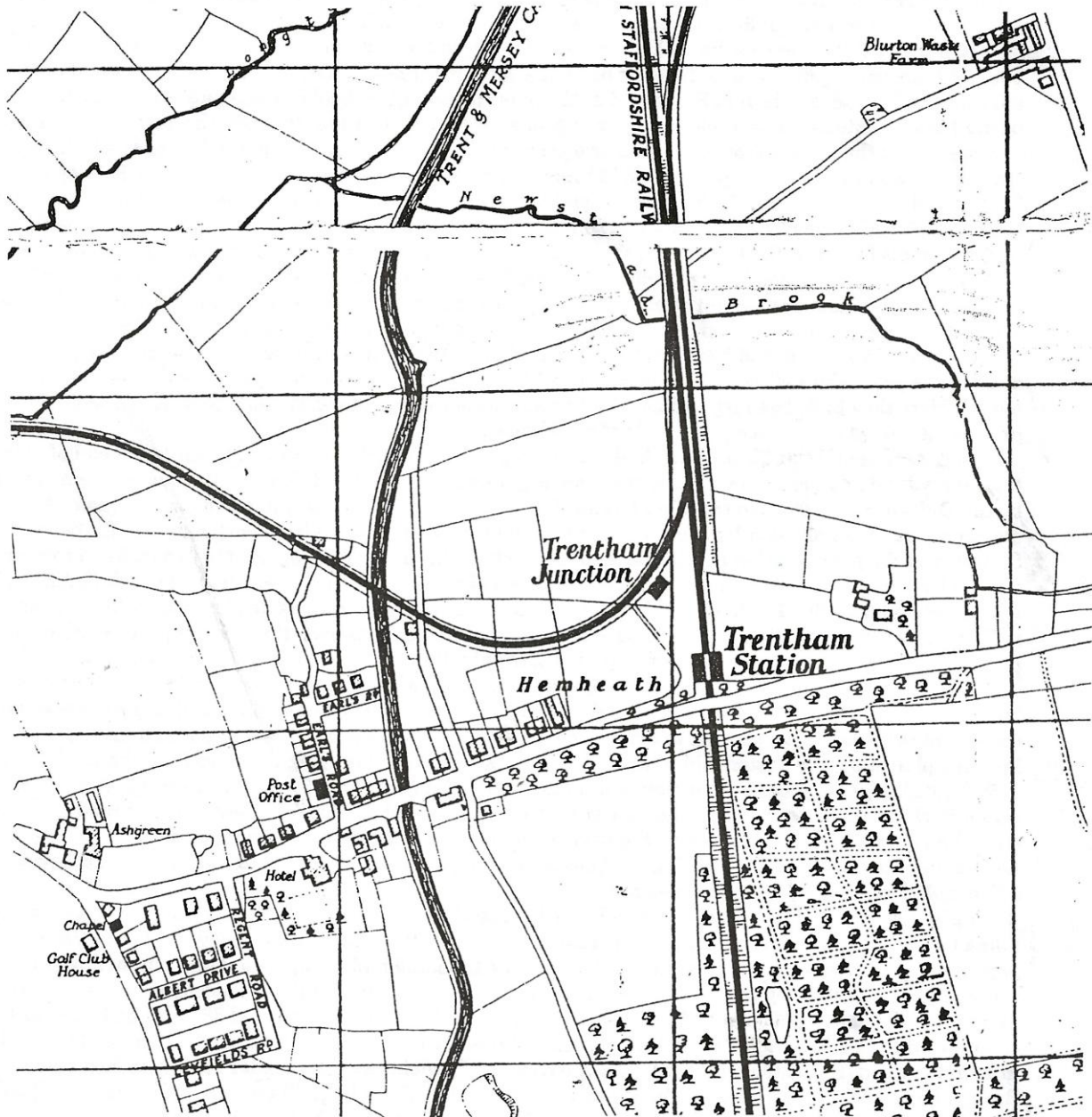


# SOCIAL HISTORY WALKS 2010

## ANDREW DOBRASZCZYC

### Hem Heath Colliery, Stoke-on-Trent



These notes have been produced for a history walk around the site of the former colliery at Hem Heath. The purpose of the walk is to show how the development of the colliery in the twentieth century was affected by the close relationship between the Stafford Coal and Iron Company and their successors, the National Coal Board, and the county borough, subsequently, City of Stoke-on-Trent.

The map above was produced by William Campbell, Architect & Surveyor, Hanley, & published by the Proprietors of the Staffordshire Sentinel Ltd., in January, 1912. It was issued with the directory of the Staffordshire Potteries, Newcastle and District, published by the Staffordshire Sentinel in the same year. The extract shows the area around the junction of the main North Staffordshire Railway line and the Longton and Trentham Road which runs across the map. It also shows the branch railway line which ran westwards to Trentham Park Station. The Duke of Sutherland, of Trentham Hall, owned all the land in the area which was let out to tenant farmers. Some of his land between Barlaston Old Road and Trentham Railway Station had been had developed with new housing. That development is explained in the next two pages.



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEM HEATH

The first building lease granted at Hem Heath was on Lady Day 1883, to the trustees of the Trentham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, for the construction of a new chapel in Barlaston Old Road. The chapel was designed by Thomas Roberts, the estate surveyor, and erected at a cost of £500. A further lease was granted in 1887 for the adjacent site where schoolrooms were built in 1887. The chapel stands behind the former police station in Barlaston Old Road (now the Nat West Bank).

The next important lease was that granted to Simon Fielding for land at Trent Vale in 1886. He was the poulterer to the Duke of Sutherland from 1868 onwards and lived at the Poulterer's House in Park Drive behind Trentham Hall. He took out the lease in order to make preparations for his retirement. However in the following year he took out a second lease on land at Hem Heath already occupied by a house where, shortly afterwards, he built himself a retirement home. His son, Abraham, born in 1855, was educated at St Peter's School in Stoke and at Thomas Hemming's School in Copeland Street. In 1870 he began his apprenticeship as a colour maker at a small colour mill on the River Blythe at Cresswell, later to become the Blythe Colour Works. Within two years he was placed in charge of the business which now traded as S Fielding. In the Spring of 1878 Simon Fielding invested money in the Railway Pottery in Sutherland Street, Fenton, which his son supplied with colours from his mill. The pottery went bankrupt in 1879 and at the age of 24 Abraham Fielding decided to become a pottery manufacturer. He was then living with his father at the Poulterer's House in Trentham and the census returns for 1881 list him as "Master Potter partner employing 26 men, 16 boys, 29 women and 10 girls". The concern was a success despite the fire which destroyed the principal buildings in 1883. One of the other partners in the firm was John Taylor, an accountant, who married Abraham's sister, Mary Fielding, in Trentham Parish Church in 1883. He lived nearby at the New Inn Mill in Trentham. As the firm prospered the two partners invested some of the profits by taking out two leases in 1894 on sites at Hem Heath adjacent to Simon Fielding's house. Here they built two large villas with the initials of the owners "J.T. 1894" and "A.F. 1894" prominently displayed on the gable ends of each house.

So far development at Hem Heath had been on a piece-meal basis. However, towards the end of 1896 the estate decided to develop the area in a more organized way. John H Garrett, the surveyor employed by the Duke of Sutherland to run the Florence Leasehold Estate Office was put in charge of the new development. He drew up plans for building plots on the Longton Road between Trentham Railway Station and the police station on the corner of Barlaston Old Road. The opportunity was taken to widen the road at this point to permit the construction of a wide, tree-lined, pavement fronting each building plot. It was decided that the development should proceed along the same lines as at Florence - with 99 year building leases regulating the type of house to be constructed and its use. Prospective purchasers were advised that the estate was to accommodate substantial villa residences with each plot containing either a detached house costing not less than £500 or two semi-detached houses of at least £400 each. The first leases for the new development were signed on the 28 July 1897. The demand for building plots was so great that the estate soon decided to extend the development. A new plan was prepared to include building plots along Barlaston Old Road with several streets laid out at right angles from the road. It was also decided to permit the construction of a smaller class of house along Brough Lane and in a new street called Earl Street. However these houses were to be built in such a way that they were not readily visible from the main road in order to preserve the development value of the rest of the estate. Between these houses and the main road a pair of larger houses and shops was built in 1903 to accommodate the post office and village stores for the new estate.

The leasehold register in Staffordshire Record Office shows that virtually all the building leases were taken by two builders from Fenton: William Mould and John Bagnall. William Mould was the more important of the two. He was born in Fenton in about 1865 and had set up as a joiner and builder in Church Street, Fenton, by the late 1880s. His concern prospered and by the 1891 census he was describing himself as "Builder and Contractor". Between 1897 and 1910 the estate granted 38 building leases at Hem Heath of which 24 were taken by William Mould. He constructed 52 houses on these plots - 40 large villas in Longton Road, Barlaston Old Road, Albert Drive and Leyfield Road; 8 smaller semi-detached houses in Brough Lane and a row of 4 houses at the end of Earl Street. John Bagnall took 6 building leases all on the 28 July 1899 for sites on the north side of the Longton Road where he built 10 semi-detached houses. The only other significant involvement came from Abraham Fielding who invested some of his money in 2 building leases with 5 other leases subsequently assigned to him. Building plans had to be submitted for approval to the Trentham Estate Office and the Duke of Sutherland took a personal interest in the design of each house. The letter below sent by George Menzies, the Duke's agent, to William Mould on 21st December 1897 illustrates the nature of the control exercised by the estate:

"Herewith I now enclose to you the plan you left with me today. I have shown it to His Grace who quite approves of everything except the weathercock which - if erected at all - should be on a gable end and not on a chimney - and further the Chimnies should be improved by being carried up one foot higher. The Duke also suggests that you should look at the Chimney Tops on Mr Mitcheson's house - on the east side of Trentham Station and see if some of the pattern there would not be an improvement. Kindly send in a tracing to keep."



The building referred to as an exemplar of architectural design was Hem Heath House a large detached house which stood on the other side of the railway line. Plans in Staffordshire Record Office show that George Devey, an imaginative architect from southern England, played a major role in the design of this house. The builders at Hem Heath had other considerations in mind. They did vary the design of the larger houses - each pair of semis is different from the others though many share similar characteristics, for example in the use of timber as a decorative feature in the gable ends. Variation in design was a necessary requirement to attract wealthy purchasers or tenants. However they were not prepared to copy the expensive architectural features which adorn Devey's buildings. George Menzies acknowledged the financial constraints within which they operated in another letter written in 1897 to the Duke of Sutherland about a plan for a pair of semi-detached houses at Hem Heath:

"We have now arranged another lease - in this case for a pair of semi-detached houses, and the Builder has sent in the plans he proposes, and which I herewith enclose. You will see that only one house has been shown - the other will be a duplicate. I think there is no serious objection to it on the score of appearance except the squatness of the Chimnies. I suggest that these be raised 3 feet or more - as marked in pencil - when the design might be passed. Of course the whole thing is plain but it is difficult to get much more without involving Cost which would be fatal to letting".

The same degree of attention was not paid to the smaller houses in Brough Lane, Earl Street and Meadow Lane where each pair of semis was originally identical to its neighbours. Between 1897 and 1914 80 houses were constructed at Hem Heath: 55 large villas most of which were semi-detached houses; 23 smaller houses; and 2 houses and shops in Brough Lane. The vast majority of these houses were constructed between 1897 and 1903 when 31 of the 44 leases were granted. Only 8 leases were signed in the ten years between 1904 and the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. The estate never completed their proposed development because of the effect on the housing market of the industrial depression which began in 1904. Builders were not prepared to take on building leases when there was a lack of prospective purchasers or tenants.

The Land Valuation Register of 1910 (in Staffordshire Record Office) provides us with information about the ownership of the houses at Hem Heath. William Mould then owned 24 of the houses. This included "Sunnyside" on the north side of the Longton Road near the railway station where he lived from 1897. Abraham Fielding owned 14 houses, as well as his own house built in 1894, and John Bagnall 4. All the smaller houses were let to tenants while just over half of the large villas had been sold by William Mould and John Bagnall to owner-occupiers.

Information about the occupiers of the houses is available in the 1901 census returns and in The Staffordshire Sentinel Directory for 1912 which lists the occupations of 16 of the new residents. Apart from William Mould, builder, and two grocers in Brough Lane, the occupations recorded include mining engineers, a manager, a bank manager, a surgeon, a chemist, an estate agent, a schoolmaster, a secretary, 2 bakers, and a Wesleyan Minister who lived in Earl Street. From other sources we know that the new residents also included pottery manufacturers, solicitors, and senior local government officers.

They used the railway station to get to and from work and the North Staffordshire Railway Company provided new services to cater for their requirements. By 1905 there was a choice of 6 trains from Trentham Station to Stoke between 6.55 and 9.27 a.m.; 9 trains in the same direction between 11.25 a.m. and 5.20 p.m. and 4 trains in the evening up to 10.45 p.m. Most of these trains also carried on to the railway station at Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Below: View along Longton Road, c.1906. These houses are on the north side of the road immediately west of Trentham Railway Station and were the first houses built by William Mould in 1897. They include his own house "Sunnyside".



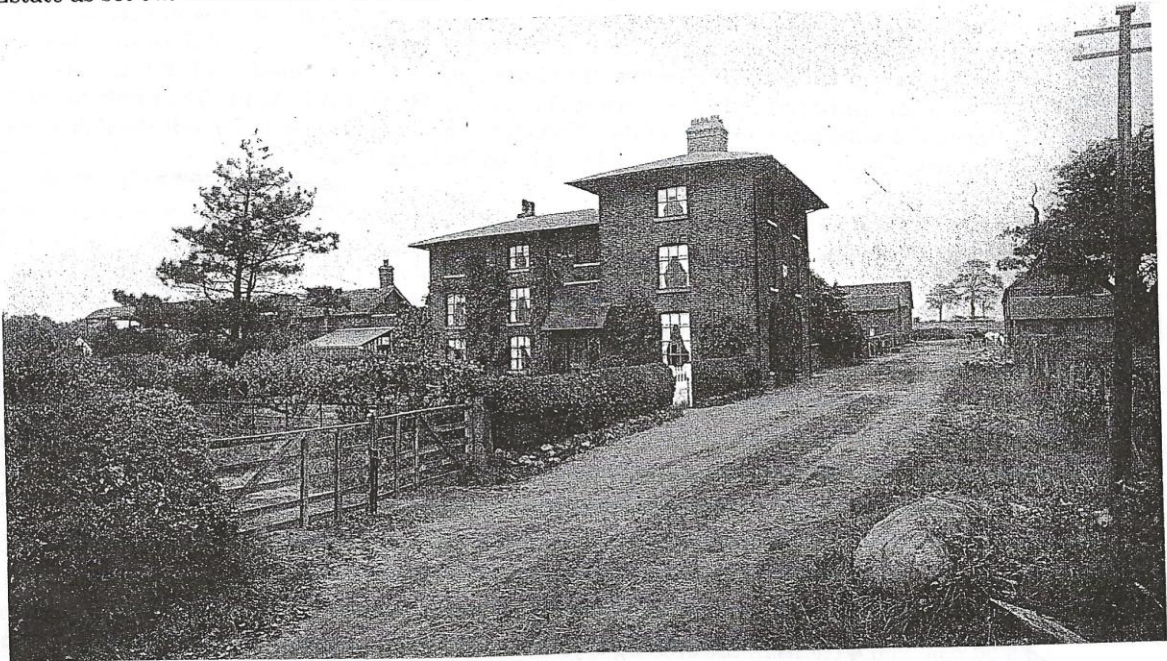


4.

## THE SALE OF THE TRENTHAM HALL ESTATE

In 1905 the Duke of Sutherland abandoned Trentham Hall. The Hall was demolished in 1911. The first major sale of land took place in 1914. The outbreak of the First World War halted the disposal of land and the greater part of the estate was offered for sale at the King's Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, in 1919. The photograph below shows Blurton Waste Farm, lot 263. At the end of the nineteenth century Longton Town Council leased the farm from the Duke of Sutherland and built a sewage works there. In 1910 the county borough of Stoke-on-Trent, successors to Longton Council, took over the lease and continued to operate the sewage works. At the auction in 1919 Stoke-on-Trent Corporation bought the 200 acre farm, which is described below and on the next two pages. Part of the plan attached to the auction particulars which included Blurton Waste Farm, is reproduced on page 8. What it shows is that several fields and the property known as Hem Heath House standing on the north side of Trentham Road east of the North Staffordshire Railway line near Trentham Railway Station, were not included in the auction at the Kings Hotel. This had already been chosen as the site of a new colliery by the Stafford Coal and Iron Company before the First World War.

At this auction, and indeed all the other auctions of the Trentham Estate, the mineral rights leased to the Stafford Coal and Iron Company and other colliery undertakings, were retained by the Trentham Estate as set out in clause 13 of the conditions of sale reproduced below.



13. All the mines and minerals, petroleum, and natural gas and related hydro-carbons in and under the whole of the property are reserved in fee out of the sale with full liberty for the Vendors and their sequels in title and their Lessees or tenants to search for, win, work, get, and carry away the same, but by underground workings only. The coal and ironstone and other stone and minerals underlying a number of the Lots are included in Leases to the Florence Colliery Company, Limited, the Stafford Coal & Iron Company, Limited, the Mossfield Colliery, Limited and Fenton Collieries, Limited, respectively and every Lot or part of a Lot affected thereby is (in addition to the foregoing reservation of all the mines and minerals, petroleum and natural gas, and related hydro-carbons) sold subject to a reservation in fee to or in favour of the Vendors their sequels in title and their Lessees or Tenants, and all such powers, rights of entry, rights of way, and other rights and easements for searching for, winning, working, getting, and carrying away such coal and ironstone and other stone and minerals as are by the said Leases given to the said Companies for the terms thereby granted. By the said Leases the Companies are responsible for damage to the surface caused by their workings, also for damage caused to buildings erected on the surface prior to the dates of their respective Leases, and in the case of certain Lots they have power to enter upon the surface but are liable to pay compensation as mentioned in the Particulars of those Lots. The Conveyances to the Purchasers will be framed to give effect to the above-mentioned reservations. The reservation of minerals (subject to the rights of the said Companies under their said Leases) shall not extend to such marl, gravel, and sand as can be got without passing through any vein of coal or ironstone and without disturbing any mining operations. The Counterparts of the said Leases will be produced at the Sale and may be inspected by appointment at the Trentham Estate Office during a period of seven days prior to the Sale, and each Purchaser whether availing himself of such opportunity of inspection or not, shall be deemed to have full notice of the contents of such Leases, whether of a usual character or not, and whether and how far they affect the Lots purchased by him, and shall not make any objection or requisition with respect thereto, nor be entitled to an Abstract of the said Leases except at his own expense.



LOT 263.

The very important

# AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

known as

## “BLURTON WASTE FARM,”

situate immediately adjacent to Trentham Railway Station, and possessing excellent building frontage to the highroad leading from Trentham to Longton.

The Premises consist of commodious and conveniently arranged Dwelling House, extensive and well equipped Farm Buildings, Seven Cottages and Gardens, and approximately 200 Acres of Land.

THE HOUSE AND FARM BUILDINGS are situate in the centre of the Farm, and are approached from the adjacent highways by means of occupation Roads connecting with Main Roads leading from Trentham to Longton, and from Blurton to Fenton.

THE HOUSE—brick built and slated and of three storeys—is substantially built, and in good structural repair.

It contains on the Ground Floor: Enclosed Porch, Entrance Hall, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Office, Kitchen, Dairy, and Pantry.

On the First Floor: Landing, Five Bedrooms, Bathroom, and W. C.

On the Second Floor: Landing, Four Bedrooms, and Dress Closet.

Good Cellar.

To rear of Working Yard, partly covered in, are Coal House, Bakehouse, and two E. C.'s.

Large Kitchen Garden.

THE FARM BUILDINGS—brick built and tiled—are in excellent state of repair, and consist of Double Cowhouse, with tying for 44, having Feeding Passage in centre, and with Hay Bay to rear, the whole opening on to enclosed Manure Yard; Cow House, with tying for 18, and having Feeding Passage, Range of three Loose Boxes, with Feeding Passage and having Lofting over; Bull House, with Straw Loft over; Fold Yard, with Feeding and Lying Sheds; Waggon Horse Stable, with Standing for 5; Ditto, with Standing for 3; both with Lofting over. Three-Bay Implement Shed, with Granary extending over same; also over Hackney Stable, Trap House, and Loose Box; Two Loose Boxes, with Corn Store over; Engine House, Turnip House, and Mixing House, with Grinding and Chopping Floor over; Hackney Stable, Trap House, Blacksmith's Shop, Mess Room. Range of Four Pigstyes, Shed for Housing of Steam Ploughing Tackle, brick built and with boarded and felted roof.

Seven-Bay Hay and Corn Barn, brick built and tiled,  
100 ft. x 21 ft.

Poultry House, with Lofting over and E. C.

Situate in the Stackyard is Hay and Corn Shed on Iron Pillars, with Galvanised Iron Roof, with Wood Wall-plates and Purlins, 105' x 24'. N.B.—This Shed is the property of the Corporation of the Borough of Stoke-on-Trent. By arrangement with the Corporation this Hay Shed is to be taken to by valuation on the termination of their Lease.



6.

Blurton.

LOT 263—*continued.*

The Potteries Water Works Supply is laid on to the House, and also to the Farm Buildings.

The Block of Two Cottages—brick built and tiled—situate directly adjacent to the Homestead; each contains:—Entrance Lobby, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Store Closet, Landing, Three Bedrooms, and Dress Closet.

Opening on to Enclosed Yards are Wash Houses.

Detached from the premises are in each instance Pigstye and E. C.

Good Gardens.

Water is laid on from the Potteries Water Works Company's Main.

Situate on the Farm, to the east of the Steading, is block of three Cottages—brick built and tiled—fronting to Occupation Road leading from the Farm to Blurton Road. Each contains Entrance Lobby, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Landing, and Three Bedrooms.

Opening on to enclosed Yards are Coal Houses and Wash Houses.

Pigstyes and E. C.'s.

Good Gardens.

Water is laid on from the Potteries Water Works Company's Main.

Immediately adjacent to the before mentioned block of three Cottages is another block of two Cottages, also brick built and tiled, and each containing the following accommodation: Entrance Lobby, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Landing, and Three Bedrooms.

Opening on to enclosed Yards are Wash Houses.

Pigstyes and E. C.'s.

Good Gardens.

Water is laid on from the Potteries Water Works Company's Main.

The Drainage from the last mentioned 5 Cottages is connected with the Longton Sewer.

THE LAND—all having good staple and of excellent quality—is in a high state of cultivation; it lies immediately surrounding the Homestead, and is served by good Occupation Roads.

The Farm is specially equipped for disposal, by means of septic tanks and filter beds in conjunction with broad irrigation, of the sewage of the neighbouring town of Longton.

THE TURFS are all old, in good heart, and afford abundant pasturage of high feeding properties.

THE ARABLE land is a deep loam, in highly productive condition, and admirably suited for the growth of either corn or root crops.

*Tenants*:—The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Corporation of the Borough of Stoke-on-Trent.

*Tenancy*:—The tenancy is a Leasehold one. Term, 42 years, expiring with 25th March, 1941.

**Apportioned Yearly Present Rental £578 2s. 2d.**

*Outgoings*:—Land Tax ... £2 8s. 4d.

The Purchaser of this Lot will be required to pay for growing timber thereon which is assessed



7.

# LOT 263—continued.

Borough of Stoke-on-Trent.		SCHEDULE.				AREA.	AREA.
NO. ON PLAN.		DESCRIPTION.				ACRES.	A. R. P.
24	}	...	...	...	...	1.140	
43		...	...	...	...	3.174	
44		...	...	...	...	14.189	
45		...	...	...	...	15.146	
46		...	...	...	...	7.706	
47		...	...	...	...	.040	
48		...	...	...	...	10.560	
49		...	...	...	...	20.894	
50		...	...	...	...	11.657	
51		...	...	...	...	.295	
Pt. 52	}	...	...	...	...	10.092	
Pt. 53		Longton Sewage Farm and Works.				.140	
Pt. 147		In Lease.				13.110	
148		...	...	...	...	.735	
Pt. 150		...	...	...	...	13.588	
Pt. 507		...	...	...	...	.519	
Pt. 694		...	...	...	...	10.390	
695		...	...	...	...	3.800	
696a		...	...	...	...	.173	
697		...	...	...	...	.518	
698	...	...	...	...	7.796		
699	...	...	...	...	1.919		
700	...	...	...	...	.862		
742	...	...	...	...	51.306		
746	...	...	...	...	.228		
						199.977	199 3 36

The option of tenancy of enclosures No. Pt. 52, Pt. 53, Pt. 147, Pt. 150, 151, Pt. 507, 543, 544, 545, 693, Pt. 694, Ordnance Plan (having a total area of 80.650 acres), at present held and occupied as part of the Sewage Farm, is reserved to the Owner and Occupier thereof until such time as the area is required by the Vendor or his assigns. The rent in the meantime to be paid and the conditions under which the land is to be held to be those of an ordinary agricultural tenancy.

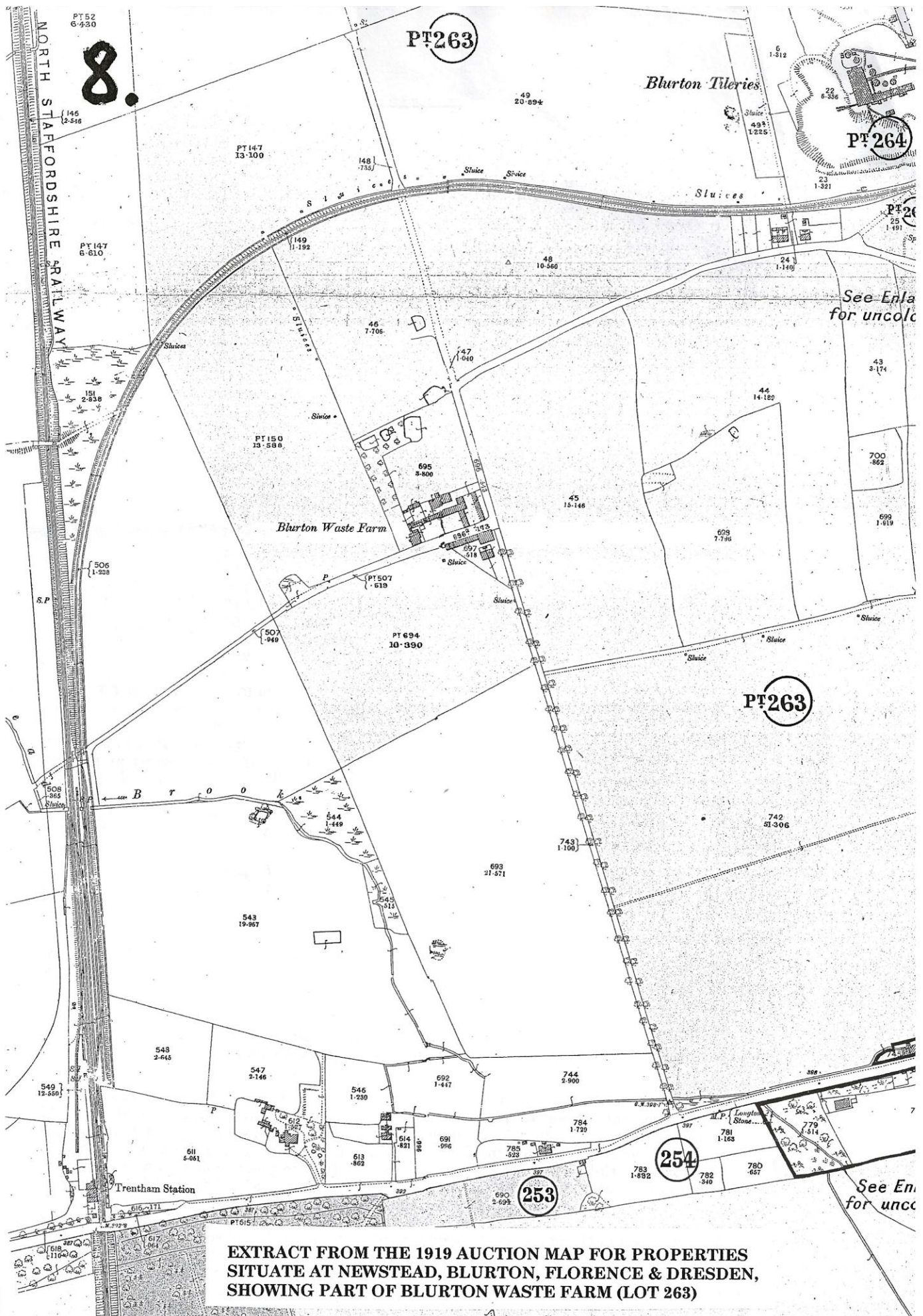
Right of User of Water Supply from Brook Course flowing along Southerly Boundary of Field No. 742 is reserved to the Vendor and his assigns. This as hitherto used and enjoyed.

Ownership is reserved to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Stoke-on-Trent of the Corporation Main Sewers so far as they cross this land. Also Right of Way for and access thereto.

This Lot is sold subject to, and with the benefit of, all existing rights and liabilities of the Vendors in respect of the Occupation Road abutting upon this Lot.

The Florence Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., have power by their Lease dated 9th August, 1910, of entry upon the surface of Water Course and its banks forming part of Fields No. 742 and 746 (hatched red on Sale Plan) for the purpose of constructing and maintaining Reservoir, searching and sinking for, obtaining and removing therefrom, water for the supply of their Colliery at Florence. Also power for the possession of, ownership, and the laying of Water Mains for conveyance of such water; also Right of Way for, and access to, such Water Mains. Also for the erection of the necessary buildings for the housing of Pumps and Machinery in connection therewith; yielding and paying therefor to the Owners and Occupiers of the lands so entered upon full and sufficient compensation for all damage done either to the buildings erected on the land at the date of such lease, the surface of the land, growing crops, fences, or standing timber thereon.







## THE EXTENSION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF STOKE-ON-TRENT

9.

In 1919 the county borough of Stoke-on-Trent prepared a scheme to extend its boundary to include Newcastle-under-Lyme, Wolstanton, Chesterton, Silverdale, Clayton, Trentham, Hanford, Meir, Bucknall, Smallthorne, Norton and Kids Grove. The proposal for the extension of the boundaries was dealt with by a public enquiry held by the Ministry of Health in 1920. All the surrounding local authorities including Trentham Parish Council opposed the proposal. However, George C Kent, the former town clerk of Longton but then the solicitor for the Trentham Estate and the Stafford Coal and Iron Company gave evidence that the interests he represented supported the boundary extension up to the Whitmore Road and the Stone Road (i.e. excluding Trentham Park and Gardens). Part of his evidence is reproduced below. His answers to the questions are revealing, not for what he said, which was very little, but what he deliberately omitted to say – that the Trentham Estate and the Stafford Coal and Iron Company supported the boundary extension because they assumed, correctly, that the county borough would actively support the proposed development of a new colliery at Hem Heath even if local residents were opposed to it.

Extract from the evidence of George C Kent:

Q 1473: Mr Kent, we know you are a solicitor, and we know that you have great familiarity with this district. You were formerly Town Clerk of Longton before the Federation of 1910, and you took a great interest in that Federation, and in the preceding history of the matter? A. That is so

Q 1474: I think you were very largely responsible for the Federation? A. Yes

Q 1475: If you were in some sense responsible for it, you see no reason to regret your action? A. None

Q 1478: I think you are a Solicitor to the Trustees and Executors of the late Duke of Sutherland, who are owners of the Trentham Estate, and also Solicitor to the Stafford Coal and Iron Company, which is a large undertaking? A. Yes

Q 1479: And obviously the Trustees and Executors of the Duke of Sutherland's Estate, are largely interested in the district of Trentham? A. Yes

Q 1480: Are you authorised both on behalf of the Executors of the Duke and on behalf of the Stafford Coal and Iron Company, to approve the scheme, apart from Trentham Valley, which is in a special position, so far as it relates to the areas north of the main road leading from Whitmore to Trentham, and thereafter to the east of the main road leading from Newcastle-under-Lyme to Stone? A. I am authorised to say that they consider the proposed extension fair and reasonable, so far as the area you have mentioned is concerned.

Q 1482: What do your clients expect to get out of this? Nothing that I am aware of.

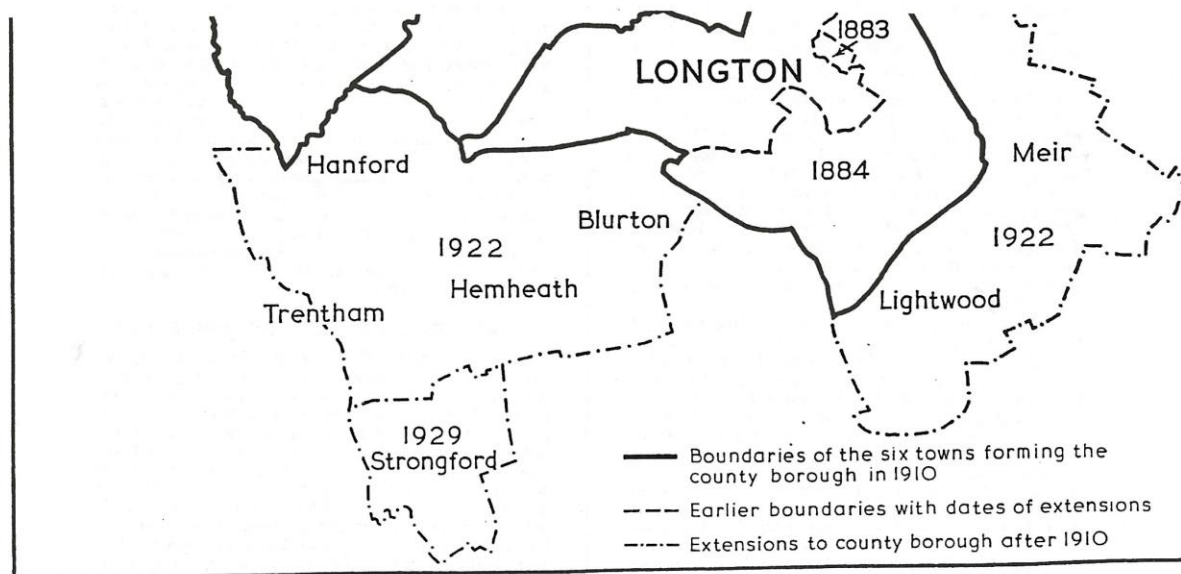
Q 1483: What is it all about? A. I do not know. I am asked to make this statement

Q 1500: I would like to ask, is it not a fact that the Sutherland Trustees have practically sold the whole of their property which you say is to be taken in, but still have all that part which is to remain? A. No. There is a great deal which is still left unsold.

Q 1501: There is a considerable amount of property to the east of the line? A. A very substantial amount

Q 1502: That was sold in the main to farmers and tenants? A. To the tenants.

The government approved a partial extension scheme on the west side of Stoke-on-Trent, in 1922. This included 2,835 acres in the parishes of Trentham and Stone Rural. In 1930 a further 430 acres in Trentham and Barlaston parishes, comprising the area between Strongford Farm and Oldroad Farm, was added for the purpose of constructing the Strongford Sewage Works (see map below).





Within 18 months of the sale in 1919, the Stafford Coal and Iron Company, in which the Duke of Sutherland was by far the largest shareholder, began the preliminary work on the development of a new colliery. One of their first actions was the diversion of the Newstead Brook which ran across the centre of the site. (See Ordnance Survey Map on page 19. The new route of the brook is shown on the OS map on pages 20 and 21.) By then the site lay within the boundary of the county borough of Stoke-on-Trent which actively supported the new development. Extracts from the Staffordshire Sentinel of 30 and 31 July 1924 are reproduced below. At the opening ceremony for the cutting of the first sod the Duke referred to the fears that had been expressed about the way in which this new colliery would affect Hem Heath and the village of Trentham. Despite his assurances it is clear that such a development would not have been contemplated if the family was still resident at Trentham Hall. But they had left twenty years earlier and were now prepared to exploit the local mineral rights. Having sold most of their land in that area the effect of the new colliery on local housing development was no longer their problem.

## NEW COLLIERY FOR NORTH STAFFS.

### IMPORTANT EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT. GREAT UNDERTAKING AT TRENTHAM.

The Duke of Sutherland on Wednesday inaugurated a great industrial development in North Staffordshire by cutting the first sod of a new colliery at Hem Heath, Trentham, for the Stafford Coal and Iron Company, Ltd.

#### DETAILS OF THE SCHEME.

No. 1 shaft, which was the scene of to-day's interesting ceremony, will be 19ft. 6ins. in diameter inside the brickwork, and will be sunk in the first instance to a depth of 730 yards, to recover the upper coal seams and the Bassey Mine ironstone. Ultimately, this shaft will be deepened, making an inset at 950 yards, to recover the seams down to and including the Yard Seam, and the whole plant has been designed to deal with the output from the greater depth. The shaft will be equipped for raising 1,400 tons of mineral in a seven-hour shift from the 950 yard level, and it is anticipated that the first stage of the sinking will be completed in about two years. The probability is that the work will be sufficiently advanced in five years to obtain a reasonable output, but not the full output.

The second shaft, which is also to be 19ft. 6ins. in diameter, will be sunk later, about 60 yards from the first, to recover the upper coals on the western side of the new area, to a depth of about 650 yards below the surface. This will be equipped for dealing with a similar quantity of mineral to the No. 1 shaft, and at the end of about six years, by which time the sinking and equipment will be complete, about 2,000 men will be employed at each pit. This means a very important development, and it is obvious that attention will soon have to be paid to the question of housing somewhere in the immediate vicinity.

#### PRELIMINARY WORK.

Visitors to the site of the new colliery found that in the past two years a good deal of preliminary work has been done. This includes the diversion of a brook course, which formerly ran straight across the site, and has now been altered to skirt the buildings that are to be erected. The modern headgears and 180ft. high chimney, with 10ft. internal diameter, have already become a local landmark, and, in addition to a mammoth reservoir which has been installed, there is the temporary sinking plant.

This consists of a pair of sinking engines, 24in. bore by 48in. stroke, with 8ft. diameter parallel drum; capstans, 8in. bore by 12in. stroke, with drums 3ft. diameter, the gear reduction being 80-1; and an air compressor, with a capacity of 1,500 cubic feet of free air per minute to 80lbs. per square inch gauge, made by Messrs. Bellis and Morcom, Ltd., Birmingham.

The entrance to the new colliery will be from the main Trentham to Longton road, and between the first shaft and the boilers—three of which have already been erected—will be the power-house and winding engines. To the right, or entering, will be the general offices, ambulance room and lamp-house,

while on the left there are to be the range of workshops and stores. Further back will be a sports ground large enough for a football pitch.

#### THE PLANT.

Steam will be generated in a battery of Lancashire boilers, each 30 feet long by 9 feet diameter, and capable of sustaining a daily working pressure of 160lbs. per square inch. The boilers will be equipped with superheaters, and provision has been made for the installation of economisers and water-softening plant. Three boilers, made by D. Adamson and Co., Dukinfield, have been installed for use during sinking. The boiler feed will be handled by vertical direct acting pumps of a capacity of 10,000 gallons per hour, made by G. and J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow.

The headgears, made by Messrs. Head, Wrightson and Co., are of lattice steel construction, 85 feet high to the pulley centres, and designed to carry a total load of 250 tons. The cages, which will be 14ft. 2in. long by 3ft. 10in. wide, will carry six tubs,—three per deck—giving a net coal load of four tons. The weight of empty cage and chains will be 6½ tons.

The winding engines, now being made by Messrs. Yates and Thom, Blackburn, are of the simple high pressure type, with cylinders 43in. bore and 72in. stroke, and will exhaust through regenerative accumulators to the mixed pressure turbines in the power-house. The winding drum will be of the semi-conical type, 15ft. to 30ft. diameter. These engines are designed for an output of 1,400 tons per seven hour shift, from a depth of 930 yards.

The power plant will consist of mixed pressure turbines, driving 10,000 cubic feet of free air per minute to 80lb. per square inch gauge compressor, and also a 1,500 kilowatt alternator, generating current at 3,000 volts. Space will be provided for the duplication of these units. The turbines will exhaust into jet condensers.

A ferro concrete reservoir, of 800,000 gallons capacity, designed by the Birmingham Concrete Steel Co., Birmingham, and constructed by Messrs. Parsons and Morrin, Birmingham, has been installed to contain the spray cooling plant, to deal with the injection water and to provide boiler feed. Arrangements have been made to filter all water before it passes into the reservoir.

#### GEOLOGICAL RESULTS OF BOREHOLE.

The Stafford Coal and Iron Company (Limited) now have the mining rights over an area of 4,345 acres, of which 1,182 acres are freehold and the remainder leasehold. The five existing shafts which are worked by the company at Great Fenton have recovered the seams down to the Yard Seam, which lies at a depth of 900 yards below the surface, under 2,000 acres. The remaining area, which will be developed from the new colliery at Hem Heath, has been proved by two boreholes. One at Newstead, which was completed in 1896, proved the measures down to the Great Row Seam.



11.

A second borehole was put down by Messrs. Simon-Carves, Ltd., Manchester, near, Trentham, and the main geological results may be summarised as follows:—

The surface rocks were members of the well known red and grey measures of the upper series of the coal measures, and these were followed in due order by the red coal measure clays locally known as the Etruria marls.

Immediately below these red marls, the Black Band Ironstone series were found in normal position. The most important commercial member of this series is the well-known Bassey Mine Ironstone, resting immediately on its seam of coal. This ironstone is of a variety known as "Black Band," because it can be calcined without the additional use of coal. A fair proportion of the calcined product is known as "Puddle Mine," which is capable of direct use in the forge without first being smelted in the blast-furnace.

Analyses have been made of this ironstone by Messrs. Pattinson and Stead, Middlesbrough, who report that the top layer contains 53.55 per cent. of iron in the calcined state; the middle layer 51.76 per cent.; and the bottom layer 59.69 per cent.; an average of 55 per cent. of iron in the calcined state.

In view of the rapid depletion of the iron ore resources of this district, the demonstration of the occurrence of this seam over a large adjoining area of the coalfield is most welcome.

The recovery of the cores drawn from this seam was marked by a rather unique boring achievement, which will prove of the highest interest to mining engineers. It was decided, if possible, to obtain a duplicate set of samples of the deposit, and by the skill of the boring contractors, this was accomplished, and a remarkable confirmation of the full section of the seam was obtained, upon which the boring contractors must be congratulated.

Below the Bassey Mine Ironstone seam, the bore-hole passed into the upper workable seams of the coal measures of this coalfield, and the justly celebrated Great Row Seam was reached in its true position. This seam is, perhaps, the best known in the district for its manufacturing quality, and at the same time it is one of the most cheaply worked. The Great Row Coal is one of the uppermost coals, and without doubt the whole marvellous sequence of North Staffordshire seams will be proved later.

This new proof by bore-hole, therefore, marks a notable addition to the ascertained coal and ironstone reserves of North Staffordshire.

#### EFFECT ON TRENTHAM.

Concern has naturally been felt regarding the possibility of the extent to which the undertaking will affect the charm of the picturesque village of Trentham and its environs. Mr. E. P. Turner, general manager of the company, points out that, in formulating the scheme, attention has been paid to this matter, and minerals brought up the shafts will be taken straight to the company's existing siding at Sideway, which is 1,100 yards away, and by-product work will be carried out at the present Great Fenton Collieries.

But old times change giving place to new; and even should the rural glories of Trentham be somewhat diminished, there will be more trade and work and wages. The depression in trade will pass away, and flourishing times will come again, with an unprecedented demand for coal, and these two new collieries will assist North Staffordshire to take a much more prosperous and influential position than ever

before in the business and industrial life of the country. When Josiah Wedgwood removed to Etruria from Burslem in the eighteenth century, that was a beautiful locality; but if the atmosphere is now so smoke laden, from the Wedgwood factory and the works of the Shelton Iron, Steel and Coal Company, and others, smoke at any rate means trade and work and wages. There are compensations for most things; and while the uneasiness of the present residents of Trentham may be sympathised with, the compensation here will be the increased prosperity of North Staffordshire, including the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent, and the tremendous population of which it is the centre; while suburban residents may avail themselves of the ever-cheapening motor-cars to go to live still further out in the country. Further, there is the hope of a more wholesale supply of electricity leading to the diminution of the smoke nuisance, and the wish of the Stafford Coal and Iron Company to use every endeavour to that end.

#### ORIGIN OF THE STAFFORD COAL AND IRON COMPANY.

The Stafford Coal and Iron Company, Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent, now the proprietor of collieries, blast-furnaces, and chemical works, was incorporated on 10th September, 1873, the first Directors being the Duke of Sutherland (the third Duke), Mr. John Pender, and Mr. John Bourne.

The four pits—Bourne, Pender, Homer and Sutherland—were sunk when work was started in 1873. The first two were completed in 1876, and the latter two in 1878. There was also a brickworks in operation, the work being carried on under the direction of Mr. C. J. Homer, who joined the Board in 1876, together with Sir Arnold Kemball. The five shafts already sunk were named after those first five Directors.

The erection of two blast-furnaces, with blast engines and stoves, was started in 1881, and these were put to work in October, 1882. A fifth shaft (Kemball) was commenced in 1884, and completed in the following year. A third furnace and necessary stoves were built in 1890, and a fourth furnace and stoves, together with by-product works for dealing with the gas from the furnaces, were commenced in 1900.

Since that date, the output has been considerably developed. In 1904, about 1,350 men were employed on the collieries, with an output of 480,000 tons per annum. In 1920, the colliery employees were 3,800 men, with an output of 730,000 tons per annum. In 1923 the colliery employees numbered 3,450, with an output of 754,000 tons. The company at present employ 3,500 workmen, and the output from the collieries is three quarters of a million tons.

The Directors are the Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley (Chairman), the Duke of Sutherland, Viscount Chaplin, Sir Francis Joseph, Col. K. R. B. Wodehouse, Mr. B. A. Prowse and Mr. H. Bumby.

#### THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE COALFIELD.

It is interesting to recall at this important juncture the history and circumstances of the North Staffordshire coalfield, which covers about a hundred square miles. It is, roughly, triangular in shape, extending from Alders Farm, two miles east of Congleton, at the



northerly apex, to a base line joining Cavers-wall and Madeley on the south. Though small in area, the Pottery Coalfield is fully compensated in being exceptionally rich in seams both of coal and ironstone.

Mining appears to have been actively carried on from about the middle of the 17th century, and we have in this coalfield several shafts about half a mile deep. The district of course has world-wide renown by reason of its being the chief centre of pottery manufacture in Britain, but there is little doubt that the excellent seams of coal, clay and marl were important factors in establishing this locality as supreme in the potting industry.

From the northern apex of the coalfield to Longton, in the south, the mineral area has been fully developed. The most southerly collieries, belonging to the Stafford Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., and the Florence Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., have now been in operation between 40 and 50 years, and during that period little advance has been made in the practical extension of the mining developments in North Staffordshire.

It has often been pointed out that the future of this coalfield must lie to the south and south-west. The extensions of the same celebrated seams of coal and ironstone that are now being worked, have since been proved by a suite of bore-holes, distributed over a

large area to the south and west of the above-mentioned flourishing undertakings. This cannot but be most gratifying information for the public, adding to the known mineral reserves of the Pottery Coalfield, and thus assuring an abundant supply of excellent coal and ironstone for another 150 years.

A very important feature of this extension is its proximity to the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent, whose industries and people are so dependent on the continuance of abundant supplies of coal. The area is intersected by the main railway line from Stoke to Stafford.

Particulars, given in this article, of the latest extension and development in the North Staffordshire coalfield will no doubt be read by the local public with the deepest interest and gratification. The public will join us in congratulating the Stafford Coal and Iron Company and its professional advisers upon what has already been achieved, and in wishing the Company and its enterprise the fullest possible realisation of the high hopes which, based upon the success of the past and the ability, foresight, and enterprise of the present, point to a long and splendid future, uniting still further the prosperity of the Company, the workpeople, and the public of North Staffordshire generally.

## CEREMONY OF CUTTING THE FIRST SOD.

### PROSPECTS OF REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT.

Houses required for Four Thousand Workers.

### AMENITIES OF DISTRICT TO BE PROTECTED.

DUKE OF SUTHERLAND'S ASSURANCE.

The ceremony performed by the Duke of Sutherland, on Wednesday, of cutting the first sod of the new colliery which is being constructed by the Stafford Coal and Iron Company at Hem Heath, Trentham, attracted a great deal of interest, and was witnessed by a large company. A full description of the undertaking appeared in yesterday's "Sentinel."

The directors of the company present were the Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G. (Chairman), the Duke of Sutherland, Viscount Chaplin, Mr. H. Bumby, Col. K. R. B. Wodehouse, and Sir Francis L. Joseph, C.B.E.

Others who accepted invitations to be present were as follows:—The Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Alderman Frank Collis), the Town Clerk (Mr. E. B. Sharpley), Alderman F. Hayward (Chairman of the Baths, Markets and Fairs Committee), Alderman H. Leese (Chairman of the Electricity Committee), Mr. C. H. Bowers (Chairman of the Gas Committee), Mr. H. J. Colclough (Chairman of the Health Committee), Alderman W. T. Leason (Chairman of the Housing Committee), Mr. J. H. Bradley (Chairman of the Stores Purchases Committee), Alderman S. Sproston (Chairman of the Watch Committee), Alderman P. Elliott (Chairman of the Education Committee), the Mayor of Newcastle (Mr. Arthur Hassam), Alderman W. E. Robinson,

M.P., the Deputy Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Mr. F. T. H. Goodwin), Mr. G. C. Kent, Mr. H. A. Abbott (H.M. Divisional Inspector of Mines), Mr. T. Boydell (H.M. Senior Inspector of Mines), Mr. J. Cocks (Vice-President, N.S. Colliery Owners' Association), Mr. E. A. Wright (Secretary, N.S. Colliery Owners' Association), Alderman S. Finney (Secretary of the N.S. Miners' Federation), Mr. John Cooper (Chairman of the N.S. Miners' Federation), Mr. Joel Settle (of Messrs. Settle, Speakman and Co., Ltd.), Mr. W. Carroll (of Messrs. Settle, Speakman and Co., Ltd.), Messrs. E. B. Wain, G. P. Hyslop, J. Gregory, A. M. Henshaw, J. R. Allott, T. Yates and Amos Daniels (Mining Engineers), Mr. J. Bruce Harding (President, N.S. Ironmasters' Association), Mr. W. H. Good (President, N.S. Engineers' Federation), Mr. W. Kirkham, Mr. J. G. Aynsley, Mr. W. J. Parker (Salt Union, Ltd.), Mr. H. Barrett Greene (Editor of the "Sentinel"), Mr. F. Todd (Trentham Estate Agent), Mr. John Morrin and Mr. Eagles (Contractors for Reservoir), Mr. T. Blandford and Mr. J. Gee (Contractors for Sinking), Mr. Reginald Lane, Mr. D. G. Comyn, and Mr. C. Martin (of the Tarmac Co., Ltd.), together with the following officials of the company:—Mr. E. P. Turner (Chief Mining Engineer and Agent), Mr. S. H. Irish (Secretary), Mr. M. B. Gardner (Colliery Manager), Mr. I. W. Cumberbatch (Colliery Manager), Mr. C.



Livingston (Furnace Manager), Mr. F. F. Plant (Engineer-in-Charge at Hem Heath), Lieut.-Col. H. Roscoe, O.B.E. (Surveyor), Mr. W. Tyson (Electrician), and Mr. H. B. Mawdesley.

Apologies were received from the following:—Mr. B. A. Prowse (Director), the Earl of Dartmouth, K.C.B. (Lord Lieutenant of the County), the Earl of Harrowby, Col. A. Faulkner Nicholson (High Sheriff of the County), Col. John Ward, C.B., C.M.G., M.P., Alderman C. Cope, Mr. W. A. Cowlshaw, Alderman W. W. Dobson, Col. J. C. Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P., Sir William Plender (Chairman of the Trades Facilities Act Advisory Committee), Mr. W. J. Sainsbury, Mr. P. D. Griffiths, Mr. E. Humbert, Mr. C. E. Bullock (Chairman of the British Pottery Manufacturers' Federation), Lieut.-Col. H. Johnson, D.S.O. (Vice-President of the Pottery Manufacturers' Federation), Mr. C. Bruce Gardner (of the Shelton Iron, Steel and Coal Co., Ltd.), Mr. Ernest Johnson, Mr. W. H. Grindley, Mr. C. F. Poole (of Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co.), Messrs. Yates and Thom (Contractors for Winding Engines), Mr. C. C. Forrester (of Lloyds Bank, Ltd.), and Mr. J. Gardiner (of the Fenton Collieries, Ltd.).

#### GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE LOANS.

Sir Arthur Lawley (the Chairman of the Directors) presided over the proceedings, and in calling upon the Duke of Sutherland to "undertake his arduous labours," first of all extended a cordial welcome to those present, and said that the interest they manifested in the scheme was very greatly appreciated. That scheme, the Directors hoped, was not only of considerable importance to themselves, but would prove to be of great benefit to the district. (Hear, hear.)

I may say (he continued) that we have not embarked upon this undertaking without the fullest investigation as to its merits, and we have so far succeeded that we have persuaded his Majesty's Treasury to help us forward with a very substantial loan, the terms of which cannot possibly give rise to any complaint. Moreover, two of our largest shareholders have made a loan of £120,000 towards the carrying out of the work. Perhaps, in the state of the coal trade to-day, it may occur to some of you that this is not necessarily a moment for embarking on any extension or expansion of the coal areas. Well, I am a bit of an optimist. (Hear, hear.) We are convinced that the coal here can be worked, both in quality and quantity, to give a very full return, and prove to be a paying proposition to all who are interested in it. It may be even years before we arrive at the productive stage, but we are not content to be "weary watchers on the Sea of Hope." (Hear, hear.)

#### EXPENDITURE OF HALF A MILLION.

They believed that the money spent in the sinking of that pit would be productive in many ways. They believed that the trades of the district would benefit considerably by meeting the needs that were connected with the work, and they believed that, economically and industrially, it was an attractive scheme. It would involve an expenditure of about half a million of money, and they were confident that the neighbourhood would benefit. One of the things they hoped to achieve was a reduction of unemployment, and to drive the grim spectre

of unemployment from hundreds of people in that district.

I am aware (he proceeded) that some of the residents in the near neighbourhood view with alarm the initiation of the scheme. I can assure you that we desire, so far as possible, to protect the amenities of this district, because we realise how beautiful it is, with Trentham village and Trentham Park so near. We hope that all fears on that ground will be allayed by actual experience.

In calling upon the Duke to cut the first sod, Sir Arthur said: Both by heredity and circumstance, the Duke of Sutherland is deeply interested in all that concerns the well-being of this district. (Hear, hear.) The Sutherland family fortunes have been linked up for many years with the fortunes of North Staffordshire, and I venture to say that no more fit and proper person could be found to cut the first sod this morning. I am sure that you, my lords and gentlemen, will join in the hope that the Duke of Sutherland and his colleagues will carry this project to a wholly successful issue. (Applause.)

Messrs. Blandford and Gee, the cementation and sinking contractors, of Doncaster, then handed to his Grace a solid silver spade with a carved ebony handle, on which was engraved the following inscription: "Presented to his Grace the Duke of Sutherland by Messrs. Blandford and Gee, on the occasion of the cutting of the first sod at Hem Heath Colliery, Trentham, Staffs., 30th July, 1924."

#### THE DUKE.

The Duke then stepped into the centre of the space beneath the latticed steel headgear, and turned over a large square of turf, amid the cheers of the company.

I have much pleasure (he said) in naming this shaft "Hem Heath No. 1."

There were then three cheers for the Duke, followed by a long, shrill whistle from a steam engine on a near-by siding.

The company afterwards proceeded along the drive which leads from the main road to the pit head, and on the land at the side trees were planted by Sir Arthur Lawley, Viscount Chaplin the Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, and Ald. S. Finney.

Colonel Wodehouse, a former Chairman of Directors, assisted Lord Chaplin in his task.

The Mayor expressed the hope that his tree would flourish like the bay tree, and that in doing so, it would reflect the prosperity of the colliery which was just about to be started.

Alderman Finney delighted the company by carefully removing his overcoat, jacket and hat, which he handed to the mayor to hold, rolling up his shirt sleeves, and setting about the process of tree planting in very workmanlike fashion. When he had finished he had hardly sufficient breath left to speak, but he wished the venture every success, and hoped that it might be for the good of the whole district and of the country at large. He trusted that employers and employed would work together as one. All were partners in it, and they ought to see fair play for one another. (Applause.)

#### THE LUNCHEON.

Later, the company assembled at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke, and were entertained to luncheon by the directors of the Stafford Coal and Iron Company. Sir Arthur Lawley was in the chair.



## 14. THE MAYOR.

After the loyal toasts had been honoured, the Mayor proposed "The Stafford Coal and Iron Company, Ltd.," In doing so, he said he desired specially to say how very much they appreciated the Chairman and those who were associated with him in this new venture, and particularly wished to mention the name of the Duke of Sutherland. (Applause.) They had felt deeply the loss of the House of Sutherland in North Staffordshire. (Hear, hear.) For many years the members of that house were absolute pals to everybody in the district, and to-day they rejoiced that the Duke of Sutherland was interested in this new venture. They welcomed him into their midst, and they trusted that he and the new undertaking would be prosperous, and that they would meet on some future occasion when the Duke had made vast sums of money, not only for himself, but for his employees, and that they would have a similar lunch to the one that day. (Laughter and applause.) Increased prosperity could only come to the district through the vision and assistance of gentlemen like their Chairman, the Duke, Lord Chaplin and others, and there was no subject of more importance to that great industrial area than the coal-mining industry. The wealth of North Staffordshire was absolutely colossal. They could not see the mineral wealth, but they were told by those who knew about these things that there was vast wealth on which they walked day by day. That mineral wealth required capital, and not only capital, but confidence and security, and the co-operation of those who got the coal. (Hear, hear.) That was essential, if any industry was to flourish.

### ALL PARTIES DISSATISFIED.

Although this wealth was so great, nobody was satisfied, the Mayor continued. The poor old miner was dissatisfied, and said he never got enough. There was a great deal to be said for the miner to-day. (Hear, hear.) He was not getting sufficient, compared with men in other industries, and he ventured to say that no one was more sorry that the miner did not get more money than the Duke. (Hear, hear.) It was not his fault, nor the fault of the people who worked the industry in North Staffordshire. But there would come a time, in his (the speaker's) view, when the miner would not complain that he was not getting sufficient, because this Government, and the late Government, had taken and were still taking steps to make the mining industry comparable with other trades, so as to do away with the dissatisfaction of the miner. Then the mine-owner was not satisfied. People were always putting pinpricks into him, and he was getting no money. Perhaps the Duke would be able to tell them if there were any colossal fortunes made in this trade. (Laughter.) Then there was the poor consumer, who saw coal seventeen bob at the top and forty-five bob in the cellar. (Laughter.) There was yet another party—Parliament, who represented the national interest, did not appear to be satisfied.

Referring to Alderman Finney, the Mayor said he was a man whom everybody in North Staffordshire respected—(hear, hear)—and they believed every word that he said when he planted the tree of the new colliery that morning. There were two things which stood out, and which must go hand in hand, and

they were increased production and the opening of new ventures. There must be opportunities for the miners to co-operate with the owners to make the mines pay to such a degree that the owner and the employee could be perfectly satisfied. (Hear, hear.) He ventured to say that by the opening of this new colliery they were bringing this about. He saw that there was to be an outlay of half a million pounds, and that they hoped there would be 90 million tons of coal to be recovered. And a very important part was that there would be employment for an extra 4,000 men. That was glorious news for North Staffordshire, and such an undertaking was, to his mind, absolutely essential to the prosperity of their great industrial area.

### HOUSES FOR THE WORKERS.

A thing that struck him at once, proceeded the Mayor, was the problem of housing these extra 4,000 men. Housing was one of the greatest problems that confronted a municipal authority at the present time. But he would say that if these gentlemen had been sportsmen enough to put up their money for this great venture to reduce unemployment in North Staffordshire, the municipal authority had got to come to their aid and provide houses for the men for whom work was found. The greatest difficulty he had, and he said it openly, was with his friends of the Labour Party on the Council. They were a splendid lot of fellows, but they had the most extraordinary ideals. (Laughter.) He was as much jealous of the housing of the working classes—and he thought the majority of the Council were—as the members of the Labour Party. They had an idea that the houses must have so many bedrooms, a bathroom, and a drawing room. (Hear, hear.) Alderman Robinson said "Hear, hear." So did he. But where was the money to come from? They must be practical, and put up houses that working people could afford to live in. They must provide dwellings with an economical rent. He understood that the Duke and his colleagues in the new undertaking were prepared to give the land to build houses on. They must put up houses at a price that the miners could afford to pay. That was the proposition that he was going to bring before the Corporation, and he thought he would have the support of even the Labour Party. He believed such houses could be built, and that they would be able to get a considerable subsidy from the Government. The Chairman, the Duke, and those associated with them, were out to do something for North Staffordshire, and they were very grateful to them, and hoped that their anticipations might be realised, that there would be a hive of industry at Hem Heath, and that prosperity would come to the whole of the district. (Applause.)

The Mayor coupled with the toast the name of the Duke of Sutherland, and in honouring it the company sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

### THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.

The Duke, who was cordially received on rising to respond, said it was a great source of pleasure to him to be able to meet so many people whom he had not been able to meet so much in the past as he would have wished—friends and neighbours who, in the old days, when his family lived at Trentham, showed such unstinted kindness towards them. That



day had been a red letter day to him, as it enabled him to renew old acquaintances and re-establish old friendships. There was one point about the new undertaking that gave him special satisfaction. That was that he believed they would really and seriously and honestly assist towards the remedying of that great evil of unemployment. (Hear, hear.) It might take a few years—six or seven—to develop on the lines that they wanted to develop and absorb all these fresh men into the work of the industry. But he spoke not only for himself, but for the other directors, when he said that that point gave them the greatest satisfaction, and they felt that whatever good they got out of it themselves, their fellow-workers below ground would also benefit materially, as they should do. (Applause.)

#### AVOIDING DISPUTES.

No one knew what the future might hold, but this he did know, that the interests of the company were inextricably bound up with the interests of North Staffordshire. All the trades and all the workers of North Staffordshire would sink or swim together, and he did hope that the day was not far ahead when workers and employers would see their way to combine more whole-heartedly to avert those sad, disastrous and unfortunate disputes that so often occurred between capital and labour, and that they would march forward hand in hand triumphantly to prosperity and goodwill. There was no doubt that a great tide of bad trade was sweeping over Europe, and he believed that the only way in which that tide could be arrested, and eventually made to recede, was by the development of undeveloped resources throughout the country. And, although in only a small way, they felt that their new venture was doing a little bit towards that idea of development and improvement. (Applause.) He could assure them, in any case, that the Stafford Coal and Iron Company would always do, and had always done, its best for North Staffordshire, and for the people of North Staffordshire, and that old record that was carried on when his father was a director—and his father took the greatest possible interest in the undertaking—(hear, hear.)—would be continued in this new scheme, and amplified in every way possible, to ensure amicable and friendly relations between all classes of the community. (Applause.) The Mayor had mentioned the importance of the question of houses, and how true his remarks were! He could only say that the company would do all they could on their side to assist in the great effort, either by means of land or in some way that could be decided upon around a table, to get the houses built—comfortable and simple as they must be.

#### PRESERVING BEAUTIES OF TRENTHAM.

In conclusion, his Grace said that the directors felt most strongly that nothing should be done to disturb or spoil in any way the beauties and amenities of Trentham Park and Gardens. Of course, there might be more smuts about, another chimney put up here and there, and a little more noise, but except for these, they would do their best—apart from what was absolutely essential for the working of the pits—not to interfere with the beautiful country which they knew the people of the Potteries enjoyed and appreciated. He thanked the Mayor for his very kind remarks, and assured him that the

directors would do all they could to reciprocate the cordiality that had been shown towards them. (Applause.)

#### GREAT COMMERCIAL EXPANSION.

Alderman W. E. Robinson, M.P., proposing "The Chairman," said he wished to express thanks to the directors for their hospitality, and for giving them an opportunity of associating themselves with what he considered one of the greatest commercial expansions that the district had seen in his time. He did not remember any development, the possibilities of which were greater than in this case, involving so much capital and such an employment of labour. They did not delude themselves into thinking this was a purely philanthropic movement—they knew it was a commercial proposition—but they were thankful that it was in North Staffordshire, and thankful that it was going to increase the assessable value of Stoke-on-Trent, and find employment for a large number of men. To that extent he would say with all sincerity that they were greatly indebted to Sir Arthur Lawley and his co-directors. He was not going to talk politics, but in an hour from that time the House of Commons would be listening to a statement by the Minister of Labour on his policy for dealing with unemployment.

Alderman S. Finney: You forget that I have no right of reply. (Laughter.)

Continuing, Alderman Robinson said that question of unemployment was on the hearts and consciences not only of the House of Commons, but of the country generally, and there was nothing more terrible at the present day than the fact that they had one million workless men. He hoped the schemes which the Minister of Labour would be able to introduce would do something to remove this nightmare, but the reason for that gathering was not the finding of employment from the Government standpoint—too often relief works, which meant more borrowed money and more increased taxation. Here they had a body of gentlemen coming forward and helping to deal with this question, finding employment of a profitable character, and increasing the commercial value of the district. It required not only confidence, but almost bravery, in face of the existing depressing trade conditions, with the industrial world in the melting pot, to embark upon such a scheme at this time, and he trusted that that faith in the future would be realised to the fullest extent. "What of the future?" was uppermost in the minds of all of them. The Duke had used a phrase, "our fellow-workers underground," and all of them were fellow-workers, with a common interest in the future of the country, which lay in the goodwill and co-operation of all workers. He trusted that nothing would be done by trade union officials, or anybody else representing the Labour movement, which would in any way retard what he believed to be a real desire on the part of all workers to co-operate in bringing prosperity to the country.

#### A PICTURE OF THE FUTURE.

He could assure them, he thought, that no difficulties would be put in the way of the directors by the Corporation for the development of this great undertaking. He looked forward to the time when, this pit having been sunk and was producing coal, the Hem Heath Colliery would be known as the best-equipped



colliery, not only in North Staffordshire, but in the country. He looked forward to the time, too, when, in association with the Corporation, they would have built a model village for the workmen, each house including the bathroom about which the Mayor seemed concerned. He was picturing to himself the time when Hem Heath would produce the best coal and ironstone in North Staffordshire, and when they would be paying the best wages to colliers who would be able to go to decent homes, satisfied with their conditions of life. That might be a flight of fancy, but it could be realised. He was glad to see the House of Sutherland represented, and he believed his Grace was not among them as a figure-head, but as one who really meant to play his part in that great undertaking. (Applause.)

### SIR ARTHUR LAWLEY.

Sir Arthur Lawley, in reply, mentioned that a number of telegrams and letters of regret had been received from those who were unable to be present. These included a characteristic letter from Col. John Ward, M.P., in which he said:—

I am very sorry I shall not be able to come to Stoke-on-Trent on Wednesday, but I have been taken suddenly ill, as Mr. Goodwin, my host when I was recently at Stoke, will inform you. I have returned home, and shall not be able to undertake any public engagements for some time. I should have particularly liked to be present to move a vote of thanks to the Chairman and express my delight that private enterprise has in this one case supplied more labour for out-of-works than the Labour Government has done during the six months that it has been in office. I should have liked to follow this up by illustration and argument, had I been able to be present.

Proceeding, Sir Arthur Lawley said he felt a little diffidence in speaking of the matter which was the subject of their presence at that gathering, when he was confronted by so many people with an intimate knowledge of the technical details of mining, to which he could lay no claim. He could assure them that, from now on, he would take a very great interest, in his capacity as Chairman of the company, in these new developments. He sincerely trusted that their endeavours might result, not only in a satisfactory financial outcome, but that they would see greater employment, better wages, and more prosperity and contentment among all the men and women and children, however remotely they might be associated with the work to which they were about to put their hand. Though, of course, like every scheme that was human-made, it was not without opportunities for criticism, he thought they would agree with him that the scheme was a fairly attractive one in itself. It would not exist independent of the coal industry as a whole. They had heard from the Mayor something of the conditions of that industry, which had for some years been distinctly disappointing and unsatisfactory.

### NATIONALISATION DISASTROUS.

He was only speaking as a looker-on, but on every side one heard and read of dissatisfaction. There was dissatisfaction on the part of the consumer in having to pay an enhanced price; the mine-owner was dissatis-

fied because of continuous industrial unrest, because he wanted stability, and to get on with his work free from the interference of political agitators, and, rightly or wrongly, he asked for longer hours and increased output. Then they had the case of the miner. He did not want to run through the whole gamut of his discontent, but he would preface anything regarding this point by saying that he had enormous sympathy with the miner. He had reason to complain, in certain parts of the country, of the inadequacy of the wage and of inequality in the variety of the rates of pay. He was haunted by the thought that there was only one way in which salvation lay, and that it was in the direction of nationalisation. They were not there to talk politics, and he would only say, in passing, that that impression was wholly erroneous, and he believed that the introduction of nationalisation in this country would be disastrous to the mining community. Again, the miner said there could be no peace unless the miner and his real representatives had a greater voice in the control and management of the industry. He had a good deal to say on the question of royalties, and a great deal to say on the matter of housing. In some parts of the country, they knew, the housing conditions of the mining community were wholly bad—everybody knew that to be the case—but the housing question did not apply only to the mining industry. It affected the whole of the country, and the brains, heart and will of the country were engaged that these things no longer should be. Englishmen had a way, once they had set their minds and determination upon a thing, of carrying it through, and he believed the efforts being made now would find some solution.

As you know (he continued), we have had this question of housing before us here, and, as the Mayor has told you, some little time ago we carried on certain negotiations and discussions which we at one time hoped would materialise and bring about the possibility of our supplying the wants of this region. The situation has changed altogether. The Government has thrown the question into the melting pot, and we have had to abandon the idea of carrying out the policy we discussed. I need not tell you that the efforts we are making to develop our coal industry do impose great demands on our resources, and we have to realise that fact. If and when the municipal authorities in this district come forward with a satisfactory housing scheme, they will find. I can assure them, that our attitude will not be unsympathetic, even if our cash resources may show a somewhat sad deficiency.

### PROFITS AND WAGES.

It might be a matter of some years before their new work arrived at a productive stage. Was it too much to hope that the clouds of turmoil and strife, which now darkened the industrial horizon, might be swept away by then in a new spirit of mutual understanding and forbearance to let in the sunshine of a permanent peace? He ventured to express that hope, and not without some reason. By the agreement of 1921, modified as it had been in 1924, an automatic arrangement had been arrived at for distributing the proceeds of the coal mining industry between capital and labour. Experience might, of course, show the necessity for modifying the percentages, but, surely, it



was not too much to hope that here they had found the basis of a permanent solution of one of the most difficult problems that had confronted them. Other problems awaited solution, and many of them were of the greatest magnitude and difficulty, but he trusted that in these matters also the same spirit of "give and take" would prevail, and that a solution would ultimately be found to all these problems. It was very hard to get individuals to see the other man's point of view. The consumer, the miner, the mine-

owner—there were differences between them, and differences there must be; but he ventured to hope there was not one in all the difficulties that could not be solved satisfactorily. They had to put forward every endeavour so to bring themselves into relationship one with another, that all would be working towards an era of peace in the industrial world. He thanked the proposer of the toast for re-echoing a wish that he himself expressed in the morning—the wish that they might carry their new work to a triumphantly successful conclusion. (Applause.)

## THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND AS MAYOR

We cordially congratulate the Stafford Coal and Iron Company upon yesterday's ceremony of the cutting of the first sod of their new Hem Heath Colliery, on the Longton side of Trentham. The district of the Potteries has also very good reasons for congratulating itself upon the prospect of a new colliery, upon which £500,000 may be spent, and which will, it is anticipated, provide work for 4,000 miners. It is a splendid piece of private enterprise, which promises to add enormously to the prosperity of North Staffordshire, and we trust that the faith and the hopes of the Company will be fulfilled to the utmost. It is the most important industrial development that has occurred in North Staffordshire for many a long day. There is naturally some anxiety as to whether the amenities of Trentham village and Trentham Park will be interfered with. There is an assurance that every effort will be used to avoid encroaching on the rural charms of Trentham; but even a little smoke may well be endured with all the less concern if the local wages fund is to be greatly added to, and the industrial community is to grow in numbers and prosperity.

The first sod of the new colliery was cut by the Duke of Sutherland, one of the Directors of the Stafford Coal and Iron Company, whom everybody was very pleased to see yesterday, and who made an excellent speech at the luncheon, speaking of the importance of good relations between employers and employed, and again expressing his own personal affection for North Staffordshire. It has always been understood that his Grace specially regretted that Trentham Hall came to an end as one of the homes of the Sutherland family, and that he feels very happy when he is able to visit the district again, in which of course he still has great interests—as a landlord, and as a Director of the Stafford Coal and Iron Company.

A few weeks ago, when the Duke of Sutherland opened the new Recreation Ground at Longton, for which he had given the land, the Mayor (Ald. Frank Collis) suggested that everybody in the Potteries would be very pleased if his Grace could see his way to accept the Mayoralty of the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent, following the example of his father, the

late Duke, who was Mayor of Longton in 1895-96, when Millicent Duchess of Sutherland was of course Mayoress. The present Duke's presence in the Potteries yesterday, his very bright and sympathetic speeches, his obvious affection for North Staffordshire, and his alert and kindly personality, emphasise the feeling that it would be delightful, and a valuable service to the local life, if the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland could be induced to accept the Mayoralty of Stoke-on-Trent for the coming year. The question of the next Mayoralty always comes up for consideration at this time of the year, and with every respect for other candidates for the Mayoralty, they would show a sterling public spirit if by common agreement they welcomed this suggestion, for if the Council sent the Duke an invitation to be Mayor, and if it were accepted the Council would not only honour the Duke, but honour itself, and it would be a brilliant year for North Staffordshire. It would add to the grace and dignity of the local life, and of the Council, and it could not fail to have a beneficial effect upon the pottery trade, by calling the renewed attention of London and the outside world to our ceramic products, which have already gained by the interest aroused by the exhibits at Wembley.

It was always delightful when the Duke's father and mother came to the Potteries, and though she now lives at a distance, Millicent Duchess of Sutherland remains in the kindest thoughts of the people of the district, who rejoiced in her social and benevolent leadership. The young Duchess of Sutherland charmed all hearts when she came a few months ago to open the Haywood Hospital Bazaar at Burslem, and it would be most charming to have the Duchess as Mayoress of Stoke-on-Trent. The public generally of all classes will enthusiastically welcome the suggestion that the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland should be invited to accept the offices of Mayor and Mayoress of Stoke-on-Trent in November next, which already has very influential support, and the whole Borough would be deeply gratified and proud and delighted if the Duke accepted an invitation to the Mayoralty.

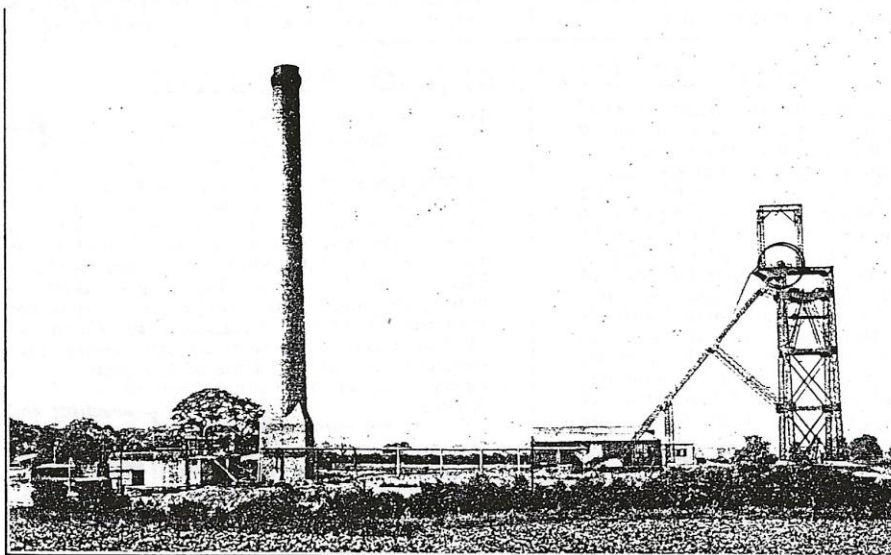
The Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., Chairman of the Stafford Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent, who presided on Wednesday, on the occasion of the cutting of the first sod of the Hem Heath Colliery, Trentham, is the fourth son of the second Baron Wenloch, and brother and heir-presumptive of the present Lord Wenloch. He married a daughter of Sir Edward Cunard, second Baronet, and they have two daughters. Sir Arthur Lawley was formerly a Captain in the 10th Hussars and was private secretary to the Duke of Westminster from

1892 to 1896. He was Administrator of Matabeleland, 1897-1901; Governor of Western Australia, 1901-1902; Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal, 1902-1906; and Governor of Madras, 1906-11. Sir Arthur Lawley is one of the Trustees under the will of the late Duke of Sutherland, other Trustees being Viscount Chaplin (who was also present on Wednesday), and the Duke of Argyll. Viscount Chaplin is the son of the first Viscount Chaplin and Florence, daughter of the third Duke of Sutherland, and married a daughter of the first Baron Nunburnholme.



## THE NEW COLLIERY IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD

The first shaft at Hem Heath was 19 feet 6 inches in diameter, sunk to 730 yards to reach the upper seams. It was initially operated with 520 men. Hem Heath should have had two shafts but the company economised by using the shafts at their other colliery in Fenton. This had two shafts called the Pender and the Bourne. The photograph below shows the original head gear – a lattice steel structure 85 feet high. All the machinery was then driven by steam generated by a battery of Lancashire boilers and the company erected a large chimney 180 feet high and ten inches in diameter. The residents of Trentham having built large houses in the countryside to get away from the smoke and pollution of the Potteries now found a new industrial undertaking on their doorstep with two very prominent structures, one of which was a large chimney belching out smoke visible from every part of the district.



VIEW OF COLLIERY, LOOKING WEST.

Stafford Coal and Iron Company expended £260,000 on the initial development at Hem Heath. Part of this came in the form of assistance from the Treasury amounting to £131,000 under the Trades Facilities Act. However, things did not go according to plan. There are two big faults running through the coal reserves – the Newcastle fault and the Apedale fault – and numerous problems were encountered when the roads were driven from the shaft. The result was that the colliery lost a great deal of money and at the end of 1935 the trustees of the Duke of Sutherland withdrew from the concern when they sold their shares to Messrs Settle Speakman – the other shareholders in the company. The new arrangement was reported in the Iron and Coal Trades Review on 27 December 1935:

## North Staffs Colliery Developments

Messrs Settle Speakman & Company, Limited, have purchased the interests of the trustees of the late Duke of Sutherland in the Stafford Coal and Iron Company, Limited, Stoke-on-Trent, and have made an offer to the other shareholders to purchase their shares. They are offering 12s for each £20 ordinary share and £2 5s for each 6 per cent cumulative participating preference share of £20. The offer closes on December 31. The capital of the Stafford Company is £230,000, of which £160,000 is in preference shares and £70,000 in ordinary shares. The £157,000 of 5 per cent debentures will also be held by Settle Speakman. On the completion of the deal the Stafford Company will be provided with £150,000 of new capital to be used for sinking new shafts to deeper levels. Messrs Settle Speakman & Company have decided to develop the Hem Heath Pit, Trentham, by sinking to the lower measures and recovering the Holly Lane, Cockshead and other coals. A new pit was sunk at Hem Heath in 1920. This development was to recover an extensive area of Great Row coal. The cost of this development was about £260,000. The money was raised by securing £131,000 under the Trades Facilities Act, and £100,000 was subscribed as debentures by the trustees of the late Duke of Sutherland and £20,000 by Messrs Settle Speakman & Company, Limited. When the shaft was sunk, it was found that there was a great number of faults, but, eventually, the Great Row was reached. During the past two years disturbances in the coal measures have been very troublesome, and the attempt to overcome them has resulted in heavy losses to the company.

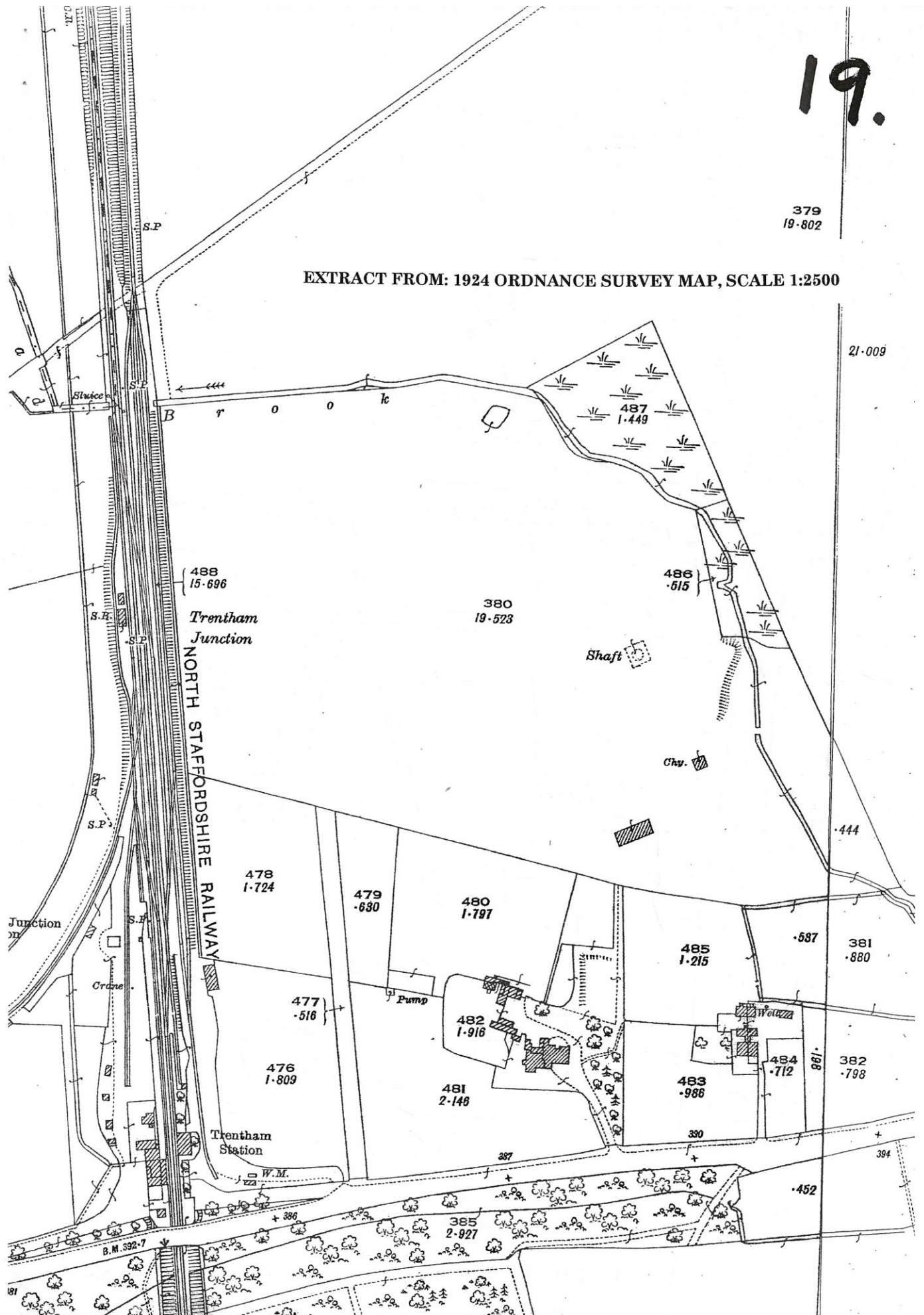
The Ordnance Survey Map on pages 20 and 21 shows Hem Heath Colliery in 1939. The map is not easy to interpret because it is incomplete – the railway lines are not shown and none of the buildings have been shaded in. No details are provided for the size of fields and there are no heights above sea level. This is known as the Provisional edition, because it was not completed as a result of the outbreak of war in 1939.



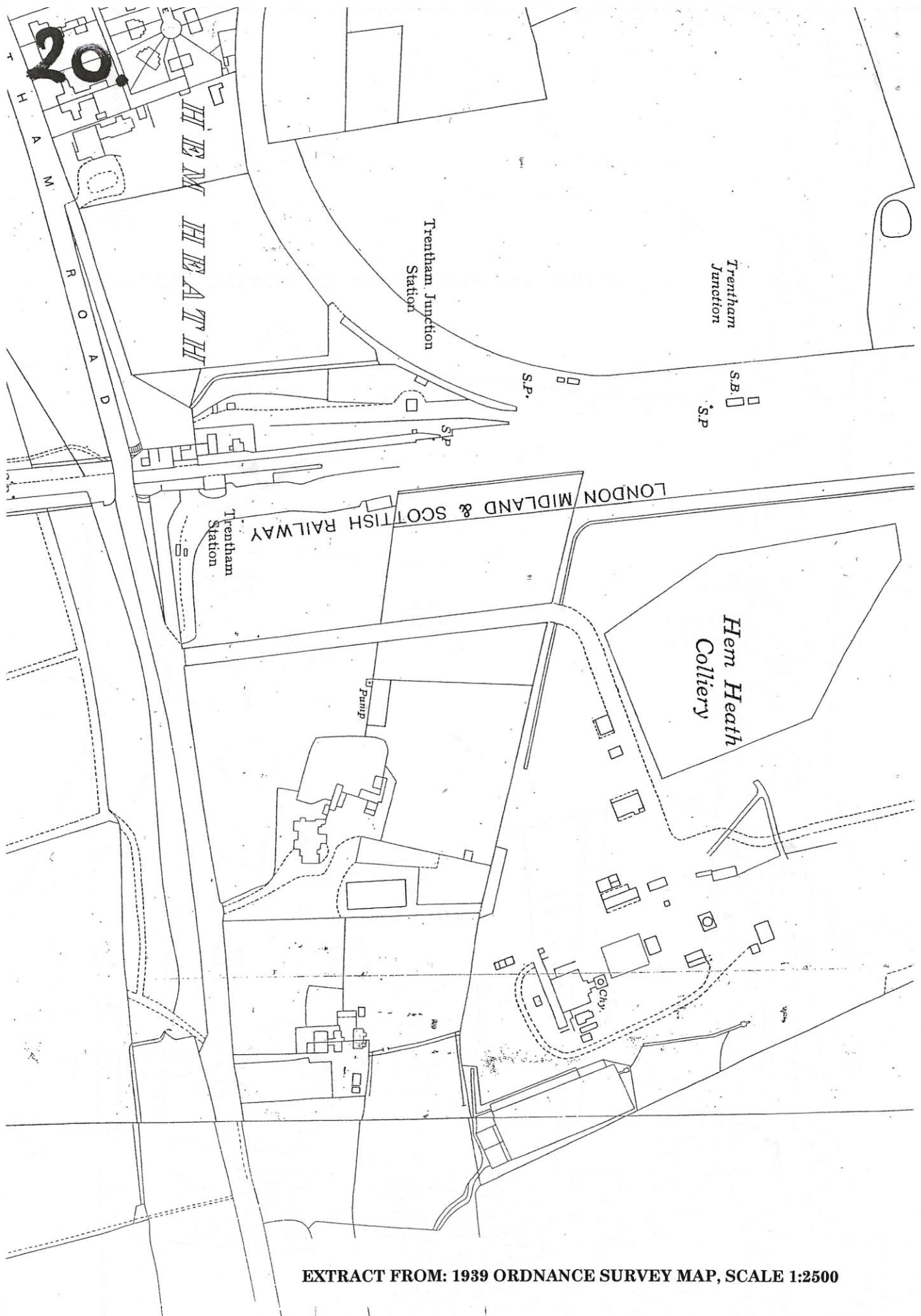
19.

379  
19-802

EXTRACT FROM: 1924 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, SCALE 1:2500



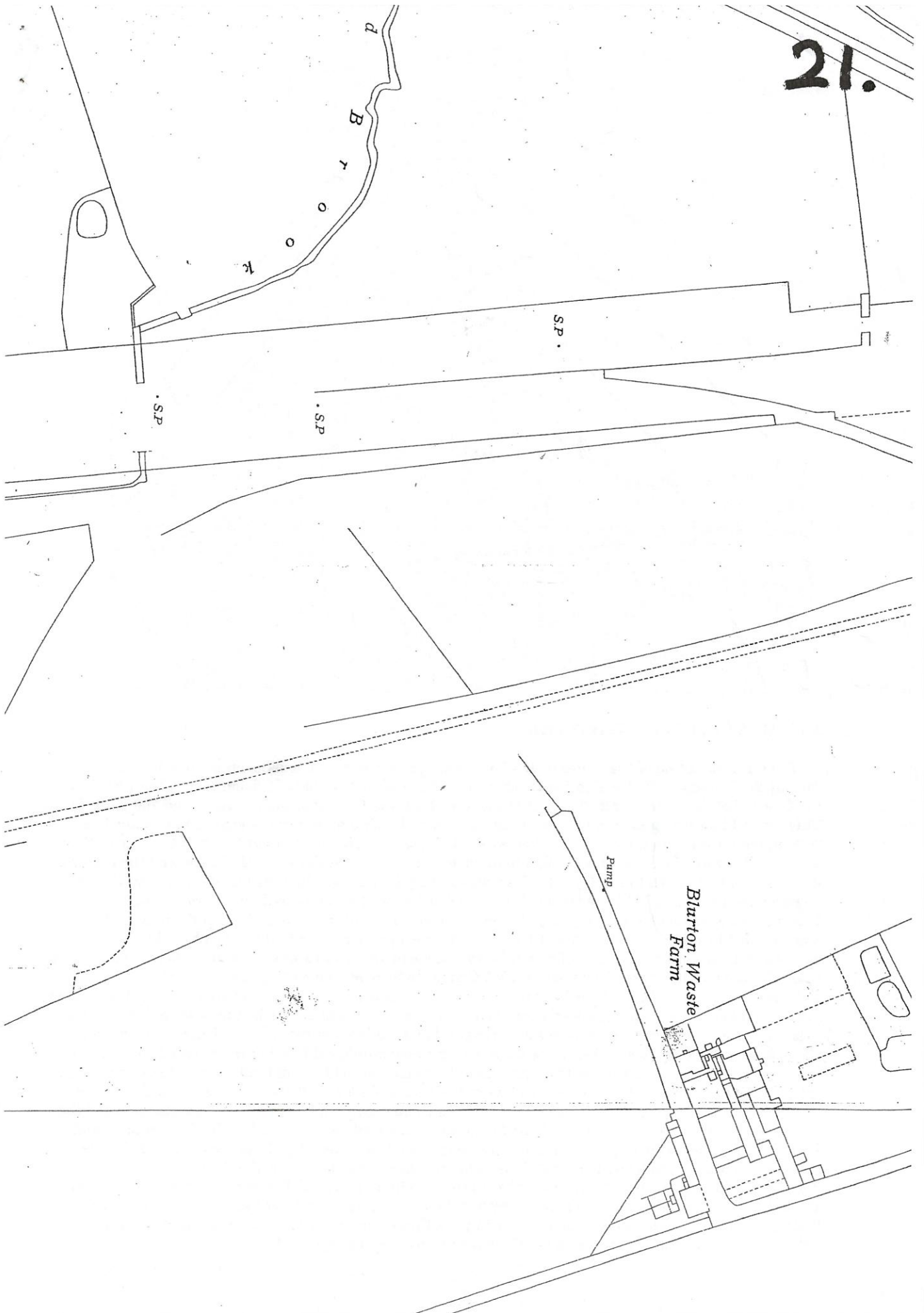




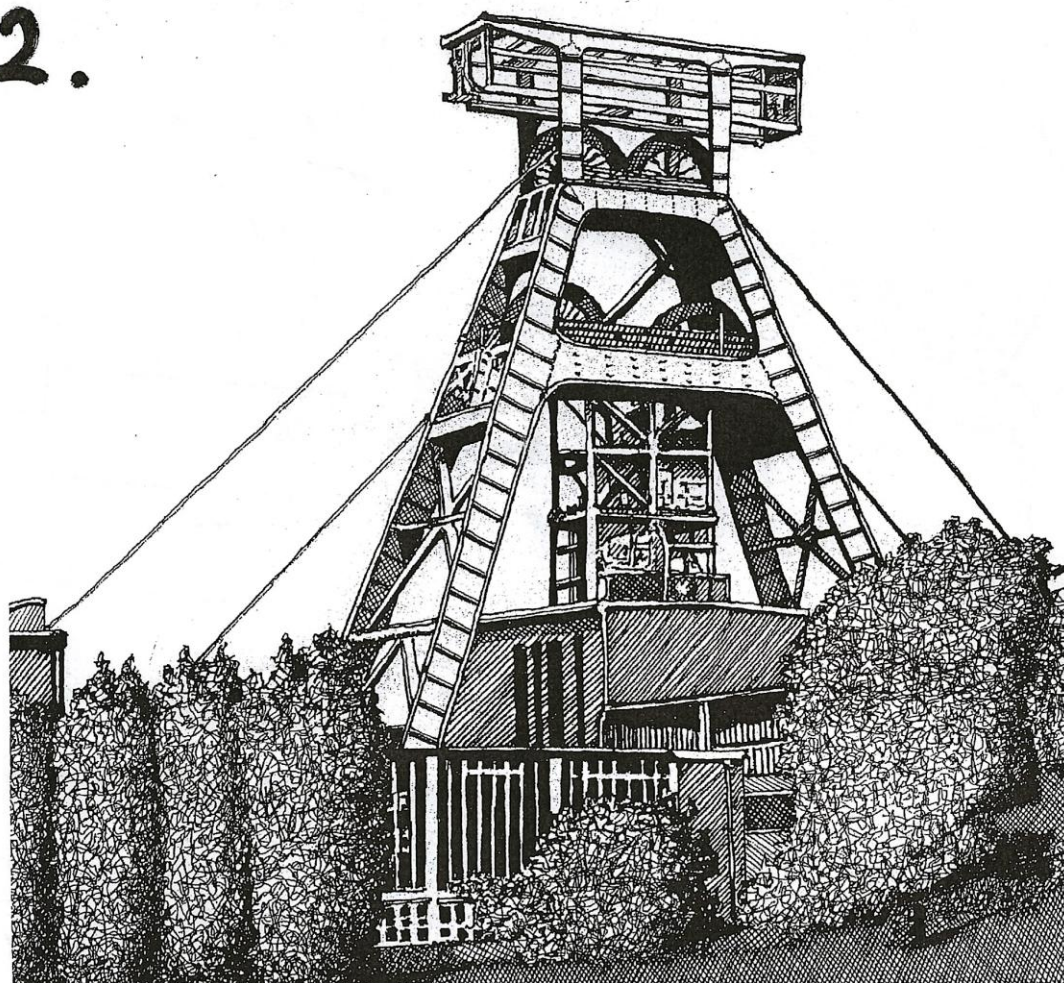
EXTRACT FROM: 1939 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, SCALE 1:2500



21.





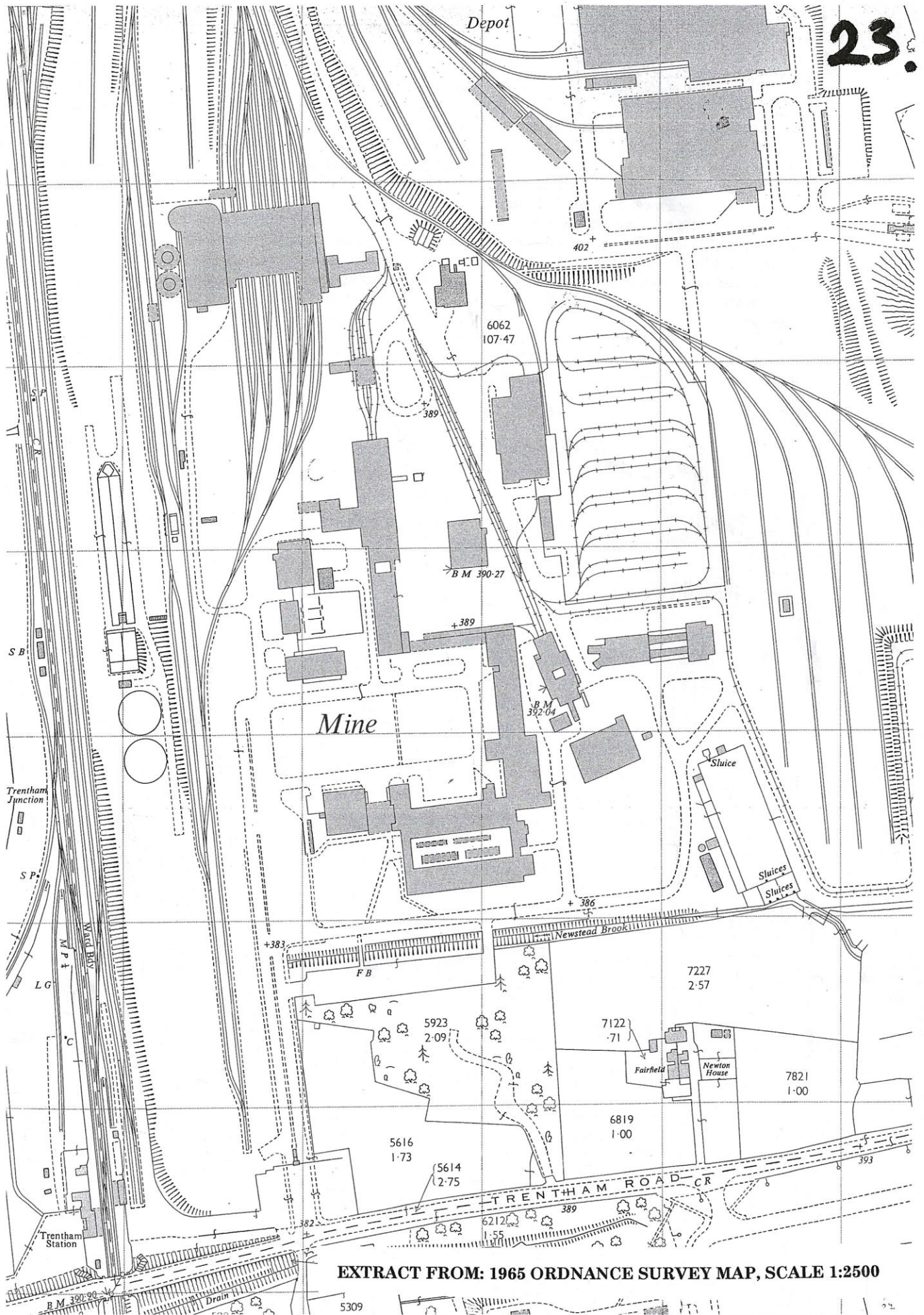


#### HEM HEATH COLLIERY, 1947-1996

The nationalisation of the mines in 1947 ushered in a new period of expansion at Hem Heath. On Tuesday 24 January 1950, Sir Ben Smith, chairman of the West Midlands Division of the Coal Board cut the first sod of shaft number 2. The cost of the new shaft was £210,200, sunk to reach the 700 yards level. This would allow production to increase from 270,000 to 450,000 tons of coal a year. That would also require more ventilation, which until then was still dependent on the shafts at Kemball Colliery in Fenton, 2,700 yards away. The shaft was 24 feet in diameter, the largest in the West Midlands, and the intention was to continue it down to 1,200 yards. New winding equipment was installed above and Hem Heath acquired its distinctive "A" head frame. This new development was powered by electricity and the Lancashire boilers and accompanying chimney, were now redundant. The sinking of the new shaft was accompanied by other developments at Hem Heath – the opening of the first pithead bath block and canteen in 1950, the construction of new railway sidings in 1956, and a new administration block in 1958. Most of these buildings are shown on the 1965 Ordnance Survey map on page 23.

This expansion would not have been possible without the co-operation of the City Council. The council continued to operate the sewage works on Blurton Waste Farm until 1946 when they were closed. The opening of the large new sewage works at Strongford had made them redundant. The Reconstruction Committee of the city council then drew up plans for a new municipal housing estate on Blurton Waste Farm. The Coal Board subsequently approached the council for additional land in order to accommodate the planned expansion of Hem Heath Colliery in the 1950s. As a result the Reconstruction Committee amended its plan of the proposed housing estate to accommodate the Coal Board. They also assisted the Coal Board by making houses available on the new estate for miners at Hem Heath. The expansion at Hem Heath in the 1950s required a large increase in the labour force. Partly this was met by the closure of older collieries at Madeley, Berryhill, Mossfield and elsewhere. However, the Coal Board found it difficult to recruit new miners locally and began to bring in miners from Wales or the north. In the early 1970s 1,800 men were employed at Hem Heath, 700-800 of whom were Geordies, Scots or from South Wales. Most of the latter were accommodated by the City Council in houses built on the Blurton Farm Estate. This new estate is shown on the Ordnance Survey map on page 24.







The extract from the 1968 six inch Ordnance Survey Map shows the new housing estates built by the City Council east of Hem Heath Colliery on Blurton Waste Farm and Newstead Farm in the 1950s and early 1960s. In 1965 Hem Heath mined its first million tons in a year. To celebrate the miners were given a voucher worth 2s and 6d to spend in the canteen. In 1974 Hem Heath Colliery was merged with Florence Colliery, to produce a combined output of 2½ million tons a year. The Coal Board announced that it would invest £9.4 million in the new combine which would include an underground roadway linking the two pits which were two miles apart. In 1977, 60% of the output went to Fidlers Power Station in Lancashire, Rugeley Power Station and Meaford Power Station, in Staffordshire; 22% to Sholton steelworks; and 18% to domestic markets.

The Coal Board shut down production at Hem Heath in 1992 and the pit was closed in 1993. In that year it was sold to a private company. This company proposed to mine the Great Row coal under Barlaston. The residents of Barlaston successfully campaigned against the proposed development and as a result Hem Heath colliery closed in 1996. When it was suggested that the "A" frame should be retained in order to commemorate the importance of the coal industry in the area the Coal Board quickly demolished the head frame in 1997 to prevent the structure from being listed. A new housing estate occupies the site of the former pit and there is nothing visible to remind the passer-by that 2,000 men once worked here, in one of the largest collieries in North Staffordshire.

