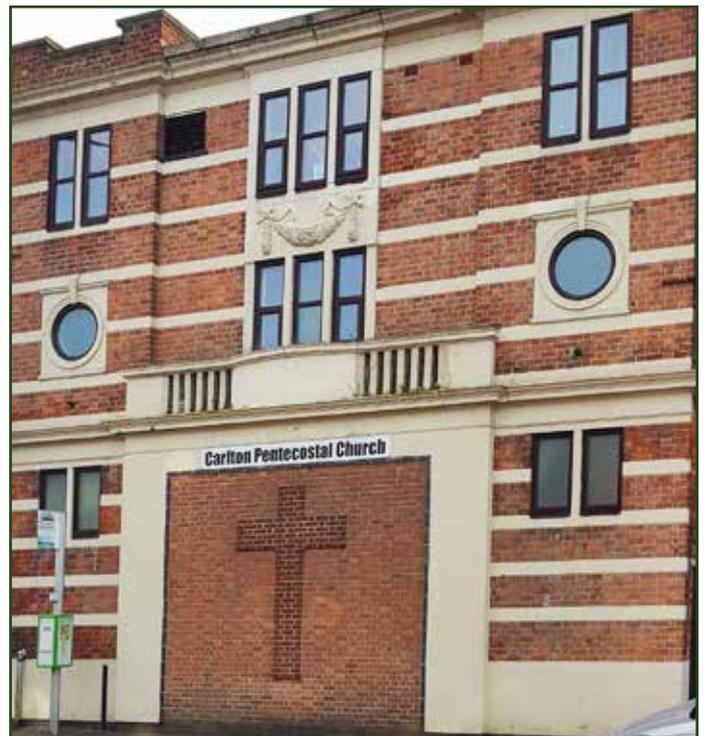
## Other heritage buildings in the borough



The offices of the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company (1881) are now part of the Bestwood Business Centre.



The Carnegie Free Library (1902) and caretaker's house in Carlton, combined in use as the enlarged Carlton Library.



The former Regal Cinema (1930) in Carlton, now used as a church.





Gedling Borough  
**Heritage**  
Brought Alive

