



# Guide to Bekonscot Model Village for accompanying adults

This guide is provided to assist adults accompanying groups of school children around Bekonscot Model Village and Railway.

It identifies eight locations around the village where the groups can stop to observe particular features. Suggested questions prompt discussion and appreciation of the differences between life in the 1930s, as depicted in the village, to our own lives today.

We hope you find this guide a useful resource which helps your pupils get the most out of their visit to the model village.

If you would like to provide feedback, please speak to a member of staff during your visit or contact our Education Officer on [cathy@bekonscot.co.uk](mailto:cathy@bekonscot.co.uk)



# 1. Chessnade Zoo

## Things to point out:

- Chimps tea party
- Cages
- Penguin pool

## Discussion points

- How is it different?
- Are animals in zoos today kept in cages like this?
- Why not?
- Are zoos better for animals today?

## Additional information:

- The name Chessnade is a combination of the names of 2 real zoos - Chessington and Whipsnade.
- The penguin pool is a copy of the real one at London zoo built by famous designer Berthold Lubetkin in 1930s





## 2. Greenhaily and Bekonscot Town

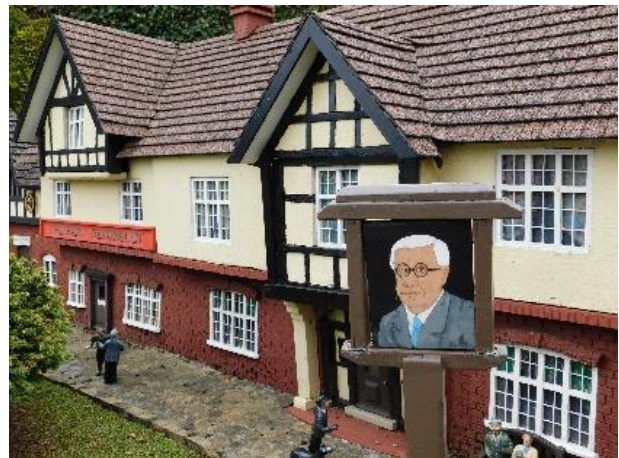
### Things to point out:

- Cricket match
- Blacksmith
- Trains running under the footbridge
- Listen for the train announcements
- Shop names
- Waitrose and Marks and Spencer
- Town Crier addressing a crowd
- Market square
- Cinema showing Snow White



### Discussion points:

- Where are the supermarkets?
- Which shops would people have visited to buy meat, bread, vegetables?
- What types of transport did people use most?
- Do you see many cars?



use

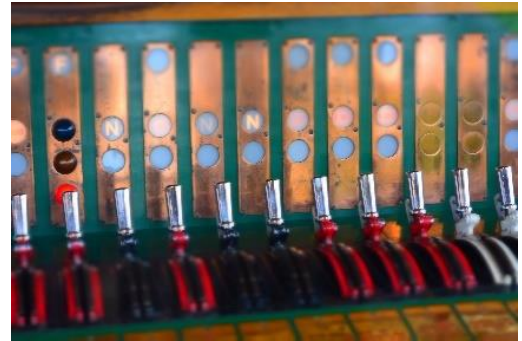
### Additional Information

- Greenhaily station is a copy of Beaconsfield station
- Disney's Snow White was released in 1938 so it is 80 years old!
- This is the oldest part of the model village with Bekonscot Minster and Bekonberry Castle being over 80 years old

### 3. Maryloo Station and the Signal Box

#### Things to point out:

- Maryloo station
- Illuminated diagram in the signal box which shows where each of the trains are
- Look for the names of the locomotives passing through
- The lever frame in the signal box which controls all the signals ensuring the trains don't crash



#### Discussion Points:

- How many different locos can you spot?
- Do the children think this is how trains are controlled today?
- How do the engineers make sure that the trains don't crash?



#### Additional information

- Bekonscot has more than 10 different locos with 7-8 usually running each day
- There are 450m of track around the village and 7 stations
- The railway is Gauge 1 (most home train sets are 00 gauge)
- Brighton is the oldest loco – built in 1929 if you are lucky enough to spot it



## 4. Bekonscot New Town

### Things to point out:

- Enid Blyton's house – Greenhedges
- Underground station
- Hoovalux building
- Funicular railway
- Look inside the church



### Discussion points:

- Bekonscot New Town shows what new buildings would have looked like in the 1930s. Do our new buildings still look like this?
- Discuss how the children think the funicular railway works. Has anyone been on a real one? Famous one between Lynton and Lynmouth in Devon.
- What is going on inside the church?



### Additional information:

- Hoovalux, the cinema and the underground station are examples of Art Deco architecture which was in its heyday in the 1930s
- Hoovalux is a copy of the Hoover building in North London
- The 1930s saw a big expansion of the London underground network and many new stations were built



# 5. Hanton and Splashyng

## Things to Point Out:

- The road works
- The house on fire
- The airfield
- Cottage gardens
- Alexandra Bridge
- Tramway



## Discussion Points:

- What are the differences between today's planes and those seen here?
- How do the gardens of the cottages differ from their own?

## Additional information:

- Alexandra Bridge is a copy of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and was completed in 1945
- The smoke for the house on fire is generated by an oil burning smoke machine on a timer
- Pulleys, belts and cogs run by motors are responsible for controlling many of the models



## 6. Evenlode

### Things to point out:

- Residents swimming in the hotel pool
- Life around the village green
- Boy with a pan stuck on his head in the hospital
- Cable cars
- Fairground
- Spot the cheeky fox hitching a ride with one of the horses



### Discussion Points:

- How does village life around the green differ from today's communities?
- Would you expect to see horse drawn carts making deliveries today?
- How many different types of jobs can they see people doing?
- Would the children like to visit this fairground or is it a bit dull?



### Additional information:

- Evenlode Village Green is an idealistic view of a 1930s community
- Canals as a form of transport were on the decline in the 1930s due to the expansion of the railways

# 7. Bekonscot Lake and Windmill

## Things to point out:

- The Ovaltine farm and cattle market
- The pier
- Water mill
- Windmill
- Gypsy camp



## Discussion Points:

- How many different types of boat can they see on the lake?
- What is playing at the theatre at the end of the pier?
- What everyday foodstuff were the windmill and water mill used to make?

## Additional Information:

- Bekonscot lake was originally Roland Callingham's swimming pool
- Most of the fish seen in both lakes have been donated to us by local residents when they become too big for their garden ponds.
- The windmill was another early addition to the village and quickly became a famous landmark. Hence why it is incorporated into our logo along with a train and Roland the Bear.





## 8. Coalmine and Epwood

### Things to point out:

- Dunlops garage
- Bee hives and chickens
- Smiles Fish and Chips
- White Horse
- Epwood Bodgers
- Obelisk dedicated to Roalnd Callingham



### Discussion points:

- Look at the cars in Dunlops Garage, how do they differ from our cars today?
- Can the children follow the movement of the coal around the colliery?

### Additional information

- In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century more than a million people worked in 500 UK coalmines
- Smiles is a fish and chip shop in Beaconsfield new town
- Bodgers were common in the woodlands around the chilterns. They lived in clearings making parts for the furniture industry locally

