

## Tearsal and Dalefield Soughs, Wensley by Nellie Kirkham.

"Tearsall Ould Souf" is shown on a plan<sup>1</sup> which is undated and without scale or compass points, or indication as to where Tearsal is. The mines now called Tearsal Mines are about 1300 feet south of the Red Lion Inn, Wensley. The ground rises to the south, and draining must have been northwards to Wensley Dale. Noting the word 'well' on the map, just below Wensley Village, and examining it, it proved to be a sough-tail, and typically there were shaft-mounds in line up the hillside to the south. The tail has been built-up except for a small opening through which water was flowing into a sunken stone-lined basin, a typical Derbyshire 'well', for they are rarely a 'bucket-well'. This flow is the source of the small stream flowing eastwards in an artificial channel down Wensley Dale, where there is no sign of natural stream bed, which suggests that it was a dry dale before the sough was driven.

Inside the small opening a stone-lined passage could be seen, which by its small size looked like one of the older soughs, the walls being lined with uncoursed and undressed stones of varied shapes and sizes, very roughly built. I was informed that quite a lot of water flowed out in wet weather.

In 1959, after taking Mr. Douglas Nash, and his caving club Operation Mole, to see this, they explored it for about 480 feet, where they were stopped by a complete choke, with water dripping through. Before the end they had passed water pouring from the roof, and also had released one choke to lower the water. They described the first 25 feet as being only about 2 feet high by 1½ feet wide, walled with undressed limestone, and roofed with large flat slabs, then it became a level about 5 feet high, and 2 feet wide. At about 300 feet they met decomposed toadstone clay, dipping north until the whole level was cut in it as far as a clean-cut doorway in solid rock (olivine basalt).

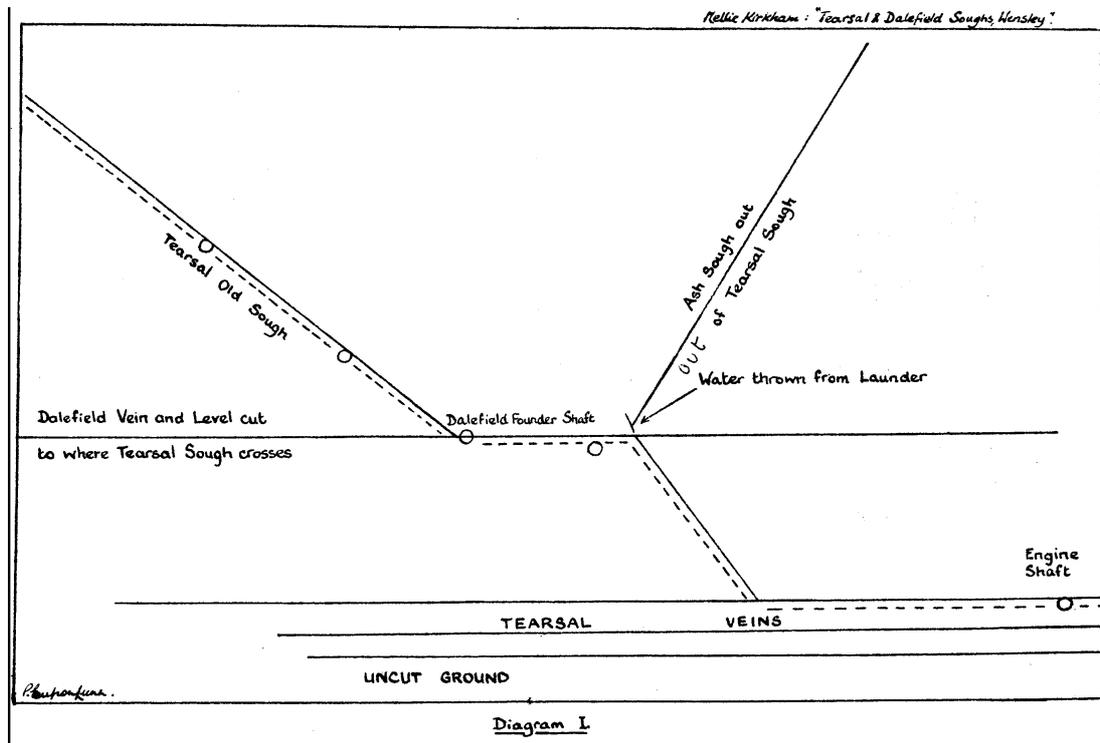
On the surface southwards the very large enclosure (field 368) rises steeply towards its south wall, with many large mounds and shafts. Operation Mole descended several of these, and in one (110 feet deep) they were probably about down to sough-level, and at the bottom was mud and silt. A number of lynchets range horizontally across this field which are older than the mines.

The area to the south and east in places is very difficult to examine, much of it being tangled bracken, long grass, and trees and shrubs, the area being covered with hillocks and shafts. The present Tearsal Mines cover quite an area, north-east of Tearsal Farm, but have been much disturbed by hillocking and mining for fluorspar.

Operation Mole penetrated into some of the old workings, and Mr. Nash says that the strike dips steeply, nearly 40 degrees, towards the east, and at about 30 feet down "there occur considerable areas of spar, clay, calcite, and galena in scattered stringer veins", and in the part which ranged north to north-west, the workings were pipe-veins, and an old cavernous system seems to have been followed for galena in pockets. It is a complicated system of workings and levels. He considers that a considerable stream of water must have flowed through the mine during at least one period of working, for along a passage a trench had been cut in the rock floor, about 1½ feet wide, and 6 inches deep, which ended in a small cavern, along one wall of which a washing trough had been made with clay walls to it, and quite extensive washing of ore had taken place. In other parts there were washing basins with water running into them.

On the old plan, Dalefield Vein and Tearsal Veins range parallel, and it states that the former was discovered by the driving of Tearsal Sough. Ash Sough was driven out of Tearsal Sough, and from it they poured water into the latter, so Ash Sough apparently had no tail of its own. Dalefield Sough was driven 120 feet (or 98 feet in one reference) deeper than Tearsal Sough, and had no connection with Tearsal Mines or Sough, and was only cut to where Tearsal Sough crossed Dalefield Vein at Dalefield Founder Shaft. For Mr. Mort's (the Barmaster) range of Dalefield Vein see Diag. II. Beyond these facts there are mainly unsolved problems, which will be presented later.

Diagram I - Tearsal and Dalefield Veins and Sough extracted from B.C. 587-63. Essentials of plan, much of text omitted.



This apparently unimportant sough and mines are of much historical interest. There is no printed reference to it, and in discussion on mines and soughs it does not seem to be remembered. But Tearsal Mines are mentioned in a document of 1635<sup>2</sup>, Bartholomew v. George Columbello and oths. The suits starts with depositions re tithe ore, Tearsal Mines being within the Wapentake of the Low Peak, and in the Parish of Darley. This parish had two rectors, James Holland (d. 1644) being the parson of one moiety, and Robert Evans (d. 1639) the parson of the other moiety, and the latter deposed that he received the tithe ore from these mines.

Tearsal Mines had been much troubled with water and had been abandoned, and much money had been spent in draining them before they came into the hands of George Columbello and his partners<sup>3</sup>, and in consideration of the charges of the mines could not be worked at a profit, so it was decided that they could not be worked without 'an engine' to draw the water from them. John Bartholomew, an engineer, was called in, and they took him down the mines, through many turns and drifts, and he said that his engine would draw the water, although at that time the water hindered them from seeing the ore on the sole of the mine. They had mined lower before the flooding, because one miner deposed that he had worked in these mines in 1621, 1623, and 1629, and that in the last year he and others had made 320 clear profit by mining in a sump beneath where the engine was later 'planted'. He had continued to work in the mine after the engine had been erected, and believed that he could have obtained the ore without the engine.

Bartholomew agreed to pump the water so that the mines 'might be wrought upon the sole', and the engine was 'sett' below where the water was at the time of their examination of the mines. In September 1633 an agreement was made between Columbello and Bartholomew, and in it the latter agreed to 'plant an engine to the water and to take the water away' and to drain and lay dry the Tearsal Mines, and he was to receive 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. of the ore got in the mine. The mine partners were to sink the engine shaft at their own cost, and to bring the water to the foot of the engine, and they were to bear all the charges for materials. Only one engine was to be set.

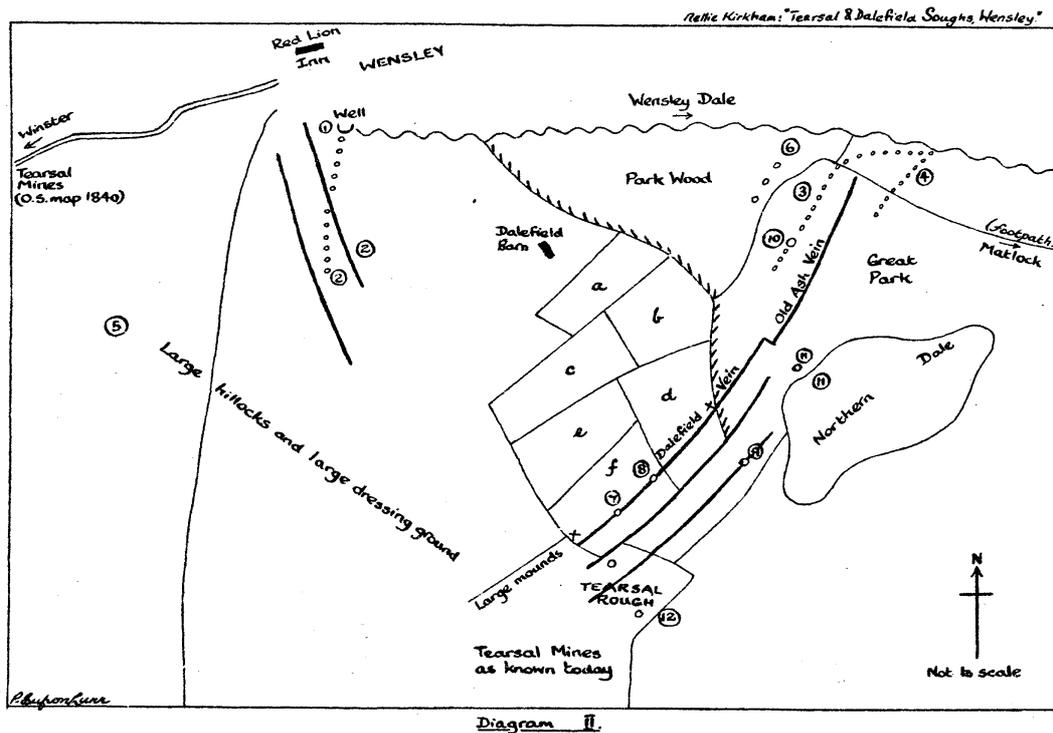


Diagram II

1. Well. Entrance to the sough. Dotted line, exploration of sough by Operation Mole.
2. Veins (Geological Survey) and partly visible on surface. One may be Barley Close Vein. Barley Close is the large enclosure on the west of the Red Lion Inn, and in 1635 the Tearsal 'engine' was on Barley Close Vein, which appears to mean that this vein crossed to the south side of Wensley Dale.  
Information from Mr. Mort, (a) and (b) Dalefield, (c) Long Dalefield, (d) Great Dalefield, (e) Greater Dalefield, (f) Far Dalefield. Park Wood, Dalefield Vein, Old Ash Vein, Tearsal Rough, and Great Park. The last, and the boundary wall, confirmed by Mr. T. Corker. Hatched line is the boundary wall between Dalefield and the Park.
3. A line of shaft-mounds run downhill, northwards, and across the enclosure at the bottom, in what appears to be the line of a continuation of Dalefield Vein. Mr. Greatorex, whose ground it is, says that water sometimes rises by the small shed.
4. Another line of mounds give the impression of another sough. There is a local tradition that at (3) or (4) a sough was started with the intention of driving it to Brightgate (about 1 mile), but that it was abandoned for lack of money.
5. This is an area of large hillocks, some being gin-shafts, and a large dressing ground. Information from the Geological Survey calls it a 'broad belt of old workings'. Examining the area it seems to give one the impression of a strong, much worked, vein or veins, N.W. to S.E., the size of the gin-shaft-mounds look as though it was worked to good depth.  
Davis Mine and Mount Pleasant Mine are in this area.  
X to X. This is the only part of Dalefield Vein in the Dalefield, so that Dalefield Founder, where Tearsal Sough cut this vein, must be here. The two veins, ranging N.E. from Tearsal Rough, are from information from the Geological Survey, and shafts and mounds can be seen on the surface, presumably Tearsal Veins are here.
6. There are indications of a possible sough coming down to the N.E. corner of Park Wood.
- 7 & 8. Large shaft-mounds in Dalefield, on the range of Dalefield Vein, so possibly one is the Founder Shaft.
9. Query site of fire-engine (see Diagram III).
10. Possibly Park Gin. This is shown on a Snitterton mine-map 1758 (Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth), and there was a Park Vein.
11. The So-called Old Ash Mine, with the shaft on the top, and entrance in Northern dale, first explored by Operation Mole, and later by Derbyshire Caving Club, appears to be rather off the range of Mr. Mort's Old Ash Vein, and more in the range of the probable Tearsal Veins. There are still many ash trees in all this vicinity.
12. The gin-shaft with channel. (see Diagram III).

In the event of the water being deep in some other mine or meer, and the engine being planted so that this water could not get to the 'engine pitt', then the partners were to sink the shafts of the other mines deeper, and to drive towards the engine, and to cleanse the passages from one mine to another, so that the water could come to the engine. According to one witness, the engine was to be 'planted deeper from time to time as need should require'. But another witness, Joseph Grymes (b. 1607), a carpenter from

Derby, said that he had never heard that the engine was to be 'sett any lower than a place in the sd. Groves called Robinson's Stone,' which was about 168 feet deep in the mine.

It was stated by a witness for Columbell that they had found, as agreed, all the materials for the engine, and paid all manner of wages to Bartholomew 'as well for horses as for workmen'. This witness, Nicholas Exton of Darley, a miner aged thirty-two, worked in Tearsal Mines, and said that he had heard Bartholomew say that by the agreement if he did not carry away the water out of the mines, the charge for drawing the water from the sole to the engine was to be defrayed from his 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. of the ore. But one of Bartholomew's witnesses, Joseph Grymes, stated that he had never heard that Bartholomew was to defray part of the charges in this way, while another deposed that Bartholomew was not to receive his 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. profits until the mine owners raised enough ore to pay the charges.

It was stated that the mine owners had fulfilled their part of the agreement, that they had scoured and cleansed all the drifts and passages, and that they had worked the mines to the best advantage of themselves and Bartholomew, but that the latter, about Michaelmas 1634, had absented himself and left no deputy to look after the engine. Another witness said that Bartholomew had left the engine 'soe out of temper' in or about 'six weeks after St. James Day now twelve months' that the mine owners lost about £100. Also he 'divers time absented himself and has once or twice left the said engine when it hath been out of temper', although he was asked to stay, and he left no deputy.

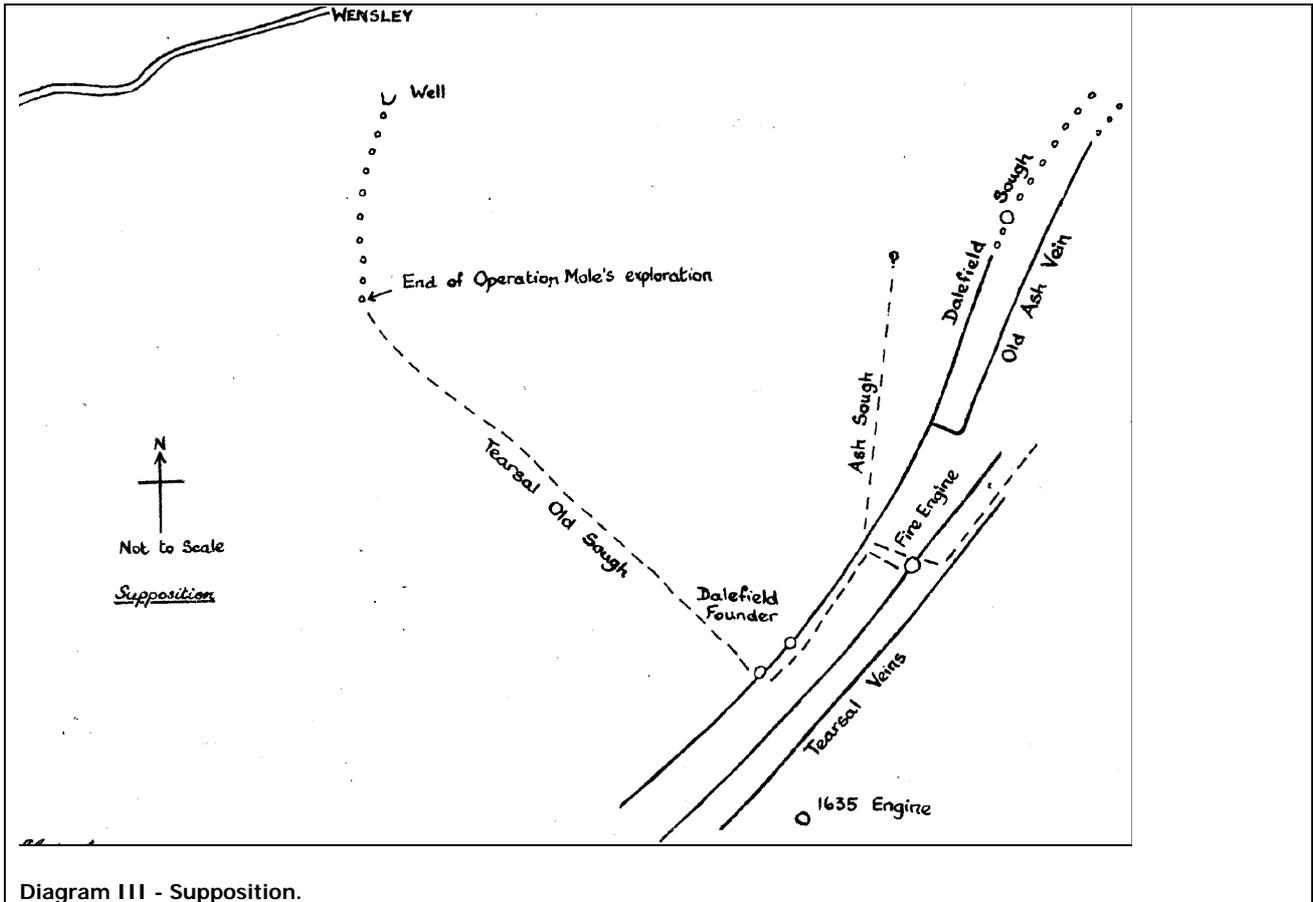
While one of the articles of the agreement was stated to have been that Bartholomew, or a sufficient deputy, should 'at all times night and day (Sabbath Dayes and Christmas dayes only excepted) draw away the water out of the said groves or mines', so that the mine partners, or their servants, could work and get lead ore upon the 'soale of the said myne'.

By the beginning of November 1634 the forefield was laid dry of water, so that they believed they could get £400 worth of ore, but the water was not kept down. When Bartholomew left the engine, William Horne, who in August had been appointed to take charge of the mines, had to get in John Grymes, who was paid 20/0 for mending and looking to the engine for about a week.

The engine was apparently working by 11<sup>th</sup>. August 1634 because between that date and 16<sup>th</sup>. December the partners got 644 loads and 3 dishes of ore, and only 5 loads and 5 dishes from the latter date to 25<sup>th</sup>. September 1635, on the evidence of the ore measured by the Barmaster, Edward Bradshawe of Bonsal. He said that Richard Senior<sup>4</sup> had offered 24/- a load, and previously had paid 22/- a load.

It becomes evident that the main matter at issue was Bartholomew complaining that he had not received his 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. share. But Columbell said that Bartholomew had not fulfilled his part of the agreement, by not keeping the mine continually drained. Columbell's clerk witnessed that the two parties came to agreement in October 1634, and that Bartholomew approved it and set his mark to it. The latter countered this by stating that he had been shown an account of the ore, and that 'he had put his mark to the same to ye end yt he (being no scoller) might knowe the same when he saw it againe, but did not accept the same as a just accompt'. The clerk stated that the account showed that Columbell had laid out more money, by £206, than was due to Bartholomew for his 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. share.

Like so many of these old mining quarrels, one does not know how it ended, but the suit brings out a number of interesting details about Tearsal Mines.



An attempt to fit the B.C. plan to the known facts. As with other crude, straight-lined, plans, it is no use believing that the angles are precisely correct. Tearsal Sough must join Dalefield Vain at its Founder Shaft. As Ash Sough is a branch of Tearsal Sough, it cannot have had a tail to day. As it leaves Tearsal Sough at an angle, it cannot be driven up Mr. Mort's Old Ash Vein, as this is practically in line with Dalefield Vein. By the topography, Dalefield Sough #cannot have had its tail to the south-west. It was driven up the vein, and was either 98 or 120 ft. lower than Tearsal Sough. With the 'well' as about 590 ft. O.D., the only place where the sough could be driven up the vein, to the brook on Mr. Greatorex's ground, the contour is far too low. This problem is unsolved.

The Founder Shaft of Tearsal Vein must be in Tearsal, which probably once was quite a large area. The plan shows the vein uncut to the S.E., so that it appears as though the Founder was in Tearsal Rough. There is no clue as to the sort of pumping 'engine' in the 1630's, but it might have been a gin, and it is at least worthy of note that there is a gin-shaft in Tearsal Rough which has a made channel running from it as though water was lifted. (On the east side of the pathway, 320 ft. S. of where the pathway passes through the wall dividing Far Dalefield from Tearsal Rough).

'Dalefield, or Snitterton Park Mine' fire-engine is another problem. Extensive combing of the ground over a good period of time, has only produced one piece of evidence for an engine, and that is a very deteriorated coal-dust-hillock about 100 feet east of the corner of the boundary wall of Great Dalefield. This is over 200 ft. off Dalefield Vein, but a fire-engine shaft is not of necessity placed actually on a vein, and in this case could be on Tearsal Old Sough, if this was then used as a pumpway.

One other aspect of the problems must be mentioned. I have been haunting this area off and on for four years, and at first took the words 'Tearsal Mines' on the O.S. map 1840 (about 2,500 ft. W. of the Red Lion Inn, on the S. side of the main road) to be correct. This was splendid. Tearsal Vein could range from there S.W. by Davis Mine, with good strong veins, with Dalefield Vein parallel on the north side. Tearsal Sough, from the Well, was a correct angle, Ash Sough could range up Old Ash Vein. And Dalefield Vein could be approximately correct contour if it began at Mill Close Brook, about at the site where Pitts Sough is said to have been (where the Miners Track crosses the brook into Clough Wood).

Then, last year, Mr. Mort gave me his line of Dalefield Vein, and entries from the Barmaster's Books, and that oriented the whole lay-out so that the O.S. Word 'Tearsal Mines' became impossible by Mr. Mort's Dalefield Vein (Now ranging N.E. to S.W.).

I wrote to (1) the Ordnance Survey, who kindly examined their original drawings plotted from the field books (1838) and there was no information as to the source for the words 'Tearsal Mines', they believed it would be from the surveyor enquiring locally, and later large scale maps (1875-6) did not bear these words. (2) The geological Survey handed on my query to their Leeds Office, who stated that they had no record of Tearsal or Dalefield Mines or Veins, they kindly sent me a tracing from the Geological 6" sheets SK.25N.E. and 24S.E. "to be published shortly" giving lines of veins, but no names. (3) The Mining Record Office have nothing for this area. (4) The Ordnance Survey suggested that I wrote to the Map Room, British Museum, this I did and received helpful letters in reply. The details of two photostats of maps I ordered are given in the Additional Note.

Two of the miners stated that they worked a day of six hours shift and got 12d., and another that he worked a shift of eight hours for 12d. The shorter shift may have been for 'wet work'.

One of the witnesses stated that 'the rock is of such extreme hardness that it cannot be sunke downe to the forefield of the said groves without dyalling, and that the waters are of such abundance that the groves cannot be dyalled unless the waters be drawn out by the engine'. It was stated that Columbello and partners possessed 'seven meers of ground in Tearsal by a composition made with one Wensley Blackwell, Esq., decd. Under the Coape of 2/- per load! This is no proof that they had started to drive the sough at this time, but it is a pointer, as the arrangement regarding composition and cope usually applies to soughs and not to the mines.

In about 1629, perhaps a little earlier, John Bartholomew had been called in to drain the Dovegang Vein, near Wirksworth<sup>5</sup>, when he was referred to as an engineer, and a skilful servant of the Earl of Dover, who furnished him with money for the work on Dovegang, and he proceeded with it and spent much money with good hopes of success. The documents state that it was believed that he would have succeeded if his masters George Sayers and others, had not been dispossessed of Dovegang Mines during that year or the next. Bartholomew was then out of a job, and the new owners seized the 'engines and pumps'<sup>6</sup> which had been left underground. Sayers and partners appealed to the Wirksworth Barmote for permission to remove the pumps and tools, etc., but the ruling was that they belonged to the new owners, as the mines had been deserted. Further trouble occurred, as the new owners complained that John Bartholomew and others 'pretending several rights ... interrupted their quiet possession.' Vermuyden's sough to Dovegang was begun in 1629, and finished in 1636, being described as something that 'no man els' had driven before. Tearsal Sough must be an early one, as on the undated plan it states that it had been driven about one hundred and forty years previously, and Dalefield Sough eighty years previously. It does not seem likely that the sough had been begun before Bartholomew's engine, or surely there would have been some mention of it in the depositions in the document. But it seems possible that it would be driven after Bartholomew's failure to drain the mines, which could date the sough plan approximately to the late 1770's. One interesting, though unexplained, statement on the plan is that though the Dalefield veins 'hath been given away Time after Time', but 'no one ever attempted to stop the Souf' (Tearsal) 'before'.

The next reference to the mines is in 1759 when Thomas Stephens of Dalefield Mine<sup>7</sup> bought a cylinder, piston, cylinder bottom and sinking pipe, which was sold by weight, for £98-14-6 from the Mill Close Mine. But by other evidence the sale was deferred, and eventually the Mill Close engine went to Gregory Mine at Ashover.

But the Dalefield partners did erect an engine, because in 1776 the partners at Oxclose Mine, Snitterton, wanted to remove Dalefield, or Snitterton Park Mine, engine to there<sup>8</sup>. At this time Dalefield Mine was being worked by the London Lead Company (Governor and Company of the Mines Royal) and in 1780 there was a meeting of the Oxclose proprietors to consider a demand by the Mines Royal Company for the amount due on the cylinder, pumps, etc., borrowed from them, under an agreement to return them after nine months notice, or to pay their value. The nine months having elapsed, the Mines Royal Company were insisting on their money, and Oxclose could not pay it, so they offered to sell Oxclose title to them, but the Mines Royal Company answered that they had given up their mines in Derbyshire. The engine materials from Dalefield were valued at £503, and the Mines Royal were stated to be 'very preemptory' and the Oxclose Company decided that they must collect the money from their share-holders and pay for the materials, or the Oxclose Mine would be arrested for debt.

In 1764 there had been trouble over shares in Tearsal Mines<sup>9</sup>. Shares belonging to the Woddiwiss family had been sold to Joseph Broom of London, and the latter's name was entered in the reckoning book of the mine, and he paid 1/6<sup>th</sup>. of the expense at the reckonings, as he held 1/6<sup>th</sup>. shares. A James Barker held 2/6<sup>th</sup>. shares, and he and Broom were friends, and as the latter lived so far away it was agreed that Barker should pay Broom's reckoning charges, and when profits were paid he was to receive part of Broom's to recompense him. In the next year Broom agreed that it would be well for Barker to have more interest in the mine, so Broom bought all the Woddiwiss shares, also some belonging to another partner, all concerned signed for this, and they were entered in the reckoning book, Barker and Broom each paying half. After this agreement the mines proved a great success.

Then in 1766 James Barker said that he wanted nothing to do with the mine, and sold his shares to Broom, after which Broom requested Thomas Poundall, the mine agent for Tearsal, to pay the profits to him, but this was not done. Poundall said that Broom's own 1/6<sup>th</sup>. share had been forfeited, or it had been 'billed by and at the instance of James Barker in the Great Barmote Court or some other court', on account of Broom not having paid his share of expenses at the reckonings, but Broom said that Barker had pretended to pay for him. Broom complained that Poundall would not let him see the reckoning books, and in November 1766, the 1/6<sup>th</sup>. share was arrested. In Michaelmas 1768 Broom made a complaint to the Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Court of Exchequer.

In 1767 the Quaker Company were working Dalefield Mine, and their agent was Thomas Lean<sup>10</sup>. Thomas Poundall was the agent for Tearsal Mine, and they made an agreement that 'the old shaft on the W. forefield of the Dalefield Vein' should be sunk and made into a proper engine (gin) shaft 'furnished with ropes and a set of barrels' and that after this had been done Tearsal partners should cut a gate on the Quaker Company's Ash Pipe, driving it to the Tearsal Vein, paying 5/- for every load of ore. The shaft and gate were to be for joint use. The Tearsal partners were to open Tearsal Level, so that the water would have free passage from Tearsal and Dalefield Veins, also they were to be allowed to drive a level to Tearsal Mines from Dalefield deeper level, though no other mines were to take advantage of this, and in six months time, the Tearsal miners were to pay £100 to the Governor of the Mines Royal.

In the Barmaster's entries of 1777, titles were given away in the 'upper corner of Park'. Dalefield Vein on Mr. Mort's tracing stops at the wall of Tearsal Rough. But in 1778 either the Dalefield titles extended into Tearsal, or Tearsal Mines had been joined to Dalefield Mines, for Thomas Lean, agent for the latter, was put in possession of Silkstone Founder, and Tarrant's Old Grove, in Tearsal Pasture. In 1790, George Allen was put in possession of a new vein at Dalefield Mine, of 11 meers in Jethrow Shaw's Upper Dalefields, in which was Dalefield Old Founder Shaft. There was also a pipe vein here. Dalefield Fire Engine Shaft is mentioned in an entry of 1795. Several veins are mentioned on the south, and east, side of Dalefield Vein. In 1790 it was agreed that the proprietors of Old Tearsal Mine should have liberty to use the drawing shaft for the benefit of 'Old Tearsal Mines and veins of lead ore lying or being in Tearsal Pasture and the field adjoining'.

Lead ore was being mined somewhere in the Dalefield in 1587 when there was a claim for tithe ore.

Davis Mine was being worked by 1729, and in 1770 they sold a gin to Oxclose Mine for £28, and a vein breaking out of Davis Old Vein is mentioned in 1778, and a buddle dam was set out in 1790.

The London Lead Company is too extensive a subject to be dealt with here in detail. In 1692 a charter was granted to Constantine Vernatti and others as 'The Governor and Company for Smelting Down Lead with Pittcoale and Seacole' (Prince Rupert was a Governor at one time) and it was wound up in 1695, and in 1704 the charter was transferred to the Society of Royal Mines, which had had an earlier history going back to Elizabeth I, and which became known as the London Lead Company, which was run by Quakers, who became associated with many mines in Derbyshire and elsewhere.

Whitehurst<sup>11</sup> in 1778 has a section of somewhere in this area which is of interest, although there is no proof that he is referring to Tearsal Sough, there is no other now-known sough which could be this level. He mentions Trouges Pastures which are just to the west, south of Big and Little Dungeon, and these Pastures may end at the long boundary wall just on the west of Tearsal Sough. He shows the limestone and toadstone beds dipping east (or north-east?), with the first limestone 150 feet thick, containing minerals, fossils, and black marble. The first toadstone bed is shown as being 48 feet thick, the second limestone 150 feet of grey marble and minerals. At Wensley he shows a horizontal 'line of springs', which, by anything to be seen today, appears as though it must be springs flowing along a draining level, for he adds that the springs were in a mine and were 'too powerful to be raised by an engine', and at that time the work was standing. A vein is shown cutting down through this line of underground water, to the toadstone, then the vein continues down in the second limestone. Any vein just above the toadstone would be heavily watered, but just under the toadstone would be dry, as it acts like an umbrella. His section shows how the miners sank a shaft through the first limestone and the first toadstone, the bottom of the shaft being just below the toadstone, and from it a level was driven, dipping with the toadstone roof, and

the level was dry. He adds that it was a common practice among the miners of Derbyshire to drive a level under the toadstone and that this 'never fails to produce a dry work' in the lower limestone, 'for the close texture of the toadstone will not filtrate water sufficient to incommode the workman, although it may be ten or fifteen fathoms deep in the top limestone above the toadstone'.

#### Additional Notes.

Two photostats from the Map Room of the British Museum help to confirm the evidence already postulated, they are:

- (1) O.S. Map 1in. to 1 mile. (81 S.E. F.4) 1852. The words 'Tearsal Mines' are in the same position as on the O.S. map 1840. The map confirms the surface appearance that the 'broad irregular belt of old workings' are two strong veins, north-west to south-east.
- (2) The same area, O.S. 2-in drawing of 1838, with geological notes on the back by the surveyor. On this 'Tearsal Mines' are given a more precise location, about 1500 feet further south-east (SK 258.604), just on the south of the trackway, below the words 'Davis Mine' on present-day O.S. maps, which still leaves the O.S. evidence conflicting with Mr. Mort's Dalefield Vein, and Tearsal Veins being parallel with it on the old plan. I can only suggest that as Tearsal was almost certainly a large area, by last century 'Tearsal Mines' was a vague term, including those some distance from the 17<sup>th</sup>. and 18<sup>th</sup>. century Tearsal Mines and Veins.

#### National Grid.

Sough Tail (Well)	SK 262.609
Tearsal Mines (as named today) approx.	SK 265.599
Tearsal Farm	SK 261.599
Site of Pitts Sough	SK 252 611
'Tearsal Mines' on O.S. 1840 map approx.	SK 254.606

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<sup>1</sup> B.C., 587-63.

<sup>2</sup> Exchequer Depositions E. 134/II Car. II Mich 20.

<sup>3</sup> The Columbello family settled in Darley Dale in 1373, and the last male died in the latter half of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Century. The Moiety of the manor came to them by marriage (Nether Hall or Whitwall Hall). In 1603 they held 1/4<sup>th</sup>. of the manor of Wensley. (see Smith, A.W., St. Helen's Church, Darley, Historical Notes (1951)). Darley Nether Hall is supposed to have been situated at the back of the present hall, and to have been pulled down in 1796, and the road above is supposed to be haunted by a Columbello ghost. Glover, and other writers, mention Peter Columbello's will of 1616, in which his son Roger was to inherit all his worldly goods, unless 'any of his brothers and sisters shall fynd him taking of tobacco'. Roger had five brothers and three sisters. There was a George Columbello, father and son, the father died between 1639-1644.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Senior of Bridgetown, bought half the moiety, and the old manor of Wensley in 1603, and the manor of Cowley in 1613. Richard and Anthony Senior were still alive in 1633. William Horne was from Trowell, Nottinghamshire, which is only about nine miles from Butterley, so he may be one of the Horne family who lived at Butterley Hall for several generations, and were still there in 1673. In 1692 there was what Cox (Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals) called 'the first recorded instance of any dispute with regard to coal mines assessment'. A Mr. Erott, proprietor of some coal mines at Pentrich, had complained that he was over-rated for the Poor Rate, and that 'Mr. Hornes Coal Mines' were not rated at all for this. The court ruled that they should both be equally rated and taxed according to a pound rate. Other partners with Columbello were Thomas Allen (or Allaine), a brother-in-law of Horne. There was also a Thomas Allen at these mines in 1767 and the name is still extant in Darley. Also John Wall, who was associated with Winster sough. Thomas Paunett appears to have been managing the mine, and one witness said that he was supposed to have 1/5<sup>th</sup>. of Bartholomew's 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. share. A number of people are mentioned in the document of

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the 1630's. Edward Bradshawe (b. 1599) of Bonsal was the Deputy Barmaster. Anthony Greensmith (b. 1599) of Bonsal, a copyholder of Bonsal of this name died before 1620, but in 1652 another of this name was on a Small Barmote at Wirksworth. This was the Barmote case of the Dovegang Mine, Wheatcroft v. Vermuyden, and Greensmith was among those who were accused of favouring Vermuyden, so that in the Tearsal case it is interesting to note that he was a witness against Bartholomew, who had been angry with Vermuyden. The Wensley of Wensley Blackwell is a family name. In 1591 Lettice Wensley, widow, and Ralph Blackwell, sold a moiety of the manor of Wensley. There was a Roger de Wensley in 1325, and in later charters.

<sup>5</sup> D.L. 5/32 Duchy of Lancaster Decrees and Orders.

<sup>6</sup> It is impossible to be quite sure of the use of the word 'engine', it was given such a wide use during this, and even later, periods. It could have been a water-wheel, or raising water by horse-gin. It cannot even be certain if when it was 'planted' it refers to an underground 'engine' or to 'planting' the pumps. In the Dovegang documents there is more than one mention of 'engines and pumps'.

<sup>7</sup> Raistrick, A., *Dynasty of Ironfounders, the Darbys and Coalbrook Dale*. (1953). *Trans. Newcomen Society XXII (1942-3)* in a Rhys Jenkins article 'Early Engineering in Cornwall', Jenkins states that regarding the early Newcomen engines, the parts were fitted together and the smithwork done on the mine, and that there was no iron foundry in Cornwall, but that castings of the cylinder and its bottom, etc., came from Coalbrook Dale. See also Raistrick, A., *Mill Close Mine, Derbyshire 1720-1780*. *Proceedings of the University of Durham Phil. Soc.* May 1938 p.45.

<sup>8</sup> B.C., 494. Book of entered letters John Barker of Edensor.

<sup>9</sup> B.C., 738A.

<sup>10</sup> B.C., 738C.

<sup>11</sup> Whitehurst, J. *An Inquiry into the Original State and Formation of the earth (1776)* pp. 146, 156, 159, 160 and Plate 1.