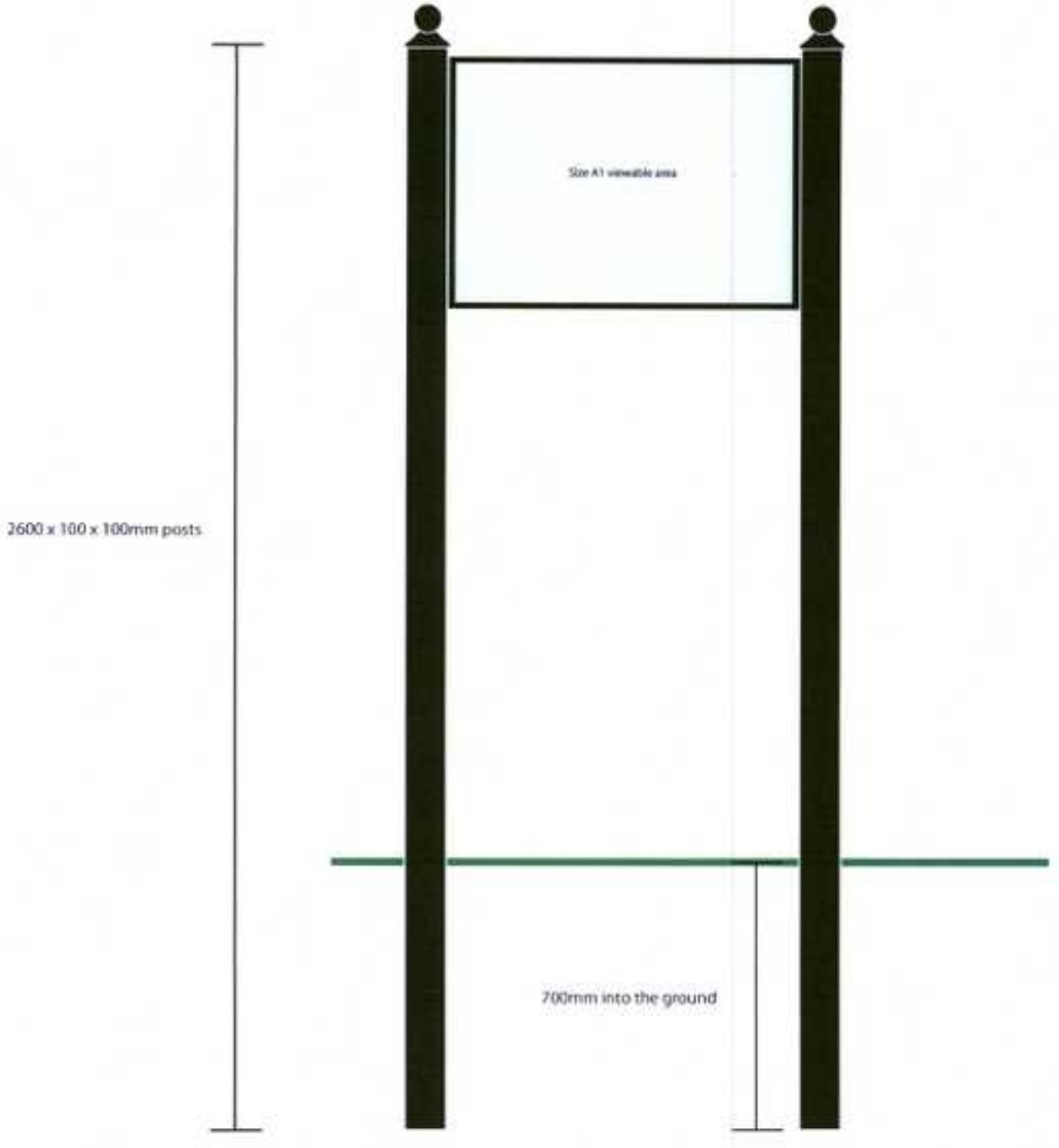
POSTS AND FRAME PAINTED DARK GREEN



Welcome to Waingroves

We invite you to read on and find out more about the history of this area.



Waingroves Hall © picturethepast.org.uk

The first known reference to the village is when land at "Waingrif" was granted for "perpetual almsgiving" (meaning that the rent was used to support the poor) by Ralph Fitz-Stephen in 1147. The land was held by Henry of Waingriff.

The Zouch family of Codnor Castle were given the land after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII and the first reference to "Waingroves" was after his death in 1586.

The site of the manor was later used for the construction of what would become known as Waingroves Hall, The hall does not appear to incorporate any remains of the manor house of the Knights Hospitallers. but there is a stone on the rear of the hall with the Knights Hospitallers crest that is believed to be from the original building. The earliest fragments of the hall date from 1690, with most of the house dating from 1800 when the house was rebuilt for Richard Clayton.

The village grew during the second half of the 1800s with the opening of the colliery in 1859. There was a single 10ft diameter shaft and associated headworks. The Butterley Company also built rows of cottages on Church Street. When the mine flooded during the miners' strike of 1921 it never re-opened. The colliery is commemorated by a wonderful sculpture of miners on the site of the pit shaft in Waingroves Community Woodland.



© Waingroves Community Woodland Trust



Crosshill Station © picturethepast.org.uk

The colliery was served by a branch line from the Ripley to Heanor railway, with a station for passengers at the bottom of the village at Crosshill. This opened in 1890 and closed in 1926. The effects of the new tramway to Nottingham and the cheap fares, the disruption of the First World War and finally the General Strike were too much for this line.



Waingroves Brickworks from above 1936 © Historic England

Brick-making was a common industry in the Ripley area in the 1800s; Ripley Dannah Street School and Porterhouse Road are built on brickwork sites. In the late 19th century there was a brickworks between Pit Lane and Queen Street in Waingroves.

The much larger Waingroves Brickworks, part of the Butterley Company, provided much needed employment after the closure of the pit. The works re-opened with new machinery in 1918, but it was 1921 before it was fully operational. A fully automated plant was installed in 1962 producing half a million red facing and engineering bricks a week. 400 million bricks were produced before the brickworks closed in 2006.

There were few buildings on Waingroves Road above Jessop Street until after 1900, but there were four pubs in the village until the mid 20th century: The Windmill at the top of the village, Jolly Colliers and Thorn Tree around the middle of the village and the Britannia at the bottom.



The Windmill Inn, Around 1900 © picturethepast.org.uk

A vivid portrait of the village in the 1920s and 1930s can be found in the novels of Walter Brierley, a Waingroves born miner who wrote about his experience of unemployment in "Means Test Man" and "Sandwich Man".



Installed by Ripley Town Council. Written by Ian Fisher. Thanks to Peter Smith, Linda McCormick and Ripley and District Heritage Trust for their assistance and information and to all those who have given permission for illustrations to be used. For more information please scan the QR code or visit www.ripleytowncouncil.gov.uk