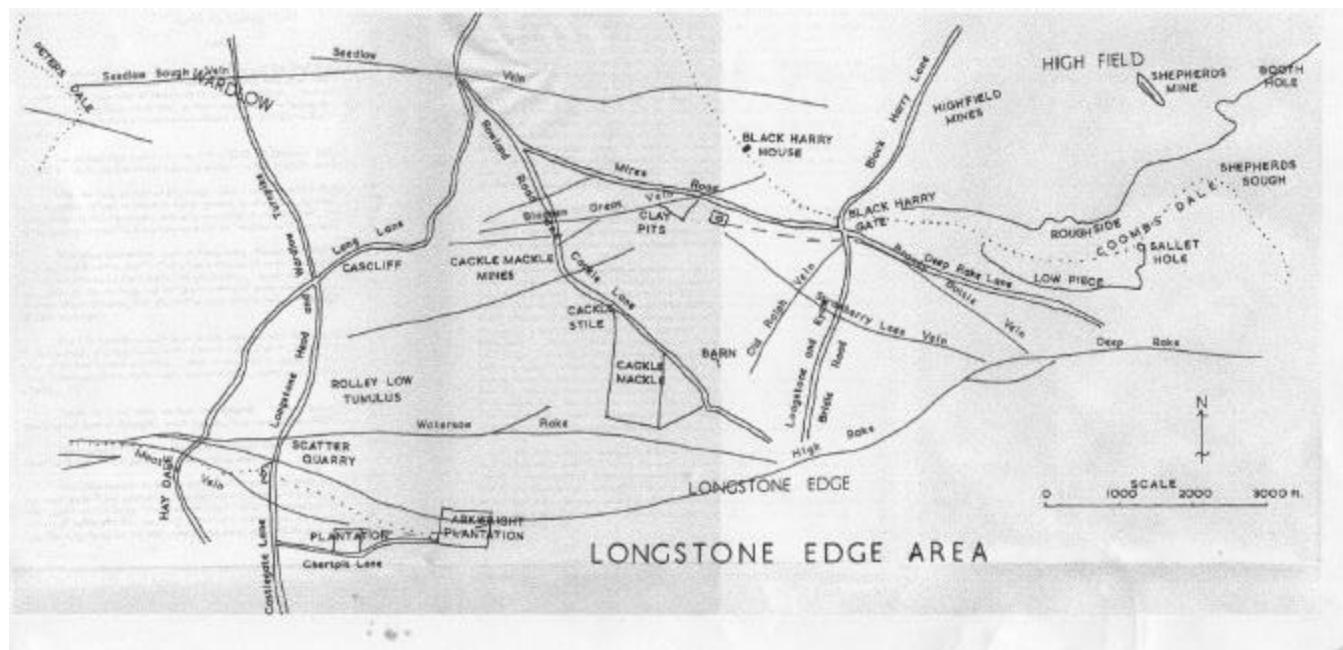


Longstone Edge Area Soughs and Mines: Part 1 by Nellie Kirkham.



Longstone Edge area, from the point of view of the lead mines, is about three miles west to east from Haydale to Hassop, and about two miles north to south from Thunderpit Lane (due east of Wardlow) to Great Longstone. This does not include Backdale and Brightside mines etc., as these more properly belong to Calver, while north of Thunderpit Lane should be considered under Middleton Dale and Stoney Middleton.

The surface rises eastward from 900ft OD at Moatlow Vein in Hay Dale to 1285ft OD on Longstone Edge, and down to 560ft OD at Hassop.

With the long history of the mines, which were worked in Roman times, and some hundreds of feet in depth to lower ground, and so large an area of much worked veins, there is no long sough, and only a number of smaller ones, unlike many areas of the county so possibly they had no draining troubles until they sank to toadstone.

With some exceptions, such as Deep Rake, the general impression obtained from walking over the area is that a large number of veins were followed, many worked with closely pitted shafts, which is often, though not always, indicative of age, many of the workings not being indicative of great depth, although in numbers of cases larger hillocks, and gin shafts, sunk off the vein, are probably indicative of later workings.

There is a north to south fault parallel with the Monsal Head to Wardlow road, and two faults to the eastward side of it, Longstone Edge is the crest of an east to west anticline. Most of the area is Upper D2 limestones, with Eyam limestones at the north-west, southern edge, south-east, and some small patches.¹

Toadstone is not seen, except underground. There is calcite at the west end, then a great deal of fluorspar, much barytes, and parts of the limestone are very cherty.

There appear to be only three known soughs from the west end, the problematical Moatlow Sough, Wardlow Sough, and another near by.

Hay Dale appears to be the only possible place for Moatlow Sough, but only one mention of it has appeared, in a Barmaster's entry in a Brooke-Taylor document, when meers were allocated "from the old sough tail on the Mootlow Vein", in the Liberty of Ashford. The west part of the vein is shown on a Mining Record Office map,² beginning on the west side of Haydale, about 50ft or so north of the boundary of Little Longstone and Great Longstone. Here there is an opening going in for a few feet, but it looks as if it has gone

downward, and there is no sign of any channel to take the water. From here a distinct vein crosses into Little Longstone, with many small shaft-mounds and close pitting of shafts, crossing the main road (Castlegate Lane), this part of the road being known as Scatter, just on the south of Scatter Quarry, a range which is shown on the mine-map. The vein is still distinct in the same line on the north of Chertpit Plantation, but it is not shown further east on the mine-map, (Undated but probably 1840's or 1850's) probably because east of this, on the north side of Chertpit Lane, the ground is disturbed without definite line of vein. However, it seems as though the range of the vein was first easterly, then curved more north-east, when it must join Deep Rake (or High Rake), for an entry of 1840 gives 54 meers (29 yards in a meer) for Moatlow Vein ranging north-east to the end of Arkwright's Plantation, which is the six acre enclosure of rough ground, crossed by much worked veins, the west wall of this enclosure being 2,300ft east of the junction of Chertpit Lane with the main road. High Rake passes through the plantation, and on one of the mine-maps, somewhere about here was the west end of 'Moatlow's length' on High Rake.

Just to the north of the end of Moatlow Vein in Haydale there has been quite extensive mining with large hillocks, and a flue to the site of a chimney, so it seems probable that this was the site of Mootlow mining in the 1840's, the sough was 'old' then, so a run-in sough-tail might be under the hillocks.

Westwards from Haydale it appears to be a continuation of Moatlow Vein which ranges up the hillside in close pitting, going over into Cressbrook Dale. On the line of the vein, approximately on the 950ft contour, there is a shaft and a level. The dale is so thick with vegetation that it is difficult to be sure of the exact position of anything, but somewhere here below on the floor of the dale is the Lumb, a semi-circle of dark rock, the pool below it always being dry when I have seen it. About 100ft to the south, on the east side, is a small cave on a rock ledge, with a short way downwards through blocks of stone to a bedding roof, and to a squeeze which just refuses to admit the human form. Just outside the cave, a yard or two to the south, water can be heard under the rock, even when upstream from the cave the floor of the valley is dry, and down the valley in about 30ft a little water rises, but less water than could be seen through the squeeze in the cave. I believe potholers have tried to break a way through the cave, but I have not heard of anyone trying to dig downwards outside the cave where the water can be heard.

Mr. Harry Eaton, a Magpie Mine miner, said that when he was a boy he used to play in a level high up on the west side of Cressbrook Dale, and the word 'level' is marked on the Ordnance Survey map at about 875ft OD. He stated that in the level a shaft was said to have gone down in a series of shafts until it was below the valley-contour, and that a bottom level went from west to east under the valley and under the brook, so that miners used to go down on the west side and come up on the east.

Dr. Shirley takes a fault across Cressbrook Dale about 1,500ft south of Ravensdale Cottages, about at the Lumb, and states that the fault cuts off the tuff, which he considers is probably about 50 to 70ft in thickness. He calls this the Ravensdale Fault, which had a downthrow south of 200ft.³

Wardlow Sough is in Peter's Dale, the northern part of Cressbrook Dale. The Geological Memoirs state that Seedlow Rake runs nearly east to west through Wardlow, and that west of the village the vein takes the name of Sough Vein, 'presumably through existence of a sough into Cressbrook Dale.' Brooke-Taylor documents name the sough Wardlow Sough and make it quite clear that this part of the vein was Wardlow Sough Vein.

On the west side of Wardlow, Peter's Dale runs south and then curves east-of-south, some way past Peter's Stone, a fine, isolated limestone rock. Sometimes it is a dry dale, with no stream at all, at other times, after much rain, there is quite a large stream on the floor of the dale, running over bright green grass, and swampy ground, which has the usual advantage of showing the oozing of water from places normally dry; ideal conditions in which to look for lost sough entrances, or mine-drains.

About a quarter of a mile south of Peter's Stone a number of veins cross the dale. On the east side there is a mine entrance, not a sough as it is too high up but just to the south of this there is a mound by the pathway, with water flowing from under it in two places, their combined flow appearing almost to equal the main valley flow coming down the dale by the wall. They flowed southwards for several hundred feet to form a largish pool, and there was a washing floor below this. There was only the water, no sign of any sough-tail, but here is the end of Wardlow Sough Vein.

Continuing southwards, again on the east side, in about 500ft there are definite signs of a run-in sough tail, with a ruined walled channel to the stream, where a vein crosses from south-of-east to north-of-west. Also there is a run-in entrance, of either a drawing level or a sough, on the west side.

Nothing has come to light regarding the sough vein from Peter's Dale to Wardlow, but Barmaster's entries in the Brooke-Taylor documents make it clear to the east of Wardlow. The vein ranged due east from 'Wardlow Town Gate', first through a long, much mined, enclosure, starting on the north side of Wardlow church, which apparently was called the Park, through six following fields to the west wall of the large enclosure of 6½ acres (field number 56) called Rakey Close on the tithe map of 1847⁴ and Old Seedlow Belland Yard seems to work out to here, and the founder shaft was in this. The Wardlow Sough title in their vein is entered separately from title in Seedlow Vein, and here the two veins run parallel on the north side of the footpath, Seedlow Vein being the northern one. Belland Yard is a term which only rarely appears in Derbyshire lead mine documents, and must mean the dressing ground where the ore was finally very finely dressed.

The surface west of Long Lane is now an official rubbish tip, but to the east of the road disturbed hillocks and shafts remain. There are square water holes for washing the ore, and much buddle sludge in the hillocks, and sometimes the entries give "old" Belland Yard, so perhaps there were two. There are several open shafts, and the cheeks of the vein are exposed, about 10ft wide. There is yellow darkly burnt toadstone, light coloured fossilized limestone, caulk barytes, and calcite, and a little amethyst-coloured fluorspar, and there is a gritstone crusher lying on the grass. All enclosures here, on both sides of the vein, are Seedlow for about 2,000ft eastward, then some are Seedlow and intermingle with Blagden enclosures, then Blagden up to the Stony Middleton boundary, which the rake crosses. At about 1,400ft from Long Lane there is another dressing ground and crusher.

White rake is a problem; the Ordnance Survey maps make it part of the vein which crosses Long Lane, overlapping the words Seedlow Mine, all of which is Seedlow title in the Barmaster's entries. But in the documents there are separate mentions of Seedlow Rake, White Rake, and Wardlow Sough Vein.

In the Barmaster's entries there is no mention of Wardlow Sough in the 18th century, 1806 being the earliest, and they all refer to the mining of lead ore in the title, not to driving the sough. There were several claims for debt against Wardlow Sough, in the Liberty of Wardlow, 1806-17, as well as at Seedlow Mine. In the 1830's lead ore was measured at "a mine known by the name of Wardlow Sough", Sam and John Turner of Foolow had shares in it. In the 1840's small amounts of ore were steadily measured there, and Seedlow Mine was working steadily through much of the late 18th, and 19th centuries, the earliest entry being 1742 when Robert Baxter, a miner of Great Longstone, mortgaged his 1/3rd share of Seedlow Rake on Middleton Moor. In 1751 there is mention of Seedlow Old Rake. In 1752, the barkers, among their wide mining interests, had shares in Seedlow Rake, and in 1759 the Barmote ordered Thomas Buxton to pay George Heyward, the Barmaster, for the use of the Lord of the Field (the Duke of Devonshire) "10 dishes of Oar at the rate of 21-0d for 9 dishes at his mine at Seedlow Rake, for concealing the oar contrary to custom, and to forfeit all his shares in the mines within the jurisdiction of this Court."

In 1760 there was an action for debt in the Barmote Court by Robert Ashton, plaintiff, for £2-3-8d and the Barmaster was to "arrest all the Tools, Materials, Possessions and Mears of Ground". In Derbyshire lead mine documents one comes across a number of examples of tools etc. on a mine being arrested in an action for debt. Mr. Lebeter, Keeper at the Science Museum, once expressed surprise to me that this was done in Derbyshire lead mining. He said that this was in direct contrast with the rights of the German miner in medieval times, that then the need for miners was so great that they were given special rights, freedom from military service, reduction in taxes, etc., and their tools were free from confiscation whatever the circumstance.

In these Seedlow mines one gets the impression that they were being worked on a small scale, over quite a period of time, by working miners with little capital, but they were steadily producing ore. Seedlow Engine is mentioned in 1765, so it was deep enough to require a horse-gin. Thomas Wager was the agent for Seedlow and had a share in it in the 1760's. In the 1780's Seedlow is mentioned more than most of the mines in Ashford Liberty, and again in the 1830's ore was steadily being measured, though small amounts, in some entries more than elsewhere in the Liberty, and in August 1834 there was an agreement that Benjamin Somerset, at his own expense, should set up a grinder and a drawing engine (gin) on Seedlow Mine, and Jacob Hallam and George Elliott, miners of Bradwell, gave him 2/24th of the mine. He claimed the same

share from the other shareholders, and if any shareholder refused he must pay 1/3rd costs. The grinder and the grinder floor were to be of cast iron – probably this means a stone crusher edged with iron – and Somersett was to provide three bouse-barrels for drawing. But it seems as though this was not done at this date, as the Barmaster entered an agreement in 1842, between the Relieving Officer of Stony Middleton, and Benjamin Somersett, Carpenter of Bradwell, and Peter Furniss, for £50, and 1/3rd share of Old Seedlow, and 1/3rd share in the grinder lately erected, and in tools, wells, and watercourses etc. The grinder was erected near to the east fence of Old Seedlow Belland Yard, near the founder shaft. By 1880 no mines were being worked in Wardlow.

Among the useful and interesting transcriptions from the Wager documents of Great Longstone which are being issued by Mr. Robert Thornhill there is one from the reckoning book of Seedlow Mine.⁵ In 1765 it cost £1-10-0d to level the 'Engin Race' of the gin previously mentioned, and the gin was set up by December of the next year. In 1766 they paid Pic Tor End Mine £15 for a gin, and it cost them £1-4-0d to bring it from Hazlebadge. When the gin was working Robert Thornhill supplied the horses for 5 days for 10-0d. The wage-miners were paid 1-0d a shift, and in 1764 Thomas Wager was "paid for his Troble" 2-0d a week, and in 1766 his wages for a year were £4.

There are general references to Wardlow mines centuries ago.

In 1244 mines in Wardlow provided profit to the Crown, and in the Pleas of the Forest of the Peak for 1251 it was stated that Earl Ferrers had had £12 for mineral raised at Wardlow.⁶

Within a few yards of where Seedlow Rake crosses Long Lane, Rowland Road branches to the south-east, further on it is also called Cackle Lane. This continues to Longstone Edge, while Mires Road branches more easterly, with Seedlow and Blagden enclosures on its north side. At a gate across this roadway, about 1,500ft south-of-west of Black Harry Farm (Moor House 1846), a triangular shaped enclosure on the south side with much disturbed ground of wettish hollows and mounds is Blakeden Hollow Clay Pits (Blagden, Blakeden and Blackden occur interchangeably), and includes Blagden Great Vein Founder Shaft. A number of veins range to here, but no plan has appeared although many of them can be named from Barmaster's entries in the Brooke-Taylor documents. Mr. Robert Thornhill with his profound knowledge of all this area, and research into tithe maps etc, gave me a great deal of information as to field names and roads which helped in fixing the veins and mines.

Some of the enclosures were occupied by William Wager of Great Longstone, he also worked a number of the mines, and also was a farmer. He owned a hundred and twenty acres, and rented five hundred and ninety acres.⁷

Blagden Mine and Brandy Bottle Vein appear to have been more troubled with water than many in the area. In 1765 ore was being discovered in Blagden Vein, but there was "abundance of water" affected by every heavy shower, and "chance is very great against the endeavour."⁸

Locally it is said to have been a mine rich in ore and that in the decline in lead mining at the end of the last century it was worked by means of money left in trust to work the mine. Each time the money was used up the mine closed down until enough had accumulated again, and it is said that either a lot of money had been left or that a good amount of ore was raised, as pumping engines were put in more than once, but no details of these are given. It used to be possible to go down two iron ladders in a climbing shaft on Brandy Bottle Vein, towards Harry Gate end, and along their level into the Blagden Mine, the miners of the latter cut into this level and then found that they were lifting Brandy Bottle water as well as their own. Blagden Mine and Blakeden Mine are the same.⁹

There was much activity in the 1840's when Blagden Mine title included Blagden Vein, Brandy Bottle, and Strawberry Lees Vein. In 1845 when the Barmaster had been requested to nick Blagden Hollow Mine and Blagden Top Mine the Philemon Andrews (probably the agent), the latter failed to keep his appointment. The Barmaster therefore nicked the two mines on the cheeks of the coe doors, the doors being fastened (each of them) by two staples and a chain. The Barmaster should nick the spindle of the stowes of the Founder Shaft, which was often a climbing shaft under the protecting roof of a coe.

Brandy Bottle Vein is distinct in its south-eastern range, but from where it ranges west from the south side of Black Harry gate across Orr's Moor Piece (or Black Harry Piece) to Blagden Hollow Clay Pits, the only shaft

visible is the one, now filled in, in the isolated square enclosure just before the clay pits, where the hillocks have been mostly removed and mainly stones left, with barytes the veinstuff. What must have been a large dressing ground was set out in 1859 for Thomas Andrews, proprietor of Blagden Mine. He was then sinking a gin shaft on Brandy Bottle Vein. At the same time the barmaster laid out a way to the shaft, starting near the gate on the roadway, on the line of what was then an old road going southwards over the moor, all of which is still visible today. All this northern area behind Longstone Edge is still today an interesting area for field work on old mines. The range of most of the veins is traceable for long distances, the dressing grounds with small water-filled hollows for washing the ore, the larger hillocks round the gin shafts and in a few cases even the centre hole for the post of the gin, are visible, and the general surface lay-out is far less disturbed than in many areas.

Strawberry Lees Vein comes down from the east to Brandy Bottle gin shaft, crossed by Old Ralph Vein on the west side of the Longstone and Eyam bridle road. From the quite copious entries in the Barmaster's Books there does not seem to be any doubt about the range of these veins, also the east end of Strawberry Lees Vein is on mining maps. However the tithe map and the entries do not fit, as the enclosure called Strawberry Lee on the tithe map is impossible by the Barmaster's entries, also Barn Close of the tithe map not only has no barn in it, but it is separated from it by another enclosure.¹⁰ It is possible though, as so often, that when the vein was first worked Strawberry Lees covered a much wider area.

Unfortunately no documentary history has turned up regarding these veins, but there is more about Cackle Mackle (Kackle Mackle in 1727, 1729, 1768, 1773 Cakelmackel 1757). Mr. Wiles's very interesting article¹¹ deals with the Barmasters, the owners, production etc., but not with the position of the mines, but in personal conversation with him he said that he considered that the cackle Mackle Mines were on the west side of cackle lane, directly east from Castcliff Farm, as this fitted with Barmaster's entries which he had found in the Bagshawe Collection, Sheffield Library. (enclosures 220 and the northern part of 230). Certainly the two enclosures named Cackle Mackle (tithe map 1847) are devoid of mining except for two small mounds, and there appears to be confirmation of Mr. Wiles's view in a statement by White Watson, "Blakeden – west of which is Kackle Mackle".¹² Personally I think that the southern part of Mr. Wiles's mines are most acceptable for Cackle Mackle, but am more doubtful about the north mines as here the main vein is the westward range of Blagden Great Vein.

The southernmost of these presumed Cackle Mackle veins is long and powerful, ranging from Rolley Low tumulus, and crossing Cackle Lane at Cackle Stile and continuing north-east down as Brandy Bottle Vein and the other veins at the clay pits. No name has appeared for this vein, although in the Barmaster's entries meers are given in it vaguely as "a vein." The surface is very interesting, with washing pools, gin shafts, climbing shafts in ruined coes, with barytes as the predominating veinstuff.

Mr. Thornhill gave me an entry for Watersaw Rake in 1786 "Whole length in the Waterso Rake Vein 35 Mears, 20 belongin to Kackle Mackle, 8 belongin to Edge Sough, 8 Belongin myself" (W. Wager). A Mining Record Office map shows the approximate position of the junction of the east end of this rake with Deep Rake, so the Kackle Mackle title in it can be calculated with reasonable accuracy, and the west end of their meers comes to about 2,000ft due south of Cackle Stile. Here, about 300ft north of Watersaw Rake, the Ordnance Survey Map has an "old shaft". It is probable that this is merely a shaft on the vein which here branches from Watersaw Rake, also, as there is dead mining ground between here and the Cackle Mackle Mines, it is probable that no long cross-cut links the latter with their Watersaw title, and that they worked them as separate mines but consideration should be given to the frequency with which an older worked mine, when title was taken in a separate rake a little distance away, drove an underground connection not on a vein.

At first this mine was called The Whomes, and appears to have included an ancient title called Barks Grove, or Barks Founder (or Buxton and Robinson Founder). John Boden died possessed of it in 1727, and it descended to William Boden, his only brother and heir, and the latter sold it to a number of partners, who brought a suit in the Barmote Court against Francis Morton, Richard and David Feepond and others. Richard Frost and David Feepond had discovered ore underneath Boden's title, and Feepond secretly went to Boden, who was living in another county, "to purchase of him his rich Grove, for a Trifle", but did not succeed in this. He then told Boden that he would buy 1/48th share and would honestly account to him for all the rest of the profits of Whomes Mine, but instead of doing so, he joined with Richard Frost and changed the name of the mine to Cackle Mackle, "to keep it unknown to Boden who lived remote". The mine proved rich and they sold some parts, and "gave others to defend it in Law suits". In the end they came to agreement with "an

ancient Mine, called Barks, and had two sham Trials, and by Barks Title: a bad Jury, and wicked Evidences, they jostled Boden, and the claimers under him, out of their just Rights: and soon after their Ore went out."¹³

There are references to Cackle Mackle from the 1750's onwards, and Mr. Thornhill supplied references for the 1760's to the 1790's, when William Wager was concerned with it, and they were sinking a New Shaft and a sump to a pipe vein, and took 35 meers on a New Vein. The mention of a pipe-working is of interest, for here, just on the east side of cackle lane, there was a pipe vein from Blagden Great Vein. More than one entry mentions Cackle Vein ranging east, and north-west.

Continuing eastward to Coombs Dale, the evidence for Highfield Sough is puzzling and inconclusive, but definitely there was a sough of that name for it is mentioned by name in 1854 when Highfield Sough Mine title, in the Liberty of Stony Middleton, was claimed for want of workmanship, and "Highfield Sough" is shown on a mine-map of 1811 which is diagrammatic, not surveyed properly, and its scale elsewhere does not seem correct.¹⁴

There appears to be three possible positions for the sough tail.

1. The late Mr. William Robinson said that its was at the cut-back on the north side of the dale, not quite opposite the old entrance to Sallet Hole, i.e. to the west of the present Sallet Hole. By the criterion of many run-in sough tails one would have no hesitation in saying that it had exactly the appearance of a run-in tail, but members of the Peak District Mines Historical Society have tried to open it and came to a blank rock face.
2. On the 1811 map it is shown approximately half-way between the old and the new entrance to Sallet Hole, where there are now no signs at all.
3. See Bright's Sough. There is no possibility that the position for Bright's Sough shown on a mine-map can be the same as 1. and 2. but it seems unlikely that two soughs should have been driven so close together, draining the same ground, although sometimes there have been different positions for a sough tail, a fresh one being driven possibly because an earlier one had run-in, and it was easier and cheaper to drive a new short length, than to repair an old one.

Ore was being obtained in Highfield Mine as early as 1718, and also in the 1720's and 1730's. I have no reliable information as to which was Highfield Mine, but it seems reasonable to assume that it was the quite extensive mining on the east side of Black Harry Lane.

Farey lists Highfield Sough, south-west of Stony Middleton, in first toadstone, and first limestone. Stokes is incorrect in giving "Highfield or Sallet Hole Sough", they are not the same.¹⁵

There is an interesting reference which must be given in full, for no amount of "juggling" with the figures from shafts at the top of the hill, or from soughs in Coombs dale, seem to make it fit. But perhaps someone will solve it.

"March 22" (1810) "this day Leviled the Ground at Highfield from the Old Engin Hedlock" (? Hillock) "down to the Cowms Dale sough mouth its Viz. It is 28 F 1 Y 2 In down to Moses Taylor pice in Cowms Dale Botham and from there to a place whear Mathew Furniss of Foolow made Triale its 18-0-2 and from there down to Brightmore Sough Tail 18- 0-0 that's 64-1-0".¹⁶

As the large enclosure on the south side of upper Coombs Dale was called Low Piece in 1770 (Great Hillside 1847) it seems reasonable that this should be Moses Taylor's piece in Coombs Dale Bottom, but as this enclosure stretches from a point about 2,000ft east of Black Harry Gate to the entrance of Sallet Hole, this is not much help in fixing a particular point. The highest point of Highfields is 1090ft O.D. while the main mines there are about 1060-1075ft O.D. so 387ft lower to the sough tail makes it impossible for Brightmore Sough to be either Highfield Sough or Brights Sough, while it also seems too high for Shepherd's Sough, and seems to infer a lost sough in between, but all the postulated soughs on the north side seem far too many. As the levelling was from Highfield, it does not seem likely to be Sallet Hole on the south side, and the contour for this, at 727ft O.D. is too high.

No documentary reference to Brights Sough has appeared, but it is shown on a Mining Record Office map on the east edge of a small building 220ft east-of-north of Sallet Hole Sough, on the north side of Coombs Dale.

In their present working of Sallet Hole, Messrs. Glebe Mines Company have very much altered the lay-out here, covering the former dam with a flat hillock and putting up a building. Previously there was a dam about 150ft long in front of Sallet Hole entrance, its long axis from north-east to south-west. Sometimes it was full of water, but in dry weather the water sank entirely. This dressing ground will be dealt with under Sallet hole. On the north-side of the same is a lowish rock face, and at the north-east end of this were foundations and walls, one with a fireplace, of a small, at least two-roomed building, which is shown on the mine-map, and would have been an ore-house or reckoning house. Brights Sough is shown on the map on the north-east edge of this building where there was a pile of tumbled stones. Probably originally the water flowed from the sough tail down Coombs Dale to the east. Then, when the dam was made to serve a water-wheel for the dressing ground, they would need all the water they could get for the dam. Evidently the water from the sough was diverted under the building, or round the back of it, because tumbled stones could be seen and a definite channel leading to the dam. A quarryman told me that once when he was standing in this building he thought he could hear rushing water beneath him.

There do not appear to be any signs of shafts or mining on the hillside above this, or above Highfield Sough, but the ground rises so steeply that it would have been costly to sink shafts on a sough without a vein.

Down Coombs Dale from here there were one or two problematical signs such as a small opening, more like a drain than a sough, but apparently made of comparatively modern stone, and another place with signs of a cut-back and shorting breasting wall, but nothing definite.

Shepherd's Mine Sough was on the north side of the dale, about 1,700ft eastward from Sallet Hole opposite the southern side valley, but is not now visible. It is shown on a plan¹⁷ as a black dot (probably a coe at the entrance) and "Shepherd's Mine", at approximately 120ft east of the wall which runs down the side valley, but this is very approximately. This wall is the Lords fence between Longstone Liberty and Calver Liberty. Correctly, this is not Shepherd's Mine, but was the level leading to the mine which is in the plantation, about 1,700ft north-west of here. Eight or nine years ago the ruins of the small coe were still standing. Mr. Stanley Eidson's grandfather worked it when he was young, and he died in the late 1950's, aged over eighty, he used to take a donkey inside to bring out the ore, so that it must have been a good-sized level.¹⁸

The vein ranges across Coombs Dale, in a south-east direction, on the north side of the southern valley, joining Red Rake to the west of Muse Mine, and the Ansted Report¹⁹ states that it intersected several veins here, and a Mining Record Office mine-map indicates cross veins here. There is a run-in shaft-hollow high up under the top crag of Coombs Dale on the corner, and down below in the southern branch valley some years ago a hole, going down into a broken, arched roof, could be seen. It is rather high up for a sough, and if it was one could not have had a tail, but the water could have been taken underground to the sink in the main valley. Occasional observation over several years make certain that there is a sink taking water in the floor of Coombs Dale just at the junction with the southern valley.

In 1854 there is mention of both Shepherd's Sough Mine, and Shepherd's Mine. In 1858, Alderman Fairburn, who worked Calver Sough Mine and others, applied for a title to Shepherd's Sough Mine on behalf of the North Derbyshire Mining Company, and it was granted to them some months later.

About 1,400ft north-east of Shepherd's Sough, on the same side of the dale, there is a possibility of a lost cave system, also an unusual amount of wells.

In the Devonshire Collection, Chatsworth,²⁰ there is a map of 1758 of the enclosures bounded on the west by Black Harry Lane, on the north side of Coombs Dale. The acreage of the enclosures and their walls are given, and can be placed on the Ordnance Survey 25in to 1 mile map. A number of the enclosures which contain the Oarystones are called Four Stones. Shepherds Mine (not shown) in the plantation, is within a large area called Highfields and Upper Tortop. This area of Highfield is not exactly that covered by the word Highfields on the Ordnance Survey maps. But the main interest is in the eastern part, Highfields Farm is in the north-west corner of Barn Close, which, by 1758, included five enclosures south-west of this; there is still a barn in the middle of the eastern part, also there is an old barn as well as a newer one, in the north-east corner. Lords Close and Well Close (fields 258 and 259) are between Barn Close and the limestone outcrops above Coombs Dale. Also on this old map is "The Hole" and a circle.

Walking up the steep hill of Middleton Lane from Stoney Middleton Village, to 1,680ft west of the church, just past the pinfold there is a public footpath on the south side. This road is still remembered as an old

coach road and it is said that once, when the coach was going past Victory Mine where now is Cavendish Dressing Plant, there was a large dam there then, and the whole coach and horses went into the dam "and were never seen again".

Opposite the beginning of the footpath, on the north side of the lane, slightly to the east, the hillocks here are known as Fanny Hillocks and they appear to be on the range of the vein from Wren Park Mine at the beginning of Coombs Dale; this vein ranges to the quarry on the south side of Middleton Dale main road.

The public footpath leads downwards through five fields to above Coombs Dale, and in the fields to east and west, very roughly in a line south-of-east to north-of-east, are a number of small bucket-wells. Very often in the lead mining area of Derbyshire, bucket-wells are old shafts, true wells of this type are rather rare compared with the springs and troughs which are generally called wells on the maps. The fields belong to various owners, but I was able to examine most of the wells and had some local discussion on them. One had shallow steps going down to a paved bottom, they were definitely true wells and where I could see down them appeared to be about 10ft deep. Local opinion differed some saying this was the approximate depth, others that some of the wells were 16 to 20ft deep. I was told that there had been two more at the Vicarage, now filled in.

The well at Well Close, about 2,000ft south-west of the beginning of the public pathway, is marked on Ordnance Survey maps. The previous day there had been heavy, thunderous rain, and now the well was full to within a foot or two of the top. There was a difference of local opinion as to whether this well was 32ft deep, or 60ft deep.

The covering of the well was unusual, being two large slabs with a circular hole in the centre, and with a large, finely dressed stone basin over the hole in the centre. I was told that this was used with a wooden plug, and it was allowed to fill with water, and cattle could drink and then the water was allowed to run away by removing the plug. Two hooks and an eyelet indicated that one time there had been a cover over the well. Just above it was soggy ground which it was said used to be a pool at times where water-cress used to grow.

This well in Well Close is off the line of the other wells, and there are some interesting features near here. Where the footpath crosses the wall of the last field before entering Well Close, by the wall is a small stone drain-opening, called Betty Brewer. I have seen this dry, and also with water flowing from it after rain. When it is flowing, after sinking in a few yards it comes up again about 100ft from the drain-opening on the north side of the wall above the outcrop of rock, passes through a slab-opening at the base of the wall, and falls in a miniature waterfall down the outcrop. Following the footpath through the last wall above Coombs Dale, one can turn eastwards and scramble down into a hollow below the outcrop (the top outcrop, shown on the map, just under the wall). The water sinks almost immediately in the hollow, the latter runs down to join Coombs Dale, but there is no further sign of dampness down this hollow to Coombs Dale. Where the water sinks is approximately where the old map has "The Hole" and a circle, also I was told locally that this hollow is known locally as Booth Hole. Discussing this, it was agreed that the Derbyshire countryman does not call a hollow a "hole". By the word "hole" he means a cave opening of some sort, or the top of what we call a pothole. The water did not sink into any definite hole, but was spread over a number of yards to approximately 50ft from the outcrop and the wall above.²¹

It seems unlikely that the 18th century map maker would have put a "Hole" on the map unless at one time it had been a fairly large one.

National Grid References.

Black Harry Farm	SK 203745
Blagden Hollow Clay Pits	SK 201742
Blagden Great Vein	SK 189741 to SK 203744
Brandy Bottle Vein	SK 202742 to SK 213736
Booth Hole site	SK 224748
Cackle Mackle Mines (Wiles)	approx. SK 190742 to SK 195743 to SK 190737 to SK 195739 although I am doubtful if they include the more northern mines of this area, as the northern vein is Blagden Great Vein
Cackle Stile	SK 196739

Cackle Mackle Enclosures	SK 198736
Moatlow Vein in Haydale	SK 179732
Old Ralph Vein	SK 203736 to SK 207741
Sallet Hole	SK 219741
Shepherds Mine	SK 219748
Shepherds Sough	SK 723744
Strawberry Lees Vein	SK 202742 to 213735 (Brandy Bottle and Strawberry Lees Vein both start in the same place and finish close together, but range in bends over 1,000ft apart).
Wardlow Sough	SK 174748

Usually it is unnecessary to give field names and field numbers, but in this case it is of great help to anyone tracing the veins by Barmaster's entries. Most of the following are from Mr. R. Thornhill, but a number have been fixed from Barmaster's entries.

Ordnance Survey Maps, Derbyshire (edit 1922)

XVI.6 The Park 123 – Rakey Piece 56 – Seedlow 42, 46, 47, 45, 48, 89, 88, 59, 87, 65, 64, 62, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 85 – Blagden 82, 84, 86 – Buxton Field, 67, 66, 73, 74

XVI.11 Seedlow 89, 88, 93 – Blagden 95, 86, 97, 98

XVI.15 Blagden 96, 97, 98 – Lower Barn Close 102 – Upper Barn Close 99 – Blagden Hollow Clay Pits 105 – Blakeden Field (Wager's Blakeden) 190, 104 – Black Harry Piece (Orr's Moor Piece) 137 – Barn Close 138 – Strawberry Lee 142 - Little Dale 168, 169 – Little Dale Pingle 143 – Black Harry Gate 116, 117, 119 – Blacklow Piece 121, 123 – Bleadlow Flatt 136 – Tiremare Hill 144.

XXIII.2 Arkwright's Plantation 284

XVI.11 Well Close 259. Booth Hole is below the crag which juts into 272 field below where the wall and footpath are semicircular at the bottom of Well Close. Just to the west of suggested position (1) for Highfield Sough, on the north side of the boundary wall along the floor of the dale, in wet weather, for a number of yards there is an oozing of water, and slight flow towards the east.

¹ Shirley, J. and Horsfield, E.L. "The Structure and Ore Deposits of the Carboniferous Limestone of the Eyam District." Quarterly Journal of the Geol. Soc. Vol. C pp289-308 – 31st March 1945

² Mining Record Office R69.

³ Shirley, *ibid.*

⁴ I am immeasurably indebted to Mr. Robert Thornhill for a great amount of information re field names and road names, and much helpful discussion, and for giving me entries from the Wager Holmes documents before they were loaned to the Central Library, Sheffield.

⁵ Thornhill, R. "The Seedlow Lead Mine 1764 to 1771." Bulletin of the Peak District Mines Historical Society, Volume 1 No. 6, May 1962.

⁶ Victoria County History – Derbyshire. Volume II p325. Cox, J.C. "Royal Forests of England."

⁷ William Wager, see Thornhill, R., "William Wager and his Employees." Derbyshire Miscellany Vol. II, No. 10. Also Wager Holmes Collection, Central Library, Sheffield.

⁸ Bagshaw Collection 431a, Central Library, Sheffield.

⁹ Mainly information from Mr. G. Davis.

¹⁰ All the entries re the veins are from Brooke-Taylor documents.

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- ¹¹ Wiles, A.E., "The North Side of Ashford Lordship, 1750 to 1850". Bulletin PDMHS Vol. 2 Part 2 pp.93-99.
- ¹² Extract from Commonplace Book of White Watson c1810. Cambridge University Library MSS add 6304. Given to me by Dr. Trevor Ford.
- ¹³ Compleat Mineral Laws of Derbyshire, attrib. To Steer. (1735) pp51-2.
- ¹⁴ Brooke-Taylor Documents – Plan of Salad Hole, Matthew Frost, 1811. M.R.O. *ibid*.
- ¹⁵ Farey, J. "General View of the Agriculture and Minerals of Derbyshire" Vol. 1 p330. Stokes, A.H., "Lead and Lead Mining in Derbyshire" (Re-Issued by P.D.M.H.S. Special Publication No. 2, 1964) p99. On his map he has the words "Highfield Sough" and "Sallet Hole" without the word sough. On the re-print of Stokes map by Local History Section, Derbyshire Archaeological Society there is only "Highfield Sough".
- ¹⁶ Wager Holmes Col. (Now in Sheffield Library) 10 p266r (6g). Given to me by Mr. Thornhill.
- ¹⁷ Sketch of an Intended Road to Sallad Hole, 1842. M.R.O.
- ¹⁸ Information from Mr. H. Eaton
- ¹⁹ Ansted, D.T., Report on a Mineral District near Longstone Edge, to Sir Joseph Paxton, 1853. Given to me by Mr. R.W.S. Thompson.
- ²⁰ Stoney Middleton Estate, belonging to the Right Hon. Countess of Burlington, by Jo. Brailsford, 1758. Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth.
- ²¹ Information from Mr. H. Eaton and others.