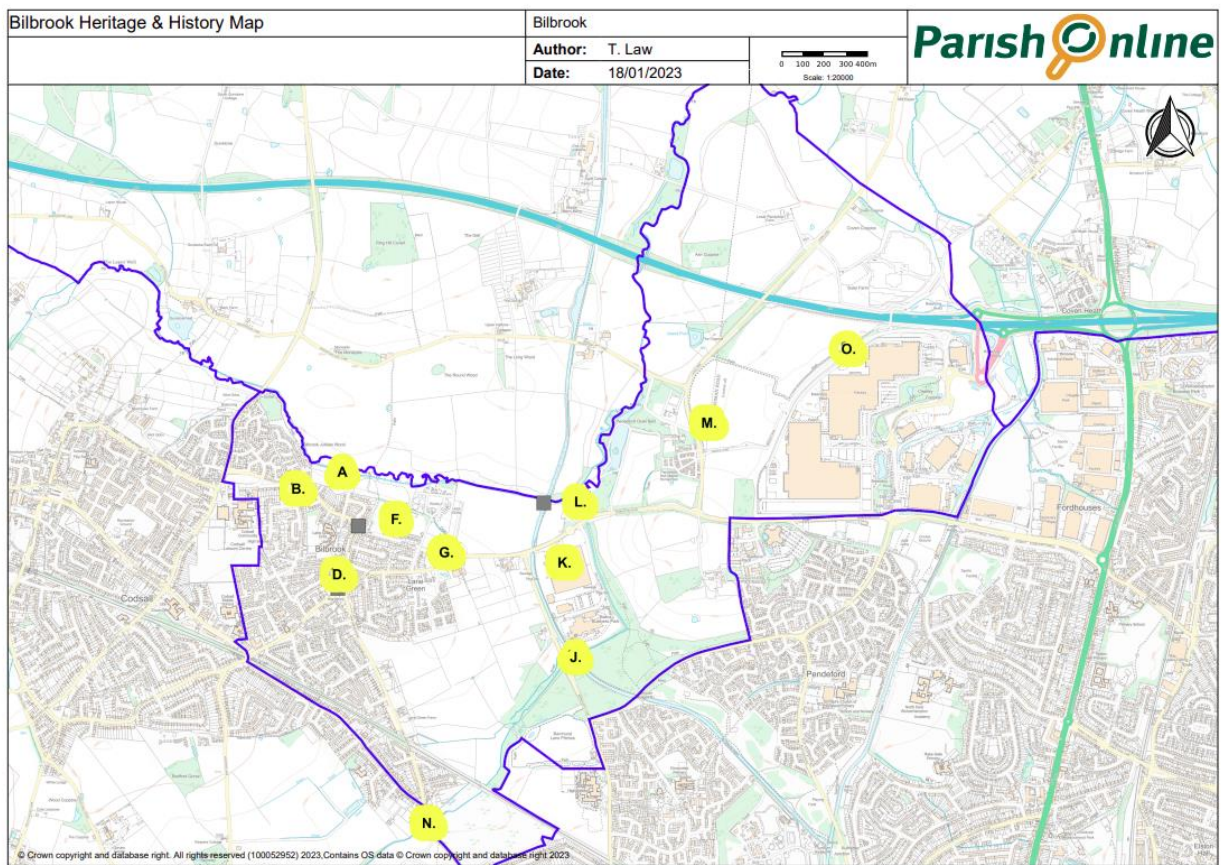




BB05 BILBROOK HERITAGE

Policy Rationale

Full Site Map



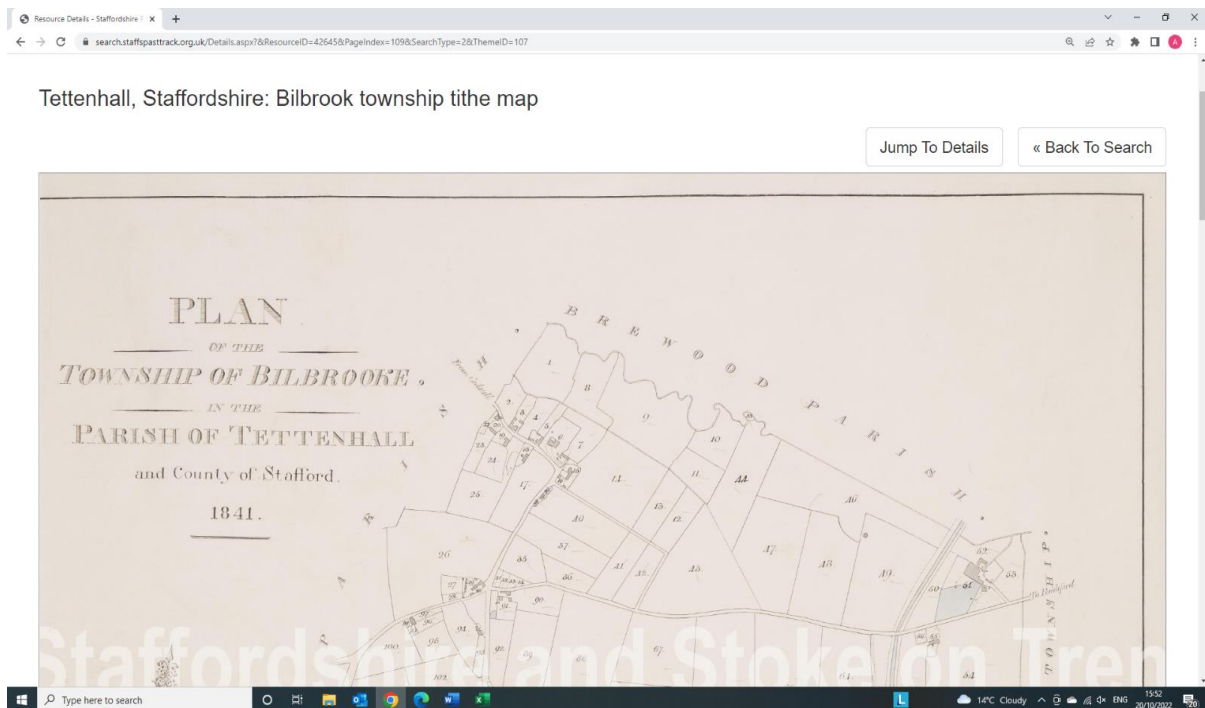
Sites

A. Moat Brook

The name “Bilbrook” may have come through the word billers (a plant which grows near to a stream), and the stream called Moat Brook. This brook, which flows into the river Penk at Pendeford, forms much of the northern boundary. For centuries watercress grew in the brook. This could have been the plant which gave Bilbrook its name.



The Tithe Map of 1840 shows a small cluster of houses at Lane Green and another cluster round the Manor House in Bilbrook. The 1884 large scale map shows that Bilbrook had dwellings round the Manor House on both sides of Bilbrook Road and The Grange, whose land adjoined that of Bilbrook House. Also shown clearly are the two tributaries of Moat brook, each with its own footbridge. It was during and after the Second World War that Italian Prisoners of War were given the task of combining these two watercourses so today there is only 1 brook flowing into the river Penk.



B. 63 Bilbrook Road

The Old Farmhouse dates to around 1680 and is believed to have originally been a coaching inn. It is Grade B locally listed.

C. The Old Village Green



Lane Green and Bilbrook were originally 2 separate hamlets, and the Old Village Green on the corner of Bilbrook Road and Joey's Lane was the original Bilbrook green. It was here that John Wesley came on at least 9 occasions to preach. The first of his visits was in April 1751. The painting below depicts Wesley preaching and is believed to be one of his visits to Bilbrook. The photograph shows the Old Green as it is today.



D. Holy Cross Church

In Saxon times for 800 years, the inhabitants of Bilbrook had no Church of their own and remained subject to the Church in Tettenhall. However, church records of St Nicholas, Codsall recorded ongoing baptisms and burials for people living in Bylbroke. 2 baptisms were recorded in November 1588. In 1898, Bilbrook got its own Church, where the existing extended church now stands.

E. The Woodman Pub

It is believed that the original building where the Woodman now stands were cottages. One of the owners of the cottages started to sell beer, then obtained a license and took over the other cottages to open the Woodman Public House in the mid 1800s. It was a popular spot for the local hunt's Boxing Day meet, and one of four beer houses in Bilbrook and Lane Green. Today it is the only pub in the Parish.



F. and G. Twentyman's Playing Fields

The Twentyman family gifted land of 6.09 acres to what was then the rural district of Seisdon in 1958, situated in Bilbrook, in the then parish of Wrottesley, to be used as playing fields. The land was subsequently leased to Wrottesley Parish Council, now Bilbrook Parish Council, who purchased the freehold from the District Council in 2010.

In 1977 the Parish Council purchased from Wolverhampton Council the land on which the Skate Park and football pitches stand, together with that now referred to Banks's field (not included in Heritage document). This is an area of 39.75 acres.

In October 1999, The Parish Council purchased more land from South Staffordshire Housing Association, increasing the playing field's main area to where the changing rooms are now.

H. Shropshire Union Canal Aqueduct

Grade II local listed building (LE 1039305). Semi-circular arched sandstone aqueduct carrying the Shropshire Union Canal over the River Penk - dated 1832.

I. Pendeford Bridge 4, Shropshire Union Canal

Grade A local listed structure Listed Building (Local (Grade A)) 15/00502/LLA: Pendeford Bridge No. 4 on the Shropshire Union Canal

J. Shropshire Union Canal Milepost

Grade II listed building (LE 1188717). Canal milepost. Canal opened 1843. Engineer Thomas Telford. Cast iron. T shaped plate divided into 3 panels: "Nantwich 38 Miles"; "Autherley Junction 1 Mile"; "Norbury Junction 14 ½ Miles".

K. Site of Boulton Paul Factory

In 1936, Boulton Paul, the aerospace manufacturer, moved to a site next to the airfield. To accommodate workers from Norwich, and to attract purchasers from Wolverhampton, houses were built by William Withers of Bilston, prices ranging from £310 to £700. Shops in Bilbrook



Road were also built. Boulton Paul used the Pendeford airfield runway (outside of Parish border) to test planes. The company's move led to the largest growth ever of the Bilbrook population and remained the largest employer for many years.

L. Pendeford Mill

The original mill was built in 1650 and was known variously as Pendeford, Barnhurst and New Mill on maps.

In 1651 Charles II was met at the Mill by John and Francis Penderel. This was part of his escape route after the Battle of Worcester and forms part of the Monarch's Way. He was escorted on foot from the Mill to Moseley Old Hall. (See Site **O**.)

In 1805 The Rev. Henry Higginson was born at Pendeford Mills. Educated at Brewood Grammar School, he became a Primitive Methodist Preacher and was known as the Roving Ranter.

In 1912 The mill house was converted into two cottages.

In 1961 The cottages and mill were abandoned and knocked down.

In 1976 Wolverhampton Council protected the site and earmarked it as a nature reserve.

In recent years, the Site Ranger and groups of volunteers have done work to restore the foundations and walls of the original mill.

M. Site of Roman Road

Little remains today of the Roman Road that ran from the west of Kingswinford north through Wolverhampton and Bilbrook, joining Watling Street (now the A5) near Brewood.

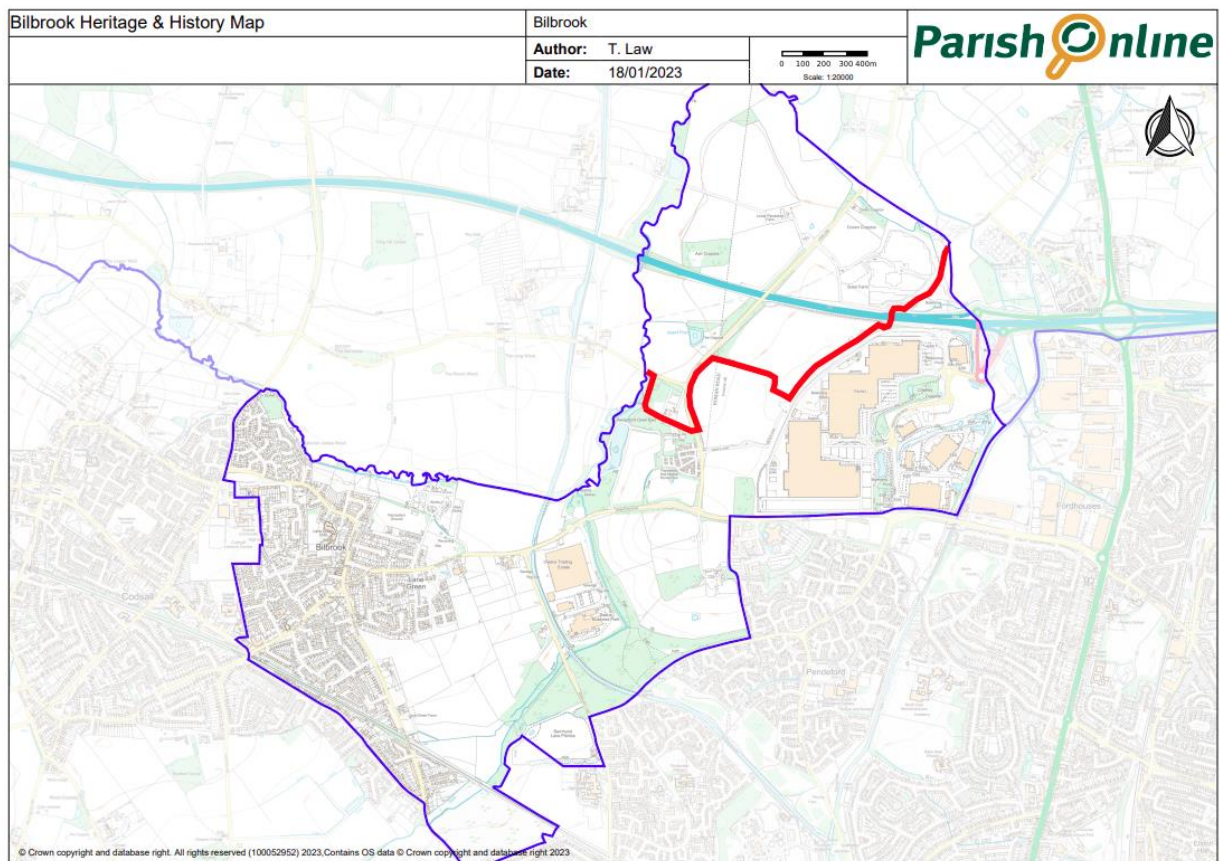
N. Site of Medieval Mill (Dam Mill)

A mill existed at Dam Mill in 1341, on land belonging to the Dean of Wolverhampton. It was working in 1559 and a miller still lived there in 1616. It was demolished in 1653 but rebuilt in 1717.

O. The Monarch's Way



Of national historical interest is the part of Charles II's escape route after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester on the 3rd of September 1651. Of local interest is the 11.5-mile route from Boscobel to Moseley Old Hall which passed through Bilbrook. The route is shown in the map below and is incorporated into one of Bilbrook's Jubilee Walks.



BILBROOK TIMELINE

- 1086 Bilbrook is listed in the Domesday book and in 1086 was known as Bilrebroch. The word 'Bil' translates from Old English as 'a kind of sword or other bladed weapon; having two edges.
- 1167 Bilbroc
- 1327 Billurborke



- 1341 Earliest known existence of the mill at Dam Mill.
- 1387 Adam Taylor, tenant of Deans Manor at Bilbrok, had been robbed of 11 sheaves of wheat and 6 sheaves of beans.
- 1425 Billenbroke
- 1433 Selions (a strip of land used for growing crops, usually owned, or rented to peasants) existed at Dam Mill, and still existed in 1644. The field was enclosed by 1656.
- 1482 Bylderbroke
- 1651 Charles II travels through Bilbrook on his escape route after defeat in the Battle of Worcester. This route later becomes part of the national Monarch's Way long distance walk.
- 1659 Wheat, peas and oats were grown in Bilbrook. William Mountford of Bilbrook noted as having a herd of 3 cows with calves, 4 twinters (two-year-old cows) and 4 yearlings.
- 1697 Billbroock
- 1706 Billbrook
- 1751 John Wesley preached on the village green in Bilbrook. He returned another 8 times, the last time being in 1772
- 1780 By this time there were eleven houses in the parish surrounded by farmland.
- 1805 Bilbrook Manor was built for John Eggington of Oxley. The 1841 & 1851 census show it as occupied by Joseph Tarratt, a Wolverhampton Iron Merchant.
- 1834 William Hardware kept a beer house in Bilbrook. By 1851 he is listed as licensee of the Woodman Inn.
- 1840 Tithe Map shows small cluster of houses at Lane Green and another cluster round the Manor, Bilbrook



- 1880 Bilbrook House now known as Bilbrook Manor House. Purchased by Lt. Colonel HE Twentyman in 1900 but demolished after his death in 1945.
- 1884 Map shows Lane Green consisted of the Woodman Public House, its outbuildings, and adjoining cottages. It also shows two streams which were straightened during the Second World War by the Italian prisoners-of-war as today there is only one not two brooks.
- 1894 Local government act passed in parliament which created civil parishes as distinct from ecclesiastical parishes for any area with more than 300 inhabitants, so Bilbrook became part of Wrottesley Parish Council with powers to conduct its own affairs.
- 1898 Inhabitants of Bilbrook had their own Church when Holy Cross Church was built. Extended in 1951 in memory of Lt Colonel HE Twentyman, and again in 1965.
- 1908 The Twentyman family came to live in Bilbrook Manor.
- 1918 Smallholdings were created to provide a livelihood and allocated to suitable people.
- 1920s The population began to increase so improvements in transport became an issue. Wolverhampton Road into Codsall was widened to enable buses to come from Wolverhampton.
- 1908 Mr Harold Twentyman was a Church Warden at Holy Cross Church from 1908 until the end of the war in 1945.
- 1918 16 families living in Bilbrook.
- 1934 Birches and Bilbrook Halt opened to allow passenger access to Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury stations.
- 1935 Pendeford Airfield was purchased.
- 1936-40 Boulton Paul moved to a site next to the airfield. (Map ref G) To accommodate workers from Norwich, and to attract purchasers from Wolverhampton, houses were built by William Withers of Bilston, prices ranging from £310 to £700.



Shops and a Post Office in Bilbrook Road were also built. Boulton Paul use the airfield runway to test planes.

- 1938 The Midland Aero Club operate from Pendeford Airfield until requisitioned by the RAF at the outbreak of WW2 when it became a training station. Having operated flights to Jersey and the Isle of Man during the 1950s and 60s, was finally closed in 1970 after a crash resulted in the death of a nearby resident.
- 1941 Secondary School opened.
- 1950 Lane Green First School opened.
- 1953 Pendeford Hall, which stood on what is now the mobile home park, was demolished. It had been built some time before 1780.
- 1956 The film “Man In The Sky” starring Jack Hawkins, was filmed at Pendeford Airport and the surrounding areas.
- 1956 Bilbrook Manor sold and demolished in late 1960s
- 1958 The Twentyman family gifted land of 6.09 acres to what was then the rural district of Seisdon, situated in Bilbrook, in the then parish of Wrottesley, to be used as playing fields. The land was subsequently leased to Wrottesley Parish Council, now Bilbrook Parish Council, who purchased the freehold from the District Council in 2010.
- 1959 Boundary changes finally severed Bilbrook from the ecclesiastical control of Tettenhall.
- 1970s Bilbrook Middle school opened.
- 1977 The Parish Council purchased from Wolverhampton Council the land on which the Skate Park and football pitches stand, together with that now referred to a Banks’s field. This is an area of 39.75 acres.
- 1999 The Parish Council purchased additional land from South Staffordshire Housing Association, increasing the main area of the playing field to what is now the changing rooms.



References & Bibliography

Bilbrook in a bygone age Compiled by Judy Davies, Codsall & Bilbrook History Society

[South Staffordshire Local List of Buildings and Other Structures of Architectural or Historic Interest \(sstaffs.gov.uk\)](http://sstaffs.gov.uk)

[A Brief History of Holy Cross Church – Holy Cross Church, Bilbrook](#)

[\(4\) Harris's Pubs & Clubs in & around Wolverhampton past & present | Facebook](#)

[Codsall & Bilbrook History Society \(codsallhistory.org\)](http://codsallhistory.org)

[SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL AQUEDUCT CARRYING CANAL OVER RIVER PENK AT N.G.R. SJ 8888103654, Bilbrook - 1039305 | Historic England](#)

[Heritage Gateway - Results](#)

[About Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve \(wolverhamptonparks.co.uk\)](http://wolverhamptonparks.co.uk)

[Monarch's Way Association](#)

[The Monarchs Way in Bilbrook – Bilbrook Parish Council](#)