# COAL FACE MEMORIES

Pete Jones

&

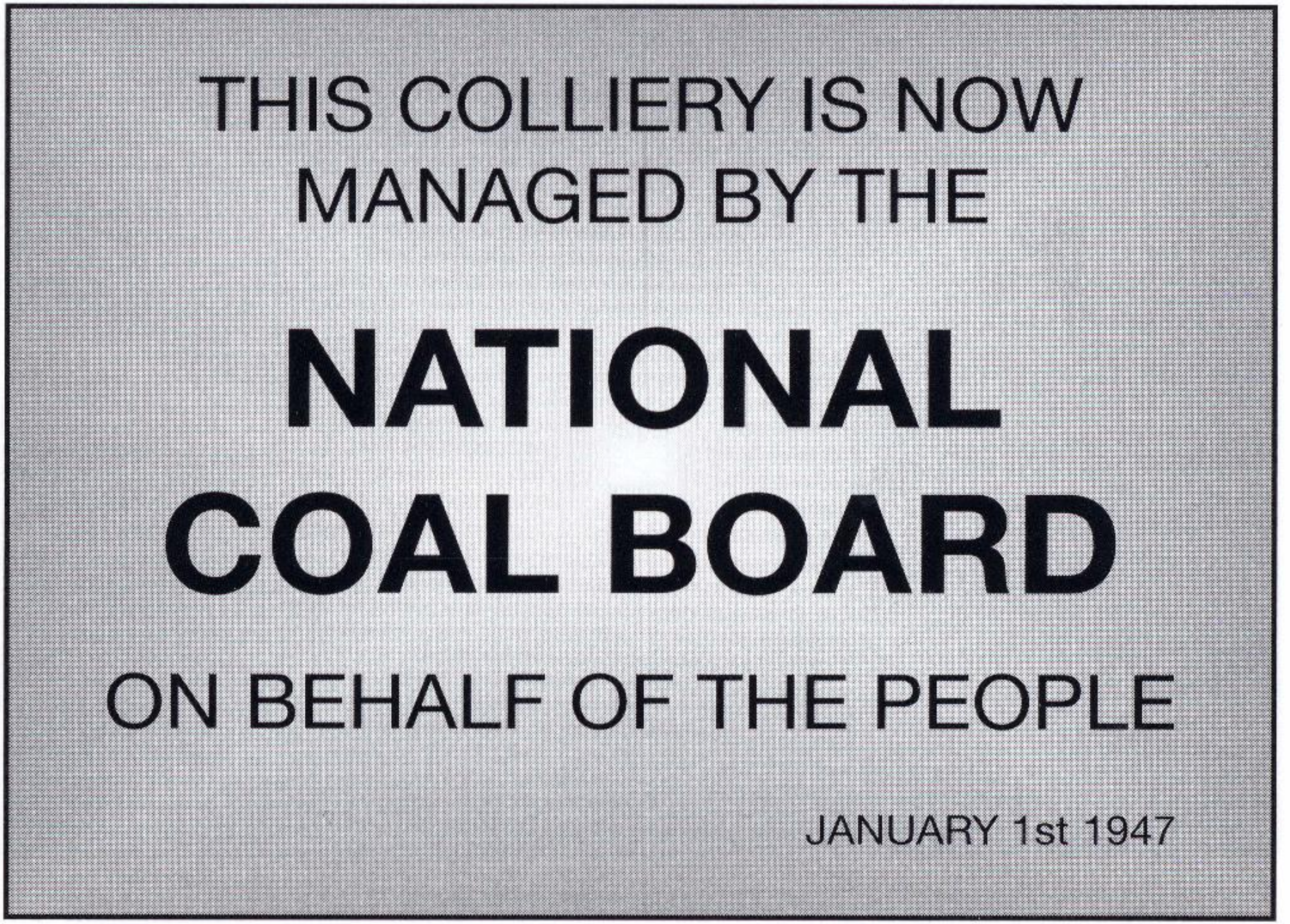
Nev James

Colton History Society Meeting 21st July 2011

# LEA HALL COLLIERY

**Pictures by permission of**

**Ken Edwards & CCMHS**


THIS COLLIERY IS NOW
MANAGED BY THE
NATIONAL
COAL BOARD
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE
JANUARY 1st 1947

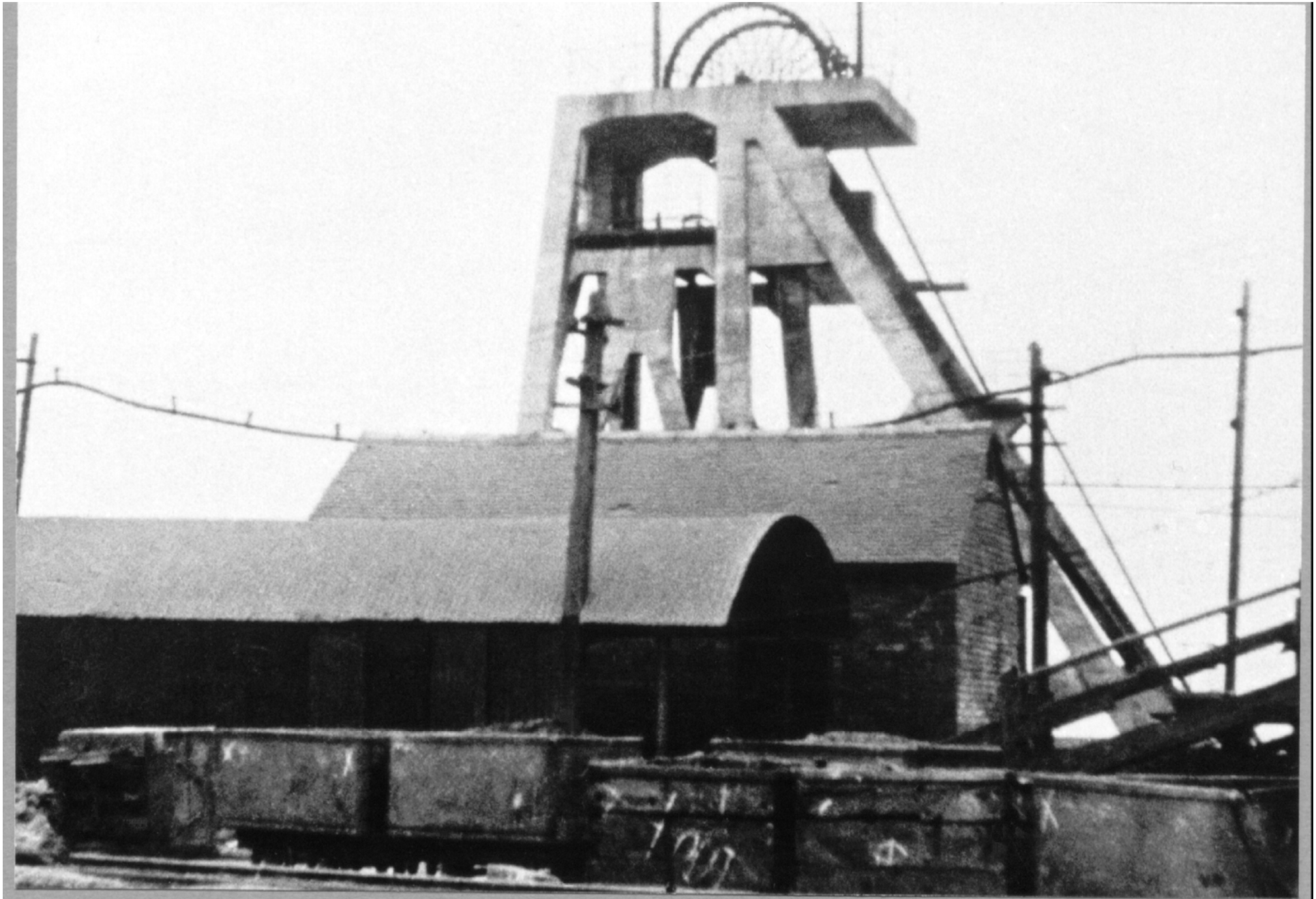
**In 1947 there were**
**23 operating Collieries**
**Cannock Chase Area**

## Cannock Chase Coalfield

## Output and Manpower 1913 - 1949

| Cannock Chase Output and Manpower | | |
|---|---|---|
| Year | Men Employed Thousands | Saleable Output Million tons |
| 1913 | 20.4 | 5.76 |
| 1922 | 24.6 | 5.10 |
| 1927 | 24.5 | 5.34 |
| 1930 | 22.9 | 4.88 |
| 1938 | 19.9 | 5.08 |
| 1939 | 19.5 | 5.29 |
| 1940 | 18.8 | 5.22 |
| 1941 | 17.9 | 4.74 |
| 1942 | 17.8 | 4.56 |
| 1943 | 17.5 | 4.33 |
| 1944 | 17.7 | 4.23 |
| 1945 | 18.2 | 4.24 |
| 1946 | 17.5 | 4.45 |
| 1947 | 17.6 | 4.39 |
| 1948 | 17.8 | 4.55 |
| 1949 | 17.8 | 4.61 |

National Coal Board Figures

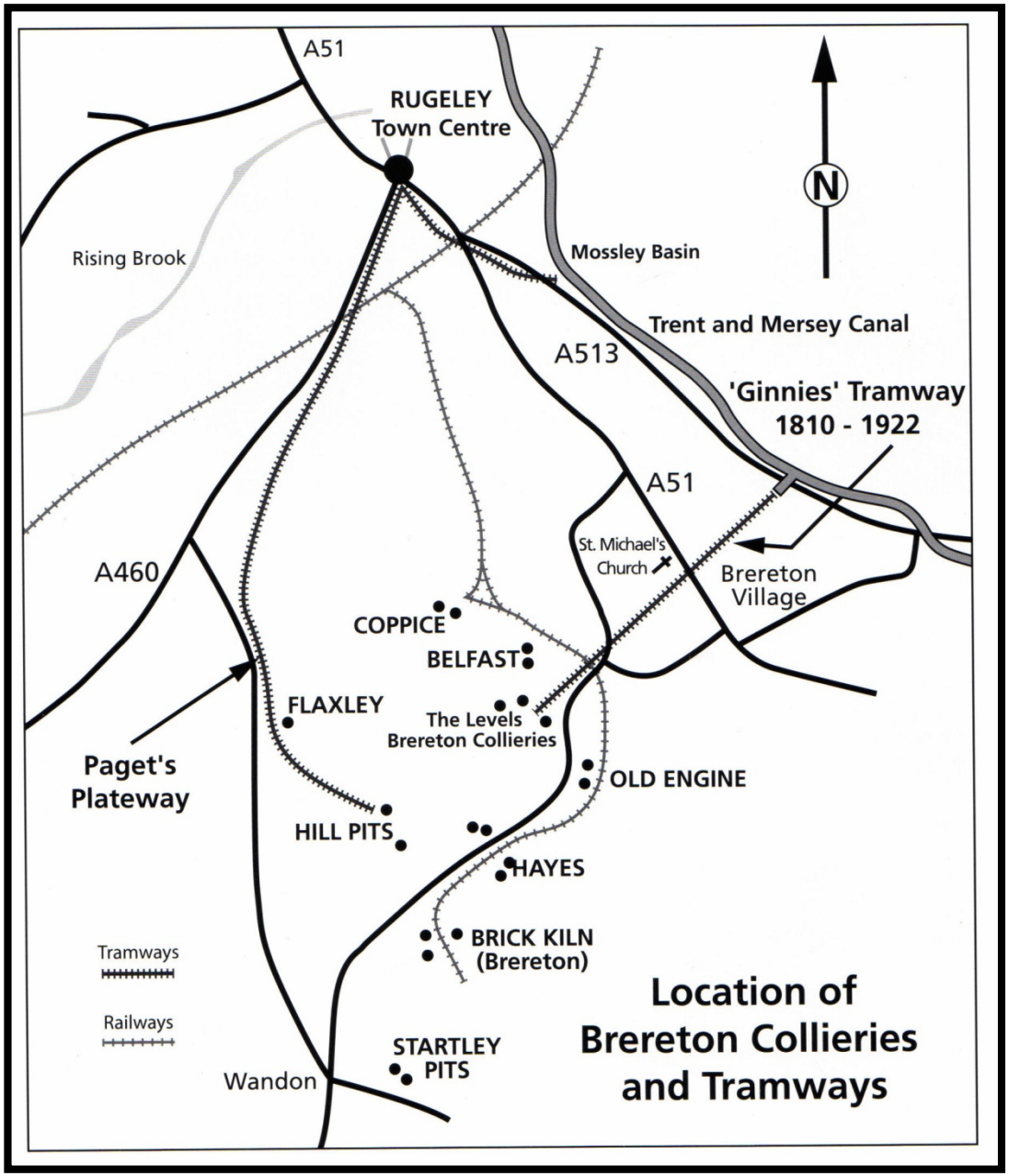


Brereton

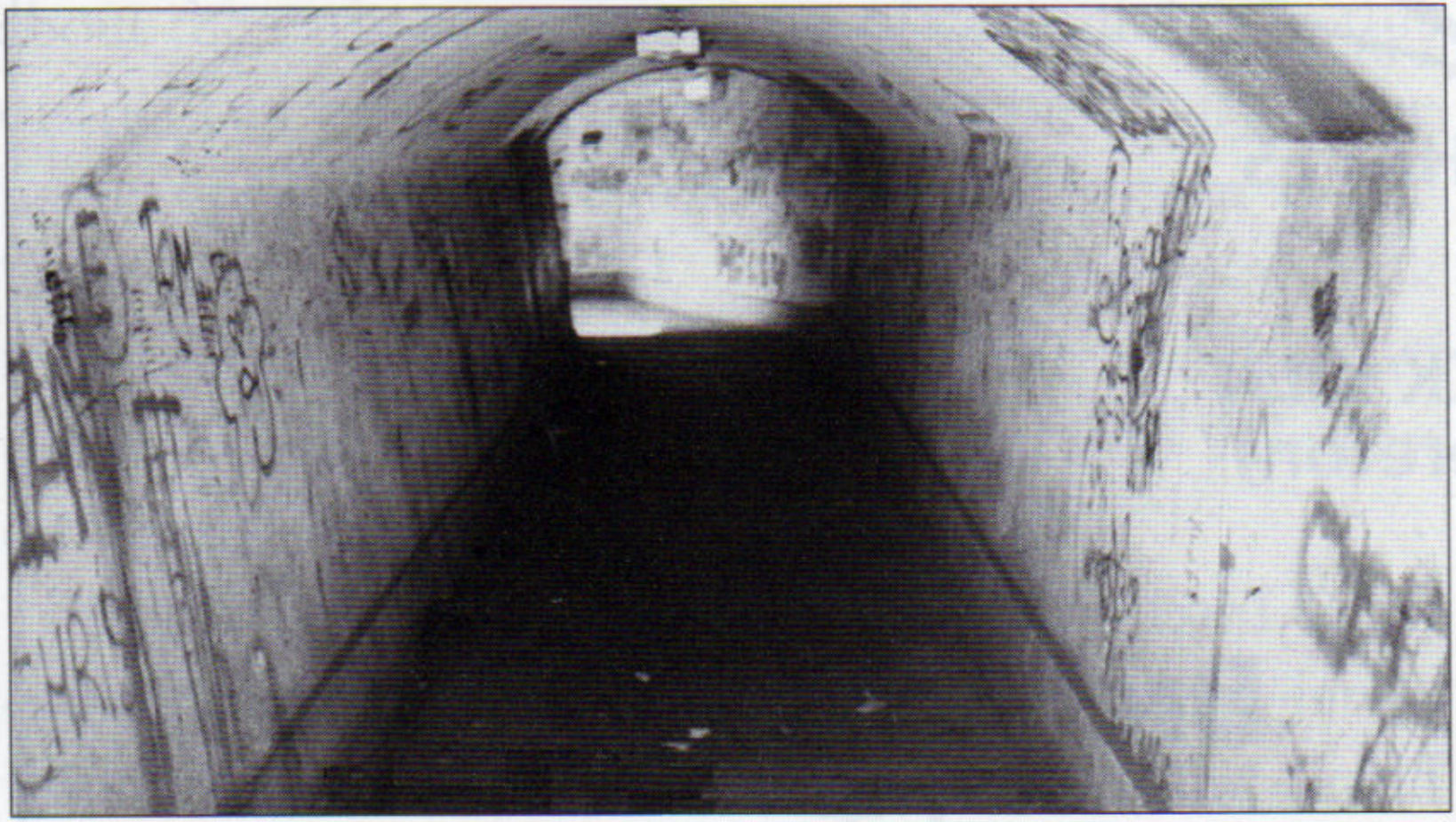
Brereton – Headgear, Weighbridge & Lamp-house

Brereton Colliery Rescue Team c1955

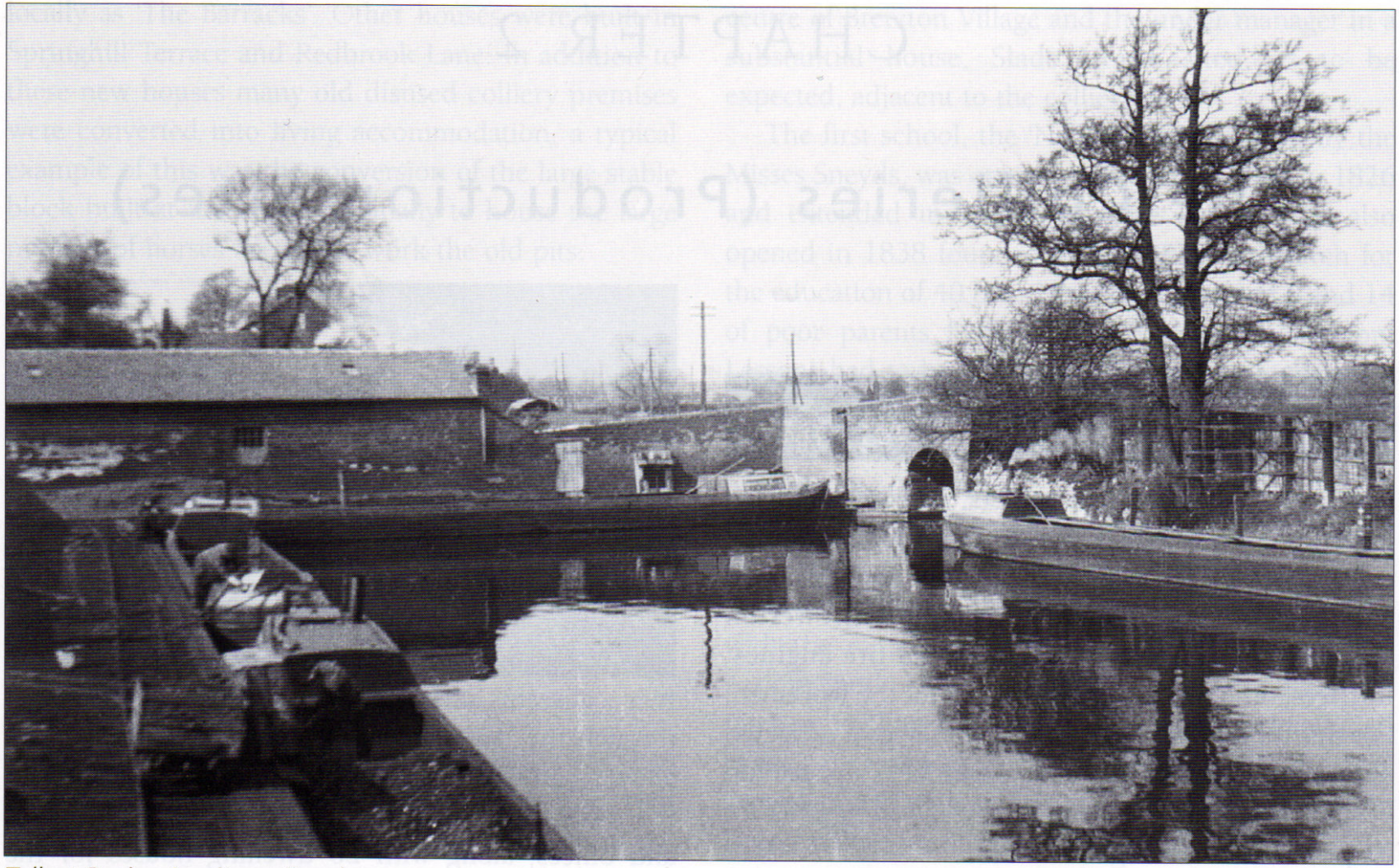
Brereton Colliery c1950s


A51
RUGELEY
Town Centre
N
Rising Brook
Mossley Basin
Trent and Mersey Canal
A513
'Ginnies' Tramway
1810 - 1922
A51
St. Michael's
Church
Brereton
Village
A460
COPPICE
BELFAST
FLAXLEY
The Levels
Brereton Collieries
Paget's
Plateway
OLD ENGINE
HILL PITS
HAYES
BRICK KILN
(Brereton)
Tramways
Railways
STARTLEY
PITS
Wandon
Location of
Brereton Collieries
and Tramways

*St Michael's Church, Brereton, showing the 'Ginnies' railway crossing the road.*



*'Ginnies' tunnel under the A51, later used as an air-raid shelter and pedestrian underpass.*

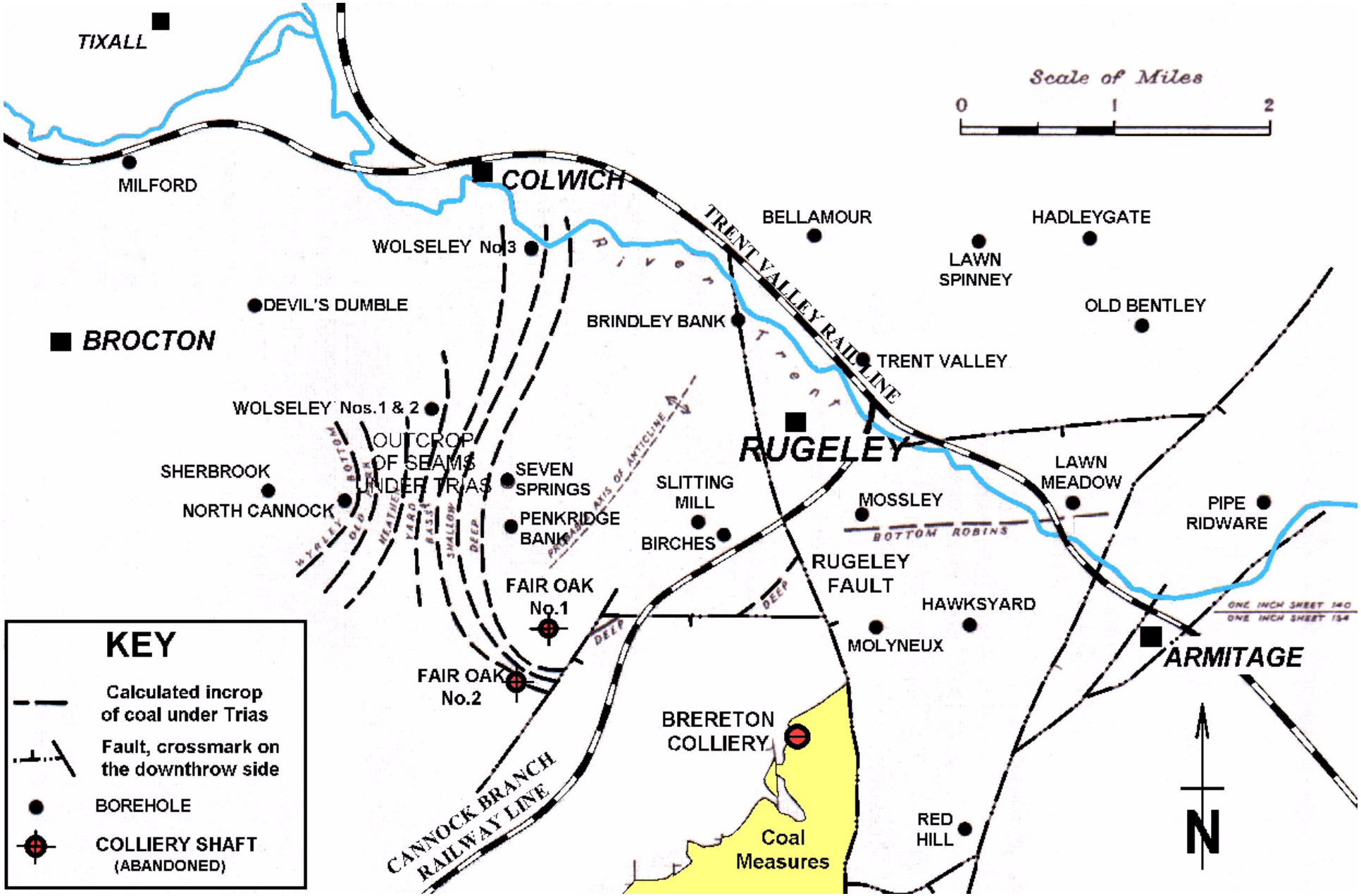


*Talbot Basin, Armitage Road*

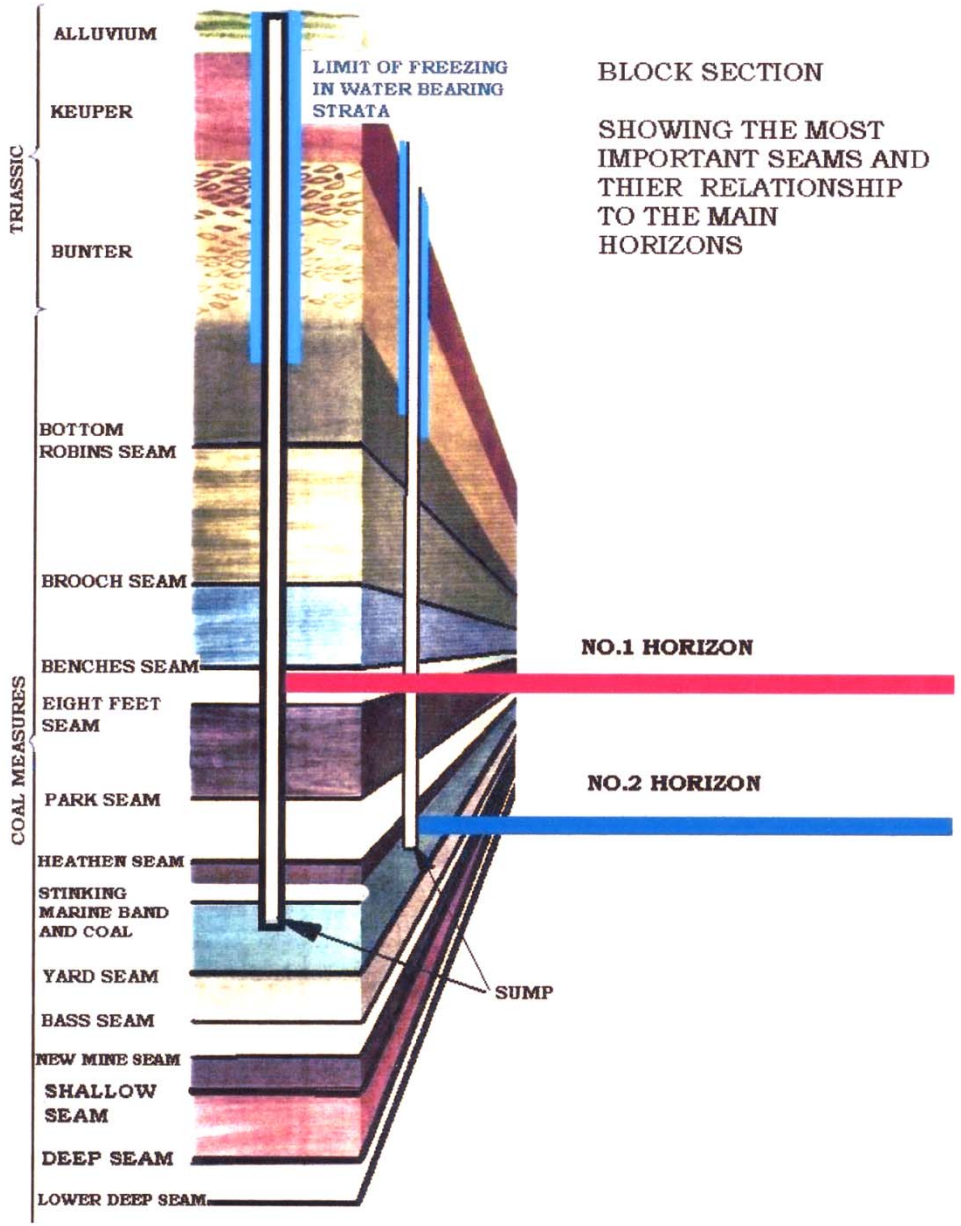
# WINNING COAL

# AT LEA HALL

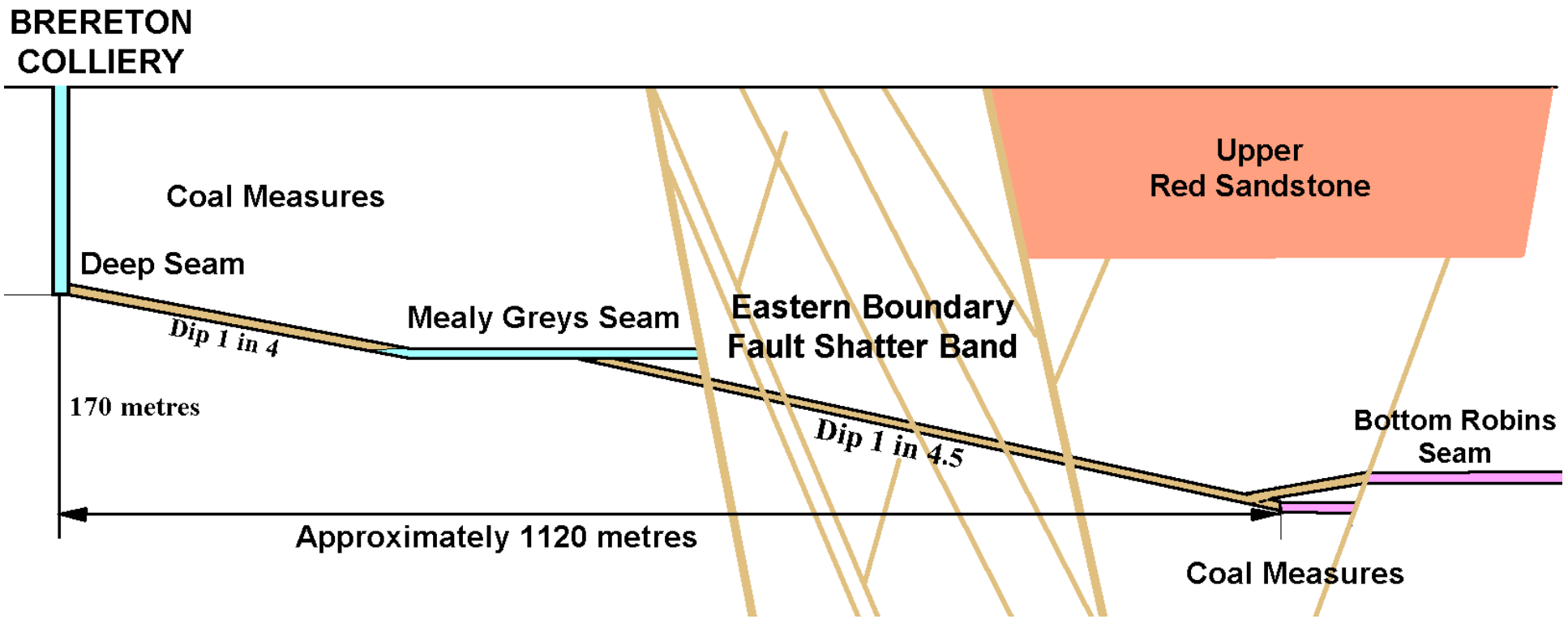
One of the 22 test boreholes sunk to prove the coal seams in the Trent Valley.


TIXALL
MILFORD
COLWICH
WOLSELEY No.3
River Trent
TRENT VALLEY RAILWAY LINE
BELLAMOUR
HADLEYGATE
LAWN SPINNEY
OLD BENTLEY
DEVIL'S DUMBLE
BROCTON
BRINDLEY BANK
TRENT VALLEY
WOLSELEY Nos.1 & 2
OUTCROP OF SEAMS UNDER TRIAS
RUGELEY
SHERBROOK
NORTH CANNOCK
SEVEN SPRINGS
PENKRIDGE BANK
SLITTING MILL
BIRCHES
LAWN MEADOW
MOSSLEY
PIPE RIDWARE
BOTTOM ROBINS
RUGELEY FAULT
FAIR OAK No.1
FAIR OAK No.2
HAWKSYARD
MOLYNEUX
ARMITAGE
ONE INCH SHEET 140
ONE INCH SHEET 154
BRERETON COLLIERY
Coal Measures
CANNOCK BRANCH RAILWAY LINE
RED HILL
Scale of Miles
0
1
2
N
KEY
Calculated incrop of coal under Trias
Fault, crossmark on the downthrow side
BOREHOLE
COLLIERY SHAFT (ABANDONED)

Lea Hall coal seams shown in relationship with the main shafts.



Marker for one of Lea Hall Shafts.




Showing how Brereton Colliery accessed the top coal seam in the Trent Valley area which extended the colliery's life by some 6 years.

# COLLIERY PLAN

**6,500 tons per day**

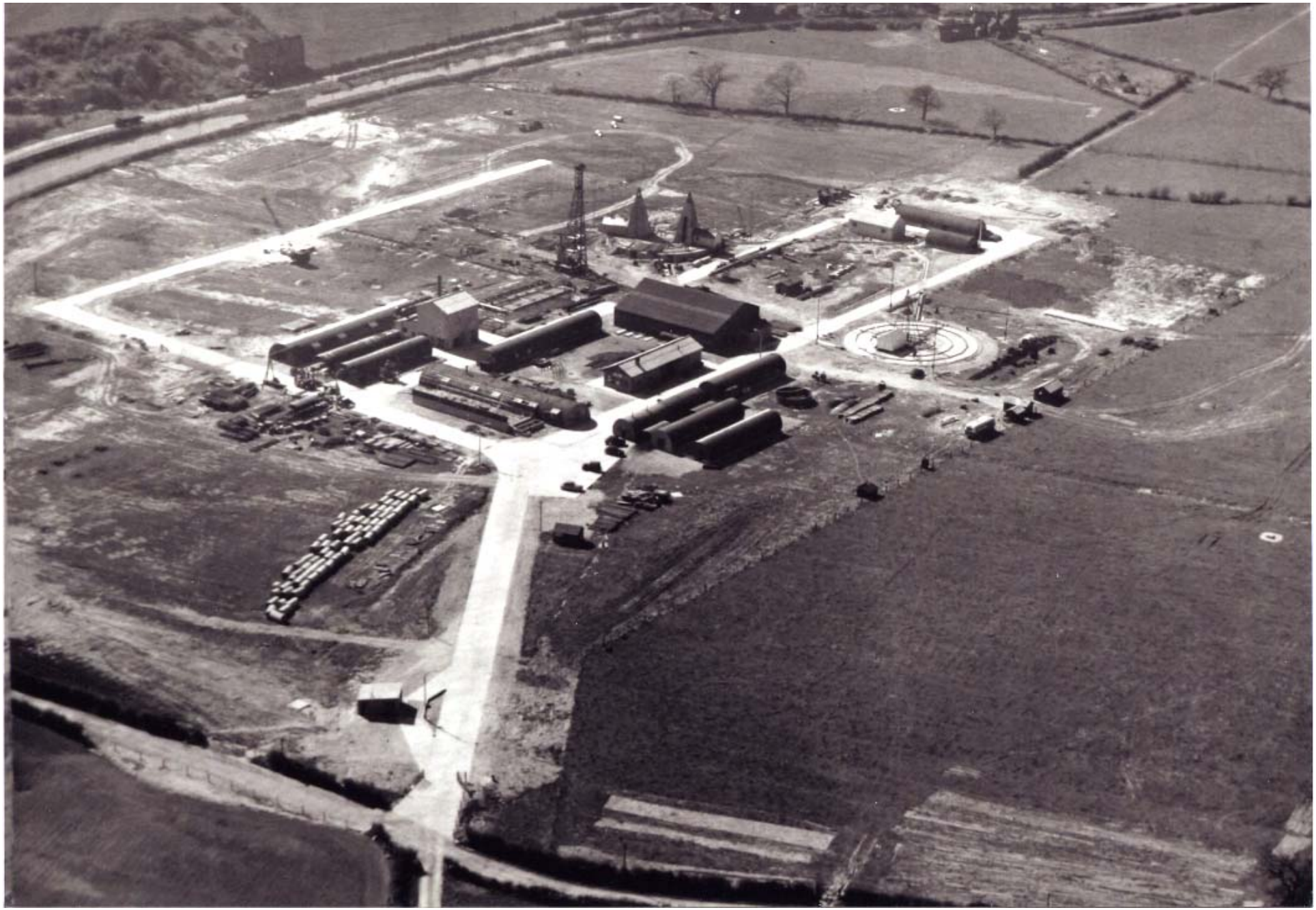
**Rising to**

**8,000 tons per day**

**Employing 3,000 miners**

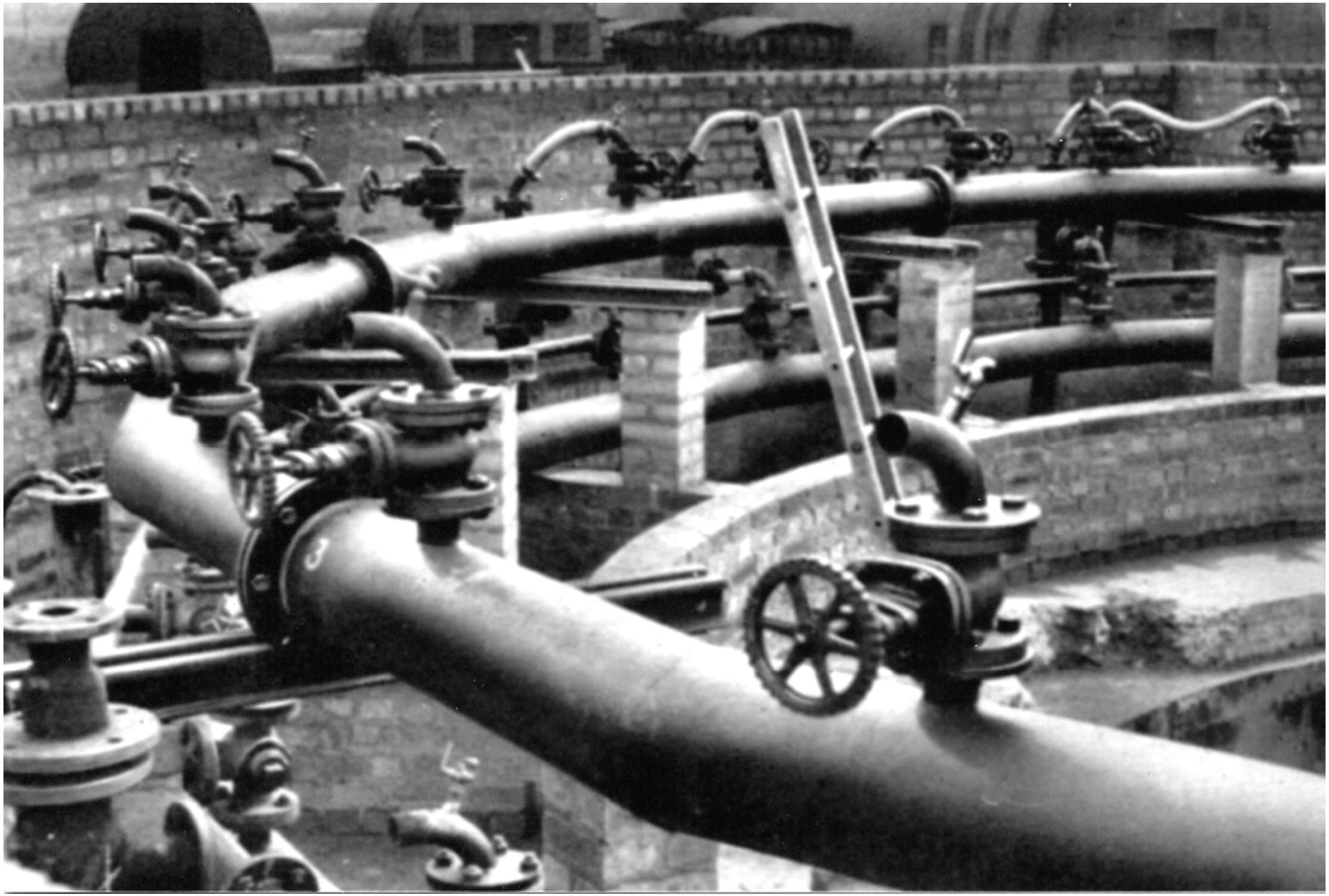
**Life expectancy 100 years**

**Construction cost £14 million**



Lea Hall sinking site c1953 before the start of shaft sinking.

Constructing shaft collar.



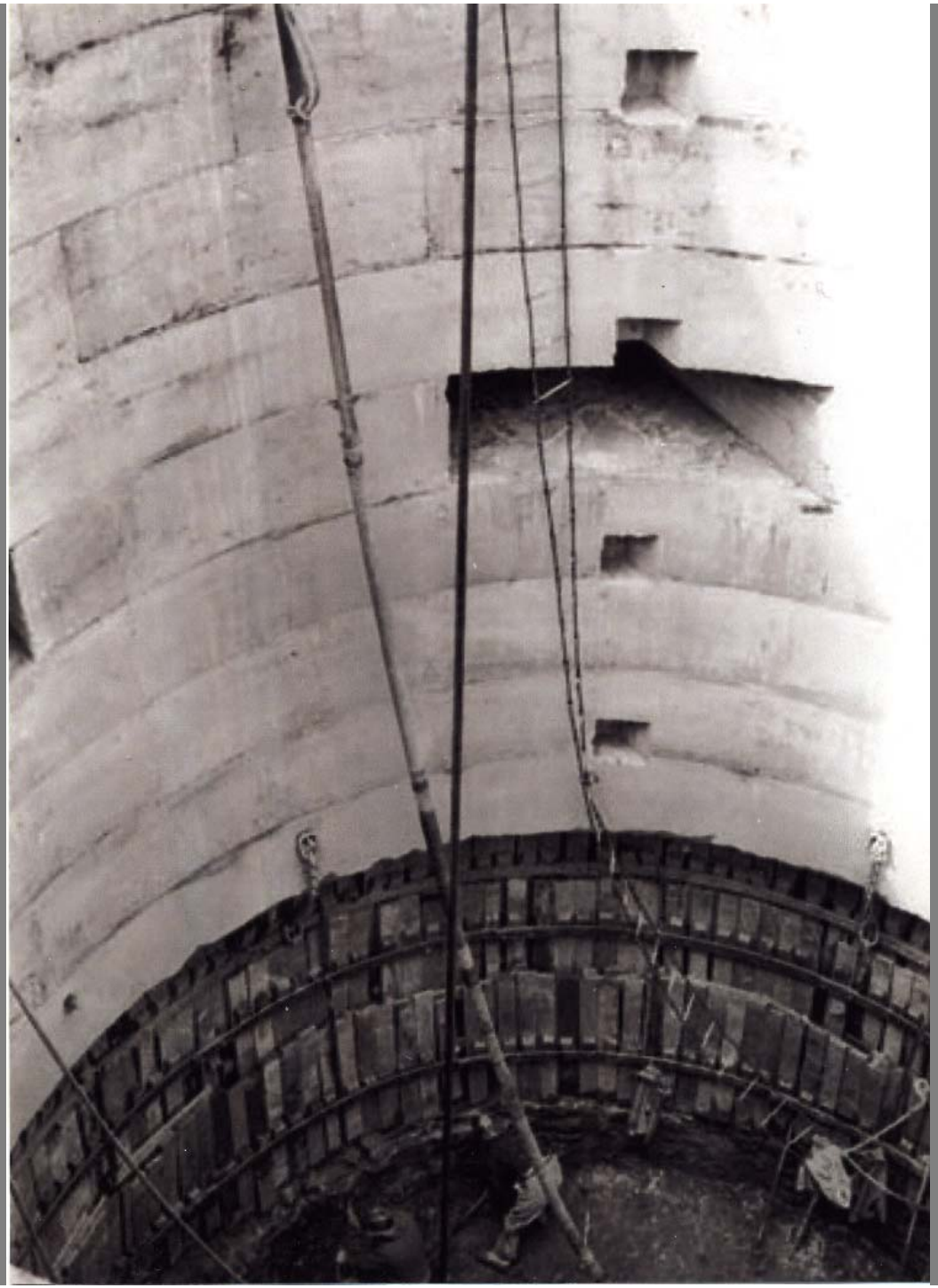
Freezing equipment at shaft top

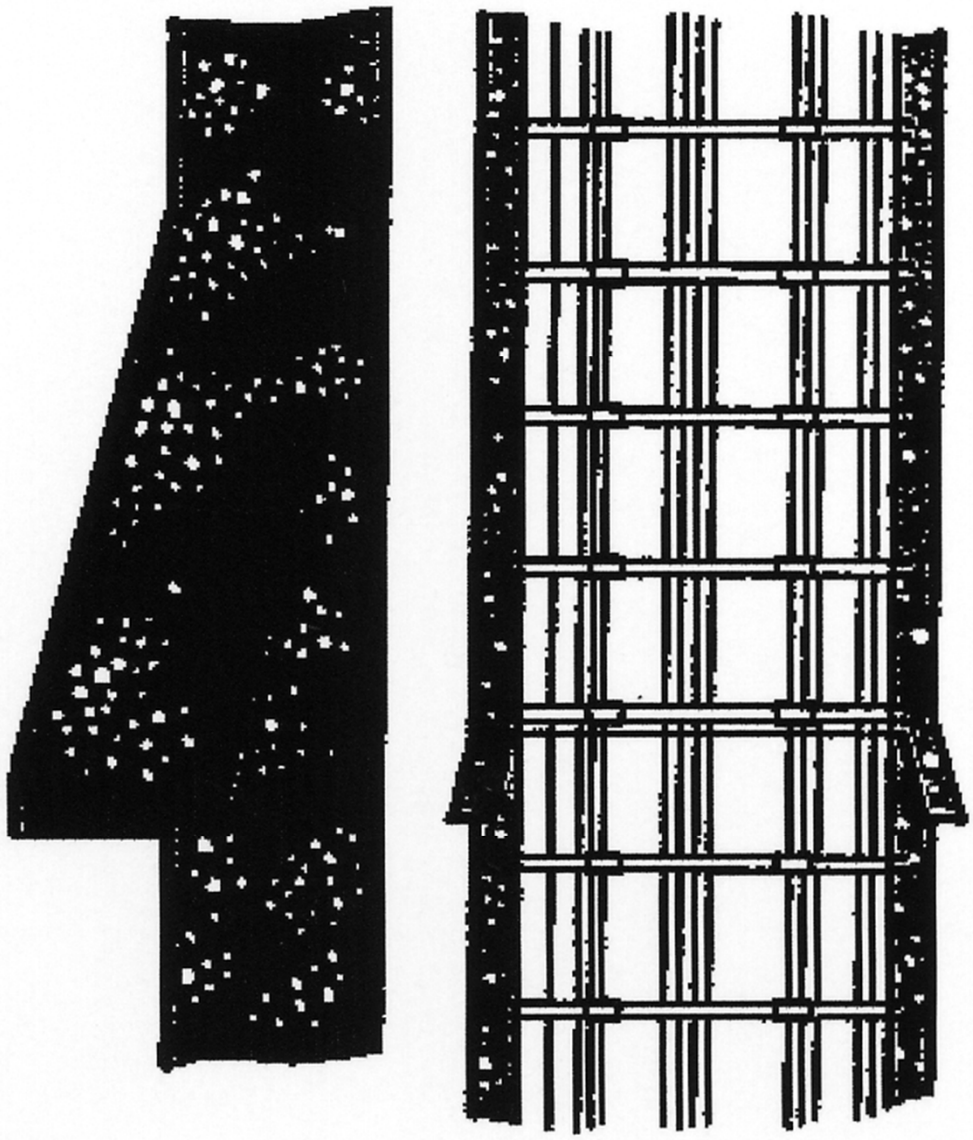
Sinking bowk.

Shaft sinking in operation.

Constructing the concrete shaft wall.

Showing the pockets left in the shaft wall to later accommodate shaft furnishings.

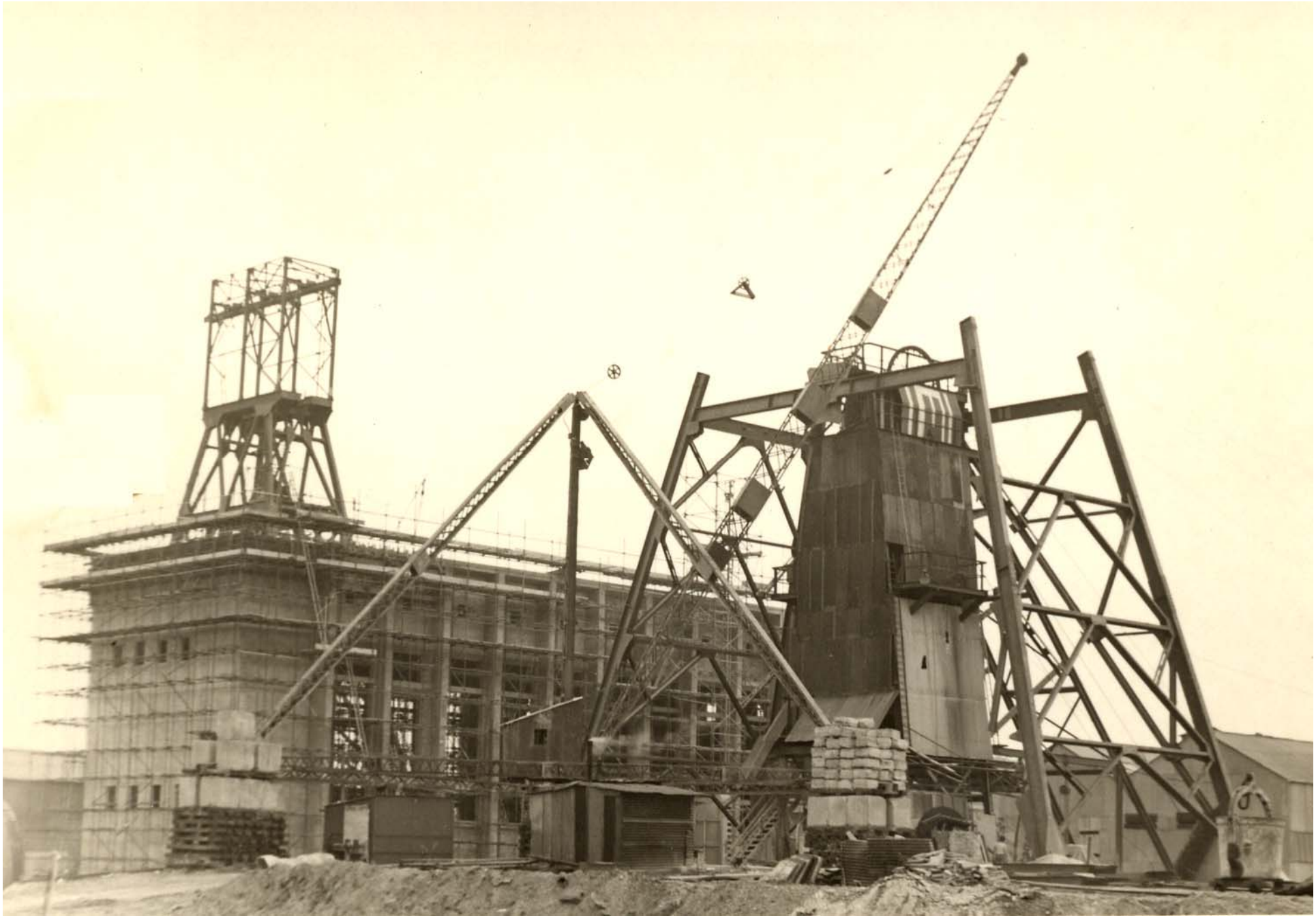




Shaft sinkers

Combined Colliery and Power Station sidings.

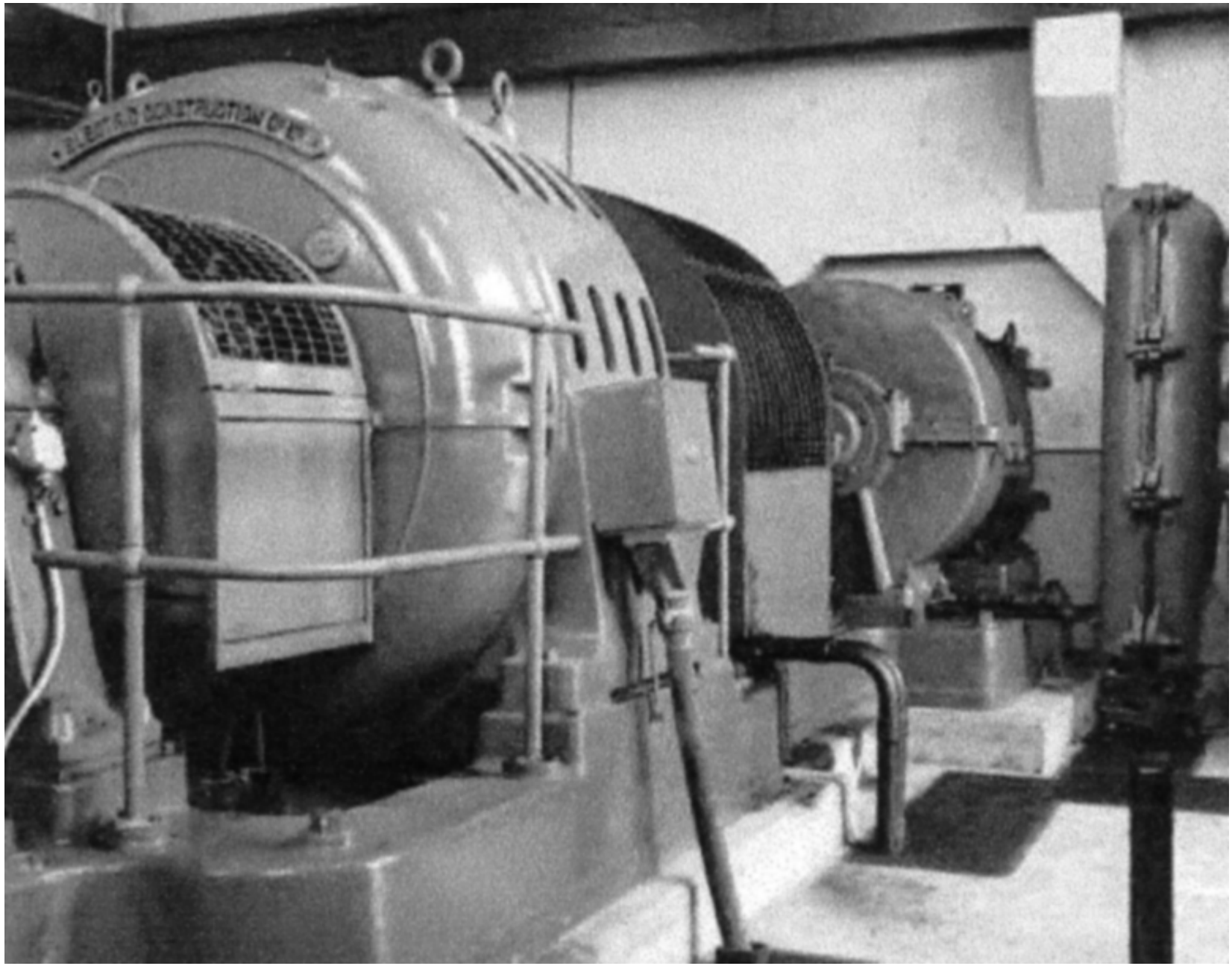
NCB
329



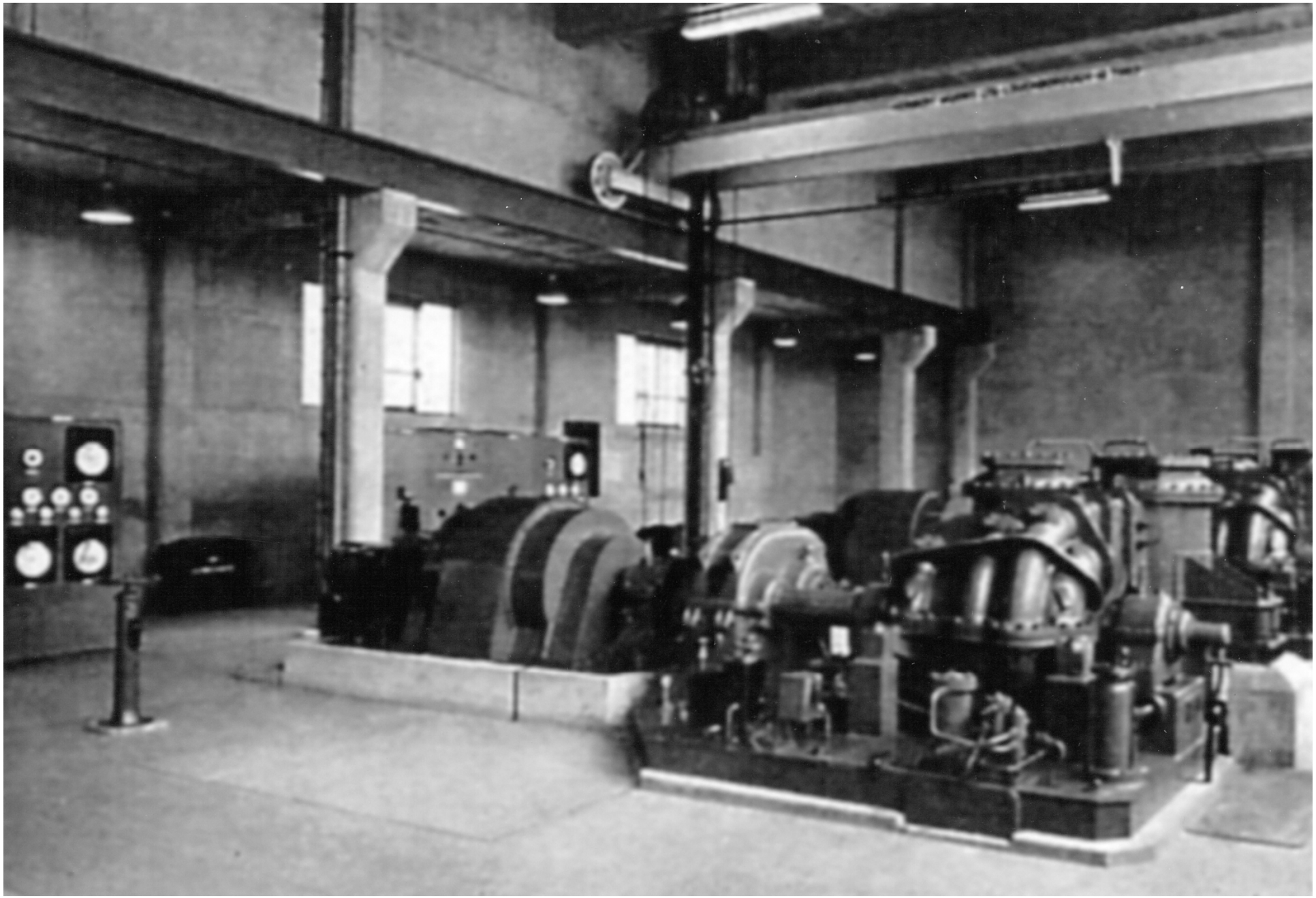
Constructing the new headframes around the sinking equipment.

New entrance bridge to the colliery.

Twin winding engine house,

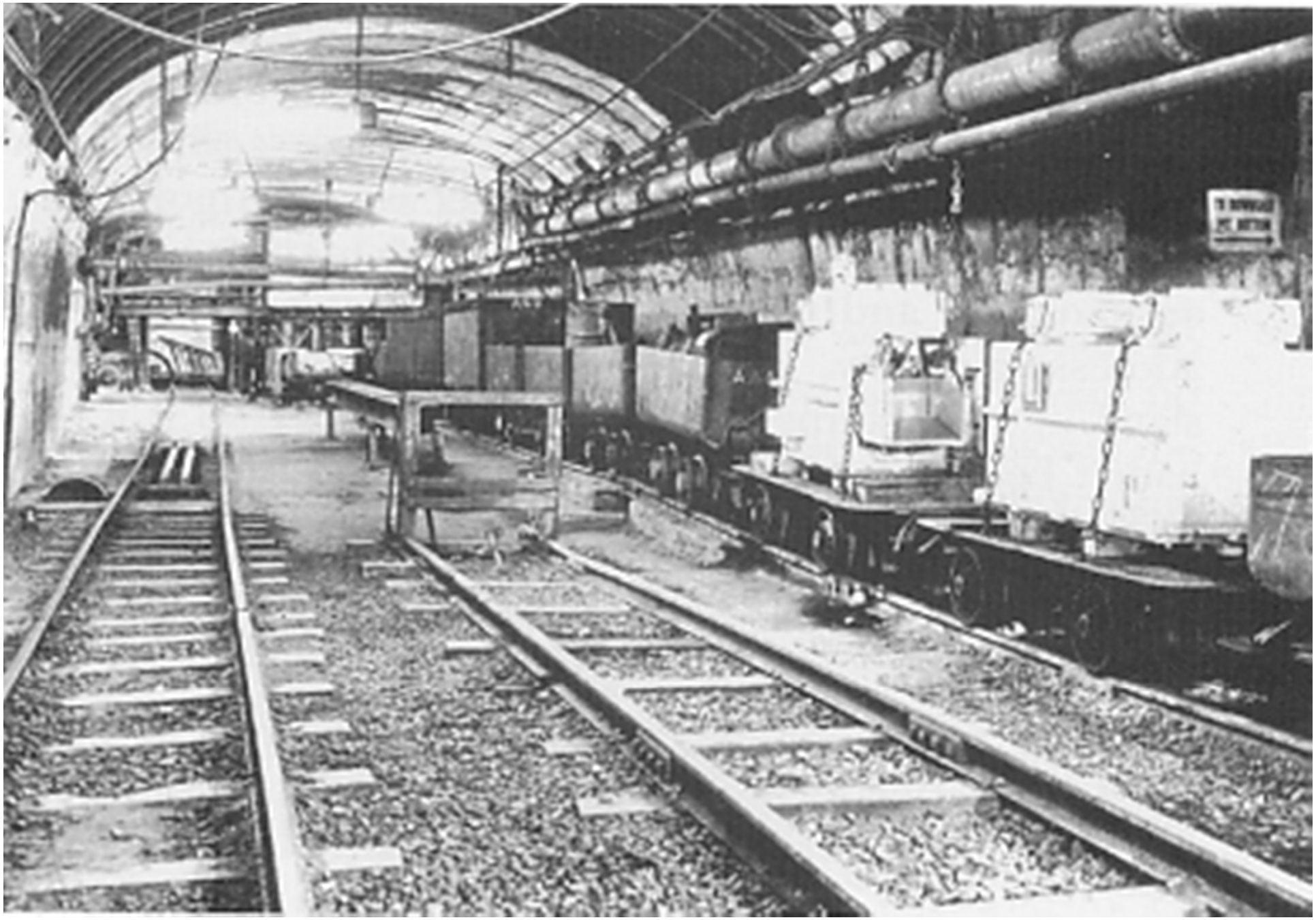


No 1. Ventilation Fan driving motor



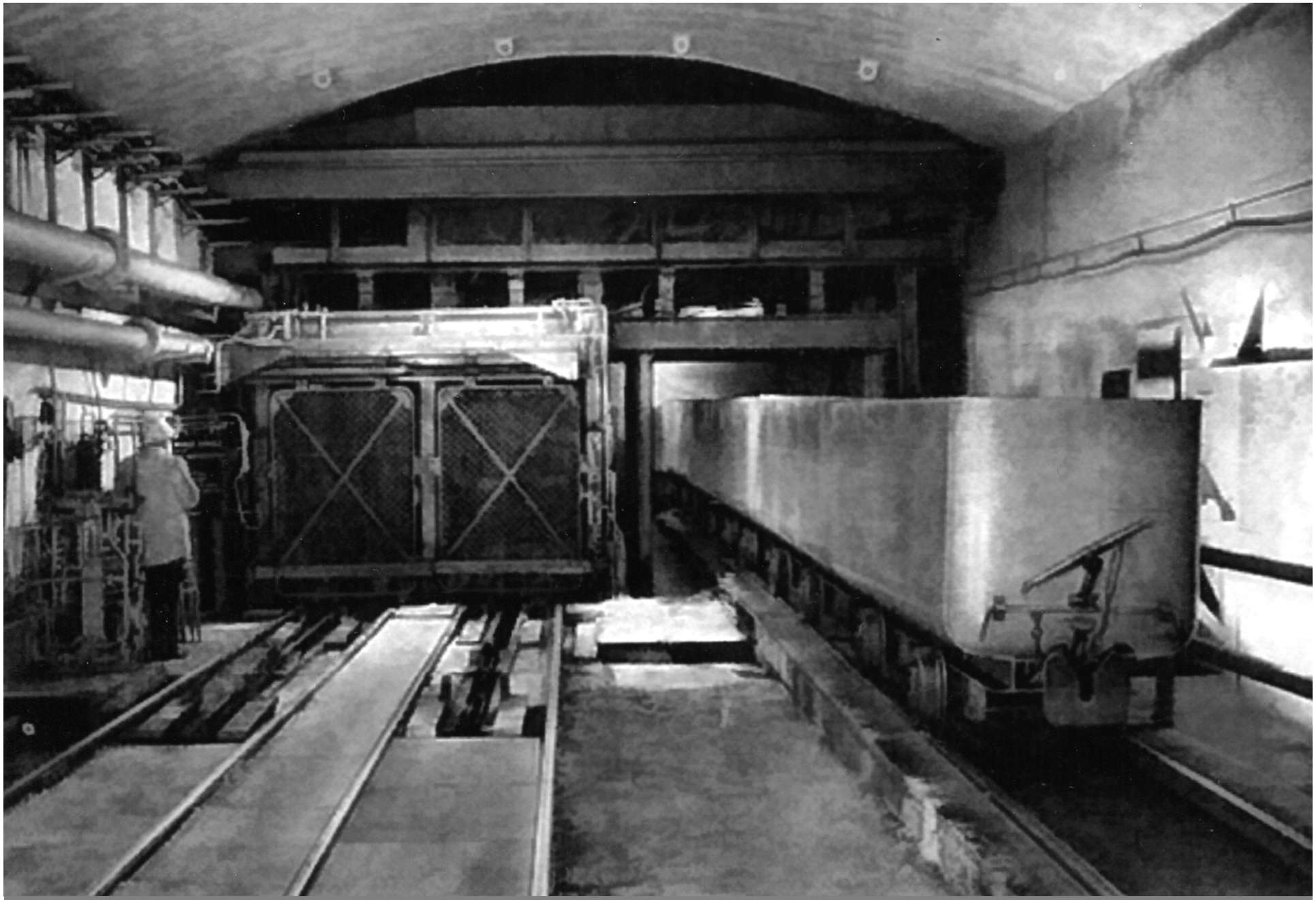
Compressor House.

Colliery site nearing completion.

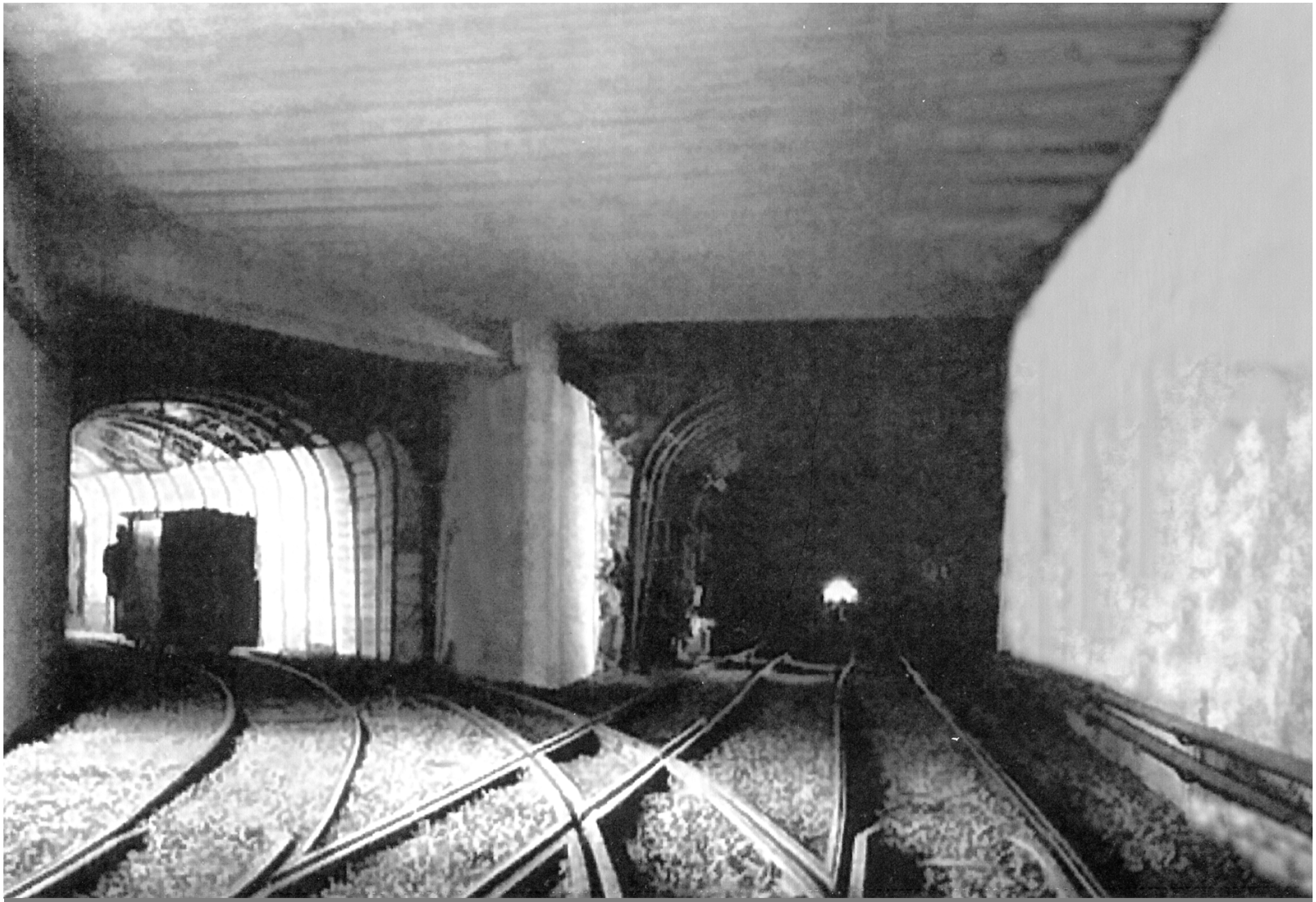


No 1 Horizon (Inset) adjacent to the shaft.

Underground battery locomotive garage.



Downcast Pit Bottom, c 1960 only one side in operation.



B39s Junction with the pit bottom horizon.

Demolition of Brereton chimney 1961.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

WEST MIDLANDS DIVISION

CANNOCK CHASE AREA

# LEA HALL COLLIERY

## *Official Opening*

JULY 19 1960

Mrs Brown performing the opening ceremony.

UBIQUE
UBIQUE
UBIQUE
UBIQUE
UBIQUE

# LEA HALL COLLIERY

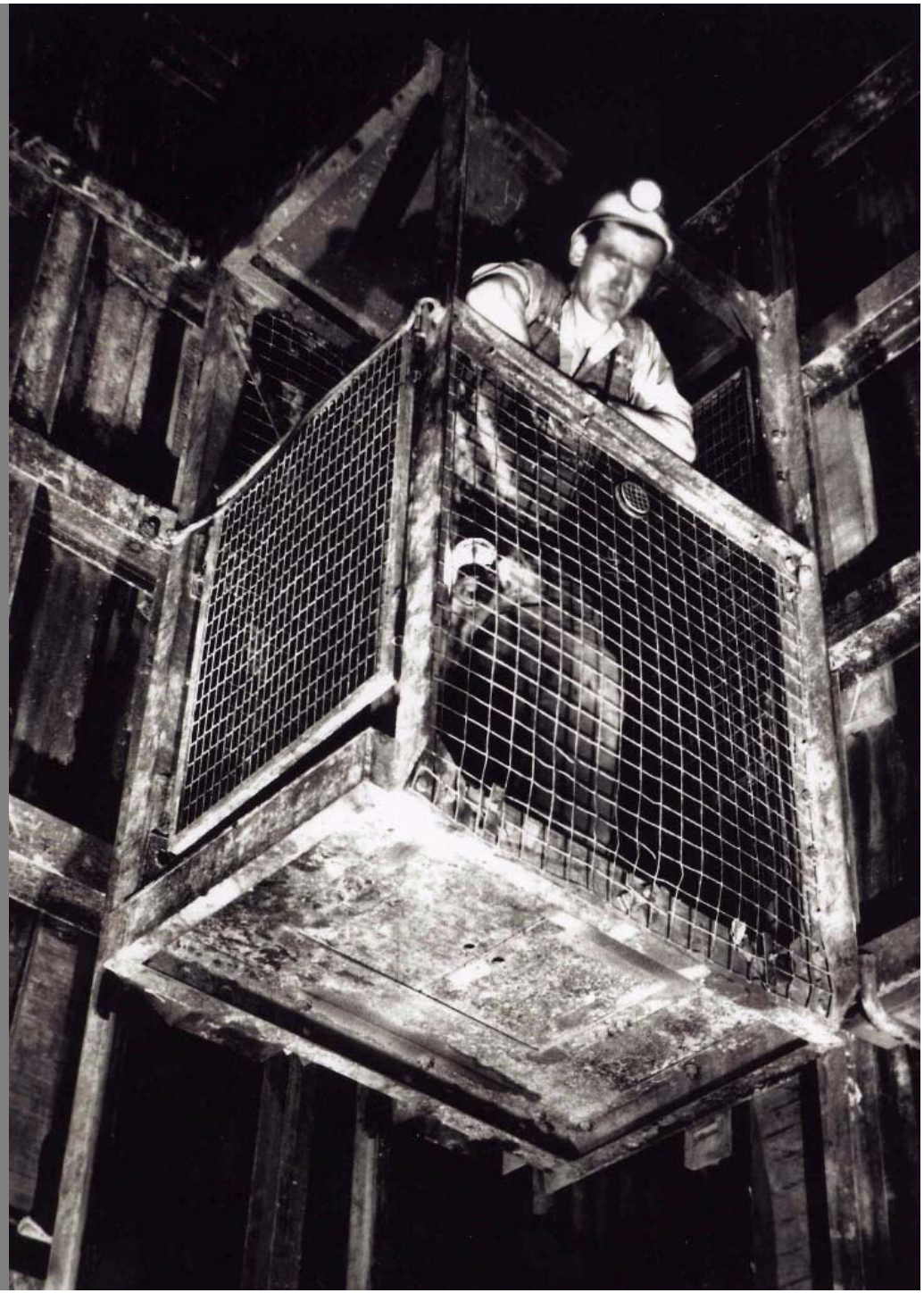
| Year | Average Manpower |
|---|---|
| 1960 | 675 |
| 1964 | 1,700 |
| 1970 | 2,000 |
| 1975 | 2,158 |
| 1980 | 2,300 |

# NEW HOMES

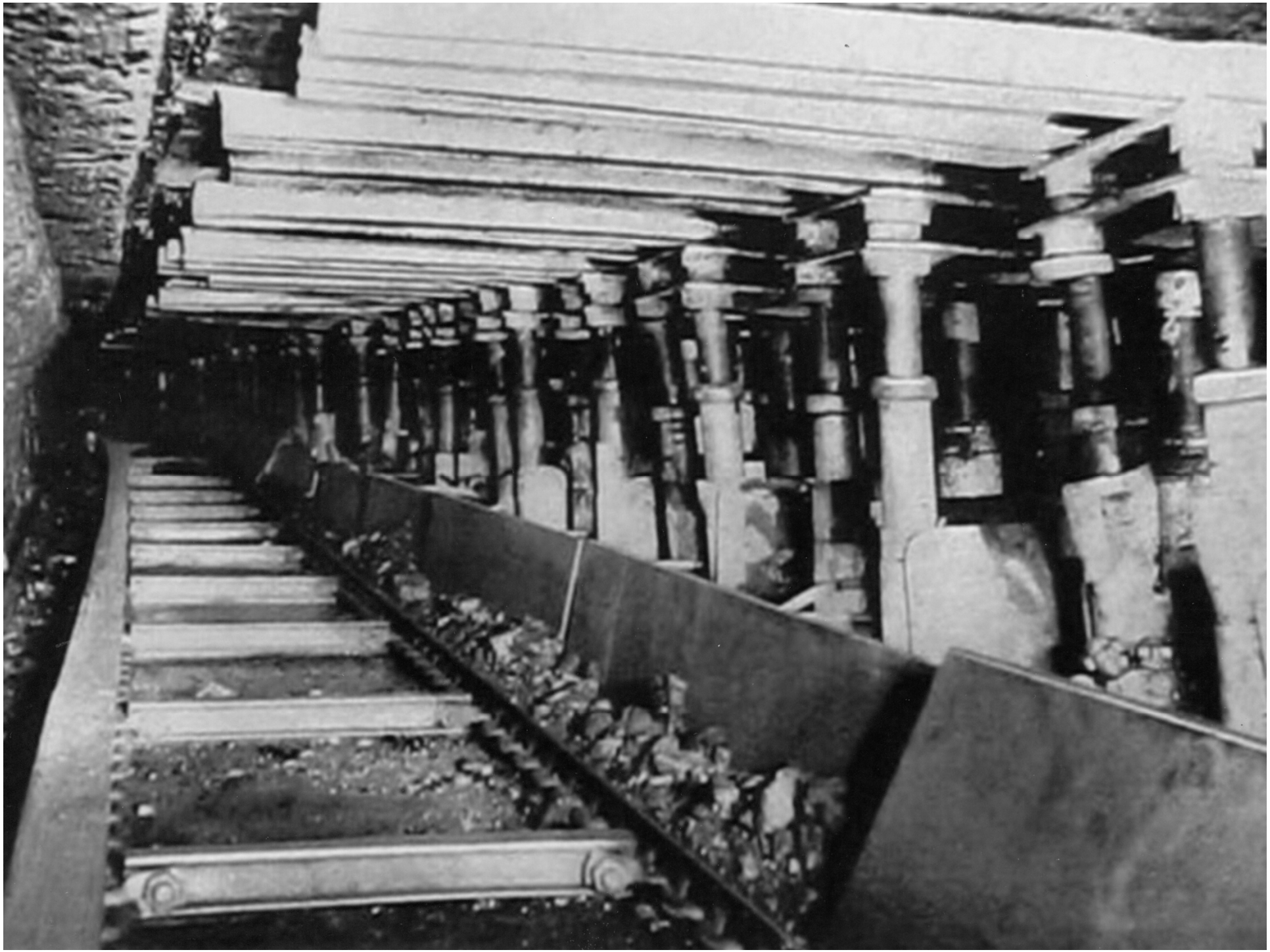
| Estates | | Built |
|---|---|---|
| Pear Tree | 650 | 1950s |
| Ravenhill | 100 | 1950s |
| Handsacre | 300 | 1960s |
| Springfields | 500 | 1960s |

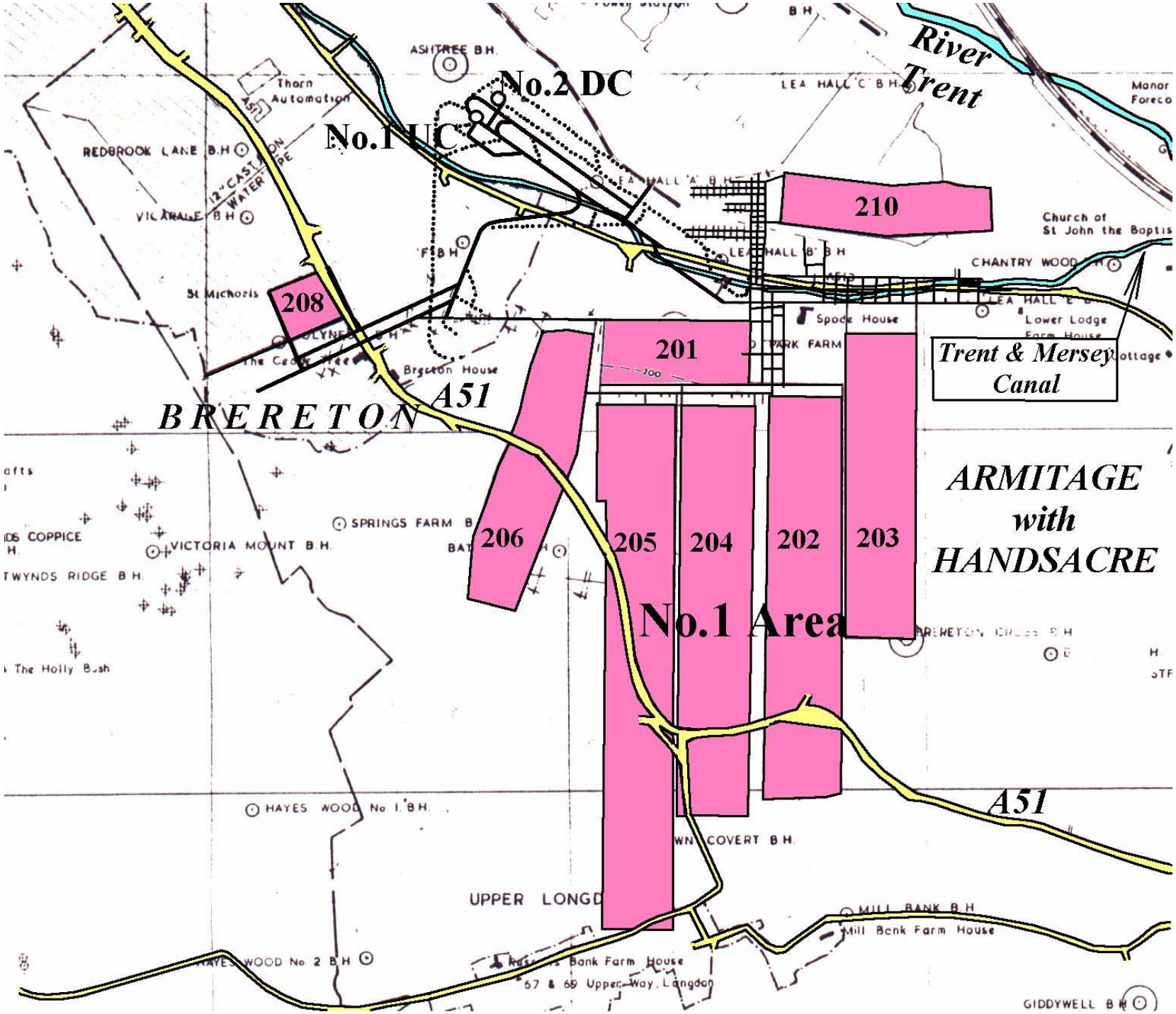
**Total 1550**

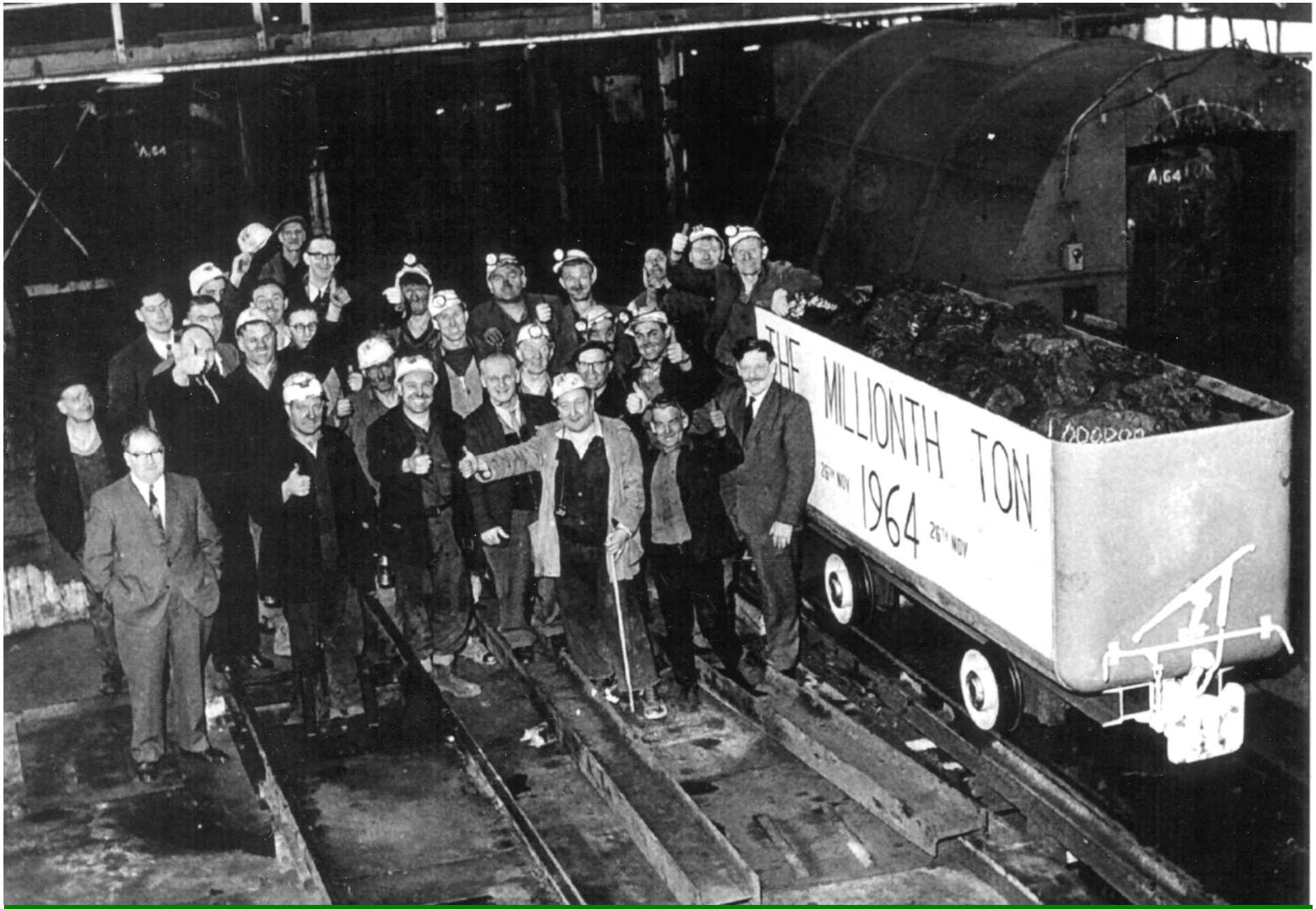
Showing the temporary hoist used in constructing  a staple shaft



Starting to sink
a staple shaft.

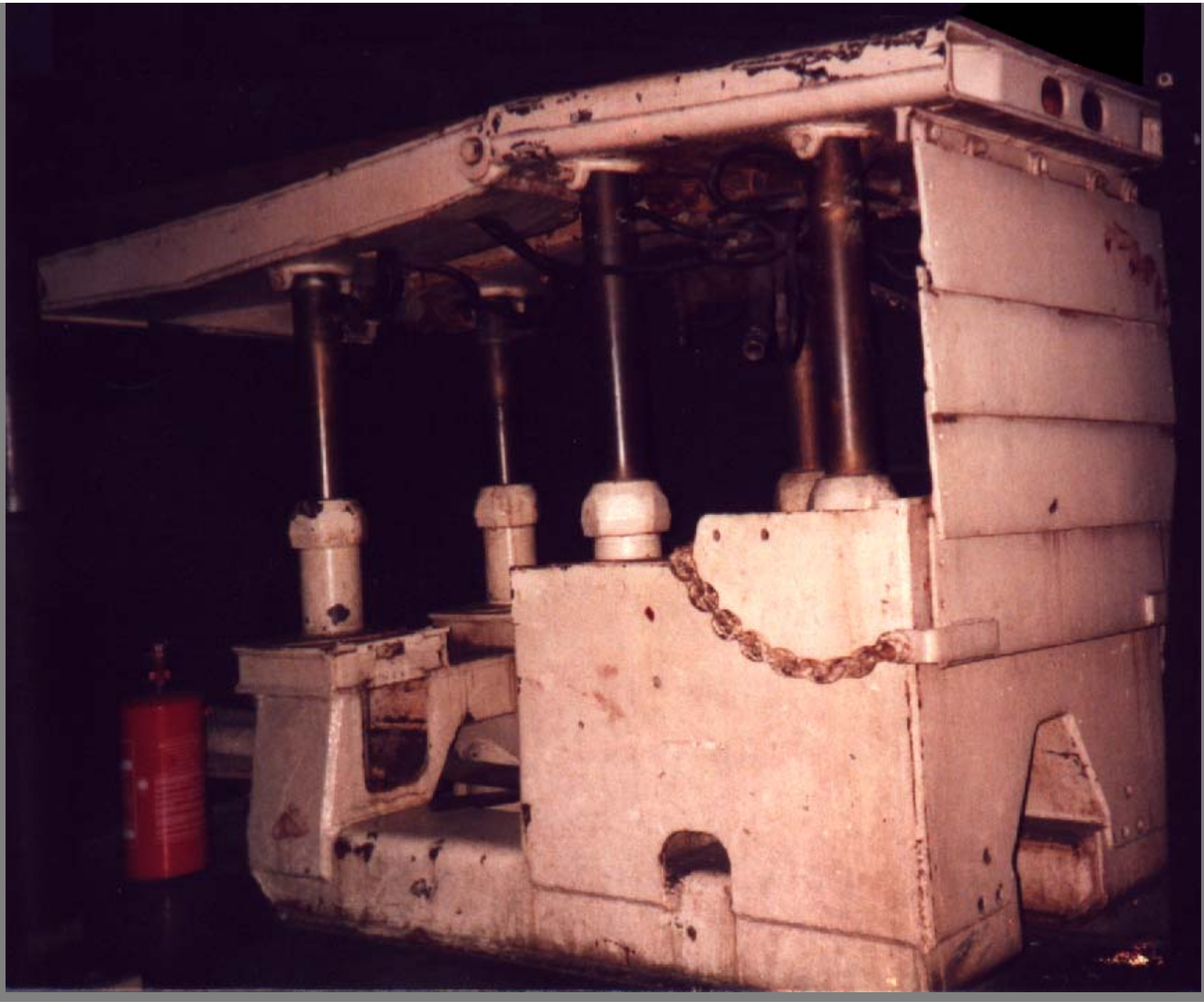


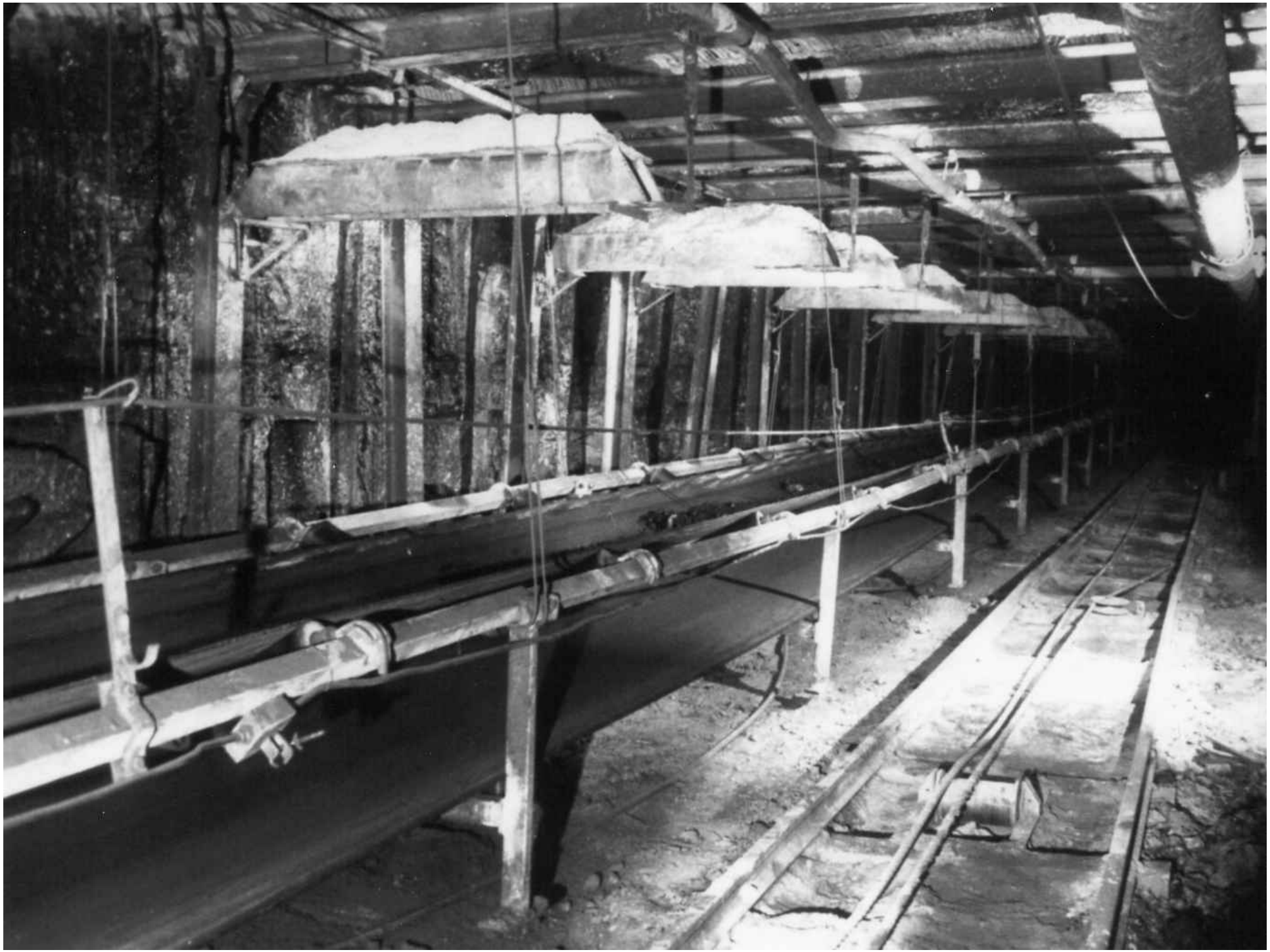

No.2 DC
No.1 UC
River Trent
210
208
201
206
205
204
202
203
No.1 Area
BRERETON
A51
Trent & Mersey Canal
ARMITAGE with HANDSACRE
Thorn Automation
REDBROOK LANE B.H
VICARAGE B.H
St Michaels
Brereton House
SPRINGS FARM B
VICTORIA MOUNT B.H
TWYNDS RIDGE B.H
The Holly Bush
HAYES WOOD No 1 B.H
HAYES WOOD No 2 B.H
UPPER LONGD
MILL BANK B.H
Mill Bank Farm House
67 & 69 Upper Way, Langdon
GIDDYWELL B.H
ASHTREE B.H
LEA HALL 'C' B.H
LEA HALL 'A' B.H
LEA HALL 'B' B.H
CHANTRY WOOD
Church of St John the Baptis
Spode House
Lower Lodge Farm House
PARK FARM
WN COVERT B.H




First Million Ton raised in 1964

LEA HALL
COLLIERY
THE 1½ MILLIONTH TON
1965
20TH DEC.



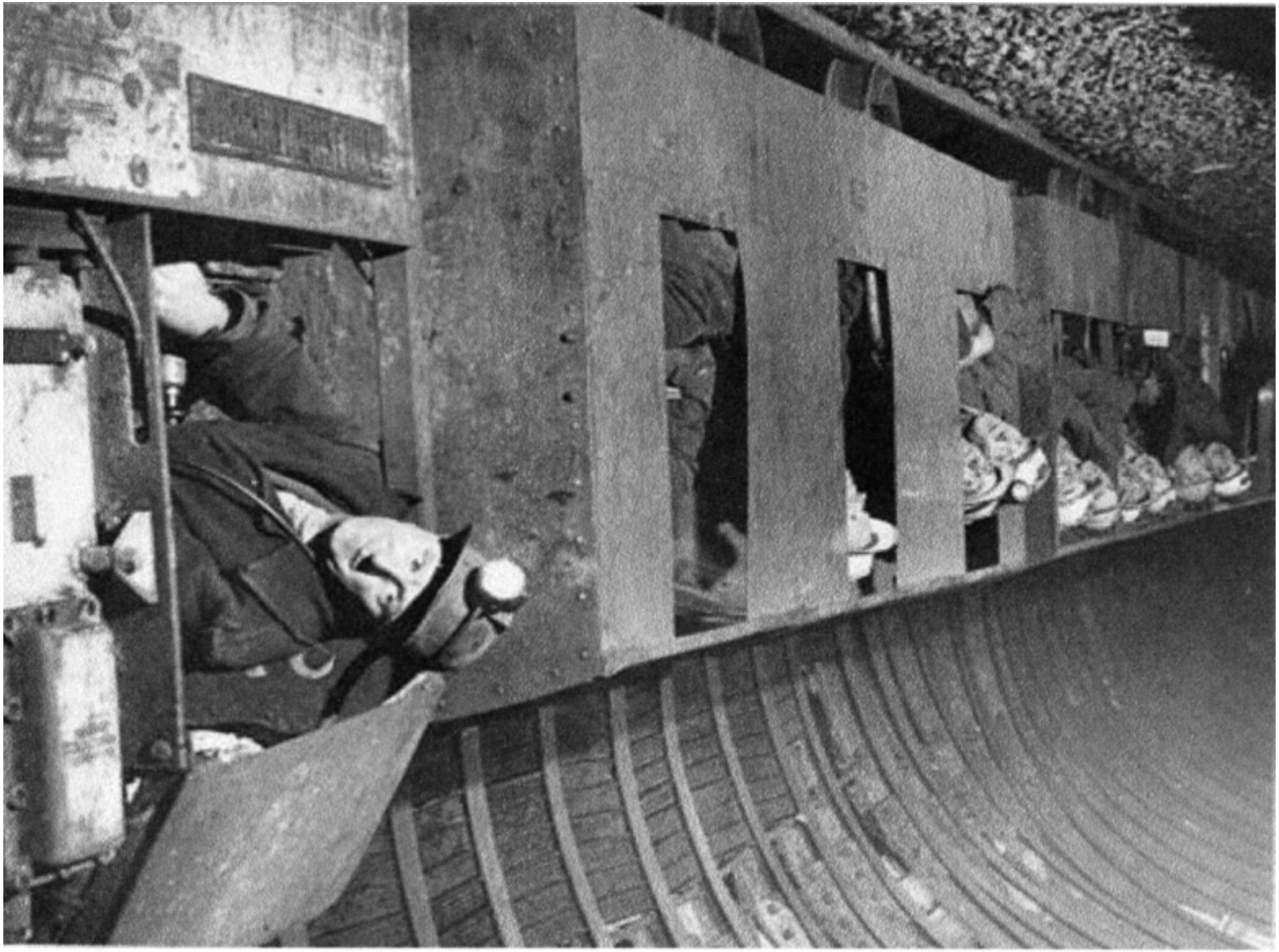


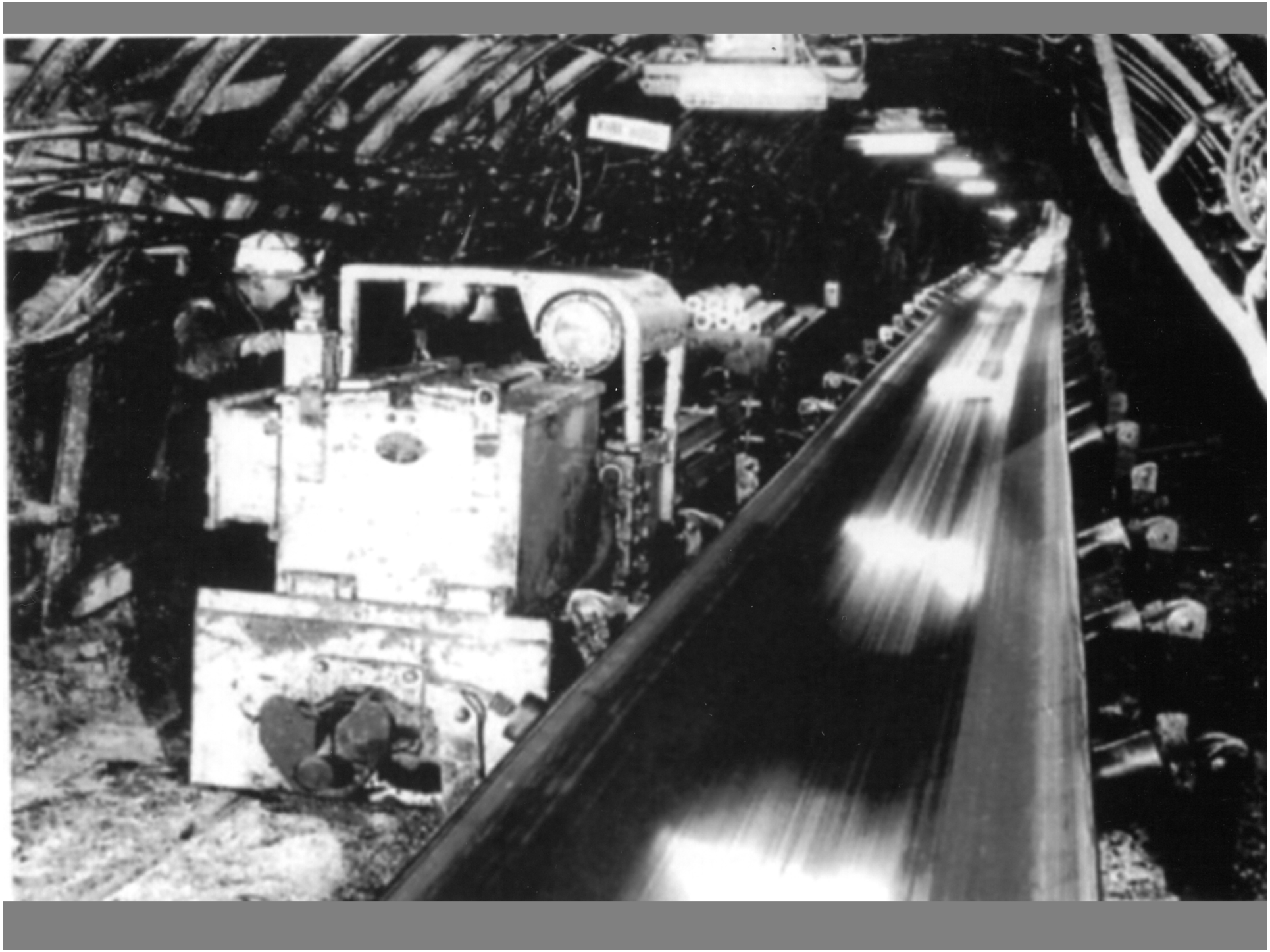
LEA HALL COLLIERY 750s YARD SEAM

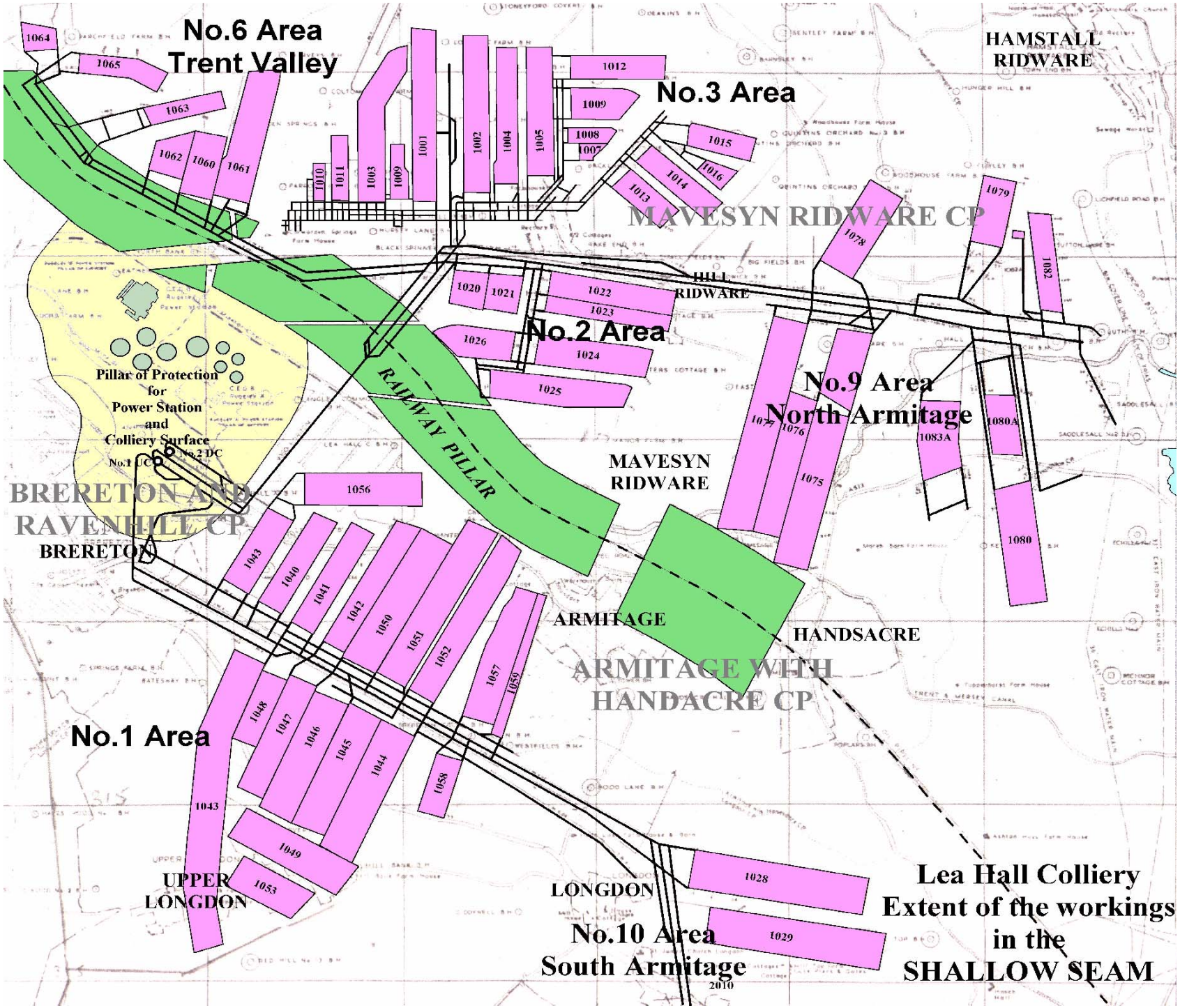
Underground 3,300 volt distribution sub-station c1965

First manless conveyor control desk installed 1964.

Undated conveyor control (computerised) c1980.

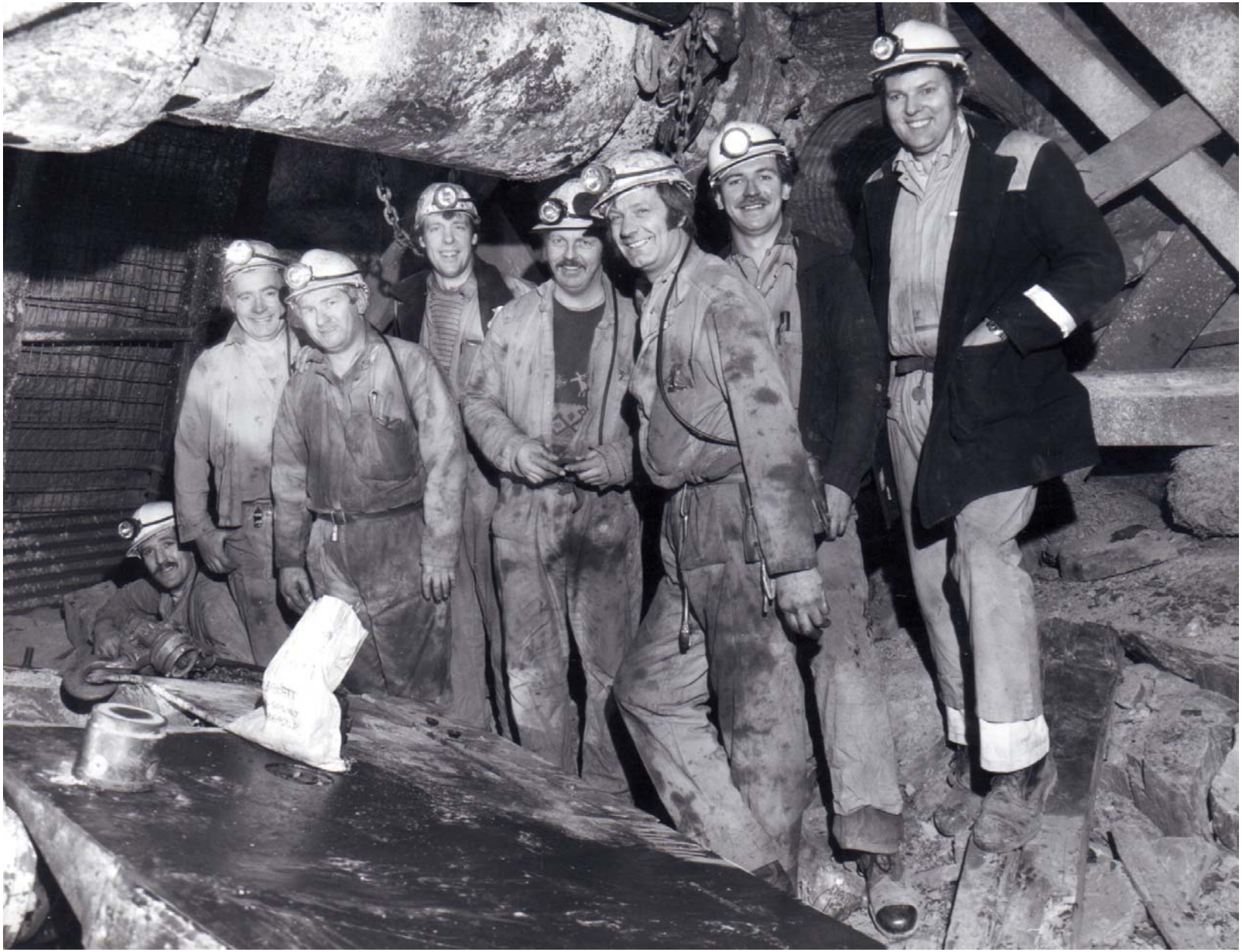





No.6 Area
Trent Valley
No.3 Area
HAMSTALL
RIDWARE
MAVESYN RIDWARE CP
HILL
RIDWARE
No.2 Area
Pillar of Protection
for
Power Station
and
Colliery Surface
No.1 UC
No.2 DC
RAILWAY PILLAR
No.9 Area
North Armitage
MAVESYN
RIDWARE
BRERETON AND
RAVENHILL CP
BRERETON
ARMITAGE
HANDSACRE
ARMITAGE WITH
HANDACRE CP
No.1 Area
UPPER
LONGDON
LONGDON
No.10 Area
South Armitage
2010
Lea Hall Colliery
Extent of the workings
in the
SHALLOW SEAM

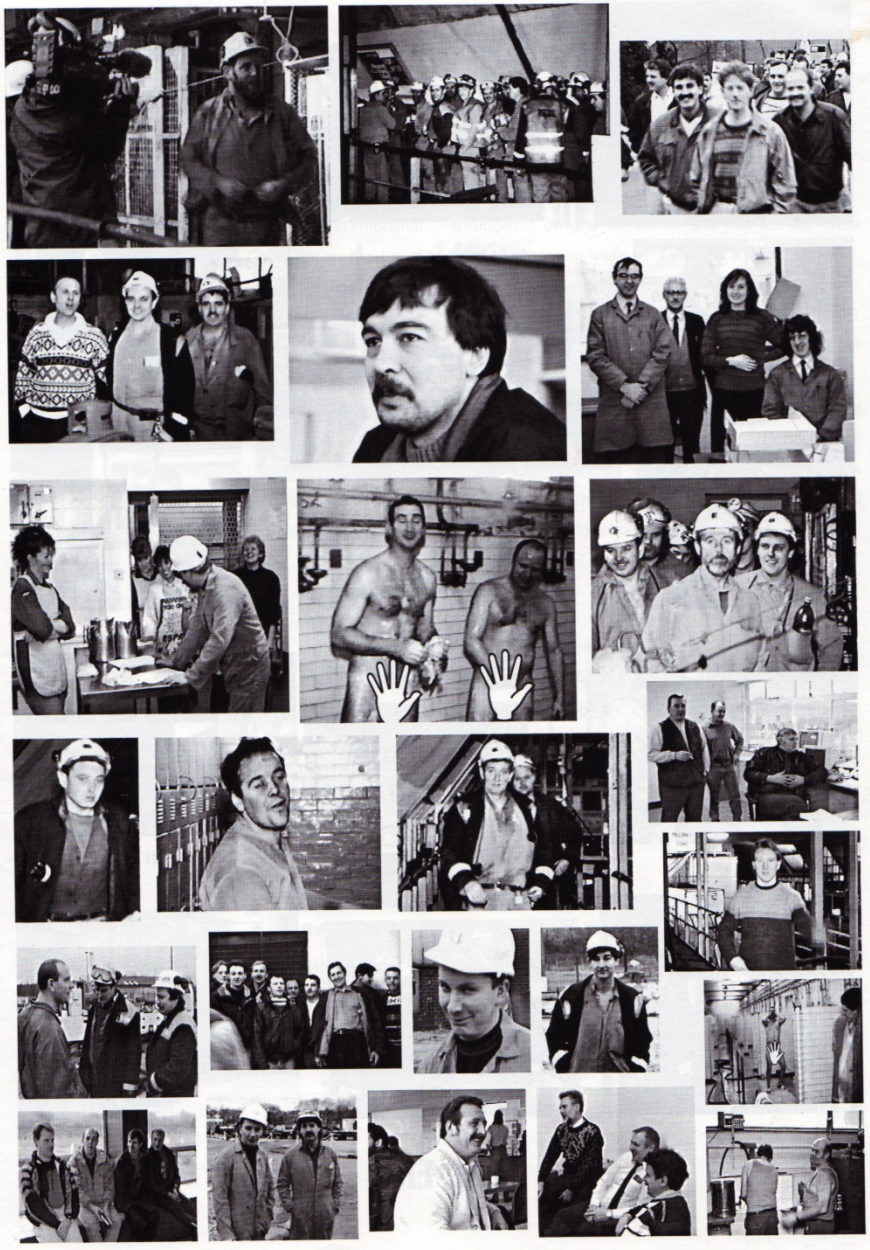
1014s face celebrating the European record in 1970
Million ton face; Production at a level of 1 million tons per year

Winders & Sinkers reunion.



**Lea Hall miners marching through Rugeley on the "last day"**

Members of the Power Group NUM Area with the union banner outside Lea Hall club at the end of the march. On the far right is **Edgar Bayliss** a retired miner who was a shaft sinker. He was the only man present on the last day who was there at the pits beginning.



**The End**