

Cottage Home Villages

by

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Numerous institutional buildings throughout the United Kingdom have become functionally redundant since the late 1970s. In particular, new approaches to the care of the sick, the mentally handicapped and the elderly have emptied buildings which originally were erected as hospitals, lunatic asylums and workhouses. The future of these buildings has aroused grave concern amongst those involved in conserving our architectural heritage, and no doubt will continue to do so for years to come. Rather less controversy has been generated by another seriously threatened institutional building type, the grouped children's home.

Grouped children's homes, known somewhat euphemistically as cottage home villages, were erected between the 1870s and the Second World War. They continued to be used as children's homes until recent years, when the impact of 'care in the community' initiatives resulted in their closure. Usually positioned in airy locations on the fringes of towns and cities, they involved more or less formal groupings of attractive buildings on a domestic scale, bearing an uncanny resemblance to the modern housing estates into which they are now being transformed (Figs. 1 & 2).



Fig.1
St Leonard's
(Shoreditch)
Cottage Homes at
Hornchurch were in
a dilapidated state
before being
converted into
houses
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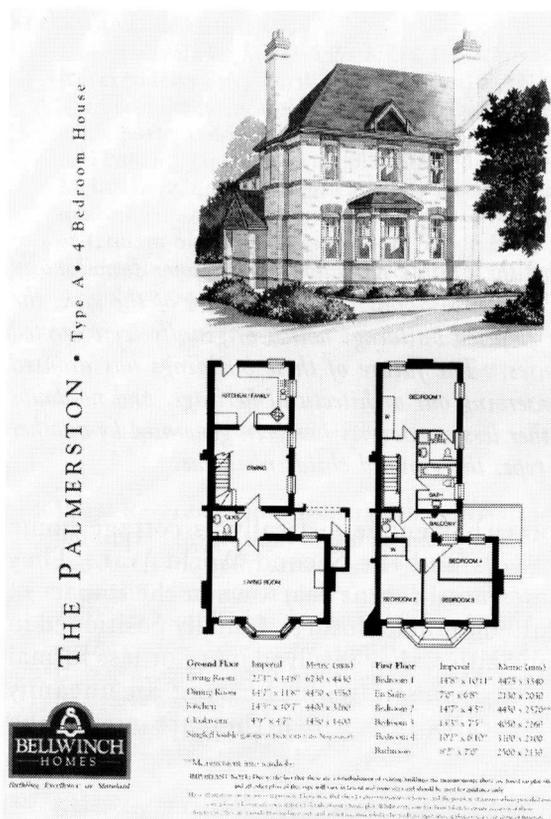


Fig.2
St Leonard's, Hornchurch, following conversion
Bellwinch plc

The transition from cottage home village to 1990s housing estate involves the complete restructuring of home interiors and the loss of central service buildings, such as schools and infirmaries, which prove difficult to convert into housing and are rarely needed by the surrounding community. Inevitably, the addition of infill houses and garages (Fig. 3), and the provision of private gardens and car standings, has a profound effect on the architectural composition of complexes and their landscape settings. More radically, entire institutions are, on occasion, demolished to maximise the redevelopment potential of their sites.

Cottage homes are often highly decorative, but their architectural value must not be overstated: like hospitals, they are chiefly significant as monuments of social history. The few villages which have not yet been redeveloped, such as the Hackney

Fig.3
Infill housing on the site of the Greenwich Union Cottage Homes at Sidcup apes the style of the original buildings
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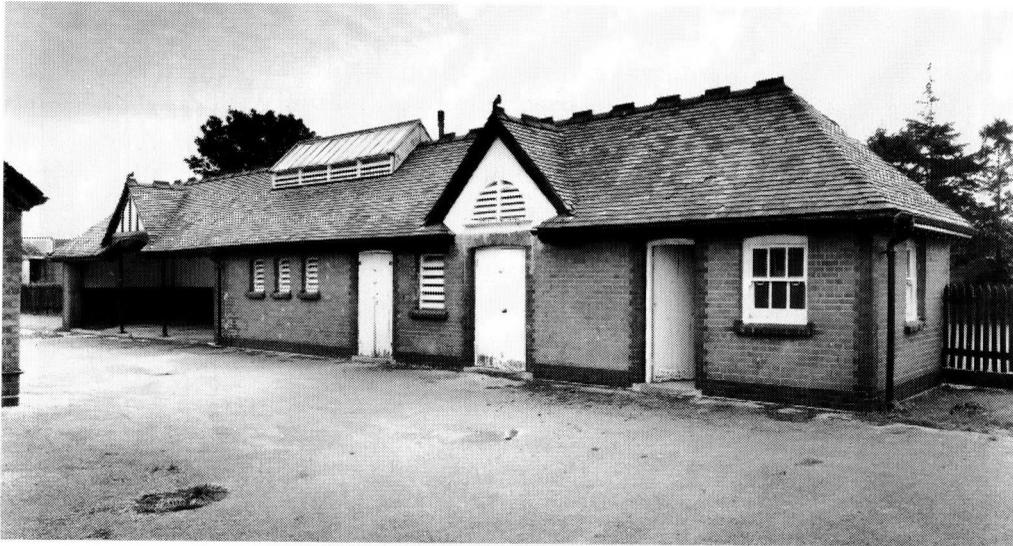


Fig.4

An outbuilding containing a play-shed, wash-house and coal store at Chipping Ongar, one of the few cottage home villages to survive as a complete ensemble

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Fig.5

The infirmary at Chipping Ongar stands a short distance from the other buildings. Typically, it is on a separate-block pavilion plan, with boys' wards to one side of the nurses' accommodation and girls' to the other

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Fig.6

Children at Dr Barnardo's Girl's Village c.1930
Barnardo's Photographic Archive, Ilford

Union Cottage Homes (Great Stoney School) at Chipping Ongar in Essex (Figs. 4 & 5), or the surviving part of Dr Barnardo's Girls' Village at Barkingside (Figs. 6, 8 and 9), still present an opportunity to witness the physical conditions in which thousands of children in state care were raised and educated from the 1870s to the 1970s. That alone makes it important that a representative selection of these buildings is recorded prior to redevelopment.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Society has always responded to the need to care for abandoned and orphaned children. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Christ's Hospital was established

in London; elsewhere, hospitals and workhouses admitted pauper children, and raised them alongside other dependent classes at the expense of the poor rate. A few specialist institutions were founded by voluntary contribution in the eighteenth century, notably the Foundling Hospital (1741) in London and the Asylum for the Infant Poor (1797) in Birmingham, but it was in the nineteenth century that both charitable and poor-law institutions for children proliferated.

Until the 1870s, most of the institutions set up exclusively for poor children assumed the form of industrial schools – huge establishments later referred to as 'barrack' schools – in which hundreds of children were crowded under one roof and



Fig.7

The imposing Leeds Moral and Industrial Training School, designed by Perkin & Backhouse and built in 1846, is typical of the industrial schools which were erected throughout England in the mid-nineteenth century

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given little individual care. They were not a success. Contemporary observers noted that inmates seemed dull and listless and, despite an emphasis on industrial training, were ill-equipped to pursue an independent path through adult life. Barrack schools also proved unhealthy, and successive outbreaks of fever and ophthalmia, often with tragic outcomes, worried those who cared about children's welfare. Discredited by the 1890s, few industrial schools survive today. One of the best in an architectural sense, the Leeds Industrial and Moral Training School of 1846 (Fig.7), is now part of St James's Hospital ('Jimmy's'), in Leeds.

THE COTTAGE HOME SYSTEM

In the early 1870s the idea of cottage home villages seized the imagination of English reformers. The system had originated on the continent, and the first English villages imitated earlier German, French and Swiss sites, such as the Rauhen-Haus near Hamburg (1833) and the Colonie de Mettray in the Loire Valley (1839).¹ Pioneering villages in south-east England included Princess Mary's Homes for Little Girls at Addlestone in Surrey (1870) and Dr Barnardo's Village Home for Orphan, Neglected and Destitute Girls at Barkingside (1873) (Figs.8 & 9).² In both of these cases, children lived in 'family' groups under the care of a house-mother, in an environment which could not have contrasted more dramatically with that of contemporary barrack schools. It was only in 1878, when the success of these charitable institutions was evident, that the Local Government Board



Fig.8

Dr Barnardo's Homes at Barkingside, the best-known group of children's homes in the country, now house Barnardo's offices and after-care department

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Girls' Village Home

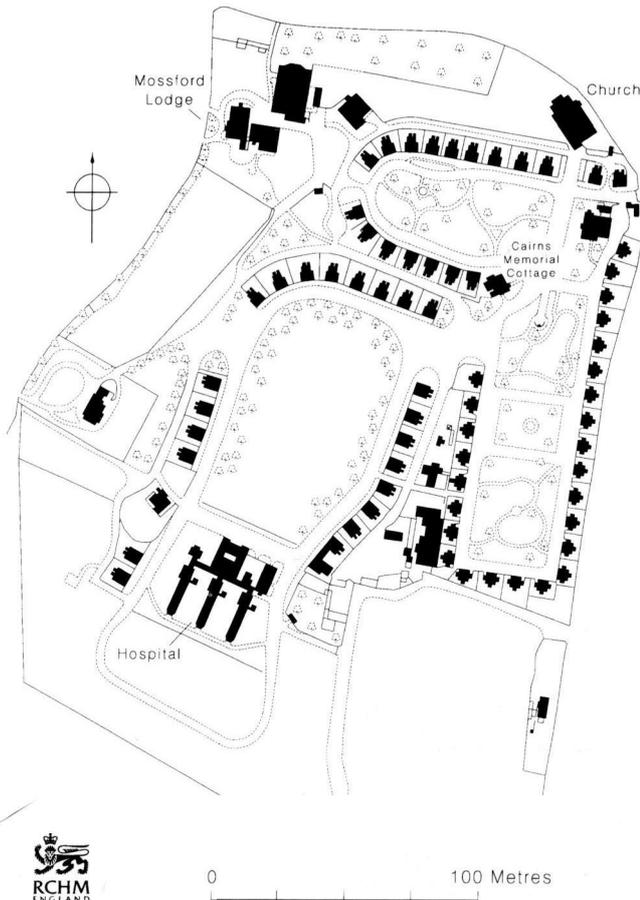


Fig.9

A block plan of Dr Barnardo's Homes, Barkingside, as it was c. 1895. The southern half of the site has been demolished
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recommended the construction of cottage home villages for pauper children.³ The recommendation was tempered by reservations about the cost of cottage homes, which would be more expensive to build and to operate than industrial schools, but it was pointed out that if the new system encouraged children to lead independent lives, without resorting to public assistance, it would reduce the burden of the poor rate in the longer term. Fortunately several Boards of Guardians, those notoriously mean-spirited public bodies, were sufficiently moved by the plight of pauper children to try out cottage homes. Yet even the most enlightened Boards could seldom bring themselves to spend as generously as true philanthropists: while each home at Addlestone held ten girls (fifteen having been tried and failed), the standard number in poor-law homes was thirty, occasionally rising to fifty.⁴ Despite such a broad interpretation of the system, it was obvious that cottage homes provided a superior environment in which to raise poor children, and few new industrial schools were built after 1880.⁵

Initially, model plans were not produced for cottage homes, as they had been for workhouses and various classes of hospital, but the publication of several designs offered guidance to architects who were unfamiliar with such institutions. The Local Government Board, for example, published plans of several homes in 1878, including Dr Barnardo's, and a few appeared at a later date in the building press.⁶ In 1904, the poor-law architect Albert C. Freeman illustrated his book, *Hints on the Planning of Poor Law Buildings and Mortuaries*, with model plans for detached homes (Fig.10), a village infirmary and a school.⁷

No specialist architects emerged in this field, although those employed by poor-law unions often had experience of other, very different, types of institutional building. For example, William A. Finch, the architect to Hackney Union, was responsible for a large pavilion-plan extension to the workhouse at Homerton (from 1898 onward), additions to the industrial school at Brentwood (c. 1890), and tramp wards for a site on Gainsborough Road, Hackney (1904) as well as cottage homes at Chipping Ongar (1902-5). This demanded a certain versatility, in terms of both style and planning, which Finch amply supplied.

Essentially, cottage home villages aimed to provide a more natural and healthy environment for children in care than any industrial or workhouse school hitherto had offered. This approach was unparalleled in other Victorian institutions. Villages generally occupied semi-rural sites where children - usually hailing from polluted cities - could benefit from plenty of sunshine and fresh air, but they were never far from a railway station which served to maintain a vital connection between the homes and the city. Children lived in single-sex groups, in detached or semi-detached 'cottages', under the care of a married house-mother and house-father. As the ideal of ten to fifteen children per home was seldom adhered to, homes resembled suburban villas rather than 'cottages'. Indeed, the rather mundane term 'separate-block system' was a more realistic description of these children's

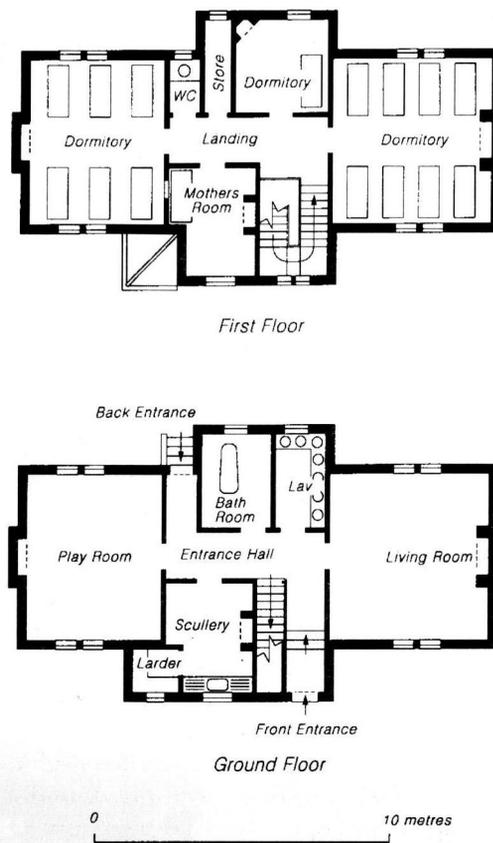


Fig.10

Plans for a cottage home, redrawn from A.C. Freeman, *Hints on the Planning of Poor-Law Buildings and Mortuaries* (1904)
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homes than 'cottage home system', and its occurrence emphasises the fact that cottage home villages emerged from the same phenomenon of institutional fragmentation as pavilion-plan hospitals, workhouses and, by the 1890s, mental deficiency and epileptic colonies. The manipulation of separate-block planning to achieve a sophisticated segregation of inmates, so typical of mid-to-late Victorian workhouses, proved less significant in contemporary children's homes, where classification was determined simply on the grounds of sex, age and health, rather than behaviour or morality, and the separation of different classes was not enforced at all times. But children in homes were not entirely free from the judgemental morality of Victorian Britain: those who lived in poor-law cottage homes were stereotyped, in 1878, as 'of a low type, physically and morally, begotten and brought up in circumstances and surroundings eminently ill-calculated to produce sound minds or healthy bodies'.⁸

Like most buildings erected for healthy people, cottage homes had dayrooms on the ground floor and sleeping rooms above. The day accommodation included a play-room and a living-room, occasionally with a separate sitting-room for the house-parents. A kitchen, dining-room and wash-room/boot-room were also provided on the ground floor, sometimes in an outshot, while water-closets, wash-houses, coal stores and play-sheds occupied outbuildings in a yard to the rear. It was usual to have a flower garden, tended by the children, at the front. Upstairs, small bedrooms were provided for the house-parents, for any child who fell ill or for girls about to take up domestic service. Between five and ten children occupied each of the main dormitories. In these, following Local Government Board regulations, each child was allocated a space of 300 cu.ft., a figure which rose to 360 in 1891.⁹ Despite attempts to make homes as homely as possible, rooms were designed to cope with the wear and tear of institutional living, for example by having wooden or tiled dados. Thus their institutional aura was never completely eliminated. Neither was institutional treatment: individuality was encouraged, so it was thought, by allowing variations in clothing, but a former Barnardo girl recalled how 'everyone was known by numbers. Mine was number nine and everything I had had to be chainstitched with the number nine'.¹⁰

It was the purpose of the cottage home village 'to bring up destitute or criminal children in habits of religion and virtue, with such industrial and mental training as will fit them to earn their livelihood in independent positions, and become useful and respectable members of society'.¹¹ That meant different things for boys and girls. Both received half-time schooling on the village site until they had achieved a satisfactory level of education, usually around the age of eleven, when they moved on to full-time training prior to being apprenticed out at fourteen. Girls were invariably trained as domestic maids: they undertook household chores, were responsible for laundry and sewing, and looked after the infants.¹² In some villages, such as the Poplar Training School at Hutton in Essex, the girls cooked and ate in their homes while the boys were served in a central dining hall (Fig.11). Boys' training was more varied. It could involve baking, shoe-making, tailoring, carpentry, engineering, printing or farming, but by the end of the nineteenth century many



Fig. 11

The lavish decoration of the boys' dining hall at Poplar Training School, Hutton, includes a terracotta panel depicting poplars
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boys were being prepared for a life in the navy.

Cottage home villages had little need to interact with the surrounding community. Sites included probationary or receiving homes, where new arrivals were quarantined for two weeks in case they carried an infectious disease or headlice into the permanent homes. They also had a house for the superintendent (Fig.12), a school, an infirmary and a service complex complete with boys' workshops, boiler house and water tower (Fig.13). The larger villages had a central wash-house, as the girls could not cope with huge quantities of laundry in the small wash-houses provided at each of their homes. Sometimes a chapel, covered swimming pool and gymnasium were provided, although with some ingenuity school assembly halls could be adapted to perform all of these functions. A farm was often attached to the village, to provide agricultural training rather than to attain a level of institutional self-sufficiency.



Fig.12
The superintendent's house at Marston Green Cottage Homes looks like a detached Victorian villa, but is in fact attached to the administration block
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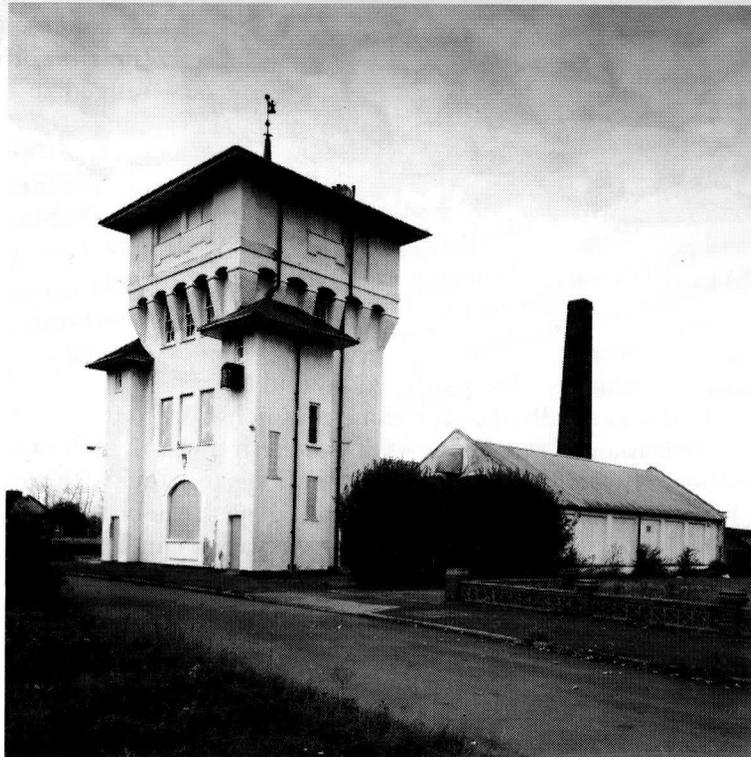


Fig.13
The service complex at Stepney Cottage Homes, Stifford includes a superb Arts and Crafts style water tower
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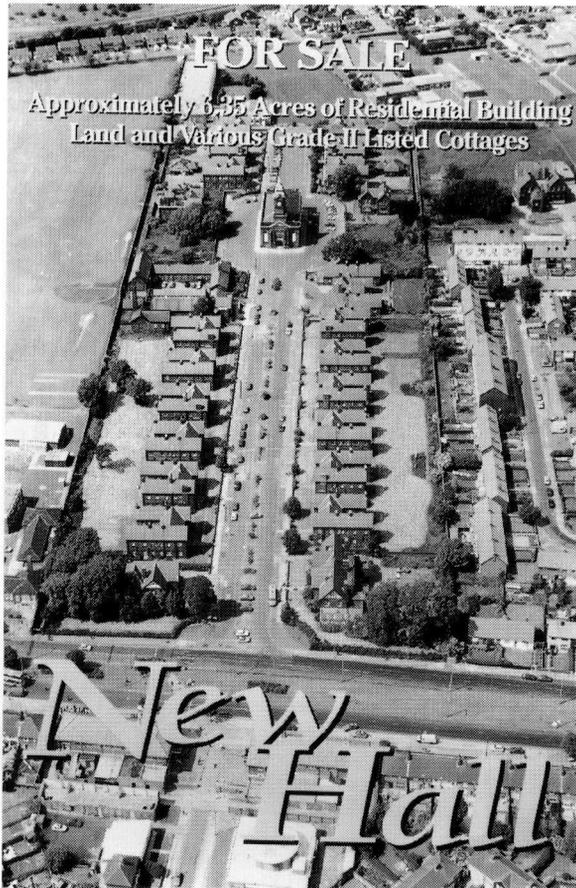


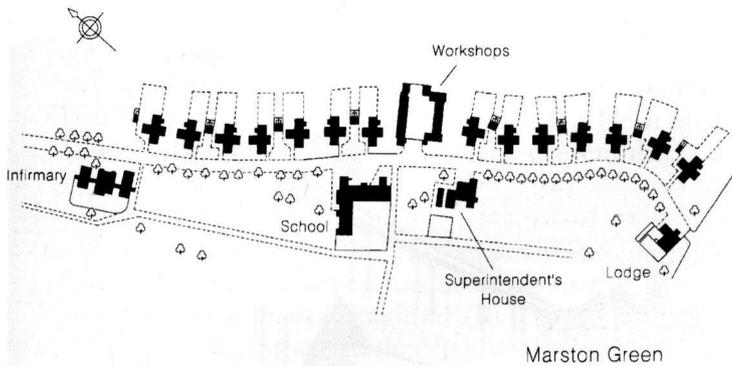
Fig.14

An aerial view of Fazakerley Cottage Homes, displayed
on sales particulars
City Estates, Liverpool

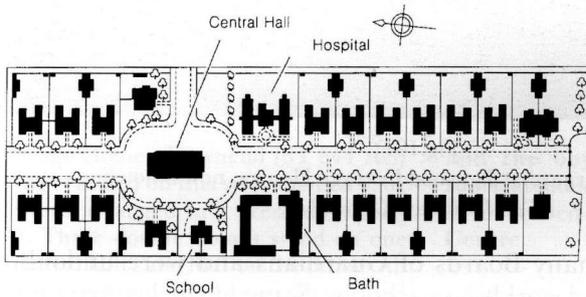
The components of cottage home villages changed little over the years, but their arrangement was modified in a manner which seems to reflect general developments in town planning, a phenomenon which would deserve further investigation. The earliest poor-law cottage homes, including the Kensington and Chelsea District School at Banstead (built 1878-80) and the West Derby Union Cottage Homes at Fazakerley, Liverpool (built 1888-9) (Figs.14 & 15) were arranged in straight lines, or 'streets', although the effect was softened at Fazakerley by planting avenues of trees along the verges. The service buildings of these early villages tended to be congregated in the centre of the site, often with boys' homes ranged to one side and girls' to the other. In this way an institutional structure was maintained. In philanthropic establishments, and in later poor-law homes, rigid lines were eschewed in favour of an informal distribution of buildings, usually around a central green space, and

service buildings were scattered around the site in an effort to suggest that it had evolved organically. For the same reason homes could have individual designs. At Salford Union Cottage Homes at Culcheth (Fig.15), built in 1903, the use of several facing materials in different combinations, together with variations in the position of stacks and projecting bays, helped to mask the intrinsically institutional nature of the buildings. Equally superficial variation can be seen at the Fulwood Cottage Homes (Fig.16).

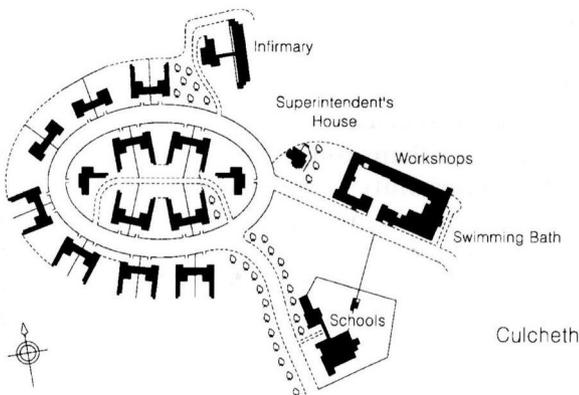
Cottage homes did not just appear in the context of self-contained villages. From the late 1870s, many poor-law unions, such as Bolton, Blackburn and Croydon, erected homes on or beside their workhouse site.¹³ These often housed as many as fifty children apiece. That, coupled with their unfortunate proximity to adult paupers, brought them short of the cottage home ideal, but they represented a



Marston Green



Fazakerley



Culcheth

Fig.15

These block plans show some of the most common layouts adopted for cottage home villages. They are: a.

Birmingham Cottage Homes, Marston Green (1878-9);

b. West Derby Union Cottage Homes, Fazakerley, Liverpool (1888-9);

c. Salford Union Cottage Homes, Culcheth (1903)

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Fig.16

Two designs of home alternate at Fulwood Cottage Homes, now a housing estate

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compromise preferred by many Boards of Guardians and were undoubtedly an improvement on overcrowded workhouse schools. Some of the last barrack schools to be erected, including the pavilion-plan Chase Farm School, built by Edmonton Union in 1884-87, included one or two cottage homes in addition to the main building. Other cottage homes - such as those of Oldham and West Ham Unions - formed headquarters, or receiving complexes, serving either grouped or scattered homes.

By the early 1900s the 'scattered-home' or 'Sheffield' system of housing children had gained favour. This involved placing children in ordinary houses distributed throughout towns and cities rather than grouped in institutional fashion. This was the beginning of 'care in the community': children in scattered homes attended local schools and parish churches, used public parks and swimming pools and had the opportunity to mix more freely with children living in conventional family units. The general appeal and cheapness of the scattered-home system, together with the spread of boarding-out (or fostering) and emigration, meant that few new cottage home villages were built after 1918. Those already in existence, however, continued to be used much as before.

When the poor-law system was dismantled in 1929, its institutions were handed over to the county and borough councils. While most workhouses and infirmaries were eventually transferred to the National Health Service, children's homes continued to be run by councils. The mass closure of homes in the 1980s initiated the process of redevelopment which is still happening today. Their domestic scale

and semi-rural locations make it easy to convert cottage homes into desirable modern dwellings, and for the majority of sites that is undoubtedly the preferred option. The one exception may be Dr Barnardo's Girls' Village, where plans are afoot to restore the surviving homes as part of a Heritage Centre which will present the story of the charity from 1873 to the present day.

CATALOGUE

This catalogue of grouped children's homes was compiled during a programme of institutional recording which has been pursued by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) since 1991.¹⁴ It includes all sites known to RCHME, through either fieldwork or documentary research, and excludes grouped homes lying on or beside workhouse sites (Fig.17).¹⁵

Where relevant, archive material held in the National Monuments Record (NMR) is referred to by its National Buildings Record (NBR) Index number. It can be consulted at the National Monuments Record Centre, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ or, for London sites, at the London Office of RCHME, 55 Blandford Street, London W1H 3AF.

AVON

Bristol Cottage Homes, Downend (ST 644 768)
The buildings erected on this site between 1902 and 1905 were arranged in a crescent, facing south-west. Three double homes stood on one side of a 'central hall', and four on the other. All of the original buildings have been demolished and modern housing erected in their stead.

CHESHIRE

Chorlton Union Cottage Homes, Styal (SJ 844 828) NBR Index 102123

A relatively large cottage home village, for 500 children, designed by J. B. Broadbent and erected in 1898. The hospital has been demolished, but many other buildings survive. Part of the site is now Styal Prison.

Salford Union Cottage Homes, Culcheth (SJ 650 960) NBR Index 100964 (Fig.15)

These homes, built around a green in 1903, were converted into housing in 1995-6. Some of the ancillary buildings, including the infirmary, have been demolished.

Warrington Union Cottage Homes, Padgate (SJ 636 897) NBR Index 100968

A small site built in 1881-2, comprising two pairs of cottages, a school and a service building, formally arranged around a yard.¹⁶ The school

and the boys' homes, together with the superintendent's residence and porter's lodge, have survived and are currently Padgate Business Centre.

DORSET

Christchurch Union Cottage Homes (SZ 147 943)

These homes, built close to the workhouse in 1886, were described as 'a model of their kind' in 1905.¹⁷ Modern houses now stand on the site.

DURHAM

Gateshead Union Cottage Homes, Shotley Bridge (NZ 110 536)

Designed by W. Lister Newcombe and built between 1896 and 1901, with six double cottages for 184 children.¹⁸ Current condition not known.

ESSEX

Dr Barnardo's Village Home for Orphan, Neglected and Destitute Girls, Barkingside (TQ 445 896) NBR Index No 101746 (Figs.6,8 & 9)

The first home on this site (1873) was a remodelled coach-house for twelve girls, adjoining the Barnardo's residence, Mossford Lodge, but the site eventually expanded to cover sixty acres and accommodate 1,400 children.¹⁹ The first homes to be run on the innovative

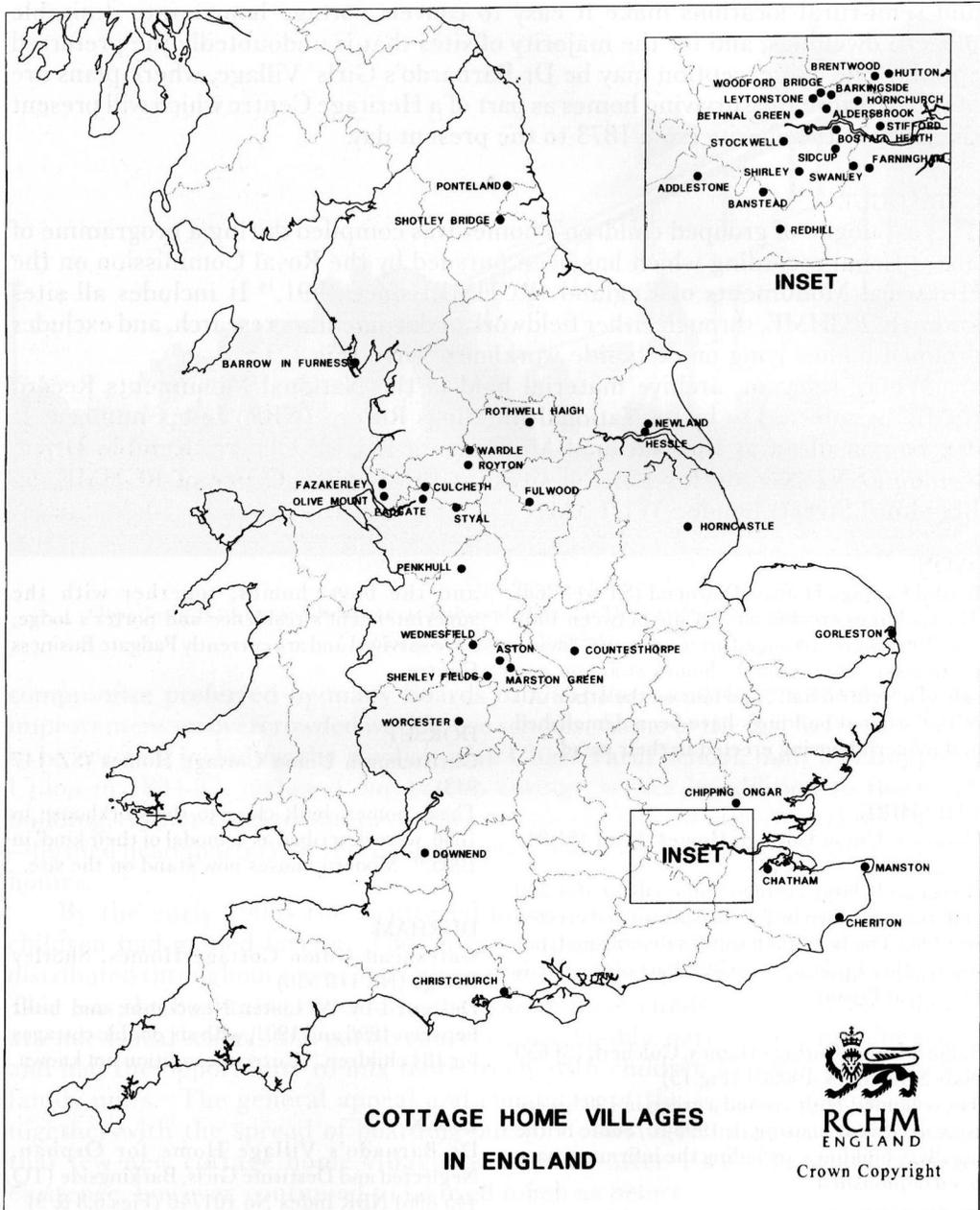


Fig.17

Distribution map showing known grouped children's homes in England
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'family system' were designed by E. Gregg and erected in 1876. They held twenty girls, sleeping five to a dormitory: Dr Barnardo himself revealed some doubts about the 'family system' when he asked 'did you ever know a family of twenty daughters?'.²⁰ Additional homes were erected on the site over the following thirty years, together with the Cairns Memorial Cottage and clock tower (1887), a church (1892), a school (1893), a probationers' house (1903), the Watts Sanatorium (1904), the Australasian Hospital (1912) and other buildings. As at other villages, it was important that the children walked to school without supervision 'just as ordinary cottagers' children do in a country village'.²¹

A supermarket and modern housing now stand on approximately two-thirds of the Village site. The northernmost group of homes, the church and the Cairns Memorial Cottage survive, together with a memorial to Dr Barnardo (d.1905), designed by Sir George Frampton RA. These will provide a focus for Barnardo's planned Heritage Centre. Although fragmentary, this is undoubtedly the most significant, and most evocative, cottage home village in the country.

Stepney Union Cottage Homes, Stifford (TQ 597 800) NBR Index 100845 (Fig.13)

A small cottage home village for 200 children, designed by Frank Baggally and built in 1901. The children attended a local school from the outset.²² Some of the buildings, which were arranged in a south-facing arc, have been demolished. Those that survive, including an attractive Arts and Crafts style water tower, are disused.

Hackney Union Cottage Homes (later Great Stoney School), Chipping Ongar (TL 553 038) NBR Index 100936 (Figs. 4 & 5)

Hackney had used a succession of industrial schools before erecting this cottage home village to a design by its architect William A. Finch between 1902 and 1905. The buildings are arranged informally around a green, on a very open site on the outskirts of Chipping Ongar. All of the original buildings survive, little modernised and untouched since they ceased to be used in 1994. A small, square structure with glazed walls and a pyramidal roof stands close to the school and appears to have been an open-air classroom. This is probably the best preserved

and most complete cottage home village to survive in England, but its future is uncertain.

Metropolitan Asylums Board Ophthalmic School (or High Wood School), Brentwood (TQ 591 945) NBR Index 101277

One of two schools erected by the MAB between 1899 and 1903 for London children suffering from ophthalmia. The buildings were designed by C. & W. Henman and arranged around an open green. As at its sister school in Swanley, five groups of three cottages and a nurse's house were arranged to face south-west, and junior and senior schools stood in the centre. Amongst other innovations designed to prevent the spread of eye disease, children were provided with 'spray lavatories' and 'spray baths', ensuring that they did not wash in the same water.²³ This site was later adapted for children with tuberculosis and verandahs were added to many of the cottages. The buildings survive, more or less intact, as Highwood Hospital.

Poplar Training School, Hutton (TQ 620 953) NBR Index 100933 (Fig.11)

Designed by Holman & Goodman in 1906, this was more decorative than other poor-law schools, reflecting the non-punitive attitude which Poplar adopted towards pauperism under the leadership of its socialist chairman, George Lansbury. Most of the buildings, which were arranged around a large green, have been demolished and replaced by modern houses. The porter's lodge, school (now Adult Education Centre) and boys' dining hall, now a 'banqueting facility', have survived. The dining hall and school hall are particularly elaborate structures.

Dr Barnardo's Boys (Garden) Village, Woodford Bridge (TQ 426 917)

This village was erected on the Gwynne House Estate c.1910, some years after the death of Dr Barnardo. By 1926, nineteen houses had been erected, each housing forty boys.²⁴ The homes are reported to have been demolished.

GREATER LONDON

Bonner Road Children's Home, Bethnal Green (TQ 353 833)

Established in 1869, this was one of the earliest cottage homes to admit both boys and girls and allow them to mix in the classroom and

playground. The homes were, in fact, adapted terraced houses on a rather congested urban site to which an infirmary, school and chapel were added. None of the buildings survives, and a modern school stands on the site.

Stockwell Orphanage (TQ 307 766)

The Revd. C.H. Spurgeon founded this home for orphaned boys *c.* 1867. In 1878 it comprised eight terraced houses, each accommodating thirty boys and a matron; it was subsequently enlarged. Unusually, the establishment had a central dining hall and kitchen, rather than a small kitchen and dining room in each home. Stockwell Secondary School now occupies the site.

St Matthew, Bethnal Green Separate School, Leytonstone (TQ 397 878) NBR Index 93691

Leytonstone House was purchased by St Matthew's, Bethnal Green, in 1868, to be used as a pauper school. Temporary iron structures were used until 1881-9, when new buildings by A. & C. Harston were erected.²⁵ This site was much more restricted than that of the Harstons' earlier village at Banstead in Surrey (see below) and the closely-grouped three-storeyed homes represent a compromise between the old-style industrial schools and more up-to-date cottage home villages. The site became a hospital in 1937 but has been disused for some years and now stands derelict.

St Leonard's, Shoreditch, Cottage Homes, Hornchurch (TQ 529 872) NBR Index 100940 (Figs. 1 & 2)

Shoreditch erected a large industrial school at Brentwood in 1852-4 (later St Faith's Hospital; about to be demolished, summer 1997). That was sold to Hackney in 1885 and, to replace the lost accommodation, a cottage home village was erected at Hornchurch in 1887. The architect was Francis J. Smith. Its street-like layout resembled Banstead and Fazakerley Cottage Homes but on a smaller scale. The homes have recently been converted into private houses; the workshops, swimming baths and infirmary have been demolished.

Greenwich Union Cottage Homes (later Lamorbey Residential School), Sidcup (TQ 460734) NBR Index 100958 (Fig. 3)

Thomas Dinwiddy & Son, architects of the

Greenwich Union Workhouse of 1899-1902, designed this village in 1902. The homes and service buildings, to cater for 525 children, were grouped around an existing Tudor-style house, The Hollies. The homes have been converted into housing, with new development in the interstices. Unusually, the swimming bath and school still fulfil their original functions. The Hollies and its outbuildings, however, are derelict.

Bermondsey (later St Olave's) Union Cottage Homes, Shirley (TQ 357 663) NBR Index 100990

Designed by Newman & Newman in 1903, the Shirley Homes were widely and informally spaced on a large, irregular site. Most of the twenty-three homes and the school which lay to their north have been demolished, but others were extensively refurbished and incorporated into the housing estate which now fills the site with much greater density than the original complex.

West Ham Union Cottage Homes, Aldersbrook (TQ 409 869) NBR Index 101743

A row of three large homes erected *c.* 1906 as receiving homes for children about to be admitted to the scattered homes then in use by West Ham Union. They have been converted into flats. A recreation hall added to the site by East Ham County Borough in 1931 is now used as a community centre.

Woolwich Union Cottage Homes (or Goldie Leigh Homes), Bostall Heath (TQ 471 777)

Built in 1899 and sold to the Metropolitan Asylums Board in 1914. Current condition not known.

GREATER MANCHESTER

Rochdale Union Cottage Homes, Wardle (SD 920 169)

Designed by P. Butterworth & Duncan, and built in 1898. The homes held between eighty and ninety children. No information on current state.

Oldham Union Scattered Homes Headquarters, Royton (SD 917 086) NBR Index 100967

This was the headquarters of the scattered homes system set up by Oldham Union in 1898, and comprised a large receiving home, a

superintendent's house and an infirmary.²⁶ The architects were Wild, Collins and Wild. All of the buildings have survived.

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

Worcester Union Cottage Homes, Wylde's Lane (SO 857 545)

Erected in 1893, on land south of the workhouse, this site comprised buildings arranged around two playgrounds, in a similar manner to the Warrington homes (see above). Current condition not known.

HUMBERSIDE

Newland Orphan Homes (Port of Hull Society for the Religious Instruction of Seamen, later renamed Sailors' Children's Society), Newland (TA 083 316) NBR Index 102098

The Port of Hull Society was founded in 1821 and established its first orphan asylum in 1838. A cottage home village was designed by W.H. Bingley and built on Cottingham Road in 1895. The buildings, which included a substantial school and hospital, provided for 250 children and still survive today.²⁷

Sculcoates Union Cottage Homes, Hessle (TA 043 266)

Built c.1897, this village accommodated approximately 100 children. No information on current state.

KENT

The Home for Little Boys, Farningham (TQ 569 692)

Founded c.1865, this was one of the first children's establishments in England to be built on the cottage home principle. Each of the ten houses accommodated thirty boys, together with the 'Christian man and wife' who looked after them. The school, chapel, workshops and homes were arranged around an open green and were favourably described in 1878 as follows: '... like any pretty country village, the home may be taken ... for a picturesque group of detached villas, with its village church, and other buildings, indicative of active life'.²⁸ Now, only the lodge and chapel survive; dense modern housing fills the remainder of the site.

Elham Union Cottage Homes, Cheriton (NGR TR 190 369)

The Elham Union cottage homes were built three miles from the workhouse in 1888 and enlarged in 1893. The architects were Joseph Gardner & John Ladds who also designed additions to the workhouse. The homes were experimental, as the children attended the local school, Sunday School and parish church; they can be regarded as the first scattered homes. Current condition not known.

Metropolitan Asylums Board Ophthalmic School (or White Oak School), Swanley (TQ 511 689) NBR Index 101597

One of two Ophthalmic Schools erected by the MAB at the turn of the century (see Brentwood, above), this establishment opened in 1903. Its architects, Newman & Newman, adopted the same layout as C. & W. Henman at Brentwood, with five groups of three cottages clustered around a nurse's cottage.²⁹ Only the senior school, now a banqueting/conference facility, survives today.

Isle of Thanet Union Cottage Homes, Manston (TR 348 663)

A row of four cottages built in 1900-1 for 120 children. Present condition not known.

Medway Union Cottage Homes and Schools, Chatham (TQ 752 663)

Built around a quadrangle in 1902-3, this site included sixteen semi-detached homes (eight for boys; eight for girls).³⁰ No information on current condition.

Spurgeon's Orphan Homes, Birchington (TR 306 691)

Revd. Spurgeon's orphanage was evacuated from Stockwell in 1939 and settled in Birchington after the war. New buildings were designed by Woodroffe, Buchanan and Coulter and erected between 1950 and 1953. This was one of the largest grouped children's homes to be built after the Second World War.

LANCASHIRE

Barrow-in-Furness Union Cottage Homes, Roose Road (SD 213 690)

A row of three buildings erected on a small plot

of land *c.* 1905. Present condition not known.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Leicester Union Cottage Homes, Countesthorpe (SP 569 955) NBR Index 100970

Designed by I. Baradale in 1884, this small village adopted an informal layout. Some of the homes have been demolished and others converted into housing.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Horncastle Cottage Homes (TF 265 693) NBR Index 100843

In 1932 the Public Assistance Committee of Lindsey County Council converted the former Horncastle Union Workhouse into the central administrative building of a new complex of cottage homes. These were designed by Henry G. Gamble and erected on an adjoining site to the south. They are now occupied by Horncastle College.

MERSEYSIDE

West Derby Union Cottage Homes (later New Hall), Fazakerley, Liverpool (SJ 387 977) NBR Index 100963 (Figs. 14 & 15)

Charles H. Lancaster was the architect of this large village, erected by West Derby Union in 1888-9. The buildings were arranged formally, along a tree-lined avenue, in a similar manner to Banstead and Hornchurch (see above). An impressive hall stands on an island at the head of the avenue. The buildings are still used for a variety of functions but their future is uncertain and the integrity of the site threatened. Although the original school has been demolished and one cottage destroyed by fire, this is one of the best preserved cottage home villages in the country, with a swimming pool which is still in use today.

Liverpool (Select Vestry) Cottage Homes, Olive Mount, nr. Wavertree (SJ 395 898) NBR Index 100965

This village was erected in 1898, on the site of an early nineteenth-century house, Olive Mount, which is now used as offices. The homes were arranged in grid formation, an unusually rigid layout not repeated elsewhere. The school and superintendent's house have survived but the remainder of the site was demolished in 1992-3 and awaits redevelopment.

NORFOLK

Great Yarmouth Union Cottage Homes, Gorleston (TG 523 052)

Designed by Arthur S. Hewitt and built on the site of The Hollies in 1900-2.³¹ Present condition not known.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Newcastle Union Cottage Homes, Ponteland (NZ 154 741) NBR Index 101646

Designed by Oliver, Leeson & Wood in 1901, this site is currently used by Northumbria Police. Most of the original buildings, arranged around a green, survive.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Stoke-on-Trent Union Cottage Homes, Penkhull (SJ 866 449)

Built in 1900 for approximately 130 children and enlarged in 1924.³² No information on current status.

SURREY

Philanthropic Society's Farm School, Redhill (TQ 289 495)

This farm school was established in 1849 by the Revd. Sydney Turner.³³ Some 'farm schools' acquired their name because they were 'farmed out' to contractors, but this was a true farm school, where boys aged twelve to fifteen were detained under the Reformatory Schools Act and given agricultural training. It was not a true cottage home village: the homes were spread over the large rural site like isolated farmsteads, and could hold sixty boys apiece. The north part of the site now belongs to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, while the Nuffield Care Centre occupies the southern part. The original buildings have, by and large, been demolished.

Princess Mary's Village Homes for Little Girls, Addlestone (TQ 051 648)

This establishment was founded in 1870 by Mrs Meredith for the daughters of criminal mothers and, in its layout, resembled Farningham in Kent (see above). The girls, however, lived in smaller households than the boys at Farningham, with a house-mother who was usually widowed. As well as pairs of cottages, the site included a school, a mission hall and a small infirmary. All of these buildings have been demolished and replaced by a modern housing estate.

Kensington & Chelsea District School, Banstead (TQ 240 603) NBR Index 101619

The prolific poor-law architects Arthur & Christopher Harston designed one of the earliest and largest English cottage home villages for the Kensington & Chelsea School District, a poor-law authority founded in 1876. A site was found close to Banstead and the buildings were erected between 1878 and 1880. Homes were laid out in a rigid fashion, to either side of a long street which ran parallel to a railway line; service buildings stood in the centre of the site and at either end. Each of the twenty-three homes could hold twenty-six children, and by 1903 there were no less than 640 children living on the site.³⁴ With the exception of the lodge, the buildings have been demolished and replaced by housing. The School District established a children's receiving home at Marlesford Lodge, Kensington in 1882-3.

WEST MIDLANDS

Birmingham Cottage Homes, Marston Green (SP 179 858) NBR Index 100972 (Figs.12 & 15) As Banstead has been demolished, this site is the earliest poor-law cottage home village to survive. Built in 1878-9, it could accommodate 400 children. The buildings are arranged along a slightly sinuous 'street' and face south-west. After becoming Coleshill Mental Hospital earlier this century, the site was expanded by the erection of low grade villas and a large nurses' home. Piecemeal hospital additions and alterations have adversely affected the appearance of the original buildings, but are largely superficial. The hospital currently faces an uncertain future.

King's Norton Union Cottage Homes, Shenley Fields (SP 015 817) NBR Index 100983

This cottage home village was erected in the 1880s

and extended in 1893. The buildings have been demolished and an intensive modern housing development fills the site.

Wolverhampton Union Cottage Homes, Wednesfield (SJ 942 009) NBR Index 100982

Designed by G.H.Stranger and erected in 1888, this site comprised a gentle curve of homes to either side of service buildings, arranged to face south-west.³⁵ The buildings have been demolished and a modern housing estate stands on the site.

Aston Union Cottage Homes (SP 108 912) NBR Index 100986

The Aston Cottage Homes were erected on a site adjacent to the workhouse in 1898, to a design by Franklin Cross and Nichols. The buildings were arranged along either side of a long street, as at several earlier village sites. Most of them are in use as housing or offices.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Ecclesall Bierlow Union Cottage Homes, Fulwood (SK 294 857) NBR Index 100938 (Fig.16) Holmes & Watson designed this village for Ecclesall Bierlow Union in 1903. All of the buildings, including the water tower, have been converted into private houses, their back gardens carved out of the central green. New houses have been erected on the periphery of the site.

WEST YORKSHIRE

Hunslet Union Cottage Homes, Rothwell Haigh (SE 290 335)

A tight group of five cottage homes, built in 1895, which could accommodate sixty-five children.³⁶ Present condition not known.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Fletcher, J., 'Statistics of the Farm School System of the Continent and of its applicability to the Preventive and Reformatory Education of Pauper and Criminal Children', *Journal of the Statistical Society of London*, XV (1852), 1-49.
2. Another important early village was the Orphan Homes of Scotland at Bridge of Weir, founded in 1877 by William Quarrier and designed by Robert Bryden (Magnusson, A., *The Village. A History of Quarriers*, (Bridge of Weir, 1984)).

3. An influential report of 1874, by Mrs Nassau-Senior, recommended smaller institutions, particularly for girls (*Parliamentary Papers*, XXV, c.1071, (1874)). Official sanction for the cottage home system, however, came with F. J. Mouat and J. D. Bowly's 'Report on the Home and Cottage System of Training and Educating the Children of the Poor' (*Parliamentary Papers*, LX, 285 (1878)).
4. In 1904 the poor-law architect Albert C. Freeman recommended, to little effect, that each cottage hold fifteen children (Freeman, A.C., *Hints on the Planning of Poor-Law Buildings and Mortuaries*, (London, 1904), 49).
5. By 1911, 21,417 pauper children lived in cottage homes, compared with 24,014 in workhouses and 11,279 in barrack schools, (*Parliamentary Papers*, XXXI, Cd. 5865, (1911) xx).
6. Mouat & Bowly, *op. cit.*
7. Freeman, *op. cit.*, 48.
8. Mouat and Bowly, *op. cit.*, 8.
9. Freeman, *op. cit.*, 48.
10. *Barnardo's Children* (pamphlet), (n.d.) 7.
11. Mouat and Bowly, *op. cit.*, 1.
12. On entering service, girls from London homes came under the care of the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants.
13. Individual and grouped cottage homes on or beside workhouse sites are not included in the catalogue at the end of this essay.
14. RCHME's programme of institutional recording will result in publications on Hospitals and Asylums (1998), Poor-Law Buildings (1998) and Prisons (1999). The archive produced by these projects will be made accessible in the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon.
15. Many cottage homes on workhouse sites were recorded in the course of the RCHME Workhouses Project.
16. Plans of 1885 and 1897, Public Record Office (PRO) MH14/36.
17. *Parliamentary Papers*, XXXI, Cd. 2661, (1905) 206.
18. *Building News*, (7th October 1898), 518.
19. *The Builder*, (29th July 1871), 594; Mouat and Bowly, *op. cit.*, 285; Barnardo, Mrs., and Marchant, J., *Memoirs of the Late Dr Barnardo*, (London, 1907), 122-131; Victoria County History, *Essex*, V, (1966), 252-3; Kelly's *Directory of Essex*, (1929), 44.
20. *Barnardo's Children* (pamphlet), 7.
21. Mouat and Bowly, *op. cit.*, 5.
22. Monnington, W., and Lampard, F.J., *Our London Poor Law Schools*, (London, 1898), 42-3.
23. Freeman, *op. cit.*, 50.
24. Kelly's *Directory of Essex*, (1929), 541.
25. Plans, PRO MH14/4.
26. Plans dated 1898, PRO MH14/26.
27. Victoria County History, *East Riding of Yorkshire*, I, (1969), 386.
28. Mouat & Bowly, *op. cit.*, 4.
29. Plans, PRO MH14/23.
30. Kelly's *Directory of Kent*, (1922), 173.
31. Plans dated 1900, PRO MH14/38.
32. Victoria County History, *Stafford*, VIII, (1963), 200.
33. *Illustrated London News*, (5th October 1861), 357.
34. 'Return of Cottage Homes or other similar establishments for children', *Parliamentary Papers* 145, LIX, (1903) 377.
35. Plans dated 1888, PRO MH14/38.
36. Plans dated 1895, PRO MH14/16.