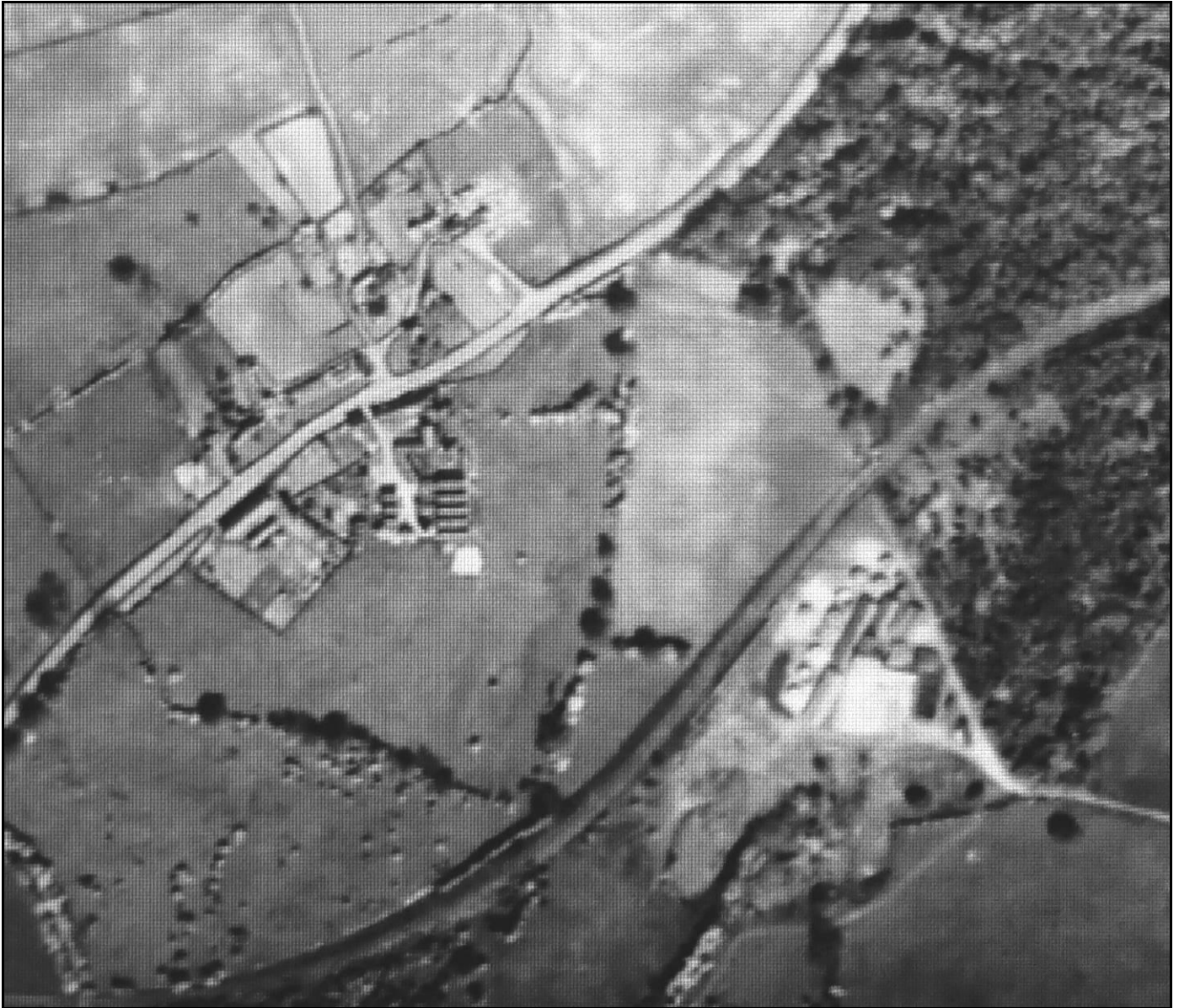


**LOUNT PIPE WORKS
(WITHIN THE PARISH OF COLEORTON)**



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MARCH 2024

FIRST DRAFT

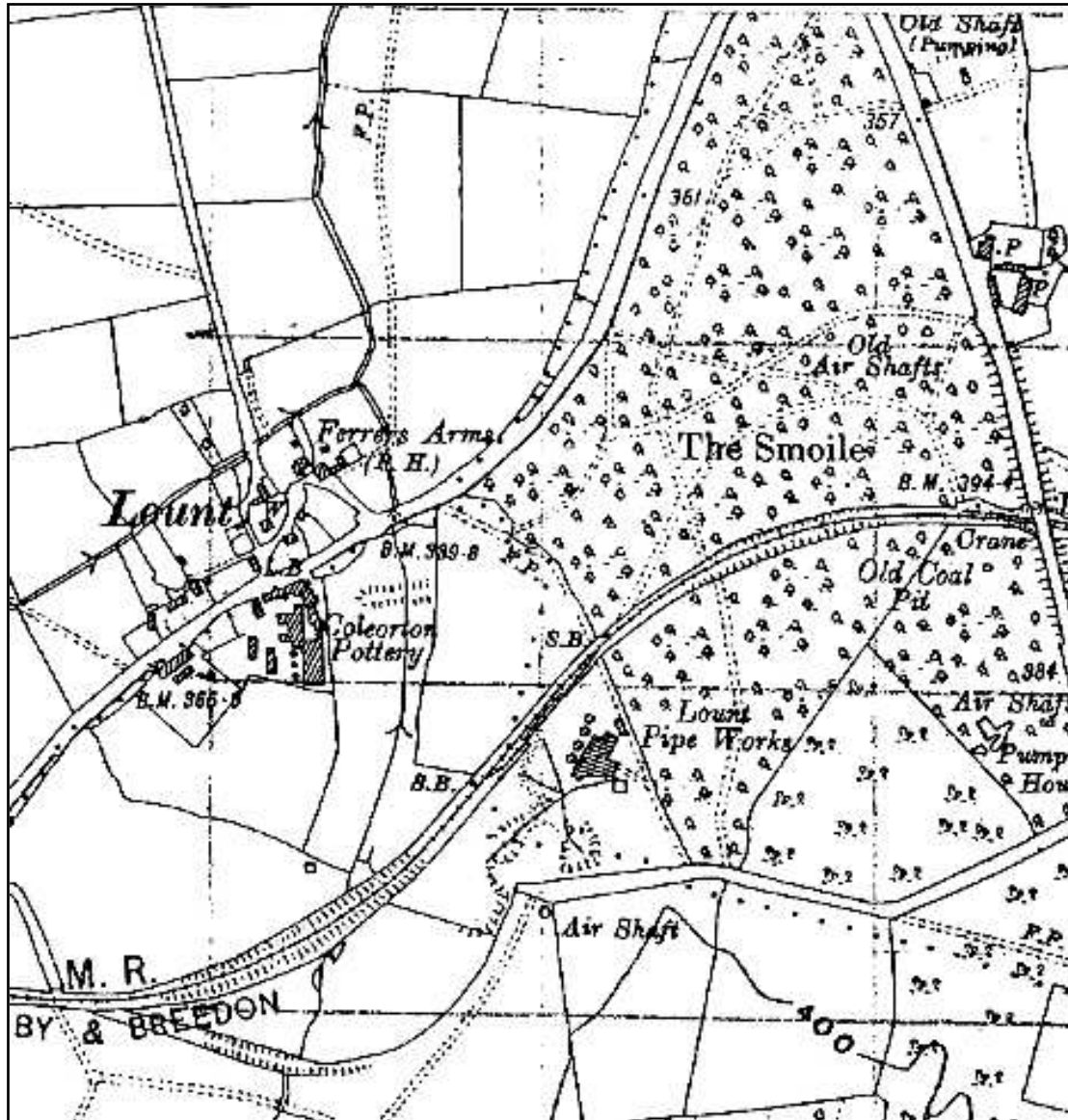
FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This is an extract from an aerial photograph taken in 1948 showing the geographical relationship of "Lount Pipe Works" to the hamlet of Lount and "Coleorton Pottery" which closed as a pottery in 1938. In the top LH corner, Coleorton Pottery is shown to the south of the Ashby to Breedon road (formerly the Ashby to Sawley turnpike) with the hamlet of Lount is on the north side. In the bottom RH corner is the site of "Lount Pipe Works" which had closed as a manufactory thirteen years previous to this photograph being taken. Below is an enlargement of the Lount Pipe Works site.



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AN EXTRACT FROM THE 1925 O/S MAP

This map is important in that it not only shows the relationship of Lount Pipe Works to "The Smoile" and Coleorton Pottery, but also provides details of the clay pits and tramways on the Lount Pipe Works site. It also includes other geographical features, such as the Melbourne to Ashby section of the Midland Railway, on which the pipe works had its own private sidings'.

The author has found little in the way of recorded information about "Lount Pipe Works" which was located in the parish of Coleorton, just to the south east of Coleorton Pottery. The pipe works were thought to have opened in the early 1900s, and they were initially owned by the "Lount Brick and Sanitary Pipe Company". There is a reference to them being first registered with a capital of £10,000 in 1901, but this requires further clarification. At some point, they were taken over by the "Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd who also owned New Lount Colliery and both the Newbold Brickworks and later Newbold Pipe Works.

The discovery of the 1948 aerial photograph proved to be key to the author's research in that it shows how the pipe works site developed in size from that shown in the 1925 map when only 4 kilns are depicted. 10 down draft dome topped kilns are shown in the 1948 aerial photograph with the addition of further buildings, making it a sizeable manufactory. It is almost certain that pressed bricks, floor and roof tiles etc were made there, besides sanitary pipes

The 1925 map shows that clay pits existed close to the pipe works with a series of interconnecting tramways, this clay would presumably have been used by the pipe works until New Lount Colliery's clay came on stream post 1924. As there was no coal being mined in the immediate area at that time to fire the kiln ovens, supplies would have been available from further afield, in Coleorton for example, until New Lount Colliery coal came on stream after 1924.

Importantly, Lount Pipe Works had their own private sidings as did the Pottery on the Melbourne to Ashby section of the Midland Railway, thereby enabling them to ship their products out around the country.

After new New Lount Colliery, was opened in 1924, there was a large quantity of high quality stoneware clay to be had, for which there was a considerable demand of course in the manufacture of salt glazed sanitary pipes. "Lount Pipe Works" followed by "Newbold Pipe Works", used this clay which was delivered to both sites by lorries. By May 1929, the latest dry cleaning plant and screen had been erected at New Lount Colliery, and the two shafts were capable of raising 2,000 tons of clay per day. Annual output was now 256,341 tons of coal and 31,851 tons of stoneware clay. By 1933, the clay output had dropped to 6,000 tons and clay production from New Lount Colliery ceased. This no doubt impacted on Lount Pipe Works production and there is a reference to the pipe works closing on the 9th of April 1935 with 100 men affected.

There is a reliable reference to Rolls-Royce storing engine parts in the disused Lount Pipe Works when a Spitfire crashed in the locality in 1943.

Margaret Barkby, a senior citizen of Stoney Lane, Coleorton (b.1919), and mother of the author's wife, recalled that as a girl walking with her parents from Stoney Lane to the Ferrers Arms at Lount, they by-passed the pipe-works kilns, where she vividly remembers the oven fires roaring away.

The author's grandfather, Samuel Stewart was employed at "Coleorton Pottery" in 1901 as a pottery turner which was a skilled job. The pottery was not in continuous production in early 1900s so *Sam went to work at Lount Pipe Works as a "Sanitary Pipe Hand" to supplement his income.*