

Photographs For A New Century

Third Edition

MINES & QUARRIES



Registered Charity 1094700

The original photographs in this collection were taken as part of the Gloucestershire 2000 Photographic Archive project. The Society initially decided to photograph 100 'sites and monuments' which had some historic interest so that a record would exist of their nature and condition in the year 2000. The photographers were all volunteers and were given a free hand regarding the photographs that they took subject to the above general principle. The range of photographs taken varied from monuments which were already well recognised for their historic relevance, to items which were not especially significant in themselves but had a particular interest. All the monuments or sites photographed could potentially face at least modifications and at worst threats to their continuing existence over time.. The work was coordinated by Ron Beard and ultimately the volunteers produced more than 250 photographs, from which those you can see in this document were chosen.

The intention at the time was to revisit the selected sites at ten-year intervals and take new photographs. Accordingly, this was done in 2010 (second edition), and for this **third edition** in the period 2019 – 2024. The collection now provides a record of any changes that have occurred over the last twenty years and provides a valuable insight into how historic sites of interest in the Dean area are valued and cared for. Unfortunately, for the second and third editions some of those who took the original photographs are no longer with us, so new volunteers were recruited. All are acknowledged underneath their photographs.

The photographs are presented in themed collections, namely Mines & Quarries, Transport, Industry, Agriculture & Forestry, Religion and Other Buildings & Monuments. A complete index to the collection is also available.

You can browse through this document, or each individual site can be accessed via the index below.

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Bixhead Quarry Crane



Bixhead Quarry crane - The quarry has been worked for at least 500 years. The crane was brought from Newport Docks and was still in use at the time of the photograph.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO597110

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North

Date taken - June 2000



Unfortunately by 2010 the crane had been dismantled, removing a familiar sight from the horizon. This view shows the much more extensive quarry workings.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - August 2010



The quarry has continued to be developed over the last decade.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 21st June 2022

Bixhead Quarry Workers



Bixhead Quarry workers - The Fletcher brothers, Terry and Douglas have worked at the quarry over a period of thirty years. The younger employee is Simon Glover.

West Dean Parish

Camera location SO596110

View direction - North East

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – June 2000



In 2010 the hut was the same but the workers had changed. Back row, left to right, Brian Andrews (the boss), Rob Cooke and Derek Hale. Front row, Steve Baglin (the fossil) and David Cooke.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - August 2010



The workforce has shown a complete turnover of staff working at the Quarry, (now named Barnhill Quarry).
The workers chose not to have their names published.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 21st June 2022

Buckshaft Iron Mine Tip



This tip consisted of waste from the nearby iron mine. Unlike the shale tips from colliery workings this tip consisted mostly of limestone and after many years of settling was built upon from the 1960s on.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO654123

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South East

Date taken - July 2000



The gardens have noticeably more mature vegetation.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



Vegetation changes and minor building works are in evidence in the latest view.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 16th September 2021

Cinderford Water Pit



The house in the middle distance belonged to the owner of Cinderford Water Pit, a colliery whose shaft can still be found in the garden. The causeway which runs across the picture served as a dam to the pool which fed the leat to Bright's Corn Mill and also allowed colliery waste to be transferred to the small tip which is sited just to the right of the photograph. The dark patch in the left foreground is the exit tunnel which drained into the leat.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO690127
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - East
Date taken - May 2000



The house, which has been renovated, is largely hidden by the vegetation growth as is the tunnel for the leat. The more luxurious vegetation growth is partly because this photograph was taken about six weeks later in the year than the original.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010



2020 winter view allows more visibility than previous photographs. New information board.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27th February 2020

Eastern United Colliery Site



Site of Eastern United colliery - Currently largely occupied by Runnymede Dispersions, the former colliery offices can be seen to the right of the entrance to the site. This viewpoint was popular for earlier photographs.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO649112

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North

Date taken - July 2000



Because of tree growth it was impossible to take a photograph from the same position. Two photographs were needed to show all the detail and indicate how little has changed.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010

Original colliery offices
on the right.



The site has seen further development since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 12th March 2000

Eastern United Pithead Baths



The pithead baths of Eastern United Colliery at Ruspidge were taken over by Runnymede Dispersions as a storage facility for paint. The baths had been opened in the early post-war period.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO650114

View direction - South East

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2000



Unfortunately, by 2010 the pithead baths had gone the way of most pithead baths, leaving Northern United former baths as the sole survivor in the Forest.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010

Fairplay Mine Engine House



Fairplay engine house - Iron mine engine house near Plump Hill.
Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO658165
Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North
Date taken - July 2000



Clearance of the surrounding vegetation has made the remains of the old engine house more visible.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - April 2011



Vegetation changes have not obscured the main features of the site.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 3rd February 2022

Findall Iron Mine Air Shaft Chimney



Findall iron mine air shaft chimney near Soudley -
The chimney has been renovated and is listed.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO651106

View direction - North West

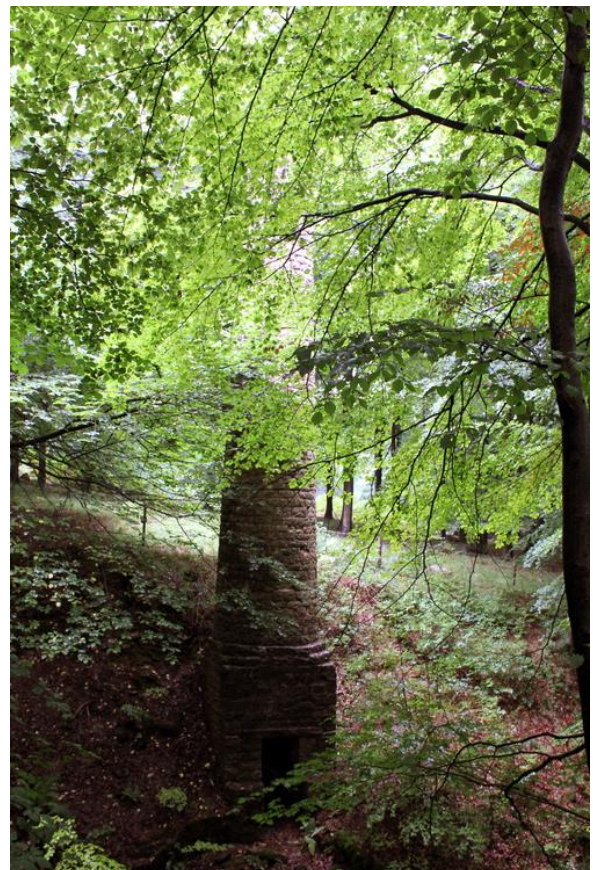
Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2000

The chimney is largely unaltered although it is more hidden by the increased foliage.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - August 2010





By 2021, vegetation changes have not obscured the main features of the site.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 20th August 2021

Flour Mill Colliery Engine House



Flour Mill Colliery Engine House - Renovated and well preserved example of a Forest of Dean colliery engine house. Currently used as a workshop for steam locomotive renovation.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO604067

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - West

Date taken - June 2000



The building shows some minor modifications but the large side windows are mostly obscured by the rolling stock. The presence of this and the wheels and axles reflect the continuing success of the workshops.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



Still in use in 2021.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13th August 2021

Forest Miner Statue



'Forest Miner' - Millenium statue of a freeminer.
Cinderford Triangle

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO656141

View direction - South West

Photographer – A.J. Sulston

Date taken – July 2000

The statue is still intact and the slightly changed
viewpoint clearly shows that the model for it was
freeminer Dave Harvey

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010





No change, apparent differences a result of camera angle.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 5th March 2020

Frank Hall's Gravestone



The gravestone of Frank Hall can be found in Ruardean Churchyard. Frank was killed in an accident at Trafalgar Colliery 1903, aged 16 years.

Ruardean Parish

Camera location - SO621177

View direction - Not recorded

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - August 2000

The inscription shows slight deterioration.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010





Still well maintained in 2023.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 4TH March 2023

Freeminers Arms



Freeminers Arms at St Michael's Church Abenhall -The shield bearing the Freeminers arms is situated on the West wall of the church.

Mitcheldean Parish

Camera location - SO671174
Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - East
Date taken - June 2000



No change to the original - see close-up in the gallery below.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010



No change in 2023.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 4th March 2023

Headstone for Stephen and Joseph Blanch



Headstone for Stephen and Joseph Blanch, Newland - Both died in an accident at Futtrall pit, 1815. The inscription reads: Short was thy warning O cruel Death, Two lovely youths thou hast deprived of Breath, They're winged for Heaven and took a hasty Flight, For Crowns of Blessings in the Realm of Light..

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO554095

View direction - South West

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

The headstone remains in the same position - the lettering has become even less distinct

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





By 2021, further weathering makes the inscription very difficult to read.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 9th December 2021

Hopewell Colliery Museum



Hopewell Colliery Museum - Entrance to the mine with Hedley Morgan.
West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO603114
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North
Date taken - June 2000



The entrance to the Hopewell Colliery Museum in 2010, with its proprietor, Robin Morgan.
Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - August 2010



The mining museum now in the hands of Forest Verderer Rich Daniel MBE.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 23rd June 2022

Lightmoor Colliery Pump House



Lightmoor Colliery Pump House - The pump house is the last surviving engine pumping house in the Forest of Dean (c1840), and has been placed in risk category 1 by the Forest of Dean District Council.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO641121

View direction – East

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - February 2000

Lightmoor pump house is less visible from the cycle track following the construction of a new fence and additional buildings. Planning applications have been made to convert the pump house into a dwelling

Photographer - J Orr

Date taken - March 2010





The building is suffering further deterioration and will need considerable attention if it is to survive.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 30th September 2021

Mushet's Coal Level (Darkhill)



Mushet's coal level at Dark Hill was an attempt to mine coal for fuel at the nearby brickworks. The project was not successful.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO589088

View direction - North North East

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - September 1999

The level entrance was cleared and made safe by the Coal Authority in 2010. A clay level adjacent to the coal level was also cleared and made safe (see below).

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken April 2010





Little change by 2020.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 6th February 2020



Mushet's Clay Level

New Fancy Colliery Screens



New Fancy Colliery Screens - Probably a loading point at the New Fancy Colliery (closed 1944).
West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO630095
Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North
Date taken - January 2000



Vegetation has rather taken over this site.

Photographer - M Bramwell

Date taken - April 2010



Evidently Forestry England have been conserving the screens to some extent, as evidenced in vegetation removal and limited repointing of the wall

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 7th March 2024



However, there are still a few trees rooted in some sections of the wall

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 7th March 2024

Phoenix Mine



Phoenix Mine - Working Freemine, worked by Robin Morgan.
West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO604112
Photographer - R Beard

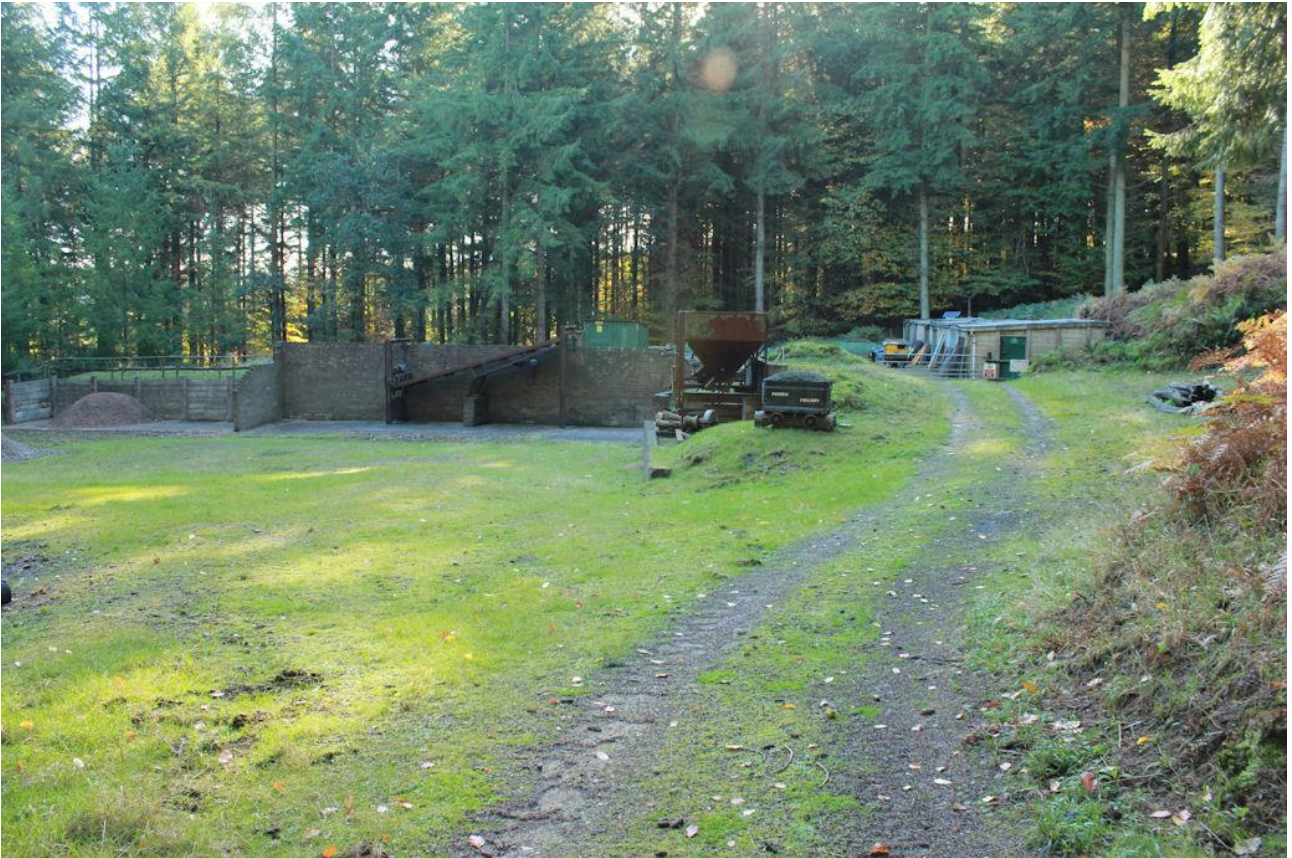
View direction - West
Date taken - June 2000



The mine, whilst still on Robin Morgan's gale has recently been operated on a part time basis by James Britton.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



The mine site is well maintained & shows signs of occasional use in 2022.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 4th November 2021

Princess Royal Baths Site



Princess Royal pithead baths were built in 1939 and were the earliest in the Forest Coalfield. Unfortunately despite a long struggle to save them they were demolished in 2009. Only the base of the water tower was preserved as a sanctuary for bats.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO617081

View direction - South West

Photographer - K Walker

Date taken - February 2011



By 2021 the site was overrun with vegetation and the information plaque had been vandalised. Forest Enterprise have no plans to replace it.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 9th June 2021

Trafalgar Arch



Trafalgar Arch, near Brierley - Bridge over the former Severn and Wye Railway. The bridge carried colliery 'traffic' and renovated when the former railway track was incorporated into a family cycleway.

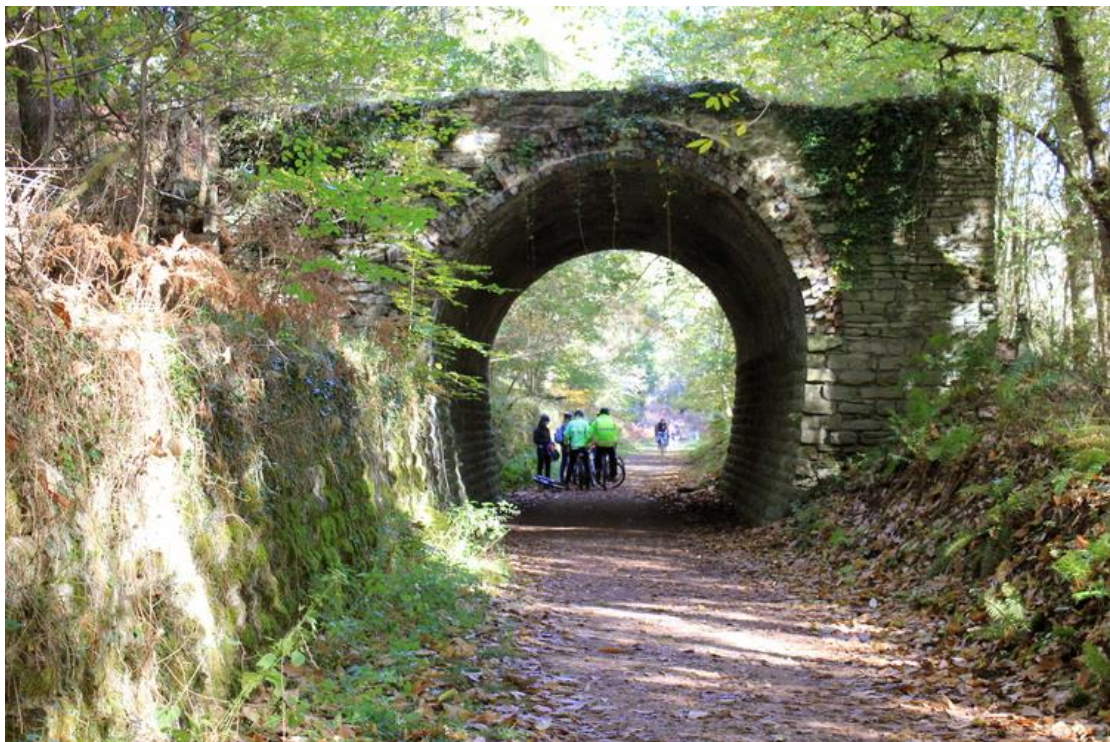
Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO624142

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North East

Date taken - August 2000



Largely unchanged apart from an increase in vegetation cover.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - October 2010



No change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 23rd September 2021

Trafalgar House



Trafalgar House was once the dwelling of Francis Brain, one time owner of Trafalgar Colliery. The house is still used as a dwelling, and at this time was still offering refreshments to passing walkers.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO625144

View direction - North North West

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - September 2000



The house shows few changes, much of the vegetation growth in front of the house has been cleared. The bright sunlight and the white paint made for difficult photographic conditions.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - October 2010



The decorative condition has deteriorated since 2010, otherwise no notable changes.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 23rd September 2021

Union Colliery Disaster Memorial



Union Colliery Disaster Memorial -The sculpture is a memorial to Thomas and Amos James (brothers), William Martin and Herbert Gwatkin who were killed on 4 September 1902.

West Dean Parish

Camera location - SO604100

Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - East

Date taken - January 2000



The scene has hardly changed. There has been some vandalism to the monument but this is not visible in this view but can be seen in the second view (2010).

Photographer - J Orr

Date taken - March 2010



No change discernible in 2021.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 25th November 2021

