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SOME NOTES ON THE HORNBY CASTLE ESTATE COAL MINING SITES.

by Philip J. Hudson

SYNOPSIS

The written history of the major areas of coal mining in Britain has a long tradition with an extensive and comprehensive list of works of the highest scholarship and regard. In the case of the less well known areas of coal mining, however, research and published works tend to be neglected or non-existent. One such area is Lonsdale, valley of the river Lune in North West England where there have been many attempts to mine some very minor seams of often indifferent coals (see Map One). This article redresses some of this imbalance.¹

There are some recent publications which refer to specific nearby sites. These are by Ford and Harris on the Ingleton and Burton Coalfields, and by Price, Ashmore and others in works on the industrial archaeology of the area. There are also items by myself and associates which have been published in *Contrebis*, a local archaeological-historical journal.^{2,3,4,5} There is, however, no comprehensive work which looks at the overall picture of the Hornby Castle Estate's area.

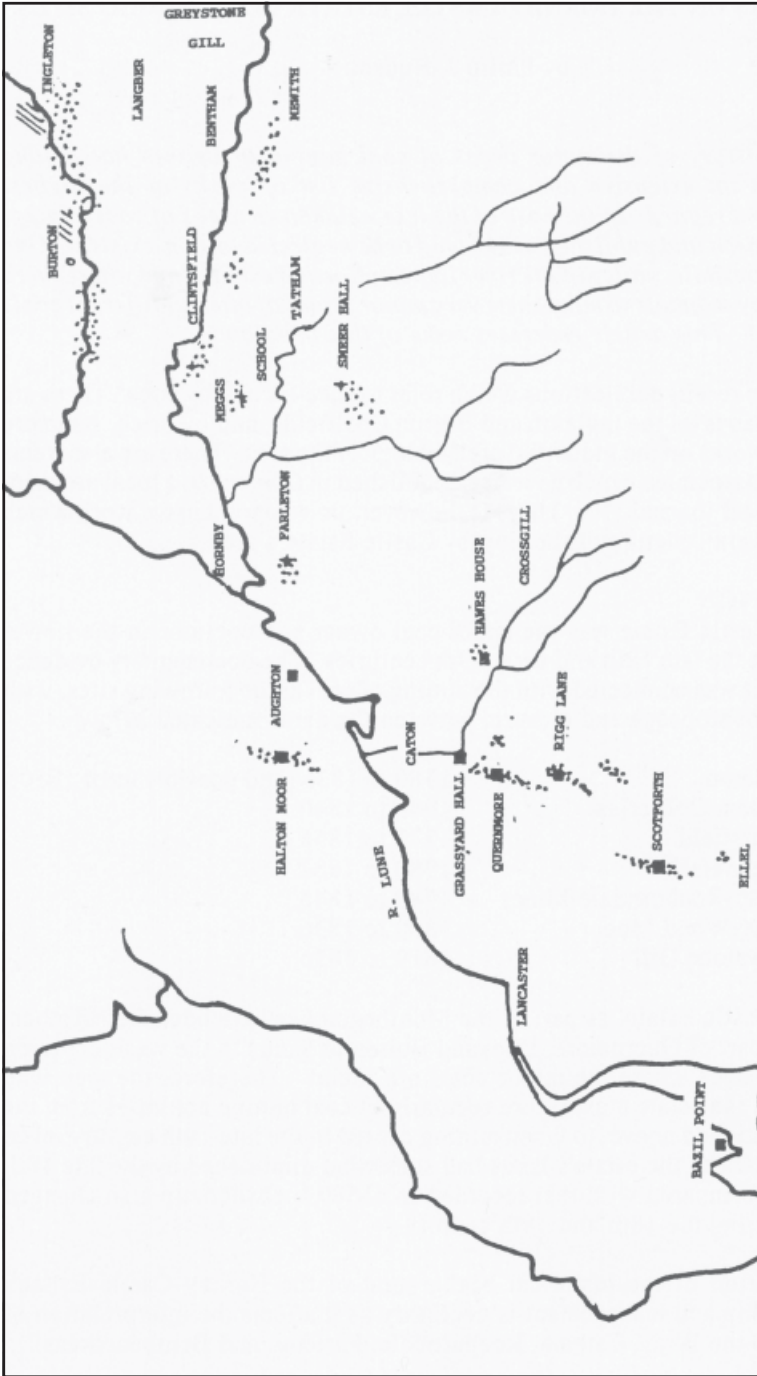
INTRODUCTION

The Hornby Castle Estate was the major coal owner and operator in the Lower Lune Valley in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The documentary evidence indicates that it was connected with the mining of coal at the following sites, with some periods of stoppage and closure, between the dates indicated below.

Farleton	1580 to 1836 (and possibly until 1850).
Tatham Collieries	1640 to 1840.
Clintfield	1772 to 1855.
Smear Hall	1780 to 1882.
Salter-Roeburndale Mines	1786 to 1845.
Wray Wood Moor	1800 to 1836.
Greystone Gill	1819 to 1836.

The Hornby Castle Estate, as part of the Montbegon Fee, extended from Tatham in the east to part of Quernmore, Ellel and Bolton le Sands in the west, covering many of the places where the minor coals are found. Therefore, the men who owned, or ran, the estate must figure regularly in coal mining activities from the early date mentioned above, to when mining ceased in the late 19th century, even though the extent of the estate's lands had somewhat diminished by the late 18th century when compared with that recorded in c1580.⁶ Ownership also changed quite often during the 18th and 19th century.

Some explanation of the historical background of the Hornby Castle Estate's recent ownership and management is necessary as it affects the interpretation of coal mining in the Wray, Tatham, Roeburndale, Farleton and Bentham areas.⁷



Map One - The Coal Mining Areas of the Lower Lune Valley.

In the 18th century the estate was owned by Francis Charteris, the Earl of Wemys, until purchased after 1782 by John Marsden of Wennington Hall.^{8,9} He remained the owner for the first three decades of the 19th century and lived at Hornby Castle. He was also Lord of the Manor of Hornby until he died on July 1st 1826.

It seems that Marsden first employed George Wright as steward to run most of his affairs and the Hornby Estate. The latter took up residence at Wennington Hall which he then inherited, along with the Hornby Castle Estate and the Lordship and Honour, under Marsden's last extant Will.¹⁰ This was disputed and became the subject of the long trial of *Tatham v Wright* which ran from late 1826 until 1836. Admiral Tatham won and took possession of the Hornby Castle Estate, but possibly not of Wennington Hall nor any of Wright's other acquisitions. Tatham was succeeded by a Pudsey-Dawson and later in the 19th century the whole estate was purchased by the Fosters of Black Dyke Mills, near Halifax, Yorkshire.

From about 1780 to 1826 Marsden's steward, Wright, was also engaged in other business activities locally and bought and built up a sizable land holding of his own.¹¹ For example, he bought Snab off Wilsons in 1793.¹² He owned The Barrows and other property at Heysham by 1825 and he bought Greystone Gill Estate, High Bentham, in 1816 and exploited its coal (discussed in a forthcoming paper).^{13,14}

George Smith, to whom we are indebted for his diary, was employed as the agent both for Hornby Castle Estate and for Wright, but he dealt directly with Wright for the most part and Wright appeared to pay his salary.^{15,16} During the period of Smith's Diary, 1816 to 1856, it is often very difficult to establish who owned certain properties or had the right to lease or run the coal mines, with the exception of the Greystone Gill Colliery, which was owned by Wright.

Some of the rights to mine coal or lease pits were not with either Marsden or Wright. Instead they were owned by various local people, including the Lords of the Manors of Bentham and Burton, to whom Smith paid money as rent from time to time, on behalf of Marsden and Wright.^{17,18} After Marsden's death, this became Wright and others. The situation was further confused by the complicated tenure and leasehold system in the manors held by the Hornby Lordship, and the way properties were bought, sold and mortgaged within the system.¹⁹

When Tatham took possession of Hornby Castle, Smith moved to Wray and Tatham employed his own agent, a Mr Higgins, in 1836. Higgins does not appear to have kept a diary or estate journal or recorded anything (that has survived) connected with the estate's coal mining activities. Most of these affairs are not within the scope of this paper so specific reference is only made to them when directly relevant to a coal mining activity. The bulk of the reliable information on the estate's coal-pits is, however, to be found during this period of Marsden-Wright ownership. We know from the surviving Hornby Records the place names, the names of most smaller working pits, and brief details of most workings, but there are some pits for which we have very little information.

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Place names connected with coal on the Estate include: Scale, Mathew Pit, Lane Dyke, Bowskill Wood Level, Bellhurst, Crag Moor, Dib Pit, Balshaw, Overend's Lane, Whitmoor, Robert Hall, William Talbot's Large Field, Bentham Colliery, Backsbottom Colliery Yard, Capplecar, Switten (Swittern) Hill, Perry's, The Holme, Winning, School, Troughton Pasture, Dugdale's Field, Barton Fields, Tatham School, William Edmondson's Pit, Tatham Park Pit, Collinson's Pit, Parkside Houses, William Hall's Pit, Howson's House, Scuttle Hill Meadow, Bateson's, Harterbeck, Lower Salter High Close, Over Salter Colliery and Lower Bentham Colliery.

Some of these named pit sites are part of the named colliery workings. For example, Scale, Bowskill's Wood, Scuttle Hill Meadows and William Edmondson's and Bateson's "Banksmain" (see Plan One) are part of the Wraywood Moor Colliery; William Talbot's, School, and William Hall's Pit are part of Tatham Colliery; Troughton Pasture, Lane Dyke, Bowskill Wood Level, Bellhurst, and Collinson's are part of Smearshaw Colliery; the Salter and Harterbeck pits were over to the west in the valley of Roeburndale, and we can assume that many others are close by these sites. Meggs Farm pits were not owned or worked by the estate, but are on freehold lands owned by the Collinson Family who worked or leased the coal pits from 1781 (see Map Two).

The earliest recorded coal mining on the Hornby Castle Estate was in the 16th century. It comes from fragments of information in the Hornby Castle Muniments: "*To Edward Cookson (or Collison??) for the rental of the Coyle mines in Farleton at xx.s by the year. behind unpaid for iiij years and a halfe...Due in Anno Vij Elizabeth, 1565, as appeareth in the roll of the same year...*"²⁰

Revenue and expenditure Accounts 1581-82 record, "*Allowed to C Turner, bailiffe of Hornby and Henry Chatburne, his deputy, in the rent of The Coal Mine at Farleton xx s, and in the rent of the fishing of the water of the Loyne let to J Walmsley x.s....*"

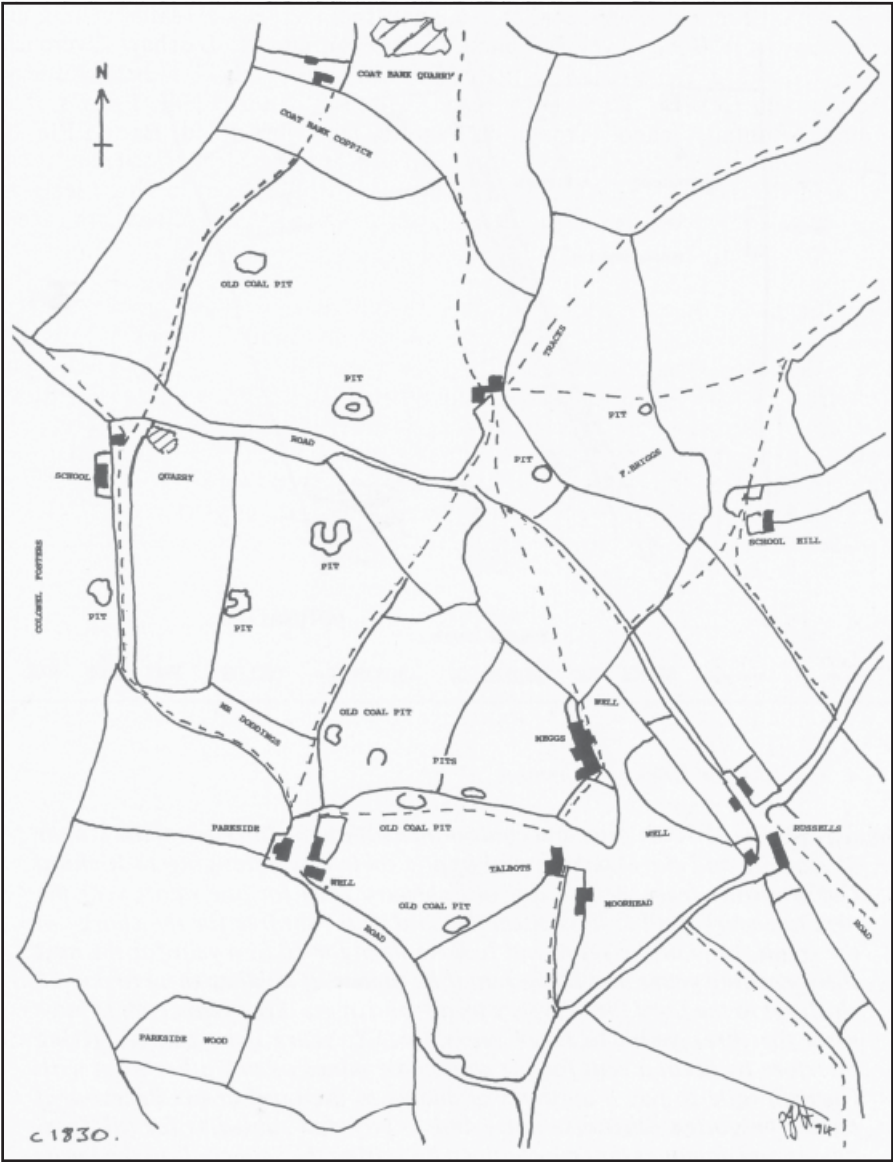
The estate survey documents of c1580 record, "*to the Lord of the Manor of Hornby to have in Caton a quarry of cole and another of slate....rent of a mine of coal in Farleton*"^{21,22} These two sites have not yet been located, but it is possible that they correspond to some later worked coal seams in the same area.

For references in the 17th century, the surviving account books of Hornby Castle Estate contain a few notes on coal mining. For example:

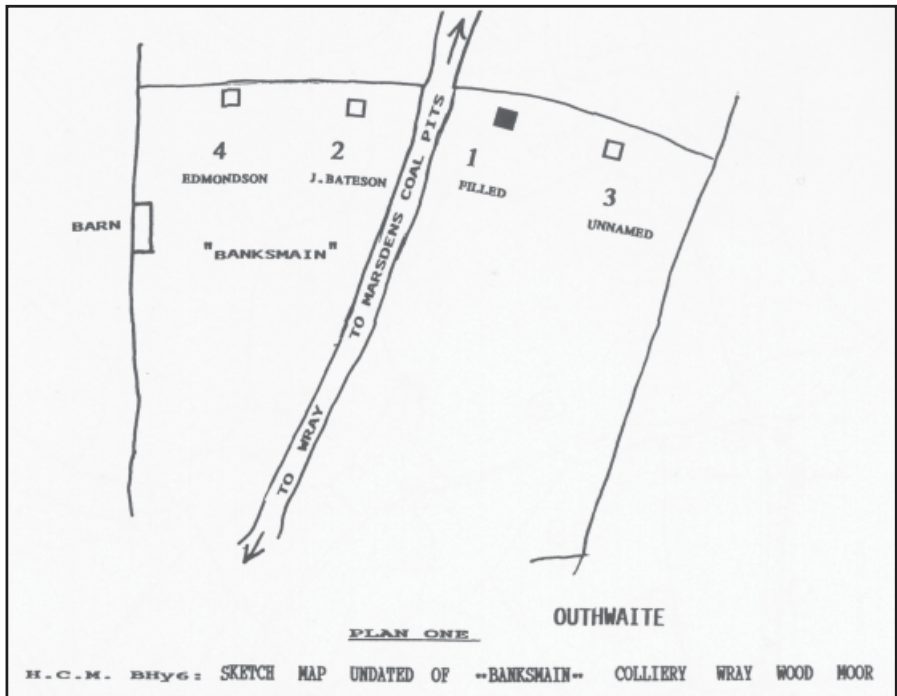
1642. "*item: 2. The collpitts in ffarleton yielding noe rents since the late troubles but formerly let for £20 per.an., and may be better if the estate were settled and industry sett on foote.*

3. *The colemine in Tatham Common in probability may be of much greater value if settlement of ye estate and industry applied.*

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Map Two - Map of Russells & Tatham Colliery, West. Ex DDHH Box 38.



4. *The like for Hornby Common....*"²³

Again in 1661: “Coale pitts and coale mines within the liberties of the Manor of Hornby and the Members and appt’s theirunto belonging to Richard Cornethwaite from the 2nd day of February 1661 for one whole year the next to ensue, and to have them the said year rent free for the charge of the tryall. And at the years end to have them for 10 Li a year for the next three ensuing years and leave rent if he please, if he deny them to pay 20 shillings to the Lord for the years tryall, and at the three years end, to have them for three years to three years for XX, years if he please, giving theirfore as great a rent for the said coale mines as any other pson will. Cornethwaite to pay 8 quarters of coales to the Lord or his Recevour if coales be gotten otherwise not. And to pay and subsidiss for all Trespasses and damages that may happen by getting the said coals in the Lords grounds or his Tenants, at the sight of fower honest men.

Richard Cornthwaite.. his mark."²⁴

It would appear that the Cornthwaites retained their right of lease on these coal mines until 1781, as coal was found in a new level under Meggs Farm when a John Cornthwaite drove the level and:²⁵

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“John Wilson, coal miner, found the coal, had drove several drifts or levels of the length of 30 yards and upwards in a zig zag direction, five feet wide - coal averages 2 ft thick.

Quantity got under Meggs exceeded 900 solid feet or 37 solid yards.....Every solid yard of coal produced 12 loads..... about 444 loads got under Meggs.....sold at 7d per load, at expense of extraction 2d to 3d per load.”²⁶ (see Map Three).

There was a dispute, which never seemed to be resolved, over who could work the coal in this level between Collinsons, the owners of the freehold, and the working partners, one of whom was George Wright, steward at Hornby Castle.²⁷

The final Hornby document on Farleton found to date is in the Land Tax returns for 1782. These show, *“Farleton, colliery; 11s 3d paid.”*

The only other documented coal lease was for a Tatham Pit. Dated March 19th 1817, it was an agreement with Henry Fisher to draw coals at Tatham Coal Pit:-

“Proposals and Conditions for letting this 19th. day of March 1817, the drawing of coals in Tatham belonging to John Marsden Esquire. The undertaker to draw all the Coals that it may be deemed expedient to draw up the present shaft, and in default thereof to forfeit to the said John Marsden the sum of ten pounds. A contract to be made pursuant to these conditions.”²⁸

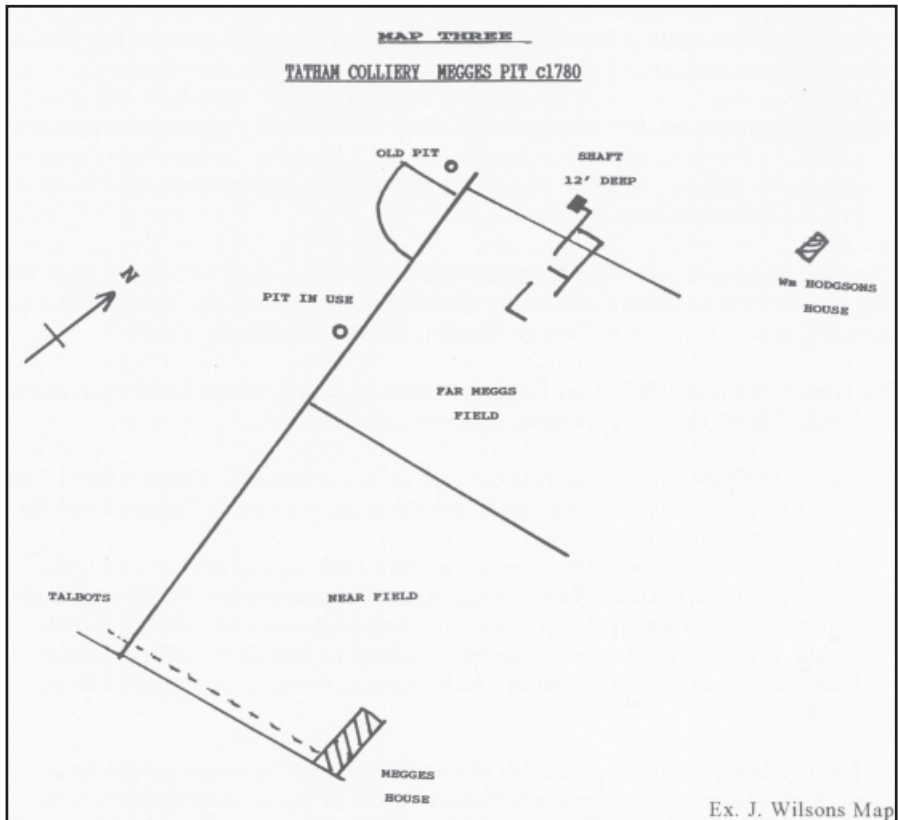
Henry Fisher of Thimble Hall is the undertaker of the above at the Price or Sum of Ten pence for every twenty loads of coals, and he agrees to perform the above conditions. Witness his hand.

Geo Smith.²⁹ Henry Fisher.³⁰

This shows that the pit already had a shaft and that it was in a working condition.

The Blands Farm area (SD625697) has evidence of coal mining, but is not mentioned by name in Smiths' s diary or in any of the Castle Muniments seen to date. This site appears to have been ancient freehold or church lands, the same as Outhwaite and Meggs Farm, but it could have been mined or leased by the estate prior to Arthur Burrows or others working it, as some coal-mines at Smear Hall, parts of Wray Wood Moor, Farleton, Greystone Gill, Clintfield and other Tatham mines were in the 18th and 19th centuries.³¹ By this time the areas in Caton, Quernmore and Ellet townships, where coal was also worked, were no longer part of the Hornby Lands.³² They had passed to various new owners, e.g., the Curwens and later the Edmondsons, of Grassyard Hall, the Morleys and Girlingtons of Thurland, Faithwaites in Littledale and Crofts and others in Farleton and Claughton.³³ Other areas of land with coal pit sites much nearer to Hornby Castle were probably also in private hands by the late 18th century.

Documentary evidence suggests that the workings controlled by the Hornby Castle Estate were yielding coal in quantity and were profitable, as Price refers to Marsden



giving away 500 buckets full of coal to the poor of Hornby from his Tatham pit in 1809.³⁴ If compared with the nearest Census figures, given in Baines as 420 in 1811, this works out at just over a bucketful per person in Hornby, a township of about 104 households.^{35,36}

In the early 19th century the coal seams of the Hornby Castle Estate were mined in places all over the townships of Wray, Roeburndale, Farleton, Tatham, and later in High Bentham parish in the Forest of Mewith and at Greystone Gill. These seams were mined by various groups and families who leased from Hornby Castle Estate or worked for agreed periods or for cash payments. This led to commonly held views and accounts on coal mining activities for the Lune valley area at this time, suggesting that the workings were sporadic or part-time as an element of a dual occupation system working within the local agriculturally-based economy.

This might have been true in some cases, but the evidence found in connection with the Hornby Castle Estate lands suggests this was not the case during Wright and Smith's time when the estate ran several pits and mines, employing full-time workers

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as colliers, level and pit sinkers, cinder burners, banksmen and carters, supported by other estate tradesmen and hired workers only when the need arose.

George Smith visited the mining sites on a regular basis, keeping an eye on things generally. When changes or important events took place, he was usually there to supervise, hire and fire. Smith also kept the Colliery accounts and books, agreed terms with the workmen and the customers, raised the bills and made every effort to utilise the estate's resources to the benefit of the coal mining operations.³⁷

In his diary and in the fragments of estate records seen, we can build up a picture of the estate's operations. This includes the place name of many pit and colliery sites, the building of roads to them, arranging for haulage of working equipment and materials onto and off the sites, repairing, opening and closing of the cinder ovens, general repairs, assessing and paying for any damage done by the workings to the farming tenants and paying rents and tithes. At times the estate even showed a paternal interest in the people involved.

From the accounts and Smith's diary entries, we can also get a good idea of who bought the coal, to what use it was put, and the distances the coal and products were carted. Even when the coal seams or workings were leased or let out to others, Smith still kept his interest and general supervision, and occasionally made comments in his diary.

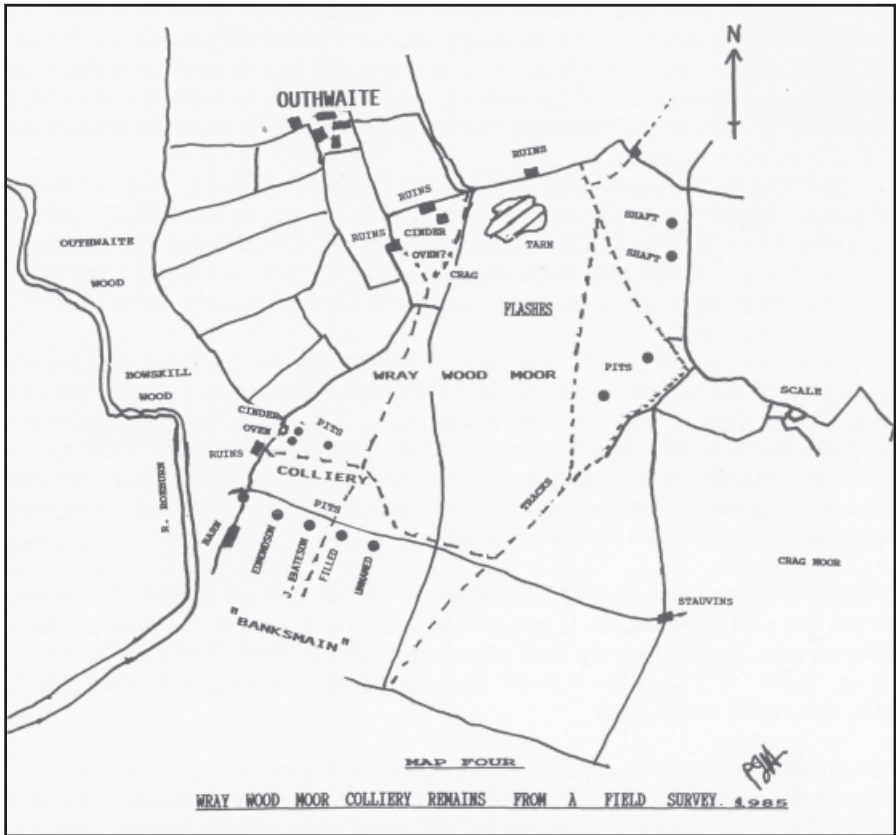
This situation inevitably caused some disputes and there are quite a few documents in the Hornby Castle muniments which give details of disputes with colliers and workers, the names of disputed pit and mine sites and the people involved, particularly in Wray Wood Moor in Roeburndale, and the Smear Hall and Outhwaite areas in Tatham Parish.³⁸

THE FARLETON COLLIERY

"The collpitts in ffarleton", referred to in the 1580, 1642 and 1646 documents, were not in use when Dickson surveyed the area in 1815, for he stated *"that water is a problem in the working and needs a fire engine to pump it out.....The other Colliery are not now wrought. Farleton has been discontinued for the last 10 years, and will require a fire engine to carry off the bottom water, but when in work, produced about 500 Winchester bushels daily."*^{39,40}

Prior to this severe water problem, the pit had been worked with the assistance of the water wheel, but this must have been over burdened once the shaft became too deep for it to pump. This pit was idle for some 10 years without any reference in the Hornby record, then in May 1825 Smith's diary recorded that *"Mr Wright and J Garnett took the old water-wheel in pieces at Farleton Colliery."* Activities seem to cease again, however, until the site was re-opened in 1829. Smith recorded in his diary:-

"November 21st. 1829. I went to Farleton Colliery lately commenced there by William Procter and John Eccles."



From this time there was a lot of activity, preparing the site for mining operations and a new engine house was to be built. In 1831 Smith recorded the following:-

“Jan 8th. I was with the men in the High Woods breaking stones and at Farleton Colliery where John Holdin (sic) and men were scabbling stones for the Engine House.”

“Jan 14th. In the afternoon I went to Hamstone Gill when Charles Heaps and William Hodgson were getting stones for Binway (sic) for the Steam Engine at Farleton Colliery.”

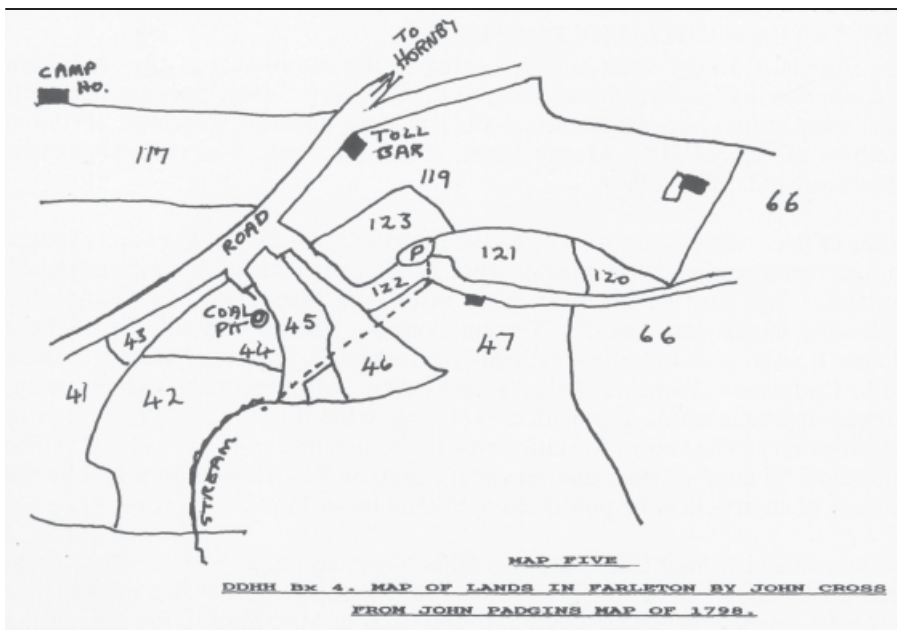
“April 12th. I measured the masonry for the Engine House at Farleton Colliery done by John Houlding.”

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“August 25th. Engine commenced at Farleton Colliery.”

“Aug 27th. I went to look at Farleton Steam Engine which was working and pumping water out of the pit.”

The engine pumped until October when, to assist the work, Smith engaged Charles Heap and William Hodgson to divert springs and the rivulet in Camp House Wood which were thought to be percolating into the coal works. The water in the old pit was cleared in January 1832 and on the 14th six men were employed to work below ground, getting the first new coals out of the seam. From this date Smith began to keep a regular check on the output. The colliery accounts were kept by the banksman, William Procter, and Smith recorded regular visits and time spent “making up” the coal accounts until 1836. In April 1832 plans were being made to open a new working. A new shaft was being sunk by Procter and Hodgson who met Smith in the Castle estate yard to look at some old cast iron pumps to see if they were suitable for use. The development work appears to carry on until March 1834 when Smith went to look over the new buildings with John Eccles. In October his diary recorded, “..Nine men, two horses and lads were sinking the new engine pit night and day...” It must be assumed that the pit was opened and producing coal, as the colliery books for this site have not survived. Smith made no mention of any other activity until an accident, “3rd October 1836, when Charles Heaps, overlooker at Farleton Colly, [was] killed by being precipitated down a pit from the rope slipping on the turn tree.”



The diary references to the site stop here, which is odd as coal was being produced from an old shaft, another shaft was being sunk, and it was in production for at least five more years. The Hornby records do not show who was working on this site, what type of equipment had been installed or the design of the engine house and pithead buildings, but we have further information from other sources.

A map by John Padgin and Thomas Cross c1798, with a scale 6 chains to one inch (see Map Five) shows only one 'coal pit' in a croft (field No 44) behind the present day Toll Bar Garage (there was no building shown on this site at this date), a possible associated pond, or another pit (field No 122/123/121 boundary) three fields to the east with an associated water course, and a building (on the north wall of field No 47) on the line of the south wall of the present day Engine House Wood, and lanes or trackways up to both areas.⁴¹ There was nothing but an open widened roadway/yard area on the site of the present Toll Bar Garage (the building called "Gate House" on the 1887 OS 6" map).

Two pits and a shaft with an engine house are recorded on the 1845 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map. Local information indicates that this engine house, which could be the one built by Holding in 1831, was demolished into the shaft c1930 and no plans or illustrations appear to survive. Recent close inspection of the site found no remains of any buildings, but there were three filled in shafts and four well-defined bell pits, with tracks up to the sites from the old turnpike road. These remains correspond with some of the sites marked on Yates' map of 1796, and later mapped evidence. Unfortunately, the farmer/landowner is currently filling in several pits and levelling the sites as part of agricultural improvements.

THE TATHAM COLLIERY (WEST).

The Tatham Colliery West site is located to the south west of the road from Wennington to Oxenforth Green, centred at SD620690.⁴² Here there are many bell pits, some quite large, abandoned shafts and some opencast workings, all in the vicinity of School Hill, Meggs Farm, Russell's Farm, Parkside, Overends, Moorhead and Tatham Park.

Some of these mines were worked by the Hornby Castle Estate, but others appear to have been worked by lessees or were in the ownership of local farmers and colliers. The sites extend over many acres (see Map Two) and include the following named pit sites:⁴³ Tatham Common, Meggs, School Hill, School House, Russell's, Overhouses, Tatham Pits, Dugdale's, Barton's, Ridley's, Tatham Park, Collinson's, Parkside, Talbot's, and Hall's. All these place names, except Meggs, appear in connection with coal mining in the Hornby Castle records or in Smith's diary. The known working dates are from before 1642 to 1841 and can be supported by good primary and secondary sources.^{44,45} This colliery will be the subject of an article to be published by the writer in 1995.

Moorhead and School House are two other sites, adjoining Meggs, where there were coal pits. When the shafts on the School House site were closed in 1845 new pits were opened up further along the coal seam at Moorhead to the S.E. of the older workings

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at SD620685. The older workings and the new ones are all marked on the 1845 6 inch O.S. Map.

Tatham Colliery sites belonging to Hornby Castle were working in the early 19th century. Dickson reported their re-opening in 1810, with the land assessment tax being reduced.⁴⁶ Smith regularly recorded his activities in connection with them and most of the records of the Hornby Castle Estate show income from the Tatham Colliery and others up to 1834.⁴⁷ In a Hornby Castle returns book there are entries as follows:-

“Collieries, Dr George Smith for the colliery account 1833, Feb 14th. Balance of Tatham Colliery £172. 10s. 0d.” and “1834 Feb 14th Balance Tatham Colliery £60. 3s 4d.”

These returns are signed by George Wright and George Smith. One must assume that these collieries were successful and profitable.

George Smith's Diary entries give us some useful information as to the Hornby Castle Estate's involvement at Tatham. For example, on the first page of his diary in January 1819 he recorded *“I went to Tatham Coal pit today”*, and he made regular visits to view and supervise the workings on behalf of Mr Wright (but never, it seems, for Mr John Marsden), to collect dues, make up the accounts, pay the colliers and pay nearby tenants for damages etc. Smith also gives information on working methods, who was working at the various sites, and items on adjoining pits. In 1819 he recorded:-

“January 19th. At Tatham coal pit, Thomas Bowskill measured the new shaft yesterday, called at Hall Barns.”

“March 13th. At Tatham coal pit in the afternoon, the men had gone thro a vein of coal and had got 10 or 12 which were upon the hill.”

“April 19th. I met Thos Bowskill and the Tatham Colliers at the Bridge End when I let them the driving of the level at Tatham Coal Pit for 26 shilling the 10 yard.”

In 1820, he recorded, *“February 5th, Settled with John Wildman & Co for walling the level at Tatham Coal pit. Mr Wright let to John Wildman the sinking of a shaft there.”* and *“February 19th, I went to Wennington and Tatham upon the colliery business. The men commenced sinking the new shaft today.”*

In these two years of his diary, Smith informs us that colliers were working for coal, finding it, sinking new pit shafts and driving levels which had walled sides when open.⁴⁸ We also know that Thomas Bowskill was the collier in charge and that they used oak wood for “backing”. John Taylor was engaged in Smithy works, and one of the shafts was in Dugdale's Field.^{49,50} Other shafts were in Barton's Fields, Tatham Park, Collinson's Pit, Parkside House, Talbot's Field, and Tatham School.⁵¹⁻⁵⁶ Two men, John Wildman and Arthur Foxcroft, were employed regularly, possibly as banksmen, to record the pits' production and sales after the death of Thomas Bowskill

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on Sept 21st 1822. John Hodgson continued as Master Collier. Smith does not mention a banksman at Tatham until June 1824, when James Armitstead was recorded.^{57,58}

There were some renovations taking place at Tatham Pit from late 1823 to May 1824, which Smith recorded as follows:-

- Sept 12th 1823 *“the wheel at Tatham Pit removed today.”*
Dec 9th 1823 *“John Wildman brought a turn tree from Tatham Pit and got it lined.”*
March 2nd 1824 *“Benjamin Beckett and Alexandra Caton called to apply for situations at Tatham Pit, Thomas Blezard and John Nicholson took tools.”*
April 15th 1824 *“... then to Tatham Pit, E. Knowles finished timbering the pit house and they should get the wheel on the hill today.”*
May 29th 1824 *“Went to Tatham Coal Pit. Balderstones horse commenced pulling coals yesterday there.”*

There are also some seemingly contradictory entries in the diary, as follows:-

- May 17th 1824 *“went to the engine house at Tatham where we broke up 42 cwt of old cast iron for some potters.”*
May 24th 1824 *“James Stephenson fetched the boiler of the steam engine at Tatham Colliery to Hornby on his waggon.”*
May 29th 1824 *“Old Knowles called about the Tatham fire engine.”*
Sept 25th 1824 *“The horse gear, wall and house, the wheel rope to be burned down at Tatham Colliery.”*

It seems to the writer that Smith was referring to two sites in the area, one called Tatham Pits, which had just been renovated, and the other called Tatham Colliery, which at this time was being discontinued.

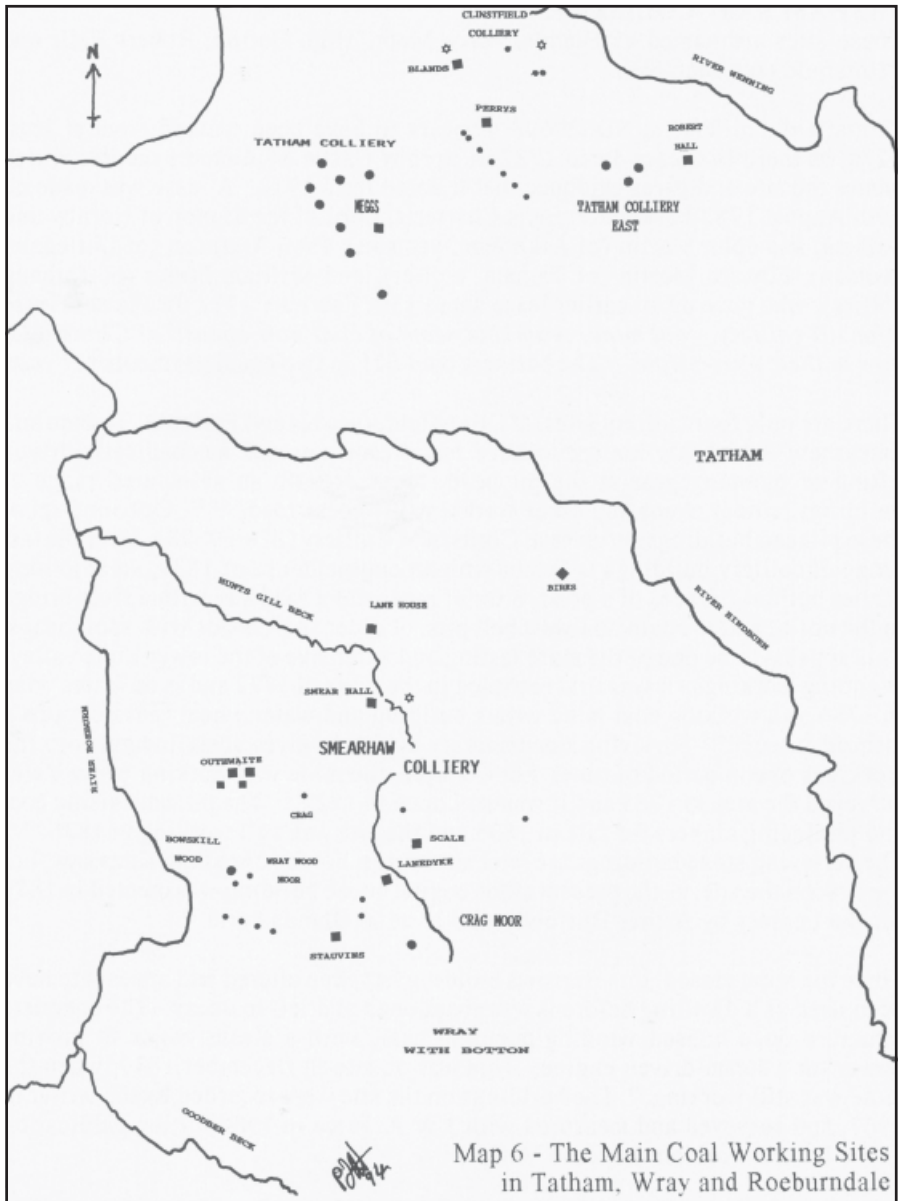
In 1827-8 more problems befell the Tatham coal-pits. For example, on February 27th 1827, Smith recorded *“James Armitstead banksman at Tatham Pit died”*

In 1828 there were problems with water, which Smith chronicled as follows:

“Feb 7th 1828. John Wildman called upon me at R. Ripleys found that he had been down in Tatham Pit that Collinsons men had opened the Dam in our works and let off the water. I called upon Miss Collinson in the evening who promised to send for S Redshaw and rectify the business.”

Water seemed to bedevil the colliers regularly, as Smith made many entries referring to water problems in the pits.⁵⁹ The foregoing accounts show that the coalworkings of the various owners and operators on this site were very close together and interlinked within the system, which obviously needed some modicum of cooperation

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Map 6 - The Main Coal Working Sites in Tatham, Wray and Roeburndale

and joint management if the operations were to be successful and profitable. Tatham also had cinder ovens on the site. These produced cinders for sale to the local population and in particular to the millers and maltsters for use in their drying and roasting kilns.^{60,61}

TATHAM EAST COLLIERY.

These sites are named as Blands, Perry Moor, High Botton, Robert Hall, and Clintsfield (see Map Six).

Clintsfield Colliery, at SD629698, appears to have been worked from at least 1772, as there is a lease dated 1782 in Hornby Castle Muniments records which names the site and gives evidence that it dated from 1772. A lease was made on 19th August 1782 between Francis Charteris, Lord of the Manor of Hornby and Tatham, and John Martin (of Arkholme, yeoman), John Atkinson (of Littledale, yeoman), Edward Martin (of Tatham, collier), and William Storrs (of Tatham, collier), who gave up an earlier lease dated 13th February 1772 for the new lease “*for all colliery, coal mine, seam and seam of coal now opened at Clintsfield, now in their possession*”. The partners paid £21 in two equal payments per year.

There are only four colliery sites, at Clintsfield, (see below) Farleton, Tatham and Smearhaw, which are known to have had steam powered mechanically-driven lifting or pumping gear at the pit head, together with an associated range of buildings, cinder ovens and other works, with access roads.⁶²⁻⁶⁵ Only one set of these pithead buildings survives at Clintsfield Colliery (SD629698). Here the last range of colliery buildings is extant with an engine house of 1839, an adjoining earlier building, traces of a pond, a water race, and a roadway with a river bridge to the north, and to south and west bell pits, or older shaft heads with spoil heaps. This appears to be one of the more lasting and extensive of the lower Lune valley-Wenning workings. It was first recorded in the lease of 1772 and is on Yates’ map in 1786 as a working coal mine with a building and water wheel (possibly just a pithead wheel).⁶⁶ Surviving documentary evidence gives some insight into the workings over a period of time. For example, the mine was working when Yates surveyed the area in 1785 and it was still open in 1822.⁶⁷ The pit was raising coal and producing cinders for sale in 1835 and the site was still working in 1836.^{68,69} The surviving stone buildings are later structures, not the ones that Yates saw, nor the first on the site, as the present stone engine house building was erected in 1839 for the Lessees by Arthur Burrows, who lived at Blands Farm.⁷⁰

Since the mine closed, this Burrows building has been altered and appears to have been used as a dwelling before it was abandoned and left to decay. The complete structure once housed winding/pumping gear, with a steam boiler to provide power for a steam-driven engine. This was on site in December 1839, when the mine was still working.⁷¹ The buildings on the site were recorded by the writer in 1967, and surveyed and measured with J.W.A. Price in 1980 for the publication of the latter’s work on the Lune Valley.⁷²

The extant but ruinous engine house is the one built by Burrows in 1839. It is set in a hollow and joined to the earlier buildings, surrounded by what appears to be the pit’s spoil. The east gable is built mainly of cut stone blocks. The rest is random freestone with cut quoins. The adjoining boiler house has what could be a contemporary square-built chimney attached at the south west corner. This still stands some 18 feet tall and measures 10 feet square, but is now roofed with stone slate. This and the rest of the

building range are thought to be earlier than the Burrows' addition and all are without roofs. The engine house measures 18 feet by 19 feet and is some 20 feet tall with intact gables. It has an upper arched opening for the gear, but this has been partly walled to take a later square window and a lower doorway in the east end. There is a window and a doorway with traces of a porch on the south and upper and lower windows in the west gable. These were possibly cut when the building was converted to a house, as evidenced by some surviving internal plastering, fireplaces and floor joists. There is an original doorway in the lower part of the north wall giving access to the boiler house. The roof was stone slated, but all but the eaves-wallheads have gone. One internal wooden roof truss and some cast iron pieces were still on site in 1967. The lean-to boiler house to the north measures 40 feet by 13 feet and has cut quoins with rubble walling. There are no gables or windows extant. The east wall has gone and the wall tops are crumbling, but the size is given by the foundations. The base of the north wall has burnt stonework inside and is slightly concave where the boiler was housed. The pit shaft is seen as a depression on the east side and there are remains of a banked pond to the north. To quote Price, "*The complex closely resembles a Cornish beam engine house of the type used to lift water out of mines.*"⁷³

R. W. Dickson, in his reports published in 1815 (on notes possibly made several years earlier), gives a general description of the "Tatham Mines", which were working with shafts up to 70 yards deep, and several other works.⁷⁴ One he calls the Tatham pit could well have been Clintfield, or he could be referring to the School Hill/Meggs Farm area workings found further to the west.⁷⁵ He stated that it had been out of use for some two years and was owned, as were several others in the locality, by John Marsden of Hornby Castle, who operated them through his agent or leased out the sites.⁷⁶

An unreferenced pamphlet of March 16th 1889, titled "*Decayed Industries of Wray, The Coal Trade*", appears to refer to some activities in the area some 50 years previously. It states that Clintfield was being worked by "*Mr Roughsedge of Bentham, and here some Wray colliers found employment.*"⁷⁷

Harris (1969) states that Clintfield was leased in 1845 to the Sergeantsons, owners of the Ingleton pits.⁷⁸ As it was in competition with them for supplying coal to the local mills, they promptly closed it down. Another possible reason for closure was that it had only a two foot seam of inferior coal, compared with the good quality 4 foot and 6 foot seams at Ingleton.

In contradiction to the latter, there is an article in the Lancaster Gazette, dated March 31st 1855, which reports the re-opening of the Clintfield Colliery. Perhaps the Sergeantsons' lease expired and the owners, possibly Pudsey-Dawson of Hornby Castle Estate, re-let or re-opened it themselves.

Nevertheless, Seward and Hindley were working the mine when it was advertised for letting in the Lancaster Guardian, July 12th 1856, as follows:-

TO BE LET

For a term of years, from the 1st. Sept next all that

COLLIERY, OR COAL MINE.

Situated at Clintsfild, in the Township of Tatham, in the County of Lancaster, in the occupation of Messrs Seward & Hindley as tenants thereof. The taker will have the option of purchasing at valuation the Steam Engine, Pump and other Apparatus now upon the Colliery. The Coal is of excellent quality and the works, which are in full operation are immediately contiguous to the North Western Railway.

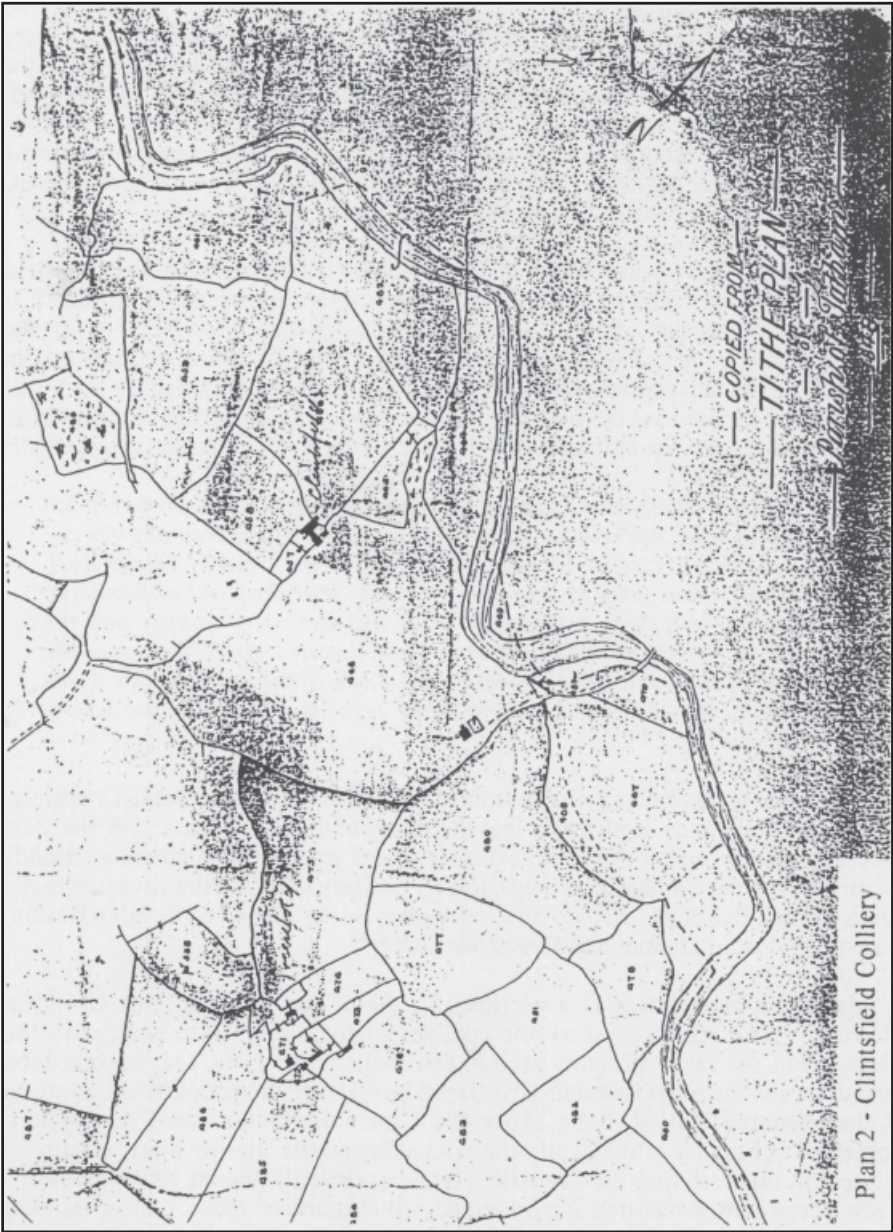
For further particulars, application may be made at the offices of Mr Dunn, Solicitor, Lancaster, or to the Assignees of Mr Seward on the premises.

It has not been possible to ascertain whether this site was let or if it worked on regardless, but it seems probable from the description in the above advertisement that this site is the one where the engine house is still extant. The next mention of the building is in the 1861 Census of Population which lists under Tatham the “*Engine House, at Clintsfild, occupied by John Travis aged 33 Agricultural Labourer, his wife Ann aged 29 and their three children, William aged 13, Robert aged 12 and Jane 5 months.*” We have to assume from this evidence that the site was no longer working coal and that the building had been converted to a dwelling for the Travis family, leaving the evidence of domestic use we see on the site today.

A map, taken from the Tithe Plan of 1848, but made before the railway works began, is in the reference section of the local history collection at Lancaster Library. It shows the site in field number 466, with a pithead building, but not the “Burrows” engine house, a depression and a pond to the north, and a road leading down to the river which is crossed by a bridge at SD631700 (see Plan Two).⁷⁹



Clintsfild Buildings, Tatham, 1993 (P.J. Hudson).



The first edition Old Series 1 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1842 marks the place name Clintsfield, but records the colliery site as “Blands Colliery”, a place name not often mentioned in the local documentary record.⁸⁰ In contrast, the first edition

Ordnance Survey 6 inch, surveyed c1841, with later revisions, shows extensive “Old Coal Pits” and names the general area “Clintfield Colliery (disused)”. It marks eight of these with circular and square symbols, with the “Burrows buildings” marked and shown with a semi-circular pond to the north.

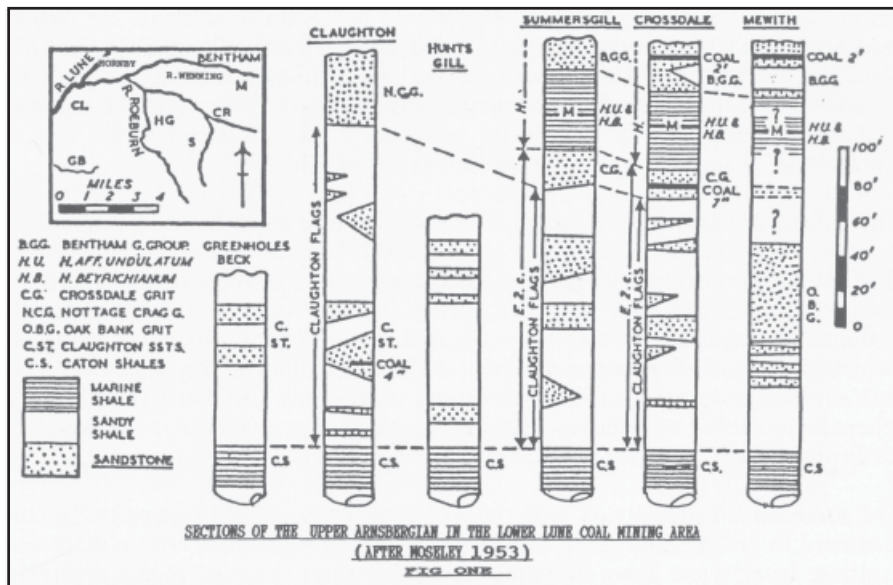
The Hornby Castle records shed little further light on this site, even though, as the Lord of the Manor, Marsden held the coal rights and possibly set out the leases, or gave part or all of the moiety to the local church living.

The Clintfield coal worked here is in the Sabdenian which contains the Clintfield Grit. This is a rock deposit some 45 feet thick, containing several coal seams. It is the lowest member of the Bentham Grit Group and forms the top of the Sabdenian, outcropping between the rivers Roeburn and Hindburn where it is seen as a fairly coarse felspathic sandstone. To the north, it becomes flaggy at the lower end and ganisteroid near the top, with the two foot coals appearing in the middle. This seam is termed the Clintfield by Moseley.⁸¹ John Phillips also comments:⁸²

“After much examination, I am of the opinion that there is probably but one seam of Coal worked in all the Country South of the Wenning-for the Clintfield Coal rests on the same Grit rock as the Coal of Smear Hall, Farleton &c.; and there is no room for doubt that the Coal of Bentham, and Grestone-gill,(sic) is the same. The differences of quality and the thickness between them are not unusual in Millstone Grit Coal. Indeed the smallness of the variations to which this Coal is subject appears to me remarkable. Its thickness I believe never exceeds 20 inches, and hardly ever fall short of 15.”

Coal has been worked along a line south of High Bentham and across to Crossdale. This line also extends northwards into the valley of the River Greta. For the most part it is of very inferior quality, except perhaps where it was mined at Blands Farm, Clintfield, Tatham, and High Bottom Colliery sites and the sites just to the south of High Bentham (SD665685), at Moulter Beck (SD 664 685), High Botton, Coal-pits Close, Lanefoot and Greystone Gill.^{83,84}

In Moseley’s paper there is a section [fig. 8] of the Bentham Grit Group at Mewith.⁸⁵ The core logs show the coal-associated strata quite well, with the Clintfield Coal set in a narrow band of grits below the coarse, red, false-bedded sandstone and the other Bentham Grit Group elements of the Kinderscoutian strata of the Wenning Valley, lying above the Crossdale Shales (see Figure One). Perhaps it is because of the depth, the thickness and the slightly better quality of the coal in this area that the Clintfield site was the only one on which any well-made permanent structures were erected which survive today. Deep mining needed this type of investment and the location is now isolated from the present road system by the construction of the railway line and the resultant changes in the course of the river Wenning at this point. This could be a factor which has helped to preserve the site.



The above information suggests who was leasing and operating the Clintfield site over its working life. In 1772 it was the partnership of John Martin, John Atkinson, Edward Martin and William Storrs. In the 1830s it was leased by Arthur Cort of Lowgill, who also had High Botton Pits and possibly some others. Around 1840 Mr Roughsedge of Benthams worked it. He was the owner of the Benthams Flax Mills. It was leased in 1845 to the Sergeantsons of Ingleton Pits. Messrs Seward and Hindley were tenants before 1856.

SMEAR HALL.

This colliery, which is often called 'Smearshaw' or 'Smearhaw' in the archives, is mostly in Roeburndale township. It is centred on Smear Hall (SD622670) and runs to the north near Birks to the west bank of the River Hindburn, and to the south of Smear Hall by Scale, Hunts Gill, Lanedyke and Stauvins and then due west into Bowskill's Wood and the river Roeburn's eastern bank. Most mining appears to have been done to the south of Smear Hall. It included Outhwaite and Wray Wood Moor, but these are discussed as a separate mining area.

Dickson commented on the area in 1815 as follows: "*thin beds of coal in the northern range, seem but little broken or disjointed, about Farleton, Smear-Hall and Tatham being formed in many different places.*⁸⁶ *The collieries are there wrought in perpendicular shafts and belong to Mr John Marsden Esq, but the Smear Hall pits are only worked at present, and the water is taken off having a level driven up to them and appropriate machinery.*⁸⁷ *The shafts at these pits are about 70 yards deep: the bed of coal is 18 inch and produces upon average daily, when in full work, about 300 loads, or 900 Winchester bushels. The other Colliery are not now wrought. Farleton*

has been discontinued for the last 10 years, and will require a fire engine (powered by steam) to carry off the bottom water, when in work, produced about 500 Winchester bushels daily.⁸⁸ Tatham has not been worked during the last two years, the bed being run out, and not yet recovered: but it then produced about 900 bushels a day. The shafts at both these last mentioned places are about 50 yards deep, the thickness of the bed at Farleton is 18 inches and at Tatham about 2 foot 8 inches”.

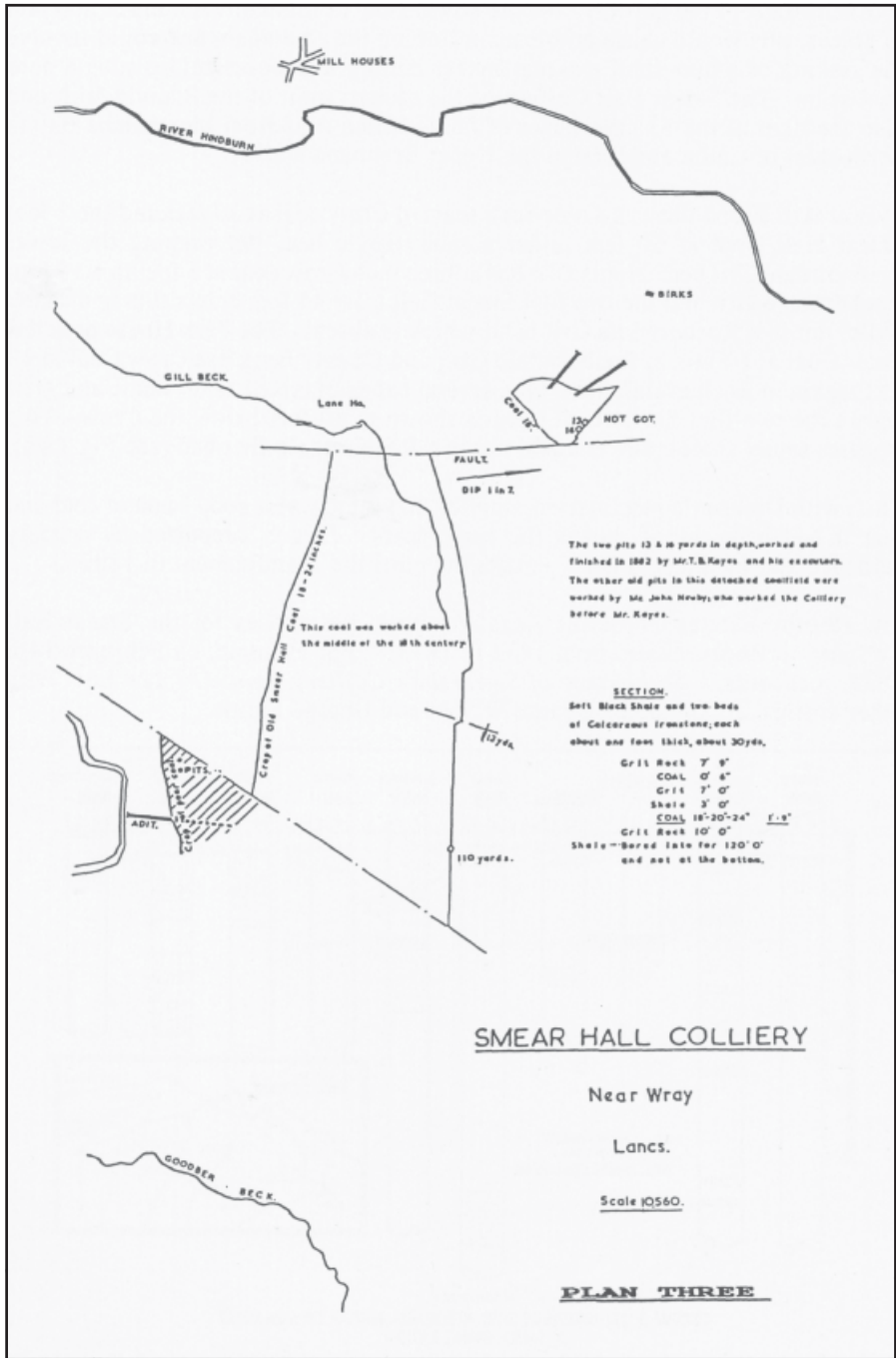
The Smear Hall Mine area is worth discussing in some more detail. It might have been worked in the mid to late 18th century and is known to have been worked for the first 50 years of the 19th century. There was then a possible break in activity, before the workings were reopened. They finally closed in 1882.⁸⁹ The site contained a series of mineworkings situated on the Tatham-Roeburndale parish boundary, between Goodber Beck and the River Hindburn. The main sites were just south of Smear Hall (SD624658) and near Hunts Gill Beck (SD613651), where three shafts are recorded. The only accurate map on record is the abandonment plan dated 1882 (see Plan Three).

The mine had mixed fortunes, with times of good working and times when the coal was hard to get, a feature not uncommon in the Lonsdale area where there was faulting, lensing and down-throwing, excessive water and road access problems.

To understand this, one needs to examine in more detail the geology of the Smear Hall Coal Seam and the Smear Hall Fault. Prof Phillips’ report of 1837 mentions a thin coal seam found in several hundred feet of the “*Hard Gritstones*” ... “*as may be seen at Outhwaite in Roeburndale and at Crag Moor in Hindburndale, rests a series of variable gritstone rocks enclosing two Seams of Coal, the lower one worked at Smear Hall, Tatham &c. Above these Coal-seams and their containing rocks comes a considerable thickness of argillaceous Strata with bands of Ironstone which may well be seen about Smear Hall, and in Littledale, and some thin hard gritstone rocks. Above all these, which may be considered as belonging to the Middle Millstone Grit series, lies a great thickness of coarse Red Grits, Plates, and thin Coal Beds, (as may be seen in the Greta); and these support the Coal formation at Ingleton and Burton (No.7): this being covered by the Red Sandstone and Conglomerate of Thornton and West Houses (No.8).*”⁹⁰

The use of Moseley’s recent geological survey work gives further explanation, the following information being extracted and collated by the writer.⁹¹ The downthrow in this case is to the south, reaching a maximum of 700 feet in Crossdale. The depression of a wedge-shaped area between the Smear Hall Fault and the branch of the Stauvin Fault (SD610660) in Roeburndale has, however, resulted in some scissor movement with the pivot north-west of Smear Hall (SD620661). Thus in Roeburndale the downthrow is locally north. The fault can be followed for some seven miles from Farleton, where it forms the northern boundary of the old coal workings, to upper Crossdale. It varies from a single fracture between SD605665 in Roeburndale to SD671651 in Crossdale, to a faulted flexure in which the folding is more important than the actual fracture at Hunts Gill, to Colegate Scar (SD644659) where it disrupts the coal seams. So the Stauvin fault forms the southern limit of the colliery. As the

SOME NOTES ON THE HORNBY CASTLE ESTATE COAL MINING SITES



The two pits 13 & 14 yards in depth, worked and finished in 1862 by Mr. T. B. Kayes, and his excavators. The other old pits in this detached coalfield were worked by Mr. John Newby, who worked the Colliery before Mr. Kayes.

SECTION.
Soft Black Shale and two beds of Calcareous Ironstone, each about one foot thick, about 30 yds.

- Gril Beck 7' 9"
- COAL 0' 4"
- Gril 7' 0"
- Shale 3' 0"
- COAL 18"-20"-24" 1' 6"
- Gril Beck 10' 0"
- Shale - Bored into for 120' 0' and not at the bottom.

SMEAR HALL COLLIERY

Near Wray

Lancs.

Scale 10560.

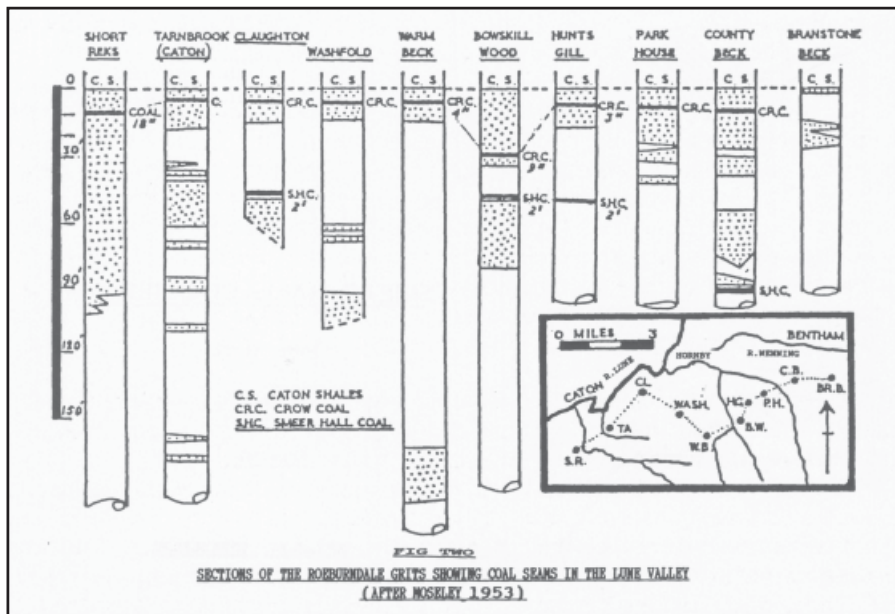
PLAN THREE

downtthrow of this fault can reach 200 feet in places, this would cause problems in finding the coal again and could involve the sinking of a new shaft making further mining uneconomical on such a poor coal-seam. The Smear Hall Colliery is the eastern limit of the Stauvin fault and also the limit of the 13 mile series of faults which runs from Morecambe Bay to north-west of Caton and then to the Upper Brennand Valley.

In Bowskill Wood there is a nine inch seam of Crow coal at 30 feet and the 2 foot Smear Hall Coal at 50 feet under a sandy shale bed, but topping the lower Roeburndale Grit bed. Hunts Gill has a three inch Crow coal at 6 feet in a 15 foot Roeburndale Grit and the two foot Smear Hall Coal 45 feet below this in a sandy shale, not in a Roeburndale Grit band which is absent. The Park House area has Crow Coal at 10 feet in Roeburndale Grit, and County Beck has Crow Coal at 10 feet, again in Roeburndale Grit, plus several bands of mixed sandy shale and grits before the two foot Smear Hall Coal is shown at 80 feet below the Crow. This overlies sandy shales, and is again not in a Roeburndale Grit bed (see Fig Two).

This, with Dickson's information, implies that there was a good seam of coal and that it had been mined during the early years. This is supported by primary evidence and by Smith's Diary entries etc until the abandonment in 1882.

The Hornby Estates Collieries Accounts Book has entries for the Smear Hall Colliery, in Roeburndale, from 1834 to 1838.⁹² For example, on February 14th 1835, it records, "To balance of Smearshaw Colliery Book £54.12s.5d." with other entries, all signed by George Wright and George Smith.



SOME NOTES ON THE HORNBY CASTLE ESTATE COAL MINING SITES

The Smear Hall colliery site had a large number of bell type and some opencast workings along Hunts Gill Beck and there is still evidence of a shaft at SD624657. There are no extant buildings, only traces of foundations, with spoil heaps and associated roads. This site has to be considered as separate from the workings further to the west on Wray Wood Moor. The largest of the shaft workings is presumed to be at SD62356575, with the site of the cinder ovens close by.⁹³ According to a valuation of damage on Thomas Parker's estate at Stauvin, dated February 7th 1843, there were three pits in operation, named Deep Pit, Rise Pit and Low Pit with connecting roadways.⁹⁴ Rise and Deep Pit are in Over Hill Field, Low Pit and the newly made road are in Great Paddock, and the total amount of damage is given at 2 roods 32 perches and 16 yards at £35 per customary acre. The total damage is, therefore, calculated as £24 11s 0d.

The place named sites where there is evidence of coal workings are Smearshaw Deep Pit, Bowskill's Wood, Scale, Troughton Pasture, Lane Dyke, Harrison's, Bellhurst and Cragg Moor and Stauvins.⁹⁵⁻¹⁰¹ We are perhaps fortunate that George Smith takes a lot of interest in these coal-mines, and his diary is full of information as to what went on during to first part of the 19th century. It would be impossible to use all the information Smith gives, so below is a selection which best illustrates these activities. The first entry is on January 21st 1819 when Smith wrote, "*settled with Thomas Bowskill for his share of Smearhaw Colliery for 1817 and 1818.*"

In September there were problems with roof falls "*in both shafts*". The rest of 1819 concerns cutting oak wood for colliery works, props, linings and backing, and Smith's keeping and settling accounts. In 1820 there were some problems about abuse of "*turns for coals*", and there was a problem of a deficiency of coal laid on the heap owing either to bad management or to dishonesty.

In 1821 there were problems with "*the wheels*". One was moved and repairs were made to another. In 1822 the rise shaft "*failed its coal*" and the men were moved to work another shaft in February. There was also a reduction in wages for the men who sent John Eccles to see Mr Wright about the matter. Other activities involved Thomas Charnley, Joseph Gill and John Hodgson who "*bored thro the Coal in Troughton pasture, thickness of the coal estimated at 19 inches, depth to it is 50 yards.*" Then came a tragedy. Thomas Bowskill, the master collier, was taken ill, and Smith had to assist with accounts and paying the banksmen etc., and on 21st September Bowskill, the master collier, died at 71 years of age.

This event appeared to change the management on the sites as two men, Anthony Bateson and Richard Brown, were officially appointed banksmen and from this time made regular visits to Smith at the castle with their accounts. Brown and Hall carried on in these posts until early 1828 when the year end accounts for the pits showed a deficiency of 996 loads. It is assumed that they were dismissed, but Smith makes no further comment, only that on January 28th William Saul was recorded as banksman at Smearhaw. Saul carried on in this post until November 12th 1836, when Smith recorded "*I engaged George Wildman as Banksman at Smearhaw Colliery, he and his father William Wildman signed an engagement today.*" As Smith made no further

mention of any changes, we have to assume Wildman stayed in this post until the diary's reports on the coal-mines end in 1839.

There are no detailed accounts of production figures for coal from these pits, but regular entries in the diary refer to cart-loads of coals being carted from the pits to various customers. For example, coals were regularly carted to Heysham, Bentham Mill, Wray, Hornby and Kellet. Most of the coals from the site were collected by the buyers and paid for on site or by credit arrangements with Smith, who on occasions withdrew this and stopped credit at the pits.^{102,103}

Another constant problem on the Smearhaw site was discontent amongst the miners who asked for better pay, but did not always get it. Smith recorded several instances of this as follows:

“March 14th 1825, Smearhaw colliers called about an increase of price in getting coal.” and again *“December 5th 1825, Smearhaw level drivers called to ask Mr Wright to make up their wages to 2/6d per day for their last length of level driving, he promised them something at Christmas.”* On January 17th 1826 he recorded *“Smearshaw Level Drivers called and refused to drive the level at 30/- per yard except E. Wilcock who agreed.”* The next day, he wrote *“E. Wilcock and S. Newby commenced working the Smearshaw Level.”* Another dispute was recorded on February 7th 1829: *“Robert Wilcock, Thomas Berry and Charles Ronson were dismissed from driving Smearshaw Level by me after consulting Mr Wright; they had had 11 shillings a week and they wanted 14 shillings a week each and they were 6 yards short of completing their agreement.”*

Roadways were also made up to the coal pits and works. These were almost always let out to tender. There are no surviving official accounts or maps for this work, but Smith mentioned some details. For example *“Jan 22nd 1828, Mr Wright and I settled some accounts including Wennington Mill. We let some road to make at Smearhaw to Thomas Towers of Above Beck for 30/-”* *“June 7th 1829, I paid John Berry £1 10s 0d for making a road at Smearshaw Colliery.”* *“Jan 22nd 1831, John Hodgson and Arthur Howson called when I paid the latter for making a road at Smearhaw Colliery.”* *“May 19th 1832, I went to Tatham Colliery and set out a road there which I let to make to William Hall in Talbots large field.”* (see Map Two).

There is an abandonment plan for Smear Hall Mine, dated 1882, NMRS reference J/M 233, scale to 1/10,560 (see Plan Three). This has a section and plan of ancient workings and the last seams worked. viz: *“The two pits 13 & 16 yards in depth, worked and finished in 1882 by Mr T.B. Kayes and his executors.”*

The other old pits in this detached coalfield were worked by Mr John Newby who worked the colliery before Mr Kayes. The section shows soft black shale and two beds of calcareous ironstone, each about one foot thick, about 30 yards deep.

SOME NOTES ON THE HORNBY CASTLE ESTATE COAL MINING SITES

	ft	in
Grit Rock	7	9
Coal	0	6
Grit	7	0
Shale	3	0

Coal 18" & 20" & 24", and 1ft 9ins and grit rock 10ft 0in. Shale bored into for 120 feet and not at bottom. Faulted dip is 1 in 7. and an adit adjoining river. The coal pits are shown and part as "*not got*", between Gill Beck-Lane House and Birks with two adits on Birks side.

OTHER SITES

Other sites of sporadic coal mining on the Hornby Castle Estate are at Balshaw on Tatham Fells and near Salter and Harterbeck in Roeburndale. The latter are at Lower Salter and High Close where there are signs of hand-pits and other coal workings. From the few scraps of surviving documents, it is possible to deduce that coal was worked under Wright's and Smith's management from 1830 to 1835.

In December 1830 one Thomas Procter agreed with Wright, for the sum of £20, to drive and cut to coal in Lower Salter Close opposite Harterbeck. On the 29th Smith wrote in his diary, "*I went to Lower Salter before close and met there Thomas Procter of Ingleton and Joseph Gill and John Hodgson to examine a coal there pointed out by Thomas Procter, it was only from thirteen to fourteen inches thick.*" In February 1831 Smith wrote "*Mr Procter called about no coal at Lower Salter Close when I paid him £5 for the time and costs he has been at about it and we are to try for it ourselves.*" Later on the 24th he recorded "*I went to Lower Salter Close when William Johnson and Thomas Berry were trying a coal there, John Hodgson was with me.*" The site is not mentioned again until December 1833, when he wrote "*John Eccles called about Salter Colliery.*" Similarly on March 14th 1835, he recorded "*Thomas Gill called about Over Salter Colliery.*"

There is also sparse information about the Balshaw site as it was always leased out. The first mention of it is in 1819 when Smith recorded "*28th January James Berry Sr and Jnr called and took Balshaw Colliery for 7 years at £30 per year.*" Another entry reads "*November 24th, John and James Berry of Nutgill called and paid half years rent for Balshaw Colliery, they said they would give it up.*" The only other mention is dated Wednesday February 3rd 1820, when Smith recorded, "*I received a notice in writing by Thomas Berry that Berry's quit Balshaw Cottage (Colliery).*" Balshaw Farm, Tatham, is at SD655669, and the Tithes Schedule for Balshaw refers to a "Coal Pit Meadow", which is next to Crossdale Beck, opposite Moorcock Farm. It is presumed that the Berry family could not make the pit pay, but they did not disappear from the scene as they took on colliery work and road making on other sites (see elsewhere). This Balshaw site is mentioned in odd fragments of documents in the Hornby Muniments, and there is a connection between the site and Arthur Cort who is known to have had several coal mining interests in the area. In one item Cort was at Balshaw Colliery in Tatham Fells from which he sold some iron cylinders in c1823. Arthur Cort of Lowgill keeps appearing in the coal mining records for the area (see

elsewhere). He was connected with Clintfield, and was in partnership with other colliers. He worked a mine near Tatham School in 1827 and there is a reference in Bundle 70 of the Hornby Muniments, in an account dated 1827, viz: “Paid by Arthur Cort of Lowgill to John Wildman and by him to George Wright, to stopping and damming water let into the works of Tatham School Colliery by you men, self and lad 7days to £1 3s 4d, John Newby and lad, 3 days 10 shillings, Total £1 13s 4d.”

For other references to mining activity in the area, we have to turn to other primary sources. The Tatham Parish Registers for 1750-1800 give coal mining as the occupation of 16 out of 122 bridegrooms registered in the period. This number is only exceeded by those employed in agriculture.¹⁰⁴ The last mention of coal mining in the Hornby Estate Lands is found in an article in the Lancaster Guardian dated May 24th 1946, when a deposit of coal was opencast.

CONCLUSION.

The evidence to be seen on the ground today on most of the sites discussed above is very scant. With the exception of the substantial ruins of Clintfield engine house, most of the other remains consist of spoil heaps, filled bell pits, narrow metalled roadways and odd traces of building foundations near the shaft heads etc. None of the sites inspected had any signs of artifacts or rusting metalwork which could be associated with coal mining. There is much more evidence to be found on these sites which need more intensive study and recording, a situation which the writer hopes to rectify in the near future.

This paper has, for brevity, had to leave out much of what there is in Smith's Diary and other sources, having just selected items to help assist the interpretation of a site or to make a point. The research work is still going on. Many more coal mining related documents are known to exist, and every effort will be made by the writer to gain access to them in the hope of being able to elucidate further on these and other Lune Valley mining activities.

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- 5 Ashmore, O. *The Industrial Archaeology of*
- 6 Chippindall, W.H. A 16th.c. Survey & Years Accounts of the Estates of Hornby Castle. 1939. Chet Soc, NS., Vol 102.
- 7 Bentham Pits and other nearby mining areas which were not under the direct management of Hornby Castle or controlled by the estate as Lords of the Manor, will be discussed in another paper to be published in 1995.
- 8 Baines, E. *History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County Palatine of Lancaster*. Vol 11. (London: Longman, Hurst & Co., 1824) p.664.
- 9 In Hornby Castle Muniments there is a lease for a coal mine at Clintfield dated 19th Aug 1782

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- between Francis Charteris, Lord of the Manor of Hornby and Tatham, and John Martin and others.
- 10 Chippindall, W.H. *History of the Township of Gressingham* (Kendal: Atkinson & Pollit, 1919) p.60. Note: George Wright is also listed at The Barrows, Heysham, in Baines, op.cit., 1825.
- 11 Wright is mentioned as a partner at Meggs Colliery in 1781.. Ex documents found in Hornby Castle Muniments, unlisted.
- 12 Chippindall, W.H. 1919. op.cit. page 60.
- 13 Baines, E. 1825 op.cit. page 661.
- 14 Smith's Diary op.cit. page 3.
- 15 Copy Mr George Smith's Diaries, Bound in Vols 1 to 4, pp.875, Copied in longhand by unknown hands on lined paper watermarked "Monckton 1878", page 444a watermarked "Partridge & Cooper 192 Fleet St, 36." unpublished. Referred to further as "Smith's Diary".
- 16 There is evidence in Smith's Diary that he too was engaged in various small scale business on his own account from time to time.
- 17 Smith's Diary. Sept 15th. 1823. page 152. "*I went to Smearhaw Colliery in the afternoon and paid Mr Marshall a years rent for Mr Wright.*" and "*December 13th Friday 1822. Francis Pearson called and left a deed respecting coal in Smearhaw Estate belonging William Wilson.*" and "*11th Feb 1823. Mr Francis Pearson called and Mr Wright paid him £50 the balance due to William Wilson and others for coal in front of Smearhaw Estate.*"
- 18 Smith's Diary. Dec 11th. 1830. page 340. "*R Kirby Schoolmaster of Tatham called and I paid him half years rent of Tatham School viz, William Halls £6.6.0 and George Banks £6.15.0. total £13.1.0.*"
- 19 Meggs Farm area where there are collieries is an example. The freehold of this land, Meggs, was probably granted out by the Lords before 18 Edward I and the *Statute Duca Imptores*. It must have been granted out prior to any custom having attached against the Lord etc., otherwise it would have been subject. Apart from direct ownership, some lands are: 1. Ancient freehold, 2. Feefarm, 3. Customary. One would expect in all cases that the right to the coal would, however, be held by the Lord of the Manor, unless specifically sold off or vested in church lands.
- 20 A Rental document, Elizabeth I, 1565.
- 21 Chippindall, W.H. A 16th C. Survey & Years Accounts of the Estates of Hornby Castle. 1939. Chet Soc, NS., Vol 102.
- 22 Lancashire Record Office. DDGa 23(2).
- 23 Estate Account Book, Hornby Castle Muniments. page 58.
- 24 *ibid.* 1661. page 133.
- 25 These are the old mines on Tatham Moor, later known as the Tatham Colliery, but do not include School and Meggs which were only opened up in the late 18th century.
- 26 Lancashire Record Office. DDX/404.
- 27 Ellin Collinson tried to prevent the scheme of the four partners George Wright, John Atkinson, Thomas Towers and William Bond, and served a writ, but the work appears to have gone on regardless.
- 28 Hornby Castle Muniments. Ex papers in trunk No.18.
- 29 George Smith was the agent of Marsden and Wright of Hornby Castle Estate.
- 30 Fisher's pit appears to have been unsuccessful as he sold up in 1822. Smith's Diary, page 107. March 29th 1822. "*Went to Henry Fishers sale at Thimble Hall in Tatham.*"
- 31 The Edmondsons of Outhwaite owned some of the Wray Wood Moor Coal seams adjoining the Hornby pits, and were often in dispute with Hornby Castle Estate over these sites. (See evidence under site name elsewhere).
- 32 Clare, J & Hudson, P.J. Notes on Coal and Coalmining in Western Lunesdale and Quernmore. *Contrebis* Vol.13, (1986/7), pp2-17.
- 33 Potts, Prof. W.T.W. The Origin of Gresgarth Estate and the Date of Gresgarth Hall. *Contrebis* Vol 11, (1983), pp.26-31.
- 34 Price, J.W.A. The Industrial Archaeology of the Lune Valley, *Centre for North-West Regional Studies*, Occasional Paper No.13, University of Lancaster, 1983.p35.
- 35 Baines, op.cit page 663.

36 Smith's Diary, page 349. May 30th. 1831. "*James Hind, Richard Smith and I took the population of Hornby Number 383, viz 193 males and 190 females being 94 less than the census of 1821.*" Showing a slight error in someone's arithmetic!

37 Smith's Diary, "*Feb 16th 1823. Richard Brown Banksman and John Wildman cinder burner from Smearhaw called with there accounts, making out colliery Bills all day. Feb 17th 1823. I went to Greystone Gill Colliery the men commenced sinking today, called at Bentham Mill and recieved bill for coals off Mr Overend. Feb 19th. I went to Tatham Pit to R. Drydales, Wm Maudsleys Wennington. Feb 20th. I went to Smearhaw Colliery to look at the damages and collected for coals in Wray.*"

38 Hudson, P.J. The Wray Moor Colliery Dispute, in *Contrebis* Vol 19, 1994.

39 QSB/1/270. 17 Quarter Sessions lists has a petition for settling the ownership of coalmines in Farleton and Claughton, dated 1646.

40 Dickson, R. W. *A General View of the Agriculture of Lancashire: with observations of the means of its improvement.* (Shepwood, Newby & Jones, 1815), p64-8.

41 Lancashire Record Office. DDHH 135/364 box 2; Map 'G'

42 Tatham Colliery East is to the north east of the road from Wennington to Oxenforth Green and includes the named sites of Clintsfield, Blands, Perry's and Robert Hall.

43 Lancashire Records Office. Map DDHH B 38. A map of Russell's Farm, Tatham. c1830 shows 12 'old coal pits', an extensive trackway, road system, old quarries and wells, all west of School Hill Farm.

44 Hornby Castle Muniments. Account Book p.58, 1642. "*Item 3. The colemine in Tatham Common in probability may be of much greater value if settlement of ye estate and industry applied.*"

45 Smith's Diary. Page 557 May 4th. 1841. "*David Gifford called about the measurement of damages by Tatham Colliery to her farm.*"

46 Dickson, R.W. op.cit., pp68-78.

47 Hornby Castle Muniments, Colliery note books 1834-38.

48 The writer has visited Blands Farm and seen tunnels connected with the old coal workings which have the sides stone walled and the roofs lined with large flat stone flags.

49 Thomas Bowskill was collier in charge of the Hornby Estate pits at Tatham and Smearshaw. He was also involved in other pits connected with Hornby Castle, or with Wright, e.g. Greystone Gill. Every Saturday, the ageing Bowskill collected the colliers' wages from Smith until John Hodgson, another master collier, gradually took over. Bowskill might have had a share in the workings which dated back to the 18th century leases. He also had an interest in Smearshaw Colliery, again as chief collier, as a diary entry of January 31st 1819 shows: "*Settled with Thos Bowskill for his share of Smearhaw Colliery for 1817, 1818.*"

50 Smith's diary November 18th 1820, "*the men began boring the present shaft in Dugdales Field on Monday last.*"

51 Smith recorded this shaft being sunk before May 1822, as the level was being driven then.

52 "*Jan 5th. 1827. John Wildman and James Armistead called having opened a Coalpit in Tatham Park.*"

53 Smith's Diary. "*Feb 11th 1828. William Hall told me that the Colliers had left Collinsons Pit being ordered away by Miss Collinson.*"

54 An unreferenced newspaper cutting of c1890, in possession of Mr D. Hartnup of Wray, states "*last winter Thomas Johnson of Knott Hill, Tatham opened or sunk what is called a hand pit and reached coal at a depth of 21 feet, after winning about 60 loads of coal he met with difficulty which could only be overcome with considerable expense. On account of accumulating water it became necessary to make a new level for its escape. As it was a matter of too great expense for one man, the pit had to be closed.*" and later in his Diary we find: "*April 27th 1830. I went to Tatham Coal Pit where the men relining a new pit (beside Parkside Houses) and with additional oak timber the other timber having given way.*"

55 Smith's Diary. Nov 8th 1829. "*To Tatham Colliery where Thomas Charnley and Robert Turner was opening a pit in William Talbots large field.*"

56 Smith's Diary. "*Dec 11th 1830. R Kirby Schoolmaster of Tatham called and I paid him half*

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years rent of Tatham School viz, William Halls £6.6.0 and George Banks £6.15.0. total £13.1.0.” (This is possibly rent for the collieries). Also “Nov 29th 1837. I went to Wennington Mill, I returned by Tatham School where Mr Hall is trying for coal.” and, “Dec 23rd.1837. In the forenoon I went to W. Halls coal pit at Tatham School about coals for cinder burning.”

57 Smith’s Diary, page 127. October 20th 1822. James Armitstead was employed as Banksman at Greystone Gill Colliery until George Wright closed his operations down in March 1824 and leased it out.

58 Smith’s Diary. page 178.

59 Smith’s Diary. “Oct 16th.1829. Thomas Blezard and W Mason Jr went to Heysham with 3 carts of coals. I went to Tatham Bridge with J Thistlethwaite. G M Williamson and Thomas Charnley of Hornby to try to open the level at Tatham Colliery which was stopped but the day proved wet the water came out and stopped us.” Also “Oct 19th. Went again to the Tatham Coal Level where Thomas Charnley of Wray and Thomas Charnley of Hornby and G M Williamson were opening the sough.”

60 Smith’s Diary. Sept 20th 1833. “I went to Tatham Colliery to see about repairing the Cinder Ovens” and “Dec 30th 1836. I went to Tatham Cinder Ovens where John Wildman was managing them” and “Feb 1st 1837. I went to Cinder Ovens at Tatham School” and “Feb 3rd 1838. John Wildman lighted the cinder ovens at Tatham.”

61 Smith’s Diary. “Dec 4th 1836. I went to Tatham about getting cinders burning for Wennington Mill. I agreed with John Wildman to burn them there and Aaron Burrow to lead the coals from W Haws, (sic = W.Hall’s) Pit.”

62 Smith’s Diary. April 12th 1831. “I measured the masonry for the Engine House at Farleton Colliery done by John Houlding.”

63 Smith’s Diary. May 17th 1826. “I went to the engine house at Tatham where we broke up 42 cwt of old cast iron for some potters.”

64 Smith’s Diary. July 28th 1834. “I went to Smearhaw and with J Hodgson looked over and sketched the ground in regard to a new breadth to be got with a steam engine.”

65 There is another building, seen by the writer near Newfield House, Tatterthorn Lane, Ingleton.

This is now a dwelling house, but it could be a pit head survival. It has the same dimensions and is of similar appearance to the Clintfield engine house, with a large arched upper window in its south gable which seems out of all proportion to the room it serves. This building is also on the site of a disused coal pit. One other site in the Lune Valley, at Middle Highfield, Aughton, also has a type of building which might be interpreted as an engine house. This one has also been converted to a dwelling house.

66 Yates, W. Map of Lancashire, 1786.

67 Smith’s Diary, page 107. March 29th 1822. “Arthur Cort paid me £20.3.0. for rent due to the Rev. Procter (for Clintfield)”. This rent is almost the same figure as the lease agreement dated 1778, before Cort took over, and is a clue to the owner of the coalmining rights. They could be vested in the Tatham Chapel advoudsons.

68 Smith’s Diary, page 438. Aug 27th 1835. “Arthur Cort called and I paid him for Cinders for Wennington Mill.”

69 Smith’s Diary, page 450. April 19th 1836. “In the morning I went to Millhouses where James Newbys goods were to be sold to day thence to near Clintfield where I met Richard Fayrer (sic), the overseer, who promised pay the rent.”

70 Smith’s Diary, page 518. October 12th 1839. “I went to Clintfield and measured the New Engine House for stone and walling on the part of Arthur Burrows and for carting on the part of Robert Frayer and Thomas Alderson.”

71 Action of the estate of Mr Arthur Cort, a bankrupt, on Monday 30th December 1839 includes: Lot 7: moiety of an engine of 5 h.p., with the boiler, pump and apparatus at Clintch Field (Clintfield), in the occupation of Richard Farer. There is some slight problem with this date as Arthur Cort’s affairs were not wound up until 1846, when there is a reference to this in Smith’s Diary (page 713).

72 Price J.W.A. The Industrial Archaeology of the Lune Valley, Centre for North-West Regional Studies, Occasional Paper No.13, University of Lancaster, 1983. p38.

73 Price, J.W.A. op.cit., p39.

74 Dickson, R. W. A General View of Agriculture in the County of Lancashire, 1815, p64-8.

75 This sounds more like a Tatham site to the west of Clintfield, as most of the evidence found to date suggests that this coalmining site was worked continuously from 1772 to 1845.

76 All the "Tatham" sites are documented as working and producing coal from 1819 to 1841, with many references to them in George Smith's Diary.

77 This information was supplied by Mike Goth of Hornby.

78 Harris, A. op.cit., p319, Ex Sergeantson G.J., Memorandums respecting various Estates, 1844. Yorks Archaeological Society MSS (DD123).

79 Lancaster City Library. Maps Collection Pl.37/1.

80 Blands Colliery site in Tatham, is further to the south, at SD625697, so this is an error on the part of the Ordnance Survey.

81 Moseley, F. The Namurian of the Lancaster Fells, in *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, Vol.14 pt.4 (1953), p438.

82 Prof John Phillips. Report on the Probability of the Occurrence of Coal and other Minerals in the Vicinity of Lancaster. pub. W.Barwick of Lancaster. 1837. p12 para.4.

83 Lancaster Records Office. Map in DDHH Box 70, c1800 shows a colliery, possibly High Botton, and two pits, one either side of the Low Bentham - Slaidburn Road. This building is not marked on the 1931 6" OS map, nor is the pit to east of road. Coalpits Close Farm area (SD658682) has several bell pits and mounds in fields around it.

84 Some of these sites are outside the Hornby Castle Estate and will not be discussed further in this paper, but the writer is preparing a monograph which will include all the coal mining sites in the Lune Valley catchment area.

85 Moseley, F. op.cit., page 347.

86 Dickson, R.W. op.cit., p68.

87 Unfortunately, Dickson does not elaborate, so we do not know what kinds of machinery were in use. Smith's Diary tells us that there were water problems on the site. For example he recorded on June 19th 1830 "*John Hodgson and William Charnley called about making another bore hole in the pit they sinking at Troughton Pasture on*

account of a strong feeder of water, when we fixed for them to start on Monday." Also, "*Oct 3rd I went to Smearhaw Colliery where the level pit sunk 23 yards was coming in on account of the rain etc.*" and "*March 23rd 1833 T & D Gill called having looked into the old level at Smearhaw and let off the cankered water which coloured the river as far as Hornby and killed most of the fish in the Hindburn.*"

88 The pit was re-opened by William Procter and John Eccles in late 1829, and a steam engine installed in 1831, referred to as follows in Smith's Diary, page 354. "*August 27th 1831. Engine commenced at Farleton Colliery.*"

89 Abandonment plan of 1882, traced by Mike Gill, the Society's Recorder, in the old N.C.B. headquarters Building, Leigh.

90 Phillips, J. op.cit., p5.

91 Moseley, F. op.cit., p448.

92 Hornby Castle Muniments, Colliery Account Book, 1834-38.

93 Smith's Diary, "*Dec 5th. 1822. Mr Albright called in the afternoon, John Turner and the men dressing stones besides the old stable for Smearhaw Ovens.*"

94 Hornby Castle Muniments. Bundle 70.

95 Smith's Diary. "*March 31st.1824. I went to Smearhaw Pit and afterwards with Ecoch Knowles and John Hodgson set out the line of a level through Bowskill Wood and Troughton Pasture let yesterday.*"

96 Smith's Diary. "*Oct 18th 1831. I went to Smearhaw colliery and examined the range of the the old line of shaft from the Scale down to Cragg Moor.*"

97 Hornby Castle Muniments. Bundle 70, A proposal dated 1828 "*for driving a drift/level from a place now driven to under Troughton Pasture within Roeburndale for 60 yards length according to a line staked out on the surface. Driven so that water will follow there to a depth of 2 inches. Edward and Richard Wilcock agree to carry out this work at £2 2s 0d per lineal yard.*"

98 Smith's Diary, "*March 17th 1835. I went to Backsbottom Quarry and thence to Smearhaw Colliery and looked over damages at Lane Dyke.*"

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- 99 Smith's Diary. "*June 7th 1826. Began opening an old shaft in A Harrisons land at Smeaton (sic) Colliery and began sinking a level shaft in Troughton Pasture.*"
- 100 Hornby Castle Muniments, Bundle 70 has a document dated 1830, in which one Joseph Gill has Wright's consent to open a coal pit at Bell Hurst Estate, but agrees to pay for damages for opening and the road and to pay Wright 1d for every load. Also there is a note from Gill asking for a pit when Wright's men have finished working it, for the thin coal that is left.
- 101 Smith's Diary. "*Sept 14th 1833. Hodgson and Bowker in making Timbers for Smearhaw Colly for Thomas and Daniel Gill opening a pit adjoining Cragg Moor and for John Hodgson and others opening a pit in Stauwins Estate belonging to John Bateson.*"
- 102 Smith's Diary. "*Nov 11th 1822. Quarter day for coals, I met the coal creditors at the Castle Inn.*"
- 103 Smith's Diary. "*Nov 5th 1823. Lucas of Kellet called to ask credit for coals but I refused him. Richard Brown called, James Wildman of Eskrigg called and paid for coals.*"
- 104 Clark, D. M. *The Economic and Social Geography of Rural Lonsdale 1801-61* (University of Liverpool, MA Thesis, 1968) p18.

Paper submitted - June 23rd 1994: P.J.Hudson,
4 Cork Road,
Bowerham,
LANCASTER
Lancashire
LA1 4AJ