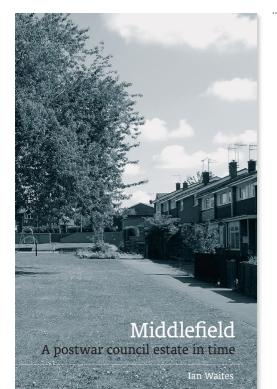


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Middlefield A postwar council estate in time



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Ian Waites

In May 1964, Ian Waites's family moved into a brand new, two-bedroomed council house on the just-completed Middlefield Lane estate in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The estate was a typical provincial example of a post-World War Two local authority housing scheme intended to provide new homes for working-class families. It was characterised by modernist ideas in architecture and planning: the houses had Formica kitchen 'tops', a TV aerial socket, and a 'picture-window', while the estate itself was almost wholly pedestrianised.

Ian Waites's photographs document this world, and his recollective descriptions of the estate during his childhood in the 1960s and '70s attempt to regain a sense of what it 'felt like' to live there back then. Today, these estates are commonly viewed as problematic and unattractive places but *Middlefield: A postwar council estate in time* presents a more nuanced perspective by demonstrating that they were carefully and thoughtfully planned, with rich and meaningful histories.

IAN WAITES is a senior lecturer in the history of art and design at the University of Lincoln. His current research explores the landscapes, histories, dreams and memories of postwar England. He is the author of *Common Land in English Painting*, 1700–1850, and can be found on Twitter: @iwaites60.



The attempt to minimise the impact of the car on the community was constantly thwatted by the children, who nevertheless constantly thwatted by the children, who out, they played curve with whattere mutations and the they could key their hands on. These children played at ground level, weared with whattere mutations an they fund on the ground, or splitting the soles of their shoes as they agained on the balls of their ferc, pushing dis-car while along strings of elongated doncrete blocks. Chall or crayons were used to draw has markings, parking bays, house? and shopp up and down the estate. On a cornerstone, the rules of the road would be observed by drawing some Cleve Way dotted lines and triangles. The children of Middleidd manipulated the granned fabric of the state to their own

Friends Patrick wanted to form a reggae band with me even tho neither of us could play an instrument (I had a Bontemp





Cut-through:

The cortenought intrealest the eritate together, and patient only inclusion of the properties one line that the state of the of privet, wall and flence, parents would be where they had been. Where were they going, while they apply the state of the state







Garage

Ine council originality jour is vegarages at monometer to catefor a projected increase in car overship, but they always struggled to be let. Back in the 1960s and 70s, everything was local. People either walled ion town or, or if it was raining, they got the bus. The car never really flourished on the setta, even into the twenty-first century in 2012, a number of garages were removed, leaving clean, white rectangles that somehow brightened up the estate, but which also served as a reminder of a future that, for some, never quite tok off.