



*******EVENT POSTPONED*******

The Archaeology of Mining and Quarrying in England one day conference

The amount of work and time required to process and edit the vast amount of information for the Research Framework for the Archaeology of the Extractive Industries in England means that we are very unlikely to have the Resource Assessment and Research Agenda ready for publication in May. We have therefore decided to delay the launch until Autumn 2013 and **the one day conference planned for 18th May 2013 at the NCMME, Caphouse Colliery near Wakefield, has been postponed.**

The document, which will run to over 300 pages, will provide a comprehensive review of the history and archaeology for mining and quarrying in England. It is essential that a draft of the document be posted to the Research pages on the NAMHO web site at www.namho.org before publication to allow interested parties ample time to comment on the contents. Elements of the document in the form of early drafts for the Resources Assessment, divided into mineral and themed categories, are already on the web site. To avoid further delay it is important that comments on their validity are made at the earliest opportunity - please contact Dr Peter Cloughton P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk or Dr Phil Newman phil.newman@blueyonder.co.uk (22/01/2013)

Dr Peter Cloughton

NAMHO conference 2013, Aberystwyth, 28th June – 1st July

The full web site for the National Association of Mining History Organisation (NAMHO) conference **Mining Legacies** at Aberystwyth University, 28 June to 1 July 2013, is now up and running. You can access it through www.namhoconference.org.uk

There you will find the booking form and details of the programme which will be expanded as more information is available. The web site is hosted by the University of Stirling (one of a number of organisations sponsor all or part of the event, including the University of Exeter, the RCAHMW Metal Links project,

and the Cambrian Mines Trust) but please use the www.namhoconference.org.uk link to access the content.

Aberystwyth, on the coast of mid-Wales, provides an idea venue for a conference focusing on the legacies of past mining activity. The university has all the facilities for a full lecture programme with the opportunity to visit many relevant mine sites in its immediate hinterland. The uplands of mid-Wales are rich with examples of metal mining from the Bronze Age through to the 20th century. Its historic landscape has been moulded by the activities of man over thousands of years and the interpretation of its archaeology, and its environmental and cultural impact, tells a story which is relevant across a much wider area.

This conference brings together mining historians and archaeologists from across Britain, Ireland and further afield to share their work and their experiences, to socialise and to enjoy a rich mining heritage.
(18/01/2013)

Dr Peter Cloughton
(For the conference organising group)

Notice of NAMHO AGM and General Meeting, 16th March 2013

The next NAMHO AGM and Council (General) Meeting are being held at the National Coal Mining Museum (Caphouse Colliery) on Saturday 16th March 2013, starting at 11.00 am. Tea and coffee will be available in the museum cafeteria beforehand. The meetings should finish before lunch but may take longer depending on the business in hand. Lunch will be available on site.

After the meetings, there will be an opportunity to visit the museum including the new underground galleries (limited spaces for planned trip at 14.30) as well as the normal underground trip. Contact the NAMHO Secretary to reserve places.

You are reminded that the Council Meeting is not a closed meeting and all are welcome. The first representative from each organisation is entitled to have expenses reimbursed at standard NAMHO rates.

Bat White Nose Syndrome

This is just a reminder, that White Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a fatal disease to bats and is still a real risk to both bats and our caving in the UK. In North America it has decimated populations of bats which seem to succumb during winter. It has now been shown that the fungus *Geomyces destructans*, which causes WNS, can live in cave soil for months, even after bat populations have been wiped out.

It remains very important that everyone visiting caves does everything possible not to introduce this fungus accidentally from caves abroad, either from USA **or** from mainland Europe, where the fungus has also been detected. It is possible that bats in Mainland Europe *may* have some immunity to WNS. The fungus has not been detected here in the UK; if found it is likely to impact significantly on caving activities as well as having a devastating impact on bats.

If entering any cave / mine outside UK, please ensure that ALL kit, including boots, overalls, gloves, belt, helmet, lights, kit bags and ropes, etc., are carefully washed and cleaned, preferably **prior** to returning to the UK. All kit should also be sprayed with a disinfectant containing a fungicide before further use. Some suitable products are listed on the Frequently Asked Questions on the Bat Conservation Trust web page:

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/faq.html#_Toc269809096

If anyone sees a suspect bat, dead or alive, with white fungus around the nose or face, in the UK during its hibernation:

- REPORT urgently details of location to the Bat Conservation Trust and to their Local Bat Group.
- Wash and decontaminate all clothing and kit used prior to **any** further caving.
- Ask your local Caving Club to circulate their members so further visits to that site are postponed until a sample can be taken, and the 'all clear' given.

Hopefully by taking care, our Islands will be kept clear from this devastating disease.

If you require further information, please contact the Bat Conservation Trust enquiries@bats.org.uk or telephone 0845 1300 228. (31/12/2012)

David Priddis
Chairman, Gloucestershire Bat Group

NEWS AND EVENTS

The Midlands

Renewed calls for the demolition of Clipstone Colliery

Sherwood MP Mark Spencer is calling for the demolition of the headstocks and winding engine house at the former Clipstone Colliery in Nottinghamshire. An application to demolish all the colliery buildings was submitted in 2003 when the colliery finally closed. Although the majority of the site has been cleared ready for redevelopment, the fate of the Grade II listed headstocks and associated winding engine house is still pending consideration by the planning committee. English Heritage recognises the importance of the structures as an early example of the Koepe winding system. (14/12/2012)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-20724827>



Clipstone No2 Koepe winder (March 2010)

Mining Gala at Apedale Heritage Centre

Staff at the Apedale Heritage Centre near Newcastle-under-Lyme are organising their first Mining Gala, to be held on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June 2013. To date representatives from the Mines Rescue Service, Winsford Salt Mine, North Wales Miners Association Trust, the Friends of Chatterley Whitfield and other organisations are to attend.

The mining museum will be open and the usual mine tours will be available, along with train rides on the Apedale Valley Railway. There will also be a funfair and entertainment, plus hopefully a beer tent. Full details will be made available on their website:

<http://www.apedale.co.uk/>

The organisers are looking for other mining heritage groups to attend, so if you or your group are interested

then please contact: Les Mason 07837 225790 or Dave Rushton 07980 961744. Alternatively email: info@apedale.co.uk (20/02/2013)

Coal Mining to return to Staffordshire

UK Coal is to submit plans for an opencast mine at Great Oaks, near Bignall End, to extract 450,000 tons of coal. If approved, this will be the first coal mining operation in Staffordshire in 12 years.

Local residents have formed an action group opposed to the plans, citing pollution and the impact upon the landscape amongst their objections. There is also opposition from descendants of the miners who died in the Diglake Colliery disaster in 1895, as more than 40 bodies still lay underground after the pit flooded with water from abandoned workings. However, UK Coal state that the opencast mine will not go deep enough to disturb their remains. (06/02/2013)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-21336921>

The North of England

Grimethorpe Colliery Band secures funding

Founded in 1917, the Grimethorpe Colliery Band survived the closure of the pit in 1993 with financial backing from British Coal until 1995 and then under an agreement with Richard Budge, Chief Executive of RJB Mining Plc., which continued until 2011. With the loss of this funding the band, which inspired the film *Brassed Off*, was in danger of closing. However, two pledges of financial support have now secured the future of the band. (30/01/2013)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-21266818>

Sirius Minerals submit potash mine plans

After successful test drilling results the planning application for a potash mine in the North York Moors National Park has been submitted. If approved, the mine will be built on farmland south of Whitby, with a 27mile underground pipeline used to transport the potash to Teesside. (31/01/2013)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-21272296>

Maltby Colliery, South Yorkshire

After consultation with employees and trades unions, Hargreaves Services Plc. has decided to mothball the colliery. Coaling will finish and equipment will be recovered from the mine before the end of March. Existing reserves of coal fines will be processed. The

management team are considering using methane from the mine to generate electricity. (17/12/2012)
<http://www.hargreavesservices.co.uk/rns%20feeds.aspx>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Wales

Mine Manager charged over Gleision Colliery deaths

The Mine Manager at Gleision Colliery has been charged with four counts of gross negligence manslaughter following police investigations into the deaths of four miners at the pit on 15th September 2011. MNS Mining Ltd, owners of the colliery, has also been summonsed for four counts of corporate manslaughter. (18/01/2013)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-21081302>

Frongoch mine pollution project

A two year project to reduce pollution in the River Ystwyth associated with the Frongoch metal mine near Aberystwyth has begun. Work will include surface drains to minimise water flow through mine waste and the creation of wetlands to purify water flowing from the site. (30/01/2013)
<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/2013/01/30/work-begins-on-reducing-pollution-to-river-ystwyth-55578-32712810/>

Borth, Ceredigion

Archaeologists have been examining the remains of three boats which have been exposed by erosion of a bank of the Afon Leri. The 20 metre long vessels were part of a fleet that carried slate from the Corris and Aberllefenni Quarries. When the railway came to the area, the boats became redundant and were sunk as channel markers in about 1868. (17/11/2012)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-mid-wales-20364674>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Glyn Rhonwy Quarry, Gwynedd

Quarry Battery Company hopes to develop a £100M pumped storage hydro-electric scheme west of Llanberis. They plan to use the former Chwarel Fawr Quarry as the upper reservoir and the former Glyn Rhonwyn Quarry as the lower reservoir. The scheme could create 130 new jobs. (08/12/2012)
<http://www.quarrybatterycompany.com/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-20597415>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Aberpergwn Mine, South Wales

Production has been halted at the colliery, and 290 people have lost their jobs. 20 staff will remain to carry out maintenance and development work.

(08/01/2012)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-20944454>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Scotland

Scotland's iron and coal industries

An Archaeological Measured Survey on Scotland's national forest estate, published Inverness: Forestry Commission Scotland / Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba (2012), includes two sites of interest for mining history and archaeology in Scotland - Woodmuir Coke Ovens (West Lothian) and the Wilsontown Ironworks (Lanarkshire). The publication provides brief details on the results from measured surveys carried out using laser technology. In the case of the Woodmuir site that was detailed work producing high quality 3D imagery. At Wilsontown it is the product of a wider LiDAR survey.

The report should eventually be available in PDF format on the Forestry Commission Scotland web-site where you can also view more detail on both sites.

A full report on the work at Woodmuir is at - [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/21937WoodmuirFarmCokeOvensReport2012.pdf/\\$FILE/21937WoodmuirFarmCokeOvensReport2012.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/21937WoodmuirFarmCokeOvensReport2012.pdf/$FILE/21937WoodmuirFarmCokeOvensReport2012.pdf)

The preliminary results of the archaeological investigation at Wilsontown (2006) are available at - [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/JVLreportscan.pdf/\\$FILE/JVLreportscan.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/JVLreportscan.pdf/$FILE/JVLreportscan.pdf)

And an image from the LiDAR survey is at - <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/fcpiclib.nsf/0/138224893AB6F57D80257729004B9225> (17/12/2012)

Peter Cloughton

Ireland

Tara Mine, Co. Meath

The 670 staff at the mine have been put on protective notice by the owners Boliden Tara. The company are trying to cut pay and conditions of service. A press release from the company announced the appointment of Ralph Rossouw as General Manager. Describing the mine, the company said "being a high-cost operation, Boliden Tara is focusing on improving

its productivity and competitive position".

(16/01/2013)

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2013/0105/361436-workers-at-tara-mines-put-on-protective-notice/>

http://vp134.alertir.com/en/press-releases?p=press&afw_id=1265746&afw_lang=en

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Belgium

Wallonia's Mining Sites added to World Heritage List

UNESCO has added four mining sites to the World Heritage List. The Grand-Horne, Bois-du-Luc, the Bois du Cazier and Blegny-Mine consist of the best preserved 19th and 20th Century coal mining sites in Belgium. Within the four sites both the technical development of coal mining and the social organisation are depicted.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1344>

France

Bassin Minier given World Heritage Status

This coal mining region in Nord-Pas de Calais has become the 38th French site on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list. Covering over 120,000ha, this site contains 109 separate components including colliery buildings and structures, slag heaps, transport infrastructure, workers estates and mining villages.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1360/>

USA

Chestatee River Diving Bell, Dahlonega, Georgia

Dahlonega was the site of the first major gold rush in the USA in 1829. In 1875 Philologus Loud brought a diving bell to the Chestatee River to extract gold from the river bed. Unfortunately its mother-ship sank in 1876 and the bell was abandoned. In 1981 the bell was recovered from the river, and it has now been restored and put on display in the towns Hancock Park. The bell, made of iron sheet, measures 14' x 6' x 8' and weighs 6 tons. It is believed that this is the last remaining bell of its type. (29/11/2012)

<http://dahlonega.org/index.php/dahlonega-blog/item/dahlonega-unveils-historic-diving-bell.html>

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Canada

Funding secured for Alberta Coal Mine Tipple

The Federal Government have announced financial support to help preserve the Atlas No3 Coal Mine Tipple near Drumheller. The tipple, a large wooden structure used to clean and sort the coal, was built in

the 1930's and is believed to be the last of its kind in Canada. The mine was designated a historic site in 2001. (15/01/2013)
<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/travel/Historic+Atlas+Coal+Mine+near+Drumheller+gets+federal+funding/7821302/story.html>

PUBLICATIONS

British Mining No.94, Coal: A Chronology for Britain

Alan Hill, Northern Mines Research Society, paperback, 272 pages, illustrated, A5, ISBN 978-0901450685

This monograph contains a short introduction explaining the properties and classification of coal, together with a description of the weights and measures used in the past; sections on the geology and coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales follow.

The main part of the work is a 188 page history of coal in Britain from the Roman occupation to the present day documenting the principal technological and political milestones associated with coal mining.

The monograph includes many tables and 70 illustrations together with comprehensive production data and an index. Although intended as a work of reference, this should provide an interesting read for those interested in all aspects of mining.
(NMRS website)

Mining History, Volume 18, No. 4, Winter 2012

Editor Richard Shaw, Peak District Mines Historical Society Ltd., 57 pages, illustrated, ISSN 1366-2511
Contents:

Silence Mine, Grinlow, Derbyshire: Investigating an 1870's Steam Engine House, *John Barnatt, on behalf of the PDMHS Conservation Team*
An Archaeological Dig in Ironworkings in Norfolk in the mid-nineteenth Century, *Ivor J. Brown*

Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland, No.12 (2012)

MHTI, 106 pages, €15 (+P&P)

It contains the following articles:

The Duhalla Coalfield, Co. Cork: a preliminary history;
The lead ore dressing floors at Glendalough and Glendasan, County Wicklow 1825-1923: a history, survey and interpretation of extant remains;
The slate quarrying industry on Sherkin Island, Co. Cork;

Creggan and the history of the silver-lead mines of The Marches of Armagh and Monaghan;
Mining heritage and tourism in South Australia and Victoria: observations and impressions.
The Journal is available for €15 (+P&P) from Matthew Parkes, [mparkes\(at\)museum.ie](mailto:mparkes(at)museum.ie) or +353 87 122 1967.
Alastair Lings (MHTI)

The Alderley Edge Mines

Nigel Dibben and Chris J. Carlon, softback, 184 pages, 65 illustrations including colour photographs and extracts from Paul Deakin's survey of the mine, £12.00

Alderley Edge copper mines were covered in some detail at the 2012 NAMHO conference and it is likely that this book will appeal to many people who were there and also a wider readership as it is a major revision of the book originally published in 1979 by Chris Carlon. The price is £12.00 plus P&P and it is available from myself (www.dibben.org.uk/shop) or from Mike Moore.

Nigel Dibben, DCC

Inclined Planes in the South West

Martin Bodman, Twelveheads Press, softback, 128 pages, 84 illustrations, 58 maps, £15.00, ISBN 978-0906294756

In the upland country which characterises much of the south west, inclined planes provided an essential means of transport for industry. Mines, quarries and limekilns all utilised cable-, rope- or chain-hauled planes in the period 1780-1950. Canals, too, as well as early railways, adopted them as an engineering solution. Gauges were broad, standard and narrow and rails were plateway as well as edge.

Many of these linear landscape features remain. Some are becoming lost – reclaimed by nature; washed away, flooded or overgrown. Others can be explored. A few, such as cliff railways at coastal resorts, are still in use.

This is the first publication to focus exclusively on these sites; over 200 in Bristol, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall appear in the gazetteer. It is copiously illustrated with contemporary and modern photographs plus 58 maps, many of which have been specially drawn.

(Publishers synopsis)

Railways before George Stephenson: A Study of the Waggon ways of the Great Northern Coalfield

Leslie Turnbull, Chapman Research Publishing, paperback, 176 pages, 298x210mm, ISBN 987 0956124814

It is generally accepted that railways began in 1825 with the opening of the Stockton & Darlington, but this book reveals a very different story and traces the development of the network of waggon ways built to serve the Great Northern Coalfield during the two centuries before Stephenson drove Locomotion triumphantly through Darlington. The book makes extensive use of the maps and plans seen at the beginning of the new BBC 2 series on the History of Railways.

United Stone Firms Ltd.

Anon, Forest of Dean Stone Firms Ltd., available in hardback and softback, 146pages, 300x240mm, ISBN 978-0957459007 (HB) ISBN 978-0957459014 (SB)

After being out of circulation for 100 years, Forest of Dean Stone Firms is proud to publish a limited edition print of this beautiful piece of stone history. Lovingly remastered, the book explores the natural stone industry as it was 100 years ago and offers readers a glimpse into the quarries in the early 19th century, both in the Forest of Dean and around the UK. Nick Horton and Marcus Scott Russell, joint owners of Forest of Dean Stone Firms, were keen to maintain the complete integrity of the original print so the copies contain only exceptionally minimal changes, remaining almost entirely as it was a hundred years ago. They have, however, added some wonderful personal touches, including handwritten numbering, a new graphical icon designed to commemorate the 1912-2012 centenary added to the spine and a personal foreword from Marcus detailing how the stone business, as we know it today, has transformed and shaped his family through the generations.

It is available as a limited edition (numbered) hardback (£55 including P&P) or softcover (£35), from the company: 01594 562304, info(at)fodstone.co.uk. <http://www.naturalstonespecialist.com/currentissue/unlockednewsarticle.php?id=5826>

Paraffin Young and Friends.

Mary Leitch, Alan Fyfe, Edinburgh, 111 pages, 16 b&w illustrations, £7.50 (£1.50 p&p) available direct from the author- paraffin.young@btinternet.com
Contents include references, bibliography and a list of places to visit.

A biography of James Young (1811-1883) written by his great, great granddaughter based on family papers, diaries and contemporary publications. Young developed Scotland's first oil industry starting by extracting oils from cannel (=candle) coal in West Lothian and then developing the oil shales of the area.

At its peak 3.3 MT of oil shale were mined annually, and 40000 people were employed in 120 refineries.

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

Films

Broken hearts and streaming eyes: the Felling colliery disaster of 1812

At the time of the 200th anniversary of the Felling colliery disaster last year, a group of local people set up a committee to mark the event and publicise its contribution to mining history. One of the outcomes of this was a 30 minute CD with the title 'Broken hearts and streaming eyes: the Felling colliery disaster of 1812'. Intended for a non-specialist audience but thoroughly researched and professionally produced priced £5. For further information see www.thefelling.co.uk.

Don Borthwick

Goodluck Mine: a living legacy

This DVD examines the heritage of Goodluck Mine near Matlock Bath in Derbyshire, with surface and underground footage. The 55 minute DVD is available for £14.95 (+£1.50 P&P) from David Webb davidwebb12(at)ntlworld.com, or via <http://www.goodluckmine.org.uk/index.html>. The mine is open to the public on the first Sunday each month.

Alastair Lings (MHTI)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

5th March-25th March: 'A Day in the Life of a St. Agnes Mining Family'- an exhibition by third year BSc. Archaeology Students from Truro College at Heartlands, Pool near Redruth, Cornwall

16th March 2013: NAMHO AGM and General Council Meeting, Caphouse Colliery, near Wakefield

13th April 2013: St. Aidans BE1150 Walking Dragline Open day, Swillington, Leeds, LS26 8AL

20th-21st April 2013: BCRA Cave Technology Symposium, South Wales. <http://www.bcra.org.uk/>

22th-25th April 2013: Mining for Copper: Environment, Culture and Copper in Antiquity, Timna, Israel. http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iams/iams-events-publication/timna_conference_2013

13th-18th May 2013: AIA Spring Tour of the Ruhr
http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk/Longer%20Tours/2013_Ruhr/RuhrOffer.pdf

18th May 2013: EVENT POSTPONED

Archaeology of Mining and Quarrying in England, a one day conference at the National Coal Mining Museum for England, Caphouse Colliery, near Wakefield

14th-16th June 2013: Historical Metallurgy Society 50th Anniversary Conference. This international conference in London has four themes: origins of metallurgy; innovation and change; society and metalworkers; and the future of historical and archaeological metallurgy. More details are available at <http://hist-met.org/index.html> or from Eleanor Blakelock: Eleanor.Blakelock(at)archaeomaterials.co.uk

15th June 2013: St. Aidans BE1150 Walking Dragline Open day, Swillington, Leeds, LS26 8AL

15th-16th June 2013: Mining Gala, Apedale Heritage Centre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. The first Gala at this mining museum, with details available at: <http://www.apedale.co.uk/>

28th June-1st July 2013: NAMHO Conference, Aberystwyth University

28th September-5th October, 2013: 19th Australian Mining History Association Annual Conference
<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/conference/>

17th-19th October 2013: "The forgotten state of industry: Irish industrial landscapes and heritage in a global context". Conference hosted by Glens of Lead at the Glendalough Hotel, County Wicklow, Ireland. More details will be available on the Glens of Lead Facebook Page and their website www.glensoflead.com (being developed).

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to those who have provided contributions for this newsletter. Items are credited to the contributor, unless written/supplied by myself as Editor. Thanks also to Nigel Dibben, NAMHO Secretary, for distributing the newsletter and forwarding correspondence.

Roy Meldrum, Editor

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Contributions: Email to Newsletter Editor via the NAMHO website, <http://www.namho.org/contacts.php> or by post, c/o NAMHO Secretary, Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3NR

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