

Shropshire Mines Archaeology

General Comments

There is a significant body of work dealing with the archaeology of the extractive industries of Shropshire, although coverage of the county and the different types of industry is very uneven. There are a significant number of building surveys which deal with standing mine buildings. There are also earthwork surveys for several major complexes, mainly for mines and limestone quarries. There is considerable literature on the history on sites. However, very little excavation has been carried out at any site. There is an extensive technical literature on the extent of underground limestone workings and adits for all minerals in the Ironbridge Gorge, but archaeology features only incidentally in these reports. No professional underground archaeology has been carried out. Whilst it is probable that the quality of the fieldwork of the professional archaeological surveys is high, in some cases there has been little attempt to integrate this with existing historical information or to fully interpret the data. There is a very significant input from the amateur section on site histories, surveys of surviving features and mapping of underground workings. Away from the major sites, this is likely to be the only information available. The quality and depth of this work is variable, although it should be pointed out that some has been carried out by professional mining engineers and individuals who have published other work in major, peer-reviewed, academic journals. Some at least of this work is available on-line (for example, issues of *Below*, the quarterly journal of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club, are on-line from 1997). There is evidence that the extent of information that is available is not fully appreciated.

The major professional efforts have concentrated on the Severn Gorge, Granville, the Titterstone Clee, Llanymynech and Snailbeach. This leaves many gaps; for example, there is very patchy coverage of mine sites in West Shropshire. Limestone quarrying has attracted significant interest, but far less work has been done on other forms of quarrying. The Shropshire Geological Society probably hold many useful records on quarrying, although this material is unlikely to be primarily concerned with archaeology. No significant work has been done on the quarrying of clay or aggregates. The existing work has a bias to post-1800 sites; there is much potential for work on sites of earlier periods.

1 Coal

1.1 Coalbrookdale

1.1.1 Academic or Professional surveys

Nuffield Survey of the Ironbridge Gorge, 5 volumes 1985 -1989, IGMT, unpublished

The landscape of industry: patterns of change in the Ironbridge Gorge
J Alfrey, K Clark, Routledge – 1993, especially Chapter 3, Mineral Resources in the Landscape (This is what has been published from the Nuffield Survey, covering all aspects of mineral extraction. Two popular works have also been published by Clark and Hayman and Horton, also based on archaeological investigations in the Gorge)

Blists Hill Mine, DA Higgins, IGMT archaeological reports 1985

Madeley Wood Powderhouse, a building survey, H Edwards et al., 1987, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Unit

Underground in the Ironbridge Gorge Brown, I J. Industrial Archaeology Review, Volume 3, Number 2, Spring 1979 , pp. 158-169(12)

The Lloyds, Ironbridge, Shropshire: Some aspects of a nineteenth century mining community Brown, I J. Industrial Archaeology Review, Volume 14, Number 1, Autumn 1991 , pp. 5-16(12)

Lloyds Engine house, Ironbridge. Hayman R, Trans Shrop Arch His Soc 72 (1997) 38-51.

The pit head workings of early coal mining in East Shropshire, Donnelly P.J., Thesis, Birmingham School of architecture, 1964 (copy in IGMT library)

Caughley Quarry, Castleryng Archaeology, report 250, 2008 (Desk-based with a walk-over survey)

Caughley Quarry, Field Survey, R Hayman and W Horton, IGMT Research Paper 85, 1999

Jones, A.E. (1994) Granville Colliery, Redhill, Shropshire: An Archaeological Evaluation, 1994

Granville Colliery Country Park: further archaeological investigations, J.Elsworth and K.White, 1988, Ironbridge Institute

Granville Colliery horse gin, S.Isaac, 1987, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology Unit

1.1.2 Engineering reports likely to contain significant archaeological information

High-Point Rendel; The Interpretation of Ground Investigations at Jackfield and the Lloyds, 2005 R/2088/01

<http://www.telford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B28EB2D2-D6E6-4455-9052-9E0DC393AABB/0/GroundInvestigationsatJackfieldandTheLloyds.pdf>

High-Point Rendel; Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale Ground Behaviour Study R/2320/0, 2005

<http://www.telford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/AB575535-64EF-4825-964A-B4D48B272D3B/0/IronbridgeGBSReportFinal.pdf>

Halcrow, 1990. Landslides at Ironbridge: Jackfield and Lloyd's Coppice. Report on Hazard Mapping for Shropshire County Council, July 1990.

Telford and Wrekin Council, 2000. Ironbridge Clay Mines, Jackfield, Telford. Stability Study Appendices
Archaeological Desk-based Study Report, Dr C Philpotts

Mining Report, by N Rushton

Pennystone Ironstone Mine Survey 1987 Ove Arup & Partners

Crawstone Ironstone Mine 1989 Ove Arup & Partners

Note that the SCMC library has the following, probably technical report: Granville Colliery & Environs,

1.1.3 Amateur Surveys

Excavations of the Lloyds Pumping Engine Shaft I.J. Brown -, Shropshire Mining Club Journal, 1976 (probably covered by later work?)

Collapse in Broseley Wood Below 2000:2 11, (K.Lake) (Photos and survey)

Benthall Edge bat grill Below 2000:4, 22-3 A. Robinson (Photos and survey)

Some mining remains in the woods of Broseley Below 2002:2, 18-19, K. Lake (photos and descriptions)

1800 Tunnel revisited, March 2003 K. Lake, Below, 2003:1 23 (photos and descriptions)

Cherry Tree Hill Culvert, 16th Sept 2003, K. Lake, Below, 2004:1 19 (survey and photos)

Deancorner- a mystery D. Dewhurst, Below 2004:3 19 (account of surviving beehive, with photos)

Mining relics from the Broseley area, I.J. Brown, Below, 2005:1, 12-13 (review of 19th reports)

Visit to Grange Colliery, K. Lake, Below, 2007:3, 9-10 (photos and description)

New Light on Deep Pit, Broseley, I.J. Brown, Below, 2008:4, 6 (article based on photo)

1.1.4 Background history

Brown I.J. The Shawfield colliery engine house, 1979 Journal of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club (not seen)

Brown, I.J. The Mines and Tunnels of the Ironbridge Gorge 1-15: Various articles in Below (Quarterly Journal of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club) 1997:3-2001:1 (mainly historical, but with detailed plans)

Madeley Wood Colliery, Halesfield and Kemberton Pits SCMC Account 26 - by Dr Ivor J.Brown (2007)

Madeley Court Collieries I.J. Brown, Below 2004:3-2005:2

Lilleshall Company Mines, I.J. Brown Below 2009:3-4

The Mines of East Shropshire, I.J. Brown, Tempus, 2000 (Monograph; mainly a collection of photographs)

Early mining maps of the Ironbridge Gorge, I.J. Brown, Journal 3, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1999, 38-40 Description of 17th C maps further described by Clark and Alfrey in the Nuffield Survey for Jackfield and Broseley

Some small mines in the Coalbrookdale Coalfield, 1950-1970 I.J. Brown, Journal 7 Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 2001, 41-52 Mainly historical but with maps

1.2 Other Coalfields

1.2.1 Professional surveys

2007 R.H. White et al., The Clee Hills Project. A Conservation Management Plan for Titterstone and Clee Hill. Ironbridge Institute / Birmingham Archaeology Internal Report for English Heritage

<http://www.thecleehilltrust.co.uk/conservation-plan/>

(This is based on a survey conducted by the RCHME in 1982-3 on the Clee Hill. It was never published. The survey appears to have covered a greater area than that of the 2007 report. The 2007 report and digital versions of the drawings are also available on-line at www.ahds.ac.uk)

English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme Industrial Monuments Assessment, Step 3 Reports The Coal Industry, 1994, Salop 2
Has a report on Trefonen Colliery, near Oswestry; presumably also has details of other colliery remains in the county

1.2.2 Engineering/technical reports

Kinlet Colliery Appraisal, BHWB Golder, Job 2495, 2004

1.2.3 Amateur surveys

Evidence for coal mining on the Clee Hills, P.B. Hewitt, 1989 (Typescript report on shaft and headings exposed by open cast working on the hill; available at Shropshire Archives, Q24.2.vf)

The Cornbrook adits D.R. Poyner Below 2000:1, 3-5

Hopton Court culvert and spring, D. Poyner Below 2004:4 6-7

An old shaft at Knowbury, Clee Hill K. Lake and D Poyner, 1998:1 8-9

The Industrial Archaeology of Watsill No 3 Pit, Titterstone Clee Hill, D. Poyner Journal 8, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 2003, 21-9

Survey of Stanley Colliery, Highley, D. Poyner and R.Evans, Journal 3, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1999, 53-8

Priors Moor, Billingsley, D. Poyner and R. Evans, Journal 6, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1998, 1-7

The surface haulage at Alveley Colliery, G & D Poyner, Below, 2002:4, 16-18

Coal workings at Prescott, Shropshire D. Poyner, Below 2003:3 13-15

Mining remains by Highley Station, D. Poyner, Journal 9, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 2004, 4-12

Mining at Kingswood and Winwood Farms, Kinlet, D. Poyner, Below, 2005:1, 3-7

Sites in Oswestry Coalfield - G Hillier 1996 (Typescript account of the main coal mining remains in the Morda Valley)

The Llanymynech project and Oswestry Coalfield report, A. Wood, Below, 2007:4, 3-5 (summary of unpublished work on the Oswestry coalfield by G Hillier, as above)

Shrewsbury Coalfield Walks M. Shaw and A. Wood, Below 2009:3-4

1.2.4 Historical accounts

The mining, quarrying and allied industries of Clee Hill region from the 1800s to 1930. P.B. Hewitt, M.Phil, Wolverhampton, 1991

Hammerman's Hill; the land, people and industry of the Titterstone Clee Hill area of Shropshire from the 16th to the 18th Centuries. K. Goodman, Ph.D. thesis, Keele, 1978

Titterstone Clee Hill; Everyday Life, Industrial History and Dialect, A.E. Jenkins, privately published, (1982)

The Clee Hill Coalfield, D Poyner, Cleobury Chronicles, 5, (1999), 7-16 (Purely historical survey)

Steam Engines on the Clee Hill to 1810, D Poyner, Journal 9, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 2004, 37-44 (Purely historical survey)

The Wyre Forest Coalfield, D. Poyner and R. Evans, Tempus, 2000

Mines of the North Shropshire Coalfield- some sources of information I.J. Brown, Journal 3, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1999, 6-10; reviews historical sources

The West Shropshire mining fields, I.J. Brown, Tempus, 2001 (Monograph; mainly a collection of photographs)

2 Limestone Mining and Quarries

2.1 Professional Surveys

Jones, N W, 2004. *Llanymynech Heritage Area: Archaeological Survey*, CPAT Report 618. (see also www.cpat.org.uk/projects/longer/llanymyn/llanym.htm) (CPAT did a big project at Llanymynech; I don't know if the Jones paper is the final report but somewhere something substantial should exist)

Llanymynech Hill; an archaeological and historical evaluation, M. McCleod, M. Stratton and B. Trinder (1987), Telford, Ironbridge Institute

Nuffield Survey of the Ironbridge Gorge, 5 volumes 1985 -1989, IGMT, unpublished

2.2 Engineering reports

Limestone mines in the Wrekin area, Phase 1 report. Volumes 1-4 Wardell Armstrong Ltd, 1984

Limestone mines in the Wrekin area, Caughley desk study and surface inspection, Ove Arup and Partners, 1990

Lincoln Hill Mine. Various Phase of Study 1986-89 Ove Arup & Partners

The SCMC Library has the following technical reports

Limestone Workings North of Brockton Fault, Church Aston - Desk Study

Lilleshall & Lincoln Hill Mines - Report on Shaft Capping

Lilleshall Mine - Phase 2A Site Investigation Report; Stage 2D Investigation Report; Feasibility Study of Stabilisation Works; Stabilisation Project Completion Report ; Sinking of Access Shaft & Survey of Adit, Vol.1; Monitoring Inspection Reports No.1 -7

Steeraway Mine - Stage 2 Investigation Report ; Stage 3 Phase 1 Report

2.3 Amateur reports and background history

Lilleshall Limestone Mine - a Brief Archaeological Study, I.J. Brown (1989)

An interim report on the Lincoln Hill limestone mines near Ironbridge, Shropshire. I.J. Brown 1981. Shropshire Caving and Mining Club Account, 13.

The underground limestone workings at Ironbridge, Shropshire, I.J. Brown, Bull. Peak District Min. His. Soc, 1995, Vol 12, No 6

A History of Limestone Mining in Shropshire. Shropshire Caving & Mining. Club (2nd. edn). Brown, I.J. 1967

The History of Limestone Mining in Church Aston & Lilleshall SCMC Account 25 - by David Adams (2007) (Contains extensive summaries of the engineering reports and accounts of surface features)

The Pitchcroft dig, D. Adams, Below, 2009:1-4 (reports on the excavation of an engine house at a limestone mine)

The Wenlock Limestone Industry, G. Williams, 1997 (Historical accounts with plans and photos of the main quarries)

The working of the Silurian Wenlock limestone in South-East Shropshire, D. Holmes, 1986/7, Diploma Course in Industrial Archaeology, dissertation, Ironbridge Institute

Titterstone Clee Hill; Everyday Life, Industrial History and Dialect, A.E. Jenkins, privately published, (1982) (Clee hill limestone workings)

3 Metal Mines

3.1 Amateur surveys and background history

3.1.1 West Shropshire Orefield

Snailbeach - Recent Explorations SCMC Account No.15

Snailbeach Lead Mine SCMC Account No.17

Mining Remains in South West Shropshire SCMC Account No.18

Metal Mines of Shropshire SCMC Account 22 - Edited by Adrian Pearce (1997)

Metalliferous Mines of Shropshire, Vol. 1 – Gazetteer SCMC Account 20 - Adrian Pearce (1994)

Bog ropeway; the story so far. M. Shaw et al, Below, 2003:2 13-15, 2003:3 4-6 (photos and descriptions)

Ramsdens Shaft Mine Cam and more survey work, K.Lake, Below, 2004:2 6-7

Westcott Mine, K.Lake, Below 2004:2 19-20 (survey and photos)

Westcott Farm Level, K. Lake, Below 2004:3 5-6 (survey and photos)

Snailbeach smelter photo roundup, K. Lake Below 2005:3, 14

Hush Hush, no longer, D. Pannett, Below, 2005:4, 15 (Also in TSAHS, 79, 2004) (A critical appraisal of the allegedly Roman hushing at Linley; probably remains of medieval agriculture)

Callow Hill shaft investigation, K.Lake, Below, 2007:1 8-9 (minecam)

Winch descent of Ramsdens shaft, the Bog, K. Lake, Below, 2008:1, 3-6 (survey and photos)

Recent collapses at Shropshire mines; Rorrington and Westcott, K. Lake, Below, 2008:2, 14 (photos and description)

Ridge Hill Mine, Chirbury, I.J. Brown and M. Shaw, Below, 2009:1, 8-14

Rock Mine, A. Robinson, Below, 1998:1, 4-5

Ritton Castle exploration, B. Shaw, Below 1998:3 3-4; 98.4, 7

Tankerville; descent of Watson's shaft, A Robinson, Below 1997:1, 16

Rhadley and Sallies Mines, A. Neill, J Shrops Cav Min Club, 2, 1994, 27-32 (includes surveys of accessible workings)

Explorations at Rorrington Mine, S. Powell, Journal 2, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1994, 57-8

Rock Mine, A. Robinson, Journal 6, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1998, 23-5
survey, 2001, 22

Excavation of the mine managers office at Snailbeach mine, Journal 5, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1997, 7

Mining at Callow Hill, A. Cuckson, Journal 8, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 2003, 7-13
Mainly historical, brief account of surviving features

Mining on Cothercott Hill, M. Shaw, Journal 8, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 32-49

3.1.2 Llanymynech

The Mines of Llanymynech Hill SCMC Account 14 - D.R.Adams (1991)

Recent finds in the Llanymynech Ogof, P. Owen, Journal 5, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 1997, 3-4

Bones recovered from the Ogof, Llanymynech Hill, Powys, A Tyler, Journal 7, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club

3.1.3 Clee Hill

Upper Hayton Copper Mine, D. Poyner, Journal 8, Shropshire Caving & Mining Club, 50-55

The SCMC library holds the following papers and reports:

Human and Faunal remains from Ogof Llanymynech

South Shropshire Metal Mines

South Shropshire Metal Mines Desk Study

Shropshire Mines Field Notes 1993

Surface survey of Myttonsbeach & Perkinsbeach

Yorton Mine correspondence/air photo

4 Other Quarries

4.1 Professional Surveys

2007 R.H. White et al., The Clee Hills Project. A Conservation Management Plan for Titterstone and Clee Hill. Ironbridge Institute / Birmingham Archaeology
Internal Report for English Heritage

Surveys the main Dhustone quarries on the Titterstone Clee, but not in the same depth as for the coal mines

4.2 Amateur surveys

Catherton Quarry, Poyner, D R, 2008, Cleobury Chronicles, 8., 17-29 (Clee Hill)

The Abdon Clee Stone Company, D. Poyner, Trans Shrop Arch His Soc, 79, 2004, 153-4 (Abstract of unpublished work)

4.3 Historical Accounts

Basalt Quarrying in the Clee Hill region of South Shropshire, P.B. Hewitt, Tarmac Papers, 1999, 3, 273-300

The mining, quarrying and allied industries of Clee Hill region from the 1800s to 1930. P.B. Hewitt, M.Phil, Wolverhampton, 1991

A.E. Jenkins, Titterstone Clee Hill; Everyday Life, Industrial History and Dialect, privately published, (1982) (Clee Hill Dhustone quarries)

K. Beddoes and W. Smith, The Cleobury Mortimer and Ditton Priors Light Railway, Oxford Publishing Company, (1982) (Contains a chapter on the Abdon Clee Stone Quarry, with photographs, a plan and recollection of workmen)

Surveys held by the SCMC

a = UNDERGROUND PLAN

b = UNDERGROUND SECTION

c = GEOLOGICAL PLAN

d = GEOLOGICAL SECTION

e = SURFACE PLAN

Coal Mines

Crawstone Ironstone Mine 1985 (a, b, d, e)

Blists Hill Mine Engine House (e)

Benthall Edge level, Foxholes

Granville Colliery (a, c, e)

Hinkshay Tunnels (e) or Stirchley Tramway

Ironbridge 1800 Tunnel 1995 (ab)

Ironbridge Gorge 1998 (ce)

Pontesford Coalfield (e)

Shortwoods Mine (b)

Wombridge Tunnels 1961 (e) (Rail??)

Limestone mines

Downton Hall Lime kiln 1996 (a,b,e)

Gorstley Rough & Novers Mines, Clee Hills (e)

Lilleshall Mine, Extent of Mine Workings (e)

Lilleshall Limekiln Lane Mine (a)

Lilleshall Willmoor Lane Mine (a)

Lincoln Hill Mine (e)

Novers Lime Works (e)

Metal Mines

Brewery Well (b)

Boat Level (ae)

Batholes & Nick Knolls Mines 1919 (a, b, e)

Bog Mine 1919 (a, b e); 1982 (a, b, d, e. list of shafts)

Burgam Mine 1993 (a, b, e)

Bulthy Mine 1995 (e)
Caynton Temple 1982 (a)
Chittol Wood Mine (ae)
Clive Mine (a)
Cothercott & Wilderley Mine 1995 (e)
Cefn Gunthly Mine 1965 (b)
Grit Mines (abe)
Gatten & Far Gatten Mines, Gatten Mine magazine 1995 (e)
Far Gatten Mine, 1995 (a)
Gatten Mine 1948 (abe)
Hawkstone Grottos (e)
Huglith Mine (a, b, e)
Haytons Bent Mine, 1996 (e)
Leigh Level (d)
Llyncllys Hill Nos.4 & 5, 6 Levels 1968 (a)
Llyncllys Hill Water Mine/Winze Mine 1965 (a)
Myttonsbeach & Perkinsbeach (e)
Maddocks Coppice, Snailbeach 1999 (a)
Merstham Mines (Football Field)
Nick Knolls Mine 1916 (b)
Norbury Mine 1921 (ce), 1981 (be)
Pennerley Sett 1921 (ae)
Pennerley Mine 1920 (b)
Perkinsbeach & Burgam Mines (ab)
Rhadley Mine 1920 (b), 1993 (abcde)
Ritton Castle Mine 1859 (b)
Rock Sett (ae)
Rock Mine 1998 (b)
Roman Gravels Mine (abe)
Roman Gravels & Roman Boundary Mines (abe)
Rorrington Sett 1919 (ae)
Rorrington Mine 1965 (ae), 1993 (a, e), 1994 (e)
Rorrington Mine building 1993 (e)
Round Hill Mine 1921 (b)
Ridge Hill Mine 1995 (e)
Snailbeach Mine 1909 (ae), 1921 (b)
Snailbeach Mine, Black Tom Engine Shed 1993 (e) classifier & jigs 1994 (e)
Snailbeach Mine, 40 Yard Level (ab)
Snailbeach Mine 1994 (ab)
Snailbeach Mine, Scott Level 1989 (ab)
South Roman Gravels Mine 1919 (abe)
Shipton Mine (ae)
Sallies Mine 1948 (abe), 1993 (e)
Wood or East Roman Gravels Mine 1916 (abe)
Wotherton Mine (abe)
Wilderley Copper Mine 1917 (e), 1995 (e)
Westcott Mine (a,b e)
Wrentnall Mine 1995 (a, b, e)
Wrentnall Mine Dressing Shed 1995 (e)