



How has coal mining shaped where we live?



Year 6
Summer

Nottinghamshire Mining through the Centuries:

1200s: Surface coal mining at Selston and Cossall.

1400s: deeper mining using shafts, timbers and gravity draining at Selston.

1500s/1600s: mines remain shallow but profitable – The land owners at Wollaton and Strelley go into competition. Mining at Wollaton becomes profitable enough to build Wollaton Hall. By 1620 Strelley mine is not a success, is mortgaged and then closed.

1700s: deeper mines were sunk as water could be pumped out using steam engines. New canals built increased competition with Derbyshire mines. Price for coal drops.

1800s: Many new pits opened as it was still easier to dig new pits rather than go deeper. With the coming of the railway, coal production increased and mines spread to east Nottinghamshire and deeper seams. By the end of the century a further 41 mines had opened – 23, 024 men and boys were employed.

1900s: New mines continued to be opened. In 1947 the Labour government nationalised the coal industry. Nottinghamshire supplies coal to the Midlands and the south, including London. **Calverton colliery is opened in 1952.** Industrial action and strikes by the miners in the 70s and 80s results in mine closures. Coal production rapidly declines.

2000s: By 2008 only Thoresby and Wellbeck collieries remain. 2009, Wellbeck closed and 2015, Thoresby closed marking the end of deep-pit coal mining in Nottinghamshire.

Vocabulary

Coal: a combustible rock mainly found in underground seams.

Pit: the underground part of a colliery.

Mining: the removal of precious materials from the ground.

Colliery: the coal mine and the buildings and equipment associated with it.

Shaft: a deep hole or tunnel that gives access to a mine.

Coal seam: a dark brown or black banded deposit of coal that is visible within layers of rock.

Industry: economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods.

Key Knowledge

- Coal was a major source of household energy used for cooking and heating from 1200s to the 1900s.
- Coal was central to the development of canals, railways and the industrial revolution.
- In the 1950s coal was used to generate 97% of electricity in the UK. By 2012 this had dropped to 43% and by 2022 only 1.5% of generated electricity came from coal.
- In 1936 a shaft was opened at Calverton to access the 'Top Hard' workings of Bestwood colliery.
- In 1950 the first colliery of the newly formed National Coal Board was opened at Calverton – it was expected to provide work for the next 125 years; it lasted 41 years and resulted in the rapid expansion of the small farming village, increased industry, and influx of skilled miners from the north.

