

TIMELINE / EXCERPTS

When the Normans compiled the Domesday Book, they mentioned a manor owned by Geoffrey Alselin, whose estate extended to Colwick, Carlton and Gedling. Around that time, Colwick centred on a tiny settlement, comprising 31 acres of meadow and 8 acres of woodland. Two ploughs were being used in the area, where one freeman, one small holder and six villagers lived. The southern boundary of Colwick was the River Trent, and its name is derived from Colici or Colewick, meaning the dairy farm of Cola. The well-watered meadows were ideal for pasture,

Colwick village was in fact two villages until approximately the 12th century. One of the villages was made into the manor or park. This area now has been swallowed up by the sprawling city of Nottingham. The remainder of Colwick was known as Over Colwick, later named Thamesland and later still Nether Colwick, these days just known as Colwick. The Domesday Book refers to Over Colwick being owned by Waleraun and boasted a church and a water mill and attached to the manor with important free fishery rights. From these old records, a grand total of 80 people lived in the village of Colwick. The family of Colwick was supposed to have taken the name of Colwick and used it as their family name. There was no known record of the original family name of the owners. William de Colwick was first mentioned in 1174 in court records.

The former was enclosed by the Colwick family into the Colwick estate and is now listed as one of the lost villages in Nottinghamshire. It was at this time that the first church and Colwick would have been erected properly of wood and attached to the estate of the Colwick family. Sir William de Colwick was a justice at the Sherwood Forest and would have been alive around the time of Robin Hood. The rector of Colwick at this time was one of Robert Filio Hugonis, and the church was linked to Newstead Priory.

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| 1086 | Domesday book - In Colewic, Godric had a manor before the conquest, which answered or was rated to the Dane-geld or tax at seven bovats. The land was one car. There afterwards William Peverel (whose fee it became) had one car in demesne and seven vill. six bordars, having three car. or plows |
| 1175-1252 | Reginald de Colwick was permitted to enclose his park with a hedge and ditch which could only be done by royal warrant. Colwick Park of those days included Colwick Wood and the highland up to the neighbourhood of Oakdale Road.
Robert Thoroton, 'Colwick, Over and Nether', in Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: Volume 3, ed. John Throsby (Nottingham, 1796): - is this from the Domesday book? |

(fn. 5) The jury, 6 E. 1. found that Reginald de Colewyke, the grandfather of William, lived an hundred years; and that he, and Philip his son, father of William, had their park enclosed with hedge and ditch at their pleasure, without the impediment of the justice or ministers of the forest, and so held it all their lives, as the said William then did, paying his twelve arrows, as before is said.

- 1362 The male line of the De Colwicks was extinct and the estate was held by Joan Colwick who married Richard Byron. The original Byron was one of the Conqueror's armies and was rewarded by grants of land at Hucknall. (The earliest references to the estate occur on the death of William de Colwick in 1362, when it passed by the marriage of his daughter Joan to Sir Richard Byron, into the Byron family – Wiki)
- 1540 Sir John Byron, bought Newstead Abbey for £800. He rebuilt Colwick Church.
- 1609 The Sherwood Forest Survey map of 1609 showed the boundary with Sneinton in the west and Stoke Bardolph to the east. Sir John Byron owned the whole parish and in 1615 there were 25 named tenants. Two of the field names survive today, Rough Hill Wood adjoining the Sneinton boundary and to the east is Colwick Woods. Candle Meadow gives its name to a housing development at the east of Colwick. The large field adjoining Stoke Bardolph was the Nether lower field, developed during the 19th century to become Netherfield.
- 1641 Just before the Civil War, Colwick was sold to Sir James Stonehouse who later sold it to Sir John Musters.
- 1648 The old church in Colwick is sited near Colwick Hall and was acquired by John Musters.
- About 1662 A claim was registered of John Musters, a squire, and John Parry, clerk of the parish church at Colwick. John Musters claims the manor of Colwick and six messuages, five cottages, 200 acres arable, 124 acres meadow and pasture in over and nether Colwick and in the manor of Snenton in the forest of Sherwood, with right to all timbers growing thereon, free from the view of any officers of the forest, and to have a woodward. All the premises lying in thorny woods in the South Bailliwick of the Forest, quit of wastes, perpretures and assarts with liberty to take wastes, perpretures and assarts therein, to inclose the premises, and to have a park in Colwick called Colwick Park with free warren. Also claiming common of pastures on

the waste ground called Snenton Plain for all parts of the premises lying within Snenton.

DD/TB/2/1/25 Pleas of the Forest of Sherwood, held at Mansfield before William, Marquis of Newcastle and itinerant justice for all forests north of the Trent
Claim by John Musters esquire by Ralph Edge, his attorney, to manors of Colwick, Over Colwick and Nether Colwick, with specified lands, there and in Snenton
Seal of Forest Office Roll 5 Feb 15 Charles II (1662/3)

- 1680 Leonard Knyff and Jan Kip made a coloured engraving The Prospect of Nottingham from Ye East in 1680 and an engraving was made the same year by Jan Kip, two more Dutch artists who came to England to make their money painting and making engravings of Country Houses / Piles.
- 1695 View of Nottingham from the East by Jan Siberechts (1627-1703) circa 1695-1700.
- 1750 Deering wrote about the walks to the walled hills such that pleasure was only allowed to those favoured with a key. (Ice House, watercress ponds, parkland landscape).
- 1770 Another John Musters reigned at Colwick and it was his wife, Sophia, who painted the east windows in the Colwick church
- 1775 John Musters replaced all of the older buildings with the present hall in 1775–1776. The new house was built by local builder, Samuel Stretton, from designs of John Carr of York. It was enclosed with a moat, crossed by drawbridge on the north side.
- 1770s A lot of the trees were probably planted after Colwick Hall was built.
- 1790 John Thorsby republished 'The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire' a work by fellow antiquarian Robert Thoroton, first published in 1677: 'above the rocky eminence is a small park wooded and stocked with deer. A portion of the rock facing Colwick Hall has been cut away and forms a steep precipice'.
- 1801 The population of Colwick had risen to 116
- 1805 John Musters's son Jack married Mary Chaworth, Byron's childhood love-interest from Annesley Hall.

1825 Tenant register:

DD/TB/2/2/34/1-2 Draft and copy survey of estates of John Musters at Colwick, Snenton and West Bridgford
Giving name of tenant, field names, acreages and land use
Watermark 1825

1827 John / Jack Musters succeeded to the estate.

1800's paintings show rough grazed open grassland or fields.

1831 After the burning of the castle the mob attacked Colwick; it was sacked and partly burned by rioters. John Musters was away and Mary spent the night in pouring rain with her daughter Sophia, crouched beneath the shrubbery and died at Wiverton Hall some four months later from the shock.

1832 White's Directory described Colwick as small but pleasant, with Colwick Hall sited half a mile west of the village. The owner, Sir John Musters, had been a wealthy London tradesman, one of many in the 17th century to retire to a country seat.

1844 Saville murders and hanging.

Game keeper catches an escaped prisoner (not connected)

1847 Rent charges in lieu of tithes

1848 The Midland Railway was the first to run through Colwick.

When railways built there were still crossing points for paths and the main brick surfaced Victorian carriageways to the hall. Finally split off when Colwick Loop Road was constructed along the former railway line.

1851 The census listed Colwick as having a population of 120 housed in 22 dwellings. At that time, the Musters were residing at Annesley Hall and Colwick Hall was let to Isaac Berdmore, a retired builder with four children and two servants. The rector was another member of the Musters family, William. The other houses were occupied by farmers and farm workers.

1870 Colwick estate leased for a year by John Chaworth Musters (**this must have been a common occurrence**) to Saul Isaac: Lease .. of a mansion house and premises called Colwick Hall, in the parish of Colwick, Nottinghamshire; a kitchen garden, keeper's house, buildings and lands at Colwick in the occupation of Mr Joseph

Johnson; two Osier Holts at Colwick in the occupation of William Scaling; the exclusive right of shooting over all parts of the Colwick Estate of John Chaworth Musters; the exclusive right of fishing with rods only in the River Trent and the backwaters over the said premises.

Musters retained rights over minerals, rights to cut timber, rights to destroy rabbits and hares, and rights to fish with any visiting personal friends.

Saul Isaac was an interesting man - In 1870 he opened the Wilford Bridge and Clifton Collieries, providing a local supply of coal which facilitated the industrial growth of Nottingham. He became the MP for Nottingham (1874-80), and was the first Jewish MP to be returned for the Conservative Party.

1875 Shortly after the coal traffic line from Colwick Junction to Derby was opened in August 1875, the laying out of Colwick sidings began. This was made up of 20 miles of sorting sidings with accompanying engine sheds etc., covering 150 acres of land in Colwick and Carlton which was later to be called Netherfield. The sidings brought work for many of the village men and the Grantham line provided plenty of cheap transport and a fast way into town for work and shopping.

1886 James Whitty started river trips on Steamers from Trent Bridge to Colwick Hall, where passengers could disembark to enjoy a stroll through the park. But it was not until 1892 that organised entertainment was provided for visitors. The attractions by the lakeside included a small pleasure park for children, Pierrots, acrobats, band concerts, 3 public bars and a restaurant, fireworks and a menagerie. The lakeside walks and surrounding trees were lit by thousands of coloured fairy lights; the power plant was housed in a glass building so all could see the generator. This was very much a novelty for the general public. The late Victorian and Edwardian eras were the heyday of the excursions to Colwick. Pleasure boats continued to run to Colwick until after the Second World War, but the attractions of the previous years were greatly reduced.

Victorian

Times

Smaller reservoir built

1887 In 1887, Thomas Hobbs was running a carriage service from Warser Gate to Colwick and Netherfield which also carried passengers. By 1899, the Tipler Brothers ran a horse bus service to Carlton, Netherfield, Colwick and Gedling from the New George. In 1899, the Tipler Brothers ran a horse bus service to Colwick, Netherfield, Colwick and Gedling from the New George. The railway had no real competition

from the roads until the First World War period when the first bus service from Colwick was started from Burton Joyce via Netherfield and Colwick to Nottingham, run by Sam and Harry Gregson Colliers from Lancashire, whose two old army vehicles would seat running alongside each other from back to front, no roof and solid tyres.

- 1891 Colwick's population had risen to 480. Most of the men were employed on the railway, and the additional houses were in Colwick Vale, the narrow strip of land between what is now Vale Road and the railway. The older houses, including the rectory and the manor, were 100 yards or so to the south, near what is now Mile End Road. They have all been demolished.
- 1892 Mr. J.P. Chaworth Musters sold Colwick to Sir Horatio Davis. (John Patricius Chaworth-Musters and his wife Mary Anne had eleven children; six of their seven sons served in the Great War and three were killed, as was a son-in-law). The racecourse opened. For a while the hall was used as a public house and the rest of the building accommodated grooms and jockeys.
- 1900s Early on in the 20th century a special station was opened on the Great Northern Railway line for the use of passengers on race days. About the same time the road from Nottingham was widened and improved, tolls for using it were abolished. The Colwick Vale estate also saw the construction of two large industrial concerns, William Lawrence and Company Furniture Manufacturers and George Sands Engineers.
In the old days this was a genteel woodland enjoyed by Victorians. The park had ornate metal handrails, steps, kissing gates, ornate wooden footbridges, toilets, barns, seats.
- 1913 Sons and Lovers published – 'The Trent ran dark and full under the bridge. Away towards Colwick all was black night. He lived down Holme Road, on the naked edge of the town, facing across the river meadows towards Sneinton Hermitage and the steep scrap of Colwick Wood'.
- 1914 Used by soldiers for camping and also anti-aircraft guns when a searchlight was erected on the hill in the woodland.

1923

The freehold was bought by a syndicate, the Nottingham Racecourse Company, and devoted to pleasure and sport, the house itself becoming a public house with the rest of the buildings being used to house grooms and jockeys.

Late 20s

Report from 1933 on Colwick Woods and General Gardeners Federation

Mr. R. E. Ashworth, who presided, said that it had not been for a fortunate accident a few years ago, the Colwick Woods would not have become a municipal estate. He (Mr. Ashworth) happened to hear that the land was to be split up and sold by auction. He secured a 30 days' option on it, and was able to persuade the City Council to purchase the estate, and it was probably the best bargain in land the Corporation had ever had. It cost 2½d. a yard, or about £80 an acre.

Aug 1930

Sewage tunnel dug using the most modern equipment. This period – the 30s – is one of real interest with lots of house building and the buying of Colwick Woods by the council is part of this push to improve the lives of the city's working class.

BORING A MILE-LONG TUNNEL UNDER COLWICK WOODS.

NEW MACHINE TO BE USED.

HUGE SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR CITY.

The second section of Nottingham's £1,000,000 sewer scheme is now taking shape in the Colwick Woods area.

For the work of boring a six-foot mile-long tunnel under the hill, a new machine, the first of its kind in England, is being used.

Yesterday Mr. J. T. Edlin, chairman of the Corporation Works and Ways Committee, the city engineer, Mr. T. Wallis Gordon, and Mr. R. C. Aldous, chief assistant sewage engineer, visited the work, accompanied by a "Nottingham Journal" representative.

Beyond the L.M.S. railway line the operations begin, and 80 men, all drawn from local labour, are at present employed on the scheme which is one of the unemployment relief works.

Some 300 yards of exterior sewer-laying is at present being done, but when the tunnelling commences, over 150 men will be occupied with the work.

To Stoke Farm.

The contractors, Messrs. Harold Arnold and Son, Ltd., of Doncaster, are laying two and a quarter miles of the new outfall sewer from the city to Stoke Farm, which, with the existing five-foot tunnel, should carry Nottingham's sewage for the next 60 years.

A mile of the great six-foot pipe, which runs in a dead line, is to be deep down in the rock below the woods, in a bed of concrete.

Gigantic Machine.

Already, at the spot where it will emerge from the slope excavations in the red clay have been made, and the gigantic 18-ton tunnelling machine, with its steel jaws, rests at the sidings near Carlton Station.

It will burrow into the side of the slope, and by a novel process, the rock excavated is to be taken underneath as it moves along, and loaded

on to trucks which will be shunted into the tunnel as it is cut, and removed along a mile-long railway line to a loading tip.

Two and a half million bricks will be used on the two odd miles of the sewer.

Can't Move Backwards!

It is the first time that the machine has been used in England. Tunnelling work has formerly been done by hand. Should soft wet rock be encountered and the jaws become clogged or some other accident occur so that the experiment cannot be pursued, its recovery from the bowels of the earth will be a problem, since it won't move backwards.

It will in ordinary circumstances push on like an industrious mule until it comes out by the tram-terminus on the other side. At its deepest point the tunnel will be 225 feet from the top.

Modern Methods.

The most modern of methods are being employed. The contract amounted to £251,000, and the work, which has been going on since January, will take another two years to complete.

A mechanical excavator, which at its best drives out with a huge "spade" 200 cubic yards of material in nine hours, equal to the work of 100 men, is in use.

Eventually, the work at present going on at Bobbers Mill on the new Leas Valley sewer, which is to deal with the sewage of Arnold, Bulwell, Aspley, Sherwood and much of North Nottingham, will be linked up with the new outfall sewer at Colwick. For this is take place, a new gravitational trunk sewer will have to be put right through the city, from west to east, passing through Derby-road, South-parade, and Sneinton Market.

Invisible Operations.

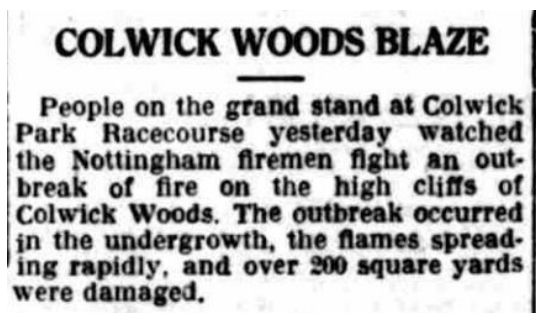
This will be a formidable task, carried out mostly by a tunnelling process, which will be practically invisible to the city's busy crowds.

Before this is attempted, however, other portions of the scheme, which will take at least eight years to complete, will be put in hand.

The work at Bobbers Mill is going on well, and at the next meeting of the Works and Ways Committee on Friday, the third section—the remainder of the outfall sewer, between Netherfield and Stoke Farm—will be discussed.

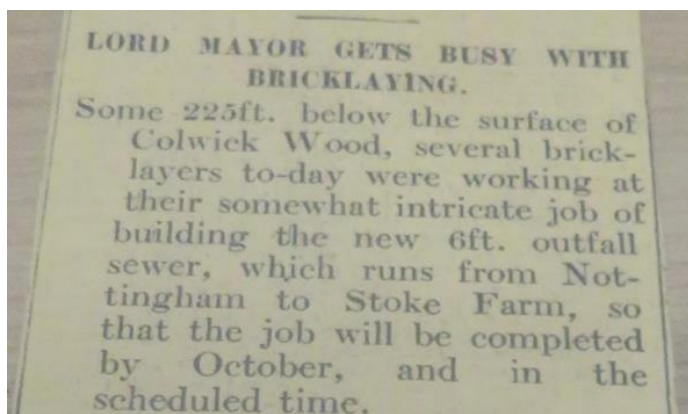
- 1931 First annual Chrysanthemum show in association with the Colwick Woods Harden-Holders association held at the club room of the Oakdale Hotel, Sneinton Dale. Kiosk in the woods being run by a John Solari.
- 1932 Nottingham City Council was running short of what it regarded as suitable underdeveloped sites for building council houses. It had already bought land outside the city boundary, adjoining some of its existing estates, including part of Colwick Estate, on which it was laying out recreation grounds. Part of Colwick was acquired by Nottingham Council Housing in 1932 when the Bakersfield estate was built. It promoted a parliamentary bill to extend its boundary and was successful in including Colwick, extending about a mile eastward between Carlton Road and the River Trent. This included the racecourse, Colwick Hall and grounds, Colwick Woods and adjoining building land. The remaining part of the parish of Colwick, which from 1884 had been part of a rural district, was absorbed two years later into Carlton Urban District Council.

Aug 1933 Fire:



1934 Colwick Wood Tunnel

DD/2373/18/1-2 Newspaper cutting and photograph describing the inspection of Colwick Wood Tunnel by a civic party including Lord Mayor Alderman Green and Councillor J T Edlin, c 1934



1935 Land transfers to City Council. Much of area still farmed until then.
1930's housing enveloped farming land.
The woods were fenced before the Second World War and the concrete posts are still visible today by the path leading to the Three Hills area and on the top edge of the woods on that side.

Feb 1935 Councillor Hallam addressing the Trent Valley Conservative Association

Mr. Hallam announced that a scheme was being prepared by the Public Parks Committee for the lay-out of Colwick Woods as a beauty spot. Pathways would be made, and in addition to providing work for the unemployed the scheme would enable citizens to enjoy one of the finest beauty spots in the district.

1936 Nottingham's tram stopped in 1936 and was replaced by trolley buses or petrol buses. Basford had two trolley routes to replace its trams, one from Trent Bridge to Bulwell Marketplace and another from Colwick to Bulwell Hall.
Levelling work begins to create sports fields for Manvers Boys Central School.

1939 June 26th / 29th report:

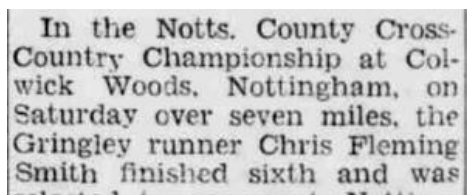
HILL-TOP SERVICE Sunday School Rally in Colwick Woods Park An impressive scene of united Sunday School witness was enacted on the top of a hill in Colwick Woods Park, Nottingham, yesterday, at which several hundred children assembled. The children were from the Sunday schools of St. Christopher's Church and Meadow-lane Mission, Albion Congregational Church, St. Cyprian Church and Jarvis-avenue Mission, Parkdale Congregational Church and Sneinton-boulevard Methodist Church, and the attendance was materially augmented by the presence of parents and friends in large numbers. A suitable address was given by the Rev. R. Deaville (vicar of St. Andrew's) who was supported by the Rev. F. G. Ralph, the Rev. H. A. Kirton, the Rev. G. R. Nelson, the Rev. T. Varteg Evans, and Mr. Harold Beeston.	Impressive United Service at Colwick Woods. An impressive "united Sunday School witness" took place on Colwick Woods Park, Nottingham, yesterday afternoon. Two thousand children from six Sunday Schools in the Sneinton district—Church of England and Nonconformist—were but a small part of the huge concourse. The Rev. A. Mead, the Rev. J. Jones, and the Rev. J. R. Harrison (vicar of St. Christopher's, Sneinton), took part in the service at which there was a reception of flags. The Rev. G. Hartley Holloway gave an address and at the close the large congregation sang the National Anthem.
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Sep1939 Army Barracks, housing 277th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery of the 68th (Midlands) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment (Royal Artillery).
Boys football matches were being played (the pitch was bumpy). e.g Jarvis Avenue Mission v Long Eaton Boys Club

- Feb 1941 68th / 277th (Midlands) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment (Royal Artillery) embark to North Africa
During the 2nd World War, parts of the site was ploughed for food oats, rye etc.
- 1941 Barracks becomes Colwick Woods Satellite POW camp for Nottingham GPC (General Processing Camp)No 27. Began taking Italian POWs around mid-1941 and acted as an Italian POW camp until 1944.
- March 1944 American GIs of the 82nd Airborne Division visit Colwick Woods Camp in preparation for the D-Day landings. Short, temporary stay.
- 1944 - 1947 German POWs replaced Italians at Colwick Woods Camp.
The site is abandoned after the war and grassland / parkland quickly scrubbed over
- 1947 Money provided by the Public Parks and Cemeteries Committee for playground equipment. 'Land used for production in the war years would now be used for football and cricket'.
There were plans for a zoological garden which were shelved.
- 1948 Colwick Woods Camp used as agricultural training camp and school.
- 1950 Camp converted to emergency housing for 24 families.
November – fire at Keepers Cottage at 12.30am with Fire Brigade needing half a mile of hose to reach the nearest water supply.
- 1951 Parks Committee put on children's entertainment in the summer holidays. August 13th is Punch and Judy, Paul Pelman, conjuring and ventriloquism.
- 1953 The Babes of Colwick Wood pantomime at The Youth Fellowship of St John's Church, Colwick-on-the-Hill; written by Paul Cook.
- 1955 Camp demolished. Land becomes football field and later miniature golf course.
- 1950s The years after WW2 saw many of the old fields turned into building land for housing which still carry the name of the old fields as street names.
Sneinton hillside allotments abandoned, which is the area next to 'west view'

Colwick Woods might have been swallowed up by huge housing development in the 1960s, but the threat was averted. Nottingham Corporation acquired the Hall Freehold from the Racecourse Company in 1965. After seven years, the Home Brewery Company bought a 99-year lease in 1972 and they renovated the Hall and opened it as a non-residential hotel in 1976. The lease was reassigned to brewery giants Scottish and Newcastle Enterprises in 1987. They ran the Hall as a pub, occasionally as a conference centre until 1996. It then gradually fell into disrepair with it being boarded up in the 1990s. They decided to sell the lease on and in 2002 Chek Whyte and Paul Jones won a bid to restore the building. It opened in 2003 as a hotel and top function venue.

1959 County Cross Country championships



1962/3 Heavy winter and lots of sledging at Mile Run.
1960's Beech Sycamore plantation in Three Hills valley.

1965 Nottingham Corporation acquired the hall from the racecourse company.

1966 In 1966, when Trent Gravels were extending their gravel ponds, several Bronze Age objects were found, two bronze swords, a bronze axe head with part of the original wooden shaft still in the axe head, a socketed bronze knife, a decorated bronze axe head and other small objects of interest which were donated to the castle museum. On the other side of the River Trent, Holme Pierrepont, other traces were found of Bronze Age life when a wooden fence and three Bronze Age canoes were found during extension to gravel work. So it would seem that there were possibly several settlements around the Colwick area on both sides of the River Trent. There was evidence of other much older life in the shape of a fossilised footprint of a rare amphibian of a salamander or mastonsaurus was found when the railway cutting was made by the Midland Rail Company.

1967 BBC local transmitter aerial erected
Derby train in the woods

April 1970 Colwick sidings were closed down under the modernisation of the British Railways. Where once an army of 2,000 men and hundreds of chains clanked to and fro daily,

they were reduced to a maze of bare rails and empty buildings. The last few days in 1971 saw the demolition of the old water tower and the coaling plant almost completing the clearance of all traces of the sidings.

July 1970 Derby County training in the woods

1970s Colwick woods used for major schools cross country events. e.g:

The Lincolnshire Schoolgirls' cross-country teams did very well at Colwick Woods, Nottingham in an inter-counties match involving Lincs, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Boys' teams compete again at Colwick Woods (Nottingham) on 12 March and in their National Schools event at Derby on 22 March.

1982 Larger reservoir built

1985 The exposed rock face which forms the southern edge of Colwick Woods was declared as a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

1990 An area of the Western Woodland was planted as a memorial to infants who died of cot death.

1997 £100 million plan to rebuild Nottingham Castle on the woods:



2003 A number of people were involved in the Bewick Drive Direct Action Group and fought NCC at the inquiry to stop building on the allotments in 2003.

2004	Friends of Colwick Woods formed
2005	Declared a Local Nature Reserve under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949). A litter pick on 16th March included a 6-foot bath and 10 car tyres.
2006	First Gala Day held The pond project – recreating the pond shown on the old maps of the woods.
2009	Bowling green closed due to a decline in membership over several years. Buildings used as a tool store.
2010	Western viewpoint created
2011	January 8th the Nottingham Astronomical Society held a stargazing session and over 600 people attended.
2019	Greenwood Coffee Stop opened