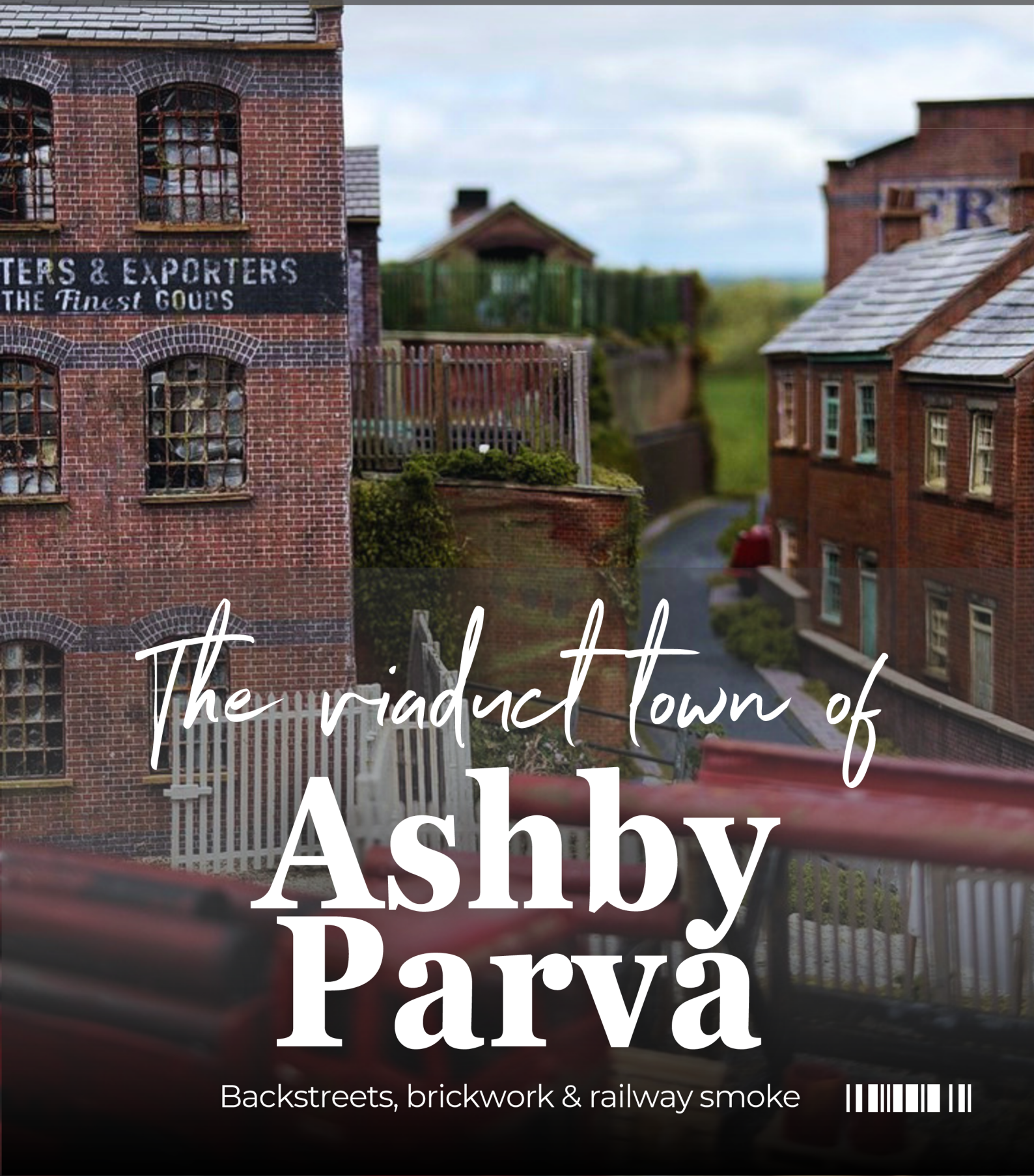
SCENERY SHOWCASE

1:76/OO SCALE

LIFE BENEATH THE VIADUCT: THE LOST CORNERS OF INDUSTRIAL BRITAIN

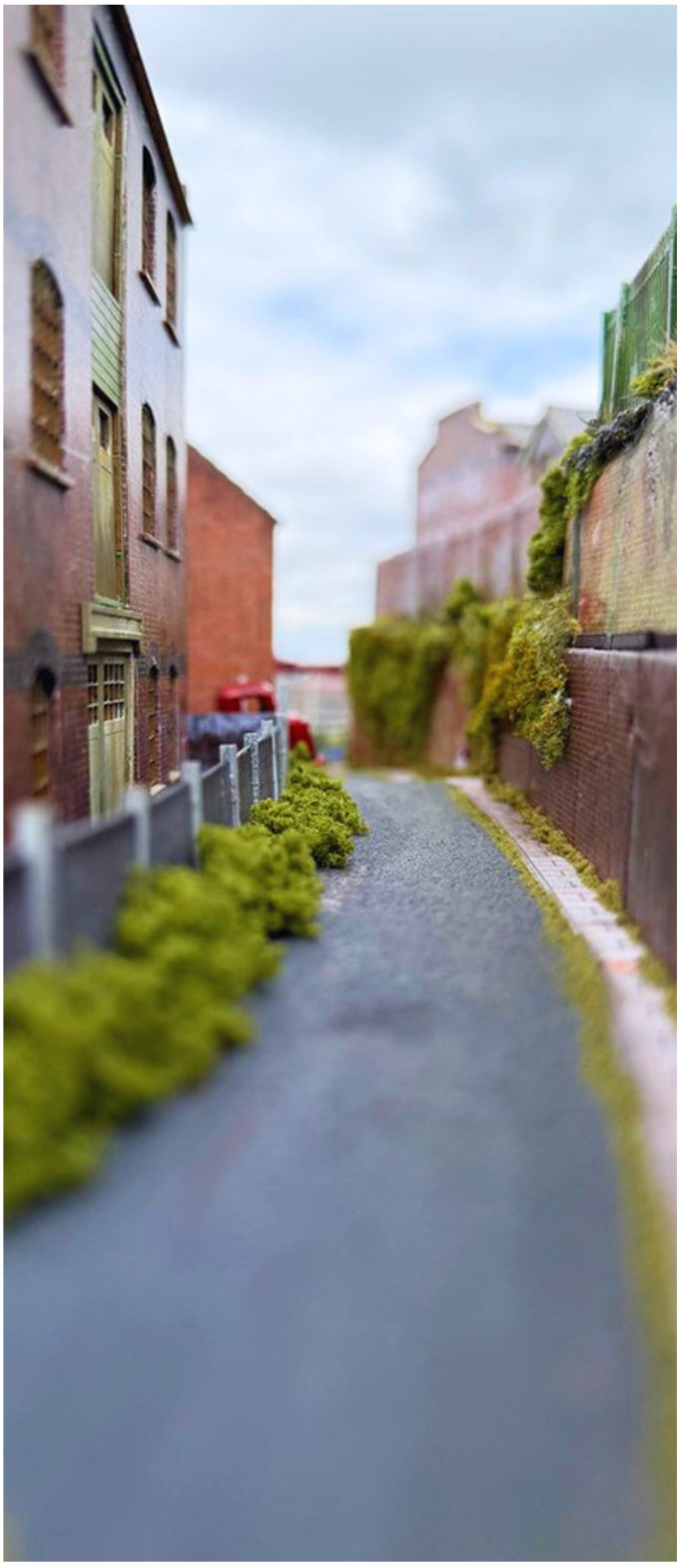


The viaduct town of

Ashby Parva

Backstreets, brickwork & railway smoke

AN INDUSTRIAL WORLD IN MINIATURE: A 1:76 SCALE DIORAMA



ABOUT ASHBY PARVA 03
The maker, dimensions and size

SOMEWHERE AROUND 1998 04
The industrial yard

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Sights and sounds

BENEATH THE ARCHES 08-09
The businesses fuelling the town

KITS & ACCESSORIES USED 12
Build your own viaduct scene

About Ashby Parva

DIORAMA BY

ANDREW MOORE

DIMENSIONS

DIORAMA BASE:
L: 50CM
W: 40CM
H: 25CM

BASE MATERIAL

HAND-CARVED INSULATION BOARD

BUILDINGS

MDF & LASERBOARD WRAPPED IN PRINTED ARCHITECTURAL PAPERS



SOMEWHERE AROUND 1998...

For our Scenery Showcase, we're presenting Ashby Parva, created by one of our very own: Railway Modellers Club member Andy Moore.

Nothing in Ashby Parva was especially polished, but almost everything had a purpose.



The builders merchants served the kinds of people who kept Ashby Parva functioning quietly in the background. Local builders loaded up bricks, timber and cement to repair garden walls, extend ageing terraces or patch up storm-damaged roofs before winter set in. Roofers arrived early for bundles of tiles and scaffold poles, usually with mugs of tea balanced precariously on dashboards and ladders rattling in the back of their vans.



Farmers collected fencing wire, gates and feed troughs to keep neighbouring fields running, while welders and mechanics searched through piles of steel beams, pipes and angle iron for parts that could be cut, repaired or reused.

Electricians, plumbers and decorators drifted through the yard throughout the day, their vans coated in dust from countless small jobs scattered across the town and surrounding villages.





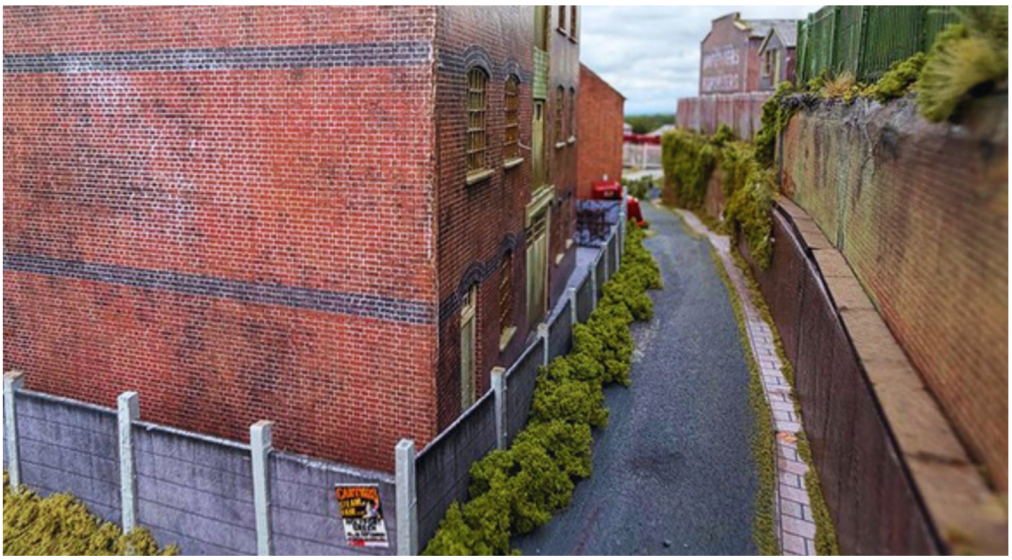
In many ways, the merchants acted like a supply depot for everyday life. Behind every repaired roof, freshly poured driveway, rebuilt shed or repaired workshop door, there was usually a trip beneath to the old railway town first.

THE ALLEYWAYS

Most mornings in Ashby Parva began with sound.

Milk floats whining through side streets before dawn. Vans coughing into life. The slam of back gates. Dogs barking from upstairs windows. Someone scraping frost from a windscreen with an old cassette case. And always, somewhere in the background, the railway.





Youngsters used the alleyway behind the terraces as shortcuts and playgrounds in equal measure. Footballs bounced endlessly against retaining walls. Mountain bikes clattered over potholes.

The railway embankments became kingdoms of adventure filled with discarded shopping trolleys, broken televisions, buddleia bushes and rumours of hidden tunnels nobody had ever actually found.


IMPORTERS

BENEATH THE ARCHES







The old railway arches had gradually transformed over the years into workshops, lock-ups and businesses stitched together with faded signs and improvised repairs. Some units changed hands every few years, others seemed eternal.

There was Kaff's Café, tucked away, open 24 hours. The windows steamed up year-round, and the air inside carried a permanent blend of frying bacon, vinegar and diesel fumes drifting down from the railway above. Drivers, scaffolders, mechanics and night-shift workers all ended up at Kaff's sooner or later. Some arrived before sunrise in fluorescent jackets, warming their hands around chipped mugs of tea. Others drifted in mid-morning for cigarettes and gossip. The menu board never really changed.... neither did the regulars.

A few arches down sat Ashwood Autos. Half garage, half scrapyard, entirely chaos. The owner, Pete Ashwood, could allegedly source any car part, although nobody was entirely sure how. Customers wandered through the workshop doors carrying greasy engine parts bundled into old carrier bags, each one telling stories of breakdowns and hard miles on rain-slick industrial roads. Beneath the viaduct, stacks of part-worn tyres leaned against weathered walls. Mechanics searched for whatever they could to keep another ageing motor alive for one more week.

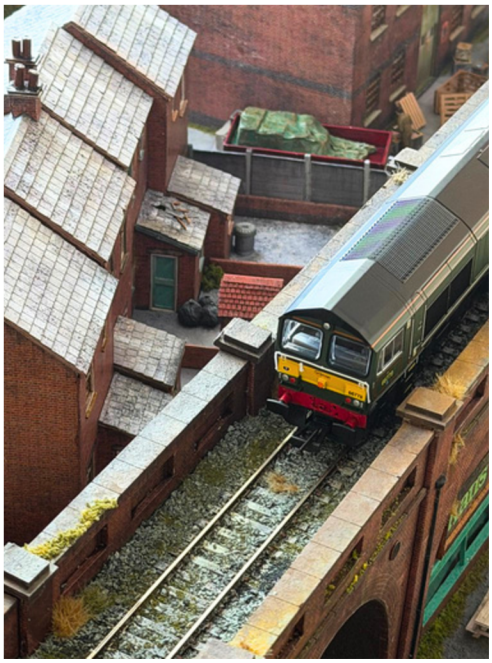
THE FACTORIES

The factories gave the town its rhythm and, for many youngsters, their very first pay packet.

Teenagers fresh out of school often started on the loading bays or in the small goods yards, unloading heavy pallets, stacking materials and learning quickly how industrial life worked. The work was noisy, cold in winter and coated their overalls in grime, but it offered something valuable: steady wages, practical skills and a place within the town's hardworking community.







The terraced houses backing onto the railway had stood there since Victorian times, rows of red brick workers' homes built shoulder-to-shoulder in the days when almost every family in the street relied on the industries surrounding the tracks.

Time had softened them. Original slate roofs had been patched with mismatched tiles. Chimneys leaned ever so slightly. Some doors were freshly painted; others were peeling in layers like tree bark.

Tiny back yards were cluttered with rotary washing lines, rusting bicycles, cracked flower pots, dented dustbins and sagging refuse sacks, while weather-beaten garden sheds stood crooked at the far end, looking as though the next winter gale might finally finish them off.



"Every time a train goes over the viaduct, another roof tile applies for early retirement" sighed Mr Wilkes from number 12, staring nervously at the terrace with a bucket already positioned in the pantry.

Modern trains crossed the old viaduct where steam locomotives once thundered through clouds of smoke and ash. Drivers glanced briefly down into the maze of arches, workshops and back yards before disappearing into the distance.

Ashby Parva carried on exactly as it always had.

Weathered. Working. Unfashionable.

Yet, completely alive.





BUILD A VIADUCT TOWN OF YOUR VERY OWN!



Building Kits

- A KX049-OO G.T.C. Engineering Works
- B KX090-OO Robertson's Bonded Warehouse
- C KX046-OO Wright's Lockup/ Stores
- D KX100-OO Roscoe Street Works
- E KX118-OO Jack's Hut
- F KX088-OO Pearce's Machine Shop/Workshop
- G KX094-OO Stoney's Workshops
- H KX112-OO Backstreet Garage
- I KX067-OO Terraced House/ Cottage
- J KX076-OO Low Relief Brick Railway Arches

Accessories

1. AX141-OO Heaped Bin Bags
2. LX112-OO 3ftx3ft Shipping Crate
3. LX017-OO 2m Palisade Security Fencing & Gates
4. LX380-OO Concrete Barrel Rail Safety Fencing (Double Rail)
5. LX217-OO MDF Pavement Strips
6. Gaugemaster GM494 Traditional Dustbins
7. AX063-OO Real Wood Pallets
8. LX382-OO 45 Gallon Barrel Rack
9. LX354-OO Sandstone Wall Coping
10. LX062-OO Medium Slatted Wooden Shipping Crates
11. LX096-OO Concrete Hardstanding

Accessories

12. KX027-OO Pre-Cast Concrete Lineside Fencing (includes poster, litter & gates)
13. LX003-OO Garden Gates & Posts
14. KX096-OO Privy/Outhouse
15. LX110-OO Rubbish Skips
16. LX079-OO Wooden Trestle Tables
17. Picnic Benches

Scenery

- a Dead Fall by All Game Terrain G6487
- b Woodland Scenics F1131 Fine-Leaf Foliage Medium Green
- c Light Green Foliage Clumps by All Game Terrain G6461
- d LX432-OO Bracken/Fern Plants
- e Gold Tall Grass by All Game Terrain G6507
- f Green Tall Grass by All Game Terrain G6508
- g Woodland Scenics Static Grass FSG615
- h Woodland Scenics 4"-5" Classic Early Light
- i Light Green Tufts by All Game Terrain G6626

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