

North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers
Nicholas Wood Memorial Library

Individual mines

a resource guide

Introduction

Information available on particular mines may possibly be a history of the mine, but more likely will be documents dealing with aspects like geology, deeds, owners, output, surveys, accidents, plans, valuation, technologies used, etc. This guide notes potential sources of such information for all types of mine in the UK.

Library catalogue

Check the Institute Library Catalogue under a mine name to see if there are any specific books and pamphlets about - or containing significant information on - the mine. Maps may also be found.

Lists of mines with managers, etc (See also **Abandoned mines** below)

There are various series of annual lists of mines. Listing usually give the name, owners, manager, number of employees, minerals worked, etc.

Robert Hunt's Mineral Statistics. 1845-1881. [NEIMME from 1853]

Mining and Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. 1882 - 1896. [NEIMME has all]

The Mines Inspectors' reports for 1872-1883 include a list with just the owner and name - no employee information.

List of mines worked 1888-1919 [NEIMME: 1897-1919]

List of mines in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Isle of Man

1920-1937, 1945, 1948, 1950 [NEIMME: 1921-29, 1931-1937, 1940-41, 1943-45, 1948, 1950]

Owner, Manager and Under manager, number of persons, minerals worked. Index of owners.

Lists of quarries in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Isle of Man

1895-1918 [NEIMME: 1897-1914 (bound with the *List of mines worked*), 1922, 1925, 1928, 1931, 1934, 1937]

Owner, agent,/manager, number of employees

The online *Durham Mining Museum* has an index to coal and metalliferous mines in Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland and ironstone mines in North Yorkshire:

<http://www.dmm.org.uk/colliery/index.htm>

There are details of dates, owners, output, employment, seams worked, shaft geology, etc

There are also lists of mines in Northern England for various years from 1869 to 1991:

<http://www.dmm.org.uk/lom/index.htm>

These are taken from government publications, such as those noted above, or others like the *Colliery Guardian*.

Some compilations:

Burt, Roger, Waite, Peter & Burnley, Ray *The Durham and Northumberland mineral statistics : metalliferous and associated minerals 1845-1913*. 1983.

General introduction. Mines: ownership, management (names), production.

Burt, Roger, Atkinson, Michael, Burnley, Ray & Waite, Peter *The Derbyshire mineral statistics: metalliferous and associated minerals 1845-1913*. 1981.

Gill, Mike & Burt, Roger *The mines of Yorkshire: metalliferous and associated minerals. (British Mining (72))*. 2003 Similar content, index to names, grid references.

The Library has handbooks with details of coal mines:

Colliery year book and coal trades directory 1922-1963/4 [NEIMME: 1928, 1939-64]

List of collieries with directors, manager; who's who; name index

Guide to the coalfields 1948-95 [NEIMME: 1953-59, 1961-63, 1965, 1967, 1969-70, 1973-81, 1983, 1986-89, 1991]

Collieries, with manager; name index

Reid's handy colliery guide and directory for the counties of Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire. 1913

Reid's handy colliery guide and directory for the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Cumberland and Westmorland. 1921

List with owners, managers, engineers, inspectors, fitters with addresses – some home

Colliery handbook for Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire. 1900.

Lists of mines with managers; list of mining engineers/surveyors

The North Country and Yorkshire coal annual for 1921.

Companies; lists mines with managers; statistics

The South Wales Coal Annual for 1912.

Lists mines with managers; statistics; wages

Mining manual 1888, 1893, 1896

International, all types of mine. Mining companies, alphabetical list of directors

Other lists

A-Z List of Mines – Coalmining History Resource Centre

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160703013449/http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/site/maps/azlistofmines/index.html>

No names are included but there are location maps.

This site is no longer maintained. This version is at the Internet Archive.

A searchable database of mines where there are remains is at the *AuditNow* website:

<http://www.aditnow.co.uk/list-of-mines-uk-international>

There are notes, documents and photographs for some mines.

Durham County Record Office database of Durham collieries – location, dates, owners

<http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/Pages/DurhamCollieries.aspx>

Northern Mine Research Society

<http://www.nmrs.org.uk/resources/metallmining.html>

Lists with brief notes and dates: Metalliferous Mines in the Yorkshire Dales, Lancashire Lead Mines, North Yorkshire Ironstone Mines

Index to articles

Northern Mine Research Society *Index to [nearly] all NMRS publications & newsletters*. 2016

<http://www.nmrs.org.uk/mines-map/index-of-nmrs-publications-newsletters/>

Covers individual mines, companies.

Statistics

Mining and mineral statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland 1882-1887.

[NEIMME has all]

(1883 is entitled *Summaries of the Reports of the Inspectors of Mines and Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, including Lists of Mines and Mineral Works for 1883*)

Output, value, prices, exports - for some minerals by mine.

Mineral statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland with the Isle of Man.

1888-1896 [NEIMME has all]

Content is much the same as the previous series

Mines Inspectors reports Parts III Output 1897- 1919 [NEIMME has all.]

Output, exports, value - by mineral and sometimes by mine.

Durham Coal Owners' Association *Wages and trade customs, 1874, together with statistics and other matters relating to the Durham coal-field, 1875*. Very detailed by colliery. Also a volume for 1876.

Steam Collieries Defence Association *Wages and trade customs, 1873, together with statistics and other matter relating to the Northumberland coal-field. 1874*. Very detailed by colliery.

Also a volume for 1875 and one with both years.

[Further sources of statistics are in the Library resource guide: *Mining and mineral statistics*.]

Accidents

See the Library resource guide: *Mining accidents and safety*

Maps

The Institute Library has an extensive collection of Ordnance Survey and Geological maps and other local maps.

Databases of these are being developed, but are not yet available to the public. You will need to ask in the Library to find what is available.

Northern Mine Research Society has produced an interactive map of coal mines:

Collieries of the British Isles

<http://www.nmrs.org.uk/mines-map/coal-mining-in-the-british-isles/collieries-of-the-british-isles/>

The *Durham Mining Museum* has a selection of OS and other maps from different periods showing the location of collieries in the North:

<http://www.dmm.org.uk/maps/index.htm>

There are similar maps for the whole country at the *Coalmining History Resource Centre*

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160703013449/http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/site/maps/azlistofmines/index.html>

No longer maintained. This version at the Internet Archive.

The National Library of Scotland has many maps online at various scales and at different times for Great Britain and Ireland. Old maps can be shown side by side with modern ones.

<http://maps.nls.uk>

Mine plans

Prior to 1840 there was no requirement for mining plans to be prepared and it was not until 1850 that The Inspection of Coal Mines Act 1850 required a coal mine owner to keep a plan at each mine.

In 1872 The Coal Mines Regulation Act and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act made the deposition of plans of abandoned mines with the Secretary of State a statutory requirement. Non-coal mines were not required to deposit plans if there had been fewer than 12 men employed below ground and this relaxation was perpetuated in all subsequent legislation until 1993. All that was required to be shown on these plans were the boundaries of the mine workings up to the time of abandonment. There was no requirement for orientation with the surface, depth of workings or section extracted information to be shown.

(From <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/nocomico/history.htm>)

The Institute Library has an extensive collection of plans of mine workings, mainly from older pits.

Accident reports often include plans of underground and other workings relevant to the accident.

Non-coal mining plans – British Geological Survey

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/nocomico/home.html>

A database of non-coal mines showing what plans exist and where – eg local archives – they can be found.

The *Coal Authority* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority> has responsibility for providing information on past and present coal mining operations in Britain. The Mining Records Office at the Coal Authority headquarters in Mansfield currently holds:

Coal Abandonment Plans: Over 100000 plans covering both opencast and deep mining operations, and depicting areas of coal extraction and the point of entry into the same. They can be viewed and copies purchased.

Coal Holdings Register dealt with the transfer in ownership of coal prior to the Nationalisation of the Coal Industry on the 1 January 1947. In conjunction with the Registers, the collection includes twenty-six and a half thousand former Coal Commission claim files that contain the

relevant plans and Mining Leases, to supplement the Register entry.

Coal Authority interactive map viewer

<http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html>

This shows if there are coal and mine entries on or near the surface or a site is in a high risk area.

Abandoned mines

Mining and mineral statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland 1886 and 1887 have lists of plans of abandoned mines received – give parish and post town.

Mineral statistics 1889 has a list of plans of abandoned mines deposited in the Home Office.

Some individual district Inspectors reports include lists of abandoned mines from 1880s to 1920s, but not consistently.

Mines Department *Catalogue of plans of abandoned mines 5v, 1928-31* and supplements 1930-39.

All types of mine. Has location information not in previous catalogue

Home Office *List of the plans of abandoned mines ... deposited in the Home Office under...* Annual 1889-1920. [NEIMME: 1889-91; 1897-1906 – bound with the *List of mines worked*]

National Coal Board, Durham Division *Catalogue of plans of abandoned coal mines and worked out opencast coal sites. 1958*

Durham, part of Northumberland, Westmorland, North Riding of Yorkshire. Alphabetical by OS 6in to mile maps. Contains 1928 Catalogue + supplements 1930-9 and later plans. Location of entrance shaft and where plans held – NCB or private.

do. *Amendments and corrections 1959-75*; various supplements to 1988

National Coal Board *Catalogue of plans of abandoned coal mines and opencast coal sites in the county of Northumberland. 3 vols 1984*

Boring and sinkings

NEIMME *An account of the strata of Northumberland and Durham as proved by borings and sinkings.*

A-B 1878 and C-E, 1881 bound together.

F-K, 1885 and L-R, 1887 bound together.

S-T, 1894 and U-Z, 1897 bound together.

Supplementary volume, 1910

- colliery, longitude/latitude, materials, thickness

Photos/illustrations

The Institute's collection is being indexed in a database, but this is not yet available. You will need to ask in the Library to find what is available.

Drawing and other illustrations of mines will be found in accident reports and journal and newspaper articles.

NEIMME Archives

These collections include newspaper cuttings, notes, handbills, extracts, pamphlets, plans, minutes, reports, correspondence and notebooks from mining engineers.

Currently there is no online access to the archives lists, so you will need to contact the Library for assistance.

Journal articles

There may be articles about practice at particular mines in professional journals or notes on accidents, output, ownership, etc. in the weekly magazines.

NEIMME Transactions

Classified index – section by region: England, Wales, etc. England arranged by county. Items on specific mines will also be in the subject sections.
1852-1889

Institution of Mining Engineers Transactions

Indexes arranged as the NEIMME indexes but counties included only for 1889-1905
1889-1905
1906-1911
1911-1918
1918-1923
1923-1928
1928-1949

Colliery guardian

Indexes every 6 months. Mine names are included. Some years have a section 'Coal, iron and engineering companies.'

Mining journal

Indexes every 6 months. Mine and company names are included in the subject index.

Web resources

As well as using the websites noted previously it would always be worth doing a general web search for a mine name.

Other local archives

Durham County Record Office

<http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk>

Northumberland Archives

<http://www.experiencewoodhorn.com/collections/>

Tyne and Wear Archives

<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/archives/>

User guide:

Coal Industry - Part 2: Individual Collieries

<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/userfiles/UG19B.pdf>