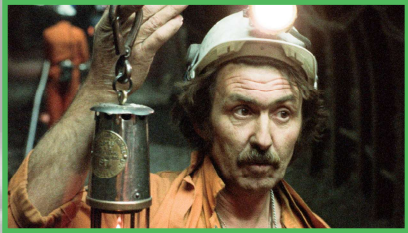


1963-1993



Walking around the country park, visitors might be surprised to learn of the industrial heritage beneath their feet. The park was once the site of one of the most modern coal mines in the UK, Cotgrave Colliery.

You can see to the right an early aerial photograph of the colliery, with its distinctive 'Keope' towers which contained the pit head winding gear (rather than the traditional winding wheels you see in many other pits). You can also see the extensive railway sidings, and Cotgrave village can be seen at the top of the picture.

A new mine:

Coal was identified in this location in the 1950's, and work started to sink new shafts in 1956, with full production commencing in 1963. With the new pit, many miners were brought to Cotgrave from other mining areas such as the Northeast of England and from recently closed mines in Nottinghamshire. 1,500 new coal board houses were built, hugely expanding the small village, and raising the population from about 700 to over 5,000 within a few years. A new rail line crossed the Trent and serviced the pit, taking coal to the Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station. This route can still be used to access the park from Radcliffe on Trent and Holme Pierrepont.

Coal production:

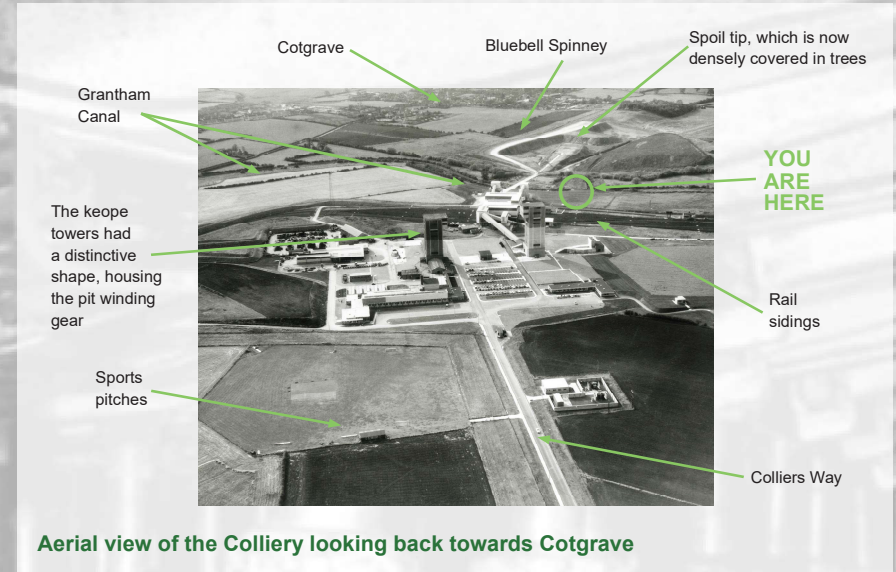
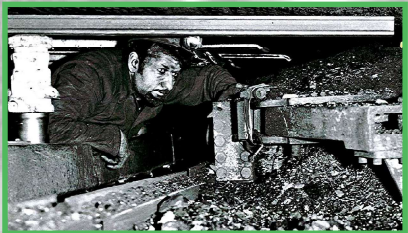
Up to 2,000 workers were employed here, and coal production peaked in 1980-81 when 1.2 million tonnes were extracted. You can see on the outline map to the right how far coal extraction extended from Cotgrave, reaching as far as Radcliffe, Tollerton, and out into the Vale of Belvoir.

Closure:

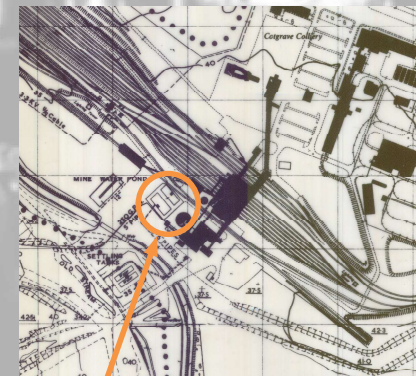
Mining coal here was not without difficulties. The shaft hit an underground stream, requiring special equipment to freeze the ground and prevent flooding. Remedial work was needed on the shafts after suffering sulphate attack to the concrete. Further flooding and instabilities meant the colliery ran at an overall loss in its lifetime. In 1993 the pit closed, and the shafts were filled in, significantly damaging the local economy. In 1995 plans were announced for the creation of the park, which opened in 2000.

Legacy:

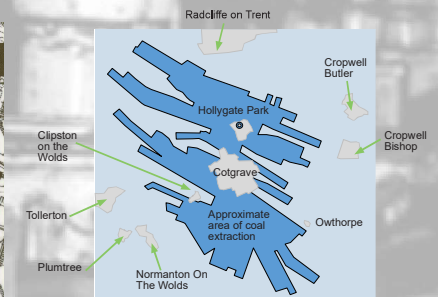
The Colliery has left a legacy on both the park and the people of Cotgrave. The site of the Colliery is now occupied by the Hollygate Park housing estate. If you look closely, you can still see the railway lines near the Multi User Route to Radcliffe on Trent within the park. The rolling hills to the west and north of the park are not natural, but spoil heaps created during the 30 years of coal extraction and now covered in trees. A memorial is located in Cotgrave's shopping centre.



Aerial view of the Colliery looking back towards Cotgrave



YOU ARE HERE



Underground coal extraction went west towards Plumtree and Stanton, south towards Cropwell Bishop and north towards Radcliffe on Trent



Did You Know?

Cotgrave Football Club's badge reflects the keope towers from the colliery.

Find Us On <https://www.cotgravecountrypark.co.uk>



Cotgrave Country Park is owned and managed by NCC. FoCCP volunteers designed and installed these boards



Registered charity number 1199132