

# 13. BRINDLEY HEATH

## Brindley Village

### The Military Hospital

During the Great War a hospital was built at Brindley Heath to treat wounded soldiers and troops taken ill at the nearby military training camps. After the war the hospital treated soldiers suffering from shell shock and gas attack, until 1924 when the hospital closed.

A postcard of the hospital after the Great War.  
Image courtesy of Ray Smith



The entrance to Brindley Village  
Image reproduced by kind permission of Mr Dick Mason.

### A new community

In 1924 the site and its buildings were taken over by the West Cannock Colliery Company.

The abandoned huts were converted to bungalow-type dwellings, which were used to house miners and their families. The settlement became known as Brindley Village and by 1928, 58 families had moved there.

By 1929 Brindley Village had its own school, club and shop, and the hospital chapel had been re-dedicated as St Mary's Church. However, in the late 1940s, the local Council decided that the villagers needed new homes. By 1955 all of the huts had been demolished and the families had been relocated to nearby Brindley Crescent.

### The 'lost' village

Few signs of the village remain. The site is now overgrown and to the untrained eye looks much the same as any other part of Cannock Chase, but for those who lived there, memories of Brindley Village and an affinity to their old community remain strong.

Information provided courtesy of Anthony Hunt

## CANNOCK CHASE HERITAGE TRAIL

**Cannock Chase Heritage Trail is a 10-mile route linking the towns of Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley. It passes through, or close to sites of historic or environmental interest, with interpretation boards along the way that tell the story of each location. Intended to support a healthy lifestyle, the trail is a facility for walkers and cyclists, offering walks and off-road cycle routes. The trail was initially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and several project partners in 2008.**

The trail consists of mixed surfaces of tarmac, gravel and concrete. Gradients in some of the rural sections of the trail can be difficult for manual wheelchairs and buggies.

These include:

- A short section between Hednesford Park (along the former railway line) and Rugeley Road (A460).
- A short section near the concrete standing area adjacent to Brindley Heath Road.
- A short section between Cannock Chase Visitor Centre and Cannock Chase Forest Centre.

The trail passes close to wildlife sites of international importance. Cycle wheels, horse hooves, and feet, can severely damage these sites, and out of control dogs disturb wildlife. Please help us to protect wildlife by remaining on designated routes and by keeping dogs under close control.

Remember to follow the  
Cannock Chase Code.



Scan the QR code  
to download a map of the  
Cannock Chase Heritage Trail

Cannock Chase  
**CAN**

Take on the  
**Cannock Chase Heritage Trail Challenge**  
with the  
**Cannock Chase Can App!**

**Cannock Chase Can** is an exciting health and wellbeing programme to help you make healthier lifestyle choices. It hosts a variety of wellness challenges which can be undertaken as an individual, group or family. Here's how you can get involved...

Download the App for **FREE** today by visiting **Google Play** and the **App Store** and searching for '**Cannock Chase Can**'.



Scan the QR codes on each interpretation board to bring to life elements of the Trail. Content has been created by local schoolchildren alongside professional artists and The Birmingham Repertory Theatre.



Collect all the QR codes for each themed trail to complete the challenge and gain points and rewards for your efforts.