

[Print this item](#): National Community Development Project Archive: Photograph Collection Letter, Coventry (Hillfields)

NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ARCHIVE: PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

---

Project: *Coventry (Hillfields) CDP (closed) Contact  
Coventry Workshop 40 Bisley Rd., Coventry.*

Photographer: *Victor Burgin, 25 Mary-le-Park Court  
Albert Bridge Road, London SW11 4PS*

These photographs were taken in 1976. They were commissioned by the CDP Information and Intelligence Unit (inter-project editorial team) to provide illustrative material for a series of national and local CDP reports (then still being prepared) and to document the situation of these declining industrial areas before the CDP experiment was brought to an end.

Wherever possible we tried to link up with photographers who already had some connection with, or commitment to, the areas in question and who were sympathetic to the kind of ideas CDP was developing. This was not always easy, nor was their brief. Rather than going into the areas to record their personal impressions or do a 'colour supplement' job they were asked to document in photographs the local project teams understandings of the important features and processes at work in these areas, and to translate the analytical ideas that CDP had been developing over the previous years into images. The photographers had to work with and for the local projects, and the solutions they found varied widely from project to project, photographer to photographer. However, the Information and Intelligence Unit left the choice of the final set of prints to represent each area to the photographers as the visual interpreters. These are the sets of prints in these files.

As such these portfolios on their own do not necessarily correspond with the local CDP teams view of the areas. In terms of the CDP analysis, the photographs only have their full meaning in the context of the archive as a whole and the local and national reports where the ideas were developed and many of the photographs were used. (These reports: Whatever Happened to Council Housing, Profits Against Houses, Costs of Industrial Change, Gilding the Ghetto and Limits of the Law are available from P. Scully, Urban Deprivation Unit, Home Home, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, SW1)

Finally we would like to thank all the photographers for their hard work and enthusiasm and for their help in making our reports reach out to a wider audience. They were faced with a demanding brief, not a lot of money and sometimes very little time. They responded with great generosity. We hope the experience was useful to them as well.

*Kathy Henderson*

Kathy Henderson  
Editor, CDP IU  
March 1977