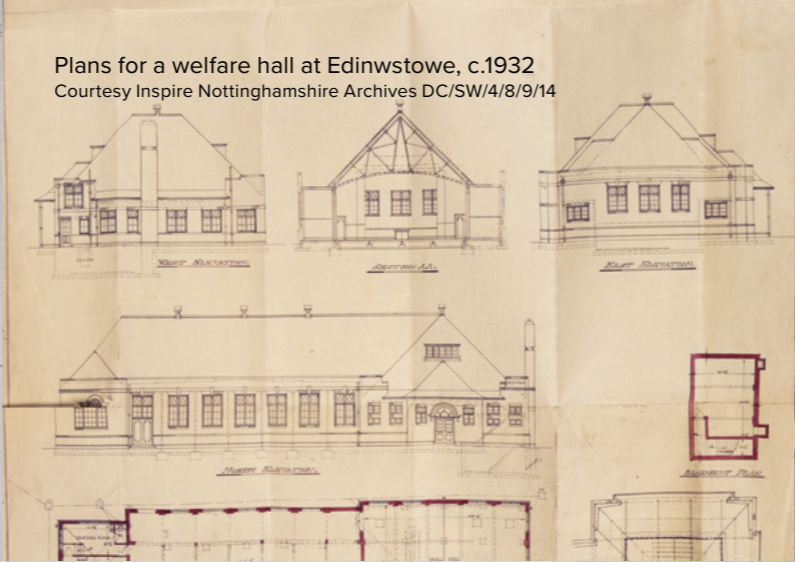
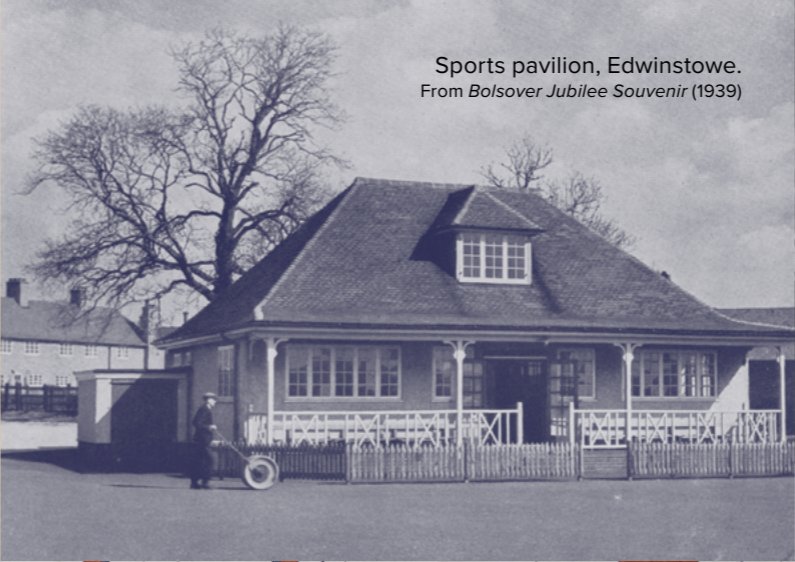




Colliery officials' housing, Ollerton Road  
 Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives, DC/SW/4/8/9/3



Plans for a welfare hall at Edinwstowe, c.1932  
 Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives DC/SW/4/8/9/14



Sports pavilion, Edinwstowe.  
 From Bolsover Jubilee Souvenir (1939)



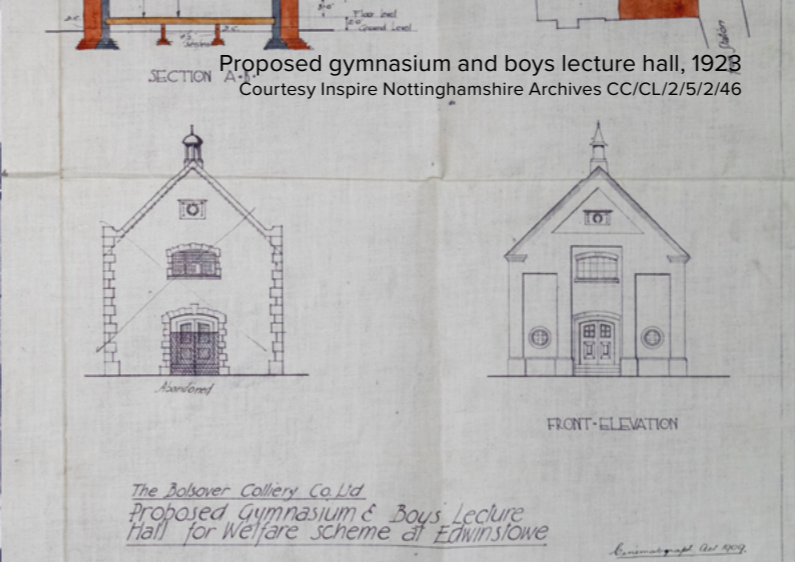
Thoresby Colliery, Edinwstowe, 1939  
 From Bolsover Jubilee Souvenir (1939)  
 Courtesy University of Nottingham Libraries



Edinwstowe Hall, 1939  
 From Bolsover Jubilee Souvenir (1939)



Edinwstowe miners' housing, 1939  
 From Bolsover Jubilee Souvenir (1939)



Proposed gymnasium and boys lecture hall, 1923  
 Courtesy Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives CC/CL/2/5/2/46

EDWINSTOWE  
 Model Villages of the  
 Nottinghamshire Coalfield  
 Guidebook 8

**COMPANY & VILLAGE**

When Thoresby Colliery (1) closed in 2015 it was the last remaining coal mine in Nottinghamshire, and one of the last deep mines operating in the UK, which was testament to its efficiency and productivity. It was also the last colliery founded by the Bolsover Colliery Company before the realities of falling global demand became apparent in the late 1920s. The initial plans were for a colliery village of 956 houses but only 497 were built. Sinking began in 1925 and work could have begun sooner were it not for the reticence of the landowner Earl Manvers. Manvers feared that country life at Edinwstowe would be compromised by the huge changes necessitated; mass housing, transport infrastructure and industrial plant. Nevertheless the potential earnings gained from coal royalties became too good to resist, so much in fact that it eventually became Manvers' main source of income. This revenue was brought to a close by the 1938 Coal Act when royalties were bought out by the government. Until then however, aristocrats such as Earl Manvers had an influence on how the industry should be conducted, but this was sometimes at odds with the power of the colliery companies.

To some degree the tension between the respective power of the aristocracy and the colliery companies was played out in the urban form of Thoresby model village at Edinwstowe. There was a genuine social divide in the village along the High Street (2); between the colliery company estate in the west; and the rural village in the east. Manvers succeeded in preventing a mineral railway line from running through the Birklands of Sherwood Forest in the north (3), and instead it had to arrive via a cutting beneath Ollerton Road in the east (4). Thoresby became the first all electric colliery in the country so that chimneys would not disfigure the Dukeries landscape.

**HOUSING**

Despite such tensions, in other instances there was a degree of harmony with the colliery companies, particularly in the paternalist approach to tied housing for its workers. In 1923 the agents for the Savile and Manvers estates agreed that the new colliery villages should not encroach on their country seats: Ollerton was to remain east of the Maun, while Edinwstowe was developed no further south than the railway line. Manvers also sold a number of buildings to the colliery company, which in some ways perpetuated the culture of deference to the squirearchy. Perhaps the most telling example were the Georgian country homes acquired by the Bolsover Colliery Company. Edinwstowe Hall (5) became a Welfare Centre in 1923, while the Managing Director of the company, T. E. B. Young, resided at Edinwstowe House (6).

The Bolsover Company built new housing for management, which was positioned east of the model village and close to the colliery entrance on Ollerton Road. The manager Charles Edward Woodward lived in a large detached house called Edinwstowe Lodge (7), though this was later demolished in the post-war period to make way for the Maid Marion Drive estate. Nearby at The Villas (8), on 1-4 Ollerton Road, the Chief Clerk, Head Electrician and Head Engineer lived in spacious semi-detached accommodation of two types. The pair nearest the colliery was the largest with 4 bed, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, attic room and bay window. The type nearest the village was smaller and with no attic room or bay window.

Original plans for miners' housing from 1928 show that the architectural practice responsible was Percy B Houfton of Chesterfield. However, Houfton had died in 1926, so it is likely that work was conducted by his former colleagues. Like Houfton's earlier designs (Bolsover, Rainworth and Clipstone), Edinwstowe was built with an egalitarian mixture of house

types throughout the estate, with five types each of parlour and non-parlour houses, in order to accommodate corner plots, semi-detached and groups of three or four. All houses were designed with three bedrooms, bathroom, toilet, living room, scullery, larder, cooking range, back boiler and coal house. The rectilinear plan form of the model village was very similar to that at Clipstone, with occasional crescents and cul-de-sacs setback from linear routes. Architecturally, the houses also shared similarities, such as the fenestration and entrance entablature, but overall the approach was a little cleaner with no pantiles or facing gables. Oral history accounts show that there was preference among overmen for First Avenue, (9) while Fifth Avenue (10) was considered least desirable.

**AMENITIES**

By 1931 the village had grown to a population of 2,818 people and this necessitated a wide variety of amenities. The earliest and best surviving amenity building is the Gymnasium (11) which was built next to Edinwstowe Hall and designed in 1923. It featured a hall, office, classroom, balcony, stores, concrete ceiling and ventilator. A Bolsover Colliery Co plaque in the central pediment can still be seen from Church Street. By 1932 the bowling (12) and putting green had been laid out and this was followed by a pavilion (13) and sports ground opened four years later. Until an adequate Miners' Institute was built, accommodation was found in 'The Club', which is now a clinic on Fourth Avenue (14). The Thoresby Miners' Institute (15) was built in 1939 by Bolsover Colliery Co but was demolished in 1996 and replaced with a nursing home. On the opposite side of the central square; the Welfare Hall has also been demolished (16). This was built in 1932-3 and designed by the architects Cursk, Howard and Lane of Mansfield. In the post-war period the County Council provided a new library on the High Street, using the prefabricated modernist CLASP system, specifically designed to be resilient to movement in mining areas (17).

**EDWINSTOWE**  
 Model Villages of the  
 Nottinghamshire Coalfield  
 Guidebook 8

The Nottinghamshire colliery villages that were developed during the inter-war period were spectacular in size, modernity, technology, workforce, housing, amenities and investment. They gave the industry a future during a time of contraction.

Only traces of the Nottinghamshire coal-mining industry remain but what have survived are the colliery villages. Together they reflect the evolution of mining in the region and the ambition of the colliery companies who built them.

This guidebook is the result of a research project on the Nottinghamshire Coalfield set by the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership Scheme, managed by Nottinghamshire County Council and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Research was undertaken by Clare Hartwell and Chris Matthews. Design work by Chris Matthews.

For more information please visit:  
<https://miner2major.nottinghamshire.gov.uk>





# EDWINSTOWE

## Model Villages of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield

### Guidebook 8

#### LOCATIONS

- 1 Site of Thoresby Colliery  
Closed in 2015
- 2 Edwinstowe High Street
- 3 Major Oak  
Birklands, Sherwood Forest
- 4 Colliery Railway Cutting
- 5 Edwinstowe Hall  
Became a Welfare Centre in 1923
- 6 Edwinstowe House  
Former home of the managing director
- 7 Site of Edwinstowe Lodge  
Demolished, former home of the colliery manager
- 8 The Villas  
Purpose built homes for colliery officials
- 9 First Avenue  
Formally a desirable street for engineers and miners
- 10 Fifth Avenue  
Formally a street reserved for short-term miners
- 11 Former Gymnasium
- 12 Bowling Green
- 13 Sports Pavilion  
Now Thoresby Football Club and Cricket Club
- 14 'The Club'  
A temporary Miners' Institute, now a clinic
- 15 Site of Thoresby Miners' Institute  
Demolished 1996
- 16 Site of Welfare Hall  
Recently demolished
- 17 Edwinstowe Library

#### BUILDINGS



5



6



8



9



11



17

