

Analysis

A coal mine first recorded in 1814 and last mentioned in 1846, it was certainly out of use by 1882. It was wound and pumped by a small steam engine and operated from one shaft. There is no evidence of ironstone or clay working, and no waste heaps are recorded. The engine is likely to have been free-standing with light foundations (no engine house), so it will have left little trace.

The shaft shown on the tithe map is F6702020 on the map below. The plot was allotment gardens in the early 20th century and is now part of Four Winds Caravan Park. Any archaeological remains are likely to have been destroyed. Shaft F6702041 is probably not associated with the mine. It is only shown as a shaft on the 1882 OS map; however, it is not on the Tithe map and is shown as a pump in 1902, so it may not be a mine shaft but possibly a well..

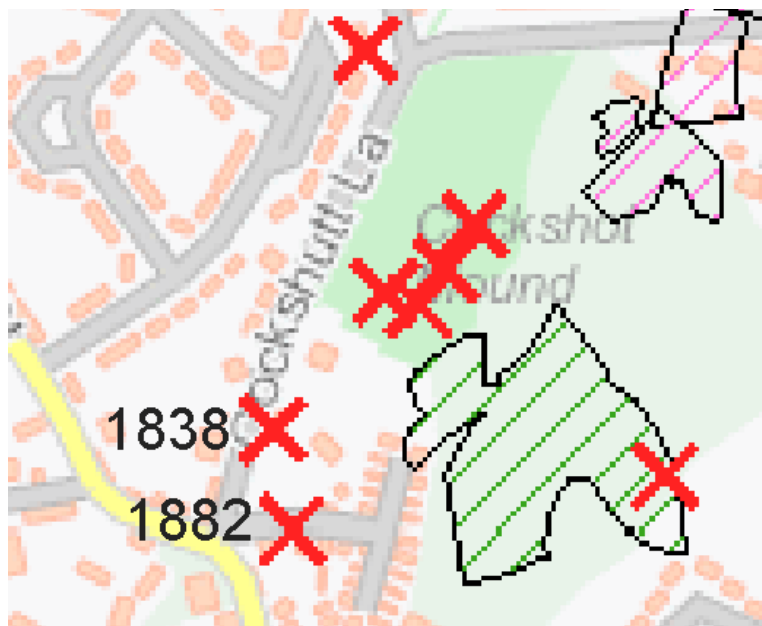


Figure 1: Coal Authority Map showing the location of the shafts as shown on the 1838 Tithe map(1838) and the 1882 OS map (1882).

Cockshutt Lane Mine, Broseley Wood

History

This mine was on what was probably the Cockshutt Lane Estate, purchased from J Gurnall by G Forester of the Willey Estate in 181.¹

The first reference to the mine is in 1818 when John Bradley was killed by a roof fall at which time it was 79 yards deep.² In the same year, Robert Evans, the elder of Rudge Wood and his son Robert, master colliers, leased the adjacent land and mines at Barn Meadow and Fishers Leasow from John Onoins.³ By 1841, this mine was also owned by Robert Evans (b 1785). He was variously titled a Coal Master, Brick and Tile Maker and farmer.⁴ He lived at Dunge Farm, and ran the Dunge Brick and Tile Works and a nearby coal mine.⁵ He was also a magistrate.

Sale by Auction – Shrewsbury Chronicle 20th March 1846

On Tuesday, March 24th, 1846, upon the premises at the Cockshutt Lane Colliery, in the parish of Broseley, the property of Mr. Robert Evans, who is giving up the work.

An excellent Winding Steam Engine, 4 horsepower, 150 yards of flat chain. 60 yards of old ditto, a double lift pump, 6-inch working barrel with tee-bobs, crank cistern, buckets, brasses, rods, levers, &c. complete. 1 angle ditto, 3-in. working barrel, 1 small ditto, 1 forcing ditto, 2 flat pulleys and brasses, complete pit head and runner, sundry iron plates, large wrought iron water barrel, ladder, about 10 tons cast iron rails, weighing machine, capable of weighing six tons, with scales and weights complete, pit baskets, and various colliery tools, &c.

It would appear that a shaft was still open in 1877 when *A discussion took place with respect to a pump at the reservoir, and the Board sanctioned the removal of the same to a pit-shaft opposite the Lord Hill public-house, if the Chairman could obtain the requisite response.*⁶ This may however be the shaft shown on the 1882 OS map.

There is no record of the mine working after the auction of 1846; however, the 1882 OS map shows a disused shaft on the same plot but at a different location to the Tithe Map.



Figure 2: Broseley Tithe 1838. The land was owned by Lord Forester
Plot 260b: Coal Pit at Cockshutt occupied by Robert Evans. One shaft is shown, but no buildings.
Plot 260b Garden and Rick Yard occupied by Charles Guest

Cockshutt Lane Mine, Broseley Wood

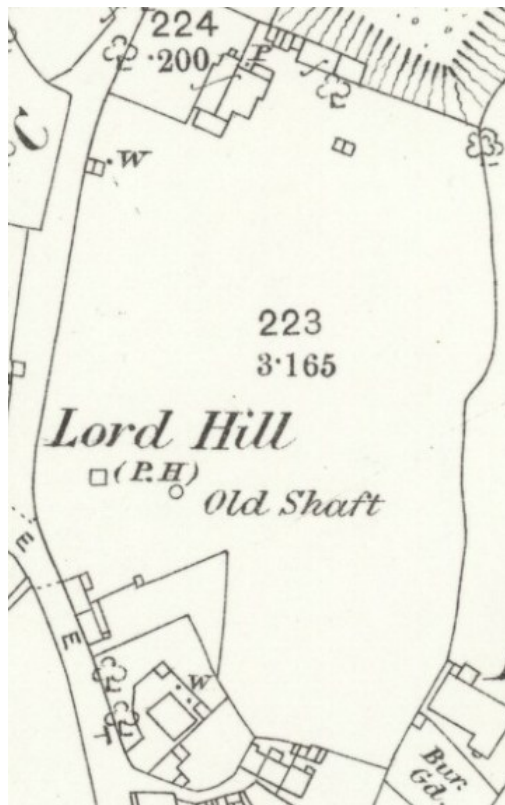


Figure 3: 25" O. S. Map Shropshire LI.2 (includes: Benthall; Broseley; Posenhall; Willey). Published: 1882. The shaft appears to have been filled, and a shaft is shown further south. There is no record of working at this shaft.



Figure 4: 25" O. S. Map Shropshire LI.2 (includes: Benthall; Broseley; Posenhall; Willey). Published: 1902. The shaft shown in 1882 is now shown as a pump, suggesting it is a well and not a mine shaft.

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¹ Shropshire Archives 1124/3/614/2

² Shropshire Archives Wenlock Borough Inquests WV/F/3/3/18. There was another fatal accident in 1818 WB/F/3/34/1-3

³ Shropshire Archives 1190/4/180.

⁴ Pigots directory 1822, 1835. Census 1841, 1851

⁵ 1838 Tithe map and apportionment. Shrewsbury Chronicle 18th February 1859.

⁶ Local Board report. Wellington Journal 21st July 1877