Research Paper No. 15

BENTHALL and BROSELEY WOOD

Nuffield Survey
Third Interim Report

by

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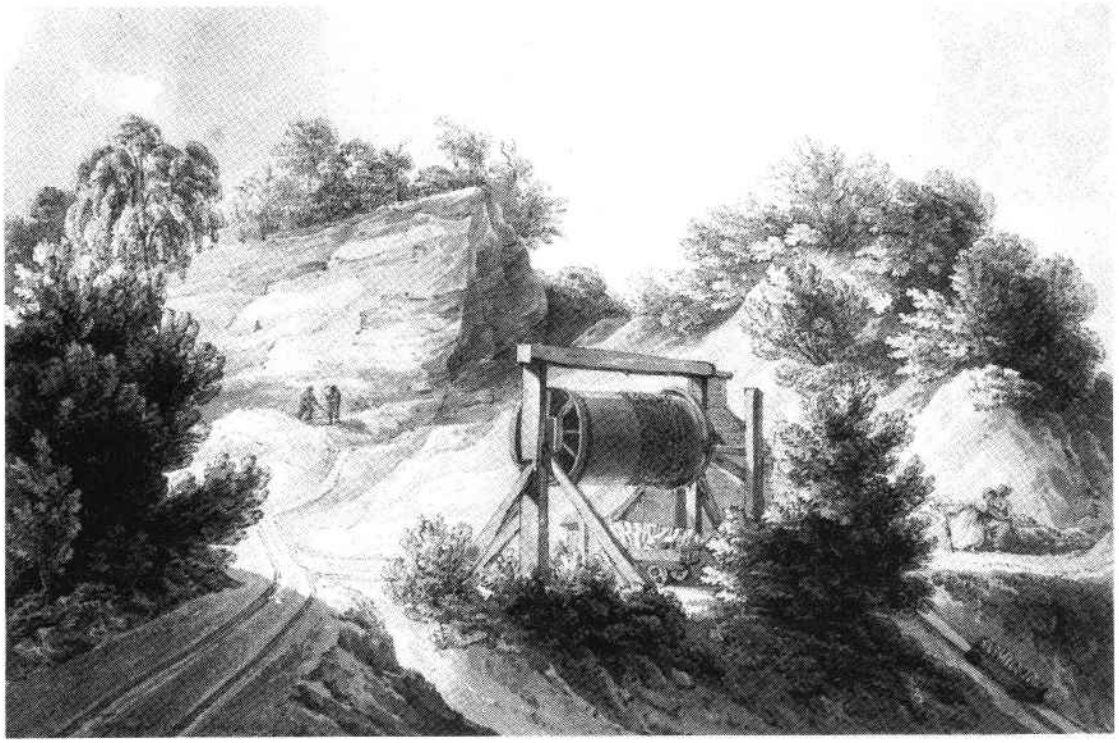
THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM



Frontispiece: Tykes Nest, Broseley, by John Powell, c. 1816-18. Showing limestone workings, railways and winding mechanism for inclined plane. (Reproduced with permission of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum).

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of the Nuffield Archaeological Survey

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Acknowledgements

Much of the documentary information in this report is based on the work of Dr Paul Stamper, of the Victoria County History of Shropshire, who has kindly made available the draft texts for chapters of Broseley and Benthall, from Volume 10 (forthcoming). Without this work to draw upon, our understanding of the archaeological evidence would have been severely hampered.

Sir Paul Benthall and James Benthall kindly took time to talk to the survey about the history of the parish. Mr Eustace Rogers, Mrs Williams as well as the many householders who have found us wandering through their backyards, have been immensely patient.

Insight into the geology of Benthall Edge, and its influence on vegetation came from Veronica Cossons. Ian Taylor of Ibstock Brick explained the local clays, and Dr Ivor Brown provided invaluable assistance in the interpretation of mining remains. Adrian Collings of Ove Arup made available the results of a recent exhaustive survey of limestone working.

Finally, Barrie Trinder, Michael Stratton, Michael Vanns, David de Haan and Stuart Smith provided comments, criticism and support. John Powell put up with major incursions into the library, and the IGMT archaeology unit into their files and stationery cupboard.

John Hughes, David Higgins and Michael Trueman have of course contributed directly to the report.

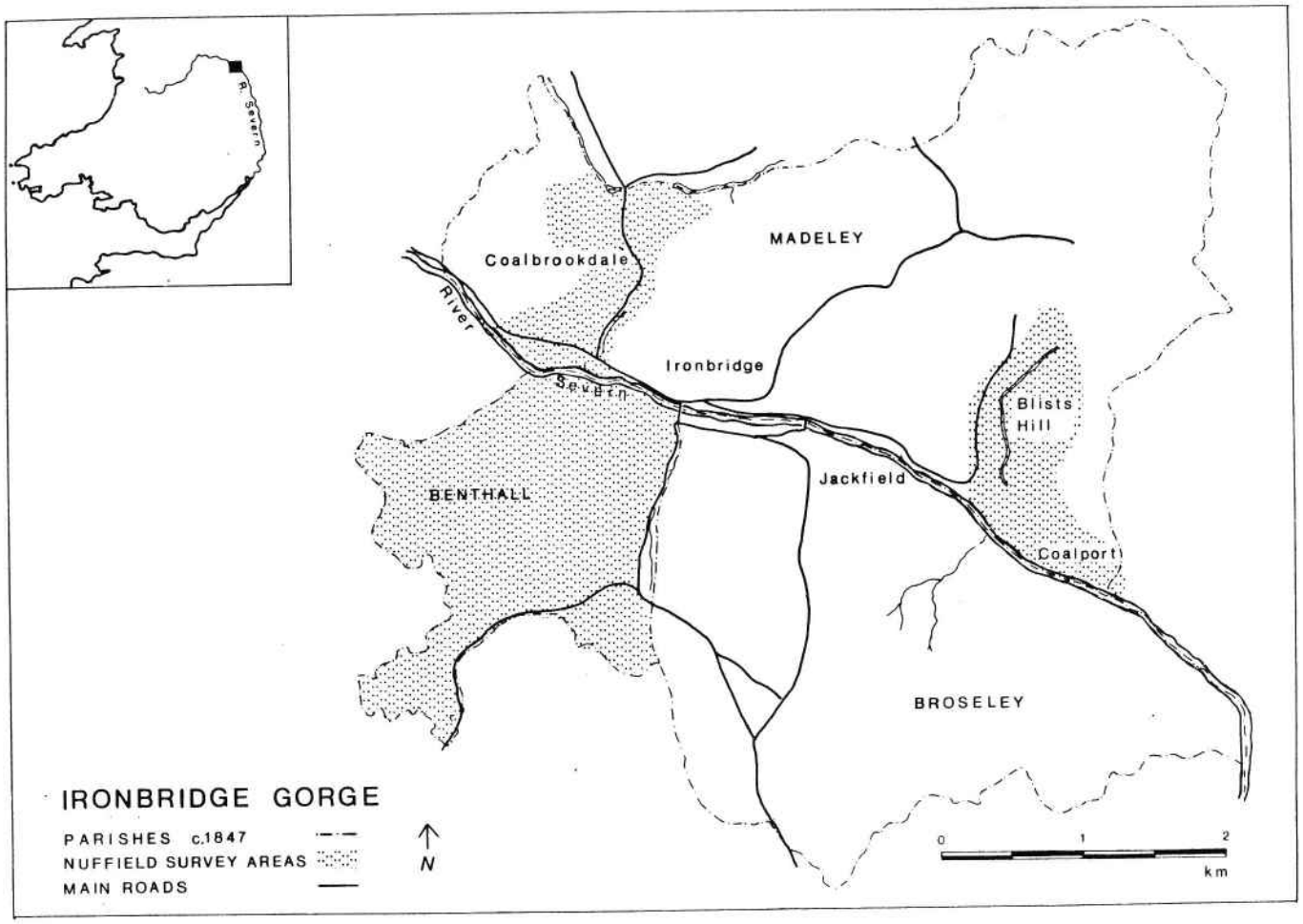


Figure 1. Nuffield Archaeological Survey Location Map.

CHAPTER ONE: BENTHALL AND BROSELEY WOOD - BACKGROUND

1.0 Introduction

The Nuffield Archaeological survey is a two year project which aims to provide a complete archaeological survey of the Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire. The survey has been funded by the Nuffield Foundation, and is based at the Ironbridge Institute at Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

This is the third interim report of the survey; the first covered Coalbrookdale, the second Coalport and Blists Hill. The first report set out in detail the terms of reference, methodology and objectives of the survey. This section does not repeat this information, but aims to update it in the light of recent work.

The fieldwork for Benthall and Broseley Wood was carried out between September 1986, and April 1987, with some interruptions.

1.1 The structure of the Nuffield Survey

The survey is based on a plot by plot study of an area. Each plot of land is examined individually in the field for archaeological and architectural remains to produce an inventory. The information is then gathered together under common themes for the purposes of interpretation and presentation.

These plots are those set out in the 1902 Ordnance Survey coverage for the Gorge. For Benthall parish, the map sheets involved are 43.15, 16 and 51.2 and 51.3. Within each plot, individual features have been given a context number. For example Benthall plot 253 may have a house, numbered 01. The full reference would be BE 253 01. A scatter of pottery in the garden may be numbered BE 253 02.

This report presents a departure in format from earlier volumes. A complete inventory of buildings, and one of archaeological sites, is included in the second volume and not integrated within the text. **The inventory of sites and buildings should be used in conjunction with the main text.**

The survey is undertaken in two parts. The first covers the study of the archaeology of the landscape and industry of Benthall Parish, and the way in which these relate. The second part of the survey focusses upon housing in Benthall and adjacent Broseley Wood, and the way in which it reflects the nature of society in the Gorge.

1.2 The Area of the Survey

The ancient parish of Benthall covers some 843 acres on the south side of the River Severn. The slopes of the Gorge are steep

and wooded, and at the top is open agricultural land. There is no centre of settlement, and none of the industries which once flourished here survive. The area was served by the Iron Bridge, now closed to traffic. Benthall never successfully competed with either its eastern neighbour, Broseley, or Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge to the north, for a share in the prosperity of the Industrial Revolution.

The settlement of Broseley Wood in Broseley parish has been included in the second part of the survey for the light it throws on patterns of settlement in Benthall and because of the survival there of very early industrial housing. Although very much part of the town of Broseley, Broseley Wood can be distinguished by its origins as a squatter settlement, and its development as an industrial workers community. It is possible that it was the development of industry in Broseley in the late sixteenth century that stimulated the development of settlement on the periphery of Benthall parish, and the continued development of Broseley as a small town must have contributed to the contrasting restricted growth of Benthall after the eighteenth century.

There is a clear need for survey for the whole of Broseley Parish, and in particular the town. The final report of this survey intends to cover that part of the parish which forms the slopes of the Gorge, but will be unable to cover the south or the east of the parish.

1.3 Sources for Benthall and Broseley Wood

Benthall is a notoriously badly documented parish. Most of the estate documents, with the exception of a few records which survive with material from the Willey estate (which owned the manor covering the greater part of the parish from 1844), have disappeared. There are no detailed maps before 1835. The limestone and coal industries are poorly documented, although some records do survive for the clay industries. What map evidence there is has been discussed in section 7.4.

The history of Benthall and Broseley will be included in the forthcoming Victoria County History (VCH) for Shropshire, Volume 10, and a draft text for this has kindly been made available to the survey. Analysis of the early records by the VCH has made it possible to begin to consider the medieval basis of the parish. Relatively recently available sources include the index of insurance records (SRO) and the series of probate inventories for the parish (Trinder forthcoming).

Benthall parish is part of the Borough of Wenlock, and many court records are held at Much Wenlock. As yet these are not well indexed, but further searches may reveal more information on the parish.

1.4 Developing the Nuffield Survey Methodology

Because of its small size, the survey has considered Benthall very much as a whole parish. This has enabled us to consider the early medieval basis to settlement for the first time, and the relationship, for example, between forest law and the development of minerals. Manorial control is evidently very important in determining the nature of later industrial development, and in particular the relationship between the provision of housing and industrial ventures.

The predominantly rural nature of Benthall is another advantage. There has been very little development after the eighteenth century, and so the early distribution of housing can be examined, and the underlying medieval patterns are more visible and better preserved than in a later industrial community.

Geology is a much larger element in this survey than in earlier studies. Coal and clay outcrop on the surface of the parish, and have very much determined the location of settlement, as well as the development (and decline) of industry, particularly in the period preceding the Industrial Revolution. The Gorge has always been famous for its iron industry, but Benthall shows very clearly that it was the clay industries which saw the real revolution. Clay working began earlier, employed more people, and lasted very much longer in Benthall than the short lived iron industry. Indeed, the manufacture of drain pipes only ceased some two years ago.

Finally the collaboration with naturalists in the study of the limestone quarries of Benthall Edge has added a new dimension to the survey. The archaeology of woodlands for the pre-Industrial period is becoming better known, but there have been few initiatives in the interdisciplinary study of vegetation and the Industrial Revolution. Ironbridge Gorge would make an ideal test case for exploring the way in which botany and archaeology can interrelate. Already we have been able to demonstrate a relationship between coppicing and the dumping of spoil from stone quarries. Future work may be in the field of dating old workings, using lichens or soil depth, or in the use of archaeology to explain vegetation successions. This report includes an appendix by John Hughes of the Shropshire Trust for Nature Conservation.

In terms of architectural study, the area consists of buildings which are mostly "vernacular". This study will therefore consider some of the approaches to the study and understanding of vernacular building, and suggest ways in which our understanding of an industrial area must modify some of these assumptions.

1.5 Implications for future work

The patterns which underly this parish may well be of relevance to those of Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge in Madeley, and

Broseley in the parish of Broseley. In particular the role of the large (and often agricultural) landowner in controlling land use - and thus opportunities for industry - is very apparent here. Benthall seems to be an example of a highly controlled parish, in the hands of one owner for most of its history, and what happens in the eighteenth century is very much dependent upon the whole medieval structure of the parish.

The manorial basis of the parish should definitely be considered for Madeley, on the north side of the river. The river is not just an arbitrary boundary but a very real one, separating manor, Royal Forests and to some extent monastic control. Broseley too is very different, with a variety of land owners from a much earlier date.

Behind this exploration of manorial and later control lies the issue of why Benthall, unlike Broseley or the riverside settlements of Madeley, never shared in the success of the Industrial Revolution. The parish had all the advantages of easily worked minerals, access to the river, and active entrepreneurs from an early date, yet settlement expanded little after the early eighteenth century. It may have been the lack of flat land in the steep valley in comparison to the broad Coalbrookdale valley with its scope for large pools to provide water power, it may have been the working out of raw materials at an early date, or it may have been the very different attitude of the landowners.

1.6 Conservation issues in Benthall and Broseley Wood

With the exception of Bower Yard, Benthall and Broseley Wood are outside the Severn Conservation area. The areas have been excluded from the financial support and planning control of the north bank of the river, and thus the historical status. Yet the foundations for the later prosperity of the Ironbridge Gorge were probably laid by the enormously successful coal industries of Benthall and Broseley. In neglecting the study of this side of the Gorge, there is a danger that an understanding of the Gorge as a coherent historical and economic unit will be fragmented.

This lack of attention is reflected in the Statutory Lists. Only 5 buildings are included in Benthall, and there are no buildings listed in Broseley Wood. This is hardly surprising given the present criteria on listing, since the buildings in these areas are notoriously humble and much altered. Because they are so concerned with architectural value, the lists therefore offer a very partial record, a situation which may have been a factor underlying the relative neglect of the area in detailed local planning. Yet Broseley Wood and Benthall contain some of the earliest industrial housing in the Gorge, and preserved there are patterns of development which must have had a major impact on the rest of the Gorge.

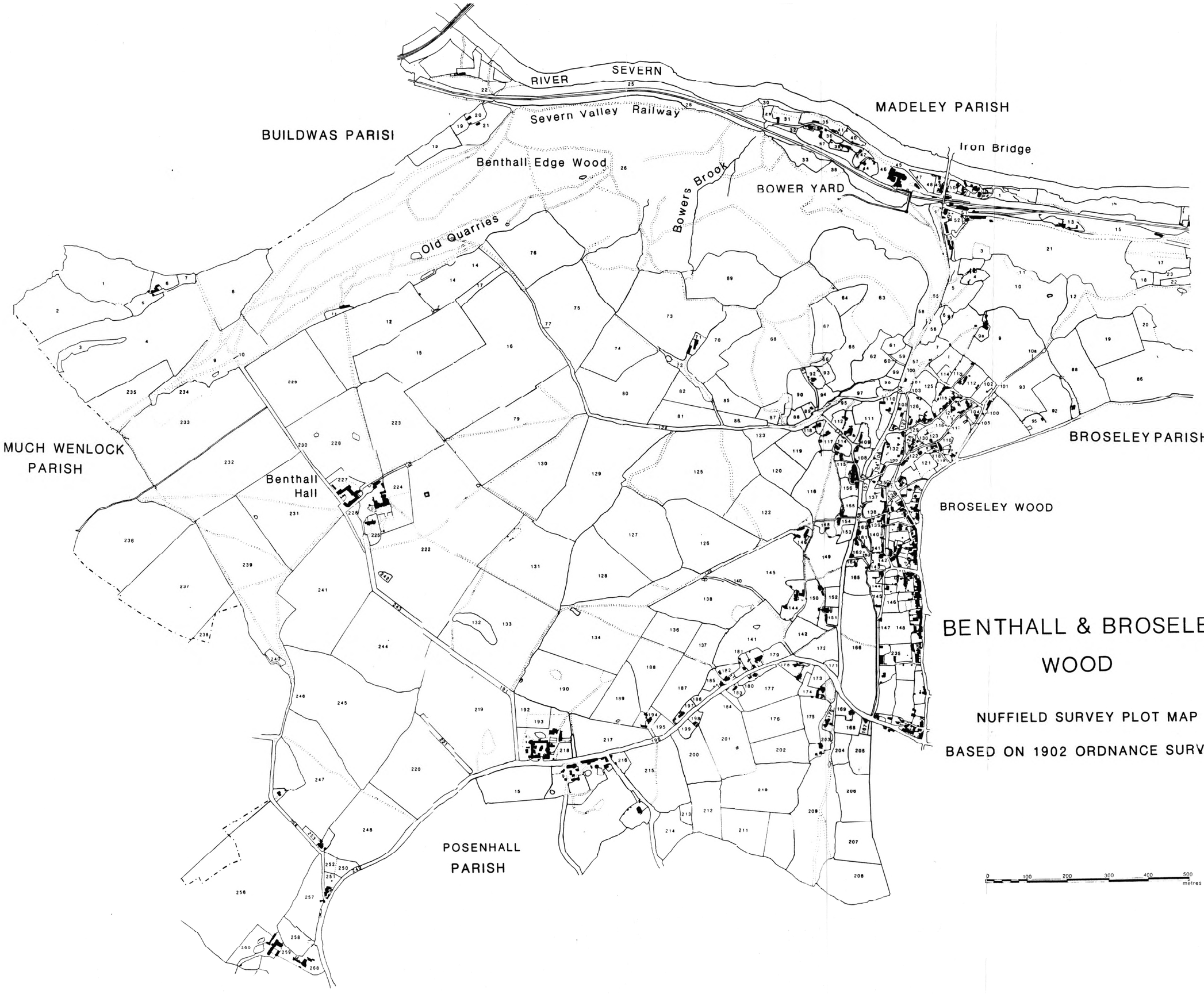
Recent planning policy has given no specific attention or

detailed analysis to the area, and there is no local plan. The Bridgnorth District Rural Settlement Policy (Bridgnorth District Council 1986) classifies each area in accordance with the Structure Plan. Broseley is defined as a housing main village, and Benthall as a smaller settlement. These classifications are based on population and overall size, and study of the detailed texture of the localities has been left to chance or to the informal administration of development control.

Previous planning history is now felt to have been too permissive, and extensive alterations to the buildings are though to detract from the character of the area. However, it is acknowledged that the previous negelct should not continue and that it poses a problem in the presentation and interpretation of the area. It seems important that what has been seen as the relative archiectectural disadvantage of the area should not compromise its evaluation, but should be accounted for in its historical interpretation.

This report addresses the question of how a historical survey can be of use in the context of the planning needs of these areas. The investigation of the history of an area, through its buildings, can be used as a valuable tool in area interpretation and in the re-evaluation of a comparitively neglected area.

Surely the time has come to reconsider the status of the area to the south of the river as a conservation area, and to make a commitment to the understanding and preservation of its heritage.



BENTHALL & BROSELEY WOOD

NUFFIELD SURVEY PLOT MAP

BASED ON 1902 ORDNANCE SURVEY

0 100 200 300 400 500 metres

CHAPTER TWO: THE PARISH OF BENTHALL

2.0 Introduction

Before considering the evidence for industry or housing in detail, it is worth examining the basic pattern of settlement, rural industry and transport of the parish as a whole. The way in which these have developed has had implications for the location and success of industry, the type and distribution of housing, and the long term prosperity of the parish.

This section draws together the evidence of housing, industry and documentation to provide a general picture of the overall development of Benthall, both in the general area of the manor, and after the creation of the parish itself in 1702. Much of the information is drawn from later chapters, where the arguments are expanded and more detailed references given.

2.1 The Pattern of Settlement

2.11 Medieval Settlement in Benthall

With the exception of a bronze axe found in the River Severn, there is no evidence for prehistoric settlement in the parish. The chapel at Benthall has a fifth-century dedicaton to St Brice, and suggests the possibility of very early settlement, although no archaeological evidence has yet come to light.

The earliest recorded settlement in Benthall was probably that held by Anfred of Benthall c. 1125, described as a "vill". Benthall was at the time under Forest Law, and restrictions would have been imposed on assarting (or clearing land), taking game in the forest, and building. The manor was held of the monks of Wenlock, and there must have been an associated chapel by 1221, making the location of the settlement almost certainly around the site of Benthall Hall, where the settlement remained until probably the sixteenth century.

After the succession of Anfred's grandson Hamon (a minor) the land was enfeoffed by Syward the Champiun, after whose death the land passed to Wenlock Priory. Robert's son Robert (d.1249) reclaimed the land in exchange for lands held in Much Wenlock. From there the estate passed to Phillip of Benthall (d.1283), a man who already held land in the Hundred of Munslow. He was of some local importance as Regarder of the Long Forest, and granted the priory of Buildwas the right of road over his land. The inventory of his possessions shows him to have been fairly wealthy.

It was at this time that the two plots of land at the bottom of Benthall Edge were surrendered to the monks of Buildwas, "Hermiteshelde and Holweruding", (Eyton iii:276) one of which may have been the modern Hungerdale farm. In 1318 the bosc called

"Astwode" was granted to Thomas de Beysin". By 1330 this estate included:

> "a moiety of one messuage and two plots of land which are called Wodefeledes with wood meadow and other appurtenances with a third plot which is called la Newestockyung and with other adjoining waste and one plot of land which is called Moldescroft with the adjoining meadow and ten selions near Southewolle and one plot of land which is called Hammecroft near le Pulles and one plot of land in field of Benthall near le Bynwode between le Newey and Hasulwalle with other adjoining meade with all other appurtenances" (deed in possession of Sir Paul Benthall).

The estate would have included large open fields (perhaps the field of Benthall referred to in a later deed). The fields were most likely bounded by wood to the north and west, and marsh to the south. Some clearing did go on, as the vill was fined for assarting. Tenements at Benthall are mentioned in 1256 and 1259.

From 1250 there was a second estate in Benthall, that held by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who had acquired 3 bovates of land in Benthall, worth 2s per annum, from Richard (d. 1277-8) son of John Burnell. Robert Burnell enjoyed great royal privileges, including considerable forest rights which he must have exercised in the forests of Benthall. Two years after his death, his estates were heavily mortgaged to Italian merchants, probably as a result of his campaigns in Wales.

This Benthall estate consisted of at least "2 messuages, 42 acres of land, four acres of meadow and 8½ acres of woodland", according to proceedings instituted by Robert's nephew Philip Burnell in 1293 (Eyton iii:277). There are no early buildings which enable it to be located, but it must have been to the east or north of the other estate.

With the marriage of Robert Burnell's brother John to the daughter of Roger of Benthall, the Benthalls and the Burnells of Acton Burnell were linked, although there may have been earlier links possibly involving Syward le Champiun. The two Benthall estates were later united by Hugh Lord Burnell, in the mid-fifteenth century, and the estates descended together until sold in 1562.

2.12 Prosperity in Benthall: 1576 - 1720

It was after the manor was purchased in 1576 by Lawrence Benthall (d.1603) that the the pace of development changed. It was he who added the tongue of land extending into Posenhall to the manor as well as acquiring the combined earlier estates. He must have begun the development of the coal resources of the parish, which in conjunction with the transport network of the Severn, contributed so much to sixteenth century growth in the parish.

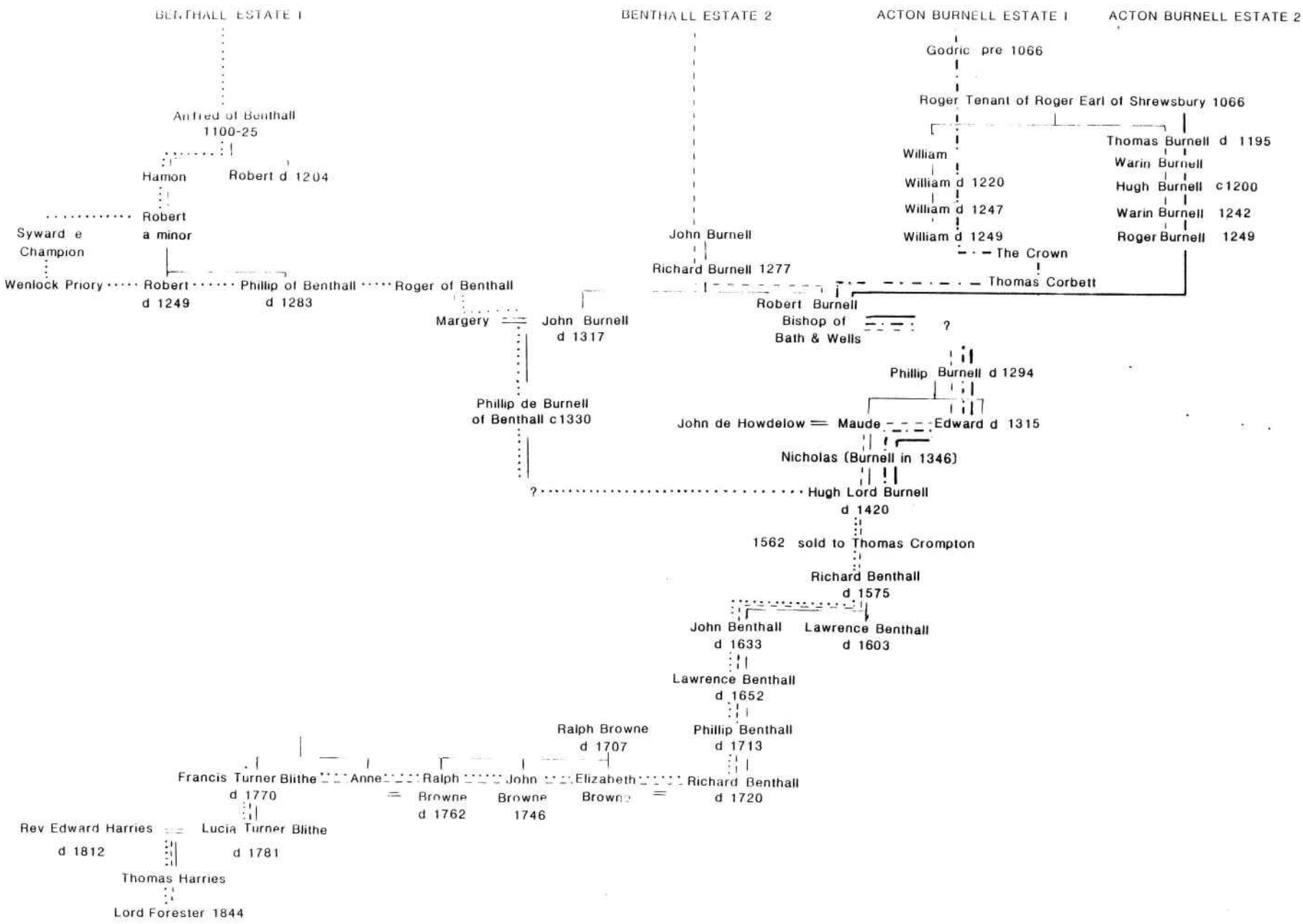


Figure 3: Family Tree, Benthall Family, showing descent of estates in Benthall and Acton Burnell

Lawrence's grandson Lawrence (d. 1652) seems to have presided over the period of the greatest prosperity for the parish. His coal mines produced over 30,000 tons of coal, for which he laid some of the earliest wooden railways in Britain. There must have been an influx of population to service these mines, as the population rose rapidly in the seventeenth century, to reach a peak in the eighteenth century from which it has declined steadily.

By 1645, the centre of settlement in the parish, which had been to the west of Benthall hall had been all but abandoned. In its last phase it consisted of houses, some roads, a village pond and ridge and furrow cultivation. Benthall had built at least two cottages for miners in Benthall Marsh, but the problem is the location of the remainder of settlement. There is no field evidence for settlement elsewhere before the early seventeenth century, suggesting that the shift in population was deliberately encouraged early in the century, and all but complete by 1645. That Lawrence Benthall deliberately encouraged new settlement is confirmed by the bitter disputes between him and Weld in the 1630s.

A little evidence survives for settlement in the Benthall side of the marsh in the small plots carved out of fields to the west along the Wenlock road. Settlement here could have coincided with exploitation of the outcrop which runs along the top of Bridge Road.

The main area of settlement associated with this early mining to survive is "The Mines" a random scatter of buildings to the west of Bridge Road, which was previously much more extensive. Some of the earliest surviving buildings in the parish are found here, and plot boundaries suggest that the settlement was on unenclosed common, not in use for agriculture. The settlement is just to the south east of the fault line, and it may be that the land was characterised by poor drainage, and marshy conditions. To the south west of the settlement, the Best, Randle and Clod measures, and the Ganey coal outcrop, and there is substantial evidence of mining. To the west in Workhouse Coppice and Ash coppice are early bell pits. Colliers were also building cottages at Broseley Wood in the early seventeenth century.

The active management of the estate, the settling of colliers and the arguments between Weld and Benthall over common land suggest that the enclosure of any remaining common lands must have taken place at this time.

At his death in 1720, Richard Benthall, the last of the seventeenth century Benthalls, left possessions that included a brick clamp, ironstone, coal and pipe makers clay. He was a man of diverse interests - mining, industry and successful farming. The population of the parish was growing rapidly, and settlement had been expanding.

Building evidence shows that there was a major period of building early in the eighteenth century. Brick becomes a common building material, and the earliest structures are small, two room cottages, which stand as the precursors to a later industrial housing type.

2.13 Industrial expansion in the late Eighteenth Century

By the middle of the eighteenth century, the extraction of coal from open outcrops seems to have been declining, and the exploitation of the other resources of the parish - ironstone, limestone and clays - became important. It must not be forgotten that agriculture continued to provide a strong economic base, often in the hands of industrialists.

The real industrial expansion in the parish occurred between about 1750 and the end of the century. By 1790 there was an ironworks, a tar boiling works, a minimum of two potteries, a boring mill, several mills (of which at least two were corn mills), a lead smelter, a boat building industry, and the getting and burning of lime on Benthall Edge. Bricks were undoubtedly made locally, and there was a flourising clay pipe industry. Eleven years later, the population reached a peak of 636.

Ironically, this industrial entrepreneurism in the parish did nothing much for the local provision of housing, or for the prosperity of the parish. Later documents show that industrialists had little to do with the provision of housing, land for which was leased from the landowner by an intermediary small land holder, who then sublet it to cottagers. Surviving building evidence suggests that relatively little new housing was built by the end of the eighteenth century. At a time when Broseley was continuing to expand with the coal and clay boom, Benthall began to decline. Benthall never had a market, a fair, or very much in the way of retailers or a centre. The church had not been refurbished since the seventeenth century. So bad was the situation by 1816 that the expenses of the poor house doubled to £680, although this was a period of general depression throughout the area (Trinder 1981).

Even the provision of the Iron Bridge, and the creation of a route through the parish to the Broseley to Much Wenlock turnpike, failed to make much of an impact. The road caused endless problems, affected the livelihoods of the barge owners and at least one potter (although the proprietors of the ironworks seem to have made a fortune out of repairing the road), and was replaced in 1828, by another road which put the parish even further away from any reasonable transport routes.

At the end of the century the navigability of the river was declining, which must have created problems for the river dependent community of Bower Yard.

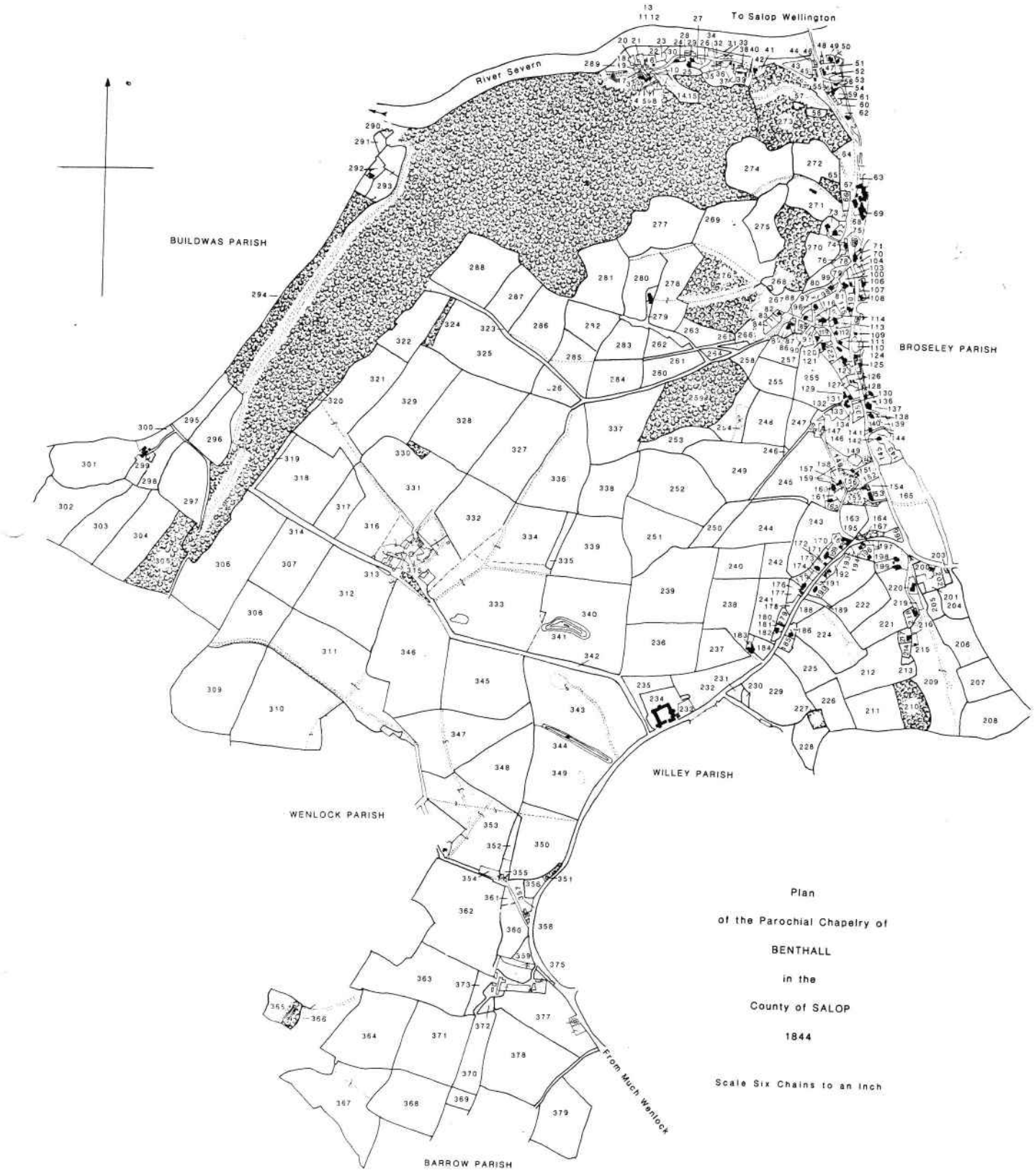


Figure 4: Benthall Tithe Apportionment Map (for apportionment, see Appendix Four).

2.14 Benthall under the Willey Estate

In 1844 Thomas Harries sold the whole of Benthall parish to Lord Forester of Willey, who put some of the land into the hands of a speculator. It is difficult to assess the impact of Willey estate management on the parish. Certainly some of the houses show similarities with Willey buildings, but most contemporary alterations are piecemeal and unregulated. The estate also came to control the mineral rights in the parish. Mines are not tithed, so the extent of mining pre-1844 is uncertain, but later OS map evidence suggests a small scale mining boom, with the extraction of coal, ironstone and clay from shafts, rather than the earlier adits, bell pits or open quarries.

The Tithe Apportionment of this year gave a detailed breakdown of occupation and land use for the whole parish, just prior to its purchase. There were about seven large farms, with the woods under the control of Harries himself. The iron industry was in decline and there were a few small corn mills, two timber yards and a lime burning industry.

But it was the clay industries of the parish which formed the economic base throughout the century. Maws moved to the parish in 1851, and the brickworks became known for their white bricks. The Benthall potteries had some success in the mass produced pottery market, and must have brought some employment.

Certainly there was an influx of people for the construction of the railway in the 1860s, with such major works as the viaduct along the steep sides of Benthall Edge. Despite this brief hiccup the population continued to decline. Buildings were demolished and not replaced, and few new houses built.

2.15 The Twentieth Century

At the beginning of the century there was a brief revival in the lime quarrying industry, and some extant mining. But the pattern has been one of fairly continuous decline in the industrial base. Maws closed in 1881, although the Benthall Pottery and the white brick works continued to survive through the manufacture of agricultural drains and sanitary pipes.

No industry survives today in Benthall. Maws Tileworks, the brickworks, and most recently the descendants of the Benthall Potteries have all closed. The railway has shut, and most of the area was never included in the Severn Conservation area, with its subsequent tourist boom. At present there is no opencast mining, although recent applications have been made.

With the complete decline of industry, house building in Benthall has seen a new boom. Much of the parish has been sold off in small lots by the Willey estate, and for the first time the parish has seen individual ownership and building. Local Authority housing was built in the 1930s, and a number of

bungalows have been built since then. Benthall became even more of a suburb of Broseley, with few services and no centre. More recently older houses have been altered and restored, new houses in historic styles constructed, and there has been a revival of interest in local history.

2.16 Settlement overview

This summary shows the importance of examining the evidence of housing and industry together. In terms of visible industry, the greatest prosperity of the area would seem to be the late eighteenth century, yet housing suggests an earlier boom, at the beginning of the century, and a relative decline thereafter. Clearly then, it is the even earlier coal mining boom of the seventeenth century which laid the economic foundation for expansion of settlement. Industrial diversification - perhaps drawing upon the already large labour force - did not have lasting effects, and by the early nineteenth century there was much hardship.

Several other lessons can be drawn from this overview. Settlement never occurred over outcrops of coal until very recently, suggesting that these are a well known and controlled economic resource throughout most of the phases of housebuilding in the parish. Again this confirms the picture of an early expansion at the time of peak exploitation of minerals, and a later decline.

The history of the manor shows that land ownership was concentrated by 1420 in the hands of one family, and was only broken up gradually after 1844. This must have had implications for the pace and nature of development.

2.2 Forestry and Woodland Management

The woods of Benthall Edge today survive as a vivid reminder of what has always been one of the key economic resources of the parish - woodland. Field names for Benthall (Foxall 1980) suggest that most of the north and the east of the parish was once wooded - over half of the area of the parish. Thus woodland must have been of considerable economic value to the parish. The exploitation of wood is an industry which is often less visible and noteworthy than, for example, iron, yet is one which can make a large impact on an area.

From the earliest settlement of the parish there must have been competition between wood and coal as a resource. Elsewhere exploitation of coal was slow in medieval period, as much of the available coal was of poor quality and unsuitable for domestic use, but in Benthall the coal was good, and exploited for fuel from early days (see Chapter 3).

2.21 Forest Law

In the eleventh century much of the county of Shropshire was forested. References to Haiae (perhaps enclosed deer parks) are found in Domesday; about 80 which is more than any other county in the Midlands. The parish of Wenlock, in which Benthall lay contained at least two (perhaps Willey Old Park and Deer Leap) (Morris 1986:3c,2).

This ancient woodland was made a Royal Forest during the Norman period. The area, covering nearly half the county, was later known as the forest of Shropshire, but was legally divided into seven forests - Long, Wrekin, Shirlett, Morfe, Clee, Wyre and Kinver. Benthall was part of the Royal Forest of Shirlett, which lay between (and was often confused with) the great Long Forest Wiggins 1986:10).

The legislation which created Royal Forests set aside tracts of land throughout England as a game preserve, in which the King claimed exclusive rights of hunting and getting timber. Forest Law not only applied to woods, but villages, cleared areas and pasture which could provide browsing for deer. Obviously Forest Law created problems for land owners and tenants, who were fined for poaching, cutting wood, assarting (or clearing land) and a variety of other offences. If a royal beast was found dead, an inquest was held (Poole 1975, 29-35). The Pleas of the Forest were held regularly at Shrewsbury, and the number of offences relating to red deer suggest that they predominated in the local forests (VCHi:489).

Forest Law had implications for the extraction of minerals within forests. Lead was being extracted from Shropshire forests in 1179, and the presence of two limekilns in the hay of Wellington suggest that limestone was being quarried in 1255. (VCHi:486,489).

There seems to have been a manor at Benthall well before the imposition of Forest Law soon after the arrival of the Normans (VCH x), and the "vill of Benethala" was later fined half a merk in 1167, probably for assarting (Eyton iii:273). This would have considerably restricted the traditional rights of the local inhabitants to utilise the woods and pasture.

In 1224-5 a perambulation of the Royal Forests was made as part of the Charter of the Forest, legislation by which much of the country under Forest law was disafforested. The vill of Benthall was disafforested at this time, and land use came under the direct control of the monks of Wenlock, who enjoyed "exemption from regard and view in all its woods" (VCHii:40) in 1262. They would have gained the right to clear land, to lease land, and to build in the area. The period was in fact the time of greatest prosperity for the priory. Under Humbert, a programme of expansion of the demesne was undertaken, which included assarting in Shirlett (VCHii:41).

Others were allowed forest privileges, often in exchange for Royal favours. Edward I gave specific instructions that Robert Burnell, Chancellor of England and Bishop of Bath and Wells was to be allowed to hunt and take timbers from all his forests. He had been granted lands in Benthall at the end of the twelfth century. Burnell was heavily involved in fighting on the Welsh Border (VCH vii:7), and two years after his death in 1292 his estates were heavily mortgaged to Italian businessmen. The woods of Benthall may well have been depleted for the construction of his castle at Acton Burnell.

Philip de Benthal was Regarder of the Long Forest in 1262 (Eyton iii: 275), and his estate included at least eight and a half acres of wood in 1293. A deed of 1330 relating to the Burnell estate mentions several field names which suggest woodlands - Wodefeledes, Newestockyng, le Bynwode and Hasulwalle (see 2.11) suggesting that a considerable amount of the parish was under woodland.

Forest Law was gradually eroded, and most of the Royal Forests ceased to exist by the fifteenth century. Part of Shirlett remained under Royal control until the sixteenth century, although Benthall was probably free of forest law by the thirteenth century.

2.22 Coppicing and the Wood Industry

The deliberate management of wood as a crop is easier to document in the post-medieval period. There were two sources of revenue from woods - coppice wood (usually hazel, oak, beech and hornbeam) used for fuel, charcoal burning, and for the manufacture of small implements or fences; and mature trees (particularly oak) providing timber for use as pit props, in shipyards and house building. Supplies came partly through the management of existing woods, and partly through the deliberate planting of areas of coppice wood.

The provision of wood for the early iron industry must have been central to the development of woodlands in Benthall. There was ironworking in Coalbrookdale in the sixteenth century, and the monks of Wenlock had an ironstone mine and forges at Shirlett in 1540 (VCHii:44), both of which would have consumed a considerable quantity of wood. It has been calculated that the operation of a single charcoal blast furnace would require at least 16ha to be cut per year (Wiggins 1986:15).

Sixteenth century legislation required Crown authority to clear woodland within fourteen miles of the River Severn suggesting that there was pressure on most of the local woods for charcoal furnaces.

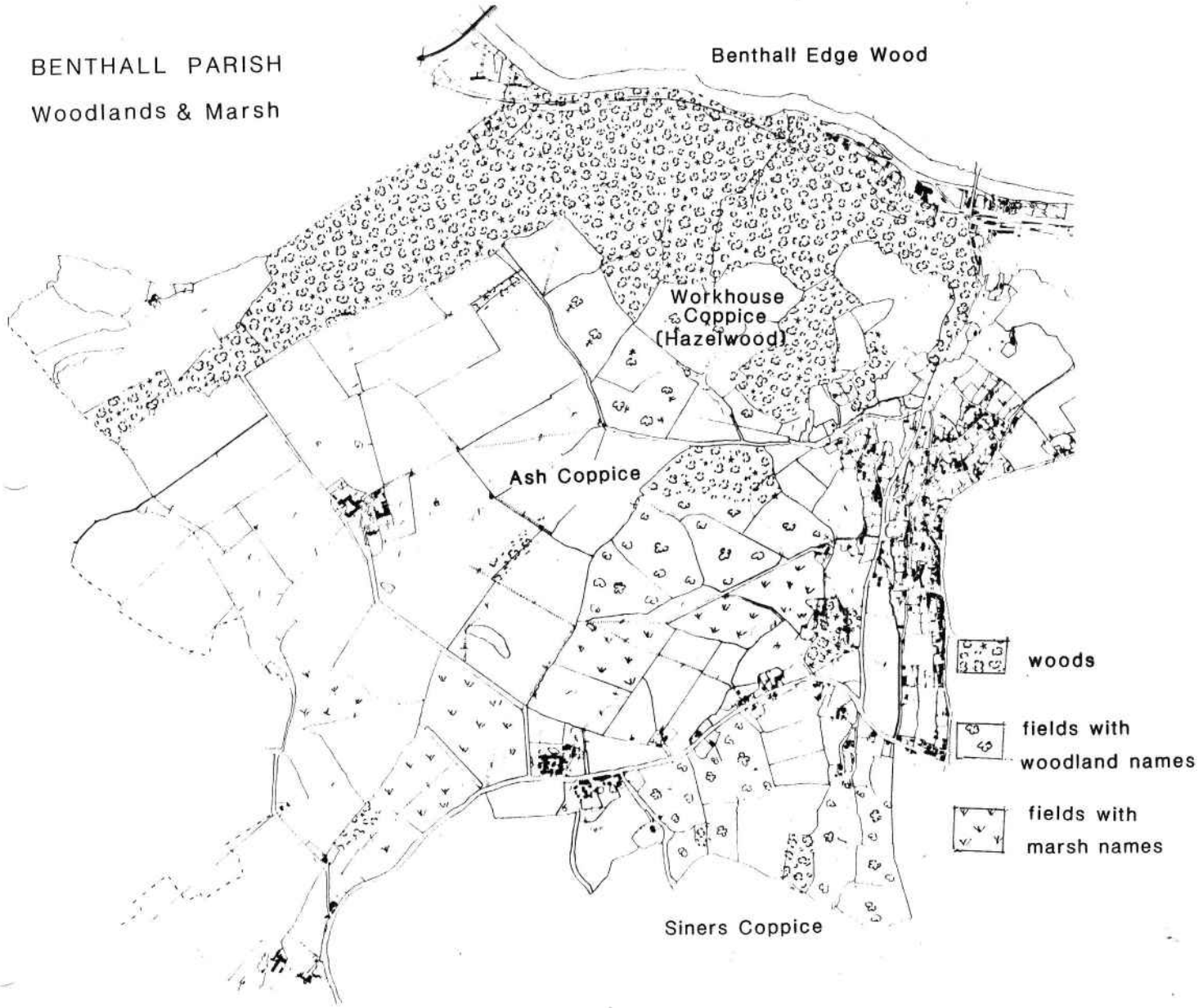


Figure 5. Woodlands and marsh in Benthall Parish

Much of the deliberate coppicing in the parish (as at Shirlett) may be of this period (Rowley 1972:217,8). Coppicing seems to have occurred at Ashwood Coppice, at Workhouse Coppice and Siners Coppice, all of which were originally relatively old stands of woodland. When Arthur Young visited Benthall in 1776 he noted that much of the wood in the parish was worked as coppice, cut at 21 years. Oak poles were barked and sold as pit props (VCH x) and the bark apparently sold at a high price, and to be used for tanning. Birch could alternatively be used for pit props but was not as strong (Plymley 1803:219).

"The value of coppice wood is daily declining" wrote Plymley in 1803 (p 146). As coal became a more popular fuel in the iron industry, the demand for coppice wood diminished. The growing transport network improved supplies of coal considerably. The effect on wood prices can be suggested in that returns of only 7s per acre yearly on coppice wood are quoted (p214). The average land rent for the county was 15s, and the returns on corn and agriculture were clearly much greater. The investment in coppice wood was also higher, as a crop was only harvested on a 20 year cycle.

Nevertheless, high prices could still be gained for oak and mature woods. Not only were most people reluctant to bury in anything but an oak coffin, but "Timber has of late been infinitely more destroyed than preserved" (Plymley 1803). An enquiry into the state of Shropshire woodlands was made by the Land Revenue Commissioners regarding the quantity of timber available for the Navy. Edward Harries in his reply for Shropshire reckoned that supplies of oak had diminished considerably over the past thirty years, and recommended planting oaks on land not suitable for arable, as the returns were still high (VCH i:495, Plymley 1803). Detailed instructions for the best means of enclosing plantations, are given in the Survey.

The production of coppice wood diminished by 1844, when many of the fields with woodland names were arable. Thomas Harries, the landowner, clearly heeded his fathers advice, and created small plantations at the edges of fields scattered through the parish, many of which he controls directly (Tithe map plots 167, 227, 319, 324, 351, 369). He was not farming, but let most of the arable land out to tenants. However, he did retain control of the woods of Benthall Edge, Ash Coppice and other areas of wood (Tithe map plots 259, 273, 289, 294, 309), and operated a sawpit on Bridge Bank in his own name.

Easy supplies of timber must have encouraged the boat building industry on the river bank at Bower Yard. Francis Slodd Gother operated a timber yard in 1844, and Samuel Roden had a small poplar plantation by the river (No 25).

2.23 The Woods of Benthall

BENTHALL EDGE WOOD

Benthall Edge Wood is one of the largest blocks of woodland in Telford, covering some 46.3 ha. Botannical evidence suggests that it is one of the oldest forests in the area, and retains many of the characteristics of a prehistoric woodland (Wiggins 1986:28), despite relatively recent clearances. In part this may be due to the presence of grassland artificially created by recent quarrying. The steep slope of the scarp would always have made the edge unsuitable for agriculture.

The wood is divided into two by the Broseley fault. To the west heavy soils over the Wenlock limestone naturally support sessile oak, ash, wych elm and lime. Occasional trees such as beech have been introduced, as well as considerable amounts of coppiced hazel. To the east the soils overlying the coal measures support ash and wych elm, with introductions of hazel and sycamore (Wiggins 1986:25).

There is little documentary evidence for the management of the wood, and most of the surviving trees are relatively recent. Re-planting may have occurred during the mid eighteenth century when the wood was depicted as being divided into blocks. Charles Hulbert in 1835 described "flourishing fir trees" on the edge, few of which survive today. These firs could have been quick growing larch, suitable for building timber.

At the top of the edge, limestone outcrops have been exploited. It is noteworthy that the coppicing along some of Benthall Edge does not take place on limestone spoil heaps, suggesting that there is no new coppicing once mining has commenced, although older coppices may continue to be managed.

ASH COPPICE

A patch of woodland (BE 12501) survives today to the south of Mine Spout Lane, only partly encroached upon by a modern house. Field names to south and west suggest that the woodland was originally much more extensive (eg BE 12601). To the south the wood is bounded by low marshy ground, and there is considerable evidence for mining in fields to the west. A small brook divides the woods from west to east. To the north of this brook is extensive evidence for circular bell pits, which can be seen as small depressions of c. 2m surrounded by rings of upcast waste (BE 12503)

It is possible that this wood may be "Astwode", although the name may also refer to East Wood (Paul Stamper pers comm) in which case the wood in question could be Easthope Coppice in Broseley. Philip de Benthall gave Sir Thomas de Beysin a wood called Astwode in 1317:

"Philip, son of John Burnell of Benthale, to Sir Thomas de Beysin, all his wood called Astwood according to the metes and bounds underwritten: viz from Burewardleys meer ascending along the Marlwey to a certain oak standing in Philips hedge of his new assart and thus descending by the way outside the said assart; and thus descending by the way outside the said assart to another oak... of Edera; and thus... descending to a rivulet between the Woddhouse field and the said wood of Astwode and thus straight through the said rivulet to the Coldelles and descending through the rising water course of Whytestaneswalle to the mill pool of Benethalle and ascending to the said way called the Marlwey by the mete of Borewaredesleye" (SRO 1224/3/289).

In his dispute with John Weld of Willey in 1637, Lawrence Benthall claimed that Astwood had been enclosed for some 60 years. It was still wooded in 1844, when Thomas Harries controlled the area of Ash Coppice.

SINERS COPPICE

Evidence for a woodland to the south of the Broseley Wenlock road, around The Old Vicarage, comes from field names, seven of which are "Siners Coppice" (plots BE 20001, 20101, 20601, 20701, 20901, 21201, 21501). Thomas Syner had a house on the south side of the Much Wenlock/Broseley Road (Parsons 1620). The area was cleared from the mid nineteenth century (SRO 290), but was probably still coppiced at enclosure.

The Coppice adjoins The Deerleap in Willey Parish, a thirteenth century deer park with a possible hunting lodge (VCH x:draft). Again the woodland was probably an area of extensive mining.

WORKHOUSE COPPICE or HAZELWOOD

There is a patch of woodland to north of Spout Lane adjoining the woods of Benthall Edge (BE 06806) , which on field name evidence (eg. 07301,07401 and 07501) can probably be linked with the 'Hasulwalle' mentioned in a deed of 1330 (see 2.11). These woods, or Benthall Edge, originally extended to the east, to cover most of the land between the lane and Benthall Edge. Again there is evidence for bell pits, probably mining coal , in the wood (BE 06801).

The Bailiff house, a stone building on the edge of the wood, is held by local repute to have been a hunting lodge (BE 09201).

PLANTATIONS

A number of isolated patches of woodland were shown on the Tithe map, providing boundaries, or small amounts of cover (eg BE 21301). Many of them were controlled by Thomas Harries, rather

than the tenant, and were probably growing larger trees rather than smaller coppice wood. Plymley firmly recommended the creation of plantations on agricultural land, as much for their aesthetic value as their economic value. He far preferred such plantations to the growing of occasional mature trees in hedgerows.

2.3 Transport Networks in Benthall Parish

2.31 Roads

Benthall today does not have an easily definable centre, and the development of roads over the past hundred years has been more to serve Broseley and Much Wenlock, than the settlement of Benthall.

One of the biggest restrictions on communications in the parish is Benthall Edge - a 100m high scarp dividing the fertile and mineral rich uplands from the vital route to markets - the River Severn. Bulky minerals had to negotiate the Edge either by coming down the steep valley beside Benthall Brook, or one of the steep and roundabout paths down Benthall Edge to the west.

In the medieval period the focus of settlement seems to have been around Benthall Hall, and many footpaths converge on this area (eg in plots BE 231, 239, 222, 223). The route to Buildwas was particularly important, and remained until the late nineteenth century the last trace of the economic links between Benthall and Buildwas Abbey.

Finally some of the paths which survive today must be the last traces of a network of some of the earliest wooden railways in the country, built during the heydey of Benthall as a major coal producer. Today there are only slight hints as to the location and extent of this network.

Road to Much Wenlock

An early and clearly important road ran north from the Hall towards Buildwas, negotiating Benthall Edge in a steep bend (BE 23001). The route can be seen today as a distinct hollow way below Benthall Edge, although it has been dumped upon for the construction of the power station. The route crossed the lands of "Hermiteshelde and Holweruding" of Philip, Lord of Benthall, and in 1250 the monks of Buildwas were given right of road across the Benthall estate, including presumably the right to use (or make) this road. The route persisted until at least 1833, and is shown on the Tithe map and later OS maps.

Crossroads, Benthall Hall

Several maps (Rocque 1752, Greenwood 1827) suggest a cross roads at the Hall, with a road to Wyke to the west, and a road to

Spout Lane to the east. Rocque suggests a road between the church and the Hall, but by 1815 the route is clearly south of the church, as marked on the Tithe map of 1844. The road to Spout Lane may have originally run between the farm and the Hall, but as the route cuts fields, it must have gone out of use before enclosure in the seventeenth century.

Routes along Benthall Edge

A number of routes from the western part of Benthall Edge converge on the river bank, probably by the Stone Port in Buildwas Parish (BE 02601. 02603, 02605, see also section 4.21). The most important of these was clearly the northernmost one (BE 20601), cut by the road to Buildwas, and thus probably pre-medieval. The route is well made and paved with limestone, with occasional passing places. It originally lead from Wyke to the river bank, and would have been used for the carriage of stone. It is shown on Greenwood's map of 1827.

Another route must have led from the bottom of Bridge Bank, round the foot of Benthall edge to join this road (Greenwood 1827). Although the road must have been cut by the construction of the railway, traces seem to survive on the southern edge of the line (BE 02660).

Turnpike road to Much Wenlock

Originally a medieval route (VCH x:draft) the route from Broseley to Much Wenlock was turnpiked in 1756, and remains today the most used road in the parish (BE 24901, 19601). Much of the settlement along the road predates the turnpike, developing in a ribbon pattern along the road and carving plots out of the surrounding farmland. There was a local toll gate at Posenhall, from which a route led north towards the Benthall Hall in the seventeenth century (VCH x:draft). The Iron Bridge linked the turnpike roads of Madeley with this road.

Bridge Road (BE 05401)

Access to the river was critical to the seventeenth century coal trade, which was dependent upon the Severn, so much so that there were two parallel roads down the valley in 1752 (Rocque), one in Broseley and one in Benthall. The western route, in Benthall, seems to have been a railway by 1686 (BE 05404). In c.1620 (Parsons) it is shown as a road leading only as far as "Mr Bentalle's Cole Works" in the vicinity of what is now Hill Top.

The original act for the Iron Bridge of 1756 states that "a commodious road... shall be made along the private road... of Edward Harries called Benthall Rail leading from Harpers Hill to a house of Edward Harries in possession of Samuel Barnett" (SRO Act 40/3). Mr Harris was to give up the ferry and the railroad,

in exchange for exemption from tolls and the costs of repair of the road.

There were problems even before the bridge was built. The Minute Book of the Proprietors of the Iron Bridge (SBL 3689) gives details. In May 1776 it was "agreed that the road leading from the turnpike road from Wenlock to Broseley down to the waterside near the house of Samuel Barnets be repaired in the best manner with as much expedition as can be ..." and ten pounds were voted.

Thence followed a catalogue of troubles, caused by local industrialists, the steep slope of the road, and poor drainage created by the fault line which crosses the road at Mine Spout. Despite a sough made in 1784, water was still running down the road in 1785.

In 1781, Messrs Onions and Banks were asked to remove all "cinders, ashes and other obstructions" and Serjeant Roden was requested "not to unload and leave any limestone on the said road". Later that year Messrs Onions and Banks were asked to remove a wall by the boring mill which was causing problems.

There was a campaign to buy up land in 1782 in order to widen the road. Owners Poole and Crumpton were requested to demolish a brewhouse and a warehouse, and Messrs Rathbone, Wilkinson & Reynolds were also to "take such quantity of land as shall think necessary". Charles Guest and John Wilkinson desired to treat with Banks and Onions about repairing and widening the road from the Iron Bridge to the turnpike to Wenlock, and to keep the same in repair.

Much of the road seems to have been rebuilt, as in December 1783, a "road was to be made at the back of Thomas Lanes house near the Iron Bridge to the front of the New Inn". It was to be 9 yards wide, and undertaken by John Thursfield and Serjeant Roden. In March of the next year, John Davis accepted money for land for a road "to the foot of the Ironbridge" through the property of Sarah Crompton.

One interpretation of this may be that the original road was a little way to the east of the present road, at least in that part north of the New Inn. It may explain the positions of Brook Cottage and No 52 Bridge Road, as some way off the road. At the same time a "potters oven and other buildings situate upon the road" in the occupation of John Miles, were to be taken down for widening the said road, "and the materials to be used in building an arch over the brook going on the side of the said road". Miles subsequently disputed the value of the materials. There are traces of an old kiln in the garden of Brook Cottage, but it is well to the east of the present road, and would not have impeded it (BE 10602).

The road was clearly narrow, with a steep drop, as in September 1786 it was ordered that posts and rails be put up at several

places where necessary between the bridge and the top of Benthall Hill. Narrowness was still a problem in 1791, when John Thursfield was allowed £5 towards taking down a building and moving the slip pans from the side of the road near the Pitch yard to improve and widen the road.

In 1797 it was advised that the road on the Benthall side should be raised and widened, and the wharf road lowered so that each be brought to the same levels or incline. Presumably the original bridge road was what is now a foot path in front of the mill cottages (BE 05403), and the wharf road the higher road, which today turns a sharp corner. Originally this higher road led down to Bower Yard, and presumably the wharves. The route is shown as a tramway in 1846 (SRO DP 341).

Finally in 1828, the struggle was abandoned, and the road was replaced by a new road from the bridge up towards Broseley.

3.32 Tramways and Railways

Benthall was in the forefront of the development of early wooden railways, where they were "very common, and frequently made use of...to preserve the roads, which would otherwise be made very bad and deep by the carriage of coal in common waggons and carts" (VCHi:465).

Deerleap Tramway

As part of his coal mining activities at the Marsh, Lawrence Benthall was laying wooden railways to serve his mines, one of which crossed the lands of John Weld of Willey (VCH x: draft). The Benthalls were certainly operating mines in Deer Leap, and a route across part of the Willey estate may have enabled Benthall to reach the railway down Bridge Bank (see below).

Benthall Rail

A railway down to the river (BE 05404) was in place by 1686, and in use in 1774 to carry iron from the New Willey furnaces to the river (Savage & Smith 1965:137). It was owned by Edward Harries by 1756. Even after the route was taken over by the proprietors of the Bridge, the rails remained in place, crossing the road and upsetting coaches (Randall 1879). Mr Banks' railway is mentioned in the bridge minutes for 1783, and so still in operation after the rebuilding of the road for the bridge.

One possible route for a railway linking the valley with Willey New Furnaces leads from the top of Bridge Bank, across Barratshill and past Coppice House, to turn south towards the furnaces (along road BE 170), but a more level route can be traced as a shallow depression in fields BY 238 and 239 (not in inventory).

Lime Kilns Tramway

A railway for carrying limestone and burnt lime ran from the top of Benthall Edge west to the lime kilns. From there it almost certainly joined Benthall Rail to reach the ironworks in order to supply limestone. The limekilns were new in 1800 (Trinder pers comm), which may date the railway. The railway is shown on the 1833 OS map, and controlled by Price and Hill in 1844 (Tithe Apportionment). It survives as a well marked route (BE 07501, 07702, 08001, 08201,08401, 08501 and 08701) particularly at the western end, where a tramway bridge survives (07701).

Ash Coppice tramway

There was very likely a complete network of tramways associated with the exploitation of the coalfields of Benthall. At the edge of plot 140 there is evidence for a very well made route, which local tradition suggests is a railway. It would run north from the pits of Ash Coppice (BE 12503) and linked them with the top of Benthall rail and perhaps Willey furnaces.

Clay mine tramway

A small tramway (BE 02688 and 02689) operated to take material from the Viger clay mine (BE 02693 etc) across the Severn Valley Railway and Burtons White Brickworks at the Bower Yard. The route was in use in 1902 and 1927 (OS maps), and the tramway bridge (BE 02690) was repaired in 1909 (date cut into brickwork). Part of the remains of the winding drum can still be seen (BE 02684).

Severn Valley Railway

Opened in 1862, the line (BE 02801) was part of the Great Western Railway, and linked Shrewsbury with Bewdley and Worcester. The construction of the line had little impact on Benthall itself, apart from increasing the population slightly. In the Census of 1871 a comment was made that the population of Benthall, like Broseley, had seen a decrease in population due to the departure of labourers temporarily employed on the construction of the railway. The population was 499 in 1861 to 446 in 1871, although this coincided with a general downward trend during the nineteenth century (VCHii:233).

There must have been enormous difficulties in getting the line around the bottom of Benthall Edge, where the land drops steeply into the river. To the west a massive brick viaduct was constructed, carrying the railway above the river (BE 02806).

The Ironbridge & Broseley Station (BE 02802) was located on the site of what is now the Ironbridge Car park. The station, on the north of the line, was a single storey white brick structure

with two gables facing the river, and a waiting room with an ornamental fireplace and tiled floor (1982.265). All were supplied locally - the bricks from the Burtons Brickworks, the tiles possibly from Maws and the fireplace may well have been a Coalbrookdale casting.

There was also a timber goods shed on the south side of the lines (BE 02803). An iron foot bridge (BE 05402) linked Bridge Road with the other side of the track. There was a level crossing (BE 02804) in front of the bridge, and a bridge carrying the incline from the clay mines to the brickworks over the railway (BE 02690).

A siding was constructed to the south of the line between 1902 and 1927 (BE 02673), presumably to load lime or crushed limestone from the newly reopened quarries of Benthall Edge. The station closed in 1963, and there are photographs of the last steam-hauled passenger train there (1982.265). The railway itself closed in 1970 and the station was demolished.

3.33 River Transport

The River Severn was used to ship stone from at least the thirteenth century, when there are references to the carriage of stone to the Severn. A community of watermen and boat builders grew up in the area of Bower Yard, with associated wharves, warehouses etc. In 1758, George Perry described barges and frigates of 40 to 60 feet in length, each with a single mast taking 20 - 40 tons weights. He quotes 8 Owners and 13 vessels at Benthall.

Events of the late eighteenth century must have affected the livelihood of this waterside community. The construction of the Bridge in 1779 and the imposition of tolls on the road down to the Severn must have severely restricted the road access of the Barge owners, and cut off the community of Bower Yard from Benthall. Ironbridge was in effect closer than Benthall. "Owners" figure largely in the problems faced by the proprietors of the Iron Bridge in widening and rebuilding the road (see above). At the same time the reliability of the river was diminishing (Trinder 1981), and the long distance trade must have been affected.

Nevertheless, local trade across the river linking industry and raw materials continued well into the nineteenth century. In the mid-nineteenth century there were about eleven families of watermen (1851 census quoted VCH x:draft), with at least four wharves, serving the limeworks, the brickworks and others, and a boat builder (SRO DP 350, Appendix Four). There is little evidence remaining for well built stone wharves (as at Coalport) and it must be assumed that most wharves were little more than a temporary mooring. Ready supplies of timber from Benthall Edge must have encouraged a boat building industry. In 1835 Francis Gother, was listed as a boat builder (Pigot) and in 1856 E.

Gother was a barge builder (P.O.). There are paintings of boats being built at Benthall (Smith 1979), boat building activity on plot 035 and oral evidence for a small boatyard inlet (BE 03001).

Samuel Roden was listed as a salt dealer in 1835 (Pigot). Supplies of salt were governed by strict legislation, and the warehouse he leased in 1844 (Tithe Apportionment) may well have been a bonded warehouse for salt.

The last trade really to make use of river transport after the construction of the railway was lime burning. John Patten owned two wharves in 1852 (SRO DP 350), and was listed as a bargeowner in 1856. Trows can be seen pulled up at the kilns (BE 030) at the end of the nineteenth century (1984.6448) even after the railway was built (1981.1563).

Ferries

Prior to the building of the Bridge, Mr Harries had operated a ferry at Benthall, which he was instructed to give up (SRO Act 40/3). There was a restriction on the operation of ferries within a certain distance of the Bridge, and so after its construction, the only regular passenger ferry seems to have been at the western boundary of the parish, from opposite Benthall Edge Wood Cottage (BE 021) to the Regatta field (MY 565).

The ferry was little more than a flat bottomed boat, attached to a chain across the river by an upright rod with a small wheel at the top. It most likely operated as a tidal ferry - steered into the current, and allowed to drift across the river. The ferry was owned by the Maw family in the 1880s (1986.12188).

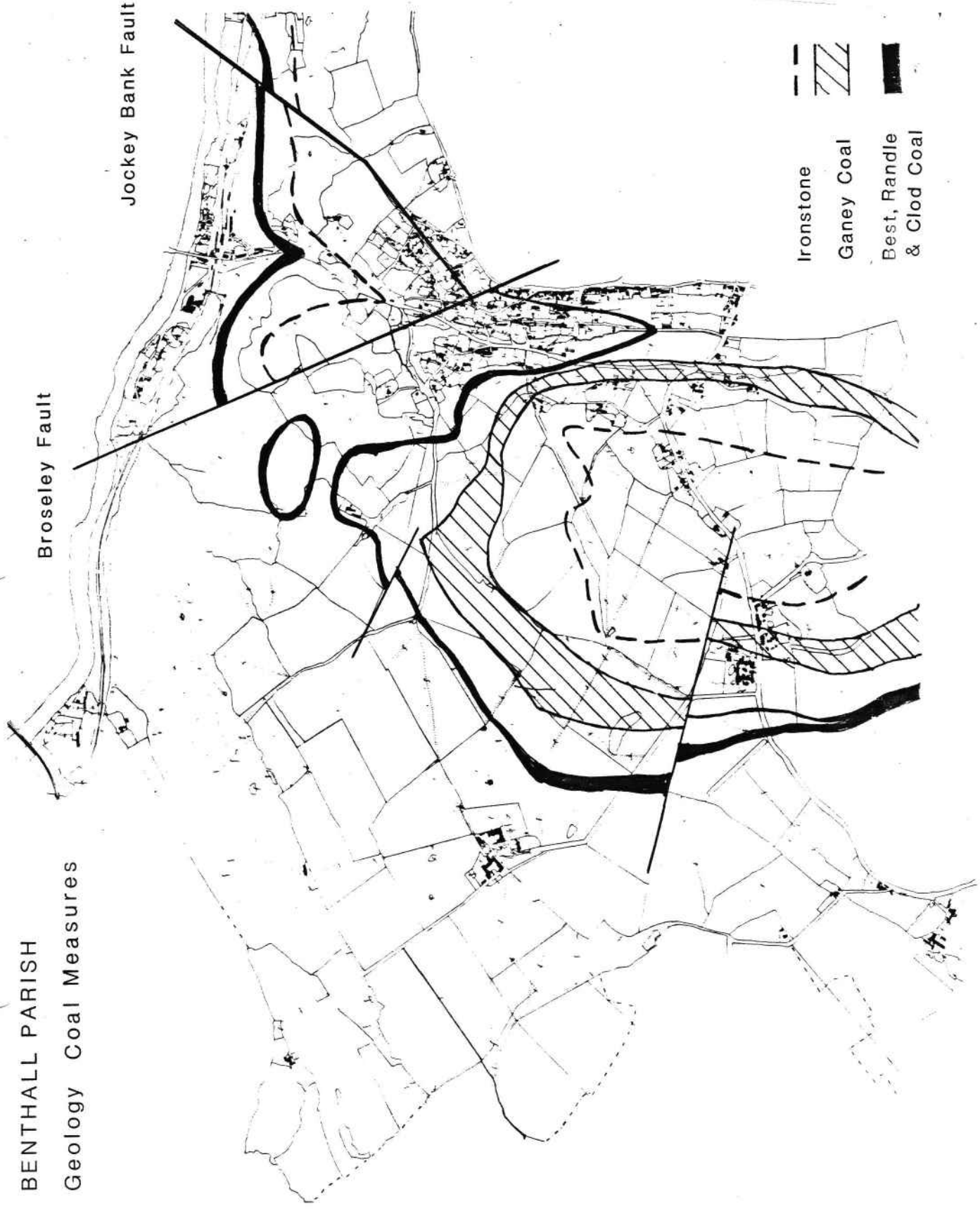


Figure 6. Benthall Parish - Geology.

CHAPTER THREE: MINERAL EXPLOITATION ON BENTHALL EDGE

3.0 Introduction

Mineral exploitation has clearly always been central to the economy of Benthall parish, but poor documentary records have limited our appreciation of it. Limestone, ironstone, coal and clays are all found along Benthall Edge, and would have been essential raw materials for the local building, iron working and clay industries, as well as providing a valuable export.

The pattern of past mineral working on the ground relates closely to geological outcrops, and it is only in recent years that the technology of open cast mining has facilitated the extensive exploitation of less accessible seams. Thus an understanding of the geology of Benthall is the basis of the interpretation of the field evidence.

3.1 Geology

Much of Benthall Parish lies on a gently undulating plateau of boulder clays; to the north it is cut away by the River Severn, and to the east it is eroded by Benthall Brook. Benthall Edge is the north eastern end of Wenlock Edge, a ridge of Wenlock Limestone forming part of the Wenlock Series of Silurian rocks, first identified by Murchison (1835), and running along the north western margin of the parish. The limestone is characterised by discrete nodules (or ballstones) which represent coral developments within a muddier limestone. This limestone outcrops along the top of Benthall edge. Beneath it, are found the poorer quality Tickwood and Benthall Beds (now known as the Farley Member) (Toghill & Chell 1984) outcropping along the north western side of Benthall Edge, and swinging round to the north at the Severn Gorge (Geological Survey Sheet SJ60SE).

The Carboniferous Coal Measures with their productive coal, clays, ironstone and sandstones, are characteristic of the Coalbrookdale coalfield. In Benthall Parish, Lower and Middle Coal Measures outcrop roughly between Bowers Brook and the parish boundary to the east. The strata here have been down thrown by the Broseley Fault, which crosses the parish from north west to south east. The Lower Coal measures also occur on the higher ground of the parish, in the area of Workhouse Coppice, and to the south.

3.2 Coal

The exploitation of coal in Benthall is perhaps the least known, and the most important industry in the parish. The seventeenth century coal industry was massive - something like 30,000 tons of coal per annum were mined from Benthall in 1695. Some of the earliest wooden railways in the country were built in the parish,

in response to the need to transport large amounts of bulky material over poor roads. As a result of this industry the population seems to have risen sharply, and there was a major period of house building.

But by the early nineteenth century, the coal industry had begun to decline. Perhaps easily accessible sources of coal had been worked out, or perhaps there was less interest in the mineral resource from the manor. Whatever the cause, clay began to eclipse coal as the most important mineral resource in the parish.

3.21 The Coal Measures

The Lower and Middle coal measures outcrop in Benthall parish to the north east of the Broseley fault, and the Lower Coal measures over much of the southern part of the parish (figure 7). The Broseley fault traverses the valley from Bower Yard to just east of the Mine Spout, down throwing the coal measures. North east of the fault, the Benthall Brook has cut a steep valley through the Big Flint Rock just below the Mine Spout, through the Pennystone Ironstone, and the Best, Randle and Clod Coals at the bottom of the valley.

At the top of the hill to the south west, the coal measures form a rough horseshoe shape, curving north from Benthall Potteries to Workhouse Coppice, and south again to Benthall house. From south to north, the Big Flint coal, Pennystone Ironstone, Viger Coal, Ganey Coals and Best, Randle and Clod are all found. There is a separate, circular outcrop of the Best, Randle and Clod Coals, ringing the field known as "Cadmans Cave and Foxholes" (BE 069).

Of the lower coal measures, the Clod Coal was a poor quality coal, only good for industrial uses, although Prestwich recommended it for ironworking (Brown 1969:259). The Randle Coal was a good coking coal, and the Best coal was the highest quality. Above these were the Ganey coals, which seem to have been much exploited in Benthall, probably for the clays in between, and above them the good quality Viger coal and in places the New Mine coal (see Appendix Five).

3.22 History of Exploitation

The peak production of the Benthall coal field was in the seventeenth century, and early eighteenth centuries, after which the industry declined rapidly.

Demand for coal in Britain was at first limited to smiths, and occasionally the poor, as much of the coal got from outcrops was too noxious for domestic purposes. It was not until the seventeenth century that coal came to be recognised as a national asset with industrial value (Nef 1936:14).

The parish was part of the Royal Forest of Shirlett (see 2.21) and so covered by Forest Law, which in effect reserved rights to hunt and take timber for the crown, and would have restricted any mining in forests. However, the Forest Charter of 1217 gave the land owner the right to dig or break ground in their own holdings. Although this technically covered the taking of peat or turf, or planting trees, in effect it could be invoked to cover the digging of coal from shallow surface outcrops (Nefi:281). This legislation formed the nucleus of the process by which mineral rights in Britain became concentrated in the hands of the land owner, rather than the crown or the occupier.

The monks of Buildwas must have used coal either in their tile kilns, or in smithing, as in 1235 Philip de Benthall was able to grant the monks of Buildwas the right of way over all of his land for lading coals, stones and timber, and in 1326 Adam Peyeson of Buildwas held land of Hugh, Lord of Scheynton (sic) at Benthall, with "quarries of coal of the sea, four labourers to dig the coals, and as many servants as he chose for carrying the coals to the Severn and thence leading them away", at the same time allowing Hugh enough coal for his hearth (VCHi:454). Medieval exploitation would have involved digging out surface exposures, rather than pits. A reference to "coldelles" in a deed of 1317 (SRO 1224/3/289 quoted in section 2.23) may refer to coal delfs.

River transport seems to have been the key factor behind the massive expansion (and ironically, the decline) in the Benthall coal industry in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Willan 1964). The outcrops lay within easy reach of the river.

Coal was certainly exported from the thirteenth century, but by far the greatest expansion occurred in the early seventeenth century, under Lawrence Benthall II. Records of a dispute between him and John Weld of Willey show that he had sunk pits and built two cottages for miners. In 1637 an agreement enabled him to mine throughout Benthall Marsh and the Marsh head (VCH x:draft). This area includes plots 219 and 220 where there is clear evidence of mining and colliery spoil. Mineral resources may also be the key to Lawrence Benthall I gaining the little piece of land at the south west of the parish in 1576, as the Best, Randle and Clod coals outcrop here.

During the Civil War, the parliamentary forces seized the Benthall collieries, in order to prevent coal travelling down the Severn to areas held by the Royalists. As a result there were such shortages in Bridgnorth and Worcester, that the townspeople threatened to slay soldiers taking coal to Shrewsbury unless free trade was permitted (VCH i:454).

Benthall was one of the three great collieries of the River Severn in 1645, with a production which has been estimated at 30,000 tons per year (Nef i:360-1).

Later production is less well documented, but never again rivalled that of Broseley. Coalport seems to have taken over as the main centre of coal export for the Gorge. From the eighteenth century onwards the clays of the coal measures seem to have been of greater economic value than the coals. Clay mines would have produced small amounts of coal for sale, as a byproduct of clay mining.

No pits were listed in the Tithe Apportionment, although one was mapped in 1835 (Hitchcock) (BE 05701 or 05702). Pits were not titheable, although the land above them was, and so may not have been listed. In 1852 there were coal stores, presumably for John Patten's limeworks by the river (SRO DP 350). The 1851 census mentions some coal miners, but many may be working outside the parish. The directories, however, listed Richard Shaw as a senior Coal Miner in 1856 (P.O.) and in 1879 T & E Shaw were coal miners and farmers (P.O.). In 1844 a Richard Shaw occupied a field called "Long Length", (plots BE 18801 and 18901) and could well have been mining coal there (as well as producing clay pipes, see Appendix Two).

Some mining seems to have taken place in the early twentieth century, at Hilltop (c. 1927) (BE 14906), and possibly near Barratshill farm (Geological Survey Sheet SJ 60) (BE 21402), and Sir Paul Benthall remembers pits being opened opposite Benthall Hall during the last war. There are photographs of families getting coal from "Foxholes" in Benthall during the strike of 1912 (Brown 1976) which may refer to plot BE 069 ("Foxholes" on the Tithe map), or to plot BE 063 to the west, where there are a number of cliffs created by open quarrying. They are carrying seives and shovels, and would have been sorting through the spoil heaps of recent mining.

The Viger mine was exploiting the Clod Coal in the 1950s (BE 02694, 02695, 02696, 02697, 02698, 026101 and 026102) and probably the Randles Coal much earlier (Plan LR/IB/110).

Opencasting began during the last war at the Benthall Hall Quarry (BE 13302) and Benthall Quarry (BE 19004, 13401, 18802, 18902) sites (GS SJ 60 SE) and continues today at Deerleap just outside the parish, with applications currently under consideration for work at Hilltop Farm.

3.23 Markets

Peak production from the Benthall Coal field was during the seventeenth century, well before the massive eighteenth century expansion of the local iron industry, so much early production must have been exported via the Severn to the markets of Shrewsbury, Worcester and down to Bristol. Some may have been used locally for the clay tobacco pipe industry.

From the eighteenth century there would have been a local demand for coal from the limeburning industry, the malthouses, the

ironworks, smithing and brick and pottery making. The clay industries may well have used coal from their own clay mines. Certainly the lime burner John Patten had a coal store down at Bower Yard.

Burton's Brickworks at Bower Yard were mining their own coal and clay just to the south of the works well into the twentieth century (see Viger Clay Mine above).

3.24 Mining Methods

The coal of Benthall was never found very far below the surface, and most was mined in shallow pits or adits.

The earliest form of mining in the parish must have been the digging of coal from surface outcrops, a method which probably continued well into this century. Given the advantage of river transport, the likely site for this is north east of the fault, near the bottom of the Benthall Valley, where Best Randle and Clod Coals outcrop. A possible early site is to the north east of Workhouse Coppice, where there is a quarry and much evidence of grey coal waste (BE 06803). Quarrying for coal has also occurred to the south of Workhouse Coppice (BE 06805).

Bell pits were used to mine seams close to the surface, and in particular where other measures provided a stable roof and floor. Both the southern part of Workhouse Coppice (BE 06801), and also Ash Coppice (BE 12503) show evidence of clusters of bell pits mining the Best Randle and Clod coals, and the Ganey coals respectively. The Deerleap, just beyond the parish boundary, is another example of a very well preserved landscape of bell pits, each with a circle of spoil thrown up around the mouth.

The traditional Shropshire method of mining is the long wall method, following a seam into a hillside from an adit, and leaving pillars of material to support the roof. Adits are known from Hilltop, from near Barratshill Farm (BE 16801), and in the Viger clay mine at the base of the Benthall valley (see above).

3.3 Ironstone Mining

Small amounts of ironstone were mined in the parish, but it was probably never as important a product as coal or clay.

The Pennystone Ironstone outcrops in the fields to the west of Hilltop farm, and a number of ironstone shafts are to be found up there (BE 12603, 13402, 13801). The Crawstone ironstone is found below the Best, Randle and Clod Coals, and does not outcrop in the parish. Deep shafts were therefore necessary to mine this seam.

Ironstone from the Pennystone seam was brought out of the mine as nodules in a clay matrix, and left in heaps to weather before

being picked over usually by women. As a result, old ironstone mines tend to be surrounded by the remains of massive heaps of clay, much of which was unusable for making bricks. Such heaps clearly once existed in the fields to the north of the Benthall potteries (eg BE 19001 and 19002) before the area was opencast. Crawstone ironstone occurs in larger pieces of sandstone.

Ironstone may also have been got from the mines in the area of Barratshill farm, as small nodules can be seen on the surface amongst heaps of colliery waste.

CHAPTER FOUR: A STUDY OF LIMESTONE EXPLOITATION ON BENTHALL EDGE

4.0 Introduction

By far the most extensive and easily available mineral in Benthall Parish is the limestone. Good quality limestone caps the whole of Benthall edge, and poorer, but nonetheless workable, seams are found on the surface of the sides of the ridge.

The industry is an excellent example of one for which there is much field evidence and little documentation. Limestone working in east Shropshire has received much attention and the spectacular underground workings of Lincoln hill have been well studied (Brown 1979, 1981). Elsewhere it is lime kilns, rather than the limestone industry, which have more often attracted the attention of industrial archaeologists (Bick 1984). Benthall Parish provides a unique opportunity to examine the way in which the industry as a whole worked. The transport systems, the pattern of quarrying, the kilns, and some idea of potential local market can all be seen on the ground, and in conjunction with the slender documentary evidence, can be used to understand much more about the industry.

Limestone burnt as lime was used for agricultural purposes (fertilising soil, breaking up clayey soils), as white wash for buildings, in mortars and later in hydraulic cements. It was employed in the chemical industry as an alkali for soaps, in making glass, tanning and other purposes. Good quality limestone was used as a flux in ironworking, and occasionally as a building material, although in general it was too hard for high quality ashlar.

4.1 Limestone geology of Benthall Edge

There are two main outcrops of stone in East Shropshire - the Silurian limestones of Wenlock edge, and the Carboniferous limestone found around Lilleshall and at Steeraway.

Benthall Edge is a 300' scarp on the north eastern end of Wenlock Edge, a ridge of Limestone running from Ludlow to Lincoln Hill in Ironbridge. The limestone is part of the Wenlock series, with the better quality Wenlock Limestone outcropping at the top of the scarp, above the poorer quality Benthall and Tickwood Beds (now part of the Farley Member of the Coalbrookdale Formation) (Toghill and Chell 1984:85). The strata dip to the south south east, and the dip decreases as the strata recede from the outcrop (Prestwich 1836:420).

A band of quarries, access roads and spoil heaps runs in a north easterly direction along the whole of the top of Benthall Edge

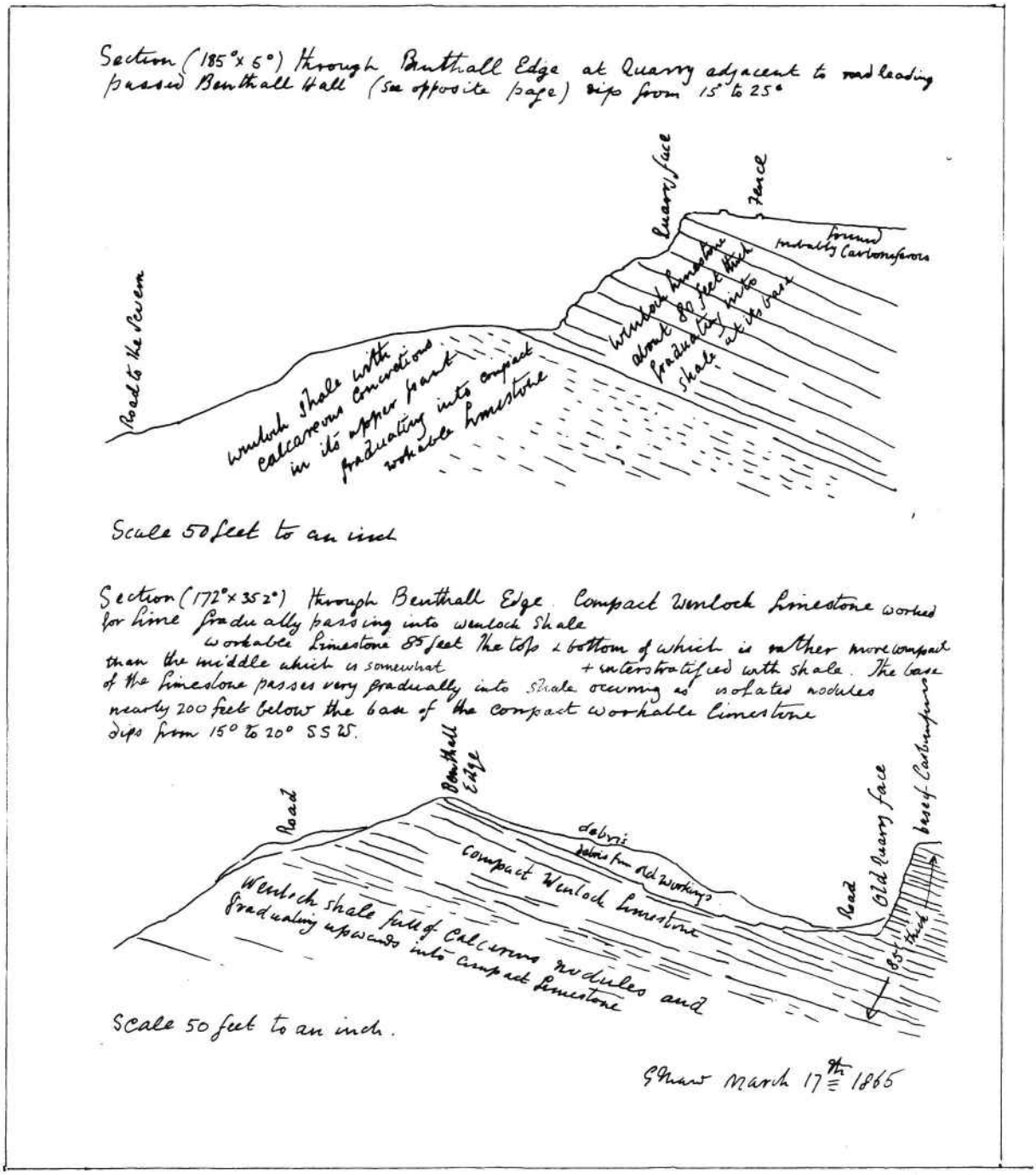


Figure 7. Geological Section of Benthall Edge, taken from George Maw's notebooks (original held in Institute of Geological Sciences).

from the parish boundary in the west to the Broseley fault in the east. The fault down throws the strata to the north east, and a series of coal, clay and ironstone mines are found here, dug into the succeeding Carboniferous coal measures (GS Sheet SJ 60 SE).

The Wenlock limestone of the upper strata is good quality - suitable for fluxing, with perhaps a small amount suitable for building stone. This stone, and the poorer quality shaley limestone from the lower strata would be suitable for lime burning. Both good quality crystalline stone, and muddier material in finely laminated beds can be seen in the cliff edges along Benthall Edge, usually with about 2-3m of shaley material over up to 5 or 6m of better stone. The stone was usually quarried in long, regular quarries such as BE 02628, or 02631.

The reef facies of Benthall Edge comprise beds of muddy limestones, with geodes of very pure, crystalline stone resulting from agglomerations of corals in a tropical sea during Silurian times. Ballstones, as these stones are called, can be up to 4m in diameter and up to 6m thick (Murchison 1867, Hains & Horton 1964, Crosfield & Johnston 1914). BE 00905 and 02634 are good examples of ballstone quarries - roughly circular, several metres deep. Locally such stones seem to occur in the base of pre existing quarries, suggesting a bed of such material below the level at which most quarrying ceased.

George Maw described the stone of Benthall Edge as follows:

Section (172' x 352') through Benthall Edge. Compact Wenlock Limestone worked for lime gradually passing into Wenlock Shale. Thickness of workable limestone 85 feet. The top and bottom of which is rather more compact than the middle ... and interstratified with shale. The base of the limestone passes very gradually into shale occurring as isolated nodules .... nearly 200 feet below the base of the compact workable limestone. Dips from 15' to 20' SSW. (from George Maws Geological Notes, 1865, Book 1).

4.2 An analysis of quarrying

Individual quarries can be identified amongst the mass of workings. Each has a working face, and access road, spoil heaps, and a means of reaching a key transport node in order to bring material off the Edge. More than one phase of working in a quarry is common, and often a quarry has cut away part of an earlier one. Where this type of succession can be identified, stratigraphic relationships can be recorded, and by building up a series of relationships for the whole of the Edge, a relative chronology for quarrying activity is created. In turn, this can be keyed into what little dating and documentary evidence is available.

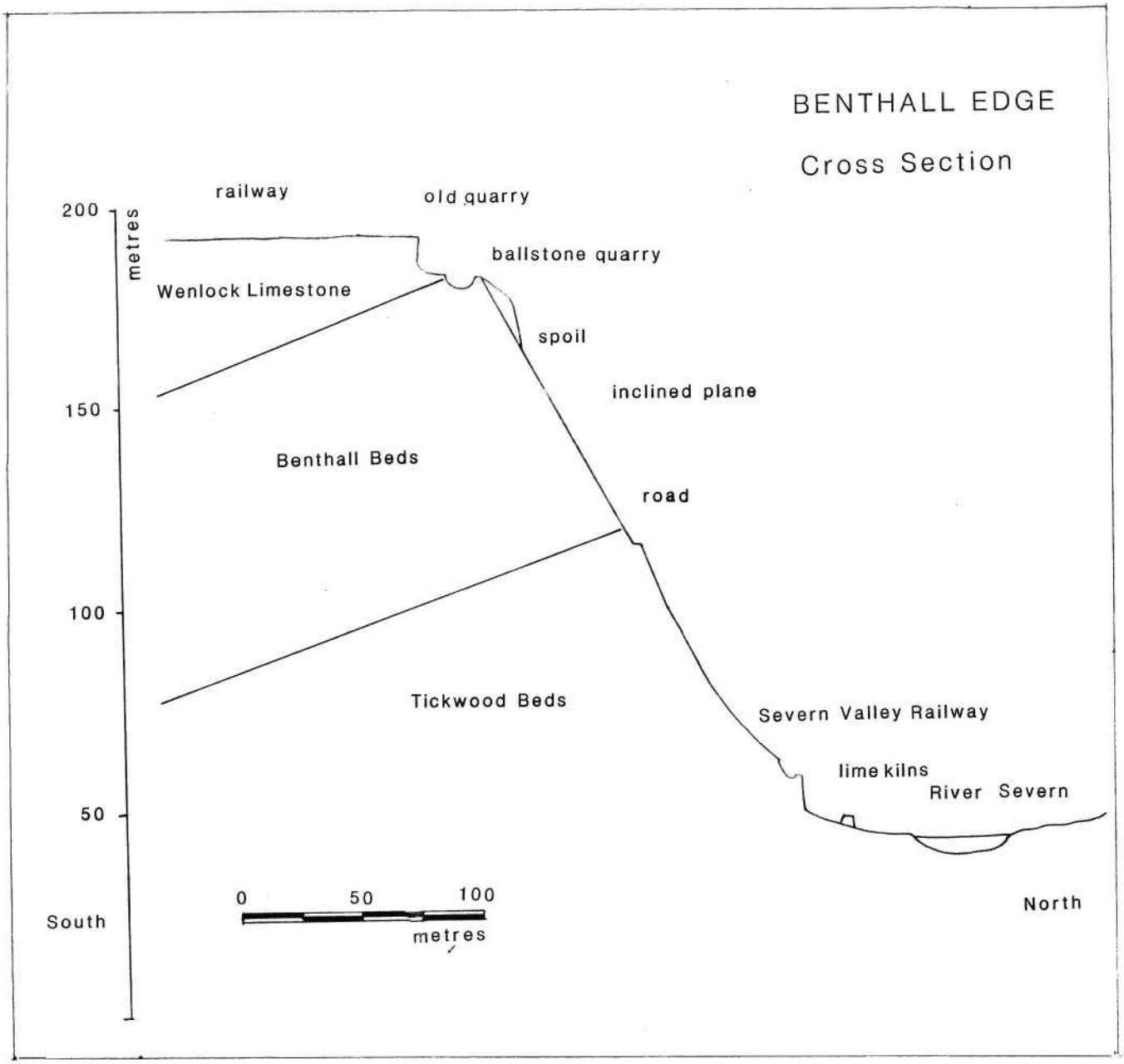


Figure 8. Limestone Mining on Benthall Edge - Cross Section.

The quarries are at least 100m above the river, and so a complex transport network has developed for bringing out bulky stone, or finished lime. This network centres around a limited number of key transport nodes - the River Severn, the Severn Valley Railway, an early railway and at least one medieval road. On the Edge itself, transport is needed to bring out material from groups of quarries - mainly inclines and roads. Each individual quarry feeds material into one of these intermediate methods of transport, from which the stone is then taken to a key transport node. Because transport is so critical to quarrying activity, it forms the basis of a stratigraphic matrix.

For lime kilns there are other crucial transport factors. Payen (Paul 1878) quotes 11 bushels of coal to 8 bushels of broken limestone as a suitable mix for a kiln, other quotes vary from 1:4, 1:1½ etc (Skinner 1969:22). Obviously this would vary with the quality of the limestone, but suggests that the transport of coal is at least as critical a factor as that of limestone. Lime, once burnt, is sensitive to water, and so rapid transport to place of use, or facilities for storing burnt lime on site, would also seem relevant.

4.21 Transporting Lime and Limestone

The transport network clearly forms the basis of any understanding of the quarrying network on Benthall Edge, and focusses around several key routes:

The Road to Buildwas

Road BE 00901 is where the major route between the cross roads at Benthall Hall and Buildwas Abbey negotiates Benthall Edge in a steep bend.

The Abbey of Buildwas was founded in 1135, but most of the buildings date to c. 1160 (Pevsner 1978:88). In 1220, Phillip de Burwardsley allowed the Abbot and Convent of Buildwas, "a right of quarry throughout his wood of Burwardsely towards construction of their buildings. They may make a road from their quarries to the Severn and cut down trees for that purpose, but must leave the timber on the ground". Randall assumed that the quarry and road were in Broseley, and the material sandstone (1879:14ff).

An agreement of 1250 between Phillip, Lord of Benthall and the Abbott granted land between the base of Benthall Edge and the Abbey ("Hermiteshelde and Holweruding") to the monks, along with "the right of making a continuous fence wherever his land abutted on that of the monks" and right of road over all his estate for the carriage of stone, coals and timber (Eyton iii:276). It is likely that road BE 00902 between Benthall Hall and Buildwas, as well as associated quarrying, dates to this period.

The earliest identifiable phase of working is on the western end of Benthall Edge, with quarries BE 23408, 23401 and 23402 associated with road 00901.

Benthall "Lime Kilns" Railway

A second important access route to Benthall Edge was the railway shown on the 1833 1" OS map and operated by Price & Hill in 1844 (Tithe map). The railway led south east from a point mid-way along Benthall Edge, in a large curve, to run along Spout Lane, and turn north down Benthall Brook to the River (BE 06804, 07401, 07501, 07702, 08401, 08501, 08701). There is some suggestion that the latter part of the railway was in place by 1686 (VCH x: draft), and the railway crossed Bridge Bank (coming from Spout Lane).

Quarries 02626, 02627, 02628 and 02629 sent material along 02604 and out on this railway, as does 02631 to the north east. 02627 is assumed to be later than 02629 as quarrying expanded outwards, away from initial access points.

Price & Hill also leased arable land in 1844 (Tithe Apportionment nos: 274, 275 etc) and may have been using some lime locally. The Benthall Ironworks operated between 1781 and 1830s; Randall mentions the coach being upset where the "ginney rails crossed the road from the Benthall furnaces and foundry," suggesting that the railway comes from the west. It is likely therefore, that the foundry had a rail link to the Edge as a source of fluxing stone.

The Stone Port

Several of the roads leading down from Benthall Edge converge at a point by the river bank, just to the east of the parish boundary with Buildwas parish. Material from quarries 02621 and perhaps 00905 was being carried down 02603; 02605 must represent part of a road in a similar direction; incline 02608 brought material from 02632 and probably 02637, whilst 02606 brought stone from an earlier phase of quarrying in Pattens Rock Quarry (eg 02641). At least 6 roads converge at this point. There is no documented wharf at this point in Benthall Parish, bar a passenger ferry (see Chapter 2) but in Buildwas there is the "Stone Port". The bank here is much flatter than to the east, and would be an ideal place for loading stone.

Activity here must have ceased by the time of the construction of the Severn Valley Railway in 1862 as there is no more than a footway across the tracks.

Inclined Planes

There are three inclines at the north eastern end of Benthall

Edge, bringing material down from quarries 02641, 02642 and 02643, as well as the group 02646 and 02647. Road 02606 must be earlier, as it originally led into quarry 02641, which has since been deepened.

02650 leaves Pattens Rock Quarry and turns north, dropping down under the railway and path 02660 to terminate by a group of kilns on the riverbank (03001-9). High on the side of quarry 02642 are two parallel stone walls with a pair of holding down bolts (02666), suggesting an incline removing spoil along road 02653.

There was a third incline (02651) running east from the end of the quarry down to a level road. A winding track (02656) takes material down from quarries 02644 and 5 and as it predates 02651, must be at least eighteenth century.

Severn Valley Railway Siding

Between 1902 and 1927 (OS 2nd & 3rd editions) a railway siding (02673) was constructed at the foot of Benthall Edge, clearly for removing limestone on lime.

A concrete engine base (02665), an inclined plane constructed late in the working of Pattens Rock Quarry, and a series of concrete pillars (02680 -6) supporting some sort of tramway suggest a late phase of quarrying. Pattens Rock quarry was worked, and material taken down incline 02651 to a platform 02648. From there it dropped down to probably crushing machinery, kilns 02669 and 02670 and the railway siding.

4.22 Phasing Quarrying on Benthall Edge

Phase 1: Medieval Quarrying

Medieval quarrying clearly took place on Benthall Edge, and most likely to the north west when stone was removed by road to Buildwas, over land granted to the monks in 1250. Such quarrying must have exploited the upper most strata - the best quality stone. Some was obviously used as rubble fill for the construction of Buildwas Abbey, the rest perhaps for lime. The monks had a lime kiln near Wellington - presumably for the production of mortar - and so could well have also been burning lime from Benthall Edge.

A general early phase of quarrying seems to have continued along much of the Edge, creating the cliff edge which now survives. Most of the transport links have been cut by later works, and this is almost impossible to document.

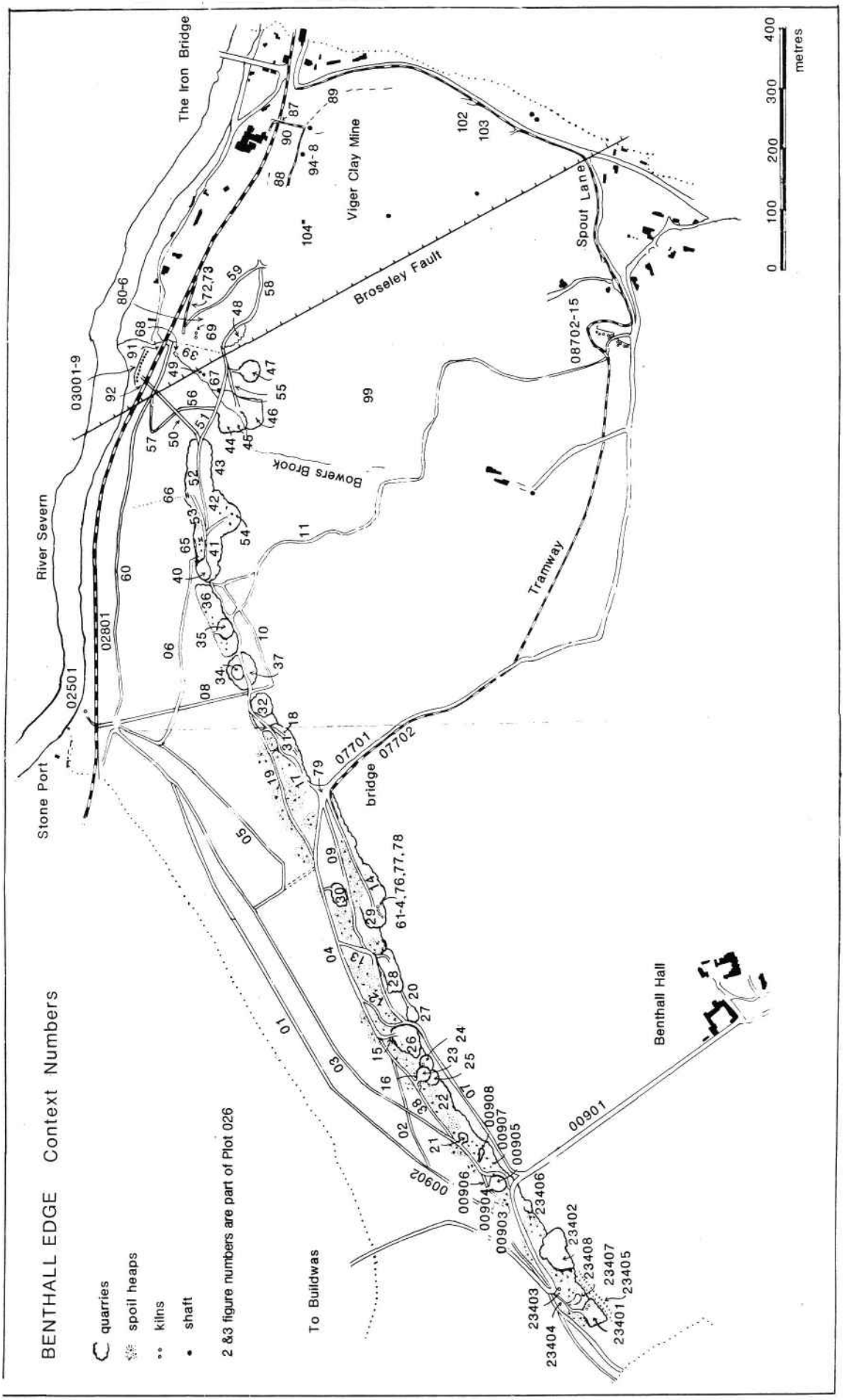


Figure 9. Benthall Edge Limestone Industry - context numbers.

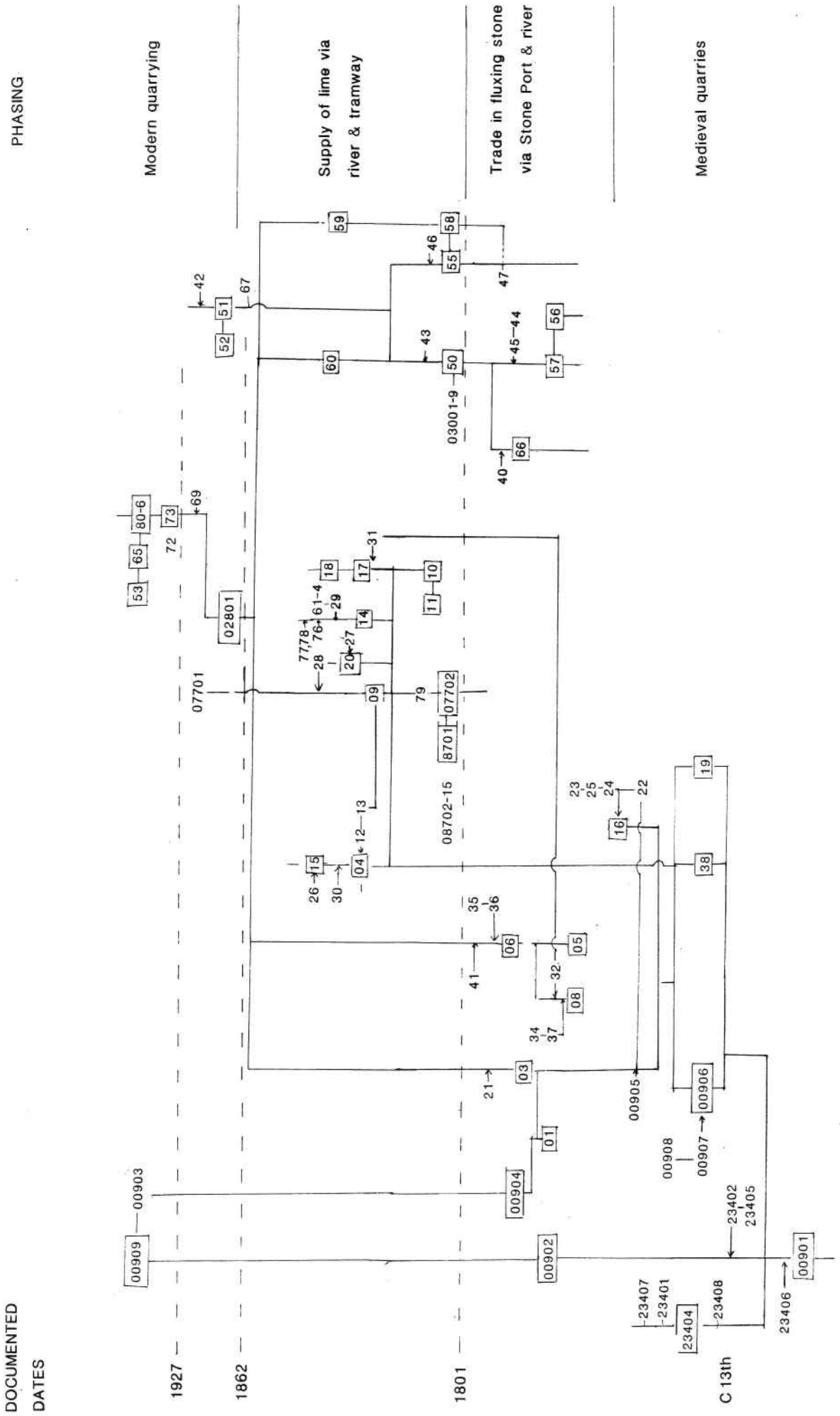


FIgure 10. Benthall Edge Limestone industry - stratigraphic matrix.

Phase 2: An eighteenth century trade in fluxing stone

A much later phase of quarrying took place in the eighteenth century, and related to the group of roads which converge on the river bank just by the western parish boundary. These must have led to the "Stone Port" in Buildwas Parish. It is likely that this trade was in fluxing stone, as few of the quarries linked to these roads have visible kilns. There is one kiln by the river bank. The "Stone Port" was the terminus for a railway operated by William Reynolds and partners, bringing stone from the Wenlock Limestone Concern around Tickwood and Wyke (Trinder 1981:59).

Phase 3: The early nineteenth century trade in lime

Burnt lime for agricultural or chemical use was probably the major material transported along the road or railway towards Benthall from a series of linked quarries in the early nineteenth century. There are at least seven known kilns linked to the railway, and another 13 on the railway itself. The route provides direct access to fields and farmlands. Theoretically this trade may date to the seventeenth century, but the main phase of operation seems to have been later. In 1833 the railway, and associated quarries were in operation (OS 1st Edition), and by 1844 Price and Hill operated both the kilns and the railway.

Although agricultural lime predominated, some fluxing stone must have been taken along the rail link to Benthall furnaces between about 1780 and 1830. Barnetts Leasow and Willey furnaces would have been other obvious markets.

Some quarries sent stone down to the riverbank opposite the bottom of Coalbrookdale for burning as lime. The row of kilns and associated wharf (SRO DP 350) show that some was burnt for lime, and shipped by river. At least two quarries date to pre 1801, at which date Pattens Rock Quarry was almost certainly in operation. Powell's engraving of an incline at Tykes Nest (c. 1816-18) (Smith 1979:no 95b) must show this quarry, and incline 2650 is mentioned in 1801 and in 1852 was still in operation, leased by John Patten (SRO DP 350 no4).

Activities on Benthall Edge were declining by 1883, when the OS map shows only one set of quarries operating. A limeburner is mentioned in the local directory of 1856, but none by 1870 (Kellys 1856,1870). Local supplies of fluxing stone may have been all but worked out by the 1840s although the kilns by the river were still operating in 1883.

Phase 4: Twentieth century operations

Some time after 1921 (Sir Paul Benthall pers comm) and before 1935, Pattens Rock Quarry was reopened in a final phase of

limestone working. A new access was built and material crushed and possibly kilned before being taken out by railway. The kilns 02669 and 02670 have a date stone of 1928. By the time this operation had finished, much of the peak of the hill seen in early views of the Iron Bridge (Smith 1979:16) had been quarried away.

4.3 Limeburning

4.31 Kilns

A lime kiln enables limestone to be heated to a sufficient temperature (900C - 1000C) to remove carbon dioxide. The resulting quick lime (CaO) is volatile, and will readily combine with water to form slaked lime (CaOH), giving off heat in the process. Broken up limestone is layered with coal (or sometimes wood or peat), a fire kindled in the grate, and the whole left to burn. Kilns can be either fed continuously, or fired intermittently.

Map evidence suggests that most of the kilns on Benthall Edge which survive date to the eighteenth century at earliest, and most to the early nineteenth century. Earlier limeburning may have taken place either in open heaps covered with turves, or in kilns removed by later quarrying, but little evidence survives. At least 40 limekilns are known from Benthall Edge (map and field evidence), most of which are late. There is no evidence for early limeburning in open heaps, although it is likely that kilns have been removed by later quarrying.

These show a variety of types.

Single kilns

Quarry BE 02624 contains a circular depression with built up sides, and a suggestion of an entrance to the north 025104). This may have been an isolated kiln, and is not shown on any maps.

Paired Kilns

Two lime kilns are shown in 1835 by the river bank (BE 02501), and a further pair of kilns were rebuilt in 1928 (BE 02676 and 7)by Bowers Brook. The 1928 kilns shared a common arch between them, with two grates let into it. There is a further suggestion of a pair of kilns in quarry BE 23401 (BE 23407).

Kiln banks

Two kiln banks are known from Benthall. One at Bower Yard comprised 10 kilns in pairs, sharing common arches, behind a continuous stone wall forming the kiln bank (BE 03001-9). There is evidence that these kilns were rebuilt, as there is a change of direction to the west. At Spout Lane, map evidence suggests 13 kilns in groups of three and one of four, behind a retaining

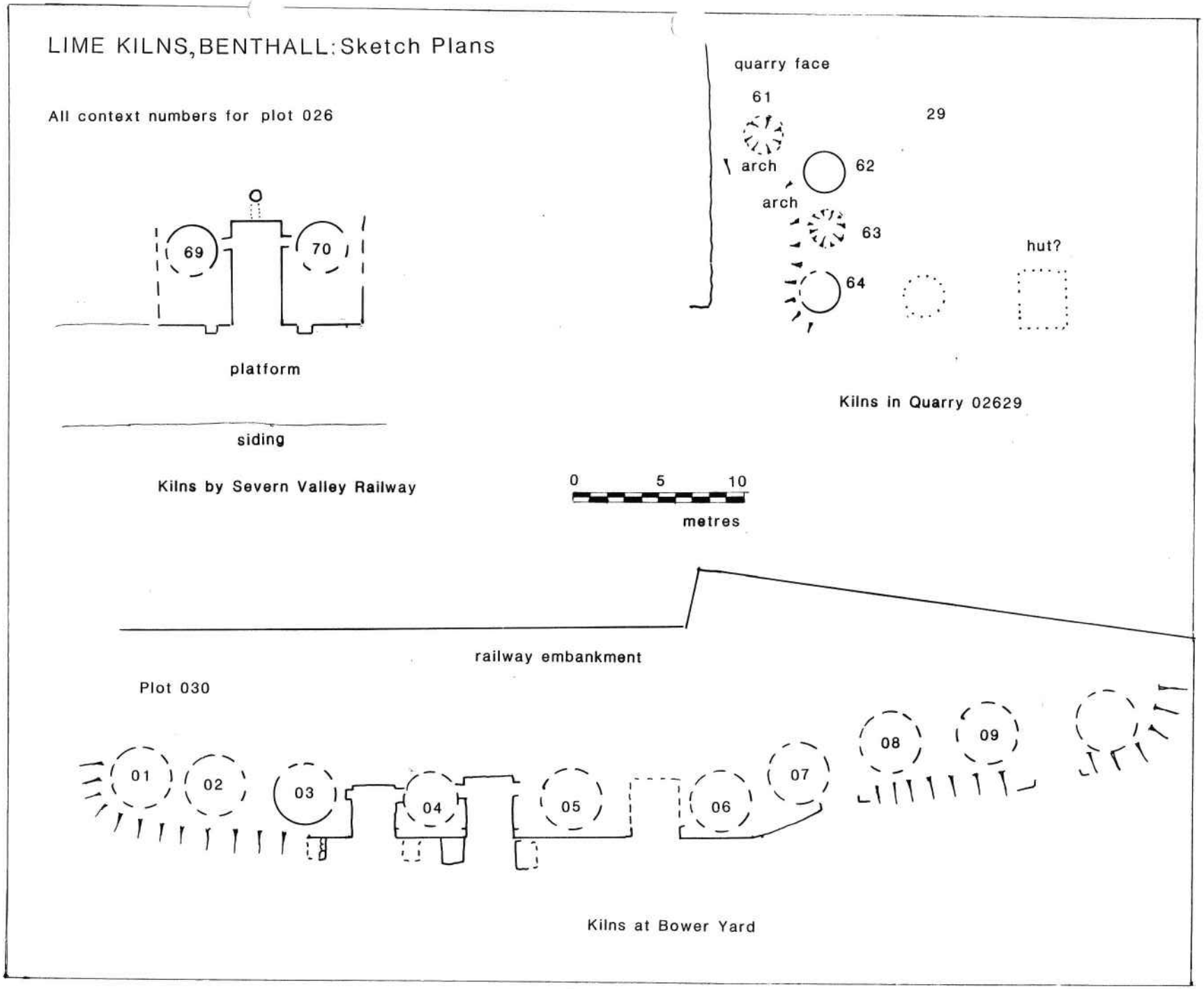


Figure 11. Lime kilns, Benthall Edge.

wall (BE 08703-15). Presumably the three must have shared draw arches. In quarry BE 02620, there were four kilns, two with individual arches, and one pair of kilns. All four may have originally been behind a bank or retaining wall.

A local tradition suggests that one set of kilns were bombed during the last war, by a pilot aiming for the power station.

4.32 The supply of agricultural lime

The getting of limestone, and limeburning seem to have been separate activities. In most cases the latter was a small scale activity, fluctuating with seasonal demands, and dependent on local farmers to come to the kilns to collect lime, rather than an organised export procedure. On Lincoln Hill the limeworks were owned by the Reynolds family, with the kilns being operted by independent contractors (Trinder 1981:59). In some cases, ironmasters were involved in agriculture and would have been able to supply their own lime (eg Reynolds owned a farm at Ketley (Trinder 1981:37)).

The kilns in quarries BE 02650 and 02627 are small scale and located close to agricultural land. However, kiln 03001 and those on Spout Lane are rather more organised concerns, close to transport networks, and therefore supplying lime to a larger area. In 1800, it was advertised that,

> "There will be a ready supply of lime at Benthall New Limekilns near the Iron Bridge road at 14s per load, ready money. Requested that no meat or drink be sent" (ESJ 22.10.1800).

The advertisement must refer to the Spout Lane limekilns on plot BE 87, and suggests that they were operating from 1800 to at least the 1840s, but perhaps could not survive the construction of the Severn Valley Railway in 1862.

The lime kilns at Bower Yard were in operation for much longer, and seem to have survived the construction of the Severn Valley Railway, as there is evidence for an arch in the viaduct, taking the inclined plane down beneath the railway. According to the trade directories, John Patten is burning lime in Benthall in 1828 and 1835, and John Tranter in 1828 only (Pigot 1828 and 1835). John Patten is listed again in 1856 (Post Office 1856) as a limeburner and bargeowner, and occupies the wharf, limeworks yard and inclined plane in 1846 and 1852 (SRO deposited plans 361 and 350). The kilns were out of use, and demolished by 1902.

Lime must have been exported by barge even after the construction of the railway, as there are photographs showing barges in front of the kilns, with the railway viaduct in the background (1981.1563).

4.4 The local market for fluxing limestone

The burgeoning iron industry of the 1750s must have created a demand for local limestone. Benthall Edge was the nearest source of limestone for the furnaces at Willey, Barnets Leasow, Calcutts, Coalbrookdale, Benthall and Bedlam. But it seems that the pattern of local limestone supply related more to ownership than proximity.

Abraham Darby I obtained limestone from Much Wenlock and Gleedon Hill, rather than the more local Lincoln Hill or Benthall Edge, although there is some reference to employing barge owners to ship it to Ludcroft wharf from Benthall after Darby's death in 1717 (Trinder 1981:15). William Reynolds was transporting material to his furnaces on the north bank, not from Benthall Edge, but from his own concern at Tickwood and Wyke, via a railway he owned in partnership. Horsehay, Madeley Wood (Bedlam?), Ketley and Lightmoor furnaces were supplied from Gleedon Hill via a railway upstream of Buildwas Bridge (Trinder 1981:59,70). Richard Reynolds was able to discuss the supply of his own lime for Dundonald's proposed chemical works at Coalport (Trinder 1981:134).

By the early nineteenth century, Wales was an important source of limestone for local ironworking. No suitable fluxing stone left at Lilleshall by 1846, and the company had opened works south of Much Wenlock by 1846. The oppening of a wharf at Wappenshall in 1835 enabled limestone to be brought from Trevor Rocks at Llanymynech to be used by the Ketley and Old Park companies, as well as the Coalbrookdale Company and the Lilleshall partners by 1845. The tramways to Buildwas were out of operation by about this date (Trinder 1981:147).

By inference, it seems that fluxing stone might not have been available locally after the early nineteenth century, and that any supply from Benthall must date to the eighteenth century. Thus documentary evidence confirms the broad phasing derived from the field evidence.

4.5 Underground Mining for Limestone

The existence of spectacular underground caverns at Lincoln Hill (Brown 1967 etc) has led investigators to postulate similar caverns on Benthall edge (Wardell Armstrong 1984, Ove Arup forthcoming). It is possible that the 1801 description of Coalbrookdale alludes to caverns on this side of the river. While gazing at the south side of the river, the author states, "Proceeding to the right is a row of lime kilns, near which is a stupendous cavern." If the word "proceeding" is literal, then these caverns must be those of Lincoln Hill (Brown pers. com.).

Another piece of evidence may be that Bowers Brook does not presently flow in its original course. However, on the flat land at the top of the slope above the quarries is evidence for

the diversion of streams. Several channels have been cut, to move the course of the two brances of Bowers Brook. These most likely date to the use of the quarries, when it would have been inconvenient to have a stream running over a working face. One possibility is that the stream has re-entered an old channel. All attempts to trace the course of the stream, by putting dye in it, have failed (V.Cossons, pers. comm.).

4.6 Conclusions

If the band of quarrying Benthall Edge is roughly 5000m long, with an average width of 40m (assuming the edge has been quarried from the present path along the slope back to the cliff face) and a minimum depth of 6m, then something like 1.2 million cubic metres of material has been moved during the 700 years or so of recorded quarrying.

The industry may not have provided much employment. Working on the well documented kilns of the Scottish Lothian district, Skinner noted that most limeworks in the early nineteenth century employed few people. A typical breakdown quoted in Maxwell's "Practical Husbandry", might have been "two men for boring and blasting, three for breaking and helping to fill the kill at night; one that draws the limestone from the kill, slakes and delivers, and one more that has a two horse cart for leading the stone from the quarry at the top of the kill" - a team which could break 2 tons in a day.

Maxwell also calculated the costs of winning the stone, buying and transporting coal, man power and horse power, and set them against the sale of lime from the kiln, showing a profit of 11s 10d for a days work in 1757. Capital expenditure on kilns was between £300 and £400 in the beginning of the nineteenth century, rather higher than the cost of a horse mill or water mill (Skinner 1969).

Despite the spectacular field evidence of quarrying at Benthall, the industry may not have had a large impact upon the local economy. Perhaps this partly explains the paucity of documentation for limestone working. No doubt further analysis of the account books for the major ironworking partnerships will do much to help in the understanding of the distribution and supply of raw materials in the Gorge.

This study has attempted to undertake a stratigraphic analysis of field evidence for quarrying. As a result, the industry of Benthall Edge can be understood in terms of several broad phases through time - medieval quarrying for rubble and lime, the eighteenth century supply of fluxing stone exported through the Stone Port, a nineteenth century industry producing lime using both river and tramway for transport, and a brief twentieth century reopening of the quarries for crushed stone and lime. This is an example of the way in which field evidence can be used in the understanding of the historical evidence.

CHAPTER FIVE: THE CLAY INDUSTRIES OF BENTHALL

5.0 Introduction

In 1835, Benthall was described as having 525 inhabitants "chiefly employed in the potteries" (Lewis 1835). Clay tobacco pipes, salt glazed pottery, earthenware, art pottery, bricks, tiles and drain pipes have all been made in the parish, exploiting the clays of the Lower and Middle Coal Measures which outcrop on or close to the surface.

The floor tile industry of Buildwas Abbey suggests that the exploitation of clays from Benthall Parish may well date to the medieval period, but certainly dates to the origins of the clay pipe industry in the seventeenth century. Evidence for seventeenth century pottery making is slim, but by the early eighteenth century salt glazed wares and earthenwares are in production using local clay. In the mid nineteenth century, Maws brought Benthall clays to Worcester, and then moved to Benthall themselves in order to take advantage of the clays. The production of bricks and drain pipes has only just ceased, and the fireclays are still worked in massive open cast mining operations. Shropshire is today still one of the two main sources of fireclay in Britain.

The making of clay products in Benthall was very much associated with working elsewhere in the Gorge through the activities of several families. The Brownes of Caughley were involved in the establishment of the Haybrook Pottery, and the Thursfields, who were instrumental in establishing the Benthall and Haybrook Potteries, began making pottery in Jackfield in 1713 (Trinder 1981:125). Maws moved their Encaustic Tile Works to Jackfield from Benthall and the Burtons were making bricks and tiles in Jackfield as well as Benthall.

5.1 The Clays

There are two main types of clay found in the Coalbrookdale coalfield - the red clays and the buff or grey clays. The principal properties of the red clays are a high proportion of iron (giving a red or even blue finish), and a degree of plasticity, enabling them to be moulded. They are used for the manufacture of bricks and tiles. The red clays come mainly from the Coalport and Hadley formations, and are not found in Benthall. The buff clays are purer, and a higher silica content gives them greater refractory qualities, enabling them to withstand much heat (see Appendix Five). The best quality buff clays are used for firebricks. It was these clays which made Benthall particularly famous for its ceramic products (Brown 1965:340).

There is some debate over the source of clay used to produce clay tobacco pipes in the seventeenth century. Although china ball clay was imported from Devon in the nineteenth century for the more organised concerns, it was unlikely to have been imported for the early industry carried out by individuals on a "cottage" basis. A possible candidate has been suggested to be the Big Flint clays, which occur close to the surface, and may have been worked out at an early date.

The Lower and Middle Coal Measures comprise beds of coal and ironstone interleaved with clays, sandstone and shale. They outcrop - and thus are easily accessible from the surface - over much of Benthall parish. The measures outcrop by the Iron Bridge, and on the other side of the Broseley fault in a horseshoe shape from Benthall potteries north to Workhouse Coppice and south to Hilltop farm and on to the Deerleap, covering much of the south east of the parish. Often more than one product was worked at once, making coal and clay mining almost inseparable.

Big Flint Clays*

These are the uppermost clays surviving in Benthall, and occur in the north of the parish. They are very white, and have excellent plastic properties. It is possible that they were used as the clay source for the early clay pipe industry.

Pennystone Clays

Known locally as "blue bind", there were two lenses of cleaner clay between bands of Marine Pennystone Ironstone in clay. The clay was buff coloured, with ironstone nodules, and burned a mucky red or brown colour. It would have been used for bricks, or later land drains.

New Mine Clay

The main refractory clay found at Benthall comes from below the New Mine coal. It is still used today for the production of fire bricks and refractory products, as well as for sanitary wares.

Viger or Clunch Clays

The best quality white clay comes from the Ganey coal seams. This clay outcrops at Hilltop farm, in the Deerleap, but is accessible from shafts elsewhere. It has very little iron, and a high silica content, and is highly refractive. Burtons white brick works at the Bower Yard used it to produce white bricks, and by mixing it with other clays, could produce other colours. The Clod Coal Clay was also exploited in Benthall, although it was less pure than the Ganey clays. At one point Burtons brickworks experimented with a clay below the Crawstone Crust (VCHi:443).

*This information is summarised in Appendix Five

As yet no work has been done in comparing clay products with clay sources. Thus it is not possible to confirm rumours that clays for medieval floor tiles found at Buildwas were obtained in Benthall or Broseley. Much of the early press-moulded earthenwares found in the area have a buff fabric, suggesting the white clays. Surface collection at the Haybrook (P001701) and Benthall potteries (BE 21810) show that red fabric predominates in later types of pottery and drains

5.11 Clay working methods

Clearly the earliest clay was worked in open quarries, from the surface. As these outcrops were exhausted, adits were driven into the hillside through the measures horizontally, particularly where sandstones provided a stable roof. A good example of such an adit survives at the site of the Maws tileworks (BE 05603). This method continued until this century, as a drift mine was registered in operation in the 1950s (probably the Viger clay mine) (Brown 1965:342), presumably that for the Bower Yard Brickworks. Clay must also have been worked in association with coal and ironstone, in shafts on the high ground of the parish, and is of course still being removed in opencasting operations just outside the parish at Deerleap.

The term "getting" or "winning" was applied to clay, rather than mining.

5.12 The Clay Workings of Benthall

Viger Clay Mine

(Although called the Viger Clay mine, the clay and coal exploited seems to have been the Clod Coal, the Viger Coal occurring much higher up the hill).

Still operating early in the twentieth century, this mine was producing clay for use in Burtons brickworks at Bower Yard. A plan of 1953 shows the old workings, indicates a group of four adits immediately opposite the bridge over the SVR to the brickworks (026101, 02596, 02697, 02698) and a fifth adit (02695) and another two nineteenth century adits on bridge road to the east (026102, 026103). Another adit is shown on the 1927 OS map, and must relate to the old workings shown on the mine plan (02694).

The mine seems to have worked both the Randles and the Clod Clay of the Lower Coal Measures. A section on the plan shows a working of 3'6", taking clay with ironstone nodules, Clod Coal and Clod Clay, leaving sandstone as the floor, and the Best Coal as the roof.

Remains of at least two adits by the works (BE 02698 and 026101),

and two on Bridge Bank can be seen (BE 026102 and 103). The workings were served by two small tramways (BE 02688 and 89), taking material across a bridge (BE 02690) over the Severn Valley Railway to the brickworks . One shown in 1883 only led from the shafts on Bridge Bank, and the other, shown in 1902 only, from the adits by the Bridge.

Clay Mining at Hilltop

A second source of clay was the meadow below Hilltop Farm (plot 149), known locally as "Clay Meadow". Three clay levels are shown in 1902 (BE 14903, 04 and 05), two of which were still in operation, and two coal shafts (BE 14906 and 07). The Viger coal, and the Upper, Middle and Lower Ganey Coals beneath it outcrop in this field. The upper clay level may have exploited the Randle Clay, the lower the Ganey Clay. The coal shafts may have exploited the lower Best, Randle and Clod Coals, and would also have been a source of coal.

The field has not been ploughed, and depressions for shafts, spoil heaps and at least three well-made roads (as well as a footpath to the Sunday School) cross the field. One of the coal shafts has recently collapsed.

Clay Mine, Benthall Bank

A small clay mine exists at the north end of plot 56 (BE 05603, IGMTAU code BE 85E), once the site of Maws works. The mine is well preserved, lined with plain and decorated tiles and with a sandstone roof. The mine must have been one of the sources of clay for the Maws works.

Mining by Benthall Potteries

To the north east of Benthall Potteries are a series of ironstone shafts and a clay shaft (BE 19001 and 02, 18801). Ironstone nodules were found in clays, and the production of clay from these mines is confirmed by the road shown in 1902 linking BE 19002 with the pottery. The Haybrook Pottery must have taken clay from the shaft PO 01901 to the south of the works in 1902.

Mining at Barratshill

The coal measures run north-south behind Barratshill farm, where there is much evidence for mining. The Deerleap Mine worked Ganey Coals and fireclay in plot 168 (GS sheet 60), and mounds suggest further workings (BE 20102, 20902, 21001 and 21101, and an old coal shaft in plot 21402. The Geological survey shows three shafts in 20101.

Ironstone Mines

Three ironstone shafts to the north and north east of the Benthall Potteries (BE 12602, 13402, 13801), out of use in 1902, may also have supplied clay.

Opencast Mining

Opencasting has taken place in Benthall ostensibly for coal since the last war. However the fireclays taken out in the process have either been utilised locally at Benthall potteries or exported. The fields in front of Benthall hall have been worked as the Benthall Hall site (BE 13302), and the Benthall Quarry site (BE 18802, 18902, 19004) (GS SJ60SE), and there have been a number of workings north of the Deerleap.

5.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe Industry

Perhaps the best known of the early industries of Benthall, was the Clay Tobacco Pipe industry. Pipes were manufactured in the parish between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, at several different sites. The whole industry is a major subject of enquiry, and must be understood in conjunction with that at neighbouring Broseley (Higgins forthcoming), although a summary of the field evidence for pipemaking in Benthall is presented by D.A.Higgins in Appendix Two.

The foundations of the local clay pipe industry probably lie in the link between productive coal measures, and fireclays in Benthall. Both industries flourish at the same time, and would have exploited similar Coal Measures, where fireclay was found interleaved with coal. The most likely clay source to have been used is the Big Flint Clay, found outcropping on the surface. Easily obtainable supplies of this clay may have been worked out at an early date and replaced with imported clays.

Such links must have played an important part in the economic prosperity of Benthall in the seventeenth century, and need to be further studied in order to clarify the basis of later industrial expansion in the Gorge.

5.3 The Pottery Industry

5.31 The early saltglaze industry

No medieval pottery has yet been found at Benthall, although given the clear evidence for a seventeenth century clay tobacco pipe industry, it is most likely that such pottery was produced. It may well be that the Haybrook Pottery is of a very early date, but as the site has been opencast, this can not be confirmed.

The earliest known local pottery industry is the production of

salt glazed stonewares in the early eighteenth century (Malam 1981). This industry is completely undocumented, but evidence comes from two possible kiln sites, and the finding of large quantities of saggars, many of which have fragments of such pottery adhering to the bottom. Such saggars are often found built into garden walls in "The Mines", and elsewhere (Trueman 1987).

Possible Kiln Site, Brook Cottage

To the north of Brook Cottage, Bridge Road, there have been several reports of the finding of a kiln base, confirmed by the present owner who claims to have seen circular brickwork (BE 10602). If so, the kiln must be pre-1835 in date, as it is not shown on Hitchcock's map.

In the minute book of the Iron Bridge proprietors, there is mention of the removal of a "potters oven and other buildings situate upon the road in the occupation of John Miles". These are to be "taken down for widening the said road..the materials...to be used in building an arch over the brook going on the side of the said road" (16th June, 1783). This was before the construction of a new road to the front of the New Inn, and if the original road was a little to the east of the existing road, a kiln by Brook Cottage could be that referred to.

The site is covered with waste from Maws Tileworks (BE 10607), and from the pottery by the New Inn. However, two largely complete salt glaze saggars, with fragments of mugs in the base were found in the garden. It is quite possible that this was the site of an eighteenth century salt glaze manufactory, although further investigation is necessary.

Benthall Old Vicarage

In the 1851 Census, Warren Taylor Jones was listed as an "Earthenware Manufacturer, Master employing 6 men", but in Bagshaw's directory of the same year he was operating what is known as the Posenhall pottery.

Excavations carried out at the site hoping to find a kiln (Sandon 1978) revealed yellow slip-trailed wares, brown glazed earthenwares, and brown and white-dipped salt glazed stonewares. Many of the salt glazed fragments were surface tips over later deposits. Only one waster fragment of brown glazed ware was found, but a great number of salt glazed wasters were found including saggars.

Ironically little evidence of a mid nineteenth century pottery as suggested by the Census was found here during these excavations, and during later work by the IGMTAU (BE 85B and BE 85C), but there was clear evidence for the local manufacture of much earlier salt glazed pieces of the early eighteenth century (BE 20302).

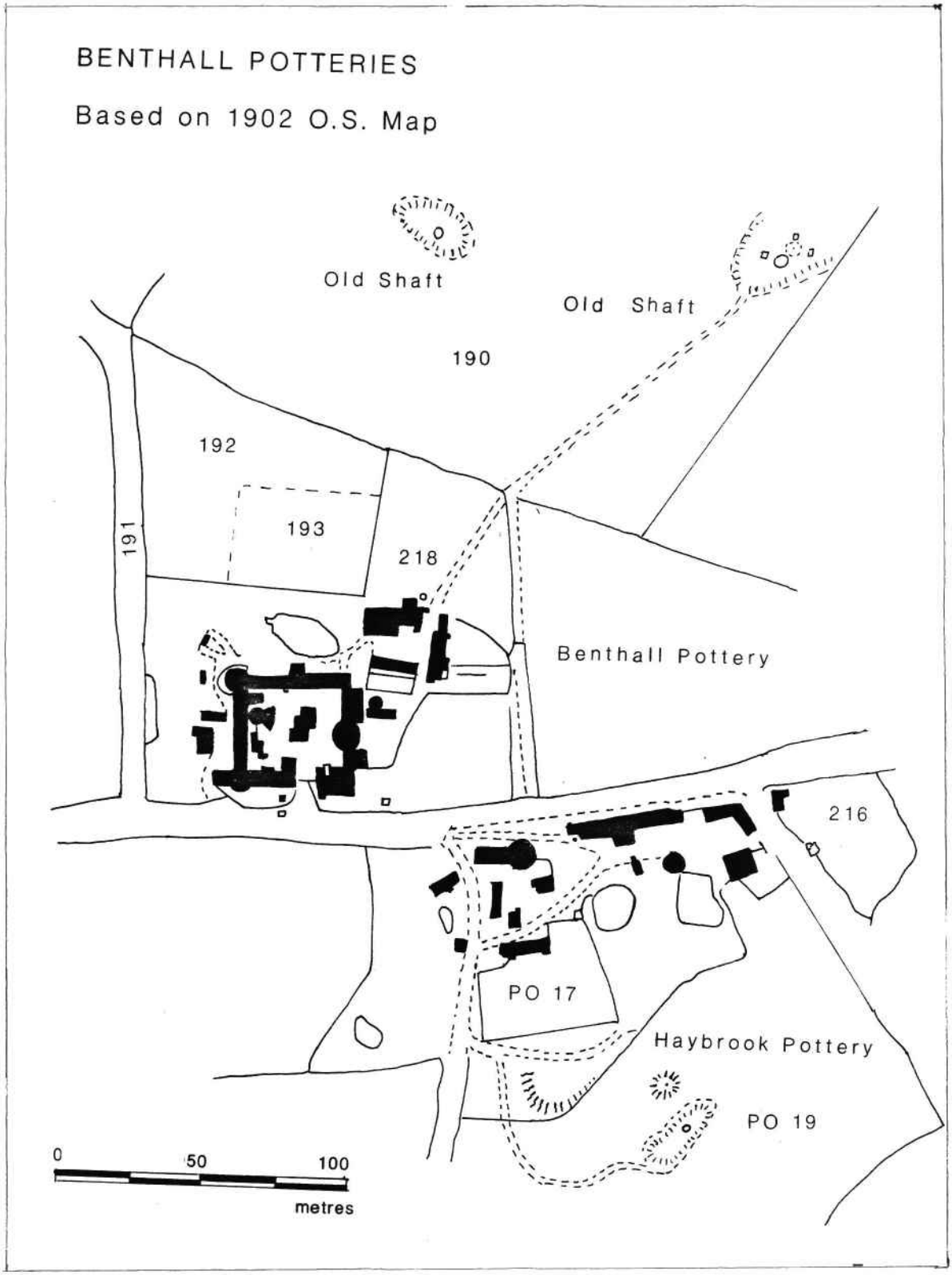


Figure 12: Benthall Potteries c. 1902

5.32 Earthenware Manufacture: The Benthall Potteries

Two sets of potworks on the north and south side of the road to Much Wenlock, were collectively (and confusingly) known as Benthall Potteries. For ease, that to the north is referred to as Benthall Pottery (BE 218), that to the south (in Posenhall parish) as Haybrook Pottery (PO 017). The Haybrook pottery was the earlier, and may have been making pottery as early as the seventeenth century. With the addition of the Benthall Pottery, the combined works were making slip trailed and later common yellow earthenwares. From the mid-nineteenth century brown Rockingham ware and stone wares were made. The firm made a brief diversion into art pottery from 1883, but continued to make domestic terracottas, lamp and electrical fittings etc. The Haybrook pottery closed early in the twentieth century, and Benthall Pottery in 1982, when it ceased making drain pipes.

Benthall Pottery

The works were built in 1772 by John Thursfield II, on land belonging to the Reverend Edward Harries. Three years later, Thursfield insured what he described as a "new potworks, earthenware boards etc" (SRO 4791/1/3) and a year later the partnership of Thursfield & Pierce (possibly William Thursfield and William Pierce) held the works. Later map evidence suggests that the works were laid out in a square, with kilns in the corners, and seem to have been planned in a way in which the Haybrook pottery to the south never was.

A lease advertised in the Salopian Journal for 1815 listed the pottery, with a cottage for workman attached, and house for resident partner, "in a compleat state for carrying on a manufactory of common earthenware, and well situated for Land Sale and the trade to Bristol and for Foreign Exportation". Soon after, Pierce & Co transferred the works to Samuel Roden (VCH x: draft).

The works were held by John Farnall between 1823-4 (Hulbert 1836) by Bell & Poole in 1828 (Pigot) and by John Lloyd & Co in 1835 (Pigot). Easthope is another name which occurs in conjunction with the works (Benthall 1955).

The Haybrook and the Benthall Potteries were united officially in 1845 by Warren Tyler Jones and Edwin Bathurst, although they must have been run together earlier. According to several directories they were making Rockingham wares and stone wares and by 1851 employed 31 men (1851 census). The Benthall Pottery Company (late Messrs Bathurst and Son) operated the works in 1863 (P.O.).

The Allen family then took over the pottery, still making Rockingham and stonewares, and the name Benthall Pottery Company continued to be used (Kellys 1891, 1901, 1905, 1913, 1917, 1922). There is mention of a Beriah Allen (SRO 2882/2), but from 1870 till 1907 the manager was William Allen.

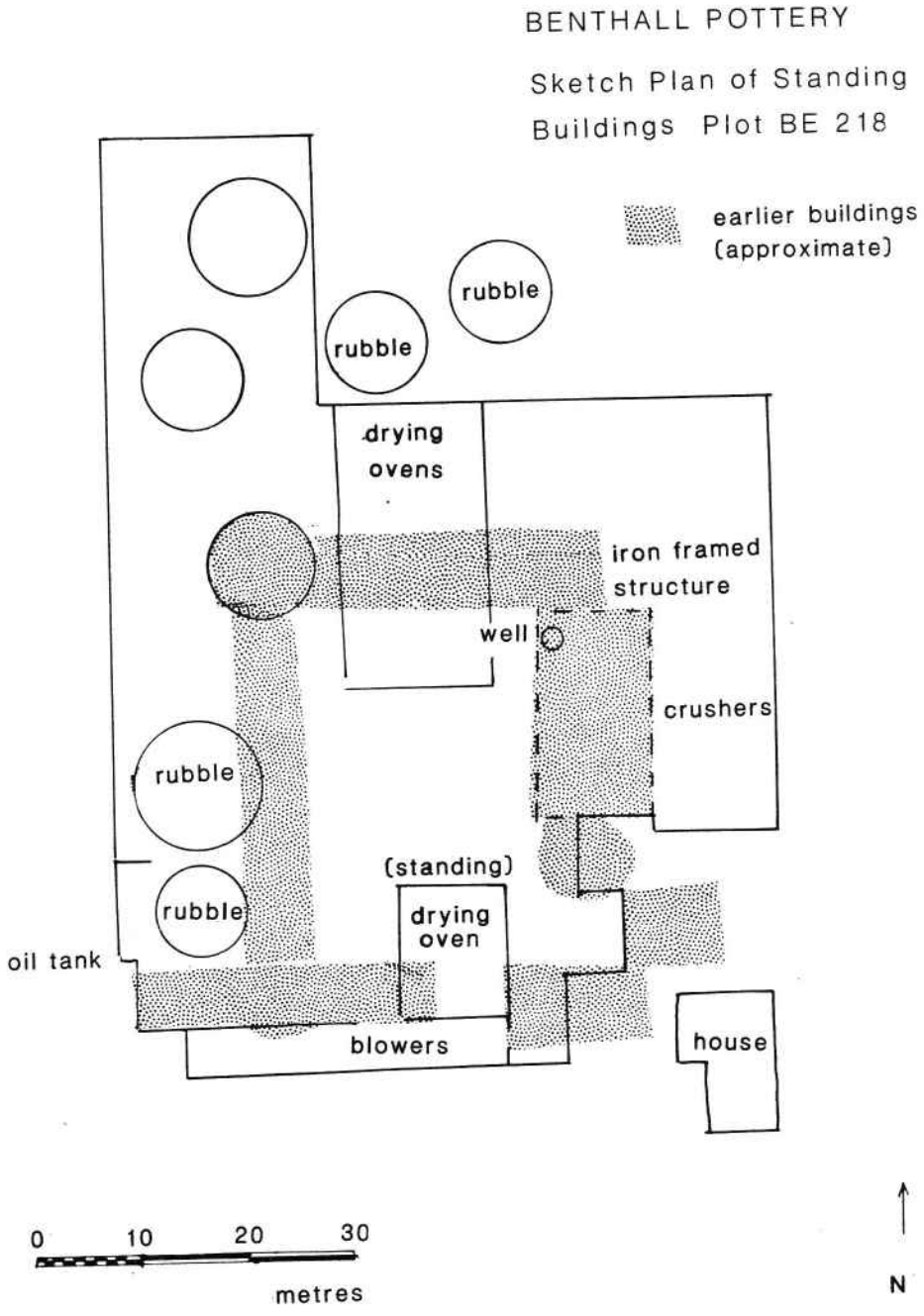


Figure 13. Benthall Pottery - plan of standing buildings

In 1907 - William Beriah Allen - the son of William Allen, tried to promote decorative art pottery by sending his workers to the South Kensington School of Art, and that at Coalbrookdale, but the attempt foundered, and the pottery concentrated on coarse wares, such as electrical fittings and black lamp bases (VCHi :434). The company became the "Benthall and Ironbridge Pottery Company, Art & Domestic Potters, glass and china merchants est. 1729" (Kellys), by 1929, on land leased from Willey estate (SRO 1190 Bundle 20). Clay was obtained from a mine to the north (BE 190).

Later managers included Major Prestage of Broseley Tileries, then Raleigh & Rowe (Shrewsbury Chronicle 1939). The later use of the site is discussed below.

The Haybrook Pottery (PO 017)

There is some suggestion that this pottery dates back to 1624 (SRO 2882/2), although Randall claims the pottery was founded in 1729, and was known as the Mughouse, and making drinking mugs (VCHi:434). Building was certainly taking place in 1743 on an acre of land called Coppy Head, at Posenhall Farm by William Colley for his undertenant John Thursfield (Benthall 1955:160). John Thursfield II had a lease of four pothouses in 1770.

Messrs William Thursfield and Pierce insured the Haybrook Pottery in 1805, consisting of 3 kilns, hovels, smoke houses, warehouse, stock of earthenware etc (SRO 4791/1/5). William Bell was managing the pottery in 1814 (SRO 2882/2), but five years later William Pierce of Haybrooke Pottery in the Parish of Benthall, surviving partner of William Thursfield, was declared bankrupt (Salopian Journal, March 24th).

After 1845 little is known of the Haybrook pottery, as the two potteries are run jointly, although there is mention of Raleigh and Rowe managing the pottery in the twentieth century (Benthall 1955).

Archaeology

Nothing survives today of the Haybrook pottery. The last buildings are shown on maps of the 1960s, but were demolished recently. The field has since been opencast, and is now level. In 1902 at least one kiln, a scatter of buildings, a terrace and a pool are shown, as well as what must have been a manager's house. Clay was obtained from an old shaft to the south on plot PO 019.

Today waste material can be found in field PO 15, and in the garden of the modern house on PO17. There are several tips here, including domestic rubbish, and material from the sanitary pipe works. A small pit dug into the waste adjacent to the pool to the south west has yielded many decorative pottery wasters.

The Benthall Pottery is today used for the storage of agricultural machinery. The kilns have been demolished, but otherwise little has changed from the last use of the works to manufacture drain pipes. 5 kiln bases can be seen in the floor of the western range of the building, and two outside the building to the north. The rubble from a bank of 6 drying sheds can be seen and 2 drying kilns still stand. The concrete piers for crushing machinery survive, and remains of earlier buildings.

Products

It is almost impossible on documentary evidence to separate the two potteries, and although they were technically united in 1845, they seem to have been run together much earlier. The Haybrook pottery was the earlier, and on the evidence of a pot commemorating George Weld who died in 1748 (now in possession of Lord Forester), Randall suggests that it was making slip trailed earthenwares in the early eighteenth century.

By 1815 the Benthall potteries are making common earthenware, clearly for export to Bristol and abroad (see above). Morris Thursfield had taken a cargo of earthenware to America when he died in Philadelphia in 1783 (Trinder 1981:125).

In the mid-nineteeenth century the potteries made red and yellow wares, to be sold in Wales (Randall 1877:184), to which William Allen added forcing pots, garden vases and terracotta. Jewitt also suggests the potteries produced "the ordinary yellow and other common wares" (Jewitt 1883:190).

In 1845 Allen introduced Rockingham and stonewares. The term "Rockingham" originally described a rich brown glaze with a slight purple iridescence, perfected at the Swinton (renamed Rockingham in 1825) works (Cox 1974). It became an American term for a variety of mottled brown glazed domestic wares, presumably imported from England.

In 1882 William Allen began making art pottery on the site, copying classical designs, and producing moulded pieces, incised patterns and other highly individualistic wares. Randall describes the process of dipping ware in white slip before firing, and cutting a pattern into the pot, or incising a pattern, and then allowing the glaze to concentrate in the incised parts (VCH Salop !:434). The pots were marked "SALOPIAN", or occasionally stamped with a black printed circular garter inscribed "BENTHALL POTTERY" enclosing "BROSELEY" (Messenger 1979:11ff).

Surface collection from the waste tips to the west of the Haybrook works have revealed unfired teapot lids,kiln furniture and a few fragments of black lamp bases (PO 01702). One fragment of transfer printed ware and and one of ribbed grey

stone ware were found, but this was possibly from domestic tip. A concentration of fired and biscuit art pottery was found from a hole in the top to th south west, near a small pool. Several fragments of press moulded ware with brown trailed slip decoration were also found. Many pieces of fired and unfired drain pipe were found across the site. An unglazed fragment of white and blue mug, similar to a c1911 coronation mug seen in a private house, was found. At the same time a bottle green teapot and stand, and two candle sticks were seen. A characteristic of pottery from this works seems to have been the presence of 3 small raised dots in a triangle on the base.

The northern end of the canal (BE 221) shows signs of infilling, probably with waste from the Benthall Pottery. Surface collection produced many black glazed lamp bases, coarse yellow earthenwares and thick garden pots (BE 22102). No art pottery at all was found at this site. Workers have reported finding quantities of teapot lids and spouts at the pottery itself, as well as drain pipes and kiln bricks marked "Benthall Potteries".

Whole pieces of Rockingham dishes, and pale yellow earthenware jugs and dishes bought locally and very likely made at Benthall can be seen on display in the Lawns, Broseley.

If the potteries were run separately, it is possible that the Haybrook Pottery - with its one or two kilns and scatter of buildings, may have been a smaller specialist pottery. The Benthall Pottery in 1902 is larger with at least 3 kilns built into a square range of buildings, and may have been mass-producing wares.

5.33 Earthenware Manufacture: Other Benthall Potteries

Glass's Pottery

Perhaps the least known pottery in the parish was sited on plot 179 (BE 17902). In 1795 and again in 1805, John Thursfield insured his potteries including a "set of potworks, late Glass's..earthenware therein" consisting of one kiln and hovel. (SRO 4791/1/3,5). In 1835 two buildings and a kiln are shown (SRO 3956), and in 1828 and 1835 Pigots directory lists two potteries - one of which is Benthall, but the other must be Glass's. Jones & Bathurst of Benthall Potteries operate the works in 1844 (Tithe map) and the works have disappeared by 1883.

The site now contains a modern bungalow, but extensive deposits of earthenware wasters can be found nearby (BE 13802). The nearest source of clay outcrops in plot 142 (BE 14201), which shows signs of working.

Pitchyard Pottery

The buildings adjacent to what is now the New Inn were the site

of a clay pipeworks, eventually known as the Raleigh Tobacco Pipeworks, operated by Messrs Hopkins and Co (P.O. 1879) (BE 11501-6). Details of this factory are given in Appendix Two.

From c. 1922, Woolfson Rowe and Co operated the Salop Pottery Company, making decorative earthenware (Tayler mss, Kelly's 1922, 1926, 1929). In 1934 no pottery is mentioned, but in 1937 it was operated as the Leigh Pottery company, no longer listed in 1941 (Kellys). Some attempt was made to revive the pottery in the 1950s, but it failed.

There is some uncertainty about an earlier pottery on the site. Randall refers to the Pitchyard Pottery (Broseley) founded by the Thursfields, and the Lloyds of Pitchyard House ran a pottery from pre-1814 till at least 1833 (VCH x:draft). In 1828 and 1836 there are only two potteries in the parish, and it is more likely that the second pottery referred to is what was Glass's pottery by the Leopard, still in operation in 1844.

The layout of the buildings can be seen on the 1902 OS map, comprising two ranges of buildings, running towards each other with a kiln at the apex (BE 11502, 11503 amd 11504). A kiln and the back range were in existence in 1835 (Hitchcock), the front range were added by 1883. The site was acquired by the present occupier in 1959. He demolished the kiln, and created a large roofed area by removing an internal wall. A chimney and parts of the buildings can still be identified.

Waste material from the pottery was found by the IGMTAU (BE 83B), and unglazed teapot lids have been found dumped in the garden of Brook Cottage on the other side of Bridge Road.

5.4 Maws Tileworks (Benthall Encaustic Tile Works)

Much is known of the Maws tile works by the river at Jackfield, in operation until 196., but the company's operations in Benthall before moving to the later site are little understood. It was the clays of Benthall which attracted the company to the site, and the name "Benthall" was retained, even after the move to what was technically Broseley parish.

5.41 Documentary background

In 1852 George and Arthur Maw opened a tileworks in Benthall, on a site "fashioned out of the old Benthall Ironworks". The brothers were apparently attracted by the convenient supplies of clays and coal, which they had already been shipping from Benthall down the Severn to their Worcester works (VCH i:446).

There is a suggestion that serious production of tiles did not begin for some time. Experiments were made in the types of clays and manufacturing processes, and it was not until 1857 that the

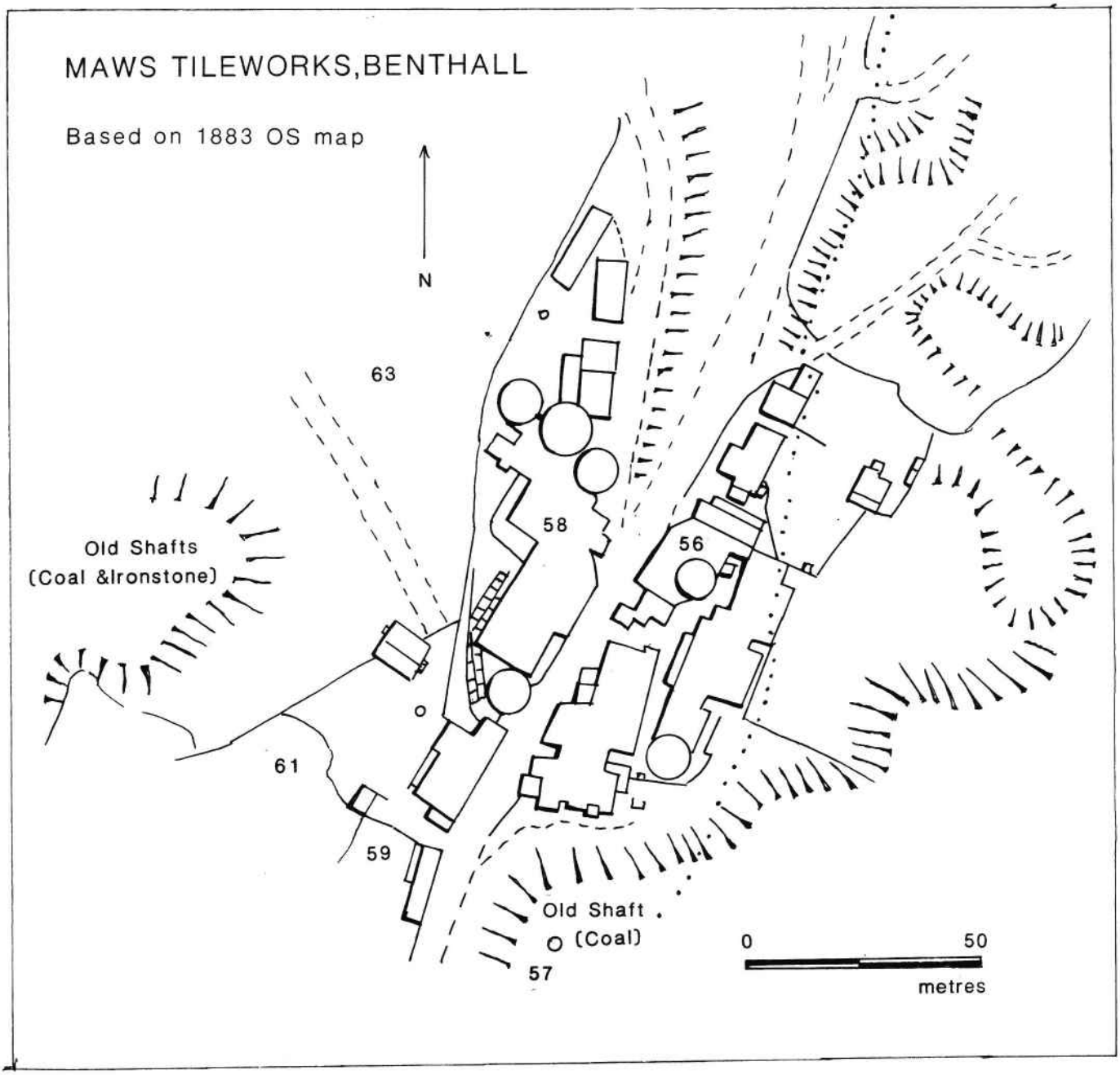


Figure 14. Maws Tileworks.

commercial manufacture of plain encaustic tiles with a greatly increased colour range, began at the site. However, some commercial production must have been undertaken earlier, as a fire of 1856 delayed a large order. Steam driven presses were introduced in 1873, presumably at Benthall.

Until 1863, the plastic process was the only one in use, where wet clay was placed in a plaster of paris mould, and then a slip placed in the impressions to create a pattern. At this date the dry process (dust-pressed), whereby weathered clay was ground, seived, dried and subsequently pressed into tiles, was introduced. Small tesserae were produced from 1861, enamelled and majolica tiles from 1862 (Jewitt 1883:184).

While at Benthall, the company obtained a first class medal at the Exhibition of 1862, and awards at a number of other shows. They developed a variety of tiles and majolica ware, and were particularly famous for the colours they introduced (VCH Salop I:446). A number of patents introduced by the company must also have been developed at Benthall, for example the mill machinery for Prossers 'dry process', the steam blunger, and a patent for a steam press for dry pressed tiles.

Dawes has suggested that there is some evidence for the production of brick and roofing tiles at the Maws factory, showing an example of a MAW brick stamp from the works (1979:59).

From c. 1871 the purchase of land for a supplementary works near the Tuckies at Jackfield was commenced. Space was obviously a problem at Benthall, where by 1883, the works are occupying all available flat land, in what is the steepest part of the Benthall valley. Despite denying all rumours that they intended to build at Jackfield in 1875 (R.Morriss, pers. comm) work had commenced at the new site in 1879 (Randall 1880:140), and the factory was built in 1882-3 (Jewitt 1883:190), coinciding with the closure in 1883 of the Benthall factory.

The Benthall works would have taken part in the river trade, shipping tiles and probably clay by barge. The construction of the Severn Valley Railway in 1862 must have helped with the transport of finished goods, although the site was well above the railway. The private railway siding at Jackfield would have been more convenient.

5.42 Archaeology

The works were located on both sides of Bridge Bank (BE 05605, 05804). The Maw brothers took over the old Benthall Ironworks, and so it may be presumed that the original site lay on the east side of the road. Space here was extremely limited and expansion must have taken place later to the west with another four kilns The only plan of the site is on the 1883 OS map.

Today there are modern bungalows on part of the site of the east

works (BE 05605), and a house associated with the works (BY 006) has recently been demolished. A retaining wall of glazed bricks and fragments of saggars collapsed in March 1987, and the area has been graded to form a gentle slope. The wall held back waste and ash containing some broken tile material, and the lack of slag suggests the tip dates to the use of the tile works (BE 87A). Further waste occurs to the north on BY 005, where tiles can be seen eroding out of the side of the road to Easthope Coppice.

A small clay mine survives at the south end of the works, lined in part with plain and decorated tiles (BE 05603).

Of the west works, very little survives (BE 05804). Two cottages built on the site have render inset with fragments of broken tiles. There is a fragment of curved brickwork visible on plot 58 which does not obviously correspond to the kilns shown in 1883.

5.5 Brickmaking

In 1635, Lawrence Benthall was promoting the manufacture of bricks at Benthall Marsh (VCH:draft). That he was building cottages for miners, suggests what may be the beginning of an organised building industry in the parish (see Chapter 8). The earliest surviving use of brick is on the Old Vicarage (c. 1700). The only other hint of early brick making is the field name Brick Furlong (BE 200). Thomas Harries was operating a Brickyard on field no. 273 (Tithe Map) in 1844.

5.51 Burtons White Brickworks, Bower Yard

The land between Bower Yard and the Iron Bridge forms an ideal site for a brick works - clay outcrops to the east of the Broseley fault on the hillside behind, and the river provides transport for heavy bricks. Brickmaking on the site may date back to the 1790s, when Charles Guest operated a kiln here (Williams Index). The site was occuped by a brickworks specialising in white refractory bricks until the early twentieth century, which was replaced with a pipe making concern.

By 1844 J. & E. Burton were making bricks at a site just to the north of where the railway was to be (BE 04601), although they had previously make bricks and tiles in Broseley (Pigot 1828). In 1862 the company acquired the Ladywood Red Brick and Tile works. The works are shown in 1852 (SRO DP 350) with brick kilns, buildings, yards, tramways, water, stable and waste. Apparently the first down draft chimney in the coalfields was built here in 1874 (VCH x:draft).

In 1889 E.Burton was a member of the Broseley Brick and Tile Manufacturers Assocation, whose aim was to fix prices, fight competition from Welsh slate for roofing materials and protect

the Broseley name (Dawes 1979:48). Control passed to Adam Jones in 1895, and in 1917 to the Bennett brothers. The last operator was a Hughes, and the "Benthall Firebrick works" closed in the 1930s (Williams index).

The works were exploiting the local Ganey Coal Clay, and there is some indication that the works were exporting clay down the Severn (Dawes 1979:50). By 1908 local supplies were exhaused, and Adam Jones apparently experimented with the clay from beneath the lower Crawstone. No doubt clay came from the area of the Viger coal mine, and after the construction of the railway a special bridge and small tramway incline were built in order to continue to carry clay across the line.

The Burtons were noted for producing a creamy coloured fire brick, some of which had been used for an extension to the Ironbridge Station. Bricks can still be seen on the retaining wall for the old station, adjacent to the Iron Bridge, and on the base for the footbridge. The remaining Coalport station may also be constructed of Burtons bricks. The company received a medal at the London Exhibition of 1862 (Randall 1879). At one point the stamp RUTFORD & CO was used. An 1879 advertisement (P.O.) for Burton & Sons Broseley Brick & Tile Works lists roofing tiles, ridge tiles, flooring squares, all kinds of bricks for agricultural purposes, firebricks, burs and squares, although probably all but the firebricks were being made at the Ladywood Works.

5.6 Drains and Sanitary Pipes

A series of Public Health acts through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries established the obligation of municipal authorities to provide water. Vast loans were made to councils in order to finance the piping of water and provision of sewerage. This in turn provided a stimulus for the mass production of salt-glazed, vitrified clay pipes for use as drains and sanitary pipes.

Yet it was only in the late 1930s that production of sanitary pipes began on any scale in the parish of Benthall. This may relate to the exhaustion of the easily accessible high quality fireclays, as the Bower Yard brickworks were experimenting with other clay sources by the beginning of the twentieth century (VCH i:443). The introduction of plastic pipes in recent years has made earthenware sanitary pipes uneconomic, and both companies have closed.

Benthall Stoneware Company at Bower Yard

Burtons brickworks were reopened in the late 1930s by a company producing only sanitary pipes and fittings. The pipes were salt glazed, and extruded and fired in circular down draught kilns. Some 30 to 40 people were employed, and fire clay was being

exported to South Staffordshire. They were stilll operating in 1953, but closed by about 1955 (Williams Index, Dawes 1979).

Drain pipes from the works are found in many places in Boweryard. The southern retaining wall of the works is built almost completely of pipes and many fragments are found dumped in the area of the limekilns.

Benthall Potteries

Glazed products (Midland Ltd) started work on the site of Old Benthall pottery in 1939, with 35 employees, obtaining clay nearby (Williams index).

In 1958 the buildings of Benthall Pottery were used for the production of agricultural drains and pipes (see BE 218). Clay came from early open casting operations at the Deerleap and by Benthall Hall. Glazed sanitary pipes must also have been produced, as these are found in abundance on the south side of the road. Surface collection indicates that white kiln bricks for their own use were being made, as well as drain pipes and brown salt glazed sanitary wares, all bearing the stamp BENTHALL.

In 1982 Morris Corfield bought the site in order to use it for storing agricultural machinery. Four circular kilns and a range of drying ovens were demolished, and machinery was cleared away, but otherwise the works were little altered.

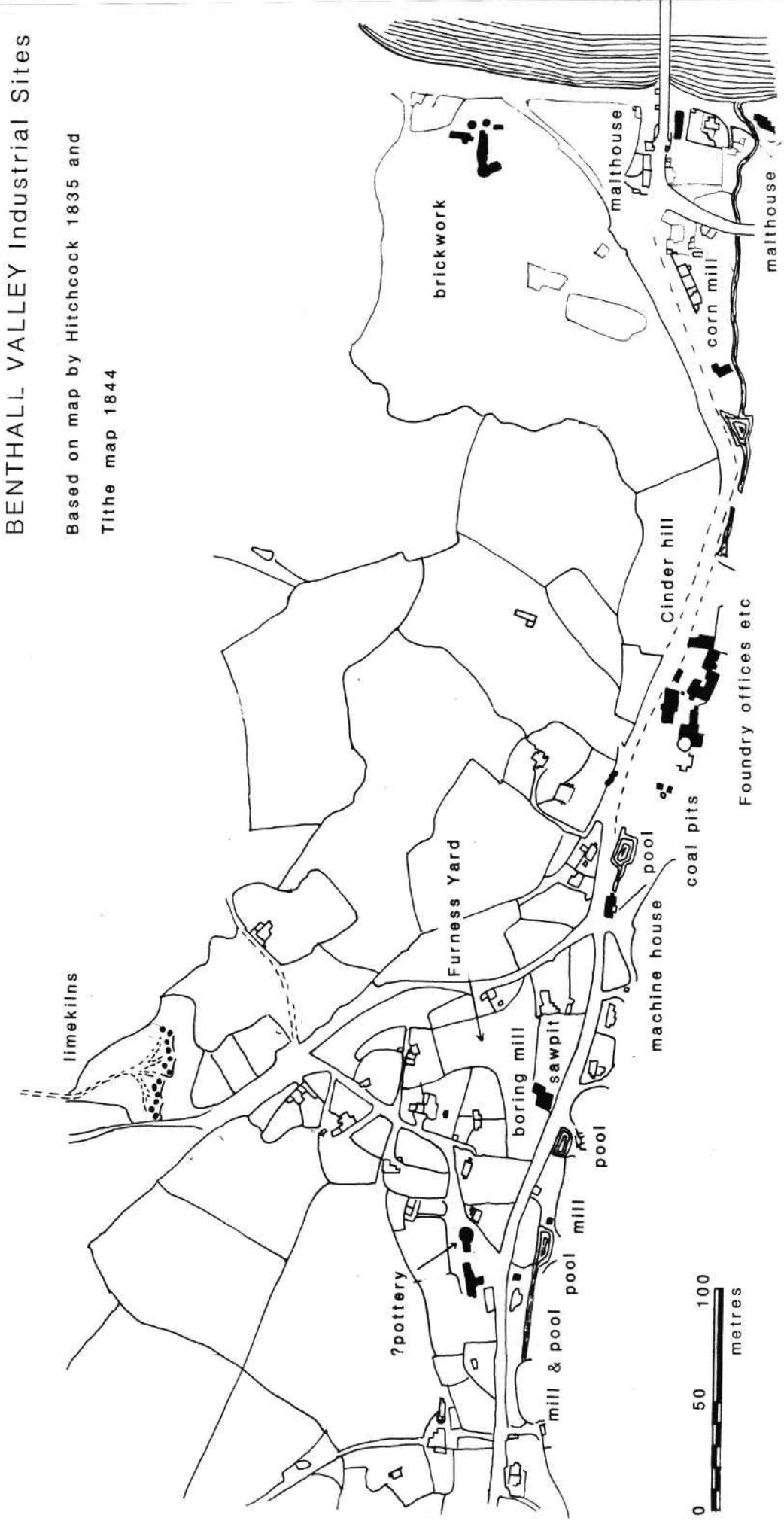


Figure 15. Benthall Valley Industrial sites - based on map by Hitchcock 1835.

CHAPTER SIX: INDUSTRIAL VENTURES IN THE BENTHALL VALLEY

6.0 Introduction

There were a series of industrial ventures down the Benthall Valley and on the shores of the Severn (see figure 16). Early lead smelting must have been attracted by the proximity of the River Severn as a transport network, although the short lived iron furnaces were more likely a product of the entrepreneurism of Edward Harries and the Harries family, then lords of the manor and associates of John Wilkinson. Iron founding continued well into the nineteenth century. Maws Tileworks and the white brick works must have dominated the local economy of the valley during the latter part of the nineteenth century, and are dealt with in Chapter 5.

6.1 Lead Smelting

In the eighteenth century there were at least four lead smelters in the Ironbridge Gorge - in Benthall, Broseley, at Dale End and one perhaps at the Lloyds (Trinder 1981). Lead smelting in the area is one of the least understood industries, and one for which very little physical evidence survives. The convenience of local coal supplies and river transport must have been two of the main factors in the establishment of lead smelting in the Gorge, particularly as there are no local sources of ore.

A lead smelter operated in Benthall Parish between 1731 and the late eighteenth century, located on the river bank at the west end of Bower Yard. The London Lead Company leased land through its agent Thomas Barker in 1731, and a smelter was in operation that year. Mathew Dore and Co took over the works in 1739, using ore from the Bog mines on the Stiperstones (Trinder 1981:8,10). Ore came from Llangynog in Wales, where it would have been transported via the Tanat valley, down the Vyrnwy to the River Severn. Even coal was not got from the south side of the river, close to the smelter, but from mines at Little Dawley, leased by the Company (Trinder 1981). The smelter was still in operation in 1786 (Young's map).

The lead smelter can be seen in the foreground of views of the Iron Bridge (eg Smith 1979 nos 7,14,26), on the river bank on a slight promontory a little way above the river. The most likely location is on plot BE 29 or 30, in front of the lime kilns, although plot 35 is possible. The building seems to be single storeyed with an iron banded brick chimney on the river side. A vent is let into a tiled roof. The smoke from the chimney is a constant feature. It contained two coal fired reverberatory furnaces, and was designed by Barker (VCH x:draft).

A second lead smelter was located by the Iron Bridge in a building converted into a malthouse by 1765, according to a deed held by Mr Eustace Beard. The site is that of a malthouse just

in side Broseley on the western bank of the brook (SRO DP 350, nos 80 and 10). Field investigation has shown that there is a scatter of brick and slag eroding out of the river bank at this site where the retaining wall for the bank has collapsed.

6.2 Ironworking in Benthall

Joseph Plymley noted "furnaces, foundry, offices, boring mill, smithy" amongst the many activities in the Benthall of 1803. With railways bringing raw materials, pools providing water power and wharves for shipping finished goods, the picture of the Benthall valley as a centre of ironworking must have been much more convincing than it is today.

6.21 Raw Materials

The involvement of the Harries family in the construction of the furnace suggests that ironstone, coal and limestone must almost certainly have been supplied locally. As lords of the manor they owned the mineral rights of the parish and would have had control of local supplies.

Speaking of the ironworks at Benthall, Rennie described the charging of the furnace:

> "the first thing is to throw in some (embers?) and heap on coals above it till the furnace will hold no more, blowing the Bellows all the time. Upon the top of the Furnace full of coals throw in Iron stone & Limestone, (2x) as much Limestone as Iron Stone, and after throwing in a good stratum of that about (twice) the thickness of coals & so on keeping the furnace always pretty full".

He suggested that about 20 tons of iron were produced per week.

At Horsehay in 1773 there was a ratio of 3 or 4 to 1 for raw ironstone to limestone (Mott 1958), which would have created a demand for at least 70 tons of raw ironstone, 8 tons of limestone and c. 11.5 tons of coke for 20 tons of iron. Additional coke would have been used for calcining, which would in turn have reduced the volume of ironstone.

Pits were in operation above the works in 1835 (Hitchcock), which would have produced coal, but probably not ironstone. The coal would have been coked in Dundonald's tar ovens (see below), at least at the end of the eighteenth century. A band of ironstone outcrops just above the works, and some may have been got from there, otherwise ironstone could have been mined from sites at the top of the hill.

A rail link with Benthall edge suggests that fluxing limestone was almost certainly provided from the quarries at the terminus of the railway, the rights to which Harries would have owned.

6.22 Power

The Benthall Brook falls some 400ft over a distance of just over a kilometre. It rises in the area of the Deerleap, but is today culverted down most of the valley. In places the brook is supplemented by runoff from Broseley Wood (eg in the garden of Brook Cottage) or by additional streams (e.g. Mine Spout). However, the catchment area of the stream is not large, and unlike Coalbrookdale, the valley is steep and narrow and there is little space for large pools. Thus any water-powered equipment would have had to make use of height rather than volume to generate power.

Ironworking in Benthall at any scale was probably only possible with supplementary power. A steam hammer was in use within a year of John Wilkinson's experiments at Bradley, and a steam engine was in use to recycle water to a pool above the works, a common practice in the Shropshire coal field in the eighteenth century.

The site of the pool can be seen on Hitchcock's map of 1835, (BE 05703) although subsequent mining has led to considerable build up of waste and the filling in of the pool. The pool was never particularly large, and there must have been problems with the quantity of water available.

The boring mill was also water-powered, with water which must have been brought across the road from a nearby pool (possibly on plot BE 097), unless there was an additional stream on the west side of the valley. But the wheel of the mill was so designed as to make best use of a small quantity of water.

By 1784 the furnaces were blown directly, with an engine whose blast "supplyes the two furnaces to smelt 20 tuns per week" (Rennie). In 1802 there was in operation a 30 hp engine, capable of blowing only one furnace at a time (Trinder 1981:40,273).

6.23 Benthall Iron Furnaces (BE 05604)

The Benthall Lane works were built in the 1770s, possibly by the land owner the Reverend Edward Harries, partnered by William Banks and John Onions who operated the works. Harries was Lord of the Manor from 1770 until 1812, and his involvement with John Wilkinson in the construction of the Iron Bridge and other entrepreneurial projects make it very possible that he was the initiator of the ironworks. However, he was not actually resident in Benthall, but a relative, Francis Harries occupied the manor and insured part of the works some years later.

By 1784 the works were manufacturing steam engines and employed some 700 men (Trinder 1981:40).

One furnace was in blast in 1796 producing 1334 tons per annum (Scrivenor 1967:95). In 1806 one furnace was in blast producing 1294 tons per annum (Williams index). In 1815 the two furnaces were operated by F.B. Harries & Co. Both furnaces were out of blast by 1823 (Trinder 1981:143), although it is possible that at least one was working later (Williams index). The ironworks are shown on Greenwood's map of 1827, with a reasonably detailed plan in 1835 (Hitchcock).

In 1784 John Rennie also observed a steam hammer in use. Just a year earlier, Wilkinson had perfected a method of driving a forging hammer with a rotative steam engine at Bradley, the first application of steam to forging iron (Dickinson 1914:25). At Benthall, however, it seems from Rennies description, that a variation in the gear for driving the axle holding the cams is under experimentation. A double rack was attached to the chain from the beam. This rack drove two wheels which turned the axis - one turning it on the upstroke, one on the down. A flywheel on the axle kept the motion constant, and enabled the hammer to be driven at a constant rate, lifting 16 inches at each stroke. This was somewhat less than the hammer at Bradley which lifted a hammer 2 feet high. Wilkinson's involvement with the boring mill at Benthall makes it almost certain that it was he who was involved in the design of the steam hammer.

The ironworks was situated half way up the Benthall valley on the east side of the road on a plot of land which has now been cleared (BE 056). Nothing of the works survives today, as the buildings were taken over by Maws in 1851, presumably heavily rebuilt, and demolished some time after 1881. Much black glassy slag and ironworking waste can be found around the site and lower down the Benthall valley.

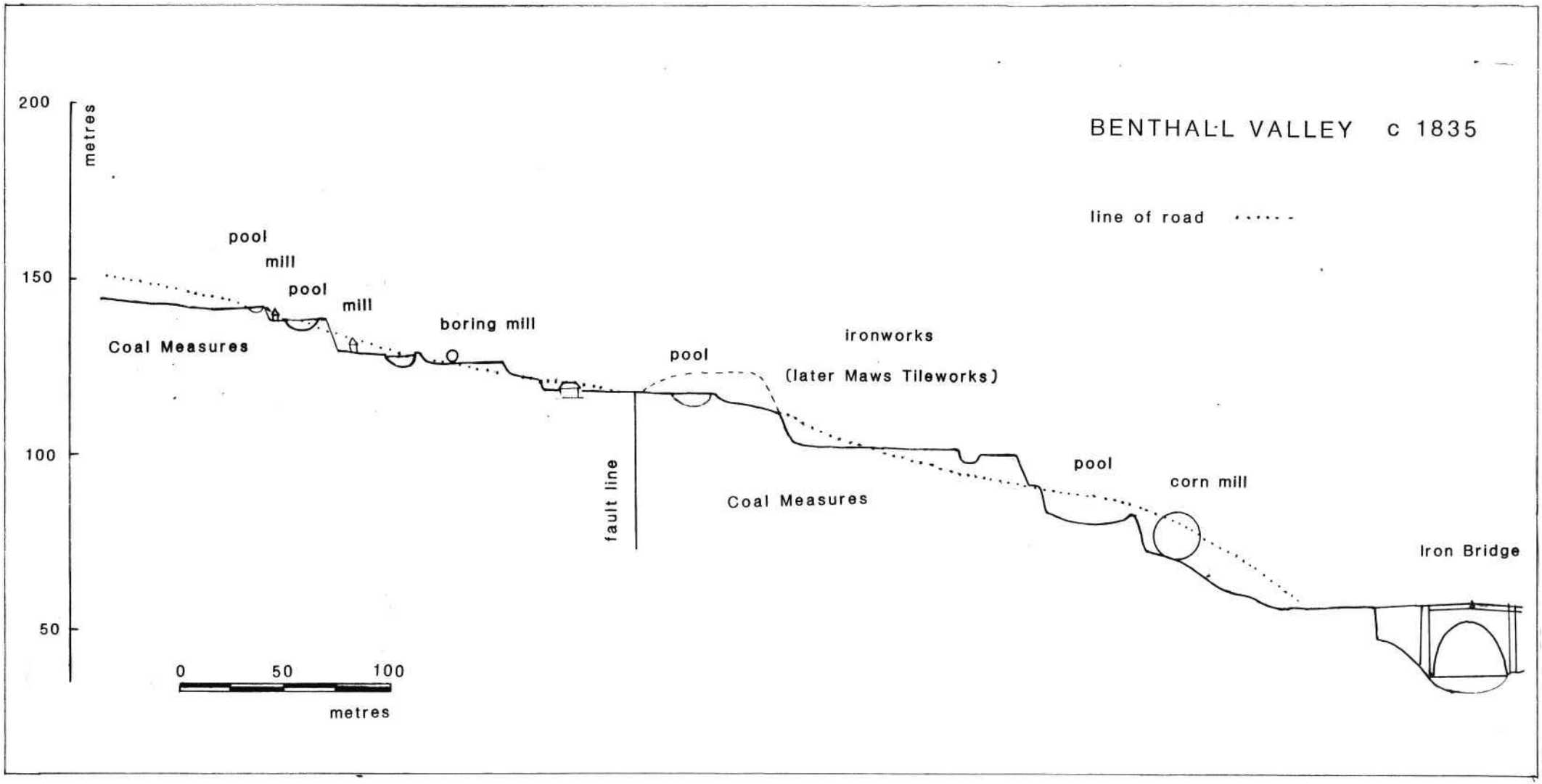
On later maps, the forge seems to have been located with the ironworks on the same site.

6.24 Boring Mill

In 1781 a water-powered boring mill of the type invented by John Wilkinson was constructed, presumably for the production of engine cylinders. By 1784 the works were producing rotative engines, and in 1789 the books were full for two years in advance (BE 11004, Trinder 1981:40,97)

Wilkinson's original boring machine, patented in 1774 was used for boring canon from solid, and involved the rotation of the object to be bored against a cutter. A revised version of the machine was used for the more accurate boring of cylinders, which had already been cast hollow. Here the cylinder was held rigid, and the cutter turned as it travelled along an axis. This produced truly circular cylinders, and was thought to have been in use in Bersham. The invention was instrumental in enabling Watt to patent his improved steam engine (Dickinson 1914:22).

Figure 16. Benthall Valley cross section showing water power system c. 1835. Elevation based on modern road heights.



The boring mill at Benthall seems to have been of the latter type. It was described by John Rennie in 1784 in some detail, and corresponds closeley to a model reconstructed from drawings held in the British Museum (David de Haan, pers. comm, Braid, forthcoming). A waterwheel powered the turning axis with the cutters, a weighted lever moved the cutters horizontally, and the cylinder was held in place by chains.

Rennie described the wheel as "about 14 feet diar & about 4 feet broad", with "buckets of cast iron & its water coming on at the Top & a small quantity drove the machine". Obviously there was a problem with water supply, and so the apparatus was designed so as to minimise power requirements, with a the lever providing additional power through gravity.

Francis Harries insured a "boring mill with smiths shop over it and charcoal house adjoining under one roof together" in 1807 (SRO) 4791/1/7 p 134), to which moulding shops had been added by 1814. It was still in operation in 1844. Today nothing remains of the boring mill site except a flat area of land, slightly cut out of the hillside. A modern bungalow has been built on the site (BE 110).

6.25 Foundry

Although iron was no longer smelted in Benthall, ironworking continued in the parish until the middle of the nineteenth century, probably until just before Maws bought the site of the ironworks in 1852. In 1844 Price and Hill operated an ironworking complex including pools, a foundry, offices, a machine house and a boring mill.

The foundry was located within the ironworks (Hitchcock 1835) and was operated from at least 1828 by Stephen Hill (Pigot 1828).

6.26 Associated ironworking activities

Francis Harries also insured in 1807 a "Blacksmiths shop with a room over and carpenter shop adjoining", and a "threshing mill shop, workmans house, two warehouses, a smiths shop with two fires and pattern makers shops over, also a building now erecting consisting of a smiths shop and carpenters workshop" (SRO 4794/1/7 p 133). These seem to all have been associated with the main operation of the ironworks. Much of this activity was probably taking place a little way up the valley, around the site of the boring mill just below the New Inn.

A machine shop of uncertain function is listed in the Tithe Apportionment of 1844.

6.27 Products

Pig iron for castings was being produced by the furnaces, sent to

Cookley and Wolverly in the late 1770s and to the Soho foundry in Smethwick between 1797 and 1781. Otherwise domestic wares were a more common product

By 1811 there must have been a fairly large foundry operation. A list of products of 1811, includes "ironmongery Goods, Palisades, Aquafortis Pots, Soap Boilers, and all kinds of Loam Castings, Pipes, Engine-Work, Machinery, Threshing-Mills, Rollers for Mills and all Forge Castings etc." Prices are given for all articles delivered to Bristol. Clearly the operation rivalled the Coalbrookdale company in the range and nature of its products (SRO 254.71).

6.3 Tar Ovens

Lord Dundonald built a series of coke ovens beside the ironworks in 1787 (Trinder 1981:40). He had patented a method for "Making tar, pitch essential oils, volatile alkalis, salts and cinders from pit coal " (GD 233.108), (the process is described by Plymley, quoted in Trinder 1977:38). The technique was employed at Newcastle, Rochester, Coalbrookdale and on the Dundonald estate at Culross, near Edinburgh.

The destructive distillation of coal in sealed vessels gives off gas and tar, and leaving a residue of coke. The tar was distilled, and heated to form pitch for naval and building purposes. The gases were used for oils for varnish, the volatile alkali for 'sal ammoniac' and the coke in the ironworks. Such products had been originally made from fir trees, and imported to Britain from Sweden and Russia, but when the northern European states raised their prices in 1703 Britain turned to America. Supplies from America had been cut off by the war, and there was at the end of the eighteenth century a demand for locally produced materials.

The works were very shortlived, although some tar must have been produced, as a fee was paid to the proprietors of the Bridge in order for tar to be taken down the road to the Severn and the Bridge itself was painted with one of his mixtures (Trinder 1981:55). Dundonald had great problems with family finances, and there is some indication that the cinders produced were of little use in ironworking (the Carron works would not use the cinders produced at his Culross works). The varnish was too brown and smelt too bad to be used in house painting, and it is possible that the northern European tar was cheaper to produce (figures quoted by Stuart)(Scot.RO MS 5372-80), although a mixture of Dundonald's was applied to the Iron Bridge. The works were demolished at least by 1799, and earlier if they were indeed used as a source of lead for works at Ketley in 1790 (Trinder 1981:40).

Local tradition suggests that the tar ovens were not by the works, but at the top of the valley.

6.4 Ropeworks

According to Arthur Young, who visited the parish in 1776, hemp was 'almost universally ' grown by farmers and cottagers who dressed and spun it before it was passed on to be woven into linen 'in the country', and a contemporary suggested that there were very few farmers "but what had a hemp patch.. the produce of which they spin and cause to be wove for the use of their families" (Green 1981). The probate inventory of Richard Benthall in 1720 shows that £5 worth of flax and hemp was stored at the Hall. Plymley describes small plots of land (called hempyards) attached to almost every cottage (Plymley 1803:177-8)

There was a short-lived ropewalk in the parish c. 1821 mentioned in the poor house accounts (VCH x:draft).

6.5 Corn Milling

There is a fourteenth century reference to "the mill poole of Benethalle" in the (SRO 1224/3/289), and there are two buildings adjacent to pools on Parson's map of c. 1620. In 1807 Harries insured a threshing mill, which may be the mill shown in 1835. A second small mill stood just above this, leased by Jones & Bathurst of Benthall potteries (BE 10605, BE 15701).

There is a complex of small pools associated with water power for threshing, and also for the boring mill of the ironworks (Figure 15, 16). The pools are located just adjacent to and below the New Inn, on the east side of the valley. Their small size, and the sluggishness of the Benthall Brook must have limited the quantity of water power available.

The Benthall Mill, built at the end of the eighteenth century, and famous for its 60 foot overshot wheel, is discussed in detail in Appendix Three.

CHAPTER SEVEN: BENTHALL - THE CHARACTER OF SETTLEMENT

7.0 Introduction

The parish of Benthall consists of at least four distinct settlement areas. One scattered along the road from Broseley to Much Wenlock, an area down the Benthall Valley, the group known as "The Mines" and Bower Yard by the river, which forms a separate community. The most striking feature about the parish is the absence of settlement around Benthall Hall; now a National Trust property, visitors may not even be aware of their proximity to an industrial area. Yet the grouping of country house, church and farm buildings suggests a traditional rural village.

Apart from the hall, most of the buildings in the parish are small cottages, usually built singly, and in haphazard relationship to the roads and to each other. There are a few exceptions - the Bailiff House, the Old Vicarage, Benthall House, and Hilltop Farm are all substantial houses (plot nos 9201, 20301, 19301, 15101) - but there is no sense of a well-stratified community.

This section explores the historical context of these surviving buildings, asking what kind of sample they constitute, and uses building as evidence for an understanding of the development of the area.

7.1 Historical Background

It is important to recognise that a conventional manorial structure underlies the history of the parish as an industrial settlement (see Chapter 2). All the land in the parish was in the ownership of the lord of the manor, until the 1920s when some of the housing stock was was sold off into private ownership.

Benthall Hall survives as the symbol of the estate, and gives some evidence for the nature of the settlement and its age. It appears to be a late sixteenth century house, and a documented date of 1583 (Pevsner 1974:72) confirms this. There is evidence for an earlier building on the site, associated with a pre-existing church. The present church was rebuilt in 1667, but there is evidence for a chapel here in 1221 with an earlier dedication (Eyton iii:278). A number of slip decorated and line impressed medieval tiles are found reset in the floor of the church. Additional tiles have been found in the garden of the hall, indicating that they are from destruction rubble for an earlier building and not brought from nearby Buildwas Abbey. In the Hall itself, the absence of true symmetry in a building style which is evidently intended to refer to the ideals of symmetry, may be confirming evidence for this.

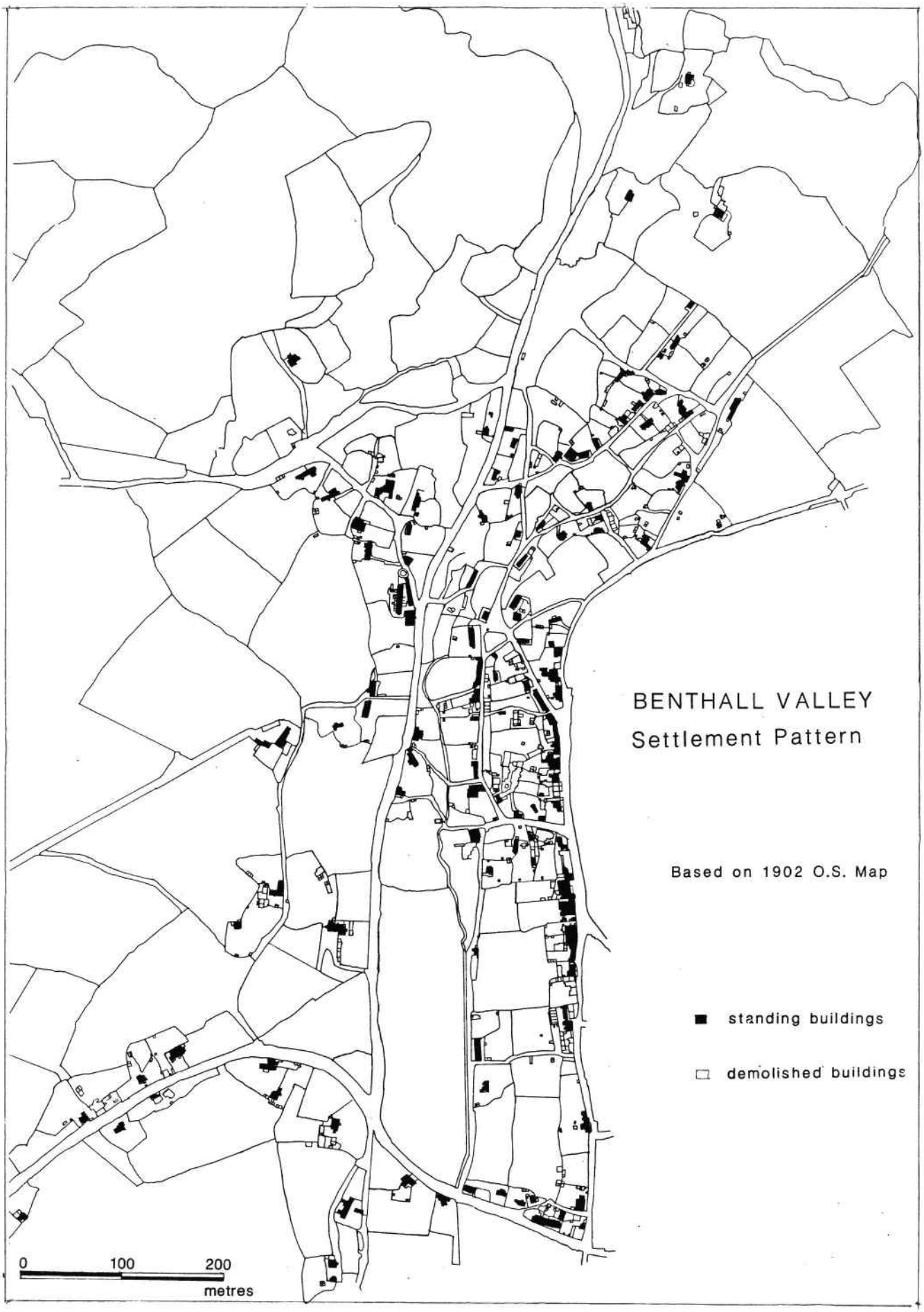


Figure 18. Benthall Valley Settlement Pattern

It is clear from the industrial background to the parish, that although there was some industrial activity in the medieval period, the main period of prosperity was the seventeenth century. The Lord of the Manor, Lawrence Benthall, actively developed the coal (and possibly clay) resources of the parish, and encouraged settlement. By the time of the sequestration of the manor in 1645, the collieries of the parish were at least as important as those of Broseley, though these had been developed earlier. Although ironworking and ceramic industries continued well into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Benthall was by then very much an adjunct to nearby Broseley, and never again achieved industrial pre-eminence.

Alongside the industrial development of the parish was a thriving agriculture. Much of the area had been enclosed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and there were a number of smaller farms along with the demesne. Arthur Young in 1776 noted that the cottagers kept pigs and cows and grew their own hemp, arable crops included corn, peas, beans and vetch, and cattle were generally preferred to sheep.

The pattern of land holding, at least in the nineteenth century, suggests that agriculture and industry should not be set up as opposite extremes of economic exploitation, since both land uses often fell within the same holding. A probate industry from Benthall Hall in 1720 shows that Richard Benthall, alongside a substantial agricultural concern, had also a brick clamp, ironstone, coal, and pipe makers clay. In the nineteenth century, some industrialists were also holding farming land - for example Price and Hill who operated the ironworks and the lime kilns also leased arable land.

7.2 Location and Development of settlement

Local tradition records that the early settlement of the parish was around the hall, and that this village was destroyed during a civil war skirmish (Sir Paul Benthall, pers. comm.). Although it may be that the hall was attacked in 1645, it seems much more likely that any medieval settlement was gradually abandoned as the industrial resources of the parish came to be more rigorously exploited. To the north west of the hall are traces of ridge and furrow cultivation, and what may prove to be house platforms, and earliest buildings elsewhere do not seem earlier than the early seventeenth century. If there was a gradual shift in the location of the settlement, following the development of industry it seems likely that this took place in the seventeenth century. Documentary evidence also suggests that the development of an industrial settlement was taking place in the early seventeenth century, but this will be discussed in detail below.

7.21 Population

Although knowledge of population figures cannot help identify the

location of settlement, it gives an important context for an understanding of the nature and extent of settlement and its development in the area. In 1542, 11 men were mustered from Barrow and Posenhall. Wanklyn considered that the population of the parish was c.80 in 1570. In the 1642 Protestation return, there were 84 men listed in the parish of Benthall. In 1672, 29 households were eligible to pay the Hearth Tax, and in 1676, the religious census recorded 241 adults (Wanklyn:1982, VCH x: draft).

Use of these early figures demands caution in so far as they are not strictly compatible records. What proportion of adult men were included in the muster of 1542, and what is the relation between numbers of adult men and numbers of households in the early seventeenth century? How many households were too poor to have to pay tax in 1672? These demographic issues need more discussion than is appropriate here, but the statistics do at least begin to suggest that during the seventeenth century, there was a substantial increase in the population of the parish. This is consistent with the apparent increase in the area of settlement at about this time, and with documentary evidence which suggests migration into the parish (see below).

In 1700, the population was greater than 500, and in 1801, it was 600 (Wanklyn 1982). The census returns record a fall in the population during the nineteenth century, which continued until it stabilised at about 320 in the 1930's:

1801 636	1821 554	1851 530
1871 446	1901 387	

This declining population is also reflected in the building history, but this will be examined in detail later.

7.3 Phases in the Development of Settlement

Evidence from buildings confirms the general pattern of an earlier settlement in the vicinity of the hall, superceded by new areas of settlement in the seventeenth century. The scattered settlement pattern along the periphery of the parish certainly suggests that this is not a primary settlement area, and this may support the traditional account of its origins. Dating evidence for these buildings will be reviewed below, but none seem earlier than the mid-seventeenth century.

But the surviving buildings cannot be interpreted without an awareness of their context within the historic settlement as a whole. In order to do this it is necessary to establish the extent to which they are representative of the original settlement, and what kind of sample they consititute.

7.31 Evidence from field work

Field work suggests certain characteristics of the settlement: the buildings are arranged haphazardly with no coherent planned relationship, and there are at least four distinct settlement areas.

Settlement along Wenlock Road

Some development is concentrated along the road between Broseley and Much Wenlock. Map evidence shows that this area may have formerly been more densley built up than it now is, and study of maps post-dating the Tithe Map shows that the land along the roadside was divided into small plots, even where there are now no buildings (see plot nos 186, 195, 184, for example). This may imply that there were dwellings here at some earlier date. The road was established by the middle ages (VCH x:draft). This area was known as Benthall Marsh and it was referred to in a legal dispute of the 1630's relating to new settlement (see below). Today, many of the buildings along this road have been rebuilt, but those which survive in anything like their original form are uniformly small cottages, of brick or stone (eg plot nos 18301 and 19801). The relationship between the small plots for building and the larger field pattern suggests that both fields and road predate settlement, which has taken place in land taken out of the fields and bordering the road.

Settlement down Benthall Brook Road

Buildings along this route are also dispersed in small plots. The road was already an important route by 1630 (VCH x:draft), and some of the houses that are more or less oriented towards this route appear to be among the earliest of the parish. The plot formation again suggests that settlement occurred as the result of taking land out of fields, at least between the Wenlock Road and the Mines, but some of this land has also been used for clay mining. In the Gorge, it is unusual for housing land use to compete with agriculture, and it would be interesting to relate the phases of industrial exploitation here with the use of land for building (see for example plot nos 154, 155).

The Mines

What survives in this area seems to be only a proportion of the buildings that were here in the eighteenth century. The random grouping of the buildings, which are not laid out with any reference to the road pattern, seem to have called into existence a network of roads and paths to connect them. The whole settlement clearly respects, and does not encroach upon, the outcrop of coal to the south west. Study of the plot formation in this area suggests that rather than taking in land along roadsides from the fields, it was indeed marginal land; there is

less apparent reference to earlier field boundaries. It is likely that the origins of the settlement was contemporary with the exploitation of the nearby coal seam.

The present buildings in this area are as a rule larger and appear to be better built than those along the Wenlock Road. Some of them also seem to be among the earliest buildings in the parish.

Bower Yard

The area along the river may be considered as a separate community with a coherent and distinct economic base of its own, related to river trade and the crafts that accompanied it. The settlement is oriented to the river, but was formerly more concentrated than it is now, with a dense area of settlement to the west which was lost in construction of the railway. Surviving buildings are therefore only a small part of the original extent of the settlement here and may not be representative, but the few that are early, are substantially built and of larger dimensions than those along the Wenlock Road (eg plot nos 3601, 5001). There are also a number of late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century small terraces. Pictorial evidence suggests that there were a number of quite substantial houses, as well as a sizeable settlement of early cottages that appear to have predated the Iron Bridge.

7.32 Evidence From Maps

These concentrations of surviving settlement must be compared with the evidence that maps give for the former location and density of settlement, if the surviving buildings are to be understood in the context of the historic settlement as a whole.

For the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, there are a number of county maps, which, while their scale is too small to document individual buildings with any precision, are useful for suggesting the general location and density of the settlement

J. Rocque's Map, 1752 (Photograph of original, 3656).

This map gives prominence to Bower Yard. It records a scatter of settlement along the Broseley-Wenlock Road, but omits any settlement in the Benthall Valley or at The Mines. This is puzzling in the light of field evidence which suggests that many of the buildings in this area are of seventeeth century or early eighteenth century date, and it may be that the map records the relative importance of areas of settlement, rather than their strict location. If this is so, it is worth noting that the areas it chooses to call into prominence are Bower Yard and the Wenlock Road.

Baugh's Map 1808

This map is similar to Rocque's, in that it gives schematic rather than literal evidence for the location of settlement. It suggests that there was a cluster of building along the Wenlock Road and at Bower Yard.

Ordnance Survey Drawing, 1814 (British Library OSD 213)

This map is considerably more detailed than Rocque's map. It shows settlement along the Wenlock Road, denser than that shown on the earlier maps, and more or less continuous along the route through the Benthall Valley. It records the clustering of housing at The Mines, and suggests that this development away from the road, was continued north of Spout Lane. The scale of this map is too small for it to provide a reliable record of numbers of dwellings, but it does suggest that the overall size of the settlement in this area was greater then than in subsequent mappings; the Tithe Map records only three houses in this area (plot nos 61, 59, 100).

Greenwood's map 1827 (IGMT Library)

This map confirms the general distribution of settlement shown on the early Ordnance Survey drawing though in rather less detail. He indicates a road leading west from part way up Bridge Bank, not shown by other map makers, although it is worth noting that Greenwood tends to be relatively inaccurate (eg. the mis-location of Lincoln Hill in Ironbridge),

Benthall Tithe Map 1844

This is the earliest large scale map of the parish, and a comparison with the Ordnance Survey drawing seems to suggest that by the time this survey was done, part of the settlement north of Spout Lane had already disappeared, since the Tithe Map records only a few houses in this area. It gives a precise indication of the previous extent of settlement along Bower Yard, and shows that elsewhere, the present distribution of settlement though not its overall extent, is close to that of the early nineteenth century.

If the first two editions of the Ordnance Survey (1883 and 1902) are also taken into account,and compared with these earlier maps, they suggest that some buildings were lost or replaced in the latter part of the nineteenth century. In particular, the overall size of the settlement at Bower Yard was much reduced by the building of the railway.

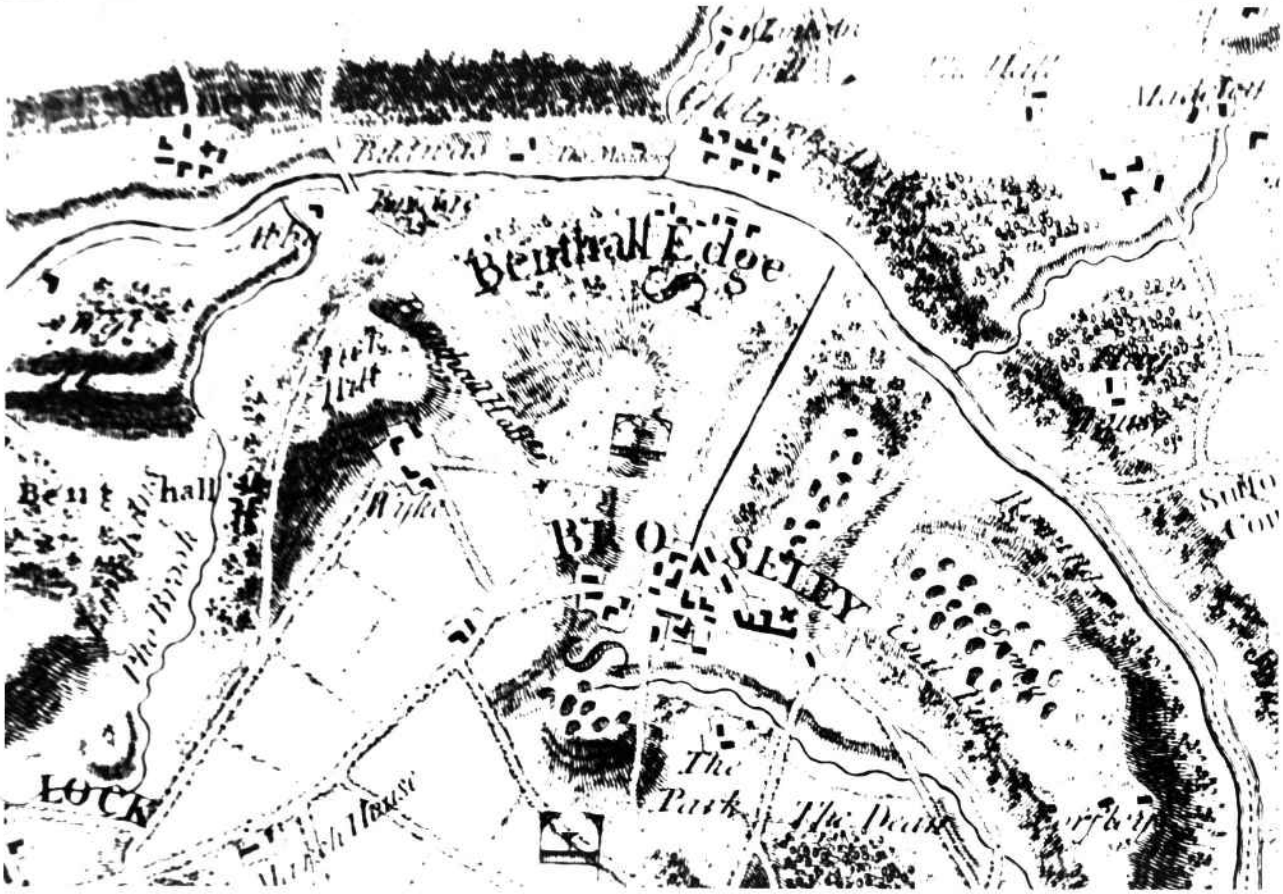
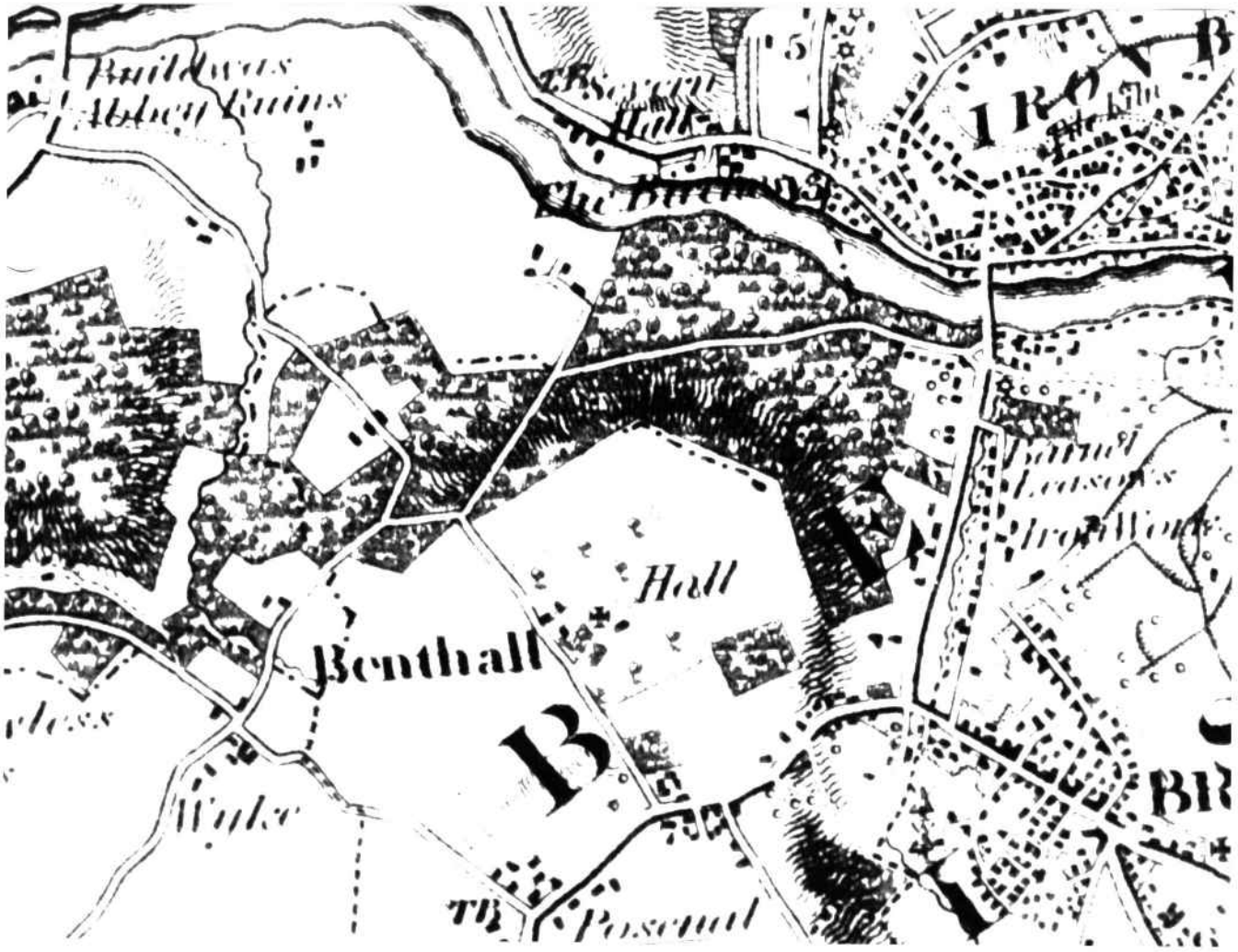


Figure 19. Parts of maps by Rocque 1752 and Greenwood 1827 showing the area of Benthall parish.



7.33 Conclusions

For Benthall, as perhaps for no other part of the Gorge, maps provide important negative, rather than positive evidence. They cannot be used for assessing the origins of settlement, since the general distrbution had already been established by the beginning of the eighteenth century when the first surviving map was made. Neither do they give much evidence for the phasing of development. What detailed study of maps does provide, however, is evidence for substantial numbers of buidings that no longer survive. In particular, the Ordnance Survey drawings of 1814 show a built up area which had already disappeared by the time that the Tithe Map was made in 1844. The buildings that now line this part of Bridge Road are almost without exception apparently early twentieth century, built on an area used as an encaustic tile works in the later nineteenth century. On Bower Yard a settlement that appears to have been relatively dense by the mid eighteenth century, was greatly reduced in size presumably when the railway was built in the 1860's. That this did not occasion new building on any scale to replace what was lost, suggests the poverty of the area by that time. Map evidence also shows that the settlement was not added to on any significant scale after the eighteenth century. It was only in the twentieth century that new building modified the earlier distribution of settlement.

Map evidence shows that the extent if not the distribution of building has changed since the late eighteenth century. Surviving buildings are only a proportion of the original extent of settlement, and their relationship with this earlier totality needs careful assessment.

7.4 Building Dates

It has been established that there is evidence for important settlement in Benthall since at least the seventeenth century, though its precise extent is not known. How many of the buildings that survive belong to the first period of building on the periphery of the parish? How does this relate to the character of the different areas of settlement?

7.41 General Problems in Dating

Study of the buildings suggests that there are certain difficulties in arriving at building dates.

Structural Evidence

Many of the buildings in the area are made of mixed materials; either brick with some use of stone, or stone with some use of timber. Superficial study is not always enough to determine the relationship of the different materials. Is the stone that exists

in a brick building a survival from an earlier building or merely in use as footings or in combination, referring to but not necessarily part of an earlier building tradition?

42 and 43 Bridge Road (plot no 155) are built of rubble to ceiling height, and during restoration work, a stone gable was uncovered in an internal wall. The use of brick here is clearly a later alteration associated with increasing the height and extending the overall length of the building.

11 Benthall Lane was demolished in 1984, but was recorded by Jonathan Rowe in 1983, and the site was then excavated by the IGMT archaeology team. The cottage was built of brick and stone, and the stone walling was shown by excavation to continue as foundations underneath areas that were built of brick. It seemed likely that the cottage was rebuilt in brick, probably in the eighteenth century, though there is no conclusive dating evidence.

Alternatively, at Hungerdale Farm, stone has been used for the construction of farm outbuildings which post date the brick construction of the main cottage.

In other dwellings, the exact relationship of stone to brick is less easy to determine, for example where there are stone footings, or a single wall of stone. In other areas of the gorge, evidence suggests that it was not uncommon to build in mixed materials especially where housing was built against an earth bank, but in this area, where in many cases the buildings are not built into a slope, the use of stone may well be evidence of an earlier phase of building. Stone is known to have been used as an early building material in the examples discussed (plot nos 3601, 5001, 18301, 19701, 19801, 10201).

The use of timber with stone, which occurs several times within the area, is a construction technique parallelled elsewhere (J.T. Smith, pers. comm.), suggesting integrated construction.

Only in one example, a now demolished building on Bower Yard, is there any evidence for stone replacing timber. Although there are difficulties with reading the evidence of the photograph to interpret the relationship of the two materials, it does seem to suggest that it was a timber framed cottage subsequently extended in stone (plot no 42; 1986.11909).

A Sequence of Use of Building Materials?

Stone, timber and brick are all found in housing across the parish. In other areas, it may be assumed that this would represent a chronology of building, but making this assumption in this area is problematic, because the origins of building work seem to have been very variable, and all three materials were readily available locally. The evidence for these various origins of building work will be reviewed below, but it is at

least possible that the use of different materials reflects the means of the builder/commissioner rather than an absolute development.

Brick was being manufactured in the area at least on a small scale since the early seventeenth century, and Lawrence Benthall was promoting the manufacture of bricks at Benthall Marsh in 1635 (VCH x:draft). Brick clay would have been readily availabe as a by-product of mining. It is not known of course, what markets these locally produced bricks would have reached, but it seems likely that they would have had local use. However, the first brick buildings would appear to be late seventeenth century (Old Vicarage, c.1700, Raddle Hall, Broseley, 1663), although Benthall Hall is apparently brick lined. All these buildings suggest a degree of affluence absent in the cottages that form the greater part of the settlement.

Sandstone was a readily available local material, although local limestone does not seem to have been suitable for fine building work. Timber, of course, was an important local product (see 2.2). Although all these materials may have been available on a very small scale as much as by organised industrial provision - small clamps of bricks for example could have been fired on a casual basis relatively easily in an area where suitable clay was readily to hand - the use of brick does however also seem to be associated with larger scale building and production. The parallel study of Broseley Wood shows that the building of large numbers of cottages for industrial workers was carried out in brick from the early eighteenth century.

The social history of building

The variable origins of building work - who commisioned and who paid for building - must be introduced as a factor in assessing the character of the building. Vernacular architectural theory maintains that there is a diffusion of architectural design from the greater to the lesser kinds of building over time, and while this may suggest a model which leaves out the actual conditions of building and the specific relationships of making and use which underpin it, it does at least introduce a warning about taking dating evidence from one building and using it on another of a different type. It is important to give recognition to the economy of building, and qualify dating by the likely means available at the time.

If Benthall was developed through a process similar to squatting, it is particularly important to be cautious. The rubble built squatter cottage that is now at Blists Hill, for example, was not built until some time in the nineteenth century. Development of this kind will closely reflect a kind of subsistence economy of means, and this may introduce considerable variation into the choice and use of materials. The same caution needs to be applied in using other building features as dating evidence, such as plan forms. The dating of buildings in this report is based on

comparative study, and is intended to lay down only rough guide-lines.

In itself, abstracted from the context of construction and the whole form of the building, plan form is not a reliable guide to dating. Certain features may give very general guide-lines: the use of corner fire-places for example, which occurs in a few houses, can be attributed to the late seventeenth century or early eighteenth century, by analogy with other local building. Sectional form may be more important than plan. The absence of a full second storey is likely to be evidence of a date before the later eighteenth century, at least in brick or stone cottage construction. In timber buildings, the existence of an original second floor at all suggests a seventeenth century date.

General problems in dating: conclusions

As a general hypothesis for dating the phases of building in this area, it is suggested that timber and stone, which may have been in use at more or less the same time in the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, were both superceded as a major building material by brick during the eighteenth century, as both production of bricks, and the demand for labourers houses, increased. It is assumed that brick did not come into general use for cottage building until the early part of the eighteenth century.

Timber is not a material associated with industrial house building, nor particularly, with poor building, if only because of the necessary skill in carpentry which is involved. Stone as a building material is capable of a wider spectrum of use, reflected in the range of quality of construction the buildings of Benthall evidence. In assessing individual examples, it is important to distinguish between those elements of a building tradition which may be dateable by virtue of their use of building practices of the day, which connote, that is, some element of architecture, and those which are more makeshift, more vernacular or rudimentary.

It may be useful to introduce a distinction between vernacular and industrial housing, and to suggest that what characterises industrial building is its use of a more exact model, reflecting the requirement to build in greater numbers. The organisation of building, by speculation or small scale commission, which led to the building of houses in pairs or groups, may also be a characteristic of specifically industrial house building, and both these features became aspects of an industrial aesthetic. In this area, while precise dating may be difficult, it is possible to distinguish between a pre-industrial housing form and an industrial cottage, and it is this change in major housing type and the subsequent development of an industrial housing form, which is important in the study of this area.

7.42 Dating: The First Phase

In spite of the caveats given earlier, it seems fair to suggest that the use of timber in building is likely to be a seventeenth century technique, though it may have carried over into the eighteenth century. This can be suggested by analogy with timber building elsewhere in the county. The timber buildings that either survive or are documented in Benthall are relatively well built with timber of good scantling, and quite large (plot nos 5001, 11204, 4201). Of course, it may be that other, less well built timber dwellings are among those houses that have not survived, but those that survive are of a quality that does not suggest mass building in industrial development, nor building for a relatively poor class of occupier. Furthermore, these buildings have a sophisticaton in their use of timber that does not suggest the late application of a more or less outdated building technique. Building methods that require their own skills will not linger at the lower levels in a social hierarchy of building when there are cheaper and more rudimentay methods of construction then available. The particular history of this area, which grew up as an industrial settlement makes it unlikely that construction techniques which were not adapted to building cheaply and on a relatively large scale, would have survived. There is however, no direct dating evidence for timber building.

Stone building may also be a seventeenth-eighteenth century construction. Unlike timber building, it is more likely to be suitable for building on a larger scale and relatively cheaply though of course expense depends on standards of technique and these vary within the area from well coursed and squared ashlar to random rubble. There is also a technique that employs timber framing over stone, to form the roof structure and gables (see plot no 10901 and 15401).

Benthall Hall, built at the end of the sixteenth century, uses sandstone as ashlar facing over brick, and it is likely that this stone was in fact quarried locally.

There are two dated stone buildings. One of these, The Bailiff House (plot no 92), dated 1672, is built of well coursed stone and formerly had exposed timber gable ends. It is a substantial house, possibly that of Hartshorne in the Hearth Tax,which was recorded as having 6 hearths. Inside, the partition wall between front unit and rear wing is timber framed, but it seems likely that this was just the technique used for construction of an internal wall. This, with the use of timber for the gable ends suggests that there was a familiarity with mixed construction techniques at this date. Because this house is larger and more substantial than many others in the area, its use of this technique is relatively sophisticated, and the stone is well coursed and squared. It is suggested that the other buildings in the area that use this technique are also likely to be late seventeenth century (see for example 49 The Mines, BE 10901).

There is another dated building on Bower Yard (BE 036). This

house is dated 1642, and is partly built of stone but extended and refronted in brick. The datestone does not appear to be in existence in a photograph of the house taken c.1950, which suggests that it is not authentic.

Another house on The Mines (BE 114) incorporates two late seventeenth century date-stones, though the house itself is probably late eighteenth- early nineteenth century, with small fragments of an earlier building possible in the existence of one partial rubble wall in what is now a small extension to the main house. Assuming that these dates stones came from the earlier building on the site, they do suggest that stone was in use as a building material in the seventeenth century.

The c1700 phase map has been drawn up to show buildings that are wholly or partly of timber or stone. Some of these may have only fragmentary remains of these construction techniques, but are included as possible rconstructions of earlier buildings.

7.43 Dating: A Second Phase

Although there seem to be few houses that survive from the seventeenth century, there are rather more from the eighteenth century, suggesting that this was in fact a major period of building in the parish. There are a number of small cottages with plans of no more than two rooms which may be related directly to those recorded in the probate records (plot nos 19801, 18301, 16201). But many of the houses that are left have been enlarged or changed since then, so that, although surviving houses may incorporate recognisable elements of seventeenth or eighteenth century houses, they also reflect later changes to a high degree. It would be risky to suggest that this can be used as evidence for the poverty of the first phases of building without qualification, but when this is put alongside the documentary evidence, it does begin to suggest that the earlier building included a high proportion of very small houses, few of which survive. It is suggested that this is part of the development of an industrial housing form.

These buildings are brick built cottages which have one and a half storeys, and a one or two roomed plan and they are probably early-mid eighteenth century. During this period, a number of earlier cottages may have been rebuilt, since several of these small brick cottages incorporate substantial fragments of stonework which may be taken as evidence of an earlier construction. It is this type of brick cottage which is the precursor of an industrial housing type, and the model which was adopted for example in Tea Kettle Row in Coalbrookdale. The housing of Broseley Wood will demontrate the phases in its development from the more rudimentary detached cottage of Benthall.

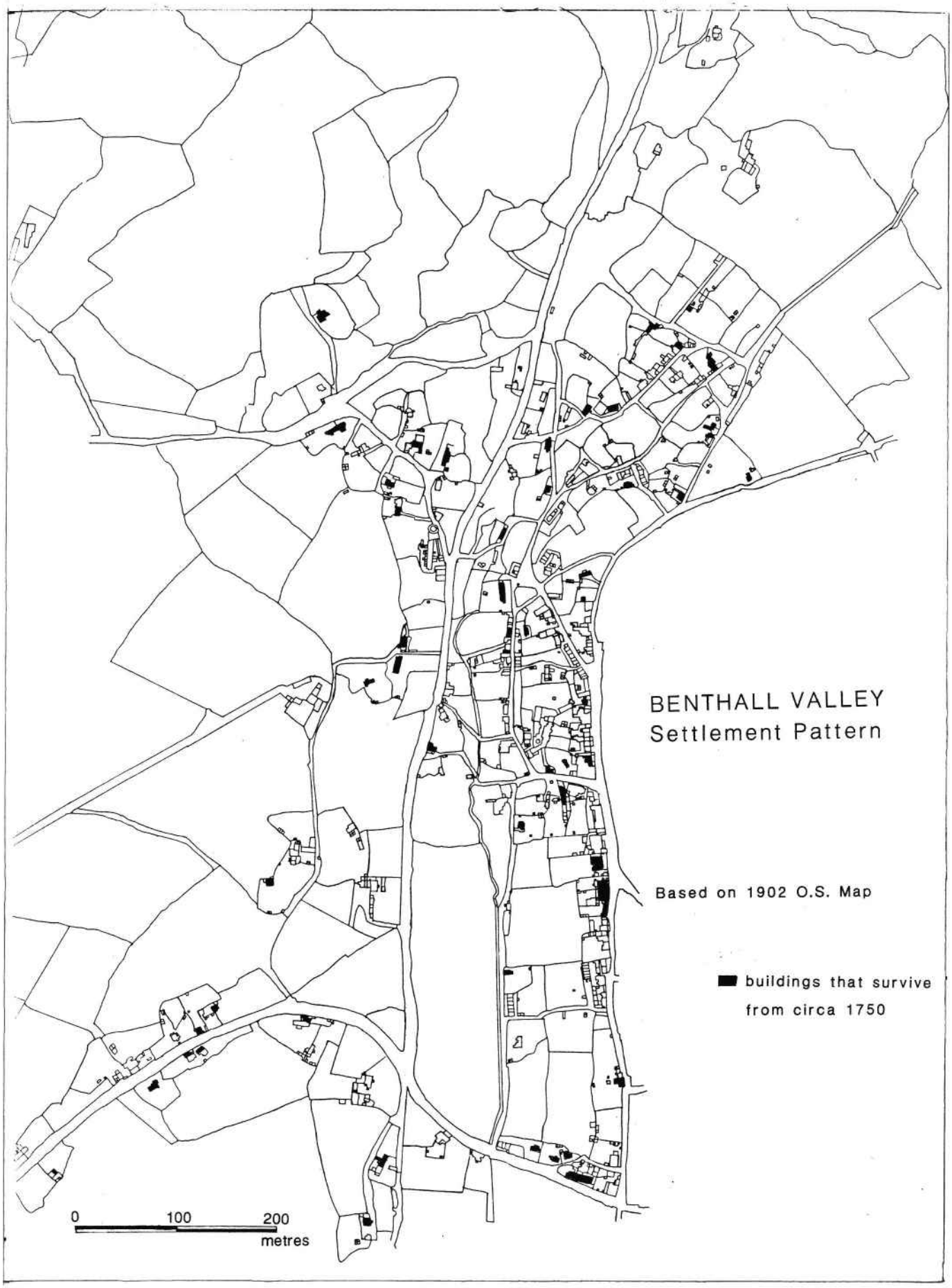


Figure 20. Benthall Valley - buildings surviving from c.1750.

Given that these cottages are very small and poorly built, it is worth asking why the stone cottages were rebuilt, to be replaced by something which cannot have been much better. The brick cottages represent a housing type as a model of practice, and the beginnings of a standardisation of construction. The fact that they are brick built, suggests that they are the result of some more formal building process. Brick, especially where bonded, is not a material for self-building, but implies a degree of expense both in manufacture, and also in assembly. Inside, some have chamfered timbers with ornate stops of a kind also found in buildings of a much higher quality (BE 17802, 18301). It is possible that these cottages are the result of provision by the land owner or industrial entrepreneur, and they at least suggest a level of income consistent with industrial work. They represent the development of a type of building that may be related to the industrialisation of the area, though it is important to note that in Benthall (as indeed in the greater part of Broseley Wood), these cottages are built in relative isolation, and not grouped as terraces.

The change from stone to brick, and the rebuilding of those seventeenth century cottages which are known to have existed but which do not survive, can be understood as a change in the organisation of building practice, and possibly that shift from impermanent to permanent building which is a tenet of vernacular theory. In this case, this change can be interpreted as the development of an industrial housing form, and changes in the economic organisation of building work. It may also represent an improvement of living standards, but so little is known either about the earlier phase of building here or about the equivalent houses of the rural poor, that this must remain as speculation.

7.44 Later Building

There appears to have been little new building in the latter part of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, to judge by what survives. There are small numbers of cottage groups, and terraces, and some evidence of rebuilding, but on a small scale, representing individual improvements or land development rather than a sizeable new phase of building (egBE 11801, 15502, 16201). It is noteable that in most cases, the terraces seem to be the result of extending or rebuilding existing dwellings rather than completely new building, which suggests some process of change in the nature of housing organisation.

The building of small terraces or pairs of houses suggests either formal provision by small scale speculation or by the land owner, or the exploitation of family property as income. There is some evidence to suggest that some of the larger earlier dwellings were subdivided at about this time, which may be connected with family formation or the development of property as investment. In at least one case, 49 The Mines, local tradition recalls that in more recent history, the two cottages were inhabited by different generations of the same family.

Belonging to the same period of building are a number of small detached houses of two unit plan. Unfortunately nothing is known about their origins, or their social status, but they suggest some sort of stratification when considered alongside the smaller terraced houses (BE 10802, 11203). But it must be emphasised that the buildings of Benthall do not exhibit the degree of stratification which would be expected in a self-contained industrial community, and that the parish must therefore be considered as an outlying settlement, perhaps of Broseley.

In the later nineteenth century, in spite of the continued existence of industry in the area, there was very little new building, and few changes made to older ones. This period seems to have been characterised as much by the destruction of existing buildings as the building of new ones. This was a process which started in the earlier part of the century, to judge by a comparative study of maps, but it was escalated by the building of the railway, which accounted for the demolition of at least sixteen houses on Bower Yard for example. They were not replaced. This history is consistent with the steady decline in the population of the parish during the nineteenth century.

7.45 The twentieth century: The Rise of Suburbia and the Development of the Bungalow

With the accelerated decline in industry Benthall seems to have become a place of retreat. Twentieth century development is characterised by the building of a number of bungalows and other small detached houses which continue the unplanned and relatively random distribution of building in the area (eg BE 031,056,086,088 and 099). That these are in the tradition of Dunroamin is emphasised by their names, of which Ittldo and Halcyon are perhaps the best examples.

Several phases in the development of the area in the twentieth century can be identified, with new building in the thirties and fifties. It is sugested that the earlier phases relate on the one hand to the evacuation of industry from the area, and the continued expansion of family property on the other (BE 17101, 17201, 15301, 11001). There has also been some building on a larger scale, the Bentlands Estate, and the building of the Local Authority Housing. These developments have modified the density of settlement in the area (BE 14101, 17901, 21501).

Recent building has again been piecemeal and private. This new building replaces existing housing rather than extends the total number of dwellings, presumably as the result of planning control on settlement size (BE 106, 216). Alongside this, extensive alterations and work on older buildings needs to be considered, and there are now several conservation projects underway in the parish. Both these aspects of more recent building appear to be associated with incomers to the area (BE 10901, 15502).

CHAPTER EIGHT: BENTHALL - BUILDING TYPES

8.0 Introduction

Buildings have been studied for the evidence they give in dating the development of settlement in Benthall. It is now important to consider how these buildings can be classified, and what information this provides for the nature and process of development.

8.1 The First Phase of settlement

Timber framed cottages

Only two timber framed dwellings survive, though at least two others are known through pictorial evidence (1976.110, 1986.11909). The surviving cottages are built of substantial timbers, framed in square panels and with queen post or strut roof construction. They have a characteristic square plan form, of two units. One of these houses has a wide dormer gable which is a feature which is also found in some of the stone cottages, and in other local timbered houses, such as Yew Tree Cottage, Coalbrookdale. It may not, however be an original feature. Large detached chimneys are also characteristic. These features also seem to be present in the illustrated cottages that do not survive, though one of these, on plot no 42 seems to have been a rather flimsier construction, with, for example, a shallow pitched roof (see plot nos 112, 5001, 4201, 2801).

Stone Built Cottages

There is a small group of houses built of stone, sometimes in combination with timber, with a substantial two-unit plan. The method of construction varies from rough rubble to squared and coursed stone, but in either case, the houses are well built, and the detailing suggests a coherent building tradition. Internal beams are sometimes chamfered with ornate stops, for example, and where there are timbered gables, the timbering is of a substantial quality and with a technique similar to that of the timber framed cottages. The detached chimney is again characteristic (BE 10901, 15401, 15001, 9201).

There are in addition a number of rough rubble built cottages, which do not appear to be either as large or as well built as the first group. Most are fragmentary survivals, existing as parts of cottages later rebuilt in brick, but there are two cottages which, while heavily restored and much altered may give some indication as to the nature ot the type. It may be however, that even these were of a higher quality than the rudimentary fragments. In at least two cases, the cottage that has replaced the stone house is a small brick building, small in plan, and with only a single storey. It seems possible that these rubble

houses were very small and mean, and this may explain their poor survival rate (BE 18301, 19801, 16202, 14403, 14801).

It is possible to suggest, then, that of the early buildings which survive in some form or another, there are at least two distinct types, representing some kind of social hierarchy. It is also noteable that there is a high proportion of the poorer houses surviving along the Wenlock Road, though the higher numbers of vanished buildings in other areas makes it difficult to attach too much significance to this.

8.12 Historical background to the first phase

Because in Benthall, unlike those other parts of the Gorge so far sudied, settlement decreased rather than increased during the period for which there is map evidence, it is important to try to establish whether what survives is a representative sample.

It is a truism of vernacular architecture that it is only the better quality buildings that are likely to survive, and that this phenomenon of differential survival is likely to be the more acute the older the buildings are. This hypothesis can be checked by reference to other sources. There are two principal sources which provide some information about building in the area in the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth century, the Hearth Tax of 1672 and the series of probate inventories which cover the period between 1675 and 1762.

The Hearth Tax

The Hearth Tax was first imposed in 1662 and was abolished in 1689. It was a form of property tax which used number of hearths as an index to size of house and hence an approximate guide to wealth of occupier. It was a tax on the occupiers of property rather than owners. It can be used by the historian of houses as a rough guide to the sorts of house likely to be found in an area, and the distribution of types, but needs to be used with a certain ammount of caution because it is not necessarily a comprehensive list. Paupers were exempted from payment, but unfortunately, although a list of paupers discharged is given with the Shropshire return of 1672 (which is the only one to survive), this is for the whole of the Franchise of Wenlock, rather than a parish by parish list. This means that figures available for Benthall Parish may not actually be a record of every single house, but only of those affluent enough to pay. It is not known how the definition of "pauper" was arrived at.

The Shropshire Hearth Tax Return of 1672: Benthall (Shropshire Archaeological and Parish Register Society, 1949, 33)

Name	Hearths	Name	Hearths
Phillip Benthall	18	John Jones	3

Joseph Reynolds	2	Thomas Marsh	2
Morris Hartshorne	2	John Machyn	2
John Cooper	2	Francis Arnshaw	2
George Hartshorne	2	John Hager	2
Thomas Syner	2	Wm Hayne	1
Robert Crunnage	2	Oliver Easthope	1
Thos. Hartshorne	6	Thomas Easthope	1
John Hartshorne	3	John Brooke	2
Wm Rutter	4	Edward Dawley	2
John Wooton	1	Ralph Bradley	1
Rd. Smith	4	Widdowe Turner	3
Geo. Hartshorne	3	Naboth Dawley	3
John Cullas	2	Widowe Lloyd	1

Out of 29 houses listed, then, 20 have 1 or 2 hearths only, which suggests a high proportion of very small dwellings. The spread of house types suggested by these figures shows a cluster of small houses and very few intermediate or larger houses. By comparison with Broseley, which, out of 92 houses listed had 10 with more than 5 hearths, Benthall seems to have a relatively high proportion of small dwellings.

How many of these 29 houses survive? The first phase map shows suggested seventeenth century houses, but there are very few of these that survive in anything like an original form. The house with 18 hearths is obviously Benthall Hall, that with 6 probably the present Bailiff House (BE 9201) which was built or rebuilt in the same year that the tax was made. Of the other buildings, only the timber framed house on The Mines, possibly the two stone houses nearby and two houses on Bower Yard now exist in anything like their original form (BE 11204, 10901, 15401, 5003). The survival rate of small dwellings is therefore poor, as might be expected as standards of living, and the means to make improvements have modified housing needs.

However, the number of hearths, while it may give some indication of the status of the house and therefore of its occupier, is not necessarily a reliable guide to the nature of the house itself, and it should not be thought that a single hearth house is necessarily a hovel. The stone house on The Mines and the timber framed cottage nearby could both have been built with only a single hearth, and the timbered house at least is a relatively large and well built structure (BE 10901, 11201). The existence of only one hearth does not necessarily suggest the existence of only one room. It is the poor survival rate of housing from this period as much as the number of hearths that suggests that there may have been a higher number of poor dwellings which have since been demolished or rebuilt.

Probate Inventories

These have been studied in a sequence from the late seventeenth century (earliest example, 1675) to the later eighteenth (last

example, 1762). They represent a record of property, usually moveable wealth, made in the proving of a will. They do not often give direct evidence of property ownership, since they are not concerned with real estate, and wills, which might detail inheritence arrangements, have not been studied. What probate records can do however, is give detail on the arrangement of houses. The best records made an inventory of all goods in the house presented as a room by room survey. Others fail to mention particular rooms, though it is sometimes possible to reconstruct the kind of house by studying the kinds of goods listed. For example, fire irons are sometimes listed, which may give evidence similar to that derived from the hearth tax.

The difficulty with using probates is that it is not possible to assess how representative a sample they constitute. What kinds of people had these inventories made? It is usually the case that they mainly record wealthier households. However, in this sample, from what can be gleaned about occupations etc, and the wealth of the householders it seems reasonable to suggest that there is a fair cross section of society represented. The sample considered here ranges from an inventory of Benthall Hall to the home of a poor miner. It has not however been part of this survey to analyse personal wealth (see Trinder, forthcoming).

The overall sample is small, and its size at any one time insufficient to give good evidence for any changes over time. The records are spread across a number of years and inevitably they can at best be grouped by period.

Type	1675-1700	1700-1720
two roomed plan	4	1
two roomed with service	-	2
one roomed plan	3	-
one roomed plan with service	2	-
one hearth house	3	2
3 roomed house	-	1

Type	1720-1750	1750-
one room plan	4	1
one room with service	3	2
two rooms	1	2
two rooms with service	2	1
one hearth	1	-

What the probate records suggest is that there were substantial numbers of houses that were very small. A high proportion had only one room with an attic chamber above. Others had one principal room and a smaller one, with two above, but both these forms probably often had only one hearth. Of the two room plan houses, most had kitchen, sometimes called house, with parlour, and in only one case is there direct evidence of the parlour

being heated. This suggests that the single hearth houses may have also had a two roomed plan, though some of them may have been single room dwellings. Additional rooms were usually service rooms of some kind, either brewhouse, buttery or larder, and some houses had an additional cellar. The evidence suggests that the common form of house would be a small two unit cottage with attic rooms above, that is, the type that survives in substantial numbers in the Gorge as a whole, and of which there are a few examples in Benthall itself. The 4 roomed house represented 36.6% of the Benthall houses recorded (Trinder, forthcoming).

Probate Inventories also give some evidence of what kinds of people lived in what kinds of house, although not every record gives this information so that the sample is very small. A fuller reconstitution of households must await further study (see Trinder, forthcoming). What evidence there is does suggest however that the larger houses were likely to be those of people holding agricultural land, and that it was the trowmen and miners, that is, the indutrial workers, whose houses were among the smallest.

There are very few houses that seem to be of any great size: other than Benthall Hall, only one house is listed as having more than two main as opposed to service rooms. Again, these records suggest a clustering of very small houses and a small number of much larger houses, confirming the evidence of the Hearth Tax. This might be taken as evidence of the poverty of building, but it is open to another explanation; the general pattern for vernacular housing of the period was for an approximate relationship between use of space and type of house, and it is houses that were not purely living spaces that seem to have had the most space. It is suggested that the small size of houses recorded in the documentary sources for the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is evidence not so much of a poor class of occupants, but of an industrial housing type in which income was made outside the home, and such farming as there was was subsiduary and on a small scale. This is borne out by closer analysis of the probate records, in fact, where the houses with more rooms are houses of craftspeople or small farmers. That these people may also have been relatively more prosperous than the miners is a separate issue. It is an aspect of the nature of building that it reflect not only degrees of affluence but also the uses of the house. Number of rooms may be as much an indication of occupation as it is of wealth.

To set this in context a brief comparison could be made with other parishes, from figures prepared by Trinder. These show that in Broseley and Little Wenlock, the range of housing types and sizes was much more evenly distributed. Little Wenlock in particular had a far smaller proportion of very small one or two roomed houses, but this would be consistent with its different economic structure. This stratification relates not just to numbers of industrial workers, but also to the structure of the settlement as a whole, and it has already been suggested that in

the later period, Benthall was not a self-sufficient community.

8.13 Building Techniques

Carpentry

There is a more or less common form for timber framed building, and elements of this can be traced through into the stone built houses (plot nos 5001, 11204, 15402, 9201). It may be worth distinguishing between the timber and stone houses and the rubble cottages, because the former seem to contain some kind of architectural tradition which may be lacking in the more rudimentary buildings. Benthall Hall employs sophisticated carpentry techniques in panelling and the construction of its cantilevered stair. Absence of opportunity for work of a similar standard elsewhere in the area suggests that skilled workers were brought to the area specially. However, two other local buildings rather later in date, The Bailiff House and The old Rectory also have woodwork of a high quality inside (plot nos 9210, 20301).

In smaller buildings where timber is a subsidiary material, its use is likely to be confined to main beams and roof structure. In a number of the smaller cottages, these main beams have ornately stopped chamfers, which suggests the application of a school of building rather than crude techniques of make-shift construction (plot nos 17802, 18301).

Stone Building

Use of stone varies from well dressed ashlar or squared rubble to randomly coursed unshaped rubble. It is suggested that where this rough rubble exists alongside other detail such as timber work of a more architectural quality, it suggests economy of building, but that where it appears as rudimentary in its entirety, it may well be an indication of squatter building properly so called (plot nos 15401, 15001, 3601, 15501).

Brickwork

The use of brick suggests some element of building skill or craft in construction, By c.1700 in "polite" building at least, there was a well developed vocabulary for the use of brick, although it is not known how local this building tradition may have been, and whether for example, builders came from outside the area to work on specific and expensive projects such as the building of the Old Vicarage (BE 20301). However, even in the smaller cottages, there is some evidence for a coherent building tradition or school, in the application of detail such as eaves corbelling and string courses (BE 19801, 18301, 10801). Techniques of bonding do not suggest rudimentary building work. In addition, at least two small buildings in the parish use

brickwork in a highly decorative way (BE 17802, 18501). However the existence of rendering, little of it recent, suggests the possibility of a poor initial standard. This would be compatible with an adaptation of building skills to varied means and to building cheaply.

The use of brick also suggests the introduction of different scale for building work, since it is much more a mass-building material than either stone or timber, at least in this area, and in particular in this locality, where brickmaking actually was a local industry. The existence of numbers of very similarly constructed brick cottages suggests the development of an industrial cottage which could be compared with the early buildings of Coalbrookdale for example, as they are known from pictorial evidence.

Roofing Materials

There is some evidence for the use of thatch as an alternative, and possibly a precursor to the use of tile as a roofing material. 49 The Mines (BE 10901) was thatched until the 1940's, and illustrations of the iron bridge show several thatched buildings on Bower Yard (1976.110; AE 185.771). Tile however seems likely to have been used for new building from at least the early eighteenth century, when it was being locally produced. There is no use of slate.

An architectural vocabulary

The dwellings discussed so far are all more or less vernacular in character, if that term can be taken to include the development of an industrial architecture. There are however a number of buildings which aspire to some kind of architectural style in a more conscious way. Benthall Hall will not be discussed further, but there are also Hilltop and Benthall House (BE 17301, 15001), which employ a classical vocabulary, in very similar ways, and which are both probably c 1800. In addition, there is the Old Vicarage, which may be c1700, and which is a first example of the use of classical symmetry, and also of brick (BE 203). Unlike the two later houses, this does not appear to have been a farmhouse, and it has been suggested that it is the site of a pipe works, so that it may have been built from industrial wealth. No evidence of this kiln has so far been found.

These architectural buildings serve to emphasise the distinction between the few wealthy buildings, and the rest, in a settlement that appears to have largely lacked a well stratified social order. What is important here is not so much a distinction between agriculture and industry, as between landed wealth, which may have been exploited in a number of different ways, and a tenant class of labourers.

8.14 Early Building Types: Conclusions

Although it is possible to make a general classification of the buildings of this area in some kind of chronology, there is little sense of a coherent range of building types as models of practice, although it is clear that the early development of the industrial cottage was one such model. There is only a limited social stratification of building, but it is possible to trace changes in the nature of building development. There is also the fact that "vernacular" traditions of building were superceded by a more industrial form, both in terms of the formation of a new model of building, the small brick cottage, and in the organisation of building development, the formation of terraces and groups of houses. The more important distinction, however, would seem to be between those buildings which employ an element of architectural design and skill, and those more rudimentary constructions which do not seem to belong to a tradition of building at all.

The absence of any coherent pattern of settlement form is evidence for the piecemeal development of the area, and suggests that it may have developed out of squatting, that this was never rationalised with industrialisation and organisation of land management.

Certain distinct elements of building can be identified in the parish. Housing that survives on Bower Yard is of a relatively good quality and a good size. There are a number of buildings on Bridge Road and The Mines which are very substantially built. Along the Wenlock Road however, none of the surviving cottages suggest anything other than a low standard of construction, and many appear to have been rebuilt. Evidence suggests however that interspersed across the whole area, there were large numbers of very small dwellings, making it impossible to draw up absolute distinctions between the three areas.

Some of the earlier buildings are among the largest in the parish, including the timber framed and stone built houses at the Mines, and the stone building on Bridge Road (BE 10901, 11204, 15401). These are also the houses which seem most "vernacular", as opposed to industrial in character. It may be that they are to be understood as pre-industrial building types, existing models of construction which may have characterised the first phase in the establishment of an industrial settlement. They must, have been the houses of relatively affluent people, and in the parish are exceptional among larger numbers of much smaller houses.

There are large numbers of small houses which have not survived, but which were presumably co-existent with these few earlier larger dwellings, and it may be that these small houses can be seen as an early form of industrial cottage, rather than a building form below the vernacular threshold, or the buildings of the very poor. The problem is that not enough is known either about the origins of industrial housing or about the likely standard of living of early industrial workers, who were in

effect a new class. It may be misleading to analyse houses by their size or plan form without reference to the economy that underpinned the household. If these small cottages, and their brick built successors, are in fact an early form of industrial housing, it is to later artisans dwellings, rather than the buildings of the countryside, that they must be compared. The existence of numbers of very similar buildings in the early stages of development of Coalbrookdale as an industrial settlement, may provide a context for their interpretation. Even the later industrial cottages in this area may not have had significantly more space. It seems possible that craft occupations required their own space which would have perhaps lead to other housing forms. This may be part of the reason why in general Bower Yard housing seems to be of a rather better size and quality than housing elsewhere; it may reflect the use of the house as a place of work.

There is one aspect of the architecture of a squatter settlement such as this that needs consideration. What evidence is there for the organisation of the building process? Did squatter building mean self building? two surviving stone cottages, both of which have been however substantially rebuilt are reminiscent of the Blists Hill squatter cottage from Dawley (which is nineteenth century). The rubble is very rough and uncoursed. In surviving buildings other than these two however, the standard of construction, while cheap, in terms of quality and use of materials, does not suggest selfbuilding.

It is possible to suggest both an adaptation of building skills and tradition to suit various levels of investment in building, and the existence of some more rudimentary building, little of which survives, but which may be what is represented in the stone fragments which form part of many of the brick cottages. Unfortunately, of course, because none of these rudimentary stone houses survive in anything like their original form, it is not possible to relate them with any certainty to atrue squatter tradition.

As another aspect of varieties of architectural practice in the buildings of Benthall, it is also possible to suggest a development from relatively expensive and slow building techniques to those that are more consistent with industrial building, the use of brick in small dwellings.

8.2 A Squatter Tradition? Documentary Evidence

Both the distribution and form of buildings suggests that a form of squatting underlay development of the parish; whether through primitive building, or under slightly more formal conditions. Documentary sources may provide a context for the understanding of this evidence. There was a dispute between John Weld of Willey and Lawrence Benthall of Benthall in the 1730's, relating to common rights and enclosure in the parishes of Benthall and Broseley. In the course of this, Weld accused Benthall of

building, or encouraging "poor and disorderly people" to build cottages, complaining that he "doth erect and cause to be erected diverse cottages in his pretended manor...and encourage and countenance the erecting of cottages [to make tenants for himself]" (VCH draft, p4; SRO 1224 box 66)). Benthall denied this by saying both that he had only built two cottages, and that they were not for disorderly people but for miners. It may be that the extent of enclosure by this time was connected with the development of industrial land uses, and the growth of settlement. What this dispute reveals is both that there was a process of house building for miners, that it took place on land that may once have been considered as common land, and that this process was taking place with the sanction of the lord of the manor, who, through his ability to levy a rent, stood to gain.

Encouraged "squatting" may be consistent with the building evidence and suggests a pattern of development not hindered by the land owner, and even condoned by him. The distinction between those houses built according to an architectural tradition and those which were more rudimentary may even be evidence for direct involvement in building by the lord of the manor. The documentary sources for both Benthall and Broseley suggest that at least in the seventeenth century, some direct building was carried out.

The early exploitation of minerals was part of a vigorous estate management, and that squatting here was by no means the result of weak manorial control. Unfortunately, there is little evidence to show how the land was developed, but by combining field evidence with what can be learned from other areas, it is suggested that development and inheritence under a leasehold system was encouraged but not directly controlled. Probate inventories, and the few deeds which are available for the area confirm that there was a system of inheritance under lease. The question of estate management may have been a rationalisation of a process that was going on anyway.

8.3 Building Types: Later Development

Some of the alterations to buildings that were made in the nineteenth century, and the style of Benthall Villa Farm, probably also an early nineteenth century building, suggest similarities with the buildings on the Willey estate, and may be connected with the holding of the manor by Forester from 1840 (BE 16001, 15401, 19401). The building of small rows and terraces could perhap be associated with estate management, but the nature of these alterations, which were more or less piecemeal suggests that these changes were, rather, unregulated and private (see BE 11801, 15501, 19701). This may suggest that on a small scale, land was developed as a source of income among the tenants, some of whom did not live in the area in 1844.

In the nineteenth century the Tithe map and apportionment shows shows that it was only the agricultural land or industrial land that was held in large blocks. The housing was divided among

several small tenants, most of whom lived in the area and may have sublet other small properties (Platt 1987) If this was a system that had survived from an earlier time, it suggests that there was little interest in direct involvement in housing provision by the major landholders. Evidence from title deeds in Broseley Wood (SRO 1224/3/395-), and the occasional reference on probate inventories to new building sugests that building work was usually the responsibility of the tenant, and this is certainly the impression given by the evidence of the buildings themselves.

8.4 Building Types: The Twentieth Century

New building reflects the architectural fashions of the day, for "dunroamin" style housing, and may be set in a tradition of private aspiration expressed through architecture. It demonstrates that the pattern of development in the twentieth century was still largely one of private building. There are a number of examples documented where the building of a bungalow was the result of family formation. It may be that whereas in the earlier periods, this might have involved subdivision or building onto an existing house, by this time the taste was for a higher degree of separation, and the bungalow was adopted as an appropriate house type for an older generation moving out of the family home in favour of a younger.

Early chalet style bungalows

These appear to be of the 1930s, and vary from vernacular revival, to the application of art deco detailing in a watered down version. There are a number of detached houses of the same epoch, which also employ standard vernacular revival detail, with little reference to the particular local styles, such as rough cast render and half-timbering (see BE 18601, 8701-3, 8801, 12501-2, 16203).

The 1950's and After

Building in these years seems to have been more self-consciously modern, and simplifies detail to a minimum. The local authority housing adopts a style prevalent at the time, with a part open plan (BE 21501).

The Bentlands estate (BE 14101) was built circa 1970, a development mostly of bungalows, so taking up some of the themes in the early use of the bungalow in the parish, differing in the scale of the development, as a private speculation, rather than individual building to suit individual needs. This is reflected both in the layout of the estate and in the standardisation of design of the units, which, where they vary, do so as variations on a theme.

There are a number of other houses and bungalows which can be

seen not to be family building, but small scale speculation, in their application of identical forms over small series of buildings (BE 11003, 5801).

Modernisations and rebuildings

There are a number of houses that were rebuilt in the 1950's. Their style is now 'moderne', and there are few references to the early building styles of the area. This suggests an interest in modernity rather than history which may also be reflected in minor alterations (BE 11501).

Recent Buildings

The 1980's have witnessed a return to styles which reflect the historical architecture of the area albeit minimally. There is a self consciously cottagey style, using dormer windows, steep roof pitches, etc. History is only a point of reference, though, rather than a strict code of practice; proportions are changed, brick bonds are not replicated, chimneys not included. The idea of cottage sometimes goes beyond a local vernacular, to the inclusion of diamond leaded lights, for example (though an early engraving of Bower Yard does show a cottage with windows in this style). In general this style is condoned by local planning but apparently not actively promoted; there are no local design guides, and it seems that this new vernacular is the result of compromise between builders and planners. More work would be neede to establish where its origins lie, but it at least suggests a new interest in the local building styles and historical references (BE 10601, 18102, 18001, 21601).

The same is true of smaller alterations which adopt a broad historical base. Changes and improvements are often associated with recent sales, and possibly with the arrival of incomers to the area, taking over property from an older population who have perhaps lived here all their lives and who lack this orientation to history. Alterations of a previous generation have been more concerned with amenity than with aesthetics or historicism. The differences must also reflect changes in planning control, both in its administration and in its underlying ethic.

8.5 Building and Industry

Evidence for the development of an industrial settlement and an industrial housing pattern has been discussed. Can the evidence of buildings provide any further information about the organisation of the industrial economy?

The building evidence suggests that it was never highly regulated. What were the terms of employment in the early mining industry? There is nothing to suggest that it was sufficiently well ordered to have involved the formation of tied houses for

example.

Furthermore, it is known that domestic industry was of great importance, with an extensive pipe making concern. Little evidence for this survives, though oral testimony has suggested some potential sites, and there are a few fragmentary remains which would merit further investigation (BE 181, 197, 155). The limestone industries were no likely to have provided a great deal of employment (Section 4.6), and certainly resulted in no major building in the parish. In the nineteenth century, some of the land was leased in large blocks by industrialists, but this seems to have been largely open land presumably held for resources, rather than as an source of income from housing.

A dispersed settlement pattern allowed space for garden plots permitting a subsistence economy of a kind, and this can be documented in the nineteenth century, using the tithe and census retuns to suggest the importance of small scale land holding.On his visit to the parish in 1776 Arthur Young noted the importance of animal husbandry among the cottagers, and also noted that they grew and spun hemp (VCH x:draft).

This suggests that industrial employment was never enough to account for the whole of the local economy, and that it took place within a far more mixed economy than that north of the river for example.

The nineteenth century industries, brickmaking etc, seem to have had little direct effect on the area in terms of settlement pattern, so that what this now evidences is an eighteenth century pattern and a relative decline in later years which permitted its survival. Even the patterns of changes to buildings seem to give evidence for the origins of the settlement as if these were never really superceded by later development. In this respect, the area is quite unlike Coalbrookdale, where a prosperous later history has profoundly modified the original form of the settlement of the seventeenth and early eighteenth century.

Agriculture

The parish was never solely industrial. Agriculture had always played an important part, as is witnessed by the reservation of the central part of the parish for agricultural use, and the concentration of industry at its periphery. A number of building complexes relating to this agricultural history of the parish survive, and they suggest that there was a considerable diversity in the scale and capitalisation of agriculture.

At the top end of the scale must be placed Benthall Hall farm buildings which are probably among the earliest, and which represent a large complex of very substantially built barns etc, some of which are timber framed, the rest brick. There are also two groups of farm buildings which incorporate rubble-built barns which suggest an eighteenth century building date, and the poverty

of the construction, the fact that unlike the other farm complexes, these have not been rebuilt, suggests a relative poverty in the holdings that were associated with these groups of buildings.

In contrast, the complex of buildings at Bennets Hill Farm which includes a partial stone wall seems to have been rebuilt at least in part since the Tithe Map, and insurance papers which apparently refer to this group of buildings document a rebuilding from timber to brick in the early nineteenth century (SRO 4791/6/63, 4791/10/370).

Bennets Hill farm and Hilltop have substantial circa 1800 farmhouses, which give evidence for the profitability of the farming at that time. They also give some evidence for the organisation of the estate, suggesting that the farming enterprise was not concentrated in one farm, but that there was a system of leasing with a spectrum of farm sizes and profitability.

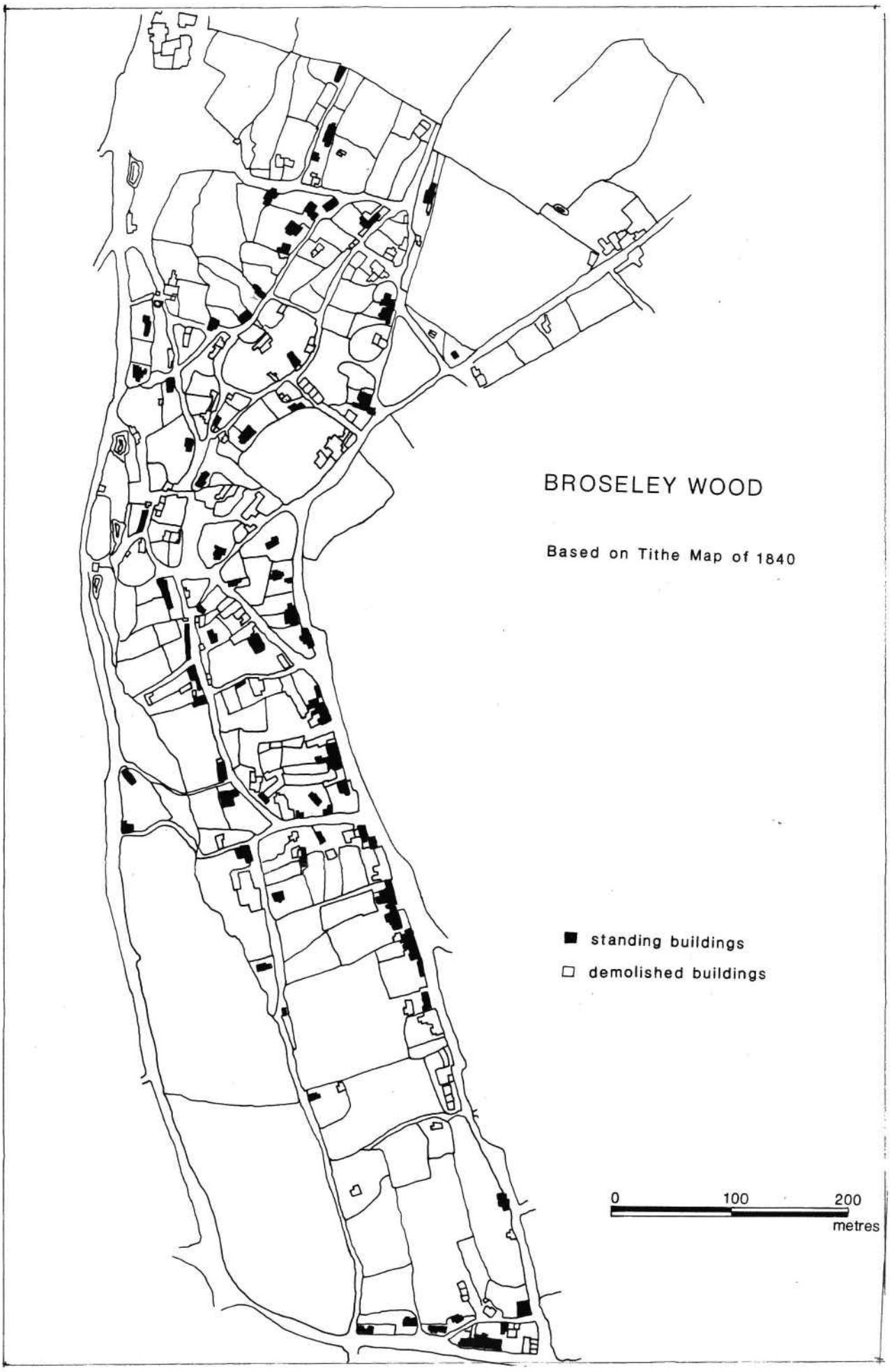


Figure 21. Broseley Wood - based on Tithe Map.

CHAPTER NINE: SETTLEMENT IN BROSELEY WOOD.

9.0 Introduction

Broseley Wood differs in character from Benthall in being much more densley built up, and almost a suburb of Broseley. In the random way in which the area is built up, the absence of coherent road lines, the networks of small paths, it exemplifies more strongly than Benthall its origins in a process of squatter-building on the commons. Although often said to have a wide mix of buildings in a relatively undifferentiated area, Broseley displays a density of building, rationalised into a more or less coherent street pattern, and can thus easily be distinguished from Broseley Wood.

9.1 Historical Background

The settlement of Broseley was possibly recorded in the Domesday Book. It seems to have been largely an agricultural village with a nucleated centre and a traditional organisation of field and common until some time in the sixteenth century, when the substantial reserves of coal began to be exploited by the lord of the manor, James Clifford. He encouraged the immigration of miners, and they were allowed to build cottages on the hitherto unenclosed commons of the village. It is estimated that by c1620, there were some 27 houses in Broseley itself, c33 on Coalpit Hill, and a similar number in Broseley Wood. In 1605-7, there were riots in which the newcomers cottages were burnt down by the freeholders, resenting the loss of their common rights (VCH x: draft).

A map of c1618 shows a scatter of small cottages in this area- about 20-30 (SRO 1224/1/32). By 1681, there were probably more than 60 cottages in only one part of Broseley Wood, suggesting that its growth was rapid during the seventeenth century (VCH x: draft). In 1690, this area was itself said to be like a country town; "the ancient waste of commons of Broseley is now in greatest measure built up and enclosed by poor people, and has become as a country town" (Wanklyn 1982).

In support of this, available figures suggest that population growth for the whole of Broseley seems to have been dramatic from the late sixteenth to the early seventeenth; between 1570-1700, it increased from 125 plus or minus 20 to 1950 plus or minus 150 (Wanklyn 1982).

9.2 Nature of Settlement

What is the relationship between Broseley Wood and Broseley itself? It is sometimes remarked that Broseley is characterised by its mix of building types with little differentiation by area.

Broseley Wood seems to be an exception, since there are very few buildings here that are of any size, and most seem to be single unit or two unit cottages.

The first references to settlement in the area suggest that it was associated with the buildings and habitation of the poor; it was said in the 1680's that it was built up by poor people, and the first settlers were considered to be "the dregs of many counties" in 1605 (Wanklyn 1982). In a dispute between Clifford, the lord of the manor, and the freeholders, the freeholders objected to building cottages on the waste for "colliers and mineral men" (Neff 1936:308), which makes it clear that it was as an industrial labourers settlement that this area was developed.

In the nineteenth century, the area was in ill-repute as the poorest part of the settlement, said in 1831 to contain the filthiest and most dilapidated houses in the parish, (VCH x:draft) and the commission which was set up to implement reforms in avoidance of a cholera epidemic in the 1830's reserved its harshest criticism for the dwellings in Broseley Wood (SRO 604). It seems fair to characterise the area as a kind of suburb, perhaps an area where the pressures on land use that led to the development of urban building forms elsewhere in the town was for some reason limited, and which remained a settlement of labour. The failure for a landowning class to develop in this area, and the fact that the estate owners remained uninvolved in building processes seems suprising. Money that was made in industrial process seems to have been invested in building within the present town centre, where there are a number of seventeenth and eighteenth century houses that display architecture as a conspicuous declaration of wealth. This contrast is exemplified in the area of study by a comparison between for example Quarry Road and King Street/Cape Street, which latter has a continuous building line and a number of substantial houses that use architecture as a deliberate aesthetic vocabulary.

Was Broseley Wood always a poor district? It has been suggested that one of the reasons for the rapid population increase in the area was that early prosperity encouraged family formation and a natural population increase (Wanklyn 1982), but there is little architectural evidence for this. Survival of very early buildings appears to be negligible, which suggests a process of supercession in which the early buidings may have been largely replaced perhaps because they were of poor quality. It is however important to qualify this in respect of the buildings that survive, which, while they may be in many cases small, are certainly not necessarily meanly built. The study of housing in Benthall has suggested that the small cottages are primarliy to be understood as the appropriate housing form for industrial workers, and it may be that in Broseley Wood also there has been a tendency to confuse labourers homes with poor hovels. The fact that there are few buildings of any quality in this area suggests that it has always been the habitation of a working class. There is a sharper segregation of classes in Broseley than in settlements north of the river. Perhaps a difference in

industrial structure is important in this context, contrasting the importance of mining on the south with perhaps more highly skilled ironworking to the north. Or it may be that as one of Shropshire's most important towns in the eighteenth century (VCH x:draft), its urban structure was more highly stratified, enabling the formation of an enclave of labour.

On the other hand, the impression should not be given that Broseley Wood comprised at any time an undifferentiated mass of poor housing; standards of design were sometimes quite high, and there is the beginnings of a stratification of housing types; single unit cottages dominate, but there are also a number of larger, two unit cottages. It seems likely that at least in part, its characterisation as a particularly poor area owes to its function as kind of suburb of labour, part of an urban community that was relatively well stratified.

9.21 Riverside settlement

Few buildings survive at Bower Yard, because the construction of the railway involved the demolition of a number of houses, only some of which were replaced. Those that do survive are largely later nineteenth century buildings, but one house apparently has a timber framed core BE 050). There is not enough surviving in this area to permit a useful analysis of the settlement based on assessment of its buildings, but the presence of two groups of designed industrial cottages of the nineteenth century is important in the general context of the housing development of the area as a whole (BE 050).

9.3 Phases in the Development of Settlement

9.31 The Evidence of Building

Dating

The seventeenth century map (SRO 1224/1/32) shows a number of buildings in the area, but field evidence dows not suggest that many of these survive. At least one building, a cottage on Woodlands Green (BY 107), can be directly compared. The house was rebuilt in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century, but it has been extensively modified since then. Using the same criteria for dating as in the study of Benthall, it seems that survival has been poor. There is one building that is built of stone rubble (BY 132), and another that is apparently timber framed (BY 232.4), while some of the brick cottages have partial walls of stone (BY 135). These may relate to the buildings shown on the seventeenth century map, but most of the buildings seem to be brick cottages of a style characteristic of the eighteenth century or later.

This raises a general problem; dating the brick cottages is difficult since so far no direct evidence has come to light.

Only one building is itself dated; Tanglewood on Barratts Hill (BY 23201) has a date of 1742 in tiles on the facade; while the tiles themselves cannot be old as old as that, the date itself may have some historical basis. Another property of this type has deeds that go back to 1735 (see plot no 13505) as this is apparently a purpose built pair of cottages, this is a very early date for a relativley highly developed type of industrial housing design, if the deeds do refer to the property as it now survives. It certainly seems likely that this style of cottage, brick, one and a half storeyed, may be dated to the first half of the eighteenth century. This raises another question: if this is the date range of this building type, are its origins? many of the smaller brick cottages have a sophistication in the use of brick which suggests a coherent and developed tradition of use underlying it. There was a local brick industry since the sixteenth century (VCH x:draft), and brick was used for the higher status buildings of the town in the late seventeenth century at least (Raddle Hall, 1663).

This question of the origins and development of the use of brick in building perhaps cannot be adequately addressed at this stage of the survey, and it is sufficient at the moment to suggest that the stone and timber remains represent a first stage of building, followed by the development of the brick cottage during the eighteenth century.

However, buildings in this area give only partial evidence of the history of settlement because the general survival rate is poor, as an examination of the Tithe Map reveals. It seems that a great many buildings were demolished during the late nineteenth century, and then into the twentieth as part of a slum clearance programme, so that what survives now is unlikely to be a representative sample. Study of the Tithe Map suggests that clearance was carried out almost as a process of "pruning", but there is no evidence of what kinds of buildings it was that were demolished. The clearance seems to have been to relieve overcrowding-some of the clusters of buildings appear to have been virtual- if not necessarily designed- back-to-backs.

Certain phases in the development of settlement can thus be suggested from the building evidence. There is a high proportion of eighteenth century cottages, and a number of fragmentary survivals incorporated in later buildings, suggesting that this was a major period in the formation of settlement, a scatter of dwellings that was gradually and partially filled in as the density increased. There is no real sense of the existence of discrete phases of building, however, and there are substantial numbers of dwellings from the late eighteenth and nineteenth century, fitting into the existing pattern of land use and never superceding the earlier scale of development. There are also significant numbers of twentieth century dwellings, perhaps partly built to replace earlier buildings demolished, either as formal provision or speculation, or as private building work, and these also extend the earlier random pattern of development.

Documentary evidence suggests that there was encouragement given to settlement by the lord of the manor, but there is no evidence for intervention in a process of building or planning the development of the land. It seems to have grown up purely haphazardly, by random settlement on the commons, and there is no sense of a centre. This is suggested by study of the early seventeenth century map (SRO 1224/1/32), which shows a very random scatter of houses, and confirmed by study of surviving buildings, in their random distribution, absence of coherent orientation, and the lack of a centred settlement. From the first, development seems to have been relatively unplanned, and this has never been superceded.

Study of the relationship between settlement and field patterns may help in an understanding of the types of settlement process. The area bounded by Bridge Road, Barratts Hill, Cape Street/King street, and Legges Hill is relatively sparcely settled, and retains a recognisable field structure, with regularly shaped plots. The settlement appears to be arranged along the road lines, suggesting that these in fact pre-date the buildings. The same pattern pertains to the area north of Cobwell Road.

Elsewhere, the pattern is different. Settlement is much more dense in the area between Legges Hill and Cobwell road. It is also much less regular, with a high incidence of footpaths, many of which came into existence simply to provide access to houses from the main routes, or to be the spaces left between the settled land. Later deeds still refer to building on the waste, as a process fo continuing development in the area. The one exception to this is Speeds Lane/Simpsons Lane, where, in the southern section, one building is built in a tiny slang that juts out into the road line, and, in the northern section, there is at least a vestigial building line, suggesting that even early eighteenth century building here may have been respecting some sort of route-way. This road is shown on Greenwood's map of 1827.

The evidence of buildings and the pattern of settlement begins to suggest the early importance of two, and possibly three routes; Wenlock Road, King Street, and perhaps Simpsons Lane. It also suggests that in the southern part of the settlement, the formation and use of regular field plots was an important constraint on settlement. Only in the northern part of the area was settlement apparently unregulated by any constraint, and strung out more or less at random between these main routes. This analysis may make it possible to begin to understand rather more about the division of land use in the parish in the seventeenth/eighteenth centuries.

Parsons' map confirms this analysis, and the distinction which is it possible to make between types of settlement. It shows that the more regulated southern settlement took place on land that had previously been leased, described as "Mr Cage's tenement", while the northern land was "Priorie Common". There was already some settlement at the boundary of this common with the coppice land (presumably also held in common) to the north.

Figure 22. Map of Broseley by Samuel Parsons c. 1620.

What may be the line of King Street seems to be shown as a boundary between different tenements, along which settlement was already taking place. From this it may be suggested that the street began life as building along a tenement boundary, and became a more important thoroughfare only later. In fact this finds confirmation in the evidence of buildings, since the earliest buildings on this street-line do not necessarily respect it in detail (see for example, 58 Cape Street, which juts out into the road line, and 11 Woodlands road, which faces away from it). It is from the late eighteenth century that buildings consistently line the street, with an architectural order which suggests its importance. It may be that there are t least two distinct types of process for the origin of settlement, one being squatting on the commons, the other a more regulated process of building on tenanted land, presumably as an example of early exploitation of land for other uses.

9.32 Documentary Evidence

Title Deeds indicate that building was the responsibility of the tenant, but there is no evidence for weak manorial control. Deeds of sale and rent rolls (eg Mr and Mrs Purcell's Rent Roll for the Year 1744-5, listed in Randall: 1879;60-64), give evidence for the administration of the estate during the eighteenth century, while for the earlier period, the encouragement given to settlement suggests that it was in the interest of the landlord to create new tenants. The organisation of building work itself seems to have been largely private and control may have been a rationalisation after the event in some cases; a lease of 1727 "Eaves has built a house on part of the premises" (SRO 1224/3/27). Some leases were made expressly for the purpose of building (lease for William Leadbeater to build a messuage (SRO 1224/3/461), and others refer to part of the waste lately enclosed.

Some of these references are from the late eighteenth century,indicating that settlement formation was a continuous process of extending the bounds of settlement on waste or open land (1794, a lease of a small piece of land enclosed out of the common, where a house was mentioned in a further lease of 1809; SRO 1224/3/614). Even in 1840, there was still a good deal of open land between the houses. Other deeds show how property was subdivided (SRO/1224/3/472-3, messuage divided into two; SRO1224/3/727, the house built by 1727 was also divided into two by 1730). It may be that subdivision was a first stage in the creation of housing as a source of income, and that a later stage was actual new building.

Some surviving buildings confirm the cases of subdivision (although recent change has tended towards amalgamation of units). No documentary evidence of the process of new building is available, but the pattern of settlement makes it clear that it was either by a process of extension from individual properties, producing a clustering effect, or by very small scale coherent

building projects, involving the formation of small terraces or pairs of cottages.

The tithe map provides a clearer picture of the structure of landholding in the nineteenth century. The land was almost entirely owned by Lord Forester, with some small exceptions, and leasing was on a small scale, with a number of tenants often holding more than one property, though seldom more than two. This suggests that there was some speculative interest in land, and there are a number of people with an interest in land who seem to live outside the area, in addition there is some subletting of single properties,which is also evidence for the use of land as a source of income by people who did not necessarily live in the immediate area. If the origins of housing were in family property, by the nineteenth century this had to some extent become capitalised. In fact, the nature of early building suggests that even in the eighteenth century, building work was on occasion organised on a more than individual scale, as small scale speculation etc. Even so, the dominant pattern was apparently one of individual holdings rather than a more formal landholding.

9.33 Conclusions

What little documentation that exists for the buildings and the evidence of the buildings themselves suggests that division into phases is somewhat arbitrary, as there seems to have been a more of less continuous development both of new buildings and also of alterations and additions to old ones. This suggests a piecemeal process of building throughout the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth and even twentieth centuries. Although its seems that the eighteenth century was the major period for the growth of settlement, development has been more or less constant, though small in scale; a more or less sophisticated developmen tof industrial housing types continued to be applied in very small scale developments; there has never been any attempt to develop on a larger scale or to introduce any coherent planning.

The character of the settlement, the distribution of buildings and their orientations, suggests that from the earliest phase in the formation of settlement, building was still largely privately organised or commissioned. The housing is still scattered, and there is a sense of gradual development on small plots, producing a characteristic clustering of housing. There is also some more formal development, however, such as the small terrace on Barratts Hill, which suggests that building may have been not just family extension, but also a profitable enterprise.

In addition, the buildings can be grouped more or less into characteristic types, both in relation to plan and form, but also in relation to construction technique. This is evidence for at least a level of organisation in a building industry, and does not suggest self-building. There is a degree of sophistication in for example the use of brick which suggests the formation of a

building tradition or school (see building techniques below).

Twentieth century building has continued in the same manner, largely as piecemeal infill, replacement or extension. There have been a few speculative developments, but on a very small scale. The pattern of fragmented ownership persists.

9.4 Building Types

The character of the buildings can be used as a source of historical evidence in addition to evidence derived from their distribution and the settlement pattern. However, because of the poor survival of buildings in relation to the former extent of the settlement, the discussion of building types is of necessity largely derived from the eighteenth century and later, and it is not possible to establish an accurate or detailed context for this discussion. Neither is it intended to attempt a classification of all the buildings in the area; the purpose is to identify types as far as this seems to be useful.

9.41 The Development of an Industrial Cottage

The Early Phase

There are large numbers of eighteenth century buildings which can be identified by their similar character; often single celled, but sometimes extended later. They are characterised by this plan form, often by the existence of a detached chimney, a sectional form of one and a half storeys, and in many cases by the use of decorative brick detailing; the eaves are often corbelled out, there are several examples of projecting sill bands, and the use of other features such as stepped gables and copings. There is, in the examples where the brickwork is visible, a use of a definate brick bond. These details suggest that there was a coherent building tradition, and a coherent type as model of practice for the small industrial cottage. (BY 232.1, 107, 110, 111).

This form was also used in two unit cottages, some at least of which have two apparently original stacks, suggesting a degree of prosperity (BY 23201, 111, 115). There are also some examples of cottages of this general type which appear to have been built as a pair of dwellings, though many of these have now been brought into single occupation (BY 13505). This indicates degree of formality in the provision of housing and suggests that from an early date, some sort of speculation or collaborative building work was undertaken.

This can be seen also in the adoption of the cottage form for a small terrace on Barratts Hill (BY 23201). This row of 5 cottages was built in several phases, and comprises one pair of single unit cottages and 3 two unit dwellings. It seems that the creation of a terrace was either gradual, or undertaken at the

same time but by several different builders. Possibly the lowest unit was originally detached, and linked to the terrace slightly later. All the dwellings use a very similar form, single storeyed with dormers to attic, and some use of decorative brick, as eaves and string course. There is at least one other example of a terrace of cottages of this general type (plot no 135), which seems to have been built as a single pair of cottages then extended, but it may be that the clear evidence of phasing in the build merely denotes a division of building work.

The cottage of this type also appears in more haphazard clusters, sometimes as the original part of a much-extended dwelling, sometimes as a series of separate units (BY 111, 110).

The repeated use of the same form suggests that there is a coherent building type which can be identified in this context as an industrial cottage. It is suggested that, while the settlement pattern and formation may be relatively piecemeal, in the organisation of building work, there was a degree of formality, as vernacular building techniques were refined under the requirements of industrial production.

Later Phases

This theme can also be traced in later development. There are several late eighteenth century terraced rows, where the individual units adopt a similar plan form, but in a full height cottage. Detail is simplified, and there are fewer vernacular references, for example, the large detached stack is no longer used (BY 135, 137).

There are also several late nineteenth century rows which comprise single unit cottages each uniform in design and detail, and suggesting small scale speculative building. Although there is a great variety in individual design, between terraces and other groups of housing, the variety itself has a kind of coherence in its use of applied decoration in brick, for example, simplified planning, and formality of design and layout, suggesting that albeit on a very small scale, there was in the building in this area, both an industrialisation in terms of housing design, with references that are more urban than rural, and also in the way that land was developed, by small private interests and small scale speculation (BY 235, 121, 23217).

Even in small groups of building, paired cottages, for example, the same themes recur. Although there is a wide range of building types and designs, most seem to be informed by an urban industrial vernacular. Where eighteenth century cottages used a decorative order of projecting brick detail, later cottages adopt polychromy as decoration, for example.

In addition, specific types of development can be identified; clusters, rows, pairs of buildings, all evidencing different processes of land development, which continued to be used

throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.

It is important to distinguish between terraces as gradual build-up of building line, and deliberate terrace building, and in contrast to the building pattern of Benthall, Broseley Wood seems to contain a number of early terraces that were deliberately designed as rows, rather than a slow process of new building and extension. What this suggests is that in this area, there was an earlier industrialisation of settlement, making it possible both for some speculative building to be carried out, and for property to be a form of investment.

9.5 Building Techniques

Stone building

There is only one surviving building of rubble, and it has the wide timbered dormers that characterised a similarly constructed house in Benthall (BE 132). In addition, there are a number of houses that have some remains of rubble walling, and it is possible that this represents the survival of an earlier cottage later rebuilt (BE 135). Both these techniques are likely to be seventeenth century.

Timber Building

There is some use of timber, for example a cottage on King Street which is said to be cruck framed (BY 23204), but no other building in the area seems to have timber as its primary building material. In only one example is timber found in conjunction with stone (BY 135).

There are other timber framed buildings in the rest of Broseley, but its absence as a material in this area is noteable; this may perhaps reflect on a differential survival rate, or it may denote the early development of an industrial housing type, which used brick as an appropriate locally available material for building on a relatively large scale.

Brick

Brick seems to have been used for most building since at least the early eighteenth century and possibly earlier, and the use of detail,of decorative features such as dentilled eaves, string courses, stepped gables, hood moulds etc and also of bonding techniques suggests that there was a highly developed tradition of brick in building, in conjunction with the adoption of a more or less standard form. This suggests that building work was relatively well organised and formal, rather than literal self building. This needs to be considered alongside the development of a local brick producing industry, at first as a by-product of mining (brick kilns were first referred to in the sixteenth

century; VCH x:draft).

Makeshift Building?

The area has a certain notoriety as a squatter settlement, and attention is also drawn to the large numbers of boundary walls etc made from industrial waste products, most notably, saggars. It is perhaps interesting however, that this improvisation of materials does not seem to extend to buildings themselves. Again, the way the surviving buildings have been selected raises a problem, since this sample may be constituted by those buildings built in the most permanent way, but nevertheless there is a striking gap between improvised building for garden walls etc and houses themselves. There are very few buildings that have a makeshift or temporary aspect; perhaps the tile-hung butcher's shop on King Street (BY 23208) comes into this category as a "home-made" building, and there are two other shops on Cape Street that are little more than shacks (BY 23201). There is one bunagalow of c1950 that seems to have been built from asbestos and has a temporary air (BY 23204), but beyond this, the surviving buildings all have some sort of initial architectural standard.

9.6 Change and Alteration

The same is not true of alterations and later modifications. This is an area where the individual occupier has been able to take a more direct action in building, at least in recent years. What is important here is that for the most part these ramshackle additions are made on the least public face of the buildings- whether this is the back or the front rather depends on the orientation of the building to street or footpath. Again, it is possible to distinguish between small extensions such as porches, conservatories etc, and more permanent additions, extensions to the main part of the house, which usually seem to involve rather more reference to an architectural code. Perhaps this is the difference between changes that require planning permission, and changes which do not. It is estimated (by a local planning officer) that less than 10% of alterations are designed by architects, and that many may not even be undertaken by builders; if there is any truth in the notion of self-building, it is at this level, of small scale changes, rather than building design itself.

The poverty of buildings surviving in their original form is often cited as a particular problem in this area; but this demonstrates partly the sequential way in which the area was developed, by piecemeal change and addition. It reflects the fact that many of the buildings were very small, may have been built in a kind of subsistence of housing, to satisfy immediate need. In squatter settlement,the poor survival rate of early buildings may be partly a high replacement rate, as building types or forms were superceded. Another characteristic of the

settlement, its lack of coherent street lines, where there were no conspicuous facades, would contirbute to the absence of architecture as a social system of values; these buildings were essentially private- it is for example, sometimes difficult to distinguish between front and back.

By contrast, those buildings which started off with more architectural pretension and in a more prominent location, such as the buildings on King Street, seem to have survived without major alteration rather more easily. Even here, however, there have been changes of use, the conversion of housing to shops, for example, which have had an impact on the architecture of the buildings, and reflect phases in the development of the settlement. Similarly buildings with architectural vocabulary in the town itself display a marginally lower rate of change. In this area therefore, change may itself be historical, and evidences the origins and nature of the settlement. It is by no means all recent, and even the recent change needs to be seen in the context of its history, as part of a sequence of improvement and alteration. It is important that the extent of this process is not merely seen as a distraction from architectural value but is given its historical perspective: it may be that it is the general character of the area rather than the quality of individual buildings which should be the focus of historical interpretation and conservation strategy in future.

9.7 Industrialisation of building?

The origins of building work are very variable in the area. This is reflected in the pattern of buildings within the settlement, and in their forms, whether single houses, pairs of cottages, terraces or clusters, (which sometimes do not have a uniformity of building plan, but comprise dwellings of different sizes). Although all development was small in scale, it is nevertheless possible to identify as an element in building, a process of industrialisation. The development of the cottage has already been discussed, and attention should now be drawn to the use in other buildings of a more or less standard type, of standardised decoration, etc. Certain themes of development may be used to illustrate this; the development of the cluster form from the haphazard early type, to the "designed" group on Woodlands Road, for example; a formalism in design, as evidenced in the pair of cottages on Bower Yard that are designed to be read as a single dwelling, with their party wall cutting a central upper window. In detail, also there are certain themes which suggest an industrial vernacular; the use of a classical style in some later work, the repeated use of decorative brick and bonding, etc. As industrial housing, the cottages can be distinguished from the larger houses along King Street and Cape Street, which use architecture in a more individual way, and cannot readily be classifed into particular types.

If the buildings of the survey area cannot be understood as literal self-built squatter housing, this does raise a question

of where the means for building came from. It is known that this area was an important centre for the domestic clay pipe industry, and although specific remains of kilns have not been identified, archaeolgical investigation has been undertaken on a number of sites, and extensive documentary research into the industry carried out (see Higgins, forthcoming). It is worth referring to research undertaken elsewhere into the organisation of building work, which has suggested that at least in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, within the working class, it was the artisan craftsmen who were able to fund building work (Doughty, 1986). Further research is needed into the social and economic background of the industry in this area, and its organisation, but the evidence of building does suggest that there may have been a class of artisans with sufficient means to fund building work, and it is at least possible that this is to be connected with the importance of a domestic industry.

The demise of this domestic industry, and the collapse of other industries in the area, with one exception on Cape Street, has led to a significant change in the character of the area, since previously, the land use would have been far more mixed than it now is; in particular, there was the pipe factory on Legges Hill, and several maltings and small workshops which are referred to in the Tithe Apportionment. One industrial ware house (maltings?) remains on King Street, beyond this there is little surviving evidence.

In its relation to the rest of Broseley, Broseley Wood suggests certain themes which could be taken up in further study; the area seems to be almost a suburb of the town and can be seen as an enclave of workers housing within the larger stratified community. In some of the larger buildings on its periphery, there are clear examples of an urbanism of design, which is best exemplified by the use of a classical vocabulary. The buildings of Broseley give a clear indication of its urban status, not only in the use of formal architectural qualities, but also in the variety of housing types, the stratification of buildings according to a clear social structure, and the formation of distinct enclaves of building types.

9.8 General Conclusions

Study of the building and settlement of Benthall and Broseley Wood suggests that although a practice of squatting may have underlain the growth of settlement in this area, surviving buildings indicate that this took place in the context of a relatively well organised industrial economy, evidenced in part by the use of coherent building traditions. Squatter settlement as self-building cannot be sustained on the available evidence, although fragmentary remains, and the poor survival rate of buildings, may give indirect evidence for this as a partial, or very early stage in local development. It is important to distinguish between the location and distribution of buildings, which here shows the haphazard pattern of development, and the

evidence of the buildings themselves, which suggests development through more coherent models of practice. Why this pattern was never subsantially superceded cannot yet be answered, but requires further research.

The two areas show the formation of an industrialised landscape of building, and suggest its origins and piecemeal expansion. In understanding the development of the Gorge as a whole, the settlement patterns of this area may turn out to be of great importance, in revealing very clearly the interaction of informal, piecemeal development with the emergence of an industrialised economy and social structure. An understanding of the ways in which these processes are reflected in building design can be begun in this area by studying the shift from vernacular to industrial which its buildings evidence. It is hoped that the study of Ironbridge will be able to use these themes and develop them further.

Perhaps most significantly, the study of this area can begin to identify the earliest industrial housing of the Gorge. Given the obvious importance of the whole area for the development of industry, any evidence for the origins of an industrial way of life, through the identification of the characteristic housing forms of the early eighteenth century, may prove to be of more than local interest.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE

The Nature Conservation Value of Limestone Workings

John Hughes
Telford Trust for Nature Conservation

Unimproved calcareous grassland is all too easily destroyed by ploughing or fertiliser application. The post-war changes in agriculture have seen a hugh proportion of this ancient, semi-natural habitat lost. The interest of such grassland lies in its rich diversity of species, and the national rare species, of which there are many, associated with it.

Abandoned limestone quarries seem to replicate the conditions needed for colonisation by plants normally associated with such calcareous grassland. Certain of the quarries on Benthall Edge fall into this category, providing a habitat for species becoming much less common within Shropshire (Corfield and Turtle 1986).

Succession of Vegetation and its Management

Without interference from man, the climax vegetation in a lowland quarry will eventually be woodland. The low nutrient levels and rocky floors mean that the process of soil ecretion is slow, and it may be many decades before trees are able to gain a foothold (Hope-Simpson 1940)

It is precisely these poor mineral soils which are so attractive to the plans of unimproved pastures, for as humus levels in the soil increase these short, slow growing herbs begin to face competion from rank grasses and scrub.

Work carried out by Hodgson (1981) in Sheffield seems to indicate that rare plants are not primary colonists (with some exceptions) of quarries, but their presence indicate that colonisation has been appearing for a considerable time. The 5 hectares of Telford (all abandoned industrial workings) that constitutes calcareous grassland has been closely studied by Telford Nature Conservation Project (Corfield and Turtle 1986). Their findings are that older sites have the greatest number of plant species, but proportionally fewer rarities.

It should be noted, that all the sites of calcareous grassland in Telford have been abondoned for several decades already.

The wildlife value of a quarry can be maintained by managing to prevent succession, eg the medieval limestone workings at Barnack, Cambridgeshire have excellent grassland flora (Ranson and Doody 1981). On Benthall Edge, scrub is being removed annually from one quarry in order to conserve its flora.

In 1985 experimental plots were scrapped to bare soil in order to monitor plant recolonisation. Though results are not yet

published there is an indication that rare species are acting as primary colonists (Telford Nature Conservation Project).

Possible Ecological Methods of Dating Quarries

These can only be suggestions for possible lines of research. It seems that the vast majority of ecological research on quarries is directed at those recently abandoned (within the twentieth century) as they hold the greatest wildlife interest. Also, much of the archaeological dating by biological techniques is for much longer periods than the few centuries for which Benthall Edge has been quarried.

1. Plant Species

   This would seem to be of use only for recent quarries where documentary evidence will often take precedence.

2. Soil Accretion

   It could be fairly assumed that the greater the depth of soil on the quarry floor, the older the quarry. This must however, take into account variables such as soil slumping and surrounding vegetation (overhanging trees will rapidly add to the humus layer).

3. Dendrochronology

   Dating from tree growth rings would seem to be an obvious answer. Problems arise when trees have been felled, and the stool allowed to regrow (as in coppicing). The absolute age of the tree can then only be guessed at from the size of the stool.

   From casual observation it also appears that the quarries which, from other evidence, would seem to be the oldest, have a poorly developed canopy of trees. Could this be due to secondary working of abandoned quarries, or even control of the vegetation by grazing (horses, deer, rabbits), and if so, would this be evidenced in the soil deposits?

4. Pollen Analysis from Soil Deposits

   This specialist technique which is usually associated with peat bogs could be of great value if it is all applicable in this situation. Further research is required.

5. Lichenometry

   That a lichen colony is long lived and grows at a measurable rate is well established. By measurement of lichen colonies on structures and rockfaces of a known age it should be possible to build up a picture of growth rates, and thus extrapolate this to the limestone quarries.

   Simple comparisons of the lichen flora of different quarries

should give pointers as to relative ages, though this technique will, of course, only record the last time the face was quarried, or fell naturally. An additional problem on Benthall Edge is the rubbly nature of many of the exposed faces, making them unstable and difficult to trace the extent of lichen colonies.

Lichens are natural monitors of air pollution. Their primary source of minerals is via absorbed rain water, if this also contains sulphurous compounds from industrial processes (acid rain) this may kill or check the growth of existing colonies or prevent new colonies from forming.

Monitoring lichen species on the most easily datable structures (such as gravestones) can give clues as to the peaks and troughs of industrial activity in the area.

The Relationship Between the Woodland Crop and Mineral Winning

We are left in no doubt by Wiggins (1986) that Benthall Edge is ancient semi natural, and in parts primary woodland. It is therefore a reasonable assumption that its valuable crop of underwood and timber has been cut regularly over the centuries. This land also offered an easily accessible supply of minerals - notably limestone. How then did the crops of wood and stone yielded from the land relate to each other, and which, if either at any one time, was of greater importance?

As well as being the ubiquitous material of household and agricultural artefacts, wood (as charcoal) was also needed to fire limekilns. It would thus be beneficial to have a ready supply around a quarry.

To the south west of Benthall Edge Wood, where it is suspected the quarries are the oldest, the woodland seems to have been previously well managed and is now in a stored coppice state (Wiggins 1986). At the mouth of each of the quarries in this area is a small mound of spoil tipped over the edge into the woodlands.

Compare this to the north and eastern area of the wood which has been much more extensively disturbed and the woodlands show severe neglect in its management.

In his researches for the Ancient Woodland report Wiggins also noted that, within Telford, areas known to have been woodland become spoil dumping grounds as the industry of the eighteenth century gathered pace.

The vegetation of the small spoil dumps from the south western quarries of Benthall is of interest. It contains species infrequently found in surrounding managed woodland. Very easily seen on the spoil is Yew (Taxus baccata). With the exception of a few large specimens it is virtually absent from the managed

woods. It would have been 'weeded out' of coppice in favour of more desirable species as it is of little commercial value, and poisonous to livestock.

These patches of Yew make it easy to pick out spoil dumps especially where they exceptionally extend many metres down the slope. Could they possibly be marking sites of inclines or other structures?

There is undoubtedly tremendous scope for looking at the interaction of vegetation and quarries, and any one aspect could make a fascinating research topic. The results of such researches could be of significant value to both archaeologists and nature conservationists alike.

APPENDIX TWO

Pipemaking in Benthall,
by David Higgins.

From at least as early as the 1630's pipemakers were drawn to the Shropshire coalfield by the white firing clays and plentiful coal supplies. An industry of national importance grew up in the area extending from Much Wenlock to Broseley, an area which includes the parish of Benthall. Many of the pipemakers congregated in the Broseley Wood/Benthall area registers include many entries relating to known makers from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. Although few of the production sites have yet been traced examination of numerous documentary sources, and contemporary parallels, suggests that the production of pipes in this area can be divided into three main phases.

At the simplest level pipemaking appears to have been carried out as a bi-employment to supplement income derived from small scale farming or possibly labouring activities. This type of arrangement appears to have been particularly common amongst the earliest makers, although Richard Shaw appears to have been operating a similar system in the nineteenth century. The pipemaking would have been carried out in a small workshop which need be no more than a backroom or outshot. As pipemaking became established it became a full time trade often employing other members of the family. No workshops or kilns relating to this simply type of production are known in Benthall, but parallels suggest that the workshops would be indistinguishable from other domestic property. Likewise kilns would have only been about 1m in diameter, and insubstantial in nature. No examples at Benthall are known to survive.

In the second phase master pipemakers appear. They are characterised by extensive holdings of property and tools, the employment of journeymen at their works, and the large scale production of pipes. Once again no traces can be identified on the ground, but larger scale workshops and kilns would be expected. Henry Bardley's works is considered to fall into this category.

In the third phase large scale factory production appears. In this state the owner may no longer have been actually involved in production. This phase is characterised by the use of large scale buildings and kilns, the employment of a large workforce, and an increasing devision and specialisation of tasks in the production process. One such factory existed in Benthall.

Contexts

HENRY BRADLEY'S KILN SITE (BE 21603)

In 1984 David Higgins discovered pipekiln waste in builders' trenches at 11 Lodge Lane, Benthall. A small excavation was subsequently carried out to determine the extent and nature of the deposits (IGMTAU exavation code BE84). The trial excavation located a steep sided pit or ditch into which large quantities of pipekiln waste had been dumped. This was indentical to that uncovered in other areas of the site by builders' trenches, and suggests that this plot was the site of the workshop and kiln. Large quantities of muffle were found during the excavation indicating the type of kiln used at this period. Further analysis of this material should determine the size and construction of the muffle. The majority of the pipes were marked HB or Henry Bradley and the kiln is considered to have belonged to that maker. The large number of mould types and different marks recovered (in region of 100) suggest he was a large scale manufacturer employing a number of journeymen. The pipes dated to the period circa 1660-90.

POSSIBLE KILN SITE (BE 17903)

In 1982 Mr P Knott collected pipes during building work at 23 Benthall Lane (IGMT acc nos 1982. 1255-1262). This house was formerly the Old Leopard inn. Although there was a range of pipes present, many of them were marked IH or IAMS HART, and some of these were possible wasters. Atkinson (notebooks) recorded similar waste from 24 Hillcroft, Benthall, and it seems probable that some or all of this material derives from a nearby kiln. The pipes are attributed to James Hartshorne, although his actual workshop site cannot be identified with precision. The material dates to circa 1690-1720.

RICHARD SHAW'S KILN SITE (BE 194 02)

The site now occupied by Benthall Villa Farm appears to havebeen used as a small family workshop in the first half of the nineteenth century. It is a particularly late example of pipemaking being undertaken as a small scale domestic industry, in conjunction with other activities. As such the site is of considerable importance, and any opportunity to examine the buildings, or collect kiln waste should be taken.

Richard Shaw is first recorded as a pipemaker in 1812 and appears as such in trade directories until 1859. Although given as a pipemaker in 1844 he also held four adjacent pieces of land, and was presumably operating a smallholding. In the 1851 census he is recorded as a farmer employing three men, and by 1861 as a coalmaster employing six men and five boys. Clearly he was engaged in a number of small scale activities, and is worthy of further study. Only two imcomplete examples on his marks are

known, but they appear to have been relief stem stamps reading R SHAW/IRONBRIDGE. Why the place is given as Ironbridge is not certain, and raises the possiblity that other makers marking their pipes Ironbridge were not actually working there.

BRIDGE ROAD FACTORY SITE (BE 115)

The most substantial pipemaking complex in Bethall is undoubtly the pipe works situated adjacent to the New Inn Bridge Road. This appears to have been started by Noah Roden II, who came from a well known pipe making family with a works in Broseley. He became landlord of the New Inn in about 1835, and later appears to have moved some of the pipe business into the adjacent buildings. No kiln is mentioned in the Tithe Survey of 1844, but by 1848 trade directories give Noah as a pipemaker in Broseley and Benthall. He died about 1855, and his widow appears to have briefly run the works until about 1858 when Edwin Southorn took them over.

Edwin was one of the most important members of the Southorn family, and set up an independent works following a split in the family. It seems to have been Edwin who was responsible for the Southorn's exhibit in the 1851 exhibition, and at the New Inn site he brought about a number of revoluntionary changes. He took out various registrations and patents to make water pipes and transfer printed pipes, and he was using steam power as part of the manufacturing process. He produced some of the finest English pipes of the period, making this site of considerable significance. During this period the factory was known as the 'Broseley Pipe Works', being referred to as such in Edwin's adverts of 1863-79.

In 1861 the works employed twenty-eight people, and in 1871 forty. Edwin died in 1876, and the works were run for a few years by Hopkins & Co, who in 1879 advertized it as the Raleigh Pipe Works'. By 1882 however it appears to have passed back in to the hands of William Southorn & Co who in that year copied one of Edwin's advertisementss, and used the name 'Brosley Pipe Works'. They also took over Edwin's registered trade mark which they continued to use until the closure of their King Street works in 1960.

It is not known exactly when production on the Bridge Road site ended. Entries in Kelly's Directories of 1891 and 1895 give Wm Southorn & Co, Broseley pipe works and Raleigh pipe works, Benthall'. This shows that the Southorns took the title Broseley Pipe Works for their Legges Hill site, and retained the title Raleigh Pipe Works for the Benthall site. In the 1909 Directory the Benthall entry is dropped suggesting that production there ended between 1895 and 1909. The site however is still marked as a pipe works on the 1927 OS map, although by that date all of the Southorns production is thought to have moved to the King Street works in Broseley. In summary a rough outline of the site's history is as follows:-

Circa 1844-8; Noah Roden established the works, probably as a new site.
Late 1840's-circa 1858; the site is run by the Roden family.
Circa 1858-1876; operated by Edwin Southorn as the 'Broseley Pipe Works'.
Circa 1879; taken over by Hopkins & Co, site renamed 'Raleigh Pipe Works'.
Circa 1882-1895+ operated by Wm Southorn & Co as the 'Raleigh Pipe Works'.

KILN DUMPS (BY 006)

The wood known as the Deerleap contains numerous undulations from previous mining activity. The roots of a tree blown over in 1984 revealed areas of pottery and pipe kiln waste. Samples were taken by the Archaeolgogy Unit (BE 84) and showed that late nineteenth century waste of both the Southorn and Smitheman firms was present in the old workings. These were the two major firms operating in Broseley at this period, and a more extensive sampling policy should be carried out if the wood is threatened with clearance or other disturbance.

POSSIBLE KILN DUMP (BE 06806)

Footpaths in the wood known as Workhouse Coppice reveals patches of pipekiln saggers and waste from the Wm Southorn & Co works. It seems likely that this wood too was used for the dumping of waste from the large factory sits. Atkinsons's book on Broseley pipes notes the finding of Edwin Southorn waste in an old quarry at Benthall. This wood has easy access to Edwin's works and it is probable that some of Edwin's waste was dumped here too.

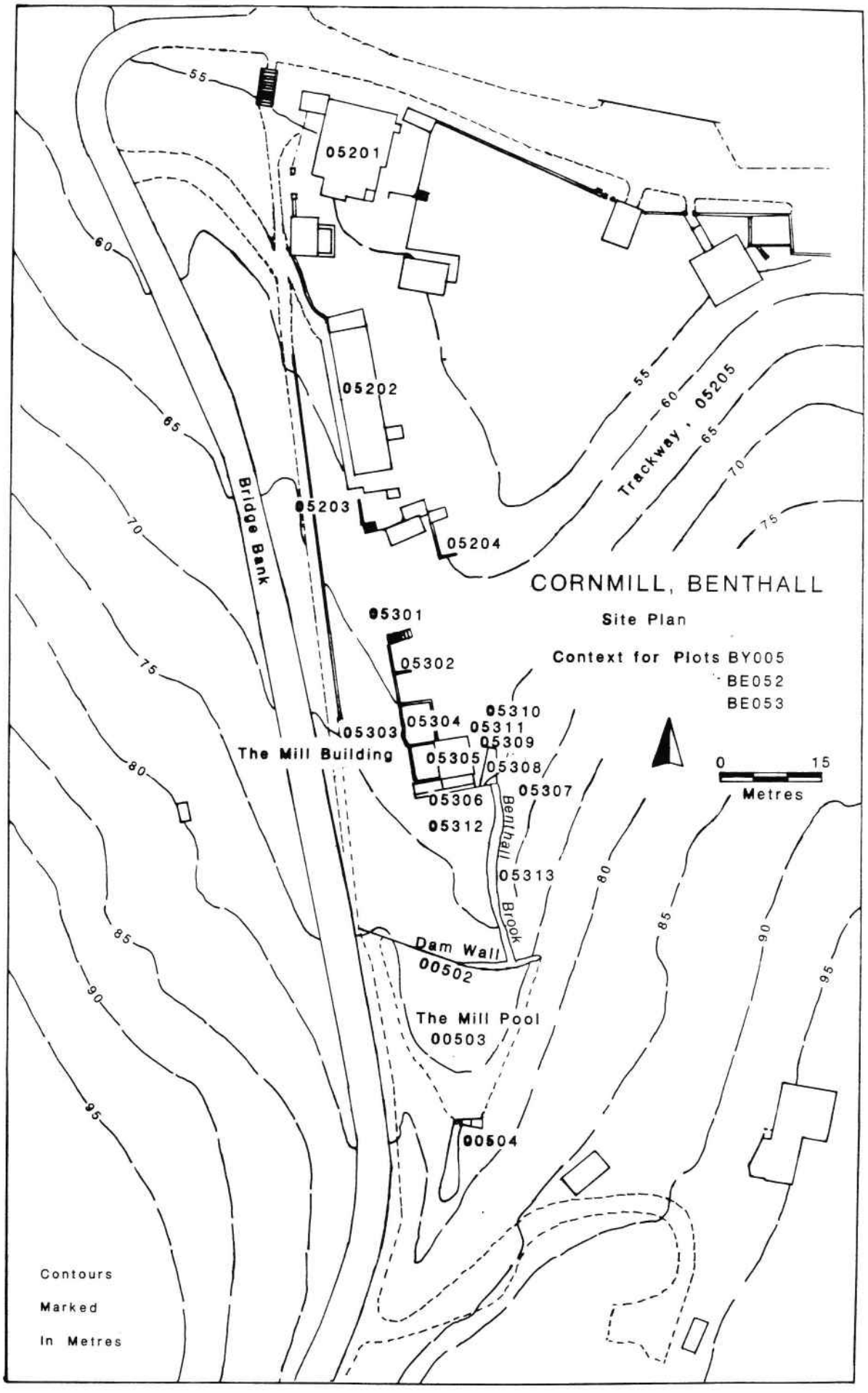


Figure 23. Benthall Corn Mill, Contexts.

APPENDIX THREE

Benthall Corn Mill
by Michael Trueman
12 May 1987.

Throughout the nineteenth century Benthall Mill, with its sixty foot diameter waterwheel, was almost as much a tourist attraction as its close neighbour, the Iron Bridge.

The earliest reference to the mill is from the late eighteenth century, and although the second of its two large wheels was taken down in the 1930's the layout of the site largely survives intact. The Mill buildings, however, are in a rapidly worsening state of repair.

Because of its fame and its setting the Mill was a popular subject for painters. Their efforts provide the best evidence for the form of the Mill during the first half of the nineteenth century. Maps and photographs take over in this role from the 1840's and 1860's respectively. Written descriptions have been made throughout the Mill's lifetime and are supplemented in the first half of this century by oral evidence.

Examination of the standing structure together with documentary evidence suggests four main phases in the use of the site as a mill. In outline these are as follows:

I The First Mill - A small waterwheel may have preceded the installation of the large wheel that is described in 1799.

II The Second Mill - Constructed between 1785-99 and in operation from that date to the 1850's.

III The Third Mill - Major rebuilding in the 1850's. The wheel is replaced, the Mill buildings are extensively altered and a steam drive is incorporated. Operation continues through to the early twentieth century.

IV Decline - A decline in use in the early years of the twentieth century leading to the sale of the Mill in 1925 and the dismantling of the wheel in the 1930's. Used as a slaughter house to the 1940's, thereafter it fell into disrepair.

I The First Mill - pre 1790's

The existence of a small waterwheel preceding the installation of the large wheel described by Goodrich (1799), is inferred from evidence contained in and around the standing mill structure. A small opening with a single segmented brick-arch in the stone-built east gable is blocked with stone-work. This opening could

have provided access for the drive from a wheel mounted adjacent to the gable. The small dam wall (BE 05307) would have been suitable for powering just such a wheel, whereas it has no obvious function in relation to the two large wheels of later phases. The distance between the centre of the arched opening and the small dam wall would have allowed for a wheel of a maximum size of 18 ft. Finally, stonework projecting from the side of the stone-lined channel (BE 05308) may be a remnant of the wheel pit accompanying this earlier wheel.

Assigning a date to this first Mill is very difficult. Stylistically the stonework of the mill and the brick-arched opening can only broadly be placed in the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries. The earliest firm reference to the Mill is a detailed description and sketch of the first 'Great Wheel' by an admiralty engineer, Simon Goodrich, who visited the site in December 1799. Prior to this there is no clear reference to a mill on this site. A conveyance of 1317 mentions a mill, apparently further up the valley (SRO 1224/3/289). References to a watermill and to two mill ponds in Benthall in the seventeenth century do not locate these features (VCHx:draft), but both they and the 1317 reference probably refer to the two mill ponds marked on Samuel Parsons map of c1620. A description of the Benthall Ironworks by diarist Jonathon Rennie in 1784 gives a detailed discussion of water power on the Benthall Brook and makes comparisons with other waterwheels in the Gorge but makes no mention of Benthall Mill (Matkon 1986). The 1752 Roque map of Shropshire does not mark a mill at this location, whereas the 1827 Greenwood map does.

II The Second Mill - 1790's to 1850's

The Benthall Tithe map of 1844 shows a heart-shaped mill pool associated with an L-shaped (Mill) building. This skeleton picture of the early mill is given some flesh by five paintings (in Smith 1979 - Munn 1802, Wood 1813, Holdsworth c1820, Owen 1834, Anon early 19thC) and three descriptions (Goodrich 1799, Warner 1801, Barton 1821) between 1799 and the 1850's.

A two/three storey gabled building stands at right-angles to the waterwheel. In construction it appears to be of stone with one north-facing dormer and at least two other windows. A second, one-storey building, with a single-pitch gable roof, butts onto the main building to form an L-shape.

The mill-wheel is described by Goodrich (1799) as a 'back overshot' wheel of 60 ft diameter. The shaft, arms and braces making up the twelve spokes and the rim were of wood and the power take-off was via a twelve foot diameter cast iron 'bevel wheel'. This probably operated a horizontal lay-shaft mechanism similar to that of the second mill. Two stone piers carried the wheel and Wood's 1813 picture shows a lean-to roof covering the power take-off, between the western pier and the main building. Wood's print also suggests at least one other (gabled) building

on the site north of the mill, and hence in the foreground of the painting.

A launder fed the wheel from the south. Wood shows this as a trough carried on stilts with a small gate mechanism close to the wheel. Owen's 1836 painting shows a very narrow launder, apparently confirming Barton's 1821 depiction of it as an iron pipe, again on stilts. A vertical pole or pipe now stands at the head of the launder.

The site is described as a 'mill' by Warner in 1801 and as a 'flour mill' by Barton in 1821. There is no evidence that it was ever used other than as a corn mill. Information is limited about the scale of operations at the mill, the extent of the hinterland supplying it with corn or its market. The 1844 Tithe Apportionment gives Samuel Roden as the Miller. Samuel Roden also occupied an area of farmland in Benthall. Indeed the Apportionment divides the parish into a number of farms some or all of which must have been supplying the Mill.

III The Third Mill - 1850's to early 1900's

Descriptions of the Mill during this phase are mainly brief entries in Directories. But photographs and map evidence from the latter half of the nineteenth century to the present day give a clearer picture of the form of the Mill than for the earlier phases, although the photographs give a frustratingly narrow field of view, most being from a stand-point northwest of the Mill.

After Owen's 1836 painting the next known pictorial record is the earliest surviving photograph of the Mill, dated to the 1860's or 1870's. This shows a new wheel next to a Mill building which has been considerably altered. Sandwiched between these dates is the 1856 entry in Kelly's Directory which describes the Mill as a 'steam and water corn-mill'.

The 1883 OS map shows the same heart-shaped mill pool as is on the Tithe map, but marks a sluice gate at the outlet of the stream. The main building is again L-shaped now with a long narrow outbuilding to the north. The wheel's position is marked together with two square structures either side of its east-west axis. A third square structure stands towards its north-east corner.

Photographs (IGMT collection, see below) identify the L-shape building to be the structures which stand on the site today. Both halves of the building are gabled and covered with clay plain tiles. The brick built north wall of the main building is visible as is the stone built gable wall of the annexe. There are brick-arched windows in each of the walls and a chimney in the west wall of the annexe. The outbuilding to the north is not in view in 1860/70 (1982.171) but in 1892 (1980.1627, 1980.2193, 1981.145.5, 1981.3828) it has a low-pitched roof and is set

within a low brick wall.

The wheel is now of a more conventional design with twenty pairs of wooden arms strengthened by two pairs of concentric iron rings, as described in the 1924 by members of the Newcommen Society (Newcommen Society 1924:110). In the 1860's/70's photograph the western wheel-pier is entirely built of stone. By 1892 it has been patched with bricks and what is visible of the east pier is entirely brick. A two to three course brick wall has now appeared around the side of the wheel, further surrounded by a low wooden fence. Photographs from the 1900's/10's (1980.1628-9) show this has been replaced with a tall continous wooden fence, which is taken down by the 1920's (1982.2801). On all the photographs from the 1890's on, a steep lean-to roof rises over the power take-off area.

The launder is now clearly an iron pipe with a vertically rising pipe at its head. It approaches the wheel at an angle resting on the brick stack built into the gable of the Mill building. Photographs from the 1900's/10's (1983.310) show the same arrangement but the iron pipe has been boxed in. 1930's photographs (1982.1781) show the iron pipe inside this deteriorating casing.

The millers during this period are recorded in the Directories as the Roden family to 1879 (Kelly's Directory), the Davies family to 1888 (Salop and Porter) and Adam Jones from 1899 (Wildings).

II Decline - early 1900's to present

Oral evidence collected by Jonathon Briggs supplements the maps, photographs and written records to give a picture of the decline of the Mill.

Kelly's Directory for 1900 describes the waterwheel as only occassionally used, although this may mean that steam is now the main power source, rather than that the mill itself is only occassionally used. Photographs in the 1900's (IGMT:1980.1628-9) show the site in a good state of repair. It is only in photographs from 1919 on (1919 Photograph in Watt 1919:89) that the site is increasingly overgrown. In 1925 (deeds) the site was sold by the Forrester estate to John Bennet whose brother Luther used the Mill to charge batteries. Two photographs from the 1930's show the wheel still in place, but the site is very overgrown (IGMT:1982.1781 and Major and Watts 1977:plate 70). Several people remember the wheel being dismantled at about this time. In the 1930's/40's the buildings were used as a slaughterhouse. Although some repairs appear to have been carried out in the 1940's, the Mill fell out of use after the war. In 1968 ownership came into the hands of Fred Ball who, in 1986, sold it to Mr and Mrs Mason. (Unless otherwise specified the information described in this paragraph is taken from deeds in the hands of the owners and from oral evidence gathered by Jonathon Briggs)

Conclusion

Documents give a broad picture of the development of the Mill site from the first reference in 1799 to the present day. There are however gaping holes in this picture which archaeological examination of the site, currently being undertaken by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Archaelogy Unit, has begun to fill in.

The initial assessment of the site which is presented here is being followed up with a measured survey of the Mill buildings as a basis for a stratigraphic analysis of these structures. A detailed photographic survey of the whole site is also being carried out.

The initial results have included the identification of an earlier phase in the history of the mill and the clarification of later phases. The operation of the power take-off from the wheel to the grinding area has been illustrated as has the arrangement of sluices around the Mill Pool. The courses of the two approach roads have also been clearly identified.

There is, however, enormous potential for further archaeological work on the site. Controlled clearance of the site, perhaps as part of a conservation scheme covering the whole of the lower part of the Benthall valley, would greatly assist in furthering an understanding of it. The area around the stone-lined channel (BE 05308) may contain further evidence for the earliest phase of the mill. The area north of the Mill platform should be examined for further evidence of the culverting of the stream. The dam wall (BY 00503) should be cleared and recorded in detail. The function of the west bay of the main building and of the Annexe is still unclear, and clearance of rubble from the collapse of parts of these structures may help to clarify this.

Finally a great deal more work could be done on the general picture in which the mill belongs, particularly on documentary research into the agricultural industry of Benthall and the Gorge in general.

Contexts

NW TRACKWAY (BE 05203)

This is seldom visible on the pictorial evidence, but is marked on a number of maps. Now partly overgrown and partly used as a garden it runs between the Mill House and the road.

?CULVERT (BE 05204)

Collapsed brickwork and iron fencing may indicate the presence of a collapsed culvert.

NE TRACKWAY (BE 05205)

This is visible on a number of illustrations and maps, to the north-east of the Mill. It is tracable on the ground and on the TDC (1961) map, following the 61 m contour, with steep slopes above and below it. A run of iron fencing survives along part of the down-hill side of the track. The form of the west-most upright of this fence and a piece of angle iron on the opposite side of the track suggest that there was a gateway at this point.

STEPS (BE 05301)

A series of eleven brick steps mark the northern limit of the retaining wall into which its stone-built and brick-patched sides are bonded.

OUTBUILDINGS (BE 05302)

A series of outbuildings are visible on maps and pictures. On the ground a single two leaf brick wall is butted to the retaining wall, BE 05303. The shallow slope of the top suggests a low-pitch roof between this and the mill building, which is identifiable on later photographs and which is probably one of the outbuildings remembered by Walter Jones as being used for keeping pigs.

STONE RETAINING WALL (BE 05303)

Butted to the curved west wall of the Annexe. Although the core is of stone, there is some patching in brick.

ANNEXE (BE 05304)

This building collapsed in March 1987. Wall scars indicate that at the time of the collapse the building was of stone to the same height as the main building. Detectable in the rubble is a chimney in the east wall and an internal division in the north-east corner. A socket in the south wall and an adjacent supporting timber housed a large beam, present in the rubble, at the equivelant of first floor level in the main building. The west, retaining, wall contains a narrow vertical slot of unknown function. There are openings at two levels through the common wall with the main building. Surviving brickwork butted to the main building indicates the presence a very high opening from outside through the east wall of the annexe.

The only visible suggestion of building phases is in the west retaining wall. This is clearly of two phases. The southern half is curved and apparently of one build with the north wall of the main building. Butted to this is the straight retaining wall, BE 05303. This may be in keeping with documentary evidence which indicates that at least two distinct buildings stood on this spot. Pictures show that associated with the earlier mill was a one storey stone building with a single-pitch gable roof. Photographs of the second mill show a stone, two to three storey

gabled building clearly identifiable as the collapsed building.

The function of this building is unclear. The chimney may hint at a domestic use or, again, may relate to steam power.

MILL BUILDING (BE 05305)

A three-storey, two-bay building with a stone core, raised and partially rebuilt in brick. The building is best described in terms of these two main phases.

Stone Phase - Substantial stone-work in all the walls indicates a rubble-stone construction with blocks of up to 30 cm across. The line of the original gable roof is visible under the brick heightening. Features are largely masked by alterations, apart from a brick arched opening in the east gable wall facing the wheel at first floor level. This has been blocked with stone and may indicate an earlier sub-phase of use of the stone building.

Brick phase - The eastern half of the north wall has been almost totally rebuilt and all the walls have been heightened by approximately one and a half metres. The western wall is curved into the earthen bank and has been faced with a single leaf of bricks. Traces of a stone core are visible through a small recess at ground floor level and along the top of the wall. The new gabled roof was of clay plain tiles, remnants of which remain, and which had, at a later date, been partly covered with corrugated sheets. Three floor levels are indicated by the presence of joist holes, broken off joists and fragments of wooden flooring.
The two bays of this building are as follows:

East Bay - Two windows and a doorway partially surviving in the eastern half of the north wall are identifiable with features seen on photographs. A number of other openings and blockings are visible. Two small arched openings in the lower east corner of the north wall relate to the power take-off from the mill wheel to the grinding machinery. A drive shaft would have run through the lower opening to three vertical wheels, the recesses for which are visible in the east gable wall. Two of these drove mill stones, which now lie amongst the debris of the collapsed interior. The stones are constructed of segments of French Burr stone bound by iron straps. The third vertical wheel drove a hoist, part of the clutch mechanism for which is still attached to beams hanging from the third floor level.

West Bay - Documentary evidence gives little information about this part of the building. There are a number of openings into the East bay, the annexe and the alleyway to the south. On the ground floor a low brick wall incorporating a large round iron socket is butted to the north wall, while at the southeast corner of the room a narrow iron pipe runs into the hollowed out base of the dividing wall of the main building. These features

may relate to the Mill's steam power system.

ALLEYWAY (BE 05306)

This is formed by a two-sided, sloping, brick retaining wall which is butted to the south side of the Mill building. Through an opening low in the centre a stone core is visible. Two brick buttresses bond into the retaining wall and butt against the stone south wall of the Mill.

SMALL DAM WALL (BE 05307)

This stone-built wall is to the east of and is continuous with BE 05306. A shute formed out of large stone slabs is set in the top of the wall. A 13 inch diameter iron pipe has been inserted in the west half of the wall.

STONE-LINED CHANNEL (BE 05308)

This runs north from the base of the dam wall, BE 05307. At its north end water runs through an iron grill (part of an iron fence) into a culvert fronted by a low brick arch. Stonework projecting into the channel on its east side runs parallel to the gable wall of the Mill building.

WHEEL PIT (BE 05309)

This area is identifiable from map and picture evidence. On the ground the pit must have been located between the channel, (BE 05308) and the east gable of the mill. It has been filled in and is now almost completely covered by rubble from the collapse of the annexe building.

WHEEL SUPPORTS (BE 05310)

The corner of a brick structure is just visible beneath the collapsed rubble of the Mill annexe. Although not aligned with the Mill building, the structure is at the approximate location of the eastern wheel support. No trace is visible of the western wheel support.

POWER TAKE-OFF (BE 05311)

Identifiable from documents as the area between the western wheel support and the main building, it is now covered by rubble from the collaps of BE 05304.

THE LAUNDER (BE 05312)

Pictures of the early Mill depict the launder running to the south, clear of the Mill building. Photographs of the second Mill show the launder resting on the brick stack built into the gable of the Mill. South of the alleyway (BE 05306) is a short run of brick work 29" wide running at an angle to the Mill buildings. Ironwork protudes from the ground nearby. This

structure is on a line between the brick stack and the location of the sluice at the west end of the large dam wall (BY 00503) and is probably the base of another support.

BENTHALL BROOK (BE 05313)

This divides into five sections over the Mill site: the feed into the pool; the pool itself; between the pool and the wheel; around the wheel; and from the Mill to the river.

DAM WALL (BY 00502)

The Mill Pool dam wall appears to contain at least two phases of build. Adjacent to the road the wall is clearly of stone. The line of the wall is heavily overgrown and only visible at intervals between the road and the eastern boundary of the pool. The eastern portion of the wall is brick with two openings - one low with a brick arch, the other a tall narrow rectangle. In the latter a stone core is visible. Ironwork in the stream below the wall may be fragments of the sluice which is marked on the 1885 OS map at this location and to which the rectangular opening probably relates. The arched opening is probably the exit for the culverted course of the stream running under the pool. A second sluice, marked on the map as near the road is not visible on the ground, but would line up with the launder supports near and on the Mill.

MILL POOL (BY 00503)

This is well defined on the TDC survey and clearly traceable on the ground. It is bounded on the north by the dam wall and on the other two sides by steep slopes. The pool is now silted up and the stream runs down a channel through its centre.

SOUTHERN SLUICE (BY 00504)

At the south end of the pool a third sluice is marked on the 1927 OS map. Little trace remains of this structure. One corner of a structure formed of well cut rectangular stone blocks is visible. Many more such blocks are scattered in the stream. The occupant of the house above the mill remembers that the stream used to dip underground at this point and that it was filled in some years ago. This information suggests that the sluice was used to divert the stream into a culvert running under the pool when it was not required to raise the level of water in the pool. An arched opening in the dam wall (BY 00503) may be the exit point of this culvert.

APPENDIX FOUR

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
1	Harries	John Patten	House and Garden	
2	Harries	James Jones	Garden	
3	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Shop	
4	Harries	William Tipton	House and Garden	
5	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	House and Garden	
6	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Garden	
7	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Garden etc	
8	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	2 Dwlngs & Gardens	
9	Harries	James Bartlam	Garden	
10	Harries	Abraham Pomford	Garden	
11	Harries	James Bartlam	House	
12	Harries	James Jones	House	
13	Harries	Abraham Pomford	House	
14	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	House	
15	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	House	
16	Harries	John Patten	Garden	
17	Harries	John Patten	House and Garden	
18	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Garden	
19	Harries	John Patten	House and Garden	
20	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Garden	
21	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Garden	
22	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Timber Yard	
23	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	Patch	
24	Harries	Francis Slodd Gother	House and Garden	
25	Harries	John Patten	Coppice Yard	Arable
26	Harries	John Patten	House Buildings etc	
27	Harries	John Patten	Garden	
28	Harries	John Patten	House	
29	Harries	Samuel Roden	Patch & Buildings	Meadow
30	Harries	Samuel Roden	Meadow	Meadow
31	Harries	Samuel Roden	Poplar Plantation	
32	Harries	Thomas Armstrong	House and Garden	
33	Harries	Richard Merrick	House etc	
34	Harries	Messrs,B,B,P & B	4 Houses & Gardens	
35	Harries	Luke Barttam	Garden	
36	Harries	John Patten	Yard	Meadow
37	Harries	Lt.J.Jones& J.Weaver	Two Houses & Gardens	

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
38	Harries	Joseph Fletcher	House and Garden	
39	Harries	W.Perkin & C.Harvey	2 Houses and Gardens	
40	Harries	Richard Merrick	Garden	
41	Harries	Samuel Roden	Warehouse and Garden	
42	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Rd & Wst adjoining R	
43	Harries	Samuel Roden	Patch	Meadow
44	Harries	Samuel Wace	House and Garden	
45	Harries	Samuel Roden	2 Dwellings & Gdns	
46	Harries	Props. ofIron Bridge	Iron Bridge Toll Hse	
47	Harries	Edward Roden	House and Garden	
48	Harries	Samuel Roden	Malthouse	
49	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Wst adj R below Brdg	
50	Harries	Thomas Pumford	House and Garden	
51	Harries	J.Rowley & R.Ruthin	2 Dwellings and Gdns	
52	Harries	Samuel Roden	Garden	
53	Harries	M and A Hartshorne	Garden	
54	Harries	M and A Hartshorne	House and Garden	
55	Harries	Samuel Roden	House Building etc	
56	Harries	Samuel Roden	Carthouse	
57	Harries	John & Edward Burton	Gdn,Brkwk,Wharf etc	
58	Harries	Price and Hill	Garden	
59	Harries	Price and Hill	House and Garden	
60	Harries	Price and Hill	House	
61	Harries	Price and Hill	House	
62	Harries	Samuel Roden	Mill Pool etc	
63	Harries	Price and Hill	Waste	
64	Harries	Price and Hill	Cinder Hill	
65	Harries	Price and Hill	Orchard	Pasture
66	Harries	Price and Hill	Garden	Arable
67	Harries	Price and Hill	Foundry Offices etc	
68	Harries	Price and Hill	Pool etc	
70	Harries	Price and Hill	Road and Cart House	
71	Harries	Price and Hill	Machine House	
72	Harries	Price and Hill	House and Garden	
73	Harries	Richard Smith	House and Garden	
74	Harries	Sarah Powell	Garden	
75	Harries	Sarah Powell	Garden	
76	Harries	Sarah Powell	Garden	
77	Harries	Sarah Powell	House and Garden	
78	Harries	Bejamin Cox	Garden	
79	Harries	John Lloyd	Land open to Road	Pasture
80	Harries	John Lloyd	Croft	Pasture
81	Harries	John Lloyd	Road and Waste	
82	Harries	Samuel Woodcock	House and Garden	
84	Harries	Edward Pugh	Garden	
85	Harries	Robert Gethin	House and Garden	
86	Harries	Edward Pugh	House and Garden	
87	Harries	Mary Hartshorne	House and Garden	

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
89	Harries	John Lloyd	House Buildings etc	
90	Harries	John Lloyd	Orchard	
91	Harries	John Lloyd	Garden	
92	Harries	John Lloyd	Road	
93	Harries	Widow Hartshorne	House and Garden	
94	Harries	Edward Lee	House	
95	Harries	Price and Hill	House and Garden	
96	Harries	Edward Lee	Garden	
97	Harries	John Lloyd	Meadow	Meadow
98	Haries	Samuel Roden	House and Garden	
99	Harries	Samuel Roden	House and Garden	
100	Harries	Price and Hill	Stables and Yard	
101	Harries	Price and Hill	Boring Mill & Yard	
102	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Sawpit	
103	Harries	Price and Hill	House and Garden	
104	Harries	William Parker	Garden	
104	Harries	William Parker	Garden	
106	Harries	James Meredith	House and Garden	
108	Harries	William Parker	House etc	
109	Harries	Price and Hill	Mill,Pool etc	
110	Harries	Noah Roden	Garden	
111	Harries	Enoch Hill	House and Garden	
112	Harries	Wilkes and Ward	2 Dwellings & Gdns	
113	Harries	Anne Aston	House and Garden	
114	Harries	Susan Hanley	House and Garden	
115	Harries	Price and Hill	Furness Yard	Pasture
116	Harries	T.Foster & G.Collins	2 Dwellings and Gdns	
117	Harries	Hughes	House and Garden	
118	Harries	Richard Harley	House etc	
119	Harries	Richard Harley	Garden	
120	Harries	Elizabeth Clarke	House and Garden	
121	Harries	Samuel Hartshorne	House and Garden	
122	Harries	Thomas Inskip	House and Garden	
123	Harries	Noah Roden	N I Hse,Bdngs,Gdn,Rd	etc
124	Harries	Jones and Bashurst	Mill and Pool	
125	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	Plantation
126	Harries	Thomas Dunce	Garden	
127	Harries	James Hartshorne	Garden	
128	Harries	T.Henley & T.Powell	Garden	
129	Harries	James Hartshorne	House	
130	Harries	Edward Ward	House and Garden	
131	Harries	Edward Ward	Garden	
132	Harries	T.Henley & T.Powell	Two Dwellings	
133	Harries	John Shaw	House and Garden	
134	Harries	John Agar	House and Garden	
135	Harries	Price and Hill	Garden,Yard	Arable
136	Harries	Samuel Roden	Carthouse Yard	Pasture
137	Harries	F.Parkins & J.Powell	2 Dwellings & Gdns	

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
139	Harries	F.Parkins & J.Powell	Garden	
140	Harries	J.Tomkins & J.Gethin	2 Dwellings & Gdns	
141	Harries	Thomas Evans	House	
143	Harries	Mary Roden	Pasture	Pasture
144	Harries	Alexander Hartshorne	House and Garden	
145	Harries	Mary Roden	Pasture	Pasture
146	Harries	Mary Roden	Crannages Rough	Pasture
147	Harries	Mary Roden	Bdngs,Fd,P,etc	
148	Harries	Mary Roden	Hill Top Yard	Pasture
149	Harries	Mary Roden	Plantation	
150	Harries	Mary Roden	Little Yd,Stable etc	
152	Harries	Mary Roden	Orchard	Pasture
153	Harries	Mary Roden	House,Garden,Foldetc	
154	Harries	Mary Roden	Plantation	
155	Harries	Mary Roden	Orchard	Pasture
156	Harries	Mary Roden	Orchard	Pasture
157	Harries	Mary Roden	Road	
158	Harries	Mary Roden	Orchard	
160	Harries	Mary Roden	House and Garden	
161	Harries	Mary Roden	2 Dwellings,Gdn,etc	
162	Harries	Mary Roden	House and Garden	
163	Harries	Mary Roden	Little Meadow	Meadow
164	Harries	Mary Roden	Little Yard	Meadow
165	Harries	Mary Roden	Meadow	Meadow
166	Harries	Thomas Evans	Garden	
167	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	Plantation
168	Harries	Jones and Bashurst	Pottery	
169	Harries	John Duckett	House and Garden	
170	Harries	Thomas Broadhurst	Garden	
171	Harries	Thomas Broadhurst	2 Dwellings & Gdns	
172	Harries	Mary Hill	House	
173	Harries	Widow of Noah Hill	House and Garden	
174	Harries	Widow of Noah Hill	Garden	
175	Harries	Robert Jones	The Yard	Pasture
176	Harries	Robert Jones	Leopard House & Gdn	
177	Harries	Robert Jones	The Yard wth Stables	Pasture
178	Harries	Robert Jones	Garden	Pasture
179	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	House and Garden	
181	Harries	John Beavington	House and garden	
182	Harries	Francis Harrison	House and garden	
183	Harries	Richard Shaw	House and garden	
184	Harries	Richard Shaw	Palch	Meadow
185	Harries	Robert Jones	Croft	Meadow
186	Harries	Francis Harries	House and Garden	
188	Harries	Thomas Hill	Field	Pasture
189	Harries	Robert Jones	Slang	Pasture
190	Harries	John Meredith	House and garden	
191	Harries	Lydia Churchman	House and garden	

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
192	Harries	Anne Gethin	House and garden	
193	Harries	Gabriel Bund	Garden	
194	Harries	Elizabeth Gethin	House and garden	
196	Harries	Zophen Gethin	House and garden	
197	Harries	Francis Littlehales	House and garden	
198	Harries	James Easthope	Garden	
199	Harries	James Easthope	Hse,bdngs,lawn,etc	
200	Harries	Thomas Hill	House and Garden	
201	Harries	Thomas Hill	House and Garden	
202	Harries	Thomas Hill	Patch	Meadow
203	Harries	John Hartshorne	House and garden	
204	Harries	William Fifield Esq	Bath Meadow	
205	Harries	Thomas Hill	Close	Pasture
206	Harries	Thomas Hill	Siners Coppice	Pasture
207	Harries	Thomas Hill		Pasture
208	Harries	Thomas Hill	Lowes's Leasow	Arable
209	Harries	Thomas Hill	Siners Cop with Rd	Rough Past
210	Harries	Thomas Hill	Plantation	
211	Harries	Thomas Hill		Pasture
212	Harries	Thomas Hill		Arable
213	Harries	Thomas Hill	Garden	
214	harries	Thomas Hill	Patch or Garden	
215	Harries	Thomas Hill	Patch or Garden	
216	Harries	Thomas Hill	House	
217	Harries	Thomas Hill	Patch and Building	
218	Harries	John Jones	Orchard	
219	Harries	John Jones	House,Garden,etc	
220	Harries	Thomas Hill	Barn and Fold	
221	Harries	James Easthope	Meadow	Meadow
222	Harries	James Easthope	Pasture	Pasture
223	Harries	James Easthope	Pasture	Pasture
224	Harries	Thomas Hill	Siners Coppice	Pasture
225	harries	Thomas Hill		Arable
226	Harries	Thomas Hill		Arable
227	Harries	Himself(T.Harries	Plantation	Plantation
228	Harries	Jones and Bathurst	Constable's Yard	Pasture
229	Harries	Jones and Bathurst	finers Coppice	Pasture
230	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Cover	Oziers
231	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	House and Garden	
232	Harries	Jones and Bathurst	Morris's Piece	Meadow
233	Harries	Jones and Bathurst	Garden	
234	Harries	Jones and Bathurst	Hse,Ptry,Yds,Bdngs,	etc
235	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	Plantation
236	Harries	Mary Roden	Four Square Piece	Pasture
237	Harries	Richard Shaw	Long Lengh	Meadow
238	Harries	Richard Shaw	Long lengh with road	Pasture
239	Harries	Mary Roden	Marsh Field	Pasture
240	Harries	Robert Jones	L Part Of Long Leng	Pasture
241	Harries	Robert Jones	Hanleys Meadow	Meadow

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
242	Harries	Robert Jones	Hanleys Meadow	Pasture
243	Harries	Mary Roden	Hill Top Piece	Pasture
244	Harries	Mary Roden	Lower Marsh with P.	Meadow
245	Harries	Mary Roden	Barn Marsh	Meadow
246	Haries	Mary Roden	Road	
247	Harries	Mary Roden	Barn Piece	Meadow
248	Harries	Mary Roden	Ash Coppice Piece	Pasture
249	Harries	Mary Roden	Ash Coppice Leasow	Arable
250	Harries	Mary Roden	Hazlewell Slang	Pasture
251	Harries	Mary Roden	Further Hazlewall	Arable
252	Harries	Mary Roden	Near Hazlewall	Arable
253	Harries	Mary Roden	Oak Coppice Piece	Pasture
254	Harries	Mary Roden	Little Ash Cop Mw	Pasture
254	Harries	Mary Roden	(a) Coppice	
255	Harries	John Lloyd	Gayney's Rough Past.	Pasture
256	Harries	Noah Roden	Field	Pasture
257	Harries	John Lloyd	Gayney's Rough Past.	Pasture
258	Harries	John Patten	Close	Pasture
259	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Ash Coppice	Wood
260	Harries	John Lloyd	Pasture	Pasture
261	Harries	Price and Hill	Roads and Railways	
262	Harries	John Lloyd	Pasture	Pasture
263	Harries	Samuel Roden	Coppice Meadow	Meadow
264	Harries	John Lloyd	Pasture	Pasture
265	Harries	John Lloyd	Pasture	Pasture
266	Harries	Price and Hill	Lime Kilns,etc	
267	Harries	John Patten	Mine Croft	Pasture
268	Harries	Steele	2 Houses and Gardens	
269	Harries	Himself(T.Haries)	Lower Mine Coppice	Wood
270	Harries	Price and Hill	Lower Mine Coppice	Pasture
271	Harries	Price and Hill	Barn Piece	Pasture
272	Harries	Price and Hill	Near Meadow	Pasture
273	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Cop. and Brickyard	Wood
274	Harries	Price and Hill	Further Meadow	Arable
275	Harries	Price and Hill	South Lea	Arable
276	Harries	Himself(T.Harris)	Mine Coppice	Wood
277	Harries	Samuel Roden	Cadmans Cv& Foxholes	Arable
278	Harries	Samuel Roden	Coppice Meadow	Meadow
279	Harries	Samuel Roden	Barn Fold and Patch	
280	Harries	Samuel Roden	Hazlewell Barn Mw	Arable
281	Harries	Samuel Roden	Hazlewall Piece	Arable
282	Harries	Samuel roden	Hazlewall Piece	Meadow
283	Harries	Samuel Roden	Hazlewall Field	Arable
284	Harries	Price and Hill	Hazlewall Piece	Arable
285	Harries	Price and Hill	Hazlewall Meadow	Arable
286	Harries	Price and Hill	Hazlewall Field	Arable
287	Harries	Price and Hill	Hazlewall Field	Arable
288	Harries	Price and Hill	Hill Head	Arable
289	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Benthall Edge	Wood
289	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	(a)Cl Lnd,Limeks& Rd	Past etc
290	Harries	A.Hwls,J.Grn,J.Rbts	Garden	

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
291	Harries	A.Hwls,J.Grn,J.Rbts	Garden	
292	Harries	A.Hwls,J.Grn,J.Rbts	2 Dwelling & gardens	
293	Harries	A.Hwls,J.Grn,J.Rbts	Field	
294	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Coppice	Wood
295	Harries	John Parry	Skills Leasow	Arable
296	Harries	John Parry	Skills Leasow	Pasture
297	Harries	John Parry	Coach Leasow	Pasture
298	Harries	John Parry	Coach Leasow	Arable
299	Harries	John Parry	Hse,Bdngs,Gdn,Or,Rd,	etc
300	Harries	John Parry	House Patch	Arable
301	Harries	John Parry	House Meadow	Pasture
302	Harries	John Parry	Rough Meadow	Pasture
303	Harries	John Parry	Rough Meadow	Arable
304	Harries	John Parry	Long Piece	Arable
305	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Coppice	Wood
306	Harries	John Parry	Lower Hill Head	Arable
307	Harries	John Parry	Middle Hill Head	Arable
308	Harries	John Parry	Little Crofs Meadow	Meadow
309	Harries	John Parry	Further Riding Hill	Arable
310	Harries	John Parry	Riding Hill	Arable
311	Harries	John Parry	Crofs Meadow	Pasture
312	Harries	John Parry	Holly Leasow	Pasture
313	Harries	Fracis Harries Esq	Plantation	
314	Harries	Fancis Harries Esq	Road	
315	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	B.Hl,off,Pl grnd,Gdn	Bdngs,Fd,p
316	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Upper Griffin Meadow	Pasture
317	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Upper Hill Head	Pasture
318	Harries	Franci Harries Esq	Upper Hill Head	Pasture
319	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	
320	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	House and Garden	
321	Harries	Fancis Harries	Ox Leasow	Pasture
322	Harries	Price and Hill	Hill Head	Arable
323	Harries	Price and Hill	Road	
324	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	
325	Harries	Price and Hill	Brick Furlong	Arable
326	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Little Meadow	Pasture
327	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Simpson's Griffin	Pasture
328	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Near White Leasow	Arable
329	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Further White Leasow	Arable
330	Harries	Fancis Harries Esq	Plantation	
331	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Griffin Meadow	Pasture

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
332	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Canal Meadow	Meadow
333	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Lawn and Pool	Meadow
334	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Lawn	Pasture
335	Harries	Fancis Harries Esq	Cover	
336	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Gardeners Meadow	Arable
337	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Three Square Piece	Arable
338	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Lower Silver Hill	Arable
339	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Middle Silver Hill	Arable
340	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	U Silver & L oor Mw	Arable
341	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Pool	
342	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Road	
343	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Lower Marsh Meadow	Pasture
344	Harries	Francis Harries Esq	Pool	
345	Harries	Francis Harries	Furlong	Arable
346	Harries	Francis Harries	Upper Furlong	Arable
347	Harries	Ann Pitt	Wet Piles	Pasture
348	Harries	Ann Pitt	Dry Piles	Arable
349	Harries	Ann Pitt	Upper Marsh Meadow	Meadow
350	Harries	Ann Pitt	Upper Marsh Meadow	Pasture
351	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	
352	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Oziers	
353	Harries	Ann Pitt	Broad Stones	Pasure
354	Harries	Ann Pitt	House and Garden	
355	Harries	Francis Harries	House and garden	
356	Harries	Joshua Instone	Croft	Meadow
357	Harries	Joshua Instone	Hse,Bksth'Sp,Gdn,etc	
358	?lock	Themselves	Toll House	
359	Harries	Joshua Instone	Croft	Pasture
360	Harries	Joshua Instone	The Yard	Meadow
361	Harries	Joshua Instone	The Yard	Pasture
362	Harries	Ann Pitt	Bradeleys or Wml Lsw	Arable
363	Harries	Ann Pitt	Sheep Leasow	Arable
364	Harries	Ann Pitt	Benthall Leasow	Arable
365	Harries	Ann Pitt	Spring Meadow	Pasture
366	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Pool with Oziers	
367	Harries	Ann Pitt	Bthll Mw & Irelnd Cs	Meadow
368	Harries	Ann Pitt	Broad Meadow	Arable
369	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	
370	Harries	Ann Pitt	Slang	Meadow
371	Harries	Ann Pitt	Broad Meadow	Arable

Benthall Tithe Apportionment

No	owner	occupier	name	cultivation
372	Harries	Ann Pitt	Slack Yard	Pasture
373	Harries	Ann Pitt	Little Slang	Pasture
374	Harries	Ann Pitt	Hse,Bdngs,Fd,Gdn,Or,	Rd etc
375	Harries	Ann Pitt	Oziers	
376	Harries	Himself(T.Harries)	Plantation	
377	Harries	Ann Pitt	Garden Close	Pasture
378	Harries	Ann Pitt	Gorsey Field	Arable
379	Harries	Ann Pitt	Grn Cop & Rd to Cop	Arable

APPENDIX FIVE

The Minerals of Benthall

MIDDLE COAL MEASURES

Name	Description	Evidence for use
Big Flint Coal	Good coking coal	Deerleap bell pits
Big Flint Clays	Very white & plastic occasionally occurs in parish	May be suitable measure for clay pipes; surface outcrop, little remains.
Pennystone Ironstone =Blue bind =p clays	Layers of ironstone with cleaner clays between. Buff clay, burns mucky red Ironstone occurs as small pieces.	clay Used for land drains ironstone mined near Benthall Potteries

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LOWER COAL MEASURES

New Mine Coal =Sulphur Coal	very sulphurous, used as floor for working Pennystone	Pit props seen in this measure at Deerleap little worked.
New Mine Clay	Refractory clay	Used today with p clays
Clunch Coal = Viger Coal	Poor quality	
Clunch Clay =Viger Clay	Burns clean buff, not refractory	Used at Bower Yard brick works for sanitary pipes Not used today
Upper Ganey Coal =Two Foot coal		Outcrop at Hilltop and Benthall House, Ash Coppice. Worked in Bellpits
Middle Ganey Coal =Little Ganey		
Lower Ganey Coal =Main Ganey		

Ganey Clay =fireclay	High alumina quantity very refractory, but burns black hearted. Suitable for white bricks,saggars	Not used today Randall says used at Burtons Brickworks Bower Yard. Worked at Benthall Level.
Best Coal		
Randle Coal =Middle Coal	Good coking coal, suitable for kiln firing	Always worked in Deerleap bellpits
Randle Clay	Too carbonaceous for refractory purposes. Buff clay.	Used for floor tiles by Maws. Mined near Burtons.
Clod Coal	Good quality coal Prestwich says best for ironworking	Always worked where seen Used at Benthall Ironworks.
Clod Clay	Tight burning, buff clay. accepts glaze, not porous. Good for kiln furniture house brick.	Used by Burtons for sanitary wares.
Little Flint Coal	Lowest measure which outcrops at Benthall	Worked extensively at Benthall
Crawstone Coal		From shafts only
Crawstone Ironstone	Occurs in sandstone	From shafts only.
Crawstone Clays		Adam Jones experimented with these at Bower Yard c1908.

Sources

W.H.Williams' Index of Industrial Sites.

Mr Ian Taylor of Coalmoor Refractories.

John Randall 1877, 1879.

Geological Survey Sheet SJ 60 SE, Salop.

APPENDIX SIX

Benthall: Inventory of archaeological contexts

1. Most of the contexts are for Benthall Parish. There are a few archaeological contexts for Posenhall and the Bower Yard area of Broseley Parish, which are listed at the front of this Appendix.

2. Sites are numbered by parish and plot number. Within each plot number, individual context numbers have been allocated. The first three figures of each number represent the plot, the second two the context number.

3. Numbers are based on plots shown on the 1902 Ordnance Survey Map. This is reproduced in Figure 2, or is available at SRO, SBL and in the IGMT library. The 1927 and 1883 editions are almost the same.

4. Only the archaeological contexts are listed in this appendix, architectural contexts are in Appendices Seven (Benthall) and Eight (Broseley Wood).

5. There is a complete listing of all contexts at the back of the report.

POSENHALL PARISH

HAYBROOK POTTERIES (PO 01701)

The site and lay out of the Hay brook pottery, operating from at least the early eighteenth century until some time after 1902, mainly in conjunction with the Benthall Potteries, can be seen on early OS maps. Far less organised than the Benthall Potteries, the works seem to have consisted of a scatter of four buildings, a terrace or works along the road frontage, two kilns and two pools in 1902. Current opencasting is to the south of the site, but the north end of the site has been opencast earlier, almost up to the road frontage.

POTTERY WASTE, HAYBROOK POTTERY (PO 01702)

To the west, a new house has been built, but in the garden are many tips of pottery, which seem to be fairly well stratified. On the surface are found many sanitary pipes, drain pipes etc, but a small excavation has thrown up fragments of art pottery with incised and leaf designs, fragments of unfired wares etc.
*Art pottery - many fragments of unglazed buff of pale red fabric, white or blue slipped with moulded linear designs and incised leaf patterns

* Several fragments of straight sided vessels, with turned moulding around base, very white fabrick, with pale blue banded

decoration. Probably early twentieth century coronation mugs, similar to complete example owned by occupier.

* one frament of art pottery with streaky bottle green glaze and slight 'oil slick' finish, brown interior, and dark brown red fabric,

* Fragment of tile, unglazed, brown fabric, blue slipped with incised and moulded decoration, "Flo.. Sa..." stamp on reverse.

*salt glazed sanitary pipes and U bends

* gragments of manganese under glaze, clear glazed earthenware, similar to that found across the road at Benthall potteries

* several fragments of press moulded wares, with yellow and brown slip decoration under a clear glaze.

BROSELEY PARISH

SITE OF LEAD SMELTER (BY 00103)

Plot of land referred to in lease of 1765, mentioning a malthouse, formerly a lead smelter. Malthouse stood until the century. Now demolished, and some material rebuilt into garage. The rest of the site is rough ground. The stone retaining wall of the river bank has partly collapsed, and a layer of brick, ash and slag can be seen eroding out, about one metre below the modern ground surface. Some of the slag is black and glassy, but it does seem to resemble iron smelting slag from Benthall Ironworks. Further work is needed.

CORN MILL DAM WALL (BY 00502)

See Appendix Three.

CORN MILL, MILL POOL (BY 00503)

See Appendix Three.

CORN MILL SOUTHERN SLUICE (BY 00504)

See Appendix Three.

BENTHALL PARISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

OLD ROAD TO MUCH WENLOCK (BE 00501)

See Chapter 4.

ROAD TO BUILDWAS (BE 00901)

Madeup road, 3-4m wide, resurfaced in twentieth century (0909) Sharp U-bend as road negotiates steep of Benthall Edge. Online of medieval road, leading from Benthall Hall, down Benthall Edge towards Buildwas mentioned in treaty of 1250. Provides only road access to Hungerdale Farm. Post dates 902. Shown on Baughs map c. 1808.

ROAD FROM QUARRIES TO RIVER (BE 00902)

Early road,from bend on 0901 sloping gently down Benthall Edge to riverbank. Well paved with limestone, occasional passing places and built up or cut into bank. Considerable use. Hollow way at north eastern end. = 02601.

MODERN TIP (BE 00903)

Tip of modern brick, burnt brick, waste pipes associated with improvements to 0901 (0909).

ZIG ZAG TRACK (BE 00904)

Zig zag path down Benthall Edge, shown on 1883 OS map, and just discernable as path, tipped on by BE 0903. Probably footpath cutting bend of 0901.

BALLSTONE QUARRY (BE 00905)

Roughly circular quarry, c. 6, deep with sloping sides. Some good quality dense stone visible on south western edge. Material removed to the north, down Benthall Edge. Cuts quarry 00907 and road 00906.

FRAGMENT OF ROAD ALONG EDGE (BE 00906)

Fragment of road along Benthall Edge has been cut by 0905, and 02603.

QUARRY (BE 00907)

Cliff has been cut to c 5m wide, with a flat floor c. 3m deep cut by 02603 and quarry 00905. Earlier quarrying. Access road 00906.

BALLSTONE QUARRY (BE 00908)

Rough area of quarrying cut by 02603. Access road 00906.

RESURFACING ROAD 00901 (BE 00909)

Road has been resurfaced using broken drainage pipes, kiln waste, glazed bricks etc. from heap 00909. Probably from Benthall Potteries.

BENTHALL EDGE WOODS (BE 00910)

See Chapter 2. Towards south western extent of Benthall Edge woods. Under different ownership at some point (hence plot division). Clear evidence for better managment of coppicing than on the main part of the Edge.

ROAD TO COTTAGE IN WOODS (01201)

Hollow way to cottage across what is now a field, just visible. Possibly originally part of road complex for deserted village in plots BE 228 and 223.

PATH TO BENTHALL EDGE FERRY (02201)

Footpath leading down to riverbank for ferry. See Chapter 2.

LIME KILN ON RIVERBANK (02501)

Brick arch of old kiln on flat area of bank of River Severn probably associated with incline 02608. The kiln has collapsed completely, leaving a void between the arch and the bank. Two kilns shown on 1835 map (Hitchcock), but not on later editions.

ACCESS ROAD (02502)

Access from railway line to Lime kiln 02501. Original access was probably via incline 02608.

ROAD (BE 002601)

Road from quarries to River Severn. Well made, paved with limestone, occasional passing places. Cut by railway. Shown on Tithe Map. Takes material to riverbank, possibly to Stone Port in Buildwas parish (=00902)

ROAD (BE 02602)

Road from Benthall Edge down slope from 02604 to 02601. C. 1.5m wide, not particularly well defined. Cut by 02603. Mature tree at junction between 02602 and 02601. Not in use today. Later than 02601.

ROAD (BE 02603)

Well defined road from quarries to river, later than 02601. Cuts 906 and 02638 and runs along edge of slope. Diverts around quarry 0905. Junction with 02601 is shown on Tithe Map. Not in

use today.

ROAD (BE 02604)

Road along top of break of slope of Benthall Edge from 02638 to railway 7702. The path varies in quality and has in places been dumped upon (by junction with 02602).

ROAD (BE 02605)

Old road, probably all that remains of an incline and a road leading down to the river. Pre-dates railway.

ROAD (BE 02606)

Used today as a footpath, this road slopes steeply from quarry 02636 west down Benthal edge to 02605. Well made, embanked road, cutting 02609 and 02605. Originally provided exit from quarry 02641, but went out of use with later working.

ROAD (BE 02607)

Road from road to Benthall Hall to cottage 1101 then turns north to become 02612 .

INCLINE (BE 02608)

Marked as a track on the OS maps, this incline is hardly visible on the ground. Leads from 02619 (to the right of the lookout), down slope, cut by 02606 and the SVR, and originally to lime kiln BE 2501.

ROAD (BE 02609)

Road from railway 7702 to quarry 02628, cut by 02613. Slopes up over spoil heap of quarry 02629, and probably not tramway.

ROAD (BE 02610)

Track across rough ground. Turns north to reach incline 02608 at southern end.

ROAD (BE 02611)

Road leading south through woodland from quarries and road 02606 to fields.

ROAD (BE 02612)

Road through rough ground.

ROAD (BE 02613)

Road from 02604 to join 02612.

ROAD (BE 02614)

Access road for quarry 02629 and kilns, to junction with railway 7702. Level enough to have been railway.

ROAD (BE 02615)

Access to quarry 026026, curving north to meet 02604 between steep banks of spoil. Dumped on by modern rubbish.

ROAD (BE 02616)

Access to quarry 02623 from road 02604. Short, clear road.

ROAD (BE 02617)

Leads north east from junction with railway 7702 along edge of quarry 02631 to join 02619. Two old exits from quarry visible above the road, cut by later quarrying. Not shown on 1883 OS map, suggesting some quarrying after this date.

ROAD (BE 02619)

From 02604, along Benthall edge to top of quarry 02641.

ROAD (BE 02620)

Rough access to quarry 02627.

QUARRY (BE 02621)

Small quarry, roughly circular c. 2m deep. Has cut off access to cliff face and quarry 02622.

QUARRY (BE 02622)

Old quarrying of cliff edge access cut of by quarry 02621 and by spoil. Also cut by 02625. Some modern dumping at northern end.

QUARRY (BE 02623)

Roughly circular ball stone quarry, with gently sloping sides, rough limestone visible in sides. Fairly shallow (2-3m). Cuts 02625 and 02624. Spoil from quarrying has impinged upon 02604, which has diverted around it.

QUARRY (BE 02624)

Area of shallow quarrying 2-3m deep cut by 02623. 20-30m across.

QUARRY (BE 02625)

High area of quarrying, just under cliff line. Yew trees. Probably a shallow quarry cut by 02623. Cuts quarry 02622.

QUARRY (BE 02626)

Over 10m deep, this quarry has steep iregular sides. Acess road 02615 takes spoil out to north. Some modern rubbish, from cottage 1101, including brickwork, victorian stone ware jars, blue on white transfers and more recent junk.

QUARRY (BE 02627)

Quarrying of cliff beneath cottage BE 1101, with access road 02620.

QUARRY (BE 02628)

Betwenn 4 and 8m deep and c. 5m wide, and about 40m long. The strata are 1.5m fine bedded shaley limestone over a good 2m of harder, denser stone. Occasional vertical marks of powder charges in the better stone. Access road 02609 cut by 02613.

QUARRY (BE 02629)

A long, regular quarry c. 200m long and c.20 wide, running south east from where Price & Hill's Tramway meets Benthall Edge. Access road 02614. The Cliff face was worked, and spoil dumped to the northwest. At the western end the remains of kilns can be seen. This is the only site marked "Quarries" (as opposed to Old Quarries) on the 1883 map. Four kilns visible (02661-4) and two further marked on OS map (02675 and 02676) as well as small square structure now gone (02677)

The pattern of access suggests that this quarry was associated with the operation of Price & Hills Lime kilns, shown in 1835 (SRO 3956).

QUARRY (BE 02630)

Small linear quarry c.12m long, 4m deep and 2-3m wide with some spoil dumped across 02604 down BenthallEdge.

QUARRY (BE 02631)

Linear quarry; fairly narrow at south western end where access road 02617 enters, it widens to east. Working face along cliff line shows c. 4m rubbly, shaley limestone, over 2m good, dense material at entrance, dropping away below level of 02617 to over 10 deep, with at least 4m good stone, marked with many vertical drill marks. Earlier access roads visible high in spoil on south western side, with dumping through these down Benthall Edge.

Later phase of quarrying associated with 02618.

QUARRY (BE 02632)

General area of quarrying, ⅜6m deep, with much spoil in quarry. Access road 02618 leading to top of 02608.

QUARRY (BE 02636) = 02633

Long quarry, several metres below level of main path along Benthall Edge (02619) and thus below the approximate base of the majority of quarrying. Spoil removed down slope 02606. Cut by quarry 02635.

QUARRY (BE 02633)

Part of 02636 before cut by 02635.

QUARRY (BE 02634)

Ballstone quarry c. 2m diameter with sloping sides. Cuts quarry 02637.

QUARRY (BE 02637)

Shallow quarry cut byquarry 02634. Road 02619 has been diverted through it and climbs out over edge to the northeast. Sides slope gently, although rock face visible in places.

ROAD (BE 02638)

Road along Benthall Edge cut by 02603.

INCLINE (BE 02639)

A possible incline is shown on the 1883 OS map, between 02655 and the railway bridge. Any trace has been obscured by working in 1920s, but may have been associated with a phase of working of 02645 or 02646.

QUARRY (BE 02640)

Clear area of quarrying at western end of Pattens Rock quarry, reached by road 02653. Steep cliffs visible. Most recent phase of quarrying in Pattens Rock Quarry c. 1920s.

QUARRY (BE 02641)

Predates 02640, this represents the creation of the steep cliffs to the south side of Pattens Rock quarry c. 10m deep. Access road no longer visible, but spoil presumably piled to north.

QUARRY (BE 02642)

Second cliff face on south side of quarry, to east of 02641. Clear of vegetation, and partly collapsing, the working face cuts into a peak of material, probably originally isolated by stream (eg Bowers Brook). 2-3 m or light brown overburden covers about 2m shaley, stone with better stone beneath it. Spoil from later working has been dumped against this face.

QUARRY (BE 02643)

Eastern end of Pattens rock quarry. Quarry narrows towards top of incline 02651, and material has been removed below level of road.

QUARRY (BE 02644)

Old worked cliff face. Associated with road 02656, and so pre-1801.

QUARRY (BE 02645)

Steep cliff face, of good quality stone. Original course of branch of Bowers Brook, which has recently dried up. Natural outcrop, since quarried. Pre 1801.

QUARRY (BE 02646)

Sheer rock face. Western Branch of Bowers Brook drops down face, eastern branch now emerges from fissure at base of rock face, indicating either solution hollow or underground working. Dense good quality stone. Working indicated by vertical drill holes. Access road 02655.

QUARRY (BE 02647)

Area of quarrying, access road 02655.

?QUARRY (BE 02648)

Road 02667 widens onto a rough platform, cut into side of hill. May be quarry, or loading area for crushing machinery associated with working limestone in 1920s.

?SHAFT (BE 02649)

INCLINE, PATTENS ROCK QUARRY (BE02650)

A very visible incline today runs down the slope, under a brick arched bridge of a foot track, and under the railway line, to terminate near lime kilns (3001-9). The incline is c. 2m wide and cut well into the hill side. Access to the top of the incline and the road leading to it (02652) have been confused by later workings. Cuts zig zag track 02657/02656.

The incline is clearly marked on the 1883 OS map, is not specifically mentioned on the Tithe map, but in operation in 1846 and 1852 (SRO DP 361,350), and also in 1862 when the SVR was built. Clearly visible from gorge, so probably "the incline" mentioned by Hulbert in 1837.

INCLINE (BE 02651)

A very well-defined incline runs east from the end of 02643 and terminates by the quarry 02644 in a relatively level track still some distance above the river. The cutting for the incline is deep. Access to the top of the incline is confused, but does suggest that the incline was worked after BE 02604. This is further confirmed by the presence of a concrete pipe 02667, culverting the eastern branch of Bowers Brook under the foot of the incline.

Incline is associated with working of limestone in 1920s. Worked by engine on concrete base 02665, material went down tramway laid on incline to level section leading to loading area 02648 above machinery and viaduct 02680 etc.

ROAD (BE 02652)

Road through Pattens Rock quarry. Cut by 02654. May have originally led to top of 02650, according to map evidence. Later Quarrying has continued below road level and obscured relationships.

ROAD (BE 02653)

Upper road through Pattens Rock Quarry. Earliest road through quarry associated with incline 02666. Predates quarries 02641,02642,02643.

ROAD (BE 02654)

Road associated with tipping of spoil against cliff face 3642. Cuts 02652. Dumping of spoil associated with working of limestone in 1920s.

ROAD (BE 02655)

Access from quarry 02645 to road at bottom of incline 02651. Cut by 02651. Material may have originally reached river via roads 02658 and 02659.

ROAD (BE 02656)

Road marked on 1883 OS map, between road 02651 and road 02657. Difficult to see, but presumably part of zig zag track up hill to quarries 02644-6, later used to transport material to incline 02650.

ROAD (BE 02657)

Old zig zag track cut by incline 02650 from road 02660 up to quarries 02644-6. Pre-1801.

ROAD (BE 02658)

Narrow winding track leading down slope from platform/quarry 02648. Possible footpath, beside ?aerial ropeways or earlier inclines down slope. Cut by BE 02659.

ROAD (BE 02659)

Road down slope to railway bridge. Better made and more used than 02659. Crosses over, and probably pre dates, railway siding of 1920s.

ROAD (BE 02660)

Road running east west along bottom of edge, just above SVR. Carried over incline 02606 by brick arch. Old route, probably diverted by railway at eastern end.

LIME KILN (BE 02661)

A shallow circular depression c. 3m diameter marks the top of the kiln close to the south eastern working face of quarry 02629. The arch is constructed of limestone rubble, with roughly cut vousoirs. The interior roof of the arch slopes diagonally down to the eye, which is a brick topped opening 49cm across. The brickwork of the slope is supported by three iron bars. A kiln is not shown in this position on the 1883 OS map.

LIME KILN (BE 02662)

One of a pair of kilns in quarry 02629 linked by a common arch. Brickwork on the interior of the kiln is visible to a depth of c. 1.5m, and the kiln has an approximate diameter of 2m. A double kiln is marked on the 1883 OS map.

LIME KILN (BE 02663)

A deep depression, ⅜1.5m in diamter marks the position of this kiln, very close to 02662, linked by a common arch.

LIME KILN (BE 02664)

This is the least well preserved kiln in the group, visible as a semi circular depression. It is shown to the east of the double kiln in 1883.

ENGINE BASE (BE 02665)

A stone packed platform, several metres in diameter, with two parrallel concrete plinths and holding down bolts. to the west are two more bolts in concrete bases, partly buried in fine limestone debris. Associated with tramway and incline down 02651, dating to between 1921 and 1927 (Sir Paul Benthall pers comm.)

TOP OF INCLINE (BE 02666)

Two mortared limestone walls, c. 1m thick with two holding down bolts in each. The walls are parallel to the slope of Benthall Edge, and may have been the top of an incline, associated with road 02653 and quarries 02641,02642 and 02643.

CONCRETE PIPE (02667)

18" diameter concrete pipe, taking Bowers Brook under foot of incline 02657. Associated with quarrying in 1920s.

METAL PIPE (02668)

Iron pipe, with flange and bolt holes, from which Bowers Brook emerges opposite railway bridge.

REBUILD OF LIME KILN (02669)

Modern brick, used to rebuild entrance to arch between kilns 02670 and 02671. 2.6m high, 2.75m wide, keystone marked "1928" with initials TE and HC cut in mortar.

LIME KILN (02670)

Left hand kiln; white brick kiln lining visible, fallen away to front but otherwise well preserved to a height of several metres. Kiln is cylindrical, tapering to cone at base. Good state of preservation suggest part of 1928 rebuild.

LIME KILN (02671)

Western most kiln, visible as sunken area in platform above kiln arch. Entire kiln probably preserved under vegetation.

CONCRETE WALL (02672)

Low concrete wall running east from Kilns 02670/02671. Holding back bank, and creating platform in front of kilns. Probably c. 1928.

RAILWAY SIDING (02673)

Flat area, with well cut limestone blocks forming wall to the south to hold back bank. First shown on 1927 OS map, as short extension to SVR. Associated with limestone working in 1920s.

ARCH OF LIME KILNS (02674)

Superstructure of kilns (02670 and 02671) before they were rebuilt in modern brick (02669). Constructed of roughly cut limestone blocks, and built against, and into the hillside. An an earlier entrance arch is visible above modern brick.

Two large buttresses, one supported on an iron girder, the

other built against the wall.

The first few metres of the 6m long vault have been rebuilt in modern brick, however the back is of a different build and may be original. Two benches of limestone run along either side. Eyes for the two kilns are let into the eastern and western walls, and a circular chimney or flue high up in the southern wall.

FLUE IN LIME KILN (02675)

An arched opening high up on the back wall of the arch of kilns 02670,02671 leads to a circular flue. The arch is 50cm wide and 65cm high, and the flue can be seen opening into the top of the kilns.

SITE OF LIME KILN (02676)

In quarry 02629, the 1883 OS map shows a kiln to the east of 02664. This kiln is not now visible.

SITE OF LIME KILN (02677)

The 1883 OS map shows a second extra kiln in quarry 02629 to the north of 02676.

STRUCTURE (02678)

A small square structure of roughly the size of a kiln ismarked on the 1883 OS map to the north of 02677 in quarry 02629. May be a lime burners shelter.

JUNCTION (BE 02679)

Flat area at terminus or railway 7702, where it joins roads and tramways leading to lime quarries. Probably used for loading.

CONCRETE PILLAR (BE 02680)

Rectangular concrete pillar built into slope above and to the west of 02681 and c. 15-20m east of kilns 02670, 02671, approx 265' OD.

THREE CONCRETE PILLARS (BE 02681)

Remains of a level viaduct c. 1m eest of 02680. Three concrete pillars built into hill side, each with two holding down bolts, and level surface.

PLATFORM WITH ?MACHINERY BASE (BE 02682)

Platform c. 10m by 10m cut out of hill side to the east of 026801. A series of concrete slabs and holding down bolts suggests base for crushing/processing machinery.

FOUR CONCRETE PILLARS (02683)

Group of rectangular pillars, to the east of kilns 02670/71, set on same level platfrom. Vertical rectangular slots in top.

FIVE CONCRETE PILLARS (02684)

Group of low pillars c. , two on slope between kilns 02670/1 and 02685, one a pier in wall 02672, and two on platform in front of kiln.

TWO CONCRETE PILLARS (02685)

Large pillar built into slope below 02682, and second pillar to south.

PLATFORM (02686)

Created by wall 02672, this level area in front of and to the east of kilns 02670/1 disappears to the east of the concrete features 02683, and seems to be associated with loading material from kilns, aerial ropeways or associated processing onto trucks in parrallel siding 02673.

?WINDING MECHANISM, CLAY MINE INCLINE (BE 02687)

Four holding down bolts survive on two plinths to the north of the tramway bridge which may relate to the winding mechanism.

LATER ROUTE, VIGER CLAY MINE TRAMWAY (BE 02688)

Shown in 1902 as a route running west to the south side of the bridge over the severn valley railway. Thence down the incline over the bridge, and west to the brick works. By 1927 two new levels (BE 026 102, 026103) are in operation closer to the bridge, and a short branch to the north is shown.

EARLIER ROUTE, VIGER CLAY MINE TRAMWAY (BE 002689)

In 1883 the clay mine tramway is shown leading off Bridge Road towards the tramway bridge (02690).

TRAMWAY BRIDGE (BE 02690)

Brick bridge carrying incline from clay mine over Severn Valley Railway to Bower Yard brick works. Rebuilt 1902. Dark blue brick with stone parapet.

ARCH OVER ROAD (BE 02691)

Brick arch carrying railway over access route to Benthall Edge. Junction of several roads at this point preserves idea of small settlement here, shown in 1844 but demolished to make way for railway.

BLOCKED ARCH OVER INCLINE (BE 02692)

Railway viaduct has been blocked with more recent brick, suggesting that the incline to the lime kilns continued in operation after construction of railway.

VIGER CLAY MINE/LEVEL (CLAY) (BE 02694)

Shown on 1902 OS map only to the west of bridge over SVR. Probably entrance to "Old Workings in Randles Clay" shown on Viger Clay Mine Plan. Out of use by 1927.

ADIT (BE 02695)

Viger clay Mine. At southern end of railway bridge. Shown on plan of Viger clay mine. Providing clay for brick and tile works. Visible as dent in hillside. Working small outcrop of Viger clay from c. 1920s.

ADIT (BE 02696)

One of group of four adits in Randles clay shown on plan of Viger clay mine. Post 1902.

ADIT (BE 02697)

One of group of four adits in Randles clay shown on plan of Viger clay mine. Post 1902.

ADIT (BE 02698)

One of group of four adits in Randles clay shown on plan of Viger clay mine. Post 1902. Part of entrance visible, stone and brick walls, and small brick structure with remains of chimney at top on eastern side of entrance.

BENTHALL EDGE WOODS (BE 002699)

See description in text (Section 2.2).

ADIT (BE 026101)

One of group of four adits in Randles clay shown on plan of Viger clay mine. Post 1902. Can be seen as long depression running into hill, just west of 026.104. Traces of brick bank retaining wall.

ADIT (NORTH) (BE 026102)

Adit on western side of Bridge Road, working clod clay. Shown as "Old Workings" on Viger clay mine plan. Served by railway in 1883. Out of use by 1902. Probably one of the adits visible on the bank opposite Corn Mill. Entrance marked by galvanised iron sheet, arched over. Also small ?shelter of similar material surviving to south of entrance to adit.

ADIT (SOUTH) (BE 026103)

Adit on western side of Bridge Road, working clod clay. Shown as "Old workings" on Viger clay mine plan. Entrance visible. Served by railway 1883, out of use by 1902.

POWDER HOUSE (BE 026104)

By the Benthall Edge Nature trail, leading from the Clay Mine up the slope of the edge, is a small brick structure, c. 1m square. The structure has an ironframed door, and within in a vaulted roof. Stubs of two walls can be seen butting the front of the structure. The strength of the construction and the thickness of the brick suggests that this structure was a powder store.

FISH WEIR (BE 02701)

There was a medieval fish weir in the River Severn at Bower Yard, technically part of Madeley Parish (Pannett 1973).

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY (BE 02801)

Line of railway opened 1862, closed 1970 (see text), preserved as footpath. Single track, cut into hill on east side, supported on massive brick viaduct to west of parish. Cut limestone blocks used as walling.

STATION (BE 02802)

Site of Ironbridge & Broseley Station, Severn Valley Railway, closed 1963. Photographs in IGMT collection show a white brick structure, single storey on north side of line (eg 1981.2, 1980.1630, 1981.69). Interior photographs suggest cast iron fireplace, tiled floor (1982.265). Demolished, and in use as a car park.

GOODS SHED (BE 02803)

Timber goods shed shown in photographs and on OS maps, to east of station on south side of line.

LEVEL CROSSING (BE 02804)

Level crossing to allow road access to Iron Bridge to the south east of station. Rails can still be seen in asphalt, as well as upright for gate.

LIME KILN SIDING (BE 02805)

Built between 1902 and 1927, shown on 1927 OS map, probably in association with reopening of limestone workings in 1920s (see chapter 4). Flat platform and cut stone retaining wall can still be made out on ground in front of limekilns.

VIADUCT (BE 02806)

Well constructed blue brick and stone arched viaduct carrying line around the bottom of Benthall Edge.

BOATYARD INLET (BE 02902)

It has been suggested that this was the site of an inlet in which boats were taken for repair, and that it was destroyed by later quarrying for sand, deposited in a bend of the river (E. Rogers, pers. comm.)

POSSIBLE SITE OF LEAD SMELTER (BE 02903)

Also could be site of Benthall lead smelter, according to pictorial evidence.

LIME KILNS (03001 - 9)

Bank of limekilns, shown on 1883OS map, and dating back at least to a description of 1801. 10 kilns shown on OS map, behind continuous wall curving slightly at the western end. Occupied in 1844 by Thomas Harries (although probably operated by John Patten living nearby), and operated by John Patten in 1852.

Today four brick lined arches are visible, with a fifth arch suggested by an area of collapse. Each arch seems to have had a kiln behind it, rather than being grouped together. The kiln bank was c.4m high. The arches are let into a wall of limestone blocks c. 3m high.

No railway siding. Still marked Limekilns in 1883.

BOAT YARD (BE 03010)

Local tradition (pers comm Eustace Beard) suggests an inlet somewhere on this small promontory, used for boat building and repairing barges. It has since been used as a source of sand and so levelled. Any inlet has disappeared since 1902.

Barges are shown drawn up at lime kilns in early photographs (eg 1981.1563), suggesting that lime is loaded straight into boats from John Pattens wharf.

SITE OF LEAD SMELTER (BE 03011)

Possible site of lead smelter (see Smith 1979:26, text). Flat area, slightly raised above River Severn. Site has since been used for boat building, and also as source of sand (E. Beard, pers comm), and no remains can be seen.

POSSIBLE SITE OF LEAD SMELTER (BE 03101)

Possible site of lead smelter shown in Smith 1979:26).

BOAT BUILDING ACTIVITY (BE 03503)

Site of timber sheds and pieces of timber probably associated with boat building in the nineteenth century (Smith 1979:no 98).

BURTONS BRICKWORKS (LATER BENTHALL STONEWARE COMPANY) (BE 04601)

Site of a brick kiln in 1790s, later in use as brick works making refractory bricks and then sanitary pipe works until c. 1955. Layout of works shown on maps for 1835, 1883 etc, with occasional glimpses for works in photographs of the Iron Bridge (eg 1981.3, 1985.240 and drawing 1979.1491.29). The buildings were demolished by c. 1961 although a long building to the east survived a little longer, and the site is now used as a picnic area. The retaining wall for the site is built of many white bricks, and occasional sanitary pipes, and broken sanitary pipes can be seen scattered on many sites throughout the Bower Yard (for example by the lime kilns).

ROAD FROM IRONBRIDGE TO RIVERBANK (BE 04701)

Minutes of the Ironbridge suggest that this was a toll route, as there are references to the letting of tolls at this gate.

SITE OF MALTHOUSE (BE 05005)

Site of malthouse, parallel to (and probably post dating) Ironbridge, let to Samuel Roden in 1844.) Most likely not the malthouse which was formerly a lead smelter.

NEW TRACKWAY, CORN MILL (BE 05203)
See Appendix Three.

CULVERT, CORN MILL (BE 05204)
See Appendix Three.

NORTH EASTERN TRACK, CORN MILL (BE 05205)
See Appendix Three.

STEPS, CORN MILL (BE 05301)
See Appendix Three.

OUTBUILDINGS, CORN MILL (BE 05302)
See Appendix Three.

STONE RETAINING WALL, CORN MILL (BE 05303)
See Appendix Three.

ANNEXE, CORN MILL (BE 05304)
See Appendix Three.

MILL BUILDINGS, CORN MILL (BE 05305)
See Appendix Three.

ALLEY, CORN MILL (BE 05306)

See Appendix Three.

SMALL DAM WALL, CORN MILL (BE 05307)
See Appendix Three.

STONE LINED CHANNEL, CORN MILL (BE 05308)
See Appendix Three.

WHEEL PIT, CORN MILL (BE 05309)
See Appendix Three.

WHEEL SUPPORTS, CORN MILL (BE 05310)
See Appendix Three.

POWER TAKEOFF, CORN MILL (BE 05311)
See Appendix Three.

LAUNDER, CORN MILL (BE 05312)
See Appendix Three.

BENTHALL BROOK, CORN MILL (BE 05313)
See Appendix Three.

BRIDGE ROAD NORTH (BE 05401)

Originally a wooden railway, the route was taken over by the bridge proprietors to provide a road link with the Broseley/Wenlcok turnpike. Much repairing and improvement, and possibly a diversion in front of the New Inn (see text). Problems caused by poor drainage, and steep rise of 400 feet in total. Rebuilt as a road "9 yards wide" in 1783. Much cinders and furnace waste were probably used to build up the road, and can be seen eroding out by the Corn Mill, for example. A local contractor suggested that the road was "at least 11 ft thick" below the New Inn, indicating the amount of build up.

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE (BE 05402)

Footbridge over Severn Valley Railway from in front of Bridge House, over line to station. Shown in photographs in museum collection with lattice work iron parapet. Stone and brick plinth still survives in from of house. The brick work is white, and was most probably made at Burtons brickworks.

FOOTPATH (BE 05403)

Possible early course of Bridge Road (BE 05401). Meets end of footbridge to station.

BENTHALL RAIL (BE 05404)

In existence in 1686 (see text), route is now Bridge Road, with a possible variation to the east from the New Inn, downwards. Branches to the lime kilns, to Deerleap, and probably a route up Benthall Lane, looping north again past the Sunday School to

Ash Coppice. Other links may have been with the "Marsh".

ROAD (BE 05501)

Old route along Benthall Edge, shown in some early maps.

CLAY ADIT (BE 05603)

A clay mine survives in the south bank of the site. It consists of two main tunnels with side tunnels, lined with yellow tiles, with traces of decorated tiles on the floor. The roof is formed of sandstone. The last use of the adit seems to date to the operation of the works, although it could have been in use earlier. There is also a vaulted brick structure to the west, facing bridge road, which may have been associated with the mine.

SITE OF BENTHALL IRONWORKS (BE 05604)

Site of Benthall Ironworks, 1770s - c. 1823, later used as iron foundry. Buildings were incorporated in Maws Tileworks c. 1852, and demolished 1883. BE 58 is a flattened platform with no surviving masonry. Large amounts of black glassy slag found eroding out further down the valley. PLot 67/69 on tithe map shows layout of buildings in 1844, SRO 3956 shows buildings in 1835.

MAWS TILE WORKS (BENTHALL ENCAUSTIC TILE WORK)S EAST (BE 05605)

Site of Maws Tile works 1852 until 1883. Probably the earliest part of the works , as the company took over the old ironworks, presumably reusing some buildings. 1883 OS map shows three main ranges of buildings, two with kilns, and two further buildings to the north, one of which is he two storied brick house shown in 1982.103. In 1859 there were two kilns to the south of this, onlu one of which is shown on the OS map. A building to the north west (on BY 06) was probably the managers house. THe platform for the building remains, cut out of the stone, and a new house on the site has reused clearly earlier timbers.

None of the works buildings survive today. The site is now a flat platform built up above the level of Bridge Road. A retaining wall of glazed brick and saggars on the north western corner of the site, collapsed in April 1987, showing that the site was built on ashy waste dumped from the ironworks, with some tile waste at the top. Traces of Maws tiles cemented together were found, as well as square saggars, and pieces of triangular yellow kiln furniture. The cemented tiles were presumably remains of the floor of one of the two buildings at the north of the site. One lozenge shaped medieval floor tile with slip decoration was found at the site, presumably collected by the Maw family.

Two modern bungalows have been built on the south of the site. There is apparently a fragment of rail protruding from the east

bank of the site between the two houses, and may be the remains of a railway bringing clay from the area of Easthope Coppice farm.

SITE OF TAR OVENS (BE 05606)

Lord Dundonald built coke ovens similar to those at Calcutts in Benthall in 1787. They were reputed to be beside the ironworks, although nothing survives today.

OLD SHAFT (COAL) (BE 05701)

Located to the south of the Ironworks/Tileworks. Shown as pit in 1835 and out of use by 1883. Operated by Price & Hill in 1844, probably providing coal for ironworks. Probably mining Best Randle & Clod. Nb: reference to ironworks using clod coal. Two open pit shafts can be seen today, brick lined, and filled with rubbish.

OLD SHAFT (BE 05702)

Second of the two shafts mentioned above.

SITE OF POOL (BE 05703)

Site of pool shown in 1835 map (Hitchcock) now filled in and not visible. Probably pool above ironworks into which water was recycled before the introduction of direct blowing of the furnaces (see text).

MAWS TILE WORKS (BENTHALL ENCAUSTIC TILE WORKS) WEST (BE 05804)

Site of Maws tile works c. 1852 - 1883. Probably later than works to east, but already in existence in 1859 (1982.103). 1883 OS map shows complex of at least four kilns and buildings. Site today forms flat platform, two houses built on site have render studded with fragments of tiles. Many tiles found in garden, particularly of Westholme. Traces of what are reputed to be a kiln wall (short length of curving brick wall) survive in the west bank just to the south of Westholme.

Photograph 1982.103 shows the works, looking from the west side of the road. A range of brick buildings with two gavle roofs facing north, and behind them a kiln and chimney can be seen.

SITE OF "CINDER HILL" (BE 05805)

Site probably made up with tips of ash and slag from Benthall iron furnaces. Mentioned in Tithe Apportionment as Cinder Hill, occupied by Price and Hill.

OLD SHAFT (COAL & IRONSTONE) (BE 06301)

Westernnmost of two shafts shown in 1883. Situated on flat platform. Approximately on line of Broseley fault. Possibly site

of horse gin seen in background of Munn painting c. 1803 (Smith 1979:71).

PATH (06302)

Old route leading to path along top of Benthall Edge.

OLD SHAFT (COAL & IRONSTONE) (BE 06304)

Westernmost of two shafts shown in 1883, and probably recently out of use.

OPEN SHAFT, BENTHALL EDGE (BE 06305)

Coal shaft to north of path through plot 63, recently collapsed and now fenced, shown as small depression in 1883, so probably mined well before that date. Circular shaft, unlined, showing thin seam of coal about 1.5m below surface.

BELLPITS, WORKHOUSE COPPICE (BE 06801)

The Best, Randle & Clod are found close to the surface in this area. The woods to the north of the old limekilns are scattered with small circular depressions, probably bellpits exploited in the seventeenth century.

GUNPOWDER HOUSE (BE 06802)

Rectangular brick structure with double thickness walls. Allegedly a gunpowder house, probably associated with coal or clay mining. If the coal measure shales were being mined for clay, gunpowder was apparently necessary.

QUARRY (06803)

Quarry at base of Workhouse coppice, on precise line of fault between limestone and coal measures. Much colliery waste around, may possibly be quarry shown in photographs of getting coal at "Foxholes" during the miners strike of 1912 (see text).

PART OF LIME KILNS RAILWAY (BE 06804)

There is a possibility that at one point the Lime kilns railway looped north around the kilns on plot 87 and continued down towards Benthall rail.

QUARRY (BE 06805)

There is evidence for old quarrying below and to the east of the lime kilns, probably for limestone.

"CADMANS CAVE AND FOXHOLES" (BE 06901)

The field name suggests the possibility of mining here. There is also a circular outcrop of Best, Randle and Clod Coals around the

margins of this field which would make it likely that shallow surface mining took place. The field has now been ploughed flat, and there is nothing immediately visible. There is also a photograph of people getting coal at "Foxholes" during the miners strike of 1912 (see text).

PART OF LIME KILNS RAILWAY (BE 07401)

Railway ran north of southern boundary of field, only a slight depression visible. The railway dates to at least the beginning of the nineteenth century (when the lime kilns on plot 87 are "new"). The line is shown on the 1833 1" OS map, as well as Hitchcock's 1835 map.

PART OF LIME KILNS RAILWAY (BE 07501)

Railway departed from modern course of road, and turned west in the very southern corner of this field. Possibly the site of a railway bridge, suggested by the 1833 1" OS map.

RAILWAY BRIDGE (BE 07701)

A brick arched railway bridge over lime kilns railway, carrying an old road into plot 14. The road seems to have disappeared by 1835.

PART OF LIME KILNS RAILWAY (BE 07702)

Railway ran along the course of the road, and probably in the deep ditch now the the south west of the road near its terminus on Benthall Edge.

PART OF LIME KILNS RAILWAY (BE 08001)

Course of railway ran through field, visible as a slight depression.

PART OF LIME KILNS RAILWAY (BE 08201)

Railway ran to north of southern boundary of this field, shown in 1902. Field boundary now survives as tree line, with slight depression to north.

OLD LEVEL (08301)

Shown in 1902 and 1927 maps, suggests that it may have been for clay. Nothing survives.

LINE OF LIME KILNS RAILWAY (BE 08701)

Section of railway from quarries (07702) to lime kilns on plot 87. According to 1835 map (SRO 3956) railway branches into 6 between groups of kilns. Lime probably taken out on a separate line, or by road at the bottom of the kilns. Operated by Price and Hill in 1844. General line of railway shown in 1833 (1st edition OS).

KILN BANK (BE 08702)

The present countryside path rises up over what must have been the kiln bank for kilns 8703-13. The bank was probably a stone wall, and as shown in 1902 was stepped in the middle, probably to allow the road to cross it.

KILNS (BE 08703-15)

13 kilns are shown in 1835 (SRO 3956) in three groups of three and one of four at the north end, served by branches of the railway (8701). In 1844 they were operated by Price and Hill.

ROAD (08716)

Road from 02611, shown on OS map as dropping down over kiln bank (08702) to meet Spout Lane.

ADIT AT LIME KILNS (08717)

Adit shown on GS SJ 60 SE. Nothing visible.

MINE SPOUT ADIT (BE 09401)

Adit shown on geological survey SJ 60SE to west of Mine Spout, approximately in the centre of the lime kilns. In outcrop of Best, Randle and Clod coal.

POSSIBLE SITE OF POOL (BE 09701)

Stream from Mine Spout runs through this plot, and joins Benthall Brook. Would have provided additional water source for mills, etc, and may well have been dammed to provide a pool

ROAD (BE 10101)

Used by Benthall ironworks, possibly to get access to coal shaft in Broseley Wood. "Road and Cart house" shown on Tithe Map. Present road to Easthope coppice farm is a later one, recently remade.

SITE OF MACHINE HOUSE (BE 10?)

Machine house shown on Tithe map, located opposite junction of Spout Lane and Bridge Bank. Nothing can be seen today.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BE 10601)

SITE OF POOL BY BROOK COTTAGE (BE 10603)

Lower pool shown on 1835 map in front of the present Brook Cottage. No trace of the pool survives, although the brook has been culverted and today runs under where the pool would have been. Brook Cottage is at an angle to the road and clearly respects the pool. The pool was infilled by 1902.

A pool in approximately this position is shown on the map of 1688 with what is presumably a mill in the position of Brook Cottage.

This pool may have provided water to power the Boring Mill (BE 11004) on the other side of the road, although there would not have been much height available.

SITE OF POOL ABOVE BROOK COTTAGE (BE 10604)

Shown in 1835 and the Tithe Map, this pool was above the present Brook Cottage, opposite the New Inn. The pool powered a small threshing mill (10605) which can't have used either much water or much height. The current site is well built up above Brook Cottage, and there was probably a dam several metres in height.The pool has now been infilled and a bungalow built on the site in 1986. Water from the culvert under the Pipe works may have contributed to the water supply for this pool.

Again there is a pool at the north end of Priorie Common in 1688 which is most likely this pool.

SITE OF MILL ABOVE BROOK COTTAGE (BE 10605)

Site of water powered mill probably threshing mill insured 1807 by F.B.Harries, and shown in 1835 and on Tithe Map. Garden above may have been pool (see Tithe map nos 110,109). Probably dumped upon by material from pottery across the road by the New Inn. Recently built house on site.

A building is shown on a map of 1688 against the dam wall of a pool here, which is most likely a mill.

TILE WASTE, BROOK COTTAGE GARDEN (BE 10607)

There is a tradition that much Maws waste was dumped on the mound on the west side of the plot, where blue dust pressed tiles have been found.

SITE OF BORING MILL (BE 11004)

At north end of plot 110 was site of water powered boring mill, constructed 1781, and still shown as boring mill and yard in 1844. The mill was described by John Rennie as having a wheel of 14 ft diameter about 4 ft broad, which suggests a breast shot wheel with little height available. The site is well above the Mine Spout stream, and although there may have been a spring in the Mines, much of the water may have been brought from the pool opposite Brook Cottage across the road to the east (see Section 6.24).

Several new houses have been built on the site today, and no trace of the mill can be seen. There is an old drystone retaining wall behind several of the cottages which may relate to the mill.

"FURNESS YARD" (BE 11101)

Site of "Furness Yard", behind boring mill (BE 11004), leased by Price and Hill in 1844. Probably associated with their ironworking complex.

BRIDGE ROAD POTTERY AND PIPE WORKS: EAST RANGE (BE 11502)

Documented references show that this site was a clay pipe works from the mid nineteenth century until the end of the century, and made decorative earthenware from c. 1922 until some time before 1941, with a brief revival in the 1950s. There is the possibility of a pre-nineteenth century pottery on the site (see text).

The site was taken over by its present owner in 1959 and is now used as a garage and chemical storage area, and part has been excavated for a weighing machine. Some of the pottery buildings survived intact.

A range of buildings along the street front, on the east side of the works survives fairly intact. Two storeys, built of brick, they seem to have been constructed some time after 1844 and before 1902. Originally of four units, the northern most section has been demolished, and the southernmost section replaced by a new structure. The two central units survive intact, although the roof line has been raised by the present owner. The buildings most likely date to the expansion of the works under Edwin Southern in the mid 1800s.

BRIDGE ROAD POTTERY AND PIPE WORKS: WEST RANGE (BE 11503)

The west range of buildings, shown in 1902 have now been partly demolished to single storey height, the inner wall removed and the space between them and the east range roofed over. The part of this range abutting the kiln to the north has been removed, and the southern extension of the building has also been lost. However, some walls do survive. The buildings are shown - with an extension to the east - in 1835, and may date to the pottery which existed before the site became a clay pipe works.

A chimney still stands against the west side of the structure.

BRIDGE ROAD POTTERY AND PIPE WORKS: SITE OF KILN (BE 11504)

A circular structure - presumably a kiln - is shown in 1835, and survived until after 1927. Noah Roden II, the pipemaker, became landlord of the New Inn in 1835, the same year as the kiln is shown on map evidence. Either he built the kiln, or it dates to an earlier pottery.

BRIDGE ROAD POTTERY AND PIPE WORKS: SITE OF KILN (BE 115050

The site of a second kiln, most likely associated with the post 1927 pottery making as it is not shown on OS maps, was pointed out by the present owner. It was located to the west of the buildings, just near the remaining chimney.

BRIDGE ROAD POTTERY AND PIPE WORKS: CULVERT (BE 11506)

The present owner of the site described a large culvert running

under the works, from the south eastern corner. The culvert emerges on Bridge Road, and the water can be heard running under the road to join the now culverted Benthall Brook.

FIELD WITH MINING EVIDENCE (BE 11901)

Known as "Ganeys Rough Pasture", Ganey is the name applied to a local coal seam, and there is some evidence for old mining in the field. The field slopes, and coal waste can be seen where the grass has eroded.

FIELD WITH MINING EVIDENCE (BE 12001)

Also known as "Ganeys Rough Pasture", Ganey is the name applied to a local coal seam, and there is some evidence for old mining in the field. The field slopes, and coal was probably taken out of small adits dug into the hillside. An old hollow way can be seen running along the base of the field towards Ash Coppice.

FIELD WITH MINING AND HOLLOW WAY (12201)

Also part of Ganeys Rough Pasture, and including Barn field, this field (now under grass) has mining evidence, and traces of a hollow way leading into Ash Coppice and shown in 1902 as a track.

SPOUT LANE (BE 12401)

The name of this lane derives from the "Mine Spout" or spring located on the north side of "The Mines". Ginny rails would have run down this lane from the line kilns, after about 1800. The road may be that shown on Greenwoods map of 1827 leading west across the face of Benthall Edge.

BELLPITS, ASH COPPICE (BE 12503)

The area of this woods, prior to 1844 was smaller than it is today, with the southern boundary marked by a small valley. To the north of this are a series of regular, circular depressions, most likeley bellpits used to mine coal. The Ganey coals outcrop near the surface, and are probably being exploited here. White fireclay may also have been mined.

ASH COPPICE TRAMWAY (BE 12504)

Route of railway originally running from the south western boundary of ash coppice, along the eastern boundary of plot BE 126 (now ploughed out) and along road BE 140, where it can be seen as a well made route, built up above the surrounding farm land. May have proceeded to join the turnpike road by plot BE 179. The existence of a railway here is supported by local tradition

ASH COPPICE WOODS (BE 12505)

See description in text.

FIELD (FORMERLY WOODS) (BE 12601)

Known as Ash Coppice Leasow (Tithe Map) this field must have once been part of a more extensive coppice. Now heavily ploughed.

COURSE OF ASH COPPICE TRAMWAY (BE 12602)

See BE 12504. Line of railway can now be seen as slight depression along former field boundary with BE 127.

IRONSTONE SHAFT (BE 12603)

Old Shaft out of use 1902 now marked with concreted stone cairn.

FIELD (BE 12701)

Known as "Near Hazlewall" so presumably part of old coppice.

FIELD (BE 12801)

Known as "Further Hazlewall" so presumably part of old coppice.

FIELD WITH MINING WASTE (BE 13001)

Recently ploughed field, showing evidence of pit waste.

OLD LEVEL (13101)

Field known as "middle Silver Hill", with level shown (and probably in operation) 1902 and 1927 in north west corner of field. Probably clay.

BENTHALL QUARRY SITE (BE 13401)

Shown on the SJ60SE geological survey, this open cast mining site quarried the Ganey to Big flint coals of the lower coal measures. Area of whole workings shown also on 1963 OS map.

OLD SHAFT (IRONSTONE) (BE 13402)

Site of old ironstone shaft, marked on 1902 OS and so out of use by then. Now grassed. Shaft capped.

OLD LEVEL (CLAY) (BE 14901)

Northernmost working shown on 1902 OS map. Visible only as undulations in grassy field.

BENTHALL QUARRY SITE (BE 13601)

Part of open cast mining site shown on OS geological survey sheet SJ 60 SE. See BE 13401.

OLD SHAFTS (IRONSTONE) (BE 13801)

Shown against eastern field boundary in 1902, two open shafts and a possible building are marked. Today the field abuts a housing estate, and there is much pottery waste around the site of the shafts which may have been used to fill in the mines. Presumably the shafts were capped prior to building the estate.

POTTERY WASTE (BE 13802)

Unfired buff pottery waste found scattered along south eastern margin of field, around site of old ironstone shafts. Possibly dumped from "Glasses Pottery" on plot BE 179, although it does not resemble the few sherds of slip ware found on that site.

ASH COPPICE RAILWAY (BE 14001)

Part of course of railway (see BE 125). The east end of this road is well made and built up, and confirms the use of the route as a railway rather than farm track. The route continued south east around what is now a housing estate, and south to join the main road.

FIELD WITH MINING EVIDENCE (BE 14201)

Clear evidence for adit mining into the slope of the hill in this field. There are many undulations, and the Viger and New Mine Coals and Pennystone ironstone outcrop here.

FLOYER LANE (BE 14301)

Road past Sunday School to Hilltop Farm. Formerly the south end was part of Ash Coppice Railway.

AIR SHAFT (BE 14501)

Site of shaft (now capped) probably for adits such as Benthall Level on plot BE 149 in on north of eastern side of field. In use in 1902.

FIELD WITH MINING EVIDENCE (BE 14902)

In this field, the Upper, Middle and Lower Ganey coals out crop, and presumably also the high quality buff fireclays between the coal seams. There have been many workings in the field through time. The nap of 1688 suggests this to be roughly the area of "Mr Bentalle Cole works".

Several individual pits are shown in 1902 and on the OS geological survey SJ 60 SE.

OLD LEVEL (CLAY) (BE 14903)

Northern most working in field shown in 1902 but by then out of use.

LEVEL (CLAY)(BE 14904)

Easternmost of two levels shown in 1902. Possibly Benthall Level shown on Geological survey, exploiting Ganey Coals and fireclay. Probably working 1902.

LEVEL (CLAY)(BE 14905)

Western most of two levels shown in 1902.

OLD SHAFT (COAL) (BE 14906)

Shaft to south of 14903. Out of use in 1902.

OLD SHAFT (COAL) (BE 14907)

Shaft to east of 14904. Has recently collapsed and been filled with modern rubble. Out of use by 1902.

ROAD (BE 14908)

Old road clearly visible, running south east from Hilltop farm to Hilltop. Public footpath in 1902. Stone wall and old tree line visible on eastern side.

ROAD (BE 14909)

Old road can be seen amongst spoil heaps running north from footpath 14908 towards clay adits.

PLATFORM (BE 14910)

Circular platform, several metres across, to west of 14901. Old Shaft or level.

MEW INN TANK (BE 15602)

In 1983 during construction work of a new garage north of the New Inn, a large underground chamber was revealed and recorded by the Archaeology Team. The site has now been filled. A collection of clay pipes, earthenware pottery and a fragment of saggar was made by the team and stored at Coalbrookdale chapel under code BE 83B.

MILL (BE 15701)

Site of Mill immediately opposite New Inn, on Bridge Road. Shown as Mill leased by Jones & Bathurst in 1844. Possible candidate for one of the two mills shown on the map of 1788.

MILL POOL (BE 15702)

Shown in 1835 and on the Tithe Map of 1844, as a very small pool just above mill (BE 15701). Slightly above and to the west of

Benthall Brook, and so possibly fed from springs in the Mines area across the road.

BRIDGE ROAD SOUTH (BE 15801)

Southern part of road from turnpike road to Much Wenlock to Iron Bridge. Cut into hill side at top.

There may have been a route down the valley in the thirteenth century to carry stone from the quarries to the river. The road was in existence by 1630, and in 1688 a road is shown leading part way up the Benthall Valley beside the brook, and terminating before joining what was later the Turnpike road. This suggests that the route predates Speeds Lane Broseley, which is shown on Rocque's map of 1752.

Benthall rail ran down Benthall Brook by 1686, and the route was still a railway when acquired by the proprietors of the Ironbridge. Although they improved the route considerably, there were still problems, and a new road was built from the New Inn down to near the Bridge. One interpretation of this new road is that the original road ran to the east, through what is now the garden of Brook Cottage, respecting several cottages down the valley which are now at an angle to the present route. The road may have been rebuilt to the west.

There was a turnpike gate at the top, and probably one on the western side of the bridge on the small road leading down to the riverside.

The present road has been made up with what may often be many metres of slag and ash furnace waste, some from the Benthall Furnaces.

OLD SHAFT (COAL) (BE 16601)

Shown in 1902 in north western corner of plot 164, and marked as shaft on OS geological survey SJ 60SE. Probably working Ganey coals and fireclay. The area may well be part of Mr Benthalle's cole work shown in 1688.

DEERLEAP MINE (BE 16801)

Shown as an abandoned adit on geological survey SJ 60SE into the lower Ganey coal. May post date 1902. Now visible as an area of grey spoil and waste in south west corner of field. The Upper. Middle and Lower Ganey coals (and fireclays) outcrop in this field, and the area would very likely have early workings.

SHAFT (BE 17501)

The OS geological survey SJ 60SE shows a coal shaft adjacent to the bend in the road by Barrattshill Farm. No further details are given, but the shaft must post date 1902.

GLASS'S POTTERY (BE 17902)

Site of pottery late eighteenth century to mid nineteenth century (see text), shown as having one kiln and range of buildings in 1835 (Hitchcock map). Now the site of a modern bungalow, 32 Benthall Lane. Some press moulded slipped wares were found eroding out of garden soil, but not in the quantities expected from a pottery site. Very little evidence of pottery on site, except several fragments of brown glazed wares and one fragment of press moulded slip ware. Much pottery was found nearby in plot BE 138 which may come from this site. Waste would also be expected in plots BE 142 and 172 but these are now under grass.

POSSIBLE SITE OF CLAY PIPE KILN (BE 17903)

See appendix two.

OLD SHAFTS (CLAY) (BE 18801)

On site of Benthall Quarry site - open cast mining which exploited Ganey to Big Flint including fireclays. Shown in 1902 as two shafts, approached by road from south.

OLD SHAFT (IRONSTONE) (BE 19001)

Shaft shown in centre of field and out of use in 1902. Probably exploiting Pennystone ironstone. Destroyed by Benthall Quarry Site opencasting.

OLD SHAFT (IRONSTONE) (BE 19002)

Site of shaft to east of 19001 in corner of field, reached by road from Benthall potteries and so most likely producing clay as well as ironstone. Destroyed by Benthall Quarry site opencasting.

ROAD TO BENTHALL HALL (BE 19101)

Presumably once part of medieval route to Buildwas.The route forks north west from the turnpike road the Much Wenlock towards the hall and church and was in existence in the 1630s

RICHARD SHAW'S CLAY PIPE KILN SITE (BE 19401)

See appendix two.

BROSELEY/MUCH WENLOCK ROAD (BE 19601)

Turnpike road in existence since medieval times. This context refers to that part of the road from the junction with Lodge road to the junction with Speeds Lane. Still in use as B4375.

FIELD WITH OLD SHAFTS (BE 20101)

Three shafts shown on OS geological survey SJ 60SE, but no documentation. May predate 1902, as the area is shown as spoil heaps.

OLD VICARAGE GARDEN (BE 20302)

Site of possible pottery excavated in 1978 by the Wilkinson Society (Sandon 1978) and in 1985 by the IGMT archaeology unit (IGMTAU forthcoming). The first excavation found a great deal of brown and white dipped salt glazed pottery waste and several saggars, which may be indicative of early eighteenth century salt glaze production. No kiln was found. In addition 400 fragments of buff coloured earthenware covered with a brown glaze were found, probably dating to the nineteenth century.

Four trenches were excavated by the IGMT archaeology unit, again with no evidence of an in situ pottery, but much eighteenth and nineteenth century pottery.

BATH MEADOW (BE 20501)

In 1744, Isaac Wyke, a Surgeon was allowed to "erect and set up a good substantial piece of building necessary for a cold bath". He was leased three quarters of an acre in part of Syners Meadow, and given "liberty to lay water pipes for said bath when erected into a custern, waterpipes being on the backside of a dwelling now in possession of Matthew Gittins called New Coppice House".

This plot is known as Bath Meadow on the Tithe Map.

POSSIBLE COURSE OF TRAMWAY (BE 20502)

It is very likely that Benthall Rail would have linked through to the manor of Benthall's mines in the Deerleap, and possibly to New Willey. The most level route from the Benthall valley is along the (now culverted) brook, and across Barratt's Hill and into plots BE 167 and BE 205, south towards the Deerleap.

SINERS COPPICE (BE 20601)

One of a series of fields with field names which suggest an earlier coppice (See text). In 1688 a house called "The Syner" is shown on the junction between Benthall Brook and the road up Barrats Hill. Some woodland still survives in the area.

Wooden railway to Deerleap may also run through this field (See 20502).

SINERS COPPICE (BE 20701)

Old coppice (see 20601) and possible course of wooden railway (see 20502).

SINERS COPPICE (BE 20901)

Old Coppice (see 20601). Now roughly wooded, with much mining evidence. Ganey coals outcrop along this field.

PIT MOUNDS (BE 210A01)

Roughly wooded plot with several large spoil heaps from pits into coal measures. One shaft shown on OS geological survey SJ 60 SE.

PIT MOUND (BE 21101)

Plot containing large pit mound, with much coal waste. Out of use by 1902.

BOUNDARY DITCH (BE 21102)

A deep ditch runs between the Dearleap wood and plot BE 211 which may have originally been a park boundary.

SINERS COPPICE (BE 21201)

See BE 20601.

SINERS COPPICE (BE 21501)

See BE 20601.

HENRY BRADLEY'S KILN SITE (BE 21603)

Large quantities of clay pipes and pipe kiln muffle from the late seventeenth century were found here by the IGMT Archaeology Unit (see Appendix Two).

POTTERY WASTE (BE 21604)

As part of excavations by the IGMT archaeology unit, much pottery kiln waste was found. Most likely the pottery kiln waste was dumped from the Haybrook pottery to the west (se BE 84 i,ii and iii).

BENTHALL POTTERY (BE 21801)

Site of Benthall Pottery from 1772 until 1982, making earthenwares, "yellow and red wares", Rockingham and stone wares, and later sanitary pipes and agricultural drains. Layout of buildings shown on Tithe map, and OS maps. See context BE 22102 for discussion of wares.

Now a site for storage of agricultural machinery. Relativeley few changes made to buildings as they were in use for making sanitary pipes and agricultural drains three or four years ago.,

BENTHALL POTTERY STANDING BUILDINGS (BE 21802)

The layout of the pottery in 1835 seems to have been well planned, with buildings set around an open courtyard, entered from the south. Two or three kilns are shown, one in the north east corner, the other (?two) in the centre of the eastern range.

The present layout of the buildings reflects their use for the manufacture of drains and sanitary pipes, and very little seems to survive of the nineteenth century works, except to the south. The southern facade has been refronted in modern brick, but behind this survives a range of buidlings in nineteenth century brick which may relate to the early works. To the north the works have been completely rebuilt in several phases. The earliest is a brick and iron framed structure which may reflect infilling of the courtyard in the late nineteenth century. Most of the other structures are of brick and corrugated iron, and date to the twentieth century, suggesting that much of the works may have been rebuilt in 1935 (see text).

At the time the works were bought in 1982 a scrap dealer was brought in to clear much of the machinery. Large doors were inserted in the western and eastern walls, and other wise the works were little changed.

BENTHALL POTTERY KILNS (BE 21803)

Inside the buildings two kilns to the south have been recently demolished, and the bricks remain in place. The bricks seem relatively modern. Three others to the north have been demolished and concreted over. There are openings in the roof of the present structure for the kiln tops, and it is likely that the structure postdates the construction of the kilns.

Outside the buildings to the north the rubble of two further kilns can be seen. These have been demolished to the level of the fire boxers. That to the east has a diameter of c. 10m, that to the west a diameter of c. 8m. The iron rings and many of the fittings are still visible. They are built of a variety of brick, mostly modern (e.g. "Mossite" bricks, "Fletton Ltd") but some are stamped "Benthall Potteries". The kilns were oil fired in their last phase, and the oil pipes and metal cover for firebox are visible.

BENTHALL POTTERY STANDING DRYING OVEN (BE 21804)

Inside the buildings to the south is a rectangular drying oven still standing. The oven was oil fired.

BENTHALL POTTERY DRYING OVENS (DEMOLISHED) (BE 21805)

To the north of BE 21804, a row of five demolished ovens stood. The rubble from the ovens is still in situ, and the gable roof lines are visible in a standing wall.

BENTHALL POTTERY CRUSHERS (BE 21806)

Two massive concrete bases for crushing machinery still stand to the south of the main eastern entrance to the building.

BENTHALL POTTERY WELL (BE 21807)

A brick lined well of c. 1.5m diameter survives in the north western corner of the iron framed building in the centre of the works.

BENTHALL POTTERY BLOWERS (BE 21808)

Two blowers survive to the south of the standing drying kiln.

BENTHALL POTTERY OIL TANK (BE 21809)

Waste oil was apparently used as fuel in the final phase of the works, and the tank still stands in the south west corner of the works.

BENTHALL POTTERY WASTE MATERIAL (BE 21810)

Eroding out of the site are large amounts of buff and dark brown stoneware pipes and collars, and bricks, many stamped with the mark "Benthall Potteries". The caretaker reported finding large numbers of teapot lids and spouts on the site, although none were visible.

PIT MOUND (BE 21901)

Out of use by 1902, the 1883 OS map clearly shows a road leading north from the Much Wenlock road to a coal shaft surrounded by waste. The road can be seen today, slightly built up over the surrounding marsh and waste, and the area of the pit mound can be seen.

DRAINAGE CANAL (BE 22101)

Canal dug to drain marshy field for agricultural purposes. Shown as early as 1844 (Tithe Map).

BENTHALL POTTERY WASTE (BE 22102)

In the field to the west of the site, is a drainage canal. The northern part of this canal has been partly infilled with pottery waste, most likely from the Benthall Potteries. The site yielded large amounts of pottery including:

* Highly glazed black lamp stands with red fabric, and one unglazed lamp stand fragment

* Highly glazed rich brown Rockingham wares (including moulded teapot spout, with buff or more often red fabric, one piece with breen and brown glaze and band of white slip

* Several fragments of large shallow coarse vessels (resembling wide brimmed flower pots) with buff fabric, manganese underglaze and a clear glaze over, very roughly painted. Some with only clear glaze on interior, giving a yellow finish.

* coarse straight sided stoneware vessels, with off white salt glazed interior and brown glazed exterior and rim

* variety of finer vessels with slightly blue/white interior, exterior clear glazed to give mid brown finish to buff fabric.

* fragments of buff vessels with reddish brown glaze, less highly fired than Rockingham wares, rounded rims with interior lip suggesting jars, with white or clear glazed interiors.

* fragments ofcoarse straight sided stone ware vessels, with buff fabric fired slightly grey, clear glazed interior giving a slight olive finish, paler grey exterior.

* very fine buff fabric lids and vessels, clear glaze giving a creamy colour, slight rolled decoration.

BENTHALL HALL SITE (BE 22201)

Immediately to the south of Benthall Hall, this quarry has left the field as a general depression, rising towards the field boundary. The Best, Randle, clod and Little Flint coals were shown on geological survey SJ 60SE.

FOOTPATH (BE 22202)

Now a public footpath running south of Benthall Hall, this route may relate to the cross roads shown on Rocque's map of 1753, and was clearly once an important route to Wyke.

DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE (BE 22301)

Site of the old village of Benthall, reputedly demolished during the Civil War to protect the house, but most likely already abandoned (see also 22801)

SITE OF EARLIER HALL (BE 22402)

There is much evidence to suggest that an earlier building stood on the site of the present Benthall hall, constructed in 1544. * In particular the many references to the Manor of Benthall, dating back to the twelfth century.

BENTHALL CHURCH (BE 22501)

Eyton suggests the church was in existence before 1221, as a Chapel, but there are few historical references. The original dedication was to St Brice, which has been suggested as evidence for an earlier foundation. The present dedication is to St

Bartholemew.

The Old Church was reputed to be destroyed in the civil war, and an inscription on the wooden gallery suggests that the church was "rebuilt in 1667". Certainly the chancel, nave and bell tower date to this period. Roof has original wooden hammer beams.

1884 a vestry was added in the south side, and the east window replaced. In 1893 an apsidal porch was added at the west end to accommodate the rebuilt stairs to the gallery, and the door placed in its present position. Above the old doorway is a sundial with a lions head, inscribed "De forti dulcedo". The lions' mouth apparently was used as a beehive.

Remnants of the earlier church include a wooden shield with the arms of James 1 (1603-1625), and an area of reset medieval floor tiles by the font. The tiles are slip decorated, some lozenge shaped with a fleur de lys decoration. A group of reset tiles by the altar include line impressed and slip decorated tiles.

BENTHALL CHURCH GRAVEYARD (BE 22502)

The right to bury at Benthall was only granted in 1702 (Benthall nd). The graveyard has been much disturbed, and many of the monuments placed around the walls. Monuments of interest include a cast iron slab to Eustace Beard, decorated with a broken anchor and chain, and several ceramic tombstones against the western wall of the graveyard.

GRAVEYARD EXTENSION (BE 22601)

The graveyard was extended to cope with the many deaths from a cholera epidemic in the nineteenth century.

PIG STIES (BE 22703)

Butting against (and therefore later than) the north eastern range of farm buildings is a pair of extremely well appointed pig sties. Of brown brick, they have cast iron feed troughs, and two iron gates, dated to 1819.

DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE (BE 22801)

The site of Benthall village, reputedly demolished during the civil war but most likely abandoned before this date, the remains of the village can be clearly seen. Ridge and furrow cultivation surveves to the north and west of the field, and there are several house platforms, centered around what may have originally been a village pond. There are traces of a route to the north leading to Benthall Edge.

The site has not yet been ploughed, but ploughing would have a deleterious effect upon the very fragile remains.

BASE OF WINDMILL (BE 22802)

The circular brick base to a modern wind pump can be seen in the northern corner of the field.

MEDIEVAL ROAD (BE 23001)

The road between Benthall Hall and Benthall Edge seems to have originally been a medieval route between Buildwas and Benthall (see Section 4.21, 2.31).

EARTH BANK (BE 23301)

An earth bank has been thrown up in this field, and acts as a boundary to the limestone quarry to the north. The bank extends to the south west, beyond the limits of the quarry. On the north east side the bank is less tham a metre high, to the south west where the field slopes, the bank is two metres high.

It is possible that this was a medieval woodland boundary, however the tree species growing on the bank are hazel of no great age. The bank is more likely to have been thrown up to prevent stock falling into the quarry.

LIMESTONE QUARRY (BE 23401)

Almost square quarry with very flat floor, working face to south west, spoil on north west. Two depressions on north eastern edge suggest kilns. c.5m deep (23407). Access road 23404; working bounded by bank 23405.

QUARRY (BE 23402)

Massive irregular quarry ⅜15m deep. Working face to south east and also some on north east. Spoil banked up between quarry and 0901 has since been cut away. Break in working face with earth infill visible on both sides. No immediately visible access. Some dumping on other side of 0901. Clearly encroaches upon farmland, breaking cliff line. Relates to use of road 901 and probably medieval.

DEPRESSION (BE 23403)

Circular collapse, 2-3m in diameter and 1.5m deep. Some debris in entrance including brickwork, concrete. Either old kiln, or associated with round structure marked on 1902 OS map.

ACCESS ROAD (BE 23404)

Access to 23401, narrow road curving between spoil heaps, Later than 901.

BENTHALL EDGE WOODS (BE 23405)

See description in text (Section 2.2). Most south westerly part

of the edge. Characterised by large limestone quarries of possibly medieval date.

QUARRYING (BE 23406)

Cliff edge in this area has been quarried to c. 4m deep, and spoil heped up against it. The cliff shows almost no overburden, and roughly coursed, rubbly stone. Access road 901.

SITE OF KILNS (BE 23407)

"Old Kilns" marked in area of 23406 on 1883 OS map. Two depressions visible on east side of 23401.

BENTHALL EDGE WOODS (BE 23501)

Patch of woodland adjoining Hungerdale Farm, and Sprats coppice. Very little quarrying.

OLD ROAD TO BENTHALL HALL (BE 23901)

The present road from Posenhall to Wyke originally continued north at this point, leading to Benthall Hall. The significance of this route is suggested by the field name "Cross Meadow" indicating a junction at some time.

CROSS ROADS, BENTHALL HALL (BE 24301)

Map evidence, and convergence of foot paths suggests an old cross roads, possibly originally to north of hall, but south of hall more recently. Modern foot path leads north east towards Spout Lane.

BROSELEY/MUCH WENLOCK ROAD (BE 24901)

Northern part of turnpike road, just in parish of Benthall on route of early medieval road. There was a tollgate at Posenhall. See also BE 19601.(See 2.31)

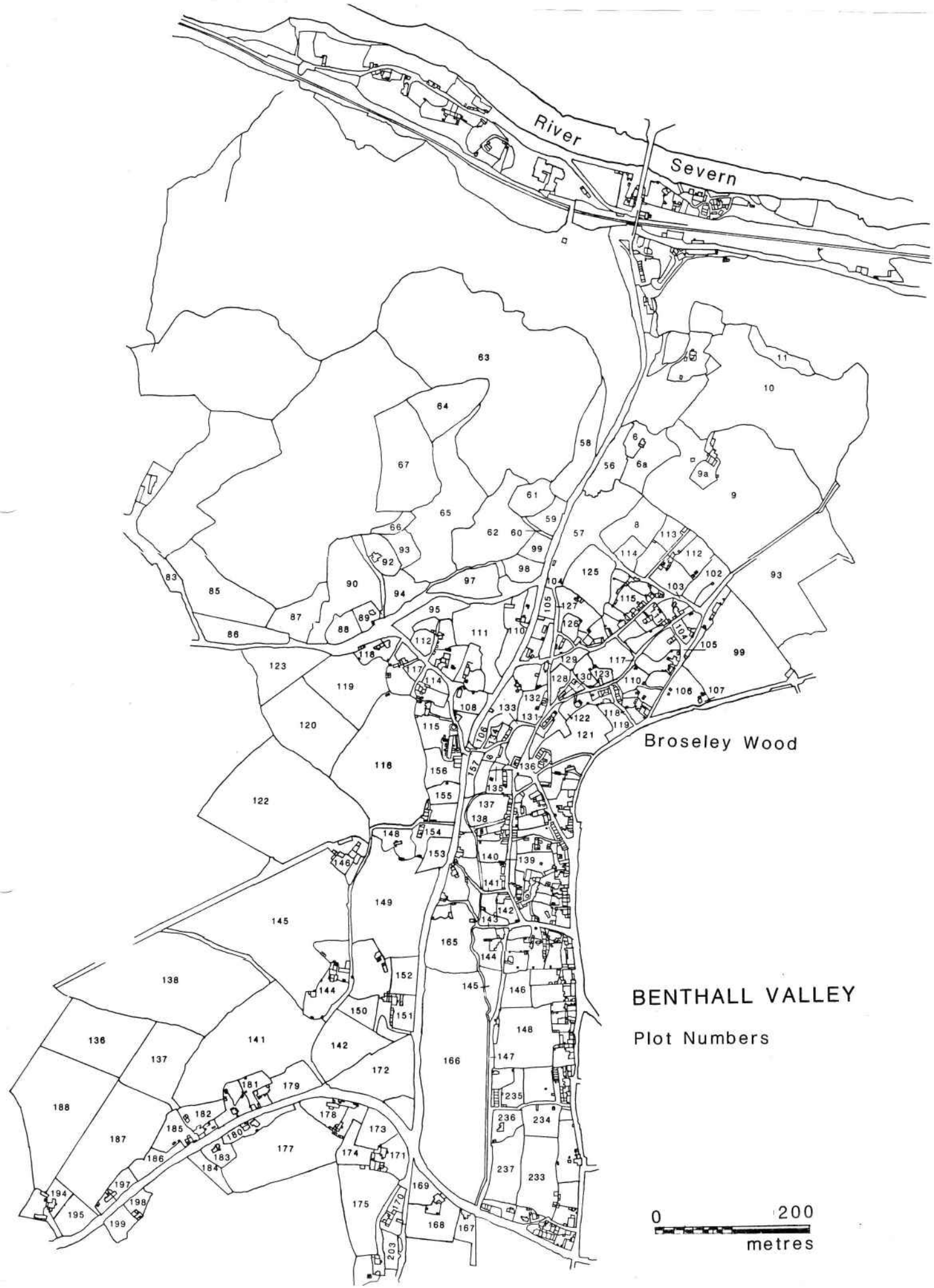

Figure 24. Benthall Valley - Plot numbers

APPENDIX SEVEN

Benthall: Inventory of Buildings

COTTAGE IN WOOD (BE 01101)

Cottage, of 3 units and two storeys, built in at least 3 phases, of which the first is perhaps represented by the stone walling to the rear of the western bay. The south elevation has 3 distinct sections, of which the central appears the earliest. To the east, a gabled bay abuts, but both these sections appear to be eighteenth century. There is a stack between these two bays, suggesting that perhaps their junction was originally a gable end. The western section seems to be a slightly later addition, but has the stone walling in its rear wall. In a lean-to out building, probably a nineteenth century addition, there is incorporated a seventeenth century gravestone, dated 1662.

SITE OF DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BE 028, 030 ETC)

The Tithe map shows that there was a group of some 12 houses that have now been demolished for the construction of the railway but which were in the general vicinity of plots 28 and 30 and the adjacent woodland. Little is known about the buildings in this area, but some of them are apparently shown in an anonymous painting of c.1820 (1976.110), which depicts a cluster of houses including a timber framed cottage and an apparently stone and thatched house, which can also be identified from a much later photograph, c1860-70 (1984.6449).

80 BOWER YARD (BE 03101)

Bungalow with attic dormers, built c1950 on site of earlier building, which was itself built between 1844 and 1902.

79 AND 79A BOWER YARD (BE 03401)

Pair of houses, possibly built as a single dwelling c1830, certainly before 1844, and extended to create an extra house, 79a c1970-80. Unusually wide roof span is apparently original. Outbuildings built since 1927 now demolished.

77 BOWER YARD (BE 03501)

House, rebuilt c1980 in traditional cottage style. earlier building recorded on 1902 Ordnance Suvey map, but not there in 1844. The present building seems to be an extension of the original cottage, suggesting that the earlier form may have comprised a two unit cottage of two low storeys.

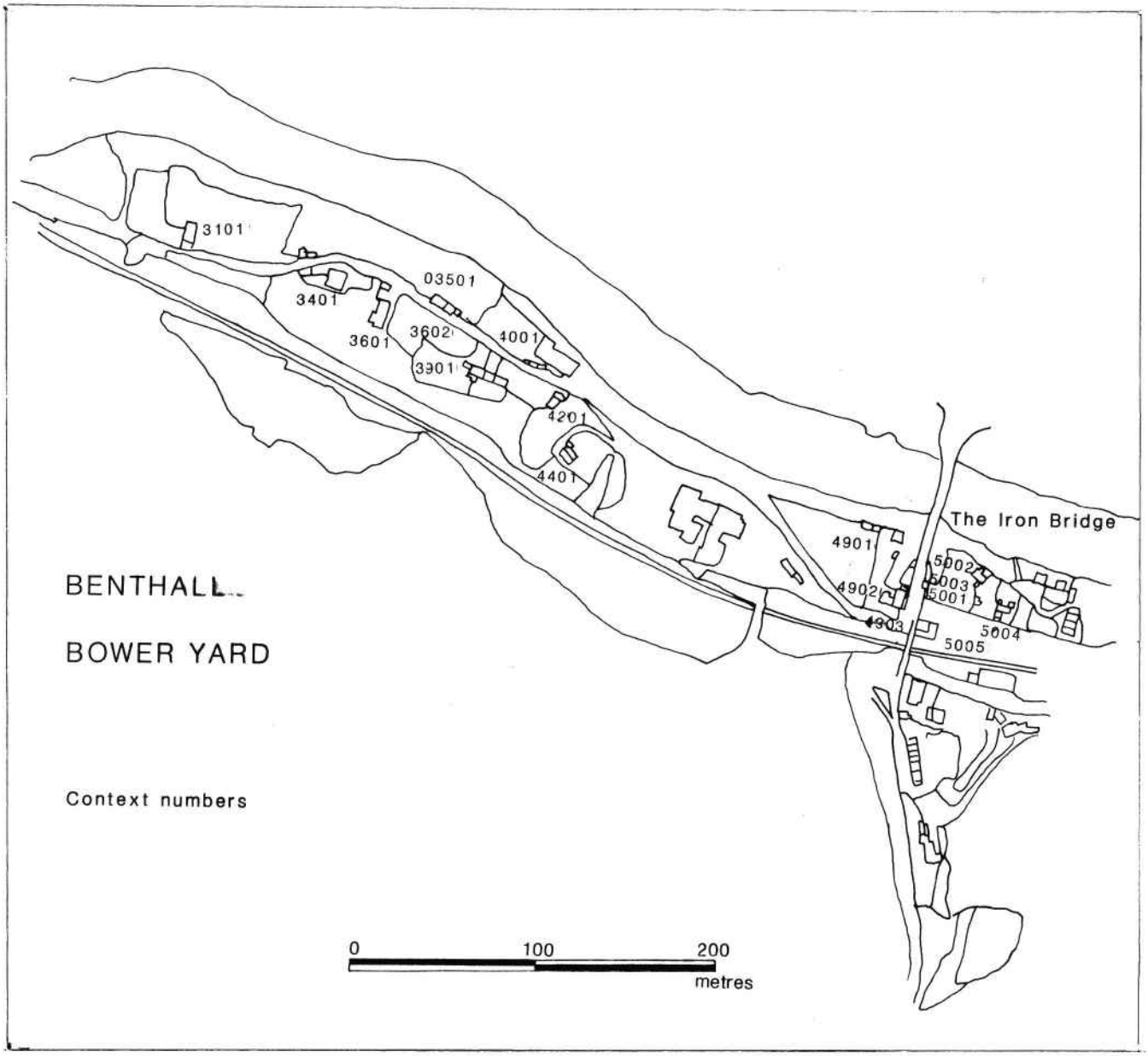

Figure 25. Bower Yard, Benthall - Building Contexts.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BE 03502)

Buildings demolished since c1961, in existence on 1902 Ordnance Survey map, but not shown on Tithe Map. There are buildings shown nearby on this plot in 1844, however, and listed merely as "buildings", but they appear to occupy a rather different position from either of the later structures.

78 BOWER YARD (BE 03601)

Long cottage, brick built, one and a half storeys, 4 bays but built in several phases. The earliest part seems to be the northern bay, which has a rubble core visible in the gable wall and to the rear, including a possible chimney base. The brickwork in the central section appears to be the earliest brick phase, presumably representing first an extension of the building, and then its heightening and refronting. The southern bay seems a rather later addition, but still possibly eighteenth century. There is a date stone of 1642 in a dormer window, but as this does not appear to be in existence in a photograph of c1950, is unlikely to be authentic. The brickwork would seem to be eighteenth century, and the stone core cannot be directly dated, but must be late C17-early C18.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BE 03602)

Building recorded on Tithe Map as house, but other wise unrecorded.

74-76 BOWER YARD (BE 03901)

Row of three early nineteenth century terraced houses, built in a single phase and common style, though not all to an identical plan; one has only a single unit plan, the others are now double fronted. As this was 4 dwellings in 1844, this present arrangement is the result of some later modification, but still suggests that the original form varied from house to house, though the evidence of alterations suggests that there were three single unit houses to the east, with the double fronted dwelling to the west. Brown bricks with flat lintels, some evidence for alteration of size and position of openings. Possible communal wash house on the western end of the row.

72-73 BOWER YARD (BE 04001)

Pair of houses, built in at least 3 phases. Mostly a brown late eighteenth or early nineteenth century brick, but with partial rubble wall to rear. This may denote either an earlier core, or a technique of building against the bank. 2 dwellings in 1844.

DEMOLISHED COTTAGE, BOWER YARD (BE 04201)

Small cottage, demolished between 1927 and 1953. Pictorial record shows that it was timber framed, in square panels with a very shallow pitched roof. It had a large detached stack on one gable,

and a smaller stack in the other, which formed part of a stone section, possibly a later addition (1986.11909). Tithe map records 3 houses on this site, so apparently a pair of cottages in existence then had been demolished by 1882.

71 BOWER YARD (BE 04401)

House, rebuilt c1970 in a northern vernacular style. Postion of chimney, axial, and brickwork in gable give indications that it is a rebuild rather than a total replacement of a building which was here by 1844 as a pair of dwellings. A photograph of c1900 shows this house as a two unit cottage with central doorway, suggesting that it may have been altered since the Tithe Map was made (1982.2199).

OLD SALT HOUSE, 70 BOWER YARD (BE 04901)

Cottage of two bays and one and a half storeys, with an additional bay to the north. Evidence from pictures suggests that the building post-dates the Iron Bridge, and that it has undergone a series of major changes, its present appaearance being the result of quite recent alterations. It is first illustrated in c1788 as a building of two parallel gabled ranges (SSMT33/ 1973.202). Later pictures (c1820) show the building having three seperate units (anonymous sketch shown in Smith, 1979;58), while by 1835 (1972.27.1), there seem to be two units only, each with an added outshut. This corresponds more or less with its present appearance, though the outshuts were subsequently removed, and casement windows added to the upper storey, which have in turn been replaced by dormers. It may be suggested from this evidence that the present building was built or rebuilt between c1788 and c1820, that it was perhaps reduced in size between c1820 and 1835, and subsequently altered again, at least once. Its earlier apeearance suggests that it may not always have been in domestic use, as its name would also imply, and perhaps the changes that took place after 1835 were associated with its conversion to a dwelling. It was certainly in use as a house in 1844.

TOLL HOUSE (BE 04902)

The first clear evidence for the Toll House is in a picture of c1785, which shows a small building with gable end chimney (SSMT33/ 1973.202). A subsequent print gives a rather different representation of this, showing a tall and narrow building with no chimney (1978.82). It may be assumed that this refers to the same building however. By 1788, the toll house was shown within a cluster of three buildings (1976.120), and a further range to the south seems to have been built by c1820 (Smith, 1979;58). The central block had been demolished by 1835 (1973.37.1). A large building to the west of the toll house which was shown in c1788 (1978.82) appears to have also disappeared by 1835.

There was also another building which appears to have been built on the road line but to the south of the toll house and which is

shown to have a central pediment and coped gables in a print of c1788. A similar building is depicted in a sketch of 1816-21 (3241). However, a building in this position is not shown in a sketch by Arthur Howe Holdsworth, n.d. but pre 1820 (1978.225.5). Perhaps this house was demolished just before 1820?

SITE OF HOUSE (BE 04903)

Images of the Ironbridge suggest that this house was built c1788 (1976.120) and it was demolished after 1927. It is difficult to reconcile this with the evidence of William Westwood's painting of 1835 (1973.37.1), which clearly shows a gap between the Toll House and its neighbour, so perhaps the building recorded in 1882 is in fact a later rebuild. Comparison of the Tithe Map with the 1882 O.S. Map also suggests that the building on the site is not the same in each case. The 1844 building comprised 2 dwellings.

SITE OF MALTHOUSE (BE 05001)

Malthouse shown on Tithe Map, but demolished by 1882. There was a house adjacent to it in 1844, but presumably this was demolished at the same time. A smelthouse on Bower yard was a malthouse by 1765 (Trinder), and it is likely that this was the building on this site.

69 BOWER YARD (BE 05002)

Cottage, built of rubble, two bays and one and a half storeys. Probably early eighteenth century or earlier. Two side wall stacks, to front and rear. An additional bay to the east is shown in early images (Michaelangelo Rooker, c1788). This is in a contrasting style, with sash windows instead of leaded casements, but is now demolished, probably in the later nineteenth century as it appears to be shown on the Tithe Map. Malthouse tiles in the garden wall (Be 84D) must have come from the nearby malthouse when it was demolished some time after 1844.

HUT ON BRIDGE (BE 05003)

Small brick shack, probably built at about the time of the railway (1862), and certainly later than the Tithe Map. Early photographs show that it was never much more substantial than it is now, and it is suggested that it may have been built as a small shelter. However, this interpretation is questioned by the fact that the Broseley Tithe Map does seem to show a building on this site.

68 BOWER YARD (BE 05004)

Cottage, timber framed with large scantling timbers in square panels. Wide gabled dormer central in front elevation is also timber framed (though it may not be original). Square plan form of two units, one with a very large projecting stone stack. Probably seventeeth century. In use as two dwellings in 1844.

DEMOLISHED HOUSE (BE 05005)

House recorded on Tithe Map and presumably demolished for construction of railway.

BRIDGE HOUSE (BE 05201)

Large house, first shown in a sketch by Arthur Howe Holdsworth, probably before 1820 (1978.225.5). It is built of brick on a stone plinth. 4 bays, three storeys. The early sketch suggests that it may then have been an inn since there is a large projecting sign. However the Tithe map merely records it as a dwelling.

MILL HOUSES; 65-66 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 05202)

Pair of houses, 3 storeyed, two unit plans, but built without much refinement, eg, there are no proper lintels to openings. Probably late eighteenth century. Recorded as 3 dwellings in 1844.

THE BUNGALOW AND UNDERN (BE 05601)

Bungalow, circa 1930. Site occupied by Benthall encaustic tile works in 1882, but this had been demolished by 1902. Undern is a later bungalow, built since 1961.

WESTHOLME (BE 05801)

House, c1930, in vernacular revival style, rough cast render and pyramidal hipped roof. Built on site occupied by former encaustic tile works in 1883.

THE HAVEN (BE 05802)

House, circa 1930 on site of former encaustic tile works.

HILL RISE (BE 05803)

House, circa 1980, large scale vernacular cottage idiom. Built on site of tile works.

AMBLESIDE & GRINDLEWALD (BE 05901)

Pair of Bungalows, part of a group of four, which all employ the same basic plan; a central door flanked by bay windows. Built c1950, built on site of encaustic tile works. See also plot no99.

BROADACRES FARM (BE 07101)

Farm complex, originally a farmyard without dwelling. The present house was made from a cartshed or pigstyes c1950. The pillars that separated the bays are still visible. The original structure appears to be stone beneath the render. The other farm buildings comprise a tall barn and stable, built of roughly

coursed sandtone rubble, and a range of brick sheds. The stone buildings are perhaps eighteenth century. Listed as barn only in 1844.

BENTLANDS ESTATE (BE 07901)

Private development, circa 1950.

LONGIEU, SPOUT LANE (BE 08601)

Chalet style bungalow, c1930.

FAIRVIEW, SPOUT LANE (BE 08602)

Chalet style bungalow, c1930.

THE CHALET, SPOUT LANE (BE 08603)

Bungalow, c1950.

GLENCOE, SPOUT LANE (BE 08801)

Bungalow, c1950.

COTTAGE, SPOUT LANE (BE 08901)

Present building is a reconstruction possibly using reused brick and a style derived from local nineteenth century building traditions. It replaces a building which was shown in 1902, and on the Tithe map, as a house, but it is not known what form this original building had.

THE BAILIFF HOUSE, SPOUT LANE (BE 09201)

House, formerly known as the Croft. Main range with contemporary rear wing, both parts built from coursed and squared sandstone with timber trusses with queen struts exposed in gable ends (though now rendered over). Dated on a lintel to a now blocked doorway, 1672. Inside, much of the detail seems consistent with this date, including the chamfer stops to the main beams, the stone moulding to the upper fireplace, and the ogee moulded wood doorcase between the two bays. The internal partition wall is timber framed, and appears to be on a slight plinth at cellar level. This may be an indication that it is in fact an original exterior wall to an earlier building, but there is no othe evidence to support this. The house was lived in by the Hartshorne family, and is likely to be the house of 6 hearths referred to in the hearth tax of 1672. In the nineteenth century it was in use as the parish workhouse, possibly as two separate units, since it was recorded as two dwellings in the Tithe Map of 1844. it was still lived in by the relieving officer in 1879 (P.O. Directory). It is said to have been built as the house of the estate bailif.

ALTOVISTA & ITTLDO (BE 09901)

Two bungalows, c1950, part of a group of four that all employ the same basic plan. This pair are slightly bigger, with integral garages, and some later modifications such as the addition of dormer roof lights.

BARN (BE 10501)

Small brick built barn, not shown on Tithe Map, but probably early nineteenth century. One wall is built of stone, and the gable wall seems to have originally been open; there is clear evidence of infilling, and a timber lintel.

62 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 10502)

House, probably late eighteenth-early nineteenth century, and certainly built by 1844. 2 storeyed, 3 units, though one lay be an addition. Old lined out stucco. Small casement windows seem likely to be original.

61 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 10503)

House, late eighteenth-early nineteenth century, and certainly built by 1844.

NEW HOUSE (BE 10601)

House, 1986, in new vernacular style.

12 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 10701)

House, possibly a recent conversion from non-domestic use, in a building not shown on 1902 O.S. map, but on the site of mill pool. 4 bays, two storeyed, with pilaster-buttresses between each bay on each elevation, and some evidence that it may have formerly been single storeyed. Its appearance suggests that it was an industrial building and that it must have been built quite soon after 1902.

DEBDALE (BE 10702)

Bungalow, c 1950.

45 BRIDGE ROAD (THE MINES) (BE 10801)

Cottage, probably late eighteenth century. Brick with sharply projecting dentilled eaves and dormer windows. Two long units with central door. two stacks to rear might suggest that it was designed and later used as two separate houses, and it was recorded as two dwellings on the Tithe Map. Sold from the Forester estate 1924.

45A BRIDGE ROAD (THE MINES) (BE 10802)

Bungalow with attic in mansard roof, c1950.

44 BRIDGE ROAD (THE MINES) (BE 10803)

House, probably late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century and first recorded, 1844. Two full storeys, two units symmetrically arranged with a central doorway and sash windows.

49 BRIDGE ROAD (THE MINES) BE 10901)

Cottage, built of roughly coursed rubble with queen strut truss visible in one gable end. The other gable is rubble, with projecting purlins. Timbered wide dormer to south. Inside, the principal bay is to the north, with wide inglenook style fireplace now partially blocked going to external stack. Inserted corner fireplace in further bay. Central cross wall is also of rubble with a queen strut truss above, and seems to have been an integral part of the original construction. It has been suggested that the presence of this very massive internal partition may be evidence that the two parts of the building were in separate use, but as both sections have main beams with ornate stopped chamfers, both seem originally domestic, and as only one bay has an original fireplace, it seems likely that it was originally a two unit house with a single hearth. It was two dwellings in 1844, and has been used until recently in this way. Local tradition states that the two dwellings were lived in by different generations of the same family. An additional dormer window was inserted during the twentieth century, and the roof, which was formerly thatched, was tiled c1940. The house is currently being restored,and drawings prepared by the building recording team.

The rear boundary wall is a partial saggar wall, and there are also saggars in the earth bank behind the house.

WOODLANDS, SPOUT LANE (BE 11001)

Large Spanish style bungalow, c1960. It replaces an earlier building shown on the Tithe Map as stables.

63, BRIDGE ROAD (11002)

Small house, 2 units, though one seems to have been raised and so was perhaps once a single storey only. Wide gabled dormer. Axial stack and blocked doorway to right of existing doorway. Probably late eighteenth century, but patchy brickwork suggests a long sequence of alterations. A single dwelling in 1844.

ISLAY, FERNLEIGH (BE 11003)

Three pairs of semi-detached houses, c1960-70 (one building only shown on O.S. map, 1961), presumably built as a single private speculation.

SITE OF DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BE 11004)

Boring Mill recorded on Tithe Map but demolished by 1882.

OVERDALE, THE MINES (BE 11201)

Bungalow, built c1950 on former field or garden.

OUTBUILDNGS, THE MINES (BE 11202)

Group of sheds, possibly associated with house, demolished between 1902 and 1961.

53, THE MINES (BE 11203)

Small brick cottage, probably early nineteenth century, and certainly before 1844. Two full storeys, one and a half unit plan. Blind backed, because built up against boundary of neighbouring property. Squared saggars in garden edging wall.

THE MINES COTTAGE (BE 11204)

Large timber-framed cottage, probably first half seventeenth century. Framed in square panels, queen strut roof and large detached stack to east. Two unit plan, probably originally two storeys. All fenestration is recent and part of the front wall has been rebuilt in brick. Projecting front wing is also recent. 1902 O.S. seems to represent this as two separate dwellings, it was in use as two on the Tithe Map, but the existence of a single major chimney (the western chimney looks like an addition), suggests that it was built as a single house.

50 THE MINES (BE 11205)

House, forming wing of timber framed cottage (see above). Two storeyed, 3 bays with projecting side wall stack. Some blocked openings and a straight joint in the front wall suggest that it has been changed several times. It has however been in use as a house since at least 1844, and cannot be much earlier than this.

48 THE MINES (BE 11401)

House, built in at least 3 phases, represented as 3 parallel gabled ranges. The central section seems the earliest, and has a truncated stack on its northern gable, and a side wall stack. Western range may have been added next, and subsequently was itself extended to the north. There is another addition to the east, a single storeyed bay, with brickwork that suggests a nineteenth century date.This section however, includes a rubble stone wall which may be the remnant of an earlier building on the site. All three bays are shown on the Tithe Map. The western range incorporates two very worn date stones, one, in side wall seems to read 1619 with the initials I.H. and the other, which is on the rear gable, is 1681, with initials B.H. None of the present building seems earlier than the late eighteenth century.

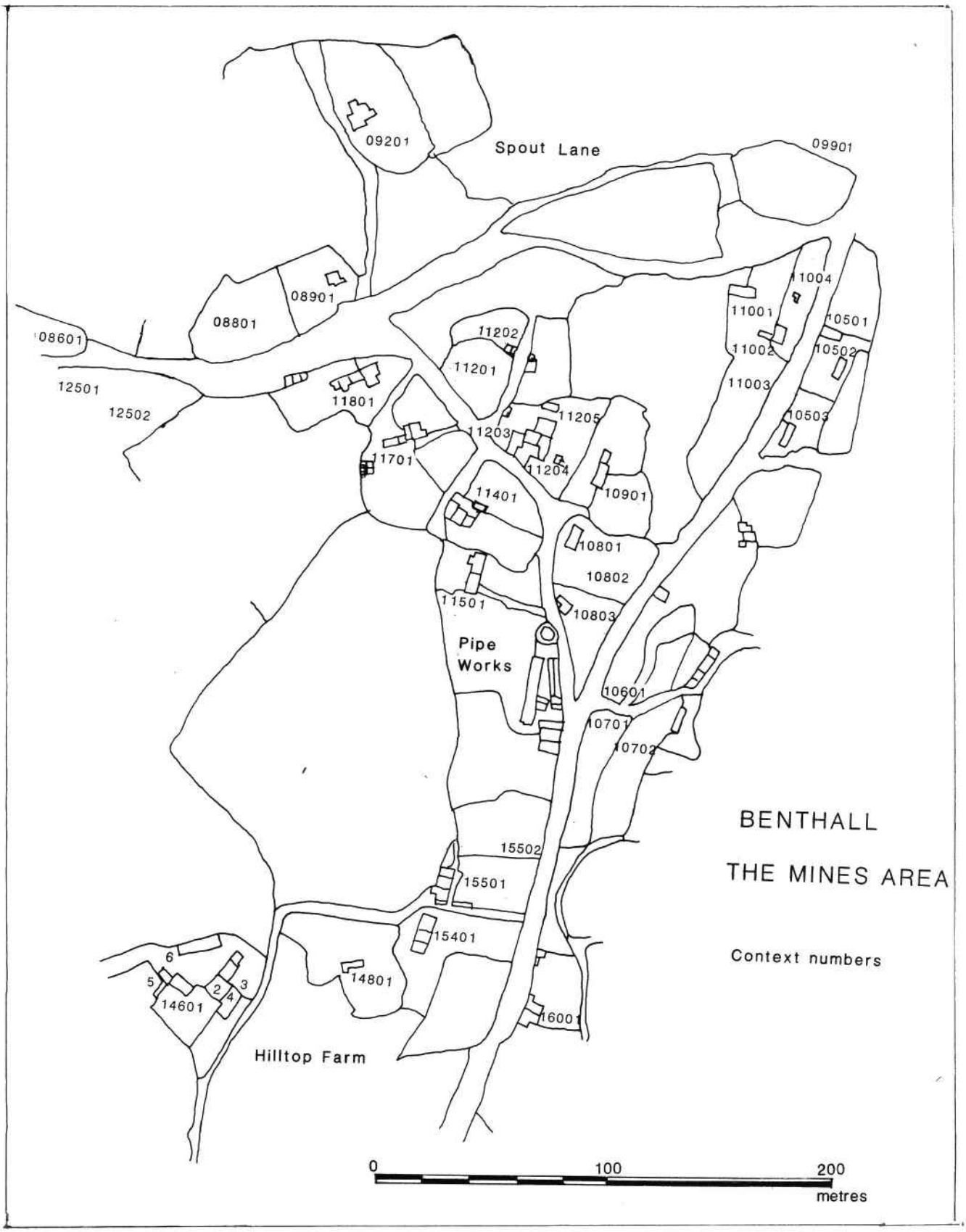

Figure 26. The Mines, Benthall. Building Context Numbers.

46-47 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 11501)

Pair of cottages, probably late eighteenth century, but extensively modernised c1960. 46 was formerly a two bay cottage, to which an additional bay was added during modernisation. 47 appears to have been more or less completely rebuilt, though one beam has been reused inside. The pair are an example of improvement equated with modernity. Their earlier appearance is shown in a postcard (1982.1861), but there is little detail visible. Saggar wall in garden of 46.

54 THE MINES (BE 11701)

Farmhouse with integral barn. Original house-part is a single unit and two full storeys, and alongside it a further bay with a single very small window to ground floor suggests some kind of service or even agricultural use. The barn itself is beyond. Style suggests a late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century date, certainly by 1844, when it was recorded as house, buildings, etc. It seems to be a very small farm, to judge by its layout (integral arrangement rare for such a late date). In process of major restoration.

55-57 THE MINES (BE 11801)

Row of three cottages, built in at least two phases. Original buiding likely to be no 57, which was originally a single celled cottage, probalby mid eighteenth century, brick with dentilled eaves, extended by two bays recently, in a similar style. The other cottages, also single celled, seem to be slightly later additions, and have two full storeys. There are rear wings, but it is not known whether or not these are original. Listed as 4 dwellings in 1844, so perhaps the new part actually replaces an earlier cottage.

PINE TREE, SPOUT LANE (BE 12501)

Chalet style bungalow,built on open land c1930.

WOODSIDE, SPOUT LANE (BE 12502)

Chalet style bungalow, built on open land c1930.

BENTLANDS ESTATE (BE 14101)

Private housing development of c1970.

FORMER SUNDAY SCHOOL (BE 14401)

Early nineteenth century school building, two ranges at right angles, forming two school rooms, with added lean-to porch. Dark brown brick with blue brick dressings, and round arched windows with wrought iron glazing bars. In its present form, later than 1844, when a building on this site was a house.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS, DEMOLISHED (BE 14402)

Group of buildings, built before 1844 , then in use as two dwellings, and demolished since 1902.

29 FLOYER LANE (HILLTOP) (BE 11403)

Cottage, built of roughly coursed rubble, but possibly completely rebuilt recently, presumably using the original materials. Probably a two unit form, but the rear axial stack suggests that either the original form has been altered with rebuilding, or that the original cottage was extended. Single dwelling in 1844.

HILL TOP FARM YARD (BE 14601-6)

Group of six farm buildings.
1. Brick barn, with openings in north east side. Probably early nineteenth century.
2. Small barn or shed, rubble core, raised adn extended in brick.
3. Small shed or barn, brick, and brick and pipe waste.
4. Corrugated lean-to shed, recent.
5. New barn, breeze block and wood (telegraph poles?), but internal low partition seems to use and earlier brick.
6.Black corrugated-iron dutch barn, early twentieth century.
This complex of buildings is perhaps that referred to in insurance records of Francis Blithe Harries, 1805-14, which are described as being to the northwest of the road leading from the iron bridge to Bridgnorth. If this is so, there was a grain store, stables and hayloft, and one of the buildings was timber framed. An additional building which was shown on the Tithe Map and which lay to the north-west of the yard, has been demolished since 1902.

34 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 14801)

Cottage, one bay of rubble, heightened and extended to east, in brick, but now rendered over. Detached stack on western gable, and single storeyed extension beyond. Presumably the original cottage was a single celled building with attic upper storey, the construction seems very rudimentary, but little of the original form survives.

TWO BUNGALOWS (BE 14901)

Built after 1961.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BE 15001)

Group of buildings, shown on the 1902 O.S. map (and on the Tithe Map), but now demolished. They seem to have been farm or garden buildings but were recorded on the Tithe Apportionment merely as buildings.

HILL TOP FARMHOUSE (BE 15101)

Farmhouse, early nineteenth century, classical style with symmetrical three bay frontage on three storeys. Rear wing incorporates almost full height stair window. Yellow brick, possibly from Bower Yard brick works?

THE ORCHARD AND HIGH WINDSOR (BE 15301)

Two bungalows, c1950 built on open site.

41 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 15401)

Large cottage, squared rubble with timber framed gable roof trusses, with queen struts. One and a half storeyed, two main bays, with lower extensions on each end, that to south is stone to ground floor and brick above. Large projecting stone stack to north. Front elevation has two wide dormers which are additions in brick. In the rear wall, two small gabled dormers have formerly had lower sills, now blocked. There is a blocked doorway to the rear, and traces of another to the south of the front elevation, which might suggest that the house was at one time two dwellings. It is shown as at least two separate units on the 1902 Ordnance survey, but is a single dwelling on the Tithe Map. If it was originally built as a single house, it was a large and substantially built dwelling, and is probably late seventeenth century.

42-43 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 15501)

Now a single house, structural evidence suggests that it has at some time been at least two or three separate dwellings (there are for example, 3 doorways and another that is now blocked): it is also shown as three units on the 1882 O.S. map. Until its recent acquisition, it was two houses, as it was also in 1844. This terrace, however, is the result of extensions to an earlier house of stone, which is still visible within the brick. It comprised the central two bays of the existing building, and the original eaves line is still visible beneath the rendering. During renovation, the stone gable was exposed internally. It seems that this original building would have been a two celled house with attic upper storey, perhaps seventeenth or early eighteenth century, extended in length and raised in height probably in the late eighteenth century or early nineteenth. It has been suggested that traces of a semi-circular structure which were discovered to the rear of the cottage at the south west may be the remains of a pipe kiln. The structure was built against the second chimney, wich has now been taken down, and is against the rubble rear wall of the original build.

SITE OF BUILDING (BE 15502)

Building shown on Tithe map but not listed in apportionment, which records this plot as a garden. There survives traces of a garden wall and gates.

39-40 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 16001)

Pair of cottages, rendered, presumably over brick. Two projecting stacks, one to each gable, and wide dormer windows, slightly pedimented in brick. Overall form suggests that this was built as two cottages, possibly in the eighteenth century, but it may havebeen altered in the nineteenth; the dormer windows are in a style cent of the architecture of the Willey estate. tw dwellings in 1844.

37-38 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 16201)

Pair of cottages, ostensibly early nineteenth century, though that nearest to road may be earlier; it is now rendered, making it difficult to see the original form but its alignment, and the slight discontinuity in the roofline, in addition to the fact that the eaves band of the neighbouring house, which is clearly a single build of the early nineteenth century, does not continue across both houses.The two houses are not of the same plan form; 38 is slightly larger, one and a half units, while 37 is a single unit with a single storeyed wash house now the kitchen added, a standard nineteenth century provision.

36 BRIDGE ROAD (BE 16202)

Cottage, modernised and recently extended. The original form seems to have been a single celled cottage of one adn a half storeys, which has had added to it two further bays adopting a similar style. However, the rear wing incorporates rubble walling which might indicate an even earlier building on the site.

BELMONT BRIDGE ROAD (BE 16203)

Bungalow, c1920-30, apparently built by family of then occupiers of 37 or 38. Two squared bays have decorative terracotta finials, but the dormer windows are recent additions.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BE 16301)

Building, demolished since 1902, but original function unknown.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BE 16401)

Building, demolished since 1902, and probably originally a house (see Tithe Map).

28 BARRATTS HILL (BE 16701)

House, c1800. Two storeyed, 3 bays, modified by insertion of bay windows.

BARRATTS HILL FARMHOUSE (BE 16901)

Farmhouse, c1830, in symmetrical classical style of three bays and two storeys. Sash windows, to ground floor but casements above, crow stepped brick work in gables. In 1844, there was a house in the farmyard and it is possible that this house was built to replace an earlier and smaller cottage.

BARRATTS HILL FARM (BE 17001)

Small farm complex, comprising a small barn or stable and shed alongside, partially built of rubble but raised in brick. The adjacent building is a comparatively recent structure of breeze blocks, replacing the possible former farmhouse, which appears to have been demolished some time after 1902?

BROOKFIELD, BENTHALL LANE (BE 17101)

Bungalow, c1930.

ASHFIELD HOUSE BENTHALL LANE (BE 17201)

House, c1950-60.

BENTHALL HOUSE (BE 17301)

House, circa 1800. Symmetrical classical style, of three bays and three storeys, with ornate central doorcase. Yellow brick with red rubbed brick flat arches over windows. Originally a farm but most of the associated buildings have now been demolished (since 1902).

26 BENTHALL LANE (BE 17801)

Small cottage. The original section is gable on to the road, partly built of sandstone rubble, but with brickwork above that incorporates a decorative brick string course, ornate for such an othewise modest building. It is a single cell, with a large detached stack on the rear gable, and a chamfered cross beam within. Single storeyed extension may in part be nineteenth century (it seems to be shown on the 1902 O.S. map), but has been added to recently.

27 BENTHALL LANE (BE 17802)

House, probably early nineteenth century, but much renewed, e.g. brickwork rendered over. Three bays, two storeys. It is possible that this represent s the rebuilding of an earlier building because the detached stack is an anomolous feature for the early nineteenth century, and the unrendered rear wall appears to show at least three phases of construction.

25 BENTHALL LANE (BE 17803)

Late eighteenth or early nineteenth cnetury house, two storeyed

and three bays, but the original form obscured by a large wing which projects from the front of the house.

BENTLANDS ESTATE (BE 17901)

Housing estate, largely bungalows, a private development of 30 dwellings of the late 1970's.

22 BENTHALL LANE (BE 17902)

Small cottage, rebuilt c1980. The present building has a small two unit frontage with dormer windows to attic storey, and two wings at right angles to each other behind. The form of the original building is not known, but it may be suggested that in area, it would have represented perhaps the front section only of the present house. The cottage style of the present house is reinforced by the use of latticed panes to the windows.

23-24 BENTHALL LANE (BE 17903)

Pair of houses, apparently until recently a single dwelling subdivided as family property (oral evidence, mentioning in support, interconnecting doors). Tithe apportionment, however records this range as 3 dwellings, suggesting that each was originally a single unit, and that they were subsequently combined. It is shown as a single building in the 1902 O.S. map. which usually records property divisions. It is now 4 bays, subdivided unequally into one house of 2 bays, and another of one. The two unit house, no.23, has been extended by an additional bay in a similar style, and itself appears to have been built later than the single unit house, no.24. This has now been rendered over, but at the junction of the two dwellings, a patch of older brick work is visible. It is possible that this, which probably represents an eighteenth century house, was extended in the early nineteenth century (the bricks of no.23 appear to be of this period). There is now an extension to the rear of number 24, but is clear that this is a rebuild of an earlier extension or rear wing which was apparently single storeyed. The original form of the house itself cannot be determined, but the type of fireplace, and the existence of a chamfered main beam in the principal room suggest an early-mid eighteenth century date, which would in turn suggest a one and a half storeyed form. Oral tradition suggests that there was formerly a pipe kiln built against the exterior of the stack.

20 BENTHALL LANE (BE 18001)

Cottage, rebuilt, c1980, in vernacular revival style, rendered over brick with dormer windows etc. plan form with gable and main range at right angles, suggests that the rebuild follows in general arrangement but not overall dimensions, an earlier building on the site. This seems to be confirmed by the presence, in the side gable wall, of a blocked arched opening. Similarly, the projecting stack on the gable wing does not seem to be a modern feature.

19 BENTHALL LANE (BE 18002)

Small cottage, heavily restored and rendered over brick. 2 unit plan with doorway to the right and 3 dormers above. Dentilled eaves, but little other original features visible, beyond the basic structural and plan form.

21 BENTHALL LANE (BE 18101)

Small cottage, brick built and two unit plan with central doorway. Very low height, and projecting stack on gable wall. Rear wing probably added. General form suggests an early-mid eighteenth century date, but the wide dormers are reminiscent of those used on the Willey estate in the nineteenth century and may be the result of later modification, perhaps the improvement of the upper storey.

SITE OF LEOPARD INN (BE 18201)

Site of inn, demolished some time since 1902, and in existence by 1844, as an inn.

18 BENTHALL LANE (BE 18301)

Cottage, consisting of 3 principal units which at first suggests that an original single unit single storeyed cottage with attic dormer, at the north east was wrapped around by later additions. his section has deep stepped eaves band. However, appraisal of the interior suggests that this present form is in fact itself very old, and it is the apparently added bays which contain the oldest surviving features. The rear wall is apparently built of stone, and in the southwestern bay there is a chamfered beam which has an ornate stop of a late seventeenth century-early eighteenth century form. It is not possible to establish the relationship between the sections by investigation of the exterior since all walls are rendered, but the evidence suggests that if this cottage was built in phases, none of them are later than the mid eighteenth century.

BARN (BE 18501)

Barn, two ranges at right angles, each single storeyed with loft above. Built or rebuilt in several phases perhaps the earliest represented by the rubble plinth visible in the south gable and southwest wall. This would suggest that this north-south range is in fact the earlier part and that the other range is a later addition. This is confirmed by the general relationship between the two sections. perhaps the earlier range was in use as a stable, since it has two narrow doors and a single window. Former lean-to buildings across the west wall have been demolished. There is a deep dentilled brick eaves band on the east wall.

THE ORCHARD ETC (BE 18502)

3 bungalows, one c 1980, the other two c1950.

HALCYON (BE 18601)

Small chalet style bungalow, c 1930. Half-timbered with central gable oversemi-circular arched entrance.

BENTHALL VILLA FARM (BE 19401)

Small farmhouse, two gabled bays with central doorway.The dormers are the wide gables that characterise local estate building in the nineteenth century, suggesting that the farm has been altered or perhaps first built, in the early nineteenth century. It has been recently modernised. There is an insurance plaque on the gable wall. Rear wing now in use as garage, but contains blocked fireplace. The farm buildings are small in scale, but have not been studied.

COTTAGES (BE 19701)

Pair of cottages, one a two unit plan, the other single. Brick, with hipped roofs and deep casement windows. The quality of this detail suggests that the cottages may have been built as estate cottages. The smaller dwelling is apparently built on a rubble plinth, which may be evidence of an earlier building on the site. The style of the present buildings suggests a late nineteenth century date, but they are shown as two dwellings on the Tithe Map.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BE 19702)

House, recorded in 1844, but demolished by 1882.

16 BENTHALL LANE (BE 19801)

Small cottage, two small units, and single storyed with attic lit from gable ends. Two gable end stacks, possilby only on eriginal, to the north east, with a projecting stack and deep fireplace inside. Small outshut to rear. Rear wall is built of rubble to about ceiling height, which may be evidence of an earlier building on the site.

THE OLD VICARAGE (BE 20301)

Probably built c1700, brick, symmetrically arranged facade with central doorway in later porch, and 3 storeys. Internally, the plan departs from symmetry to have one larger room, the hall, and a smaller parlour. There are sevice rooms with corner stacks and a central staircase with turned wood balusters to the rear. Roof structure is a ridge parallel to the facade and two rear gables. Very little altered, only one single storey addition to the north. An early use both of brick, and also of classical proportion. Known as Coppice House, it was in use as the

vicarage from the late nineteenth century (first reference, Kelley's Directory, 1891). Archaeological investigation has attempted so far without success, to find traces of a reputed kiln in the grounds of the house, since tradition, combined with the fact that there are no obviouse agricultural buildings sith the house, suggests that it may have been built as part of or in consequence of, an industrial concern.

HAYBROOK TERRACE (BE 21501)

4 pairs of local authority housing, completed in 1953.

11 BENTHALL LANE (BE 21601 -2)

Present building (1 Coppice Lane), was built in c1982 in traditional cottage style, but with integral garage, replacing a small cottage which was recorded before demolition by Jonathan Rowe in 1983. This first building was partially of stone, perhaps early eighteenth century, raised to give an attic storey perhaps later that century. It had a two unit plan, and the attic was lit only from the gable walls. On the site was evidence for a pipe kiln, which was recorded by IGMTAU (BE 84).

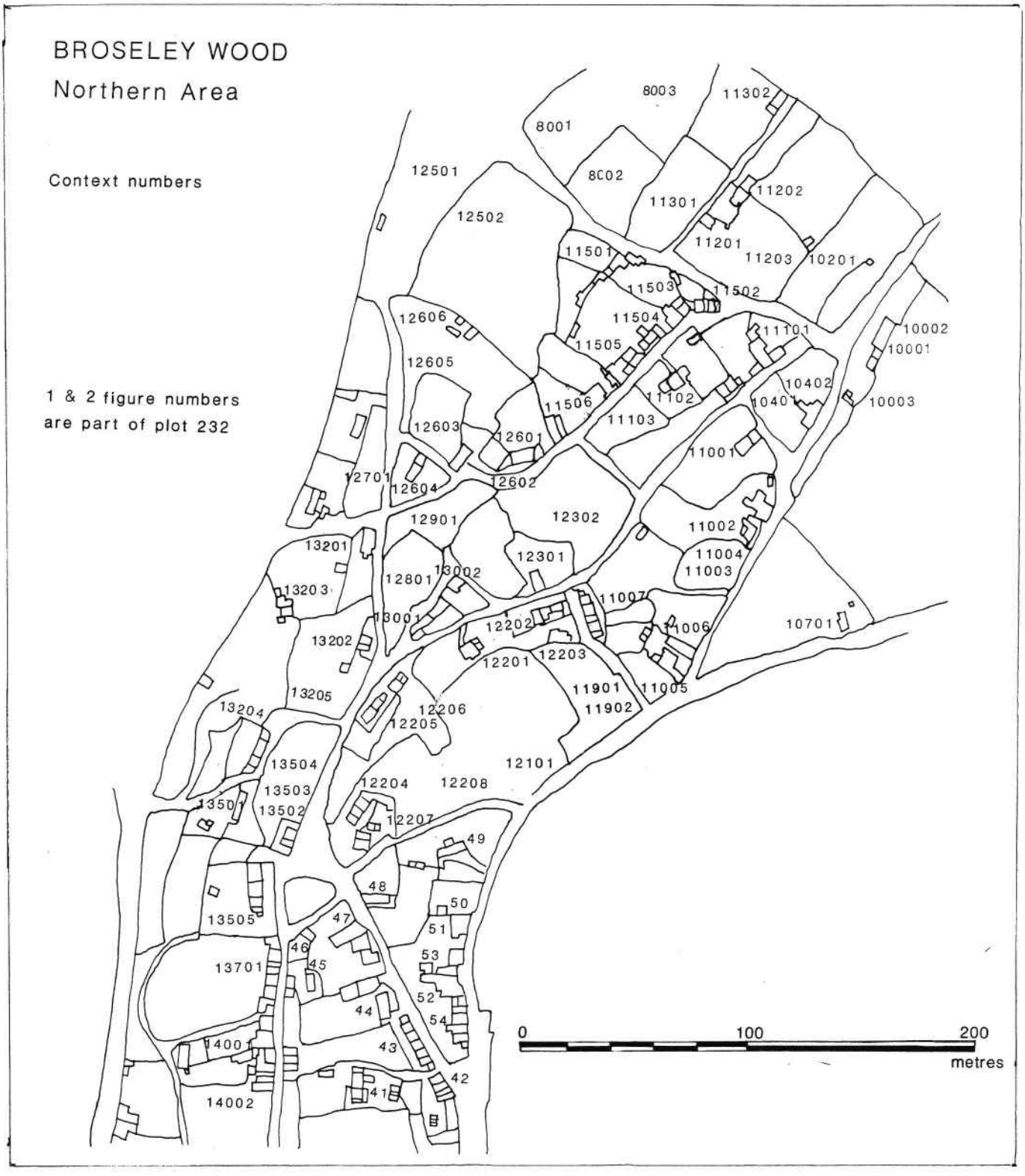

Figure 28. Broseley Wood - building contexts numbers, northern area (Broseley Parish).

APPENDIX EIGHT

Broseley Wood: Inventory of buildings

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 00101)

Buildings, probably demolished for construction of railway.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 00102)

Buildings demolished probably when the railway was constructed.

7-9 SEVERN BANK (BY 00103)

Terrace of three houses, probably built when the railway was constructed, 1862, to replace houses demolished by it. There were buildings on this site in 1840, but not these ones. These are tall single bayed, but double pile cottages.

5-6 SEVERN BANK (BY 00104)

Pair of cottages, probably late nineteenth century, perhaps built when the railway was constructed. A designed pair, with central porch, and the upper central window divided between the two dwellings. Ridge cresting. Currently being altered.

3-4 SEVERN BANK (BY 00105)

Pair of cottages, externally apparantly of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, but probably refronting/rebuilding earlier structures, since inside, the internal partition walls are timber framed (queen post construction). The end of one of the tie beams is visible in the front wall, and the timber truss is exposed in the gable of no 3. The rebuilding may have rationalised the division of the two dwellings, since the division now falls within a casement window (cf the arrangement of nos 5-6). No 4 is a single unit plan, with added single storied wing to front, no 3 a two unit plan. Both now have two storeys, though the upper storey in each is very low. It is likely that the original form would have been a one and a half storeyed construction.

The Tithe Map records a total of 12 houses, a malt house and a public house in this area by the river.

STATION HOTEL (BY 00201)

Hotel, probably purpose built when railway was constructed, 1864. Blue brick with yellow brick dressings, including hood moulds.

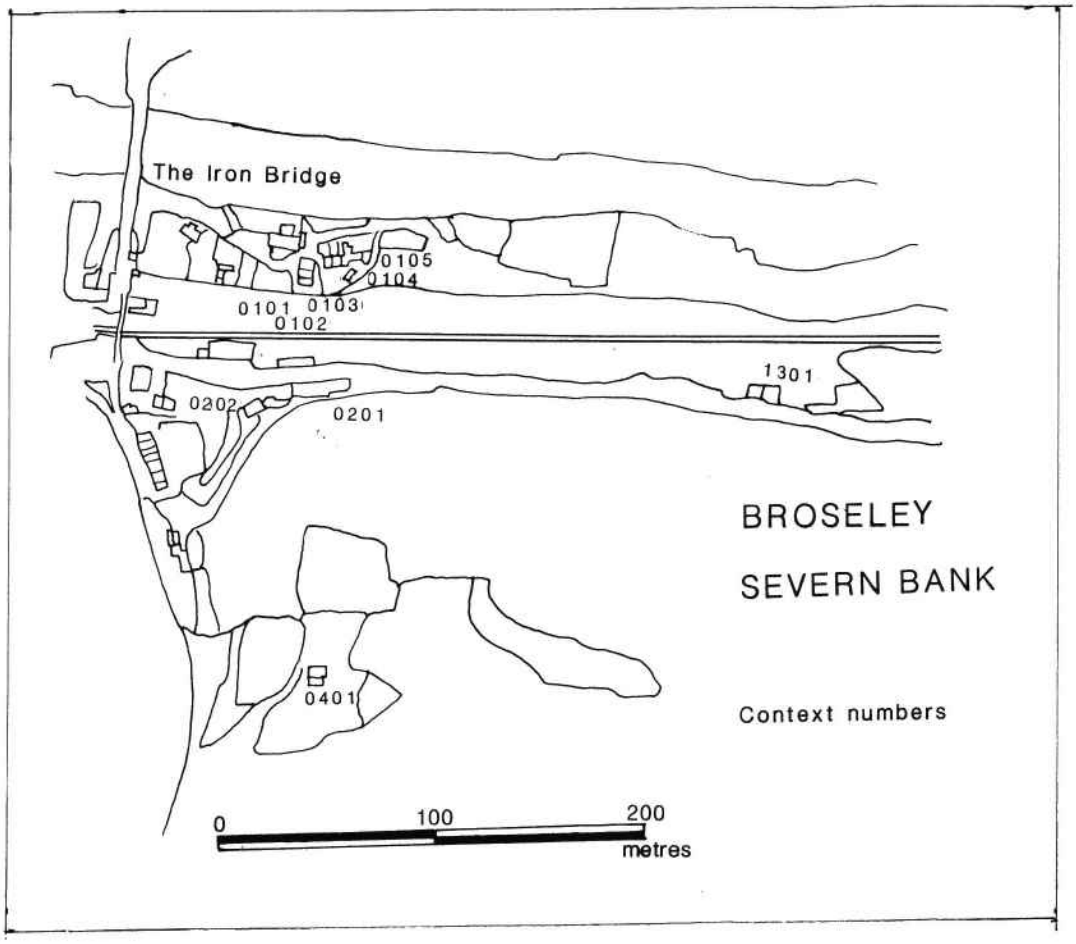

Figure 29. Broseley - Severn Bank building context numbers (Broseley Parish).

Three storeyed, six bays with two original doorways, presumably giving access to separate bars. Partly demolished range to west was probably formerly the stables. It is built of a rather earlier brown brick, and the gable of the hotel is built of similar brick with partial stone to ground floor. This suggests that there was a building on the site before the present hotel was built.

11 STATION ROAD (BY 00202)

Small house, probably built when the railway was constructed in 1864, built of brown brick with yellow dressings. The house is a two unit plan with a central doorway and a symmetrical style, with yellow brick dressings to the hood moulds etc. Its style is that of a cottage ornee, but in the arrangement of the wide dormers, it recalls some of the earlier vernacular cottages of the area.

10 BRIDGE ROAD (EASTHOPE COPPICE) (BY 00401)

House, incorporating an early nineteenth century two unit cottage, added to with a large new extension that retains the same overall scale.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 00501)

Building shown on the map of 1902, but demolished by 1960. The site is now occupied by a permanent caravan.

20 BRIDGE ROAD (BY 00601)

House, probably originally early nineteenth century, and recorded as three dwellings on the Tithe Map. The present house is largely a rebuild, but the rear wall includes some stone work.

MARTINA AND MILLWOOD (BY 00801)

Two bungalows, circa 1950.

14 COBWELL ROAD (BY 00802)

Detached house, circa 1930, with later additions.

EASTHOPE COPPICE FARM (BY 00803)

Farmhouse, c1830. Classical style, with 3 bays, 2 storeys, symmetrically arranged with a central door in architrave, and

sash windows with tflat arched brick heads.

14-16 STATION ROAD (BY 1301)

Pair of cottages, now a single dwelling, but empty for a long time, and recently sold. The rear wall, as far as it is visible, is built of stone, the front is an early nineteenth century brick construction, apparantly, but has been partially obscured by a large flat roofed extension.

13 MAYPOLE ROAD (BY 10001)

House, probably early nineteenth century, two units with central doorway and gable end stacks. A recessed additional bay to the right, partly rebuilt, is shown as a separate dwelling on the Tithe Map, and probably in 1902.

THE COPPICE, MAYPOLE ROAD (BY 10002)

Early twentieth century bungalow, built on the site of an earlier house (recorded on Tithe map), and perhaps incorporating some of its structure.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 10003)

House, shown on Tithe Map, but demolished before 1902.

MARBURY, THE LAVERAC, THE GABLES (BY 10201)

3 bungalows, c1950, built on fields or gardens.

9 MAYPOLE ROAD (BY 10401)

House, early twentieth century (not shown on 1902 map). Cast iron columns to porch, and recessed balcony to rear. Art Deco style glazing in front door. A house and workshop were recorded on the site in the Tithe Map of 1840, but these had been demolished by 1902.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 10402)

Two houses shown on the Tithe Map, and one demolished by 1902.

2 WOODLANDS GREEN BY 10701)

Cottage, possibly incorporating remains of one of the earliest buildings in the area (it seems to correspond in position to a

dwelling shown on the mid seventeenth century map of Broseley), but now substantially altered. The earliest visible section now is likely to be early eighteenth century, a single unit brick cottage, enlarged later with the addition of a rear wing, and a further projecting wing to the front, now mock timbered.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 11001)

Group of 4 houses shown on the Tithe Map, but demolished by 1902.

5, 7-7A MAYPOLE ROAD (BY 11002)

Group of three cottages, probably largely built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. 5 and 7 were apparantly originally detached, and tehre is now a small linking bay, itself probably nineteenth century. 7a may be a lightly later addition, and is set back from teh building line. The rear wing of no 7 may include remnants of an earlier building. 4 houses and a shop in 1840, and a representation that suggests an additional range at the back of no 5, in separate occupation.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 11003)

Pair of houses, demolished between 1840 and 1902, one of them void in 1840.

3 MAYPOLE ROAD (BY 11004)

House, circa 1980.

1 MAYPOLE ROAD (BY 11005)

Originally a single unit cottage, one and a half storeyed, with dormer window to attic, brick built with dentilled eaves, and probably early eighteenth century. Extended by the addition of another bay and a projecting wing probably by the early nineteenth century. This house was the Maypole Public House in 1840, and until at least 1902, was part of a larger complex of buildings, others to the north demolished some time after that.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 11006)

Group of buildings adjoining 1 Maypole road, and demolished by 1902. Shown as two houses on the Tithe Map.

56-69 CREWS PARK (BY 11007)

Row of dwellings, demolished c 1960-70, and now replaced by a

bungalow. Shown as 4 houses in 1840.

26-27 COBWELL ROAD (BY 11101)

Pair of early eighteenth century cottages, built in a cluster, at right angles to each other. 26 is a single unit plan, added to and extended. One and a half storeys, with coped gables and dentilled eaves. The brickwork has been rendered over. No 27 is a two unit cottage, also one and a half storeys, with coped gables, dentilled eaves and sill band. It seems likely that it was built as a single dwelling. Tithe Map records these dwellings as forming part of a group of 6 houses, with another two on the site of the present garden of no 27.

31-32 SYCAMORE ROAD (BY 11102)

Pair of early nineteenth century houses, now a single dwelling. Most features date from the recent alterations, but there is one original doorway.

KENWOOD ETC (BY 11103)

2 bungalows, c1950. The shell of a burnt out bungalow survives behind.

15 EASTHOPE ROAD (BY 11201)

Originally a single unit cottage, with large detached stack and brick construction with dentilled eaves that are cut by a casement upper window. Deep plan form. Probably early eighteenth century. Later single bay two storeyed addition, probably nineteenth century. In 1840, there was another house in the area presently occupied by the garden of this house.

16-17 EASTHOPE ROAD (BY 11202)

Pair of cottages, probably late eighteenth century, one a single unit plan, the other two units with central doorway. Two storeyed, dentilled eaves and single ring arches to original openings, which have been replaced in one of the houses. Additional bay to the south is a recent addition.

THE BUNGALOW AND WILDERSWILL (BY 11203-4)

Two bungalows, c1950.

BYWAYS, BERWYN ETC (BY 11301)

Terrace of 4 houses, c1960, stepped in plan, and built against the slope. Built as a small speculation, and to an identical design. there were two houses on the site occupied by Berwyn in 1840. These had been demolsihed by 1902.

GLENVISTA HOUSE (BY 11302)

Small house, probably early nineteenth century, and shown as two dwellings in 1840. Present form is a small three-bay classical house, suggesting that it was in fact rebuilt since 1840.

21-23 COBWELL ROAD (BY 11501)

Cluster of cottages, the earliest, no 21, probably early eighteenth century, and a two unit cottage with central door and gabled dormers to attic. Dentilled eaves band. Integral with this is the single unit original bay of no 22 which has been raised in brick at some time in the nineteenth century, possibly at the same time as the gabled end bay was added. No 23 is built at the rear of no 21, but as it has been extensively altered, its original form and hence date is hard to discern. It is not shown on the Tithe Map.

24 COBWELL ROAD (BY 11502)

Cottage, probably late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century (it has two full storeys), but so extensively restored and modernised, that it is now very difficult to discern its original form.

25 COBWELL ROAD & 34 SYCAMORE ROAD (BY 11503)

Pair of cottages, haphazardly alligned. No 25 has been extensively restored, but beneath the rendering the remains of a projecting brick sill band are visible, suggesting that this house incorporates the remains of an eighteenth century cottage. It also has a large projecting brick stack. The south eastern bay appears to be a later nineteenth century addition since it is not shown on the Tithe Map. 34 is a 2 unit, 2 storeyed cottage, much renewed but probably early nineteenth century.

35 SYCAMORE ROAD (BY 11504)

House, formerly 2 cottages, each a single unit plan, with inner doorway and flanking casement windows. One doorway now blocked. Two full storeys. Probably late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

36 SYCAMORE ROAD (BY 11505)

House, built before 1840, and formerly part of a pair of dwellings- there are scars of the previous building on the gable wall of the present building. Two unit cottage, facing away from the road, and with an added rear wing.

40 SYCAMORE ROAD (BY 11506)

Small cottage. Two unit plan, two storeyed, with central doorway in small classical case, and recently added bay windows. Upper casement windows cut the dentilled eaves band. Gable end stacks. Blind backed. Built since 1840, when this site was occupied by 2 houses.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 11901)

Group of 5-6 houses, with slaughter house and stable in 1840, demolished by 1902.

CAER GLON (BY 11902)

Bungalow, circa 1950.

TOLCARNE, WAYSIDE AND PANORAMA (BY 12101)

3 bungalows, circa 1950. Wayside and Panorama built on land open since at least 1840, site of Tolcarne open in 1902, but in 1840 the site was occupied by three houses.

49 QUARRY ROAD (BY 12201)

Two unit, two storeyed cottage with a single stack. Probably late eighteenth century. Two dwellings in 1840, and there are traces of an additional building adjoining to the southwest, but now demolished.

54-55 QUARRY ROAD (BY 12202)

Pair of houses built as a single development,and an assymetrical group, using applied tudor style decoration, moulded brick hood moulds etc. There was a house on the site in 1840, but its alignment was rather different, so that the existing dwelling must have been built some time after this.

55A QUARRY ROAD (BY 12203)

Small cottage, in the style characteristic of the earliest industrial cottage, but probably largely rebuilt c1980. That this is an adaptation of an earlier building is confirmed by its presence on the Tithe Map. Now only the projecting stack gives direct evidence for this original early building.

4-6 QUARRY ROAD (BY 12204)

Row of three houses, probably a later nineteenth century speculation, certainly after 1840. If the row had a unified design originally, this has been lost in recent modification, rendering, new fenestration etc. Double pile plan.

OLD POST OFFICE (BY 12205)

Cottage. Its style (one and a half storeyed, dentilled eaves, coped gables, and gabled attic dormers), suggests that it is eighteenth century, but it is a very tall building, suggesting that it is perhaps a later (early nineteenth century) adapatation of a vernacular form. In 1840, it was the Rose and Crown public house, but it has subsequently been the post office (until at least 1960). It is now a private house.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 12206)

In 1840, a building was shown behind the Old Post Office, but had been demolished by 1902.

17 QUARRY ROAD (BY 12207)

Small early nineteenth century cottage, with two projecting stacks, and a wide facade, but this has now been rendered over, and all the features renewed. Plain eaves band begins to pediment the gable.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 12208)

The Tithe Map records an additional house on this plot.

50-51 CREWS PARK (BY 12301)

Late nineteenth century cottages, now a single dwelling, extending and rebuilding an earlier single dwelling shown on the Tithe Map. 51 would have been a single unit cottage (but with rear wing), and may retain traces of the earlier building (the lower brick work is rendered over as if to conceal some irregularity). 50 appears to be a later addition, and is faced

in blue brick. It has a two unit plan form.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 123)

The Tithe Map records a further 7 houses on this plot. There is now a bungalow on the site (circa 1960).

9-19 COBWELL ROAD (BY 12501)

3 pairs of semi detached houses built as a private speculation circa 1950.

JOYDENE (BY 12502)

Bungalow, circa 1950.

41 SYCAMORE ROAD (BY 12601)

Two unit cottage, once two dwellings, the cambered heads of the central doorways visible beneath the paint work, and a small triangular bay window, flanked by new casement windows that clearly replace smaller casements with single ring cambered brick heads. Dentilled eaves band, gable end stacks. Probably early eighteenth century. In use as two dwellings in 1840, but it is not clear from the surviving features whether it was built as a single, two unit house, or was built as a pair of cottages.

OLD CHAPEL (BY 12602)

Chapel, built since 1847, and converted into a house since 1973.

44 SYCAMORE ROAD (BY 12603)

House, possibly early eighteenth century originally and of two bays, one and a half storeys, though extended recently by an additional bay.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 12604)

Two houses shown on Tithe Map, but demolished since 1902.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 12605)

3 houses (one void) shown on Tithe Map, but demolished by 1902.

NEW BUILDINGS (BY 12606)

Two houses, built c1970-80.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 12701)

House shown on Tithe Map, but demolished by 1902.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 12801)

Two houses shown on Tithe Map, still existing in 1902, subsequently demolished.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 12901)

House, and Sycamore Public House recorded on Tithe Map, but demolished by 1902.

48 QUARRY ROAD (BY 13001)

House, largely circa 1986, breeze blocks, but the internal partition wall is of an earlier brick, showing that this new building is a reconstruction. The Tithe Map records a house here.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 13002)

The Tithe Map records an additional house on this plot, still in existence in 1902, subsequently demolished.

3 QUARRY ROAD (BY 13201)

Cottage, probably late eighteenth century (first transaction dated 1811). Two unit plan, with additional brick vaulted bay. Two storeyed, but with vestigial dormers. Dentilled eaves. Original central door now a window. Main beam inside has ornateley stopped chamfer.

5 QUARRY ROAD (BY 13202)

Cottage, a wide two unit plan, and one and a half storeyed, with wide dormers. Rubble construction, with indication of timber framing to gable of roof. Roof pitch altered twice to enlarge the space within. once perhaps in the nineteenth century, once more recently. Additional bay to south seems to incorporate what may have been an earlier outbuilding; it is rubble to the ground floor, but brick above. In the garden is a substantial ceiling beam with an ornately stopped chamfer. It is not known where this

comes from. Style of construction suggests that this may be a seventeenth century building.

4 QUARRY ROAD (BY 13203)

House built in two parts, though neither appears to be earlier than the late eighteenth century. each is a single unit, two storeyed. The Tithe Map records two houses here, and this suggests that in fact an additional dwelling adjoining the surviving building has been demolished, and there are surviving traces which may relate to this, as the lower corner of the building has a row of projecting, unfinished bricks.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 13204)

Potters Arms Public House,built by 1840 and demolished sometime after 1902.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 13205)

House recorded in 1840, but demolished by 1902.

10 QUARRY ROAD (BY 13501)

Row of three houses, now a single dwelling, with partial rubble wall against bank. Built in phases, and probably originally late eighteenth century.

11-12 QUARRY ROAD (BY 13502)

Pair of late nineteenth century cottages, now a single house. Built on land in use as garden in 1840. Red brick with yellow and blue dressings, axial stack. Faces away from road.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 13503)

Buildings recorded on Tithe Map as four houses, represented as back to backs. Demolished before 1902.

DEMOLISHED BULDINGS (BY 13504)

Row of three houses, recorded on Tithe Map, but demolished by 1902.

40-42 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 13505)

Terrace of three. The earliest buildings (formerly 40-41), but

now a single dwelling, have deeds that date back to the early eigtheenth century. It seems likely that they were built as a pair, each with a large living room with deep fireplace, and a smaller inner room formerly subdivided to create a small rear larder. The symmetry of this plan suggests that it was the original design, and that this is therefore an early designed pair. Style charactersitic of the early phase of industrial building, one and a half storeyed with attic dormers. Eighteenth century panelled door on one unit, fireplace decorated with local nineteenth century tiles. Partial rubble construction against bank. The other cottage is a slightly later addition, though probably later eighteenth century.

36-37 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 13701)

Now a pair of cottages, probably originally early eighteenth century (they are one and a half storeyed, with gabled dormers, though these are renewed), but much altered and restored. Formerly a row of 3 units in 1840, including one shop, though the map of 1902 appears to show it as a row of 6. Brickwork covered by thick rendering, all windows new flush framed casements. The cottages face away from the street, but have additional windows, which may be insertions, in this elevation. The evidence suggests at least two principal building phases, probably with the central range of two dwellings being the earliers (early eighteenth century?), with additional bays at each end, the northernmost with a three storeyed rear wing.

HOPES COTTAGE AND 32 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 14001)

Hopes cottage is probably originally late eighteenth century, built with a blind back to the street, it is a low two storeyed cottage, the dentilled eaves band cut by the upper windows, and one lower cambered window head cut by an inserted, wider, opening. The rest of the ground floor is concealed by a flat roofed extension, or sun room. 32 is one of the few larger houses in the area. It is an early nineteenth century building, though perhaps not the house shown on the Tithe Map, originally probably in a classical style, three storeyed with near symmetrical three bay facade with central door. It is shown as a public house in 1902, and it is likely from its size and style that it was purpose built as such, shortly after 1840, when the building on the site was a private dwelling apparantly with a rather different configuration. However, it has now been extensiveley altered, the brickwork rendered over, and the windows renewed and the proportion changed from vertical to horizontal.

The Tithe Map records another house built at the back of these two, this is still shown on the map of 1902, but had been demolished by 1960.

25 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 14002)

House, probably late eighteenth century, 3 bays, two storeyed, symmetrically arranged. Steep coped gables and projecting sill band. Windows are renewed, and the gabled porch is new. Rendered brick work.

21-22 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 14003)

Two cottages, built to face away from the street, and much altered, though probably originally a late eighteenth century build. One of them was a stable in 1840. Each is now a two unit plan, and two storeyed, but the ground floor is largely obscured by flat roofed extensions, and the brick work has been rendered over and all windows renewed.

15 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 14201)

Large house, built in several phases, and perhaps largely rebuilt in the early nineteenth century; it is clear that the lower section is rather earlier, built of a different brick, with a projecting sill band, and suggests an eighteenth century date for the original constructuion. The upper part is nineteenth century brown brick with kiss marks, and the main section is three storeyed and three bays, though there is a large rear wing with coped gables, rough cast over brick but perhaps part of the eighteenth century building. In 1840, this was recorded as two houses, suggesting the at the nineteenth century building took place at some later date; the details of windows especially the projecting bay on the western elevation certainly would be consistent with this suggestion.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 14202)

Two houses recorded on the Tithe map, but demolished by 1902.

14 LEGGES HILL (BY 14401)

Large house, probably originally early-mid eighteenth century, with a long two bay range to the north, which has a truncated massive projecting stack, but is otherwise largely blank, with an additional bay which may also be original at right angles to this. At a later date, the angle between these two sections has been filled by another bay.

SITE OF MALTHOUSE (BY 14402)

Malthouse, associated with adjoining house, recorded in 1840, demolished before 1902.

BY 14501

Small cottage, recorded as a stable in 1840, though its general appearance and the existence of two stacks suggest that it was built as a house, probably in the late eighteenth century.

3 SPEEDS LANE (BY 14801)

Small cottage, probably late eighteenth century, two storeyed, two unit plan. Old render over brick, early metal casement windows, probably in original openings. Its position, jutting out into the line of the lane, suggests that it may have originated as a squatter house on land that was formerly part of the field, rather than waste.

SHOP BUILDINGS (BY 23201)

Two small shop buildings, single storeyed brick shacks, built since 1902 on site of houses (two houses and a public house recorded here in 1840).

8-14 BARRATTS HILL (BY 23202)

Terrace of cottages, early eighteenth century but built in several phases, though probably as a fairly quick development, since all employ a very similar style. Each is a single storeyed building with gabled dormers to attic, and most have coped gables. Plan form varies, between single and two unit dwellings. There are four breaks in the building line, suggesting that only the upper two cottages were built as a single exercise, but it is not possible to say which would have been built first, although part of number 8 looks like an infill, which might suggest that no8 had not originally been part of the terrace. Small details vary, and the decoration of the eaves band is one of the variables, as is the presence on nos 12 and 13 of a sill band. Most of the cottages now seem to be empty and in need of renovation. There was formerly another cottage behind, but it was demolished between 1902 and 1960.

21 & 22 BARRATTS HILL (BY 23203)

Pair of cottages, now a single dwelling. Built in two phases, and so not a single speculation, and originally of unequal size. All external features are the result of recent modernsiation.

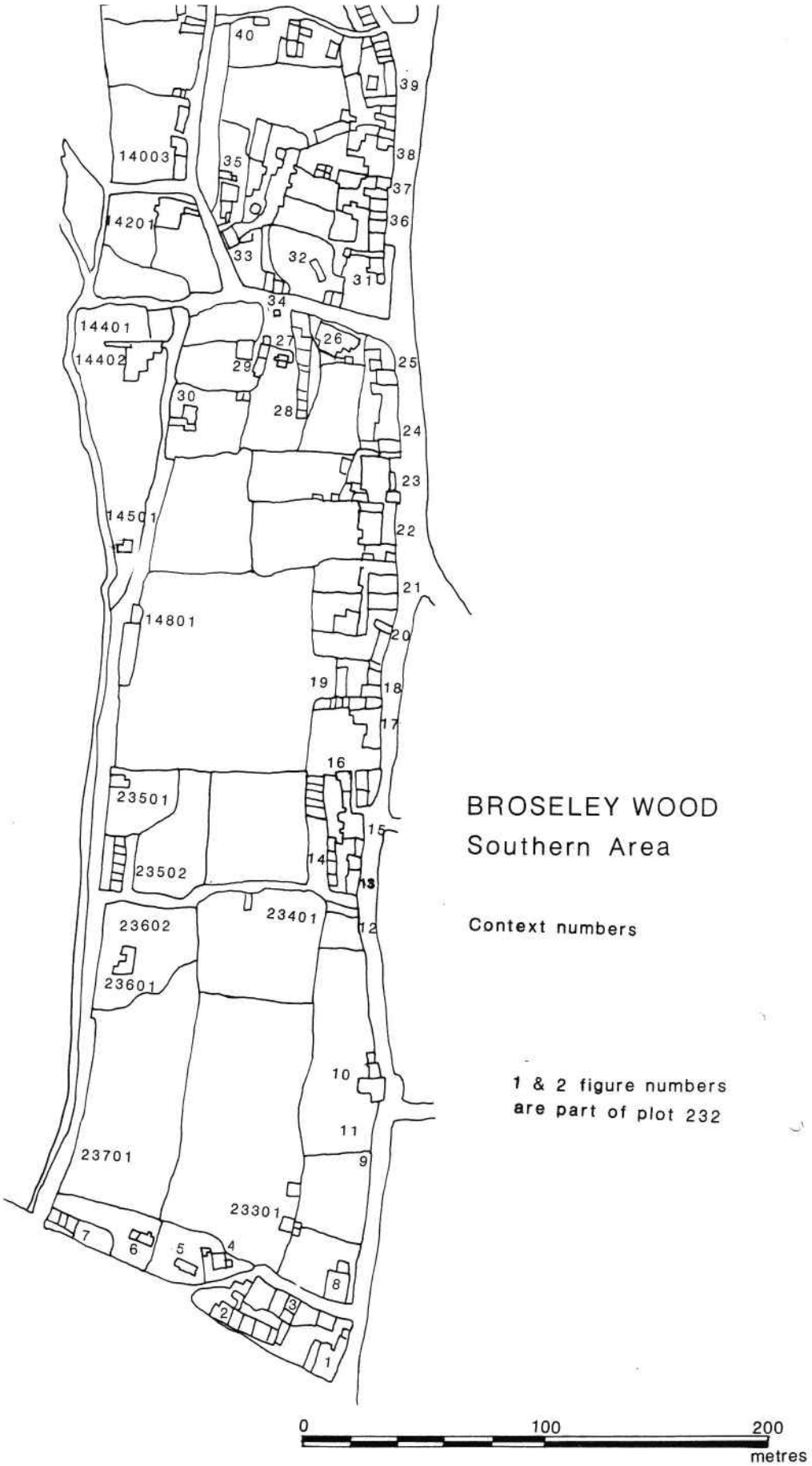

Figure 30. Broseley Wood, building context numbers, southern area.

ROSE COTTAGE, PADMANS ALLEY (BY 23204)

Small early eighteenth century cottage inprocess of extensive renovation. Original form is a single unit cottage, single storeyed with gabled dormer to attic, adn large projecting stack now demolished. A small rear wing was added some time later, and followed, probably in the later ninetenth and twentieth centuries, by two lean-to extensions. Remains of a circular construction were visible in the garden, and seemed to predate the cottage, it was though that they may have been the remains of a pipe kiln, but the possibility that they may have related to a bread oven/copper as part of the main stack could not be discounted. These are now covered. A lintel in the rear wing is made from a highly decorated piece of reused timber, with a notched decoration.

5 BARRATTS HILL (BY 23205)

Early eighteenth century cottage, brick, now rendered over and all features renewed. two unit plan with gabled dormers to attic storey. Two detached stacks.

4 BARRATTS HILL (TANGLEWOOD) (BY 23206)

Early eighteenth century cottage. Two unit plan with two wide gabled dormers. Sill band incorporates a tiled date stone of 1742, though this does not seem to be original, the date itself seems quite plausible. Two detached stacks.

1-3 BARRATTS HILL (BY 23207)

Now a single dwelling but originally three early nineteenth century cottages, single unit plans, but not a single building phase.

PADMAN HOUSE (BY 23208)

House, ostensibly later nineteenth century, in a large cottage style, with dormer gables over upper windows. Two units with central doorway and chamfered window arches. However, a difference in brick (the facade is brown brick, gable walls are red) suggests that this is a refronting of an earlier building; in the gable wall, is a blocked window with a single ring cambered head (quite different in style from the main windows), and in the rear wall, one wing is built of very small old red brick. It seems that an eightennth century house was refronted and enlarged, perhaps c1850. House, shop and garden in 1840.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 23209)

House recorded in 1840, but demolished by 1902.

39 CAPE STREET (BY 23210)

House, said to be cruck framed, but externally of brick now rendered over, but inclined at a steep angle towards the eaves.Two unit plan, with recently added rear wing. Adjoining this building is a semi derelict building, probably an early eighteenth century addition, single unit plan with dormer window to attic. Brick, with dentilled eaves. This is now in process of restoration. A small lean-to has stone footings. This was a house, stable and blacksmiths shop in 1840.

BELVEDERE (BY 23211)

Bungalow, c1950.

FACTORY, 57 & 57A CAPE STREET (BY 23212)

Most of the complex of workshop buildings post dates 1902, but there is a narrow bay against the northern boundary of the plot which was in existence then, and the earlier brickwork is visible. This area was undeveloped in 1840. 57 is a bungalow, c.1950, and 57a appears to be a prefab.

50 KING STREET (BY 23213)

House, demolished between 1960 and 1973. Probably made from the amalgamation of three units shown on the map of 1902. These may be the same three units shown in 1840 as the George and Dragon, and two houses, one with court. Now a carpark.

BENTHALL VIEW (BY 23214)

Row of apparantly 4 very small cottages, built against the rear of no 50, and demolished between 1960 and 1973.

45 KING STREET (BY 23215)

Small classical style house, built after 1840. Three bays and two storeys, symmetrical with a central doorway, a six pane door with overlight and pedimented case. Parallel rear range.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 23216)

Buildings, demolished between 1960 and 1973. Shown as three

houses in 1840.

37-38 KING STREET (BY 23217)

Pair of houses, demolished between 1960 and 1973, and replaced by two new houses which are built to a common plan, but with different brick. The original buildings seem themselves an adaptation of an earlier building, shown on the Tithe Map as house shop and brewhouse.

35-36 KING STREET (BY 23218)

Pair of cottages, now a single dwelling, probably late eighteenth century. Original form of the dwellings, which are both two storeyed, seems to have comprised a pair of two unit cottages with an axial stack between the two dwellings.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 23219)

Buildings demolished some time after 1973. Two parallel ranges, one later than 1902. Tithe Map shows a barn and yard on the site.

29 KING STREET (BY 23220)

House, built in 3 distinct sections, though the phasing of them now indistinct through alteration and rendering etc. Likely that the central section is the earliest however; it appears to have originally comprised a single unit with attic upper storey- the dormer window survives, but this, and the lower window are both renewed. There is a projecting gable stack. There is a narrow single unit range to the north, a low two storeys, and a taller range to the south, possibly originally detached, but now linked to the central block by a small infilling section. It is likely that this end bay was not originally in domestic use. The Tithe Map records it as two houses and buildings.

24 KING STREET (BY 23221)

Pair of houses and shops, the building probably eighteenth century, the shop fronts late nineteenth. The building is designed as a single composition, and was originally a single dwelling. It is of two bays and three storeys, with sixteen pane sash windows with cast iron moulded lintels in the upper storeys. Parapet eaves. In 1840 it was already a shop and dwelling.

23 KING STREET (BY 23222)

House and shop, the building eighteenth century, the shop

probably inserted into the ground floor in the nineteenth century. Two bays and two storeys, with an attic with gabled dormers. Two gable end stacks. Garage to right, made in former coach house. House buildings and garden in 1840.

22 KING STREET (BY 23223)

Large house, probably late eighteenth century, three storeyed and three bays, symmetrical classical style, with central door in classical architrave, and sash windows with stuccoed heads. Moulded modillion eaves cornice, coped gables. Coach house/ stable to right, with oculus over segmental arch way. House, buildings and yard in 1840.

20 KING STREET (BY 23224)

House with ware house attached, probably late eighteenth century. House is three storeyed, and three bayw,s with central door flanked by two canted bay windows. Two gable stacks. Warehouse possibly a slightly later addition, also three storeyed, with dormer over top opening. Single bay, with loading doors on each floor.

Small butchers shop (now general stores) adjoins to south, a flat roofed shed, glorified by lavish decoration, inside and out, with samples of local tiles. As these are arranged with no controlled sense of pattern, it seems likely that they are the result of makeshift building practice, perhaps using left-over products.

To the north, the front wall and gable of a now demolished building survive in part, but a bungalow has been built on the site since 1960. The southern gable of this range is a scar on the side of the warehouse. In 1840 the buildings were in use as a brick kiln and malthouse.

18-19 KING STREET (BY 23225)

Pair of houses, not the result of a single build, and without a common wall line. 19 is early nineteenth century, (probably pre-1840) a small classical house with a central door with a round arched head, flanked by sash windows with margin lights with cast iron lintels. The plan arrangement is slightly assymetrical, reflecting different room values. Yellow brickwork. 18 is also now a small classical house, but this is the result of modifications, presumably made during the nineteenth century, giving the house a classical door case and a near symmetrical plan. Traces of another blocked doorway suggest that the house was once two dwellings, and changes in the brickwork near the eaves and in the gable suggest that the house has been raised in height and refronted some time in the nineteenth century. The Tithe Map is hard to read at this point, but it seems to suggest that no 19 may have been part of the malthouse complex, while

number 18 was a separate house.

SCHOOL (BY 23226)

School, built on site of Globe Public House, and a row of cottages, circa 1870, in a gothic style.

7-9 LEGGES HILL (BY 23227)

No 7 is early eighteenth century cottage, with single unit plan and gabled attic dormer. There is a further bay with long catslide roof added to the north. No 9 replaces a cottage or pair of cottages similar to this but known only from photographic evidence; the present building is a large flat roofed house with big picture windows, in a "moderne" style, c1950-60. Tithe Map seems to record 5 houses in this row, suggesting that not only has no 7 been formerly two cottages, but that the new house replaces a small row.

10-11 LEGGES HILL (BY 23228)

Pair of cottages, later nineteenth century, each a single unit and two storeyed, using contrasting colours of brickwork as decoration for window and door heads. Built on land that was open in 1840.

13 LEGGES HILL (BY 23229)

Small cottage, probably late eighteenth century, and the sole survivor of a group of 4 dwellings recorded on the Tithe Map, at least two of which had been demolished by 1902. Original building probably a two unit cottage, with a recently added front wing.

1 SPEEDS LANE (BY 23230)

Cottage, originally a two unit plan, one and a half storeys, and probably early eighteenth century. The wide dormers may be the result of a later modification. Sill band marks the limit of the original build, which has been extended recently by one bay.

14 KING STREET (BY 23231)

Cottage, probably early eighteenth century. Two unit plan, with central doorway and two projecting stacks at the gables. Largely unimproved, though with concrete tiled roof and old render, the windows are small paned casements with top opening lights, and the plank door has a small carved wood canopy. In 1840, it was a house with shop.

3 LEGGES HILL (BY 23232)

Cottage, recorded as house and stable in 1840, probably early eighteenth century, but now extensively restored and modernised. There are two gable stacks, one projecting, and 3 dormer windows to attic storey, but the lower windows and doors are all recent, making the original layout obscure. In the front of the house, alongside the street, is a small brick building, now a shed or garage, with blocked windows in the side wall; it may once have been a dwelling.

BROSELEY WOOD HOUSE (BY 23233)

Large mid nineteenth century house associated with clay pipe works, and replacing earlier building on the site. Three storeyed, three bays with late nineteenth century flar roofed extension running a long the front of the ground floor, with central door and bay windows alongside with decorative glazing. Parallel rear range, which is not of the same building phase.

4 LEGGES HILL (BY 23234)

Small cottage, early eighteenth century. Single unit plan, one and a half storeyed, with projecting stack. Brick with coped gable, but no other decoration. Lean-to below, and wing beyond now demolished, which was once apparantly part of the pipe works. The cottage is empty and becoming derelict, but as an example of an early workers cottage, it should be recorded if it seems threatened further by demolition or major alteration.

SITE OF PIPE WORKS (BY 23235)

10-12 KING STREET (BY 23236)

Pair of semi-detached houses, c1960, built on the site of earlier buildings now demolished, the remains of which are visible against the gable of the adjoining property. These were recorded as house and shop, and house and buildngs in 1840.

8-9 KING STREET (BY 23237)

Pair of cottages, probably mid nineteeth century, now a single dwelling. Each a single unit with outer doors but these and the windows are renewed and it is possible that the original form has been modified. Behind one of the present doors, are traces of flat arched brick head, and there is another over one of the windows, while the present left hand door has a single ring camber. Axial stack, ridge tiles and finial.Comparison with the Tithe Map suggests that the buildings in htis area have been

considerably changed since 1840.

KINGS HEAD PUBLIC HOUSE (BY 23238)

Probably late eighteenth century, but refronted. Two storeyed, three bays, slightly assymetrical. Doorway has large and ornate classical case. The Tithe Map shows that the building was in use as a public house by 1840.

2-6 KING STREET (BY 23239)

Row of houses and shops, no 2 is clearly the original building, which was probably once a two unit cottage, and early eighteenth century. The unit which is now the fish and chip shop is clearly an addition. No 4 was formerly at least two and perhaps three houses, with an axial stack and dentilled eaves, cut by upper windows and the space of a now blocked window. It is probably early nineteenth century. No 5 adjoins, but is lower, and may be an earlier building, it is a single unit cottage, with two low storeys, dentilled eaves and a single gable stack. It has been extensively rstored. Adjacent to the rear wing of this dwelling, but recessed from the street line, is no 6, which is also a single unit plan, and a low two storeys. there is a stair window to the right of the elevation, but the house has also been extensively modernised.

24 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 23240)

Small nineteenth century cottage, two unit plan, built of bright red brick, but repalcing an earlier building, traces of which are visible in the side wall, and there is a straight joint in the centre of the front wall. The plan is rather irregular, with two windows and a doorway to the left on the ground floor, and just two windows above, suggesting that the earlier building may have been refaced rather than completely rebuilt.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY23241)

Group of buildings, shown on the Tithe Map and in 1902, since demolished.

28-30 QUARRY ROAD (BY 23242)

Pair of cottages, built after 1840, but modernised c1960. Three dwellings until the recent modernisation.

23-27 QUARRY ROAD (BY 23243)

Row of nineteenth century cottages, built after 1840, built as a small speculation of five dwellings. Each a single unit, but double pile, plan, with former wash houses at each end of the row. The row has been recently modernised by the district council. Stone plinth may be evidence of earlier buildings which these replaced (two houses recorded on the Tithe Map).

22 QUARRY ROAD (BY 23244)

Two unit two storeyed house with traces of substantial alteration- there is a straight joint in the brickwork in the centre of the elevation, and blocked openings. One projecting gable end stack, an another integral to the structure; this may be evidence for a single occupation at some time, though it is likely that the building has also at some time been in use as two dwellings. The Tithe Map records house, malt house buildings and yard on this site, but the surviving buildings do not appear to give much evidence of this former use, and may have been rebuilt since then. An outbuilding which was part of thhis complex was still in existence in 1902, but has since been demolished.

34 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 23245)

Small early eighteenth century cottage, probably originally a single unit plan, with gabled dormers to attic, and former projecting chimney now demolished. It has been extended by a further two bays in similar style.

39 SIMPSONS LANE (BY 23246)

Small cottage, probably late eighteenth century, but possibly not always in domestic use. In 1840 there was a small cluster of buildngs in this area, including several houses and two stables. The house has a dentilled eaves band which has been left in position after the roof was raised.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 23247)

Buildings, probably two houses, demolished between 1902 and 1950, and recorded on the Tithe Map as Harp public house, two dwellings, and Primitive Methodist Meeting House. A large new house has been built on the site since 1973.

18 QUARRY ROAD (BY 23248)

Two unit cottage, its present form probably early nineteenth century, with axial stack and gable windows, but there is evidence that it is a reconstruction of a rather earlier cottage,

since there are clear traces of a heightening of the roof line, and irregularities in the alignment of the gable wall. It has been two dwellings, with a symmetrically arranged plan and facade, and the former blocked doorway can still be seen to left of the present door. In 1840, it was a house and shop, and some of the alterations to the facade may reflect this.

LILY COTTAGE (BY 23249)

Two unit cottage, with doorway to right of elevation two storeyed and blind backed. Probably late eighteenth century, but extensively repaired and renewed, though not recently. Again, this had been ashop in 1840, and some of the alterations to the facade may be the result of a minor change of use of the interior space.

11 WOODLANDS ROAD (BY 23250)

Small early eighteenth century cottage, single unit plan, with single projecting gable end stack. Added porch and lean-to.

14 WOODLANDS ROAD (BY 23251)

Two-unit house, its present form probably later nineteenth century- classical doorcase flanked by four-paned sashes beneath symmetrical wide gabled dormers- but there is evidence that this is the modification of an earlier building- in particular, the single projecting gable stack. A single small house was recorded on the site in the Tithe Map.

NAPOLEON (BY 23252)

Large house, probably late eighteenth century. Two parallel ranges of three bays, symmetrically arranged. Its original style is a kind of urban classical, but it has been modified during the nineteenth century by the addition of a shop, projecting from the front, probably in the later nineteenth centur (not showm on Tithe Map). More recently, the original brickwork has been rendered over.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 23253)

Two small buildings, built before 1840 and demolished sometime after 1902.

21-14 WOODLANDS ROAD (BY 23254)

Cluster of early nineteenth century cottages, possibly adapted from an earlier building on the site- the rear wing of the

central house seems older- and more recently adapted by amalgamation of two of the units. The disposition of the units is unusual since the two end units are at right angles to the main building line, and entered from the gable wall. Tithe Map confirms the suggestion that these cottages represent an adaptation of earlier buildings, since it records their use as house, shops and stable.

DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (BY 23301)

Four very small houses and a shop in existence in 1840 but demolished by 1902.

DEMOLISHED BUILDING (BY 23401)

House recorded in 1840, but demolished by 1902.

4 SPEEDS LANE (BY 23501)

Early eighteenth century cottage, two unit plan, one and a half storeyed, with single small attic dormer. Dentilled eaves band but no other decoration- there is no lintel to the door. Single gable end stack. This was a house and shop in 1840.

5-10 SPEEDS LANE (BY 23502)

Row of 5 cottages, probably built in 1897, since they are named Jubilee Terrace. A small specualtive development, and a highly unified design, each unit identical. Single unit but double pile plan. Brown brick with decorative bands of red and yellow. No alterations to the frontage, but added rear wings.

11 SPEEDS LANE (BY 23601)

2 unit cottage extended by another bay. Date of original construction uncertain, but certainly pre 1840. The house has one odd feature, a stack on the front elevation, but it has been extensively modernised and altered.

FRESHFIELDS (BY 23602)

House, circa 1970-1980.

LASCEL AND HILL VIEW (BY 23701)

2 bungalows, circa 1950.

APPENDIX NINE

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall & Posenhall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
PO	17	1	site of pottery	Haybrook Pottery
PO	17	2	pottery waste	Haybrook pottery
BE	1	1	field	Hungerdale Farm
BE	1	2	old field boundary	Hungerdale Farm
BE	2	1	field	Hungerdale Farm
BE	3	1	woods	Hungerdale Farm
BE	4	1	field	Hungerdale Farm
BE	5	1	road to Much Wenlock	
BE	5	2	road to Much Wenlock	
BE	6	1	field	
BE	6	2	Farmhouse & barn	Hungerdale Farm
BE	7	1	field & road	Hungerdale Farm
BE	8	1	field	Hungerdale Farm
BE	9	1	road to Buildwas	Limestone industry
BE	9	2	road from quarries to river	Limestone industry
BE	9	3	tip of modern brick	
BE	9	4	zig zag track	limestone industry
BE	9	5	ballstone quarry	Limestone industry
BE	9	6	frag of road along top of edge	Limestone industry
BE	9	7	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	9	8	Ballstone quarry	Limestone industry
BE	9	9	resurfacing of road	
BE	9	10	woods	Benthall Edge Woods
BE	10	1	woods	Benthall Edge Woods
BE	11	1	cottage in woods	Benthall Edge Woods
BE	12	1	hollow way to cottage	
BE	13	0	field by cottage	
BE	14	0	field	
BE	15	0	field	
BE	16	0	field	
BE	17	0	covert, now ploughed	
BE	18	0	field	
BE	19	1	garden	
BE	20	1	Benthall Edge cottage	
BE	21	1	field & outbuilding	
BE	22	1	path to ferry	Benthall Edge ferry
BE	23	1	plot on river bank access road	
BE	24	1		
BE	25	1	riverbank lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	25	2	access road to kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	1	road to river	Limestone industry
BE	26	2	road down slope	Limestone industry

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall,
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	26	3	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	4	road at top of Benthall Edge	Limestone industry
BE	26	5	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	6	road, now footpath	Limestone industry
BE	26	7	road from hall to cottage	
BE	26	8	incline	Limestone industry
BE	26	9	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	10	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	11	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	12	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	13	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	14	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	15	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	16	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	17	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	19	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	20	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	21	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	22	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	23	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	24	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	25	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	26	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	27	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	28	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	29	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	30	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	31	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	32	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	33	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	34	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	35		Limestone industry
BE	26	36		Limestone industry
BE	26	37	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	38	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	39	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	40	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	41	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	42	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	43	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	44	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	45	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	46	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	47	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	48	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	26	49	? shaft	
BE	26	50	incline	Limestone industry
BE	26	51	incline	Limestone industry
BE	26	52	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	53	road	Limestone industry

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	26	54	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	55	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	56	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	57	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	58	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	59	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	60	road	Limestone industry
BE	26	61	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	62	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	63	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	64	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	65	engine base, Pattens Rock	Limestone industry
BE	26	66	top of incline, Pattens Rock	Limestone industry
BE	26	67	concrete pipe	Limestone industry
BE	26	68	metal pipe	Limestone industry
BE	26	69	lime kiln rebuild	Limestone industry
BE	26	70	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	71	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	72	concrete wall	Limestone industry
BE	26	73	railway siding	Limestone industry. SVR
BE	26	74	kiln arch	Limestone industry
BE	26	75	flue of kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	76	site of kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	77	site of kiln	Limestone industry
BE	26	78	structure	
BE	26	79	tramway junction	Limestone industry
BE	26	80	concrete pillar	Limestone industry
BE	26	81	3 concrete pillars	Limestone industry
BE	26	82	concrete platform	Limestone industry
BE	26	83	4 concrete pillars	Limestone industry
BE	26	84	5 concrete pillars	Limestone industry
BE	26	85	2 concrete pillars	Limestone industry
BE	26	86	loading platform	Limestone industry
BE	26	87	incline winding mechanism	Viger clay mine
BE	26	88	later route tramway	viger clay mine
BE	26	89	earlier route	viger clay mine
BE	26	90	tramway bridge	Severn Valley Railway
BE	26	91	arch over road	Severn Valley Railway
BE	26	92	blocked arch over incline	Limestone industry/SVR
BE	26	93	adit	viger clay mine
BE	26	94	adit	viger clay mine
BE	26	95	adit	viger clay mine
BE	26	96	adit	viger clay mine
BE	26	97	adit	viger clay mine
BE	26	98	adit	viger clay mine
BE	26	99	woods	Benthall Edge Woods
BE	26	100	powder house	Viger clay mine
BE	26	101	adit	Viger clay mine
BE	26	102	adit, Bridge Bank	Viger clay mine
BE	26	103	adit, Bridge Bank	viger clay mine, bridge ban

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall, I
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	26	104	kiln in quarry 026 24	Limestone industry
BE	27	1	fish weir	
BE	28	1	line	Severn Valley Railway
BE	28	2	station	Severn Valley Railway
BE	28	3	goods shed	Severn Valley Railway
BE	28	4	level crossing	Severn Valley Railway
BE	28	5	lime kilns siding	Severn Valley Railway
BE	28	6	viaduct	Limestone industry/SVR
BE	29	1	modern house	
BE	29	2	boatyard inlet	
BE	29	3	site of lead smelter	Lead smelting
BE	30	1	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	2	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	3	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	4	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	5	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	6	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	7	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	8	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	9	lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	30	10	boatyard	
BE	30	11	possible site of smelter	Lead smelting
BE	31	1	80 Bower Yard	
BE	31	2	possible site of smelter	Lead smelting
BE	32	1	remains of railway settlement	
BE	33	1	scrub	
BE	34	1	79 & 79a Bower Yard	
BE	35	1	77 Bower Yard	
BE	35	2	dem buildings, Bower Yard	
BE	35	3	boat building activity	
BE	36	1	78 Bower Yard	
BE	36	2	demolished buildings	
BE	39	1	74-76 Bower Yard	
BE	40	1	72-73 Bower Yard	
BE	41	1	road through Bower yard	
BE	42	1	demolished cottage	
BE	42	1	Dem cottage, Bower Yard	
BE	43	0		
BE	44	1	71 Bower Yard	
BE	45	1	river bank	
BE	46	1	Site of Burtons Brick Works	
BE	47	1	path from bridge to river bank toll route?	
BE	48	1	Old Salt house shed	
BE	49	1	Old Salt House 70 Bower Yard	
BE	49	2	Toll House 89 Bridge Road	
BE	49	3	Bridge House (dem)	
BE	50	1	site of malthouse	
BE	50	2	69 Bower Yard	
BE	50	3	Hut on Iron Bridge	
BE	50	4	68 Bower yard	

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	50	5	demolished house	
BE	51	1	Station	Severn Valley Railway
BE	52	1	Bridge House	
BE	52	2	Mill Houses 65-66 Bridge Road	
BE	52	3	new trackway	Corn Mill
BE	52	4	Culverty	Corn Mill
BE	52	5	north eastern track	Corn Mill
BE	53	1	steps	Corn Mill
BE	53	2	out buildings	corn mill
BE	53	3	stone retaining wall	corn mill
BE	53	4	annexe	Corn Mill
BE	53	5	Mill Buildings	Corn Mill
BE	53	6	alley	Corn Mill
BE	53	7	Small dam wall	Corn Mill
BE	53	8	stone lined channel	Corn Mill
BE	53	9	wheel pit	Corn Mill
BE	53	10	wheel supports	Corn Mill
BE	53	11	power takeoff	Corn Mill
BE	53	12	launder	corn Mill
BE	53	13	Benthall Brook	Corn Mill
BE	54	1	Bridge Road	
BE	54	2	footbridge base	Severn Valley Railway
BE	54	3	footpath	
BE	54	4	Benthall Rail	Bridge Bank
BE	55	1	track	
BE	56	1	The Bungalow & Undern	
BE	56	3	clay mine	Maws Tileworks
BE	56	4	site of ironworks	Benthall Ironworks
BE	56	5	site of Maws Tileworks(east)	Maws Tileworks
BE	56	6	site of tar ovens	Benthall Ironworks
BE	57	1	coal shaft	
BE	57	2	coal shaft	
BE	57	3	site of pool	Benthall Ironworks
BE	58	1	Westholme, Bridge Road	
BE	58	2	The Haven Bridge road	
BE	58	3	Hill Rise, Bridge Road	
BE	58	4	site of Maws Tileworks (west)	Maws Tileworks
BE	58	5	Cinder Hill	Benthall Ironworks
BE	59	1	Grindlewald & Ambleside	
BE	60	1	road leading to dem house	
BE	61	1	demolished house	
BE	62	2	field (Lower Mine coppice)	
BE	63	1	old shaft (coal & ironstone)	
BE	63	2	path	
BE	63	4	old shaft (coal & ironstone)	
BE	64	1	field (South Sea)	
BE	65	1	woods	
BE	66	1		
BE	67	1	field (part of South Sea)	
BE	68	1	bell pits	Workhouse Coppice

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	68	2	gunpowder house	
BE	68	3	quarry	Workhouse Coppice
BE	68	4	part of lime kiln tramway	Limestone industry
BE	68	5	quarry (below kilns)	Limestone industry
BE	68	7	clay pipe kiln dump	Clay pipe industry
BE	69	1	field (Cadmans Cave & foxhole	
BE	70	1	field (Coppice meadow)	
BE	71	1	Broadacres farm	
BE	72	2	track & pond	
BE	73	1	field (Hazlewood piece)	
BE	74	1	part of lime kilns tramway	Limestone industry
BE	74	2	field (Hazlewood piece)	
BE	75	1	part of lime kilns tramway	Limestone industry
BE	75	2	field (Hazlewood piece)	
BE	76	1	field (Hill head)	
BE	77	1	lime kiln tramway bridge	Limestone industry
BE	77	2	part of lime kilns tramway	Limestone industry
BE	79	1	Bentlands Estate	
BE	80	1	part of lime kiln tramway	Limestone industry
BE	80	2	field (hazlewood piece)	
BE	81	1	field	
BE	82	1	part of lime kiln tramway	Limestone industry
BE	83	1	old level	
BE	84	1	part of lime kiln tramway	Limestone industry
BE	85	1	part of lime kiln tramway	Limestone industry
BE	86	1	Longieu spout lane	
BE	86	2	Fairview Spout lane	
BE	86	3	The Chalet Spout lane	
BE	86	4	spoil heaps	
BE	87	1	part of lime kilns tramway	Limestone industry
BE	87	2	kiln bank	Limestone industry
BE	87	3	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	4	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	5	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	6	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	7	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	8	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	9	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	10	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	11	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	12	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	13	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	14	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	15	site of lime kiln	Limestone industry
BE	87	16	road over lime kilns	Limestone industry
BE	87	17	adit	
BE	88	1	Glencoe, Spout Lane	
BE	89	1	Cottage(rebuilt)	
BE	91	1	road	
BE	92	1	Bailiff House, Spout Lane	

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	94	1	Mine Spout adit	
BE	95	1	house 1835?	
BE	97	1	site of pool	
BE	99	1	Alto Vista & Ittldo	
BE	100	1	road to Broseley Wood	
BE	105	1	barn	
BE	105	2	62 Bridge Road	
BE	105	3	61 Bridge Road	
BE	106	1	New house	
BE	106	2	site of kiln by Brook Cottage	Brook Cottage
BE	106	3	site of pool by Brook Cottage	
BE	106	4	site of pool above Brook Cott.	
BE	106	5	site of mill above Brook Cott.	
BE	106	6	tile waste by Brook Cottage	
BE	107	1	12 Bridge Road	
BE	107	2	Deedale	
BE	108	1	45 Bridge Road, The mines	
BE	108	2	45a Bridge Road, The Mines	
BE	108	3	44 Bridge Road, The mines	
BE	109	1	49 Bridge Road, The Mines	
BE	110	1	Woodlands, Spout Lane	
BE	110	2	63 Bridge Road	
BE	110	3	Islay, Fernleigh	
BE	110	4	site of boring mill	Benthall Ironworks
BE	111	1	"Furness yard"	Benthall Ironworks
BE	112	1	Overdale	
BE	112	2	Outbuildings, The Mines	
BE	112	3	53 The Mines	
BE	112	4	The Mines Cottage	
BE	112	5	50 The Mines	
BE	113	1	road through the mines	
BE	114	1	48 The Mines	
BE	115	1	46-47 Bridge road	
BE	115	2	East range	Bridge Rd Pottery & Pipewor
BE	115	3	west range	Bridge Rd Pottery & Pipewor
BE	115	4	site of kiln	Bridge Rd Pottery & Pipewor
BE	115	5	site of kiln	Bridge Rd Pottery & Pipewor
BE	115	6	culvert	Bridge Rd Pottery & Pipewor
BE	116	0		
BE	117	1	54 The Mines	
BE	118	1	55-57 The Mines	
BE	119	1	field with mining evidence	mining
BE	120	1	field with mining evidence	
BE	121	0		
BE	122	1	field with mining	
BE	123	1	field (close)	
BE	124	1	Spout Lane	
BE	125	1	Pine Tree, Spout Lane	
BE	125	2	Woodside, Spout Lane	
BE	125	3	bell pits	Ash Coppice

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	125	4	course of Ash Coppice tramway	Ash Coppice
BE	125	5	woods	Ash Coppice
BE	126	1	field formerly woods	Ash Coppice
BE	126	2	course of Ash Coppice tramway	Ash Coppice
BE	126	3	ironstone shaft	
BE	127	1	barn	
BE	127	2	62 Bridge Road	
BE	127	3	61 Bridge road	
BE	128	1	field (further hazlewall)	
BE	129	1	field (Three Square piece)	
BE	130	1	field with mining waste	mining
BE	131	1	level (1902 & 1927)	
BE	133	1	Benthall Hall quarry	
BE	134	1	Benthall Quarry site	
BE	134	2	ironstone mines	
BE	135	0		
BE	136	1	Benthall quarry site	
BE	137	0		
BE	138	1	old shafts (ironstone) 1902	
BE	138	2	pottery waste	
BE	139	1	road	
BE	140	1	Part of Ash Coppice tramway	
BE	141	1	Bentlands Estate	
BE	142	1	Mining evidence	
BE	143	1	Floyer Lane	
BE	144	1	Former Sunday School	
BE	144	2	Dem School Buildings	
BE	144	3	29 Floyer lane	
BE	145	1	air shaft	
BE	146	1	Brick Barn	Hill Top Farm
BE	146	2	small barn	Hill Top Farm
BE	146	3	small shed	Hill Top Farm
BE	146	4	Lean to shed	Hill Top Farm
BE	146	5	New barn	Hill Top Farm
BE	146	6	Black dutch barn	Hill Top Farm
BE	147	1	Path	
BE	148	1	34 Bridge road	
BE	149	1	2 bungalows	
BE	149	2	field with mining evidence	
BE	149	3	old level (clay)	
BE	149	4	level (clay)	
BE	149	5	level (clay)	
BE	149	6	old shaft (coal)	
BE	149	7	old shaft (coal)	
BE	149	8	old road	
BE	149	9	old road	
BE	149	10	platform (old shaft?)	
BE	150	1	Dem Buildings	
BE	151	1	Hill Top Farm House	
BE	152	1	orchard	

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall.
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	153	1	The Orchard & High Windsor	
BE	154	1	41 Bridge road	
BE	155	1	42-43 Bridge road	
BE	155	2	dem buildings	
BE	156	1	The New Inn	
BE	156	2	The New Inn tank	
BE	156	2	Dawes Hole	
BE	157	1	site of mill	
BE	157	2	site of mill pool	
BE	158	1	Bridge Road south	
BE	159	0		
BE	160	1	39-40 Bridge Road	
BE	161	1	Track	
BE	162	1	37-38 Bridge road	
BE	162	2	36 Bridge Road	
BE	162	3	Belmont, Bridge Road	
BE	163	1	Dem Buildng	
BE	164	1	Dem Building	
BE	166	1	old shaft (coal)	
BE	167	1	28 Barrats Hill (T. Syner)	
BE	168	1	Deerleap Mine	
BE	169	1	Barrats Hill Farm house	
BE	170	1	Barrats Hill Farm	
BE	171	1	Brookfield, Benthall Lane	
BE	172	1	Ashfield House, Benthall Lane	
BE	173	1	Benthall House	
BE	175	1	Shaft	
BE	176	0		
BE	177	0		
BE	177	0		
BE	178	1	26 Benthall Lane	
BE	178	2	27 Benthall Lane	
BE	178	3	25 Benthall Lane	
BE	179	1	Bentlands Estate	
BE	179	2	Site of "Glass's" pottery	
BE	179	3	possible clay pipe kiln site	Clay pipe industry
BE	179	4	22 Benthall lane	
BE	179	5	23-24 benthall lane	
BE	180	1	20 benthall lane	
BE	180	2	19 Benthall Lane	
BE	181	1	21 Benthall Lane	
BE	182	1	Site of Leopard Inn	
BE	183	1	18 Benthall lane	
BE	184	0		
BE	185	1	Barn	
BE	185	2	Leo Farm	
BE	185	2	The Orchard	
BE	186	1	Halcyon	
BE	187	0		
BE	188	1	Field (long length)	

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	188	2	old shaft (clay) *	
BE	189	1	field (long length) *	
BE	190	1	old shaft (ironstone)	
BE	190	3	old shaft east (ironstone) *	
BE	191	1	road to Benthall Hall	
BE	192	0		
BE	193	0		
BE	194	1	Benthall Villa Farm	
BE	194	2	Richard Shaw's Clay Pipe Site	
BE	195	0		
BE	196	1	Broseley/Much Wenlock Turnpike	
BE	197	1	cottages	
BE	197	2	dem buildings	
BE	198	1	16 Benthall Lane	
BE	200	1	field (Siners Coppice)	
BE	201	1	field (siners coppice)	
BE	201	2	3 old shafts	
BE	202	0	field	
BE	203	1	Old Vicarage	
BE	203	2	garden (?site of pottery)	
BE	204	0	field	
BE	205	1	field (Bath Meadow)	
BE	205	2	possible course of tramway	Benthall Rail
BE	206	1	field (siners coppice)	
BE	207	1	field (siners coppice)	
BE	208	0	field (lowes's leasow)	
BE	209	1	field (siners coppice)	
BE	209	2	? tramway Deer Leap railway	
BE	210	1	a: field	
BE	210	2	field (old plantation)	
BE	210	3	mining evidence	
BE	211	1	pit waste	
BE	211	2	boundary	
BE	212	1	field (siners coppice)	
BE	213	0	field (old plantation)	
BE	214	0	field (Constables Yard)	
BE	215	1	Haybrook Terrace	
BE	215	2	field (siners coppice)	
BE	216	1	11 Benthall Lane	
BE	216	2	New House, 1 Coppice Lane	
BE	216	3	Henry Bradley's Kiln Site	
BE	216	4	pottery waste	Haybrook Pottery
BE	217	0	field (Morris's Piece) *	
BE	217	0		
BE	218	1	Benthall Potteries Site	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	2	standing buildings	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	3	Kilns	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	4	drying ovens	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	5	demolished drying ovens	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	6	Crushers	Benthall Pottery

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	218	7	well	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	8	Blower	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	9	oiltank	Benthall Pottery
BE	218	10	waste material	Benthall Pottery
BE	219	1	field (lower marsh meadow)	
BE	219	2	pit mound & road	
BE	220	0	field (upper marsh meadow)	
BE	221	1	drainage canal	
BE	221	2	pottery waste	Benthall Pottery
BE	222	0	field (canal meadow/lawn&pool)	
BE	222	1	open cast (Benthall Hall Sit	
BE	222	2	path	
BE	223	2	Deserted village?	
BE	224	1	Benthall Hall	
BE	224	2	site of earlier hall	
BE	225	1	Benthall Church	
BE	225	2	graveyard	
BE	226	1	graveyard extension	
BE	227	1	farm	
BE	227	2	farm buildings	
BE	227	3	pig sties	
BE	228	1	Deserted village	
BE	228	2	base of windmill	
BE	229	0	upper hill head	
BE	230	1	medieval road	
BE	231	0	field (holly meadow)	
BE	232	0	field(middle h/head&l/cross m)	
BE	233	0	field (lower hill head)	
BE	233	1	bank	
BE	234	1	Limestone quarry	Limestone industry
BE	234	2	quarry	Limestone industry
BE	234	3	depression	
BE	234	4	access road	Limestone industry
BE	234	5	most westerly point of BE wood	Benthall Edge Woods
BE	234	6	quarrying (cliff)	Limestone industry
BE	234	7	site of kilns	Limestone industry
BE	235	1	part of BE woods	
BE	236	0	field (further riding hill)	
BE	237	0	field (riding hill)	
BE	238	0	frag of field	
BE	239	1	old road to Benthall Hall	
BE	240	0	old pool	
BE	241	0	field (upper furlong)	
BE	242	0	pool	
BE	243	1	road to benthall hall	
BE	243	2	crossroads	
BE	244	0	field (furlong)	
BE	245	0	fields (dry & wet piles)	
BE	246	0		
BE	247	0	field (broad stones)	

Nuffield Inventory: Benthall
Archaeological and Architectural contexts.

PARISH	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME	PARTOF
BE	248	0	field (upper marsh meadow)	
BE	249	1	Broseley/M.Wenlock road/n.half	

Nuffield Inventory: Broseley Parish
Archaeological and Architectural Contexts

	PLOT NO	CONTEXT NO	NAME/ ADDRESS
BY	1	1	Dem building
BY	1	2	Dem building
BY	1	3	7-9 Severn Bank
BY	1	4	5-6 Severn Bank
BY	1	5	3-4 Severn Bank
BY	1	6	Site of Lead Smelter
BY	2	1	Station Hotel
BY	2	2	11 Station Road
BY	4	1	10 Bridge Road,Easthope Coppic
BY	5	1	demolished building
BY	5	2	Dam Wall, Corn Mill
BY	5	3	mill pool, Corn Mill
BY	5	4	Southern Sluice, Corn Mill
BY	6	1	20 Bridge Road
BY	8	1	Martina and Millwood
BY	8	2	14 Cobwell Road
BY	8	3	Easthope Coppice Farm
BY	13	1	14-16 Station Road
BY	100	1	13 Maypole Road
BY	100	2	The Coppice, Maypole road
BY	100	3	demolished building
BY	102	1	Marbury,the Laverac,The Gable
BY	104	1	9 Maypole Road
BY	104	2	demolished building
BY	107	1	2 Woodlands Green
BY	110	1	Demolished building
BY	110	2	5, 7-7a Maypole Road
BY	110	3	Demolished building
BY	110	4	3 Maypole Road
BY	110	5	1 Maypole Road
BY	110	6	demolished building
BY	110	7	56-69 Crews Park
BY	111	1	26-27 Cobwell Road
BY	111	2	31-32 Sycamore Road
BY	111	3	Kenwood etc
BY	112	1	15 Easthope Road
BY	112	2	16-17 Easthope Road
BY	112	3	The Bungalow
BY	112	4	Wilderswill
BY	113	1	Byways, Berwyn etc
BY	113	2	Glenvista House
BY	115	1	21-23 Cobwell Road
BY	115	2	24 Cobwell Road
BY	115	3	25 Cobwell Rd, 34 Sycamore rd
BY	115	4	35 Sycamore road
BY	115	5	36 Sycamore road
BY	115	6	40 Sycamore Road
BY	119	1	Demolished building
BY	119	2	Caer Clon

Nuffield Inventory: Broseley Parish
Archaeological and Architectural Contexts

	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME/ ADDRESS
BY	121	1	Tolcarne, Wayside & Panorama
BY	122	1	49 Quarry Road
BY	122	2	54-55 Quarry road
BY	122	3	55a Quarry Road
BY	122	4	4-6 Quarry Road
BY	122	5	Old Post Office
BY	122	6	Demolished building
BY	122	7	17 Quarry Road
BY	122	8	demolished building
BY	123	1	50-51 Crews Park
BY	125	1	9-19 Cobwell Road
BY	125	2	Joydene
BY	126	1	41 Sycamore Road
BY	126	2	Old Chapel
BY	126	3	44 Sycamore Road
BY	126	4	demolished building
BY	126	5	demolished building
BY	126	6	new buildings
BY	127	1	demolished building
BY	128	1	Demolished Buildings
BY	129	1	Demolished building
BY	130	1	48 Quarry Road
BY	130	2	demolished building
BY	132	1	3 Quarry Road
BY	132	2	5 Quarry Road
BY	132	3	4 Quarry Road
BY	132	4	Demolished buildings
BY	132	5	Demolished building
BY	135	1	10 Quarry road
BY	135	2	11-12 Quarry Road
BY	135	3	demolished building
BY	135	4	demolished building
BY	135	5	40-42 Simpsons Lane
BY	137	1	36-37 Simpsons Lane
BY	140	1	Hopes Cottage & 32 Simpsons La
BY	140	2	25 Simpsons Lane
BY	140	3	21-22 Simpsons lane
BY	142	1	15 Simpsons Lane
BY	142	2	Demolished buildings
BY	144	1	14 Legges Hill
BY	144	2	Site of malthouse
BY	145	1	Speeds Lane
BY	148	1	3 Speeds Lane
BY	232	1	Shop buildings
BY	232	2	8-14 Barratts Hill
BY	232	3	21 & 22 Barratts Hill
BY	232	4	Rose Cottage, Padmans Alley
BY	232	5	5 Barratts Hill
BY	232	6	4 Barratts Hill

Nuffield Inventory: Broseley Parish
Archaeological and Architectural Contexts

	PLOT NO	CONTEXT	NAME/ ADDRESS
BY	232	7	1-3 Barratts Hill
BY	232	8	Padman's House
BY	232	9	Demolished building
BY	232	10	39 Cape St
BY	232	11	Belvedere
BY	232	12	Factory, 57 & 57a Cape Street
BY	232	13	50 King Street
BY	232	14	Benthall View
BY	232	15	45 King St
BY	232	16	Demolished Buildings
BY	232	17	37-38 King St
BY	232	18	35-36 King Street
BY	232	19	demolished building
BY	232	20	29 King Street
BY	232	21	24 King Street
BY	232	22	23 King Street
BY	232	23	22 King Street
BY	232	24	20 King Street
BY	232	25	18-19 King Street
BY	232	26	School
BY	232	27	7-9 Legges Hill
BY	232	28	10-11 Legges Hill
BY	232	29	13 Legges Hill
BY	232	30	1 Speeds lane
BY	232	31	14 King Street
BY	232	32	3 Legges Hill
BY	232	33	Broseley Wood House
BY	232	34	4 Legges Hill
BY	232	35	Site of Pipe Works
BY	232	36	10-12 King Street
BY	232	37	8-9 King Street
BY	232	38	Kings Head Public House
BY	232	39	2-6 King Street
BY	232	40	24 Simpsons Lane
BY	232	41	Demolished buildings
BY	232	42	28-30 Quarry Road
BY	232	43	23-27 Quarry Road
BY	232	44	22 Quarry Road
BY	232	45	34 Simpsons Lane
BY	232	46	39 Simpsons Lane
BY	232	47	Demolished buildings
BY	232	48	18 Quarry Road
BY	232	49	Lily Cottage
BY	232	50	11 Woodlands Road
BY	232	51	14 Woodlands Road
BY	232	52	Napoleon
BY	232	53	Demolished buildings
BY	232	54	21-14 Woodlands Road
BY	233	1	Demolished building

NOTE ON NUMERICAL CODES USED IN THE TEXT

The following are examples of numerical codes and abbreviations used in the text of the report:

BE 08503 - Nuffield Archaeological Survey Context Number, which works as follows: **BE** (parish) **085** (3 figure plot number based on 1902 OS map) **03** (2 or 3 figure context number). All contexts are described in appendices 6 (Benthall archaeology), 7 (Benthall buildings) and 8 (Broseley Wood buildings). There is a complete numerical list of contexts at the back of the report. Plot numbers are shown in Figure 3.

BE 86 A - IGMT archaeology unit site code. A detailed description of the system is given in Trueman 1987.

SRO 1224/2/750 - Document or collection number from Shropshire County Record Office, Shire Hall, Shrewsbury.

SBL 3689 - Document number from Shrewsbury Borough Library.

ScotRO - Scottish Record Office, West Register House, Edinburgh.

1982.1234 - IGMT Accession number, usuall referring to photograph held in IGMT documentation index.

ESJ - East Shropshire Journal.

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