Himley Quarry, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, West Midlands:

An archaeological desk-based assessment

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Himley Quarry, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, West Midlands: An archaeological desk-based assessment

by
SARAH WATT

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux, Iain Ferris or Gwilym Hughes (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk

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Summary

A desk-based assessment was carried out in advance of removal of vegetation and demolition of archaeological features on the site of Himley Quarry prior to mineral extraction and reclamation. The assessment concerned Pit No.18 of Shut End Colliery (NGR SO 8938 9010) and comprised a site inspection and the examination of the available documentary and cartographic evidence in order to determine the survival and significance of archaeological remains within the proposed site and to identify requirements for subsequent field survey and watching brief. It was found that a reduced programme of field survey would have to be undertaken, due to the low safety levels and poor accessibility of the site.

1.0 Introduction

This archaeological assessment has been prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) prior to the granting of mineral extraction and reclamation at Himley Quarry by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. The assessment will focus on the historical development of the former Shut End Colliery (NGR SO 8938 9010) and of Himley Quarry. The assessment adheres to the guidelines set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994/99), and *Written Scheme of Investigation* (prepared by BUFAU (Appendix 2) and approved by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

2.0 Site Location

The site is located in Kingswinford, to the west of Dudley, and close to the West Midlands – Staffordshire border (Fig.1). The site of Shut End Colliery Pit No.18, is located within the south-western corner of an existing quarry, north of Stallings Lane in a wooded area (Fig.2). The quarry itself is bordered by Stallings Lane to the south, factory and depot buildings fronting onto Ham Lane to the west, and by Oak Lane to the north and east (Plate 1).

3.0 Objectives

The objectives of this assessment were to determine the likely survival and significance of archaeological remains within the proposed site and to identify requirements for the subsequent field survey and watching brief.

4.0 Method

An inspection of the site was carried out and documentary research was undertaken of primary and secondary records and maps held in Dudley Archives, the Black Country Museum and The University of Birmingham Library. The Black Country Sites and Monuments Record and Ironbridge Institute were also consulted. Certain 'Colliery Drawings' referred to in the SMR records could not be located. However, Plates 7-10, which depict other pits from the same area and date, have been included for comparative purposes.

5.0 Geology and Topography

Dudley lies along a seven mile long ridge, which runs south-east from Wolverhampton to Frankley. The South Staffordshire coalfield runs for about fifteen miles in an approximately north-south direction, decreasing in width from eight miles in the north to five miles in the south. The Western Boundary Fault borders it on the west. The greatest characteristic of the coalfield was the presence of about thirteen seams of coal lying so close together that they more-or-less formed one single bed of coal. This was known as the Thick Coal or the Ten Yard Seam. After the Thick Coal there were eight other coal seams interspersed with seams of clay and ironstone, then a layer of fire clay. Limestone is also abundant in the area, particularly along the ridge, where much has been quarried out.

6.0 Site Inspection

The Conservation Officer for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council identified five features of archaeological interest within the site: two mine shafts, two engine houses and one chimney. All of these features are associated with the former Shut End Colliery. The Black Country Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) listed three sites within the area: a Stables (WM 2030), the north-west shaft (WM 2031), and a Winding Engine House (WM 2033). The latter two are those already mentioned as relating to the Colliery. Drawing HY19 (Fig.2) shows two Engine Houses, but it is probable that the most northerly of the two is the Stables identified by the SMR.

The site was inspected on 1st March 2000 in order to assess the standing structures there and to carry out a risk assessment with regard to ground condition and any safety aspects that should be considered before carrying out further survey work. Due to low safety levels only the southern engine house and the chimney were briefly assessed.

6.1 Risk Assessment

On approach to the site, it was noted that the edge of the wooded area was not fenced-off from the steep drop into the quarry (Plate 2). The ground level on the site is extremely uneven and the whole area is very overgrown with ivy and other

vegetation. Any instrument survey would be impossible. Visibility through the foliage was only about 2 metres, making it impossible to tie-in surveying with any surrounding points (Plate 3).

The Engine House was not considered safe enough for full interior photographs to be taken. The south-east and south-west elevations were not considered safe and there was partial collapse at the north-west end of the building.

Taking all these points into consideration it is concluded that instrument survey of the buildings and the surrounding area is not possible at this stage. A full photographic survey can be undertaken and also a walk-over survey to note any other significant structural features.

6.2 Standing Structures

The Winding Engine House (WM SMR 2033) has only three elevations remaining, the north-west elevation having gone. The building is of a single storey and constructed of red brick. It has no roof. The south-east elevation has two arched windows (Plate 4), as does the south-west elevation. Degradation of the brickwork on the south-west elevation was noted, plus the partial survival of a third arched window. The remainder was demolished at the north-west end, along with the rest of the elevation. The north-east elevation has one arched window and one square window. The remainder of the elevation has been demolished at the north-west end. The ground plan of the building is still visible. Brick walls sunk down within the footprint of the building were noted; these were presumably the engine plinths.

The chimney or boiler stack (Plate 5) is well-preserved and survives to its full height, tapering from 8 feet square at its base. It is constructed of a mixture of red bricks and blue engineering bricks. There is an arched flue hole at the base of the chimney, around which is decorative brickwork – this brickwork can also be seen at two higher levels of the chimney (Plate 6).

Although the two shafts were not located on this visit, the SMR record describes the north-west shaft as being an 'uncapped, loose filled, circular brick lined shaft, 7' internal diameter.' A separate source (Price 1978) describes the other shaft in identical terms.

7.0 Historical Context

Coal and ironstone working has been carried out in the Black Country area for hundreds of years. In the 13th century, small-scale coal and iron ore mining was in operation in the borough of Dudley. Upon the death of Roger de Somery (Baron Dudley) in December 1272, an inquisition records four coal-pits in the Manor of Kingswinford (Rayhould 1972, 27). This kind of mining was relatively shallow. Where it involved cutting shafts, these were sunk down to the Thick Coal, which was followed until undercutting became unsafe, resulting in what is known as a bell-pit. However, coal was not used for iron smelting until the 1600s, when the supply of wood was almost exhausted in the process of making charcoal for this purpose. During the late 16th century, the open 'flat' mines were replaced by shafted mines.

The Black Country's abundance of wood, coal, ironstone, limestone and refractory clay enabled the area to play an important role in the industrial development of Britain. However, despite this abundance of raw materials, it did not have the natural water communications needed to transport its products. When the Staffordshire-Worcestershire Canal was built, this facilitated transportation and enhanced the area's production capabilities.

The first main phase of industry in the Black Country lasted from *c.*1750 to *c.*1900; this phase represented the extractive industries and the associated manufacture of iron and thus the production of small iron articles such as chains and nails. The 20th century saw the second phase of industry, involving metal fabrication and light engineering with imported materials.

Coal-mining remained of great importance until the 19th century and then began to decline as the coal became exhausted. In the space of a century, between 1841 and 1946, the number of coal industrialists in the area declined from seventeen to one.

8.0 History of Shut End

Shut End is located in an area once rife with collieries and pits, including Himley Colliery to the north-east, Corbyn's Hall Colliery to the south and Oak Farm Colliery to the north. Shallow mines of Thick Coal deposits were worked on the slopes of Brierley Hill until the 1830s, when they were nearing exhaustion. Deeper deposits were opened in Shut End *c.*1825. In these pits, the average depth to the Thick Coal was about 140 yards. James Foster, an ironmaster from Stourbridge, first owned the Shut End Iron and Coal Works, comprising the furnaces at Shut End and five ironworks. Pit No.18 was located to the north-west of Shut End Works. Other pits belonging to the colliery were located to the east and south-east of No.18.

On 17th January 1827, an agreement was signed which brought the first standard-gauge railway to the area: the Kingswinford Railway. On June 9th 1829, the Shut End mineral line railway was opened. It was constructed by James Foster and the Earl of Dudley, and became famous for running one of the first two steam locomotives in the Black Country, the *Agenoria*, which stopped running in 1865 and is now in the York Railway Museum. It ran for over three miles from the Shut End mines to the Ashwood Basin on the Staffordshire-Worcestershire Canal, and represented a great improvement in the transportation of the extracted minerals from the mines to the canal. It functioned by means of a self-acting incline down to the canal basin and was responsible for much of the post-1830 development of that area of the coalfield. Sidings also carried coal and ironstone from the pits to the Shut End Works' furnaces.

James Foster was also responsible for revolutionising the process of working the Thick Coal. When it first became apparent that the coal was becoming exhausted, he was the first to introduce a new system which decreased the level of waste incumbent in the old 'pillar and stall' method and increased safety levels. He introduced the new system, called 'long work,' in 1831 and after twelve years of trial announced he was satisfied with both its efficiency and safety. It is noted (Appendix 1) that 'there are very few accidents of consequence in our pits, comparatively to others in the thick

coal, on account of our being able by our method of working to support the coal better by timber and the spoil from the roof.'

In 1877, the forge and rolling mills at the Shut End works (then owned by J. Bradley & Co.) had closed down, leaving only the coal mines and the blast furnace plant in operation, although the mines were operating on a reduced scale. The blast furnace was eventually shut down in the late 1890s. Pit No.18 was still operational in 1909, and employed 55 people underground (none above ground). It was being worked for heathen coal and gubbin ironstone. In 1913, the collieries passed into the hands of Guy Pitt & Co. and some mining continued until the nationalisation of the mining industry in 1947. However, Pit No. 18 is shown on Ordnance Survey maps to have gone out of use between 1919 and 1937. The most likely date for its closure is *c.*1925 during the miners' strike. Many Black Country Mines went out of use at this time. As the mine owners did not believe that the strike would last as long as it did (15 months) they continued draining the mines. However, the strike went on and so eventually the pumps were switched off as coal was not being produced and the companies were losing out financially (P. Collins, Ironbridge Institute, *pers. comm.*).

9.0 Cartographic Information

Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775, Fig.3) shows Shut End and an avenue of trees to the south of Stallings Lane associated with Shut End Hall. Nothing is shown within the site itself. The quarry area contains one building with a further one just outside it to the north.

Sherriff's map (1812, Fig.4) of the mines of Lord Dudley shows a few pits in the area of Shut End but it is difficult to determine the exact location of the site. If the area deduced to be the site is correct, the map shows a Fir Tree House just outside the quarry to the north, which may correspond to one of the buildings on Yates' map.

William Fowler's map (1822, Fig.5) shows nothing in the area of the site but a small patch of woodland. A footpath runs along the eastern edge of the field. Fir Tree House is shown to the north of the quarry area. Shut End Hall, located to the south-east of the site, has a long avenue of trees stretching south-west and Shut End House is to the south of Shut End Hall.

William Fowler's 1839-40 map (not illustrated) showed nothing in the site, although it did show Shut End Furnaces to the south-east, probably close to Shut End Hall in his earlier map. No pits were shown on the map, so the absence of Pit No. 18 here does not mean that it was not in operation at that time.

The 1882 Ordnance Survey map (Fig.6) shows Pit No.18 in an unnamed field. It is registered as a coal pit and shows two shafts, a large building to the north-west, and three other buildings, one of which may be the other Engine House or possible Stables. The mineral railway runs south-east out of the field to join the Shut End Railway. The 1886 Ordnance Survey depicted the same buildings and annotations.

The 1903 Ordnance Survey map (not illustrated) showed Pit No. 18 registered as a Coal and Ironstone Pit, probably reflecting the adaptations that had to be made when the coal supply started to be exhausted in the mid-19th century. The large building to the north-west still existed, as did the three smaller buildings. Another building had been added, which may be a more likely candidate for the other Engine House or Stables.

The 1919 Ordnance Survey map (Fig.7) shows some changes. The pit is still registered as a Coal and Ironstone pit, but there is now a large Engine House and chimney to the south-east of the two shafts. The building labelled as a second Engine House on Dwg. HY19 (Fig.2) is not labelled as such here, although the new building is. This would suggest that the older building was not an Engine House, but was more likely to have been the Stables.

By 1937, the Ordnance Survey map shows that the pit has fallen into disuse (Fig.8). The annotation refers to 'Old Shafts' and the chimney. Only two buildings remain the Engine House, which is shown with only three walls, and the probable Stables building.

10.0 Conclusions

From the initial site inspection, it would appear that the Engine House is in a poor state of repair and may be considered unsafe for a programme of detailed building survey to be undertaken. The chimney, however, appears to be well-preserved. Due to the inaccessible nature of the site and poor levels of safety, it was not considered safe for a single individual to assess the other standing building and the mine shafts. These will be investigated during further photographic and walk-over surveys.

From the documentary and cartographic evidence, it would appear that Shut End Colliery was operational between *c*.1825 and *c*.1947. However, Pit No.18 had a shorter life, falling into disuse at some time between 1919 and 1937. Any below-ground archaeology may represent the remains of earlier structures shown on the Ordnance Survey maps and the possible remnants of the railway which led out of the south-east corner of the site.

11.0 Acknowledgements

This report was written by Sarah Watt and edited by Catharine Mould. The figures were prepared by John Halsted and the plates by Chris Hewitson.

12.0 References

Maps

Ordnance Survey:

1882	25"	67/14
1886	6"	67 SW
1903	25"	67/14
1919	25"	67/14
1937	25"	67/14

Other:

1775	Yates	Map of Staffordshire
1812	Sherriff	Plan of Mines of Lord Dudley
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1910 *Home Office List of Mines, Under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, in the Stafford District, during the year 1909* For HMSO by Darling & Son, Ltd

Appendix 1: Extract from Midland Mining Commission – Thomas Tancred, Esq., 1843

No. 6 - January 18, 1843. Mr. Farmer, agent to James Foster, Esq. Shutt End Works.

The wages of the thick coal colliers had been very steady for three or four years before 14th May, 1842, when they were reduced from 4s. to 3s. 6d. for the stinted men, which reduction was general all round here, for all colliers connected with the iron works, after three weeks' notice. This was submitted to without much complaint, at all events without stopping work. By reference to the books, I find that the average wages of stall and bondmen, taken together, in our thick coal, for the six weeks ending May 14, 1842, was net 5s. 6d. per day. The stint wages, 4s. per day, were reduced 6d. per day from this date, as by the notice given below (A).

We were not aware of our men being at all connected with the chartists, till towards August, though there were public meetings held by the chartists towards Dudley and Netherton. This was after the above reduction, but before the turn-out. Our men never attended these, and the first thing of the kind we heard of amongst our men was of their attending meetings at night in houses at first, and afterwards attending those in the daytime; but this was not till August.

August 1st - All the men worked through this day, and the next day all left their work, without giving any notice. There had been a large meeting at West Bromwich, and this they could not attend, being all at work, so we were quite taken by surprise at their not coming next day. They were under no sort of compulsion to leave their work, as no mobs had come on the Monday to threaten them. Some other fields about here had stopped on the Monday, and some on Tuesday, and by the Wednesday all the regular workmen about here had struck, but we and our neighbours made a show of working for a little by means of odd men. During the week mobs came about, and used to stop the men coming to work and attempt to turn them out of the pits.

Tuesday evening - A large meeting held at Pensnett, close here, at which Cook of Dudley and others addressed them, telling them if they stood out they would get 4s. per day, and eight hours' work.

We commenced partial drawing again on the 1st September, and they came in again altogether on the 7th. There was not above a day or two difference in other works, without any compromise having been made as to the wages or hours. They came to work at the same hours as before, and at the reduction of wages which had been made in May.

Pits were first opened at these works about 18 years ago. The average depth to the thick coal is about 140 yards, 65 yards being the least and 160 the deepest, on the two sides of an extensive fault.

Principal engines 20 inch cylinders for drawing out of a pair of pits. Many have engines of not above 18 inch cylinders about here.

The boys employed are for driving horses, opening and shutting doors, not for pushing dans, &c. small trollies (trams)

We have a field club, to which all miners, whether in stone or coal, as well as the furnacemen, contribute 3d. per week, and boys in proportion, and from this club every man who meets with an accident receives 6s. per week, and a doctor is found for him; and the men in each pit generally gather 3s. a-week also.

Widows are allowed by the proprietor 1s. 6d. per week, and 1s. for each child, as long as they remain single or the children get about 10, or able to go to work.

There are very few accidents of consequence in our pits, comparatively to others in the thick coal, on account of our being able by our method of working to support the coal better by timber and the spoil from the roof. See sketch of the plan of working. (B)

In this method of working the whole of the slack must be removed, in order to prevent fire, and some is used in the furnaces, but some is obliged to be banked.

We worked at first with butties, and about 12 years ago we took the pits into our own hands, partly from an opinion we should be able to get so much more coal by working all clean out, and partly to avoid the numerous accidents which before occurred. We had quite ten times the fatal accidents we now have under the former system. By reference to our books I find that the number of men who were killed or died from injuries received in our thick coal pits, from May 1, 1832, to December 31, 1842, amounted to four. In the thin coal and ironstone pits, within the same period, six were killed (one of whom fell from a skip in coming up after work), making in all 10 deaths, or one per annum.

All the days-men are paid separately every fortnight at the office, and always reckon to finish paying by half-past 5, the men coming up at 5, and pay all that like to send their wives, sisters, or children, after 12 o' clock on that day. The stall men get their pay in parties of four or five, and divide it amongst themselves.

We give each set a bill, with the price per ton and all the deductions, so that the men know that the others do not cheat them. Below is a specimen of such a ticket (C).

I think our men are as respectable as any in the country. A good many go to public worship, some to church and many to chapel. We have a good many who have been with us ever since we started, and many who from boys have grown to be men in our service. It is rather a recommendation to a man to have worked here, he can generally get a job anywhere else. We generally like to know something of their characters before we engage them.

If there is any dissatisfaction, our office is always open to them, but there is very little complaining about each other; we have had very little of that ever since we began. I don't suppose, for so many, there is a colliery in the world so quiet as ours. (This was confirmed by Collet, the ground-bailiff, who was present).

We make it a point never to have a butty who keeps a public-house, nor is connected with one, (we work the ironstone and thin coal by butties,) and we will not allow it. Nor do we allow any bulduses? or long half days! &c.

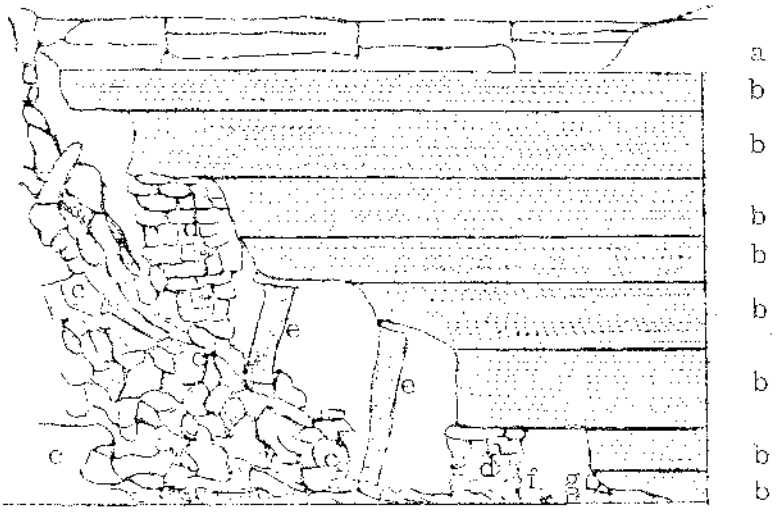
opy of Notice of Reduction of Wages of Thick Coal Colliers at Shut End olliery, referred to in the above Evidence.

OTICE is hereby given that the Wages of Thick Coal Colliers will be reduced Sixpence a-day from and after the 14th day of May next; also that the Wages of All Others connected with the Thick Coal Pits will be reduced in like proportion, commencing at the above time.

hutt End Colliery, April 23rd, 1842. JOHN BRADLEY AND CO.

(B)

lan of working the thick Coal at Shutt End Colliery



a. The Measures above the Coal.
b, b, b, &c., The various beds of the 10-yard Coal.
c, c, c, &c., The Spoil (or broken measures) which falls down as the Coal is got out.
d, d, and g. Cogs built of this Spoil to support the Coal.
e, e. Timber put up for the same purpose.
f. The Railroad, which is carried forwards as the work advances towards the right hand.

Now it will easily be seen that if the upper cog or wall d be pulled from der the coal, and perhaps the props e e also, a great mass of coal will l upon the bed of spoil beneath, and however wide we suppose the mass of al, if the props are removed, it will fall throughout its whole width.

In the first place, however, the lower cogs d and g would have en taken out, and thus the lower coal brought down first, its place being pplied with building to support the rest. Then the holers or pikemen uld cut under the solid coal left in front of them, as at g, and at the me time the upper part of the coal behind them would be got down, and e roof or spoil would be falling in. The coal is carried away by the ilroad, f, which is constantly carried forward as the work proceeds.

Specimen of a ticket given to each Stall of Workmen in Shutt End Thick Coal Colliery at the Fortnightly Pay :-

Shut End

No. 1 Stall — January, 1843.

	T	C	L.	S.	D.
Coal					
Lumps					
Slack					
Ironstone					
Club Rent					
Left					

No. 7 - January 26. Thomas Bayley and James Witcherley, Pikeman, at Shutt End.

The former was found reading a large Bible, purchased, by 1s. at a time, from the New Connexion Methodists.

Has worked under more butties than he can well remember both in ironstone and coal on the Hampton (i.e. Wolverhampton) side, and here I worked under two Woodcocks, the last in Mr. Matthew's field; I worked in that field five years. He was a good master to me, he paid at a public-house but did not keep one himself. He only took 6d. for reckoning which we agreed to pay. We got home about 8, sometimes later if we'd a mind to stop. He and his two brothers had four or five pits. One brother kept the public-house but he had left the pits then. I never worked a buildus under him. What I got I had. It's regular to pay footing ale in these parts. I've had a share in many two and sixpences on that errand. Trade was better then and I had regular work.

? I worked at Wolverhampton before that and in Bilston stone-pits. I liked that country so well that I was obliged to leave it or else I should have been in the workhouse. I was trucked too much. I work now in Mr. Foster's colliery at driving gate roading, at so much a ton for the coal and so much a yard for the gate-roading. I get sometimes three and sometimes four days a week and not more since the break out one time with another. I make about 11/- a week one week with another. This is paid at the office and it's far better than where there's tommy or butties; the money's sure. The butties are always neigering, and you never can do enough for them.

If we have any complaints to make we can speak to Mr. Colley and we should not be afraid to speak to him; many butties are a great deal worse than such masters as Colley.

We should not be afraid to go to Mr. Farmer (the chief agent) not for a right thing. We have got a better chance in our field than others have in that respect.

Appendix 2

Himley Quarry, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford

Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Desk-Top Study, Field Survey and Watching Brief

2000

1.0 Introduction

This document outlines the programme of work required to undertake an archaeological desk-top study, field survey and subsequent watching brief at the above site. It forms a written scheme of investigation required by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council as a condition for granting mineral extraction and reclamation at Himley Quarry. This is in line with Condition 31 of the Environment Act 1995. Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with Pete Boland, Conservation Officer for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, before implementation.

The archaeological desk-top study and field survey will be carried out prior to the demolition of archaeological features and prior to the removal of vegetation from the site. The watching brief will be carried out during the demolition and clearance programme, including the removal of topsoil.

2.0 The Site

The site is located in Kingswinford, to the west of Dudley, and close to the West Midlands – Staffordshire border. The site, which is an area of archaeological interest, is located within the southwestern corner of an existing quarry (Drawing No. HY19). The quarry is bounded by Stallings Lane, factory and depot buildings which front onto Ham Lane and by Oak Lane.

The Conservation Officer for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council has identified five features of archaeological interest within the site: two mine shafts, two engine houses and one chimney. All five features relate to the former Shut End Colliery.

3.0 Archaeological Work

A programme of archaeological investigation is set down below. The stages of work are to be carried out in the order given below.

3.1 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Aims

The aims of the archaeological desk-based assessment are to determine the likely survival and significance of archaeological remains within the proposed site and to identify requirements for the subsequent field survey and watching brief. The assessment will attempt to reconstruct the historical development of the former Shut End Colliery and of Himley Quarry.

Method

The desk-based assessment will draw upon existing resources at BUFAU and at the Ironbridge Institute, and will comprise a site inspection and an examination of published and unpublished written records, illustrations and maps. The Sites and Monuments Record and information held by the Black Country Society will be consulted.

The assessment will consider all sources recommended by the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).

A report will be prepared prior to commencement of the Field Survey.

3.2 Field Survey

Aim

The aim of the archaeological field survey will be to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of the surviving archaeological features.

Method

Interior and exterior photographs will be taken of the buildings and exterior photographs of the mine shafts and chimney. The features will be photographed in detail and the photographs will be scaled to allow possible future computerisation/rectification (this will not form part of the present work). Locational photographs will also be taken. Monochrome print and colour slide film will be used. The photograph locations will be clearly marked on plans.

A measured survey of the archaeological features will be carried out. An EDM will be used and the results will be plotted at 1:1250. A more detailed plot showing survival of particular archaeological features will be prepared if appropriate. A walkover survey of the site will be carried out to recover any surface artefacts. These will be plotted in as part of the EDM survey.

The survey will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).

3.3 Watching Brief

Aim

The archaeological watching brief is intended to provide a record of any archaeological deposits or features which are exposed during the course of the groundworks.

Method

This aim will be achieved through a programme of archaeological monitoring visits to the site during contractors below-ground works. All groundworks will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Salvage recording of any archaeological deposits and

features revealed by contractors groundworks will complement this. All artefacts will be recovered and recorded.
The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).

4.0 Staffing
The project will be monitored for BUFAU by Catharine Mould (Project Manager/Research Associate BUFAU, Associate of the Institute of Field Archaeologists). Experienced and qualified Site Supervisors will carry out the desk-top study, field survey and watching brief.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:
Umberto Albarella, Birmingham Environmental Laboratory - animal bone.
Lynne Bevan - flint artefacts and small finds.
Marion Blockley/Paul Collins, Ironbridge Institute - industrial archaeology.
Marina Ciaraldi - charred plant remains.
Dr James Greig - pollen and plant macro-fossils.
Annette Hancocks - Romano-British ceramics.
Dr Susan Limbrey - soils.
Steve Litherland – building recording.
Stephanie Ratkai - medieval and post-medieval pottery.
Dr David Smith - micro-fauna.
Dr Ann Woodward - prehistoric ceramics.

5.0 Report
A report will be prepared following the completion of the desk-top study. The results of this study will then be incorporated in an illustrated report detailing the results of the field survey and subsequent watching brief. The reports will contain the following:
(a) Description of the archaeological background.
(b) Method.
(c) A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in their local and regional context, supported by appropriate illustrations, plans and sections.
(d) Summary of the finds.
(e) Specialist assessments of the finds.

The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Dudley and Black Country Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion. A summary report will be submitted for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology* and the appropriate period journals.

6.0 Archive
The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the Management of Archaeology Projects. Subject to permission from the client and landowner, and following consultation with the Conservation Officer for Dudley

Metropolitan Borough Council, the archive, including all artefacts, will be placed within a suitable repository.

7.0 Timetable

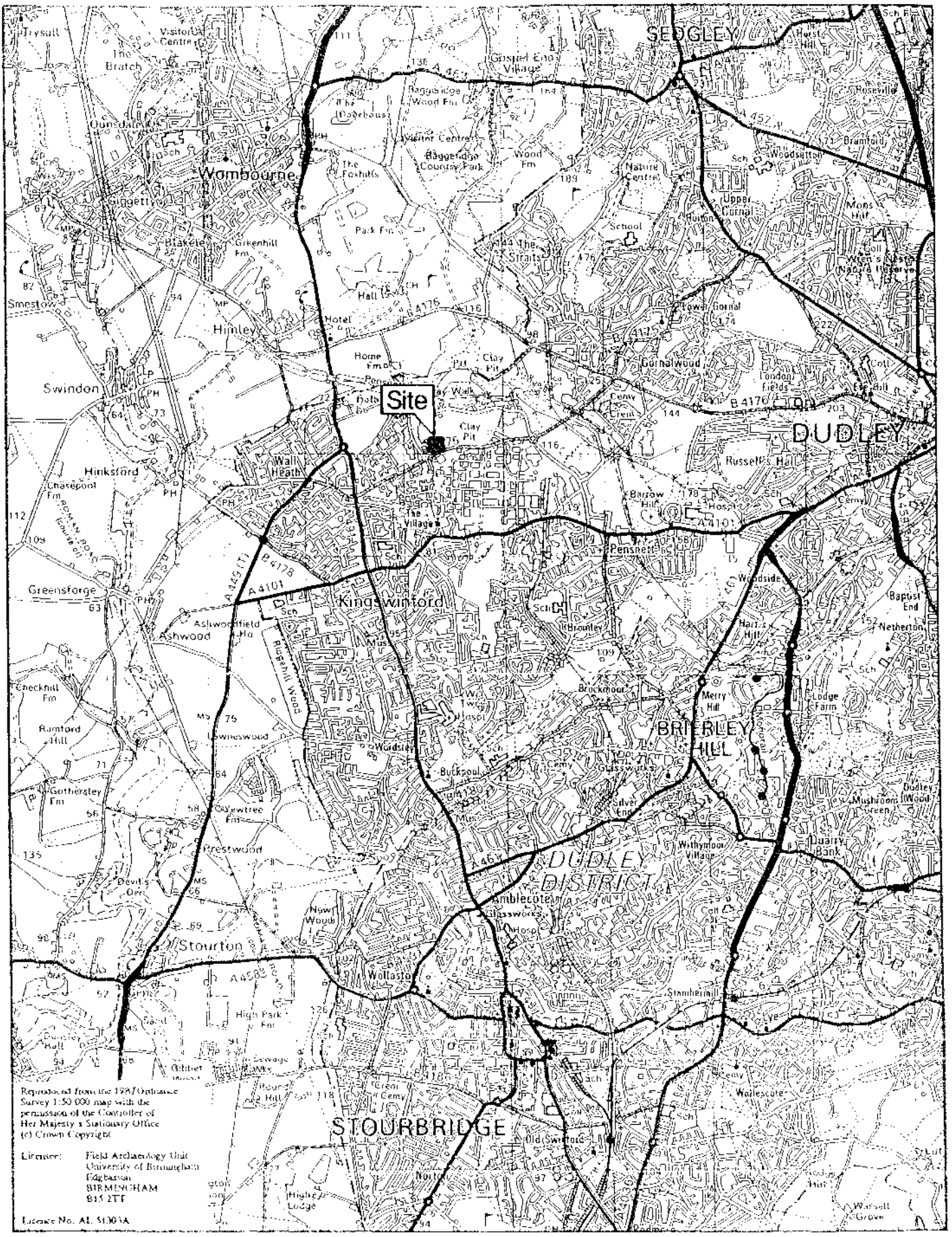
The desk-top study and field survey will be completed before the end of March 2000. The desk-top study will be carried out over a ten day period and the field survey over a five day period. A timetable for the watching brief is not available at present.

8.0 General

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

A detailed Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
11th February, 2000.


Site
SEDGLEY
DUDLEY
Wombourne
Himley
Swindon
Kingswinford
Stourbridge
BRIERLEY HILL
DUDLEY DISTRICT
Reproduced from the 1987 Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (c) Crown Copyright
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Licence No. AL 51301A

Fig.1

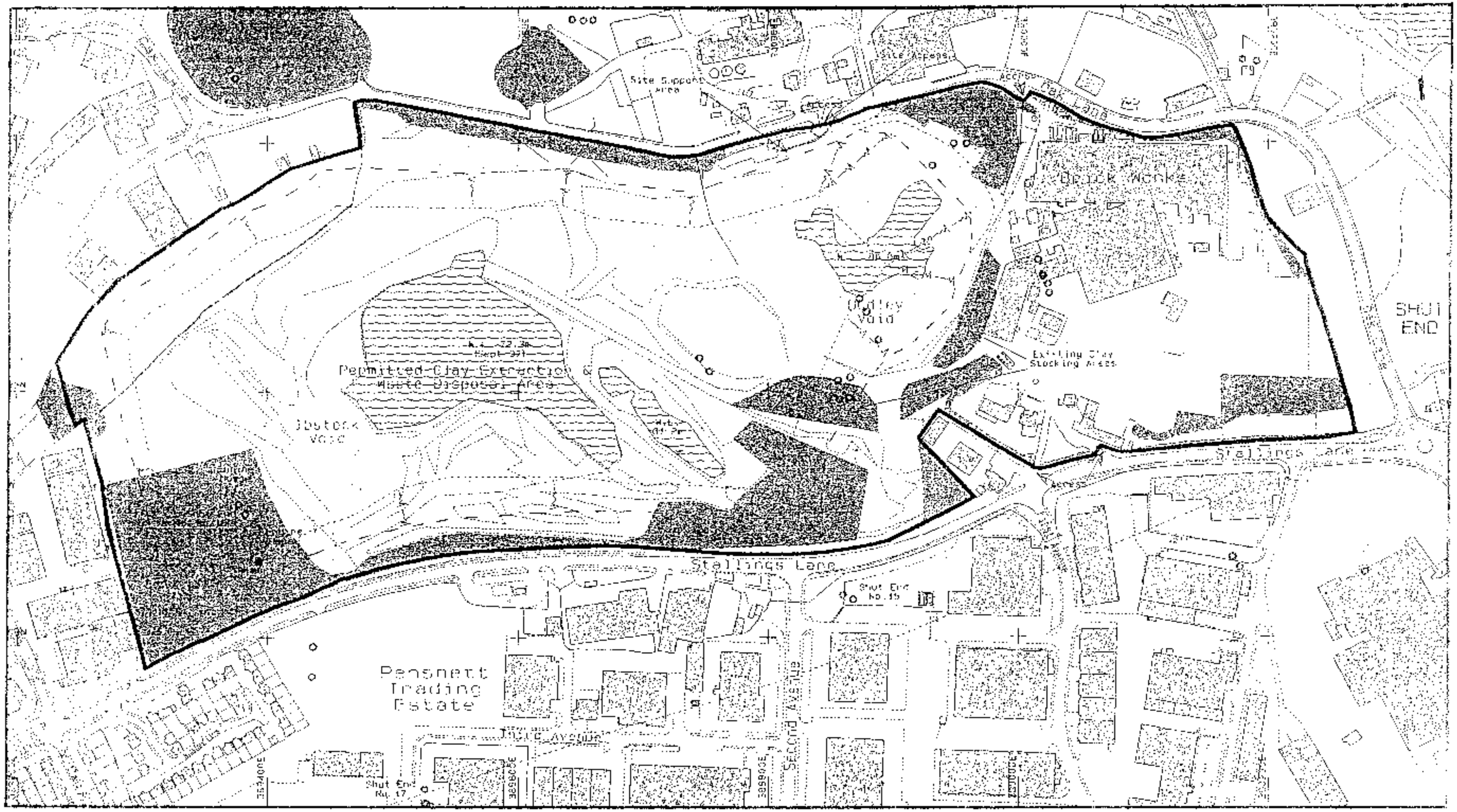

Site Support Area
Site Access
Brick Works
SHUT END
Existing Clay Stocking Areas
Permitted Clay Extraction & Waste Disposal Area
Ibstock Void
Stallings Lane
Pensnett Trading Estate
Third Avenue
Second Avenue

Fig.2

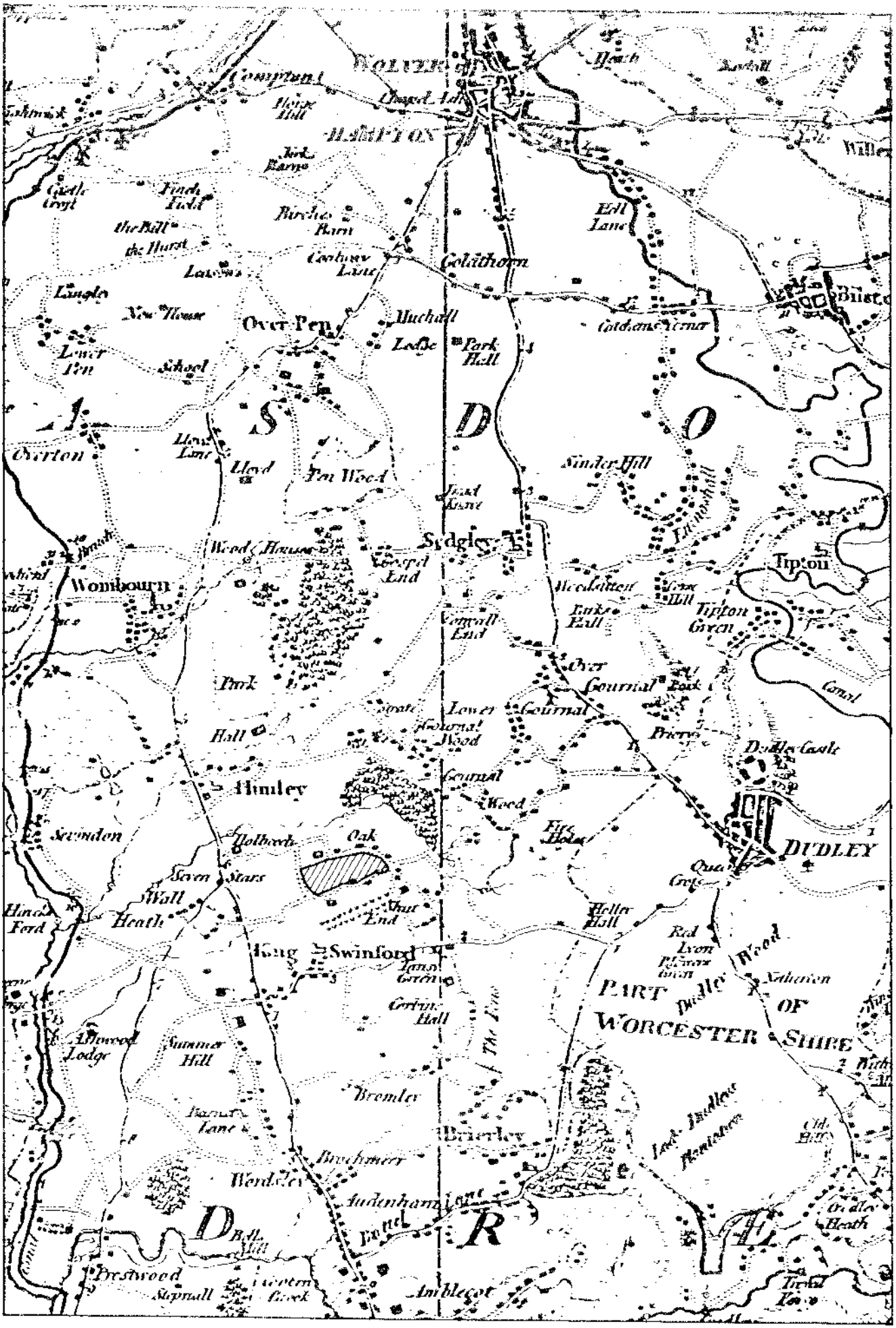


Fig 3 1775 Map showing area of site

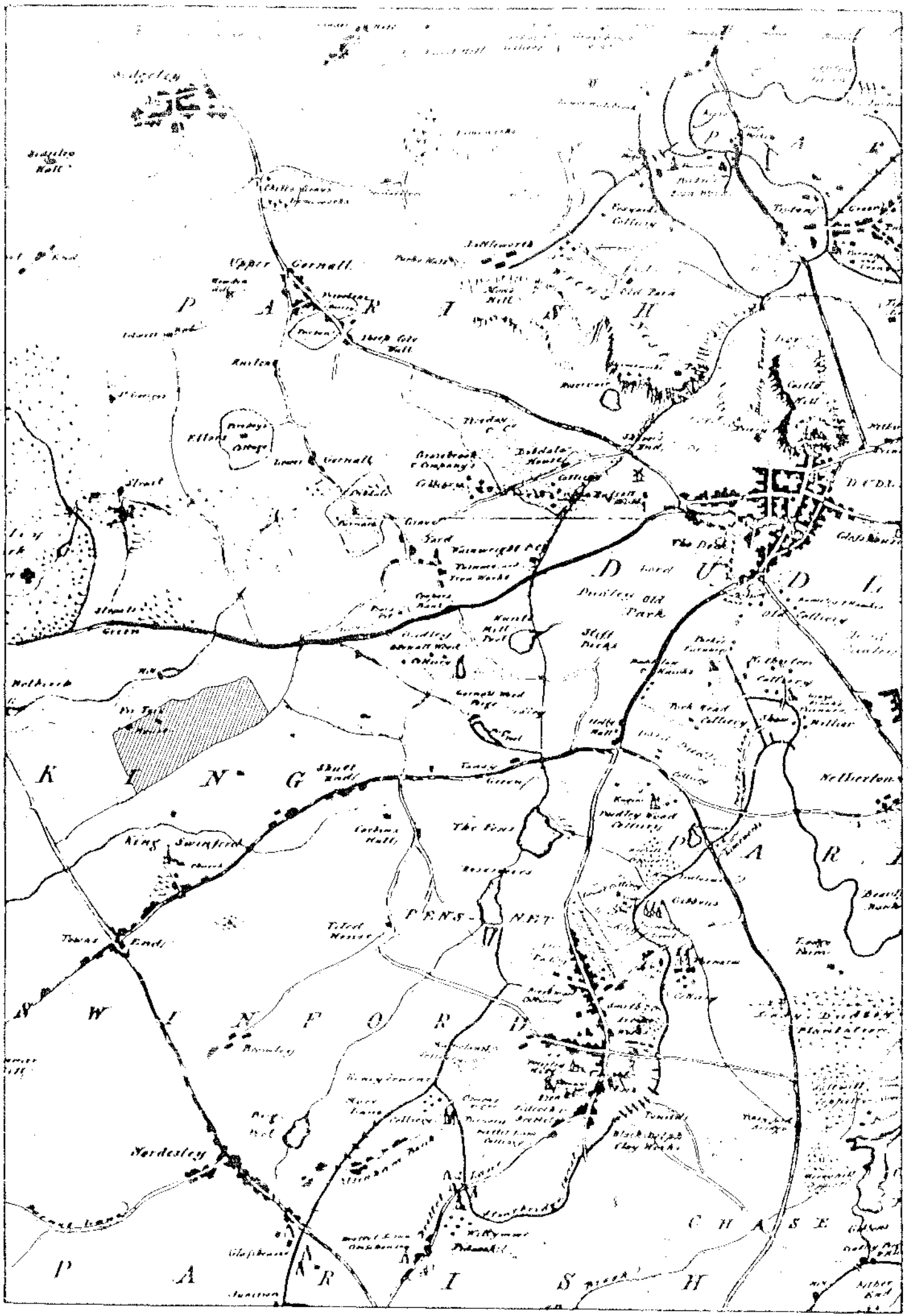


Fig.4 1812 Map showing area of site

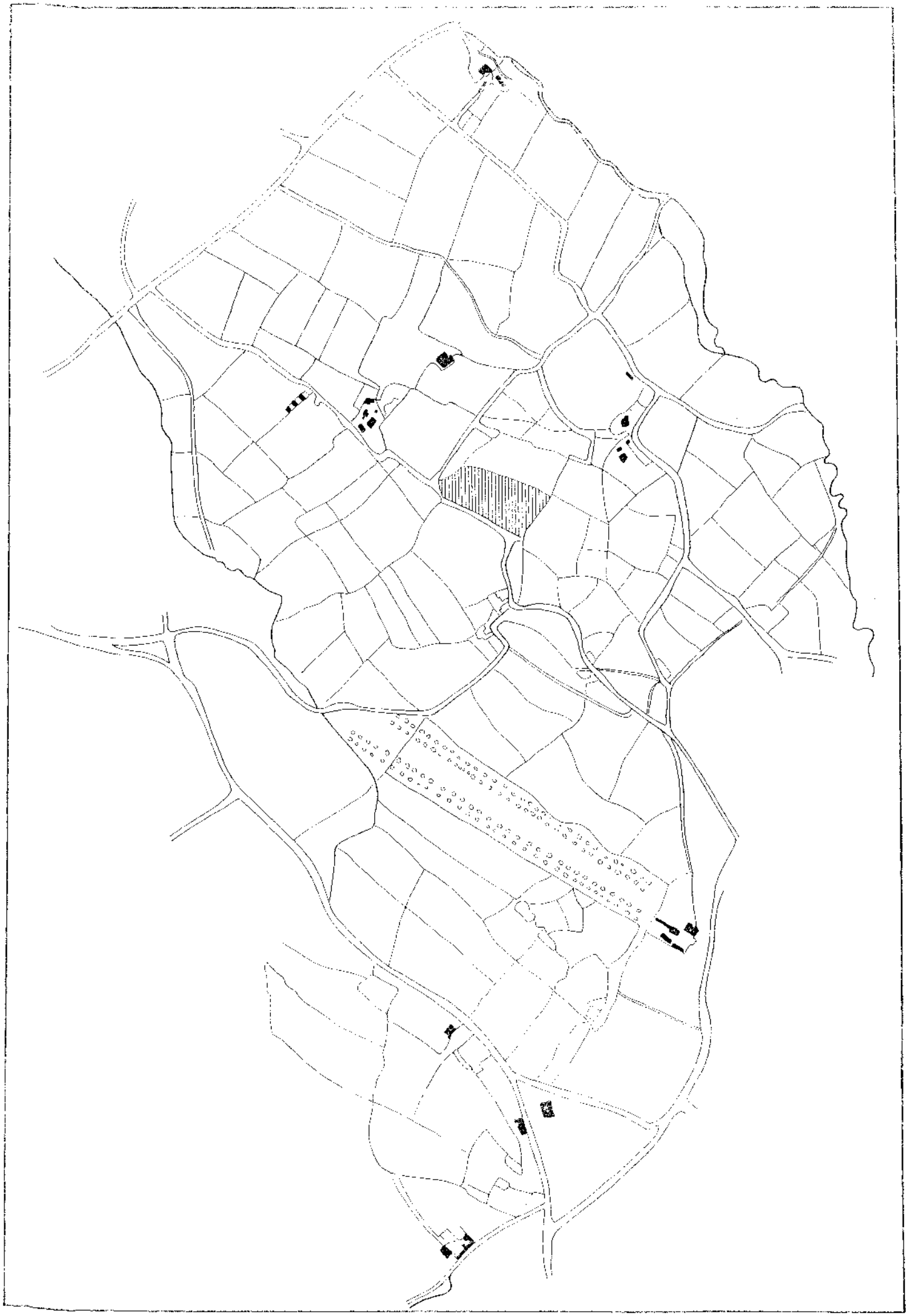
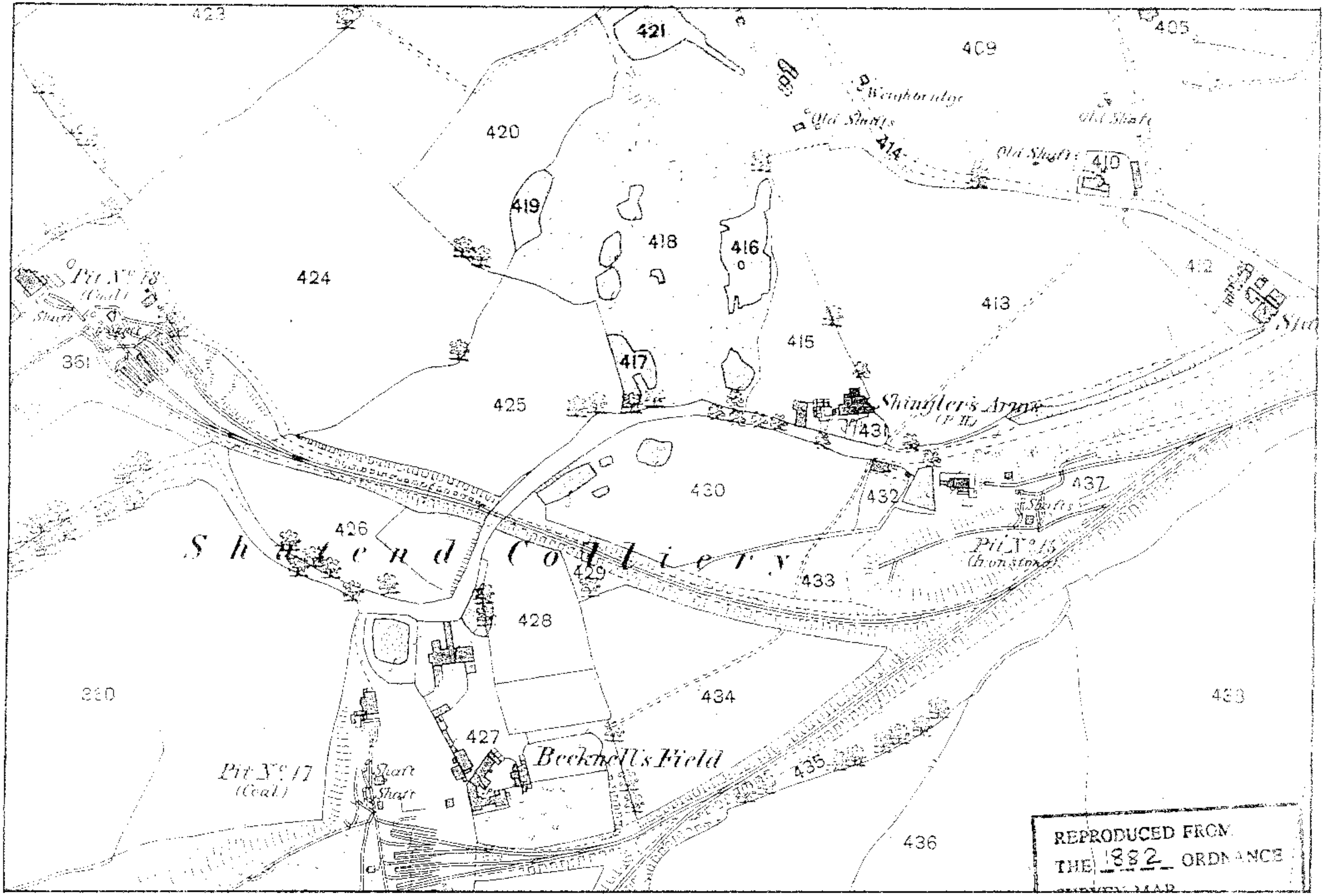


Fig.5 1822 Map showing area of site



Shutt end Colliery
Pit No 18
(Coal)
Shaft
Pit No 17
(Coal)
Shaft
Shaft
Becknell's Field
Shinglers Arms
(P.H.)
Weighbridge
Old Shafts
Old Shaft
Old Shafts
Shafts
Pit No 13
(Ironstone)
423
421
409
405
420
419
418
416
414
410
424
412
413
415
417
351
425
431
430
437
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REPRODUCED FROM
THE 1882 ORDNANCE

Fig. 6 1882

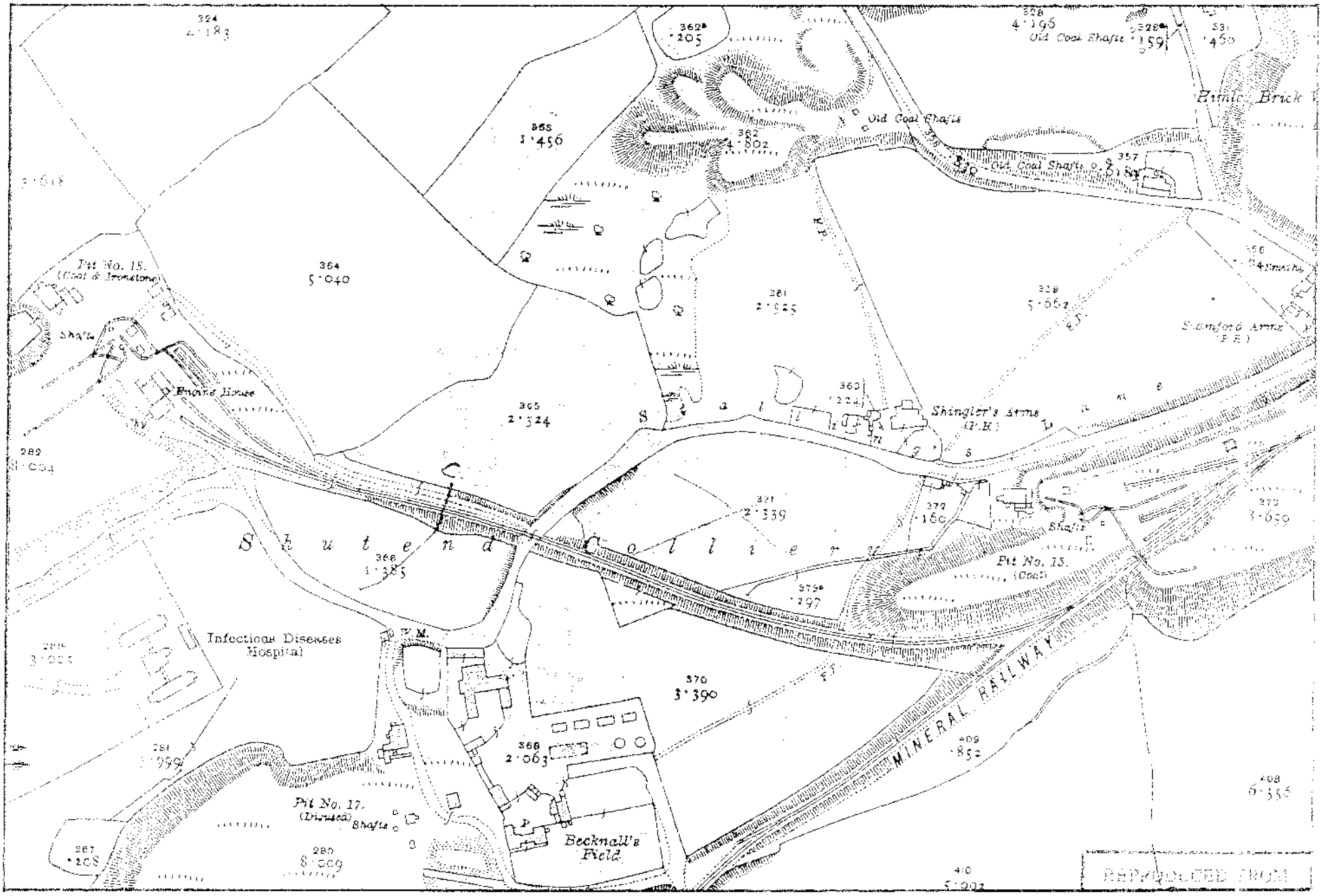
Old Coal Shafts
Brick
Pit No. 15.
(Coal & Ironstone)
Shafts
Engine House
Shingler's Arms
(P.H.)
Stanford Arms
(P.H.)
Shafts
Pit No. 15.
(Coal)
Infectious Diseases
Hospital
P. M.
Pit No. 17.
(Disused)
Shafts
Becknall's
Field
MINERAL RAILWAY
Shutend Colliery

Fig.7 1919

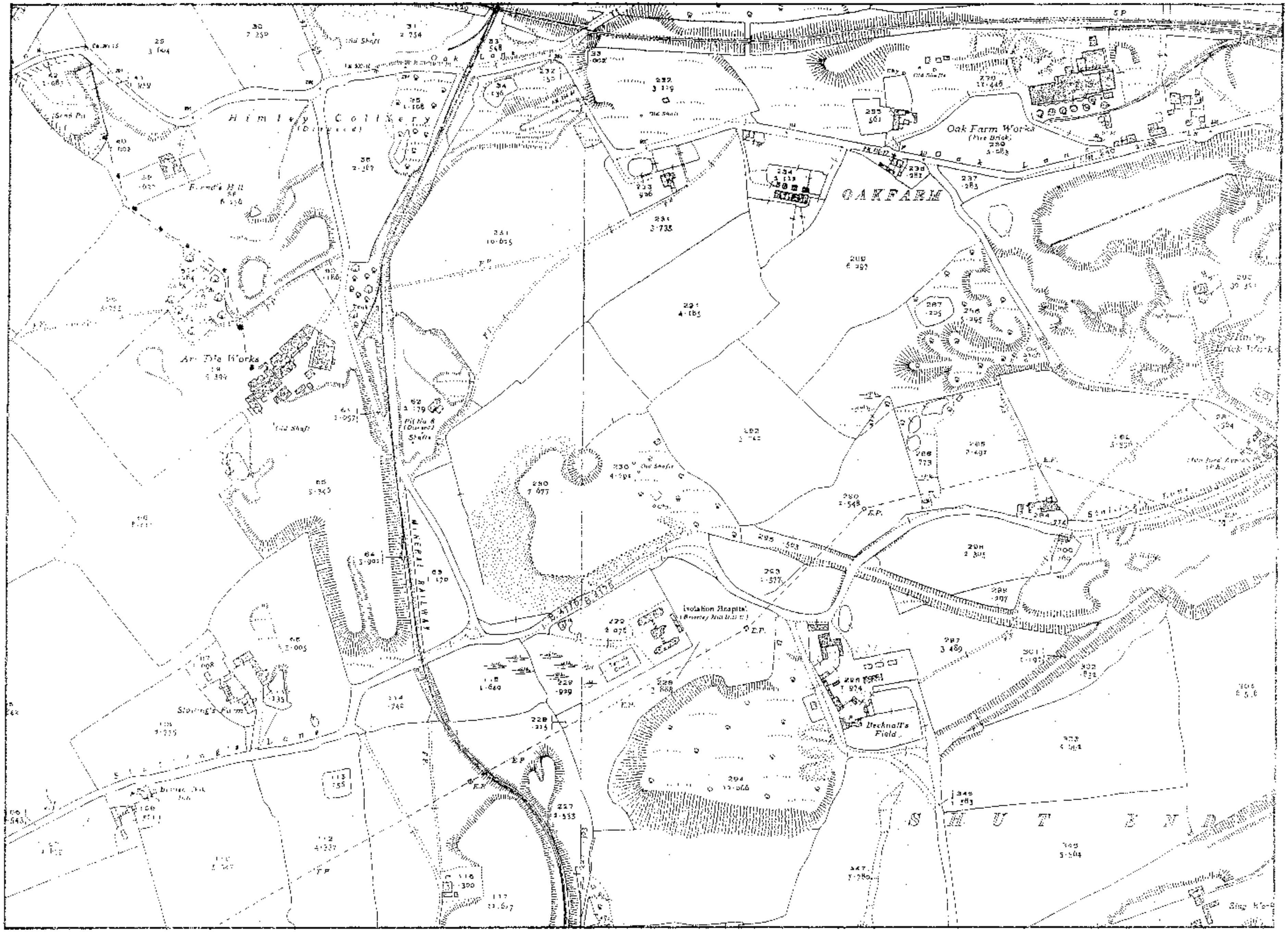
Himley Colliery
Oak Farm Works
OAKFARM
Isolation Hospital
Beckhall's Field
SHUT END
Mineral Railway

Fig.8   1937

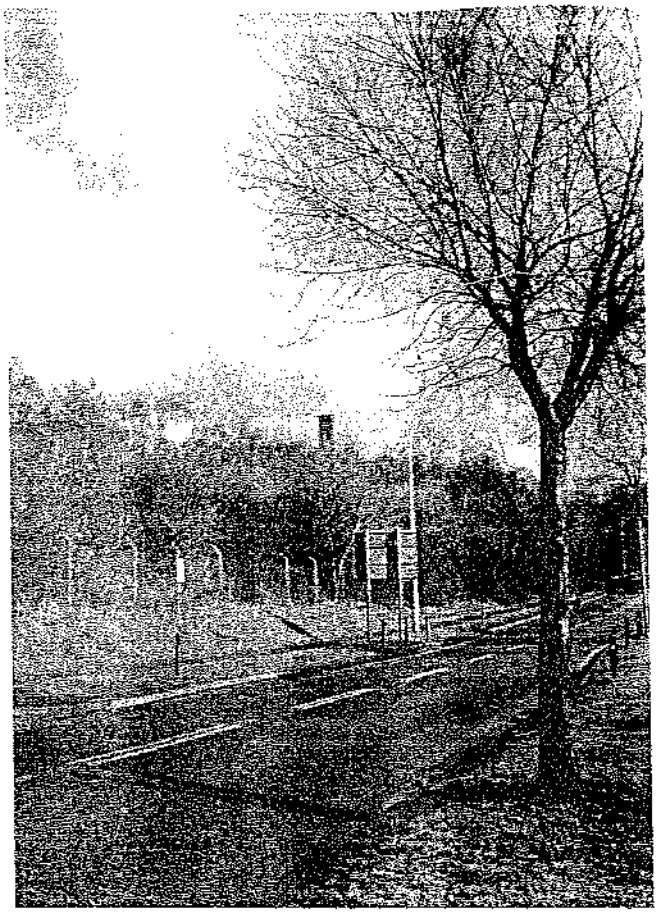

Plate 1: View of Chimney from Stallings Lane

Plate 2: General Location Showing Drop into the Quarry

Plate 3: General Shot Showing the
Extent of Vegetation Cover

Plate 4: South-East Elevation of the Engine House

Plate 5: Chimney

Plate 6: Detail of
Chimney Flue Arch

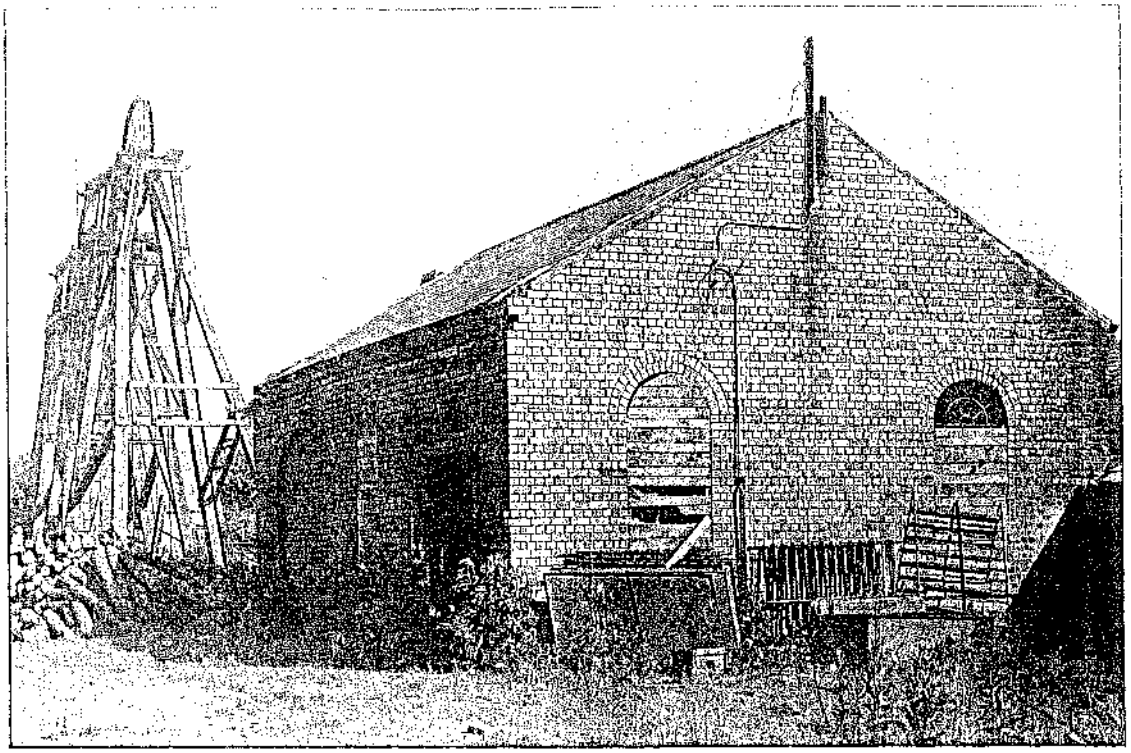

Plate 7: Winding Engine House of Cuba Pit, Gornal

Plate 8: Pit No.8, Himley Colliery

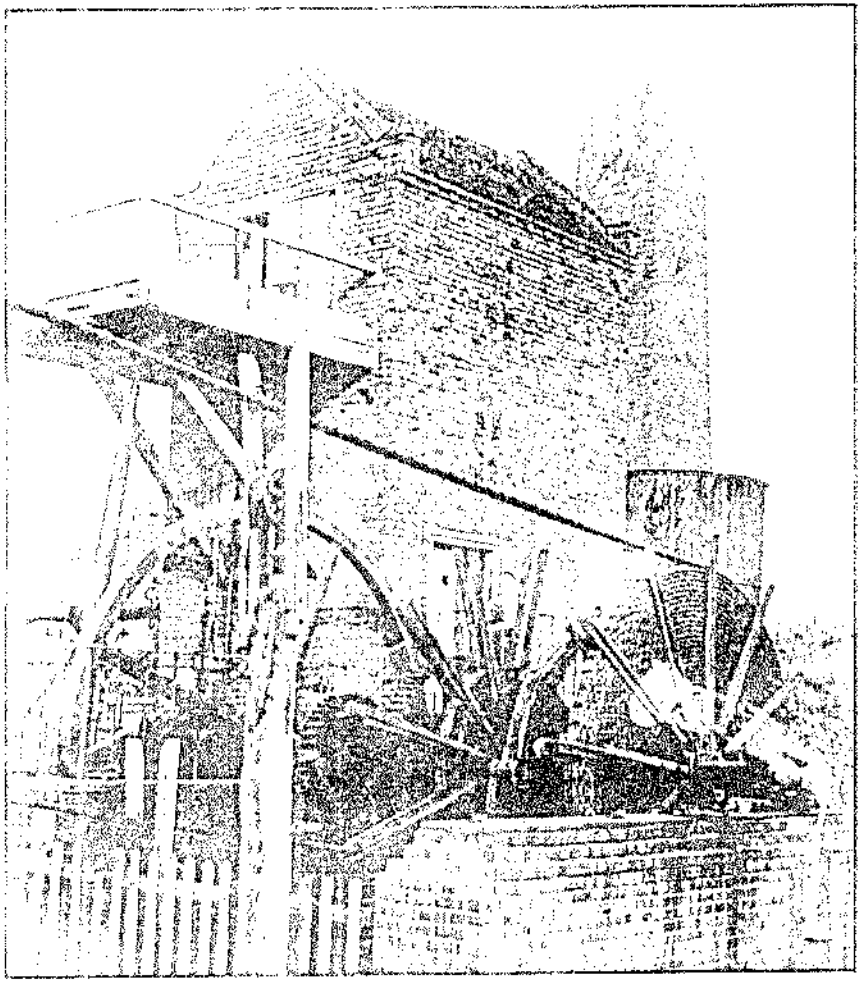

Plate 9: Pit No.15 near Stallings Lane, demolished c.1916

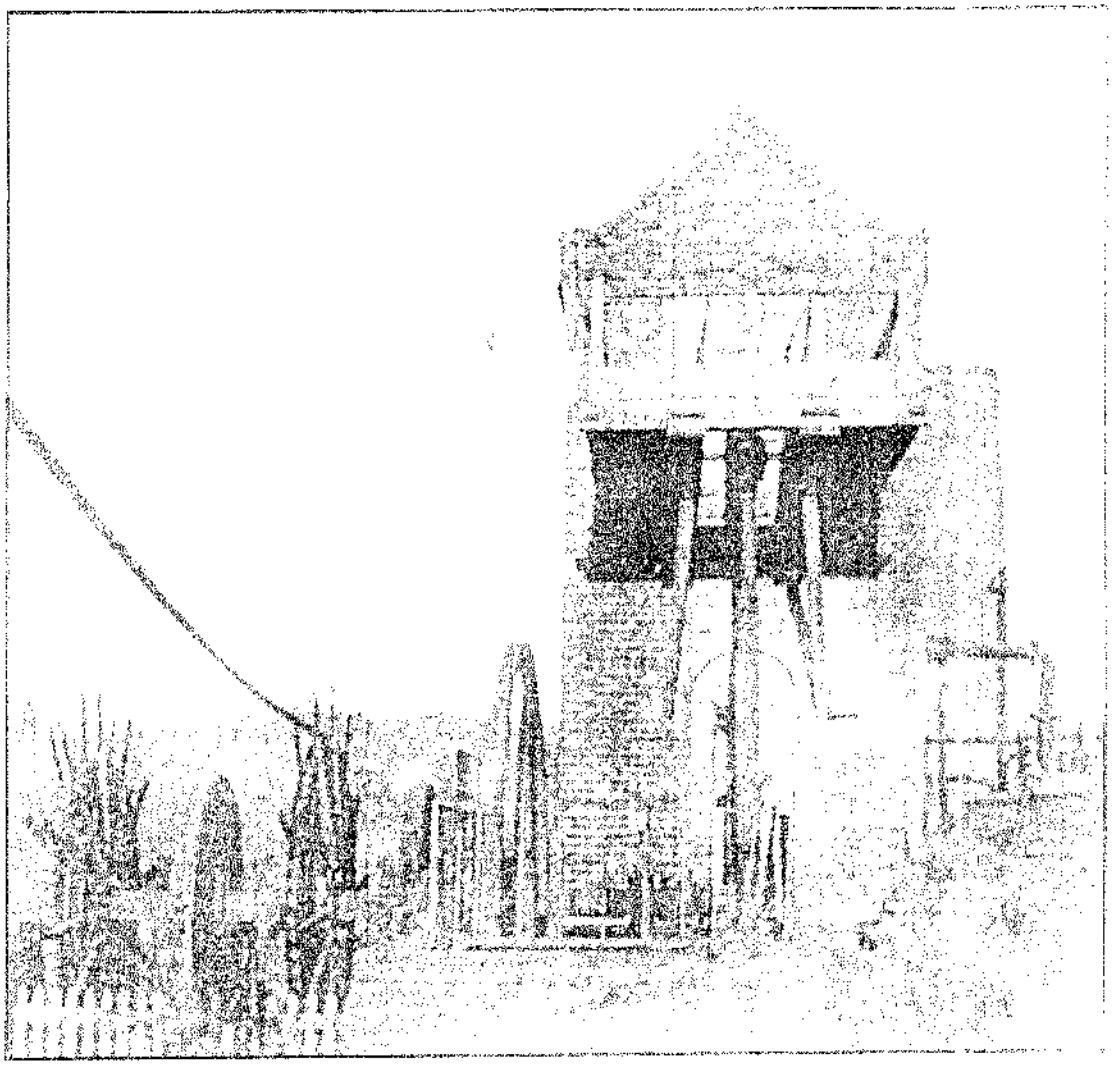

Plate 10: Pit No.17, Shut End, demolished c.1973

Rescue Squad picture taken at

H.S. Pitt & Co's Shut End Colliery

Taken when Pensnett was, primarily, a village of iron-working and collier families, the photograph seen here will bring back nostalgic memories for many locals who boast such honoured ancestry. The perils of a pitman's life shared daily in the bowels of the black earth instilled and distilled that feeling of close comradeship which was an ingrained quality of the colliers' character. It was engendered just as warmly in the pit-villages which mushroomed-up around the 'diggins' from the first onset of the Industrial Revolution.

Disaster Siren's Banshee Wail

When the banshee wail of the 'Disaster' siren shrieked the dreaded warning of 'trouble below' whole families cascaded from collier cottages, no matter whether it was night or day, to keep a combined fearful vigil at the pithead, sharing their dreads and fears in the true spirit of community...

'Give us, this day, our Daily Bread'

This sad scenario of sprawled-women with weeping children clinging to their trailing skirts, haggard faces etched against the night by flickering eerie light of yellow Naptha Flares, is one which haunted generations of heroic collier families who battled Nature in her darkest lair and often paid in Blood, Tears and Years for the impudent necessity of their quest for no more than Daily Bread...

From the first, the Rescue Squads were there - fostering hope when all seemed lost. Over the decades and generations, Pensnett, like many another coal-town of the Staffordshire Coalfield suffered its scything snare of disasters. No doubt, during their era, the men above played their part in reducing casualties to the lowest possible number. We'd like to know their names and anything else about them and the comrades they worked and lived with, when coal-mining was still a vital part of The Black Country's (and Nation's) economy...