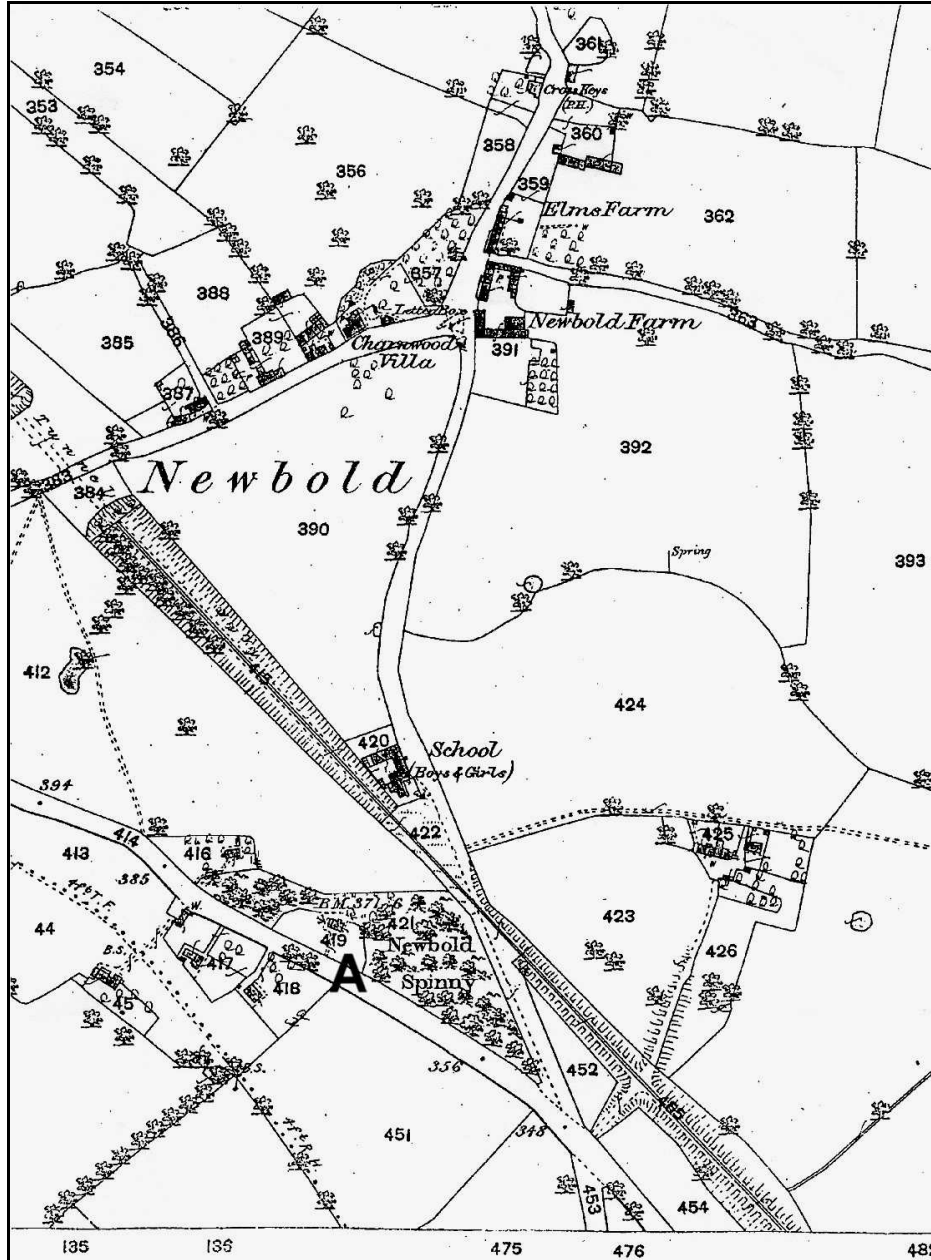


A PILOT MINE FOR NEW LOUNT COLLIERY ?



Extract from 1885 (1881 surveyed) 6 inch O/S map.
Newbold was little more than a hamlet at that time.

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - AUGUST 2024

OLD LOUNT COLLIERY 1920 - 1924

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Although there is a paucity of records relating to the shaft sunk in 1920 in Newbold Spinney located in the area indicated by the letter **A** on the map on the front cover, the author takes the view that this was the pilot / forerunner mine for the sinking in 1924 of 'New Lount Colliery' a few hundred yards to the west.

The shaft was recorded as being 30 metres deep and 2.7 metres in diameter. The fact that it had the same owner as New Lount Colliery adds credence to the theory. When this colliery was first sunk, W. J. Hardy was given as the owner, but it changed hands to the 'Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd' in 1922 of which Hardy was a director.

J. Banborough was the manager of the colliery, and when it closed in 1924 he was transferred to New Lount Colliery where he worked till 1933. The coal originally mined was 'Middle Lount Seam' and there were three mine mouths? It was apparently abandoned when old mine workings were met. Old workings pre 1834 were recorded as being in the area around New Lount.

Looking at the number of men employed, it gives the impression that it was a substantial enterprise.

In 1963, a 40 feet plus diameter hole opened up in the spinney close to a cottage there, which was filled in and capped by the N.C.B.

Whether there is any relevance to the fact that the colliery was sunk in the year following the closure of the Newbold Glory (aka Staunton / Worthington) mine, is open to conjecture.

There was a shaft in the field at the back of Newbold School in the corner where the council houses on Ashby Road and School Lane met but it is only conjecture as to whether this was an air shaft associated with the main down shaft. Apparently, the old locals referred to the field as cylinder field.

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EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
(Taken from the healeyhero website)

1921	<i>109 Underground</i>	<i>36 Surface</i>
1922	<i>123 Underground</i>	<i>38 Surface</i>
1923	<i>123 Underground</i>	<i>38 Surface</i>
1924	<i>Suspended / Abandoned</i>	

Management

Manager *1920/1921* *John W Lyon (670)*

Under Manager *1920/1921* *E Pilkington (8209 2nd).*

No under manager appointed after this date

Manager *1921/1924* *J Banborough (3530).*

Subsequently transferred to New Lount as under manager

Surveyor *D M Morley*