

Walking & Cycling Guide

Aspley, Broxtowe & Cinderhill

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GARDEN CITY

Aspley, Cinderhill & Broxtowe



Aspley Hall Cottages

This area is home to Nottingham's largest example of the Garden City, an urban planning concept that sought to bring together aspects of town, country and industry. Built during the 1920s and 30s, these council houses marked the biggest advance of living standards in Nottingham's history; all were supplied with running water, flushing toilet, gas, gardens and electric fittings - amenities which thousands had previously been deprived of. The fresh air from these hills must have appealed to the council house tenants as they left behind them not only the smokestacks of the city, but also the slums of Narrow Marsh.

In the rush to make these improvements little thought was given to preserving evidence of the past, except for Thomas North's collieries and railway lines, many of which were still producing coal at that time. The decline in coal mining during the final decades of the twentieth century has meant that today there are no immediate signs of pit heads, coal stacks or wagons. Yet if we look hard enough we can see the scars and relics that remain a distinctive part of a landscape marked by a complex network of former collieries with Cinderhill pit at the centre.

There is little left of Broxtowe Hall or Aspley Hall, homes of the notable Helwys and Birkin families. At Broxtowe Hall Close (1) there survives a perimeter wall, while the cottages which served Aspley Hall stand proud on Aspley Lane (2). Visible remains of ancient Broxtowe or Aspley, the Roman encampment and Anglo Saxon meeting place are long gone, however it is possible to imagine their ancient geographical importance from their elevated position.

1. Cinderhill Colliery

Cinderhill pit (3) was an enormous industrial complex and one of Nottinghamshire's first deep pits, pioneering powerful winding engines, ventilation and lighting. When it closed in 1986 it employed just under 1000 people, produced around ½ million tons of coal per year, and had an underground link to Hucknall colliery in order to reduce road traffic. The only visible reminder of this incredible undertaking is the man-made hill known as Stanton Tip (4), a slag heap of unwanted earth. Phoenix Park was built on the colliery site during the 90s and there is a plaque in a small roundabout commemorating the colliery.

Confusingly, Cinderhill pit is also known as Babbington, which is a village of that name nearly 5 miles west of here. This is all down to the nineteenth century mining entrepreneur Thomas North who sank Cinderhill colliery in 1841. When he died his portfolio of collieries, which included Newcastle (5), Broxtowe (6), Strelley and Babbington were grouped together and known collectively as 'The Babbington Estate' - Babbington



Cinderhill Colliery in 1985*

being one of his earliest. It is well known that North died in debt in 1868 as Collieries such as Cinderhill required large investments: engines, timber yards, repair work, brick yards, horses, ropes and drainage. But had he lived just another three years he would have seen the fruits of his labour. At his funeral crowds lined the streets to pay their respects and raise funds for a memorial which still stands in a graveyard off Church St in Basford (7). Many were thankful that he had provided employment and housing for people who had previously struggled as Framework Knitters.

2. Colliery Lines & Relics

If Babbington was one of Thomas North's earliest mines then Cinderhill was certainly his largest, sitting at the centre of a huge network of collieries. One of these collieries was Broxtowe Wood and today the pathways still roughly mark the route (8) of a railway line running southward from Cinderhill and



Christ Church, Cinderhill*



Cinderhill Rd Bridge over former colliery line

then westward to Babbington. The NET tram from Phoenix Park to Highbury Vale follows the original colliery line (9) which formerly connected with the Nottingham to Mansfield line. The Victorian bridges crossing the line are still in use either side of the Cinderhill tram stop.

At the rear of Aspley Library is a car free route (10) to Keverne Close, the legacy of another railway track from Cinderhill through the medieval Quarry Holes Plantation (11) and then to Melbourne Park where there was a pit known as Newcastle colliery, so called because the Duke of Newcastle was formerly a major landowner here. Also, note the Newcastle Arms pub (12) and miners' cottages (13) nearby on Nuthall Road. North also provided housing for his workers along Cinderhill Road but sadly these cottages have all gone, but what does remain is the Grade II listed Christ Church, which was financed by North in 1856 (14). Less than a stone's throw is Basford Hall (15), North's former residence and later a Miners' Welfare.

3. A Garden City

In Nottingham after the First World War there were still some 30,000 pail closets (a steel bucket for a toilet), serious overcrowding and houses without water, gas or electricity. The situation was urgent and the city embarked on a slum clearance and council house building programme.

Nottingham became known as one of the largest and fastest builders in the country: nearly 17,500 council houses were built in the 1920s and 30s, about quarter of which included Aspley, Bells Lane, Broxtowe, Denewood Crescent and Stockhill. This huge undertaking followed national guidelines for "Garden Cities" which decreed that suburban housing should be based on the traditional countryside cottage with proper sanitation, parks, gardens, wide roads and plenty of space.

Stockhill Lane (16) was among the earliest Garden City council estates in Nottingham, complete during the 20s, while Aspley (17) was begun towards the end of that decade. The success of this meant that in 1932 the city was allowed to extend its



Exbourne Road, Aspley



Denewood Crescent

boundaries and build upon the fields of Bilborough, allowing Broxtowe (18), Bells Lane (19) and Denewood Crescent (20) to be completed during the 30s. These houses followed designs by T. C. Howitt, who sought to create "variation in a formal setting", with housing planned around radial routes and given differences with facing gables, mansard or hipped roofs.

4. The 1920s & 30s



Ring road under construction during 1933*



Aspley Library roof lantern

This was a period marked by new roads, branch libraries and a style all of its own. Road building and widening was necessary to accommodate not only rising car ownership, but also new motor and trolley buses, which were then replacing tramlines. Until the 1920s Nuthall Road at Cinderhill had the appearance of an old country lane with miners' cottages nestling beside it; The Nuthall pub (21) and the Elms (22) still preserve part of the original route. But the largest road scheme was the ring road of Middleton Boulevard, Western Boulevard and Valley Road (23). This was one of the last pieces of work by City Engineer T Wallis Gordon and was designed to follow the example of Nottingham's Victorian ring road (Castle Boulevard - Gregory Boulevard).

These two decades were also marked by the building of 6 new branch libraries, which culminated in the art deco Aspley Library (24) of 1937, with a stock of some 10,000 books. Designed by Gordon's successor, R.M. Finch, the library features a remarkable lantern and was described at its opening as "set in a garden at the gate of a Garden City". Along Aspley Lane and Nuthall Road, the shops, pubs and churches tell us more about the prevailing style of the Garden City movement which was imitating the countryside; mock-Tudor timber frames and medieval Gothic; the best examples being the Tudor Lodge (25), The Beacon pub (26), St Margaret's Church (27) and the row of shops on the junction of Broxtowe Lane and Strelley Road (28).





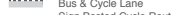
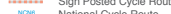
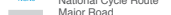





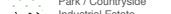
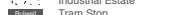

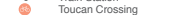






From top left, to right: Basford Miners' Welfare; The Newcastle Arms Pub; Christ Church Cinderhill; The Nuthall pub (formally the Broxtowe Inn); St Margaret's Church, Aspley Lane; The Elms, Nuthall Road; Broxtowe Country Park.

Walking & Cycling Map

Aspley, Cinderhill & Broxtowe

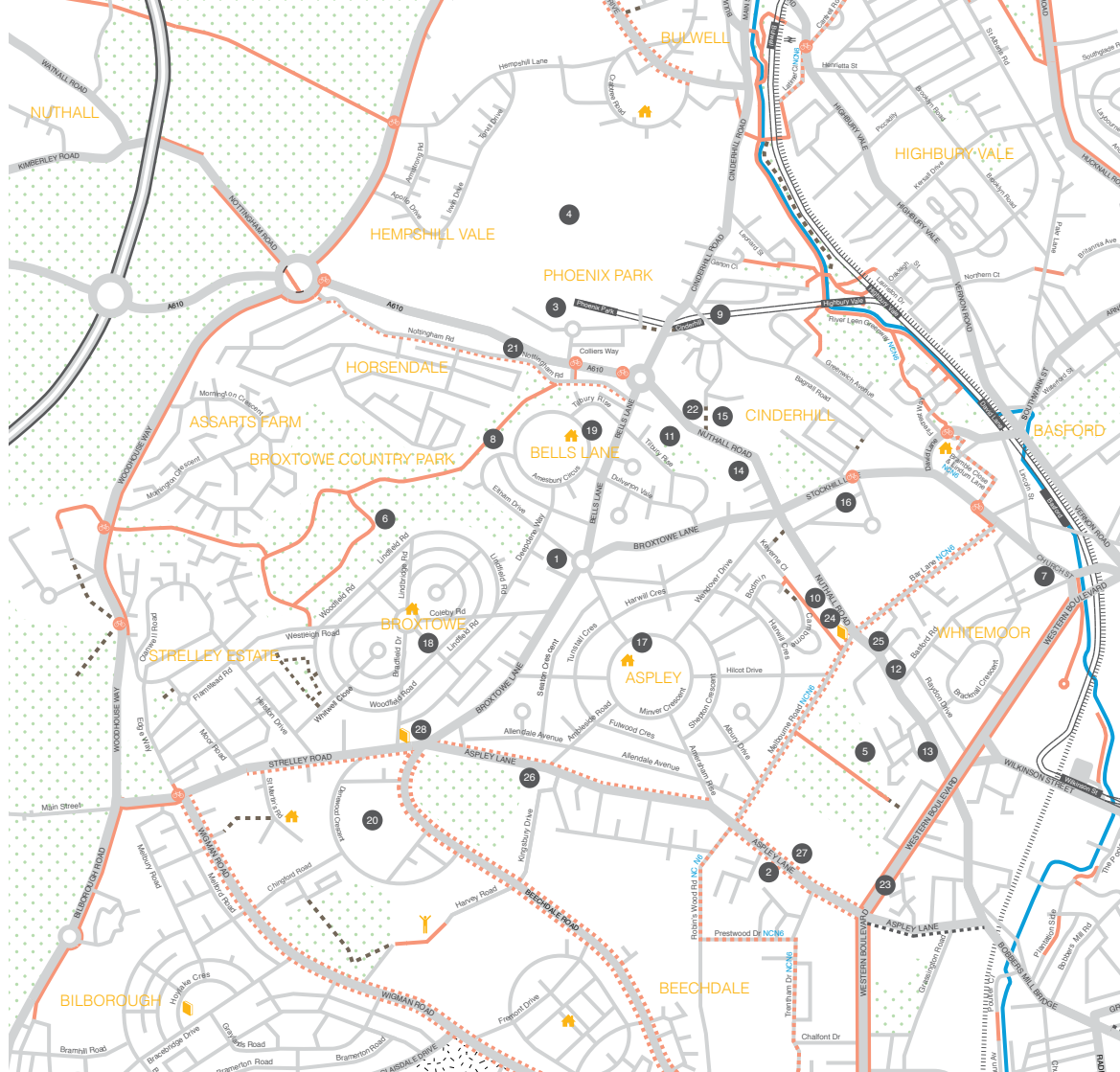
Key

-  Cycle / Pedestrian Path
-  Pedestrians Only
-  Off Road Cycle Lane
-  On Road Cycle Lane
-  Bus & Cycle Lane
-  Sign Posted Cycle Route
-  National Cycle Route
-  Minor Road (recommended for cycling)
-  Motorway
-  Rail Line
-  Tram Line
-  River Leen
-  Park / Countryside
-  Industrial Estate
-  Tram Stop
-  Train Station
-  Toucan Crossing
-  Library
-  Leisure Centre
-  Community Centre



History

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Remains of Broxtowe Hall 2 Aspley Hall Cottages 3 Site of Cinderhill Colliery 4 Stanton Tip 5 Site of Newcastle Colliery 6 Site of Broxtowe Colliery 7 Thomas North Memorial 8 Railway to Broxtowe Colliery 9 Railway to Cinderhill Colliery 10 Railway to Newcastle Colliery 11 Quarry Holes Plantation 12 Newcastle Arms Pub 13 Miners' Cottages 14 Christ Church 15 Basford Hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Stockhill Lane 17 Aspley Estate 18 Broxtowe Estate 19 Bells Lane Estate 20 Denewood Crescent 21 The Nuthall Pub 22 The Elms 23 The 1930s Ring Road 24 Aspley Library 25 Tudor Lodge 26 Beacon Pub 27 St Margaret's Church 28 Tudor style shops |
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Aspley, Cinderhill & Broxtowe

Welcome to the free walking and cycling guide for the Aspley, Cinderhill and Broxtowe suburbs. We're delighted to bring you this unique insight into the history of this part of Nottingham. If you'd like to find out more about walking or cycling, organised rides and walks or how to plan your journey, then visit www.travelright.org.uk or call 0115 883 3732.

You can download this map by visiting www.travelright.org.uk/aspley



Nottingham
City Council

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Cover image

Council housing on Aspley Lane*

*images courtesy www.picturethepast.co.uk