

**NEW LOUNT COLLIERY DRIFT MINE  
SHAFT AND MAN RIDER PROJECT -  
OPENED 1956**



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - DECEMBER 2021**

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## DRIFT MINE SHAFT AND MAN RIDER PROJECT

Part transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail -  
Friday 30th December 1955

### 500 YARD DRIFT MINE SHAFT AT NEW LOUNT COLLIERY TO BE OPENED EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR

A new "Drift Mine Shaft" which has taken about a year to construct will be opened at the New Lount Colliery, early in the new year. [This was about two years following the construction of the drift shaft from the disused Coleorton No.3.\(Bug & Wink\) pit yard to New Lount Colliery in order to improve the ventilation in that pit.](#)

The drift, a sloping 500 yard long tunnel with a 1 in 5 gradient, connecting the underground workings with the pit yard will supersede the two vertical shafts which for 30 years have been used to wind coal to the surface.

Instead of being raised by conventional winding methods, the entire output of the pit - about 1,600 tons per day, will flow up the newly constructed sloping tunnel on a conveyor belt. Without any handling, it will pass to the screening plant.

Mr. A. D. Butterely, the production manager, told the evening mail today: "The scheme will be operating in few weeks".

#### MORE PRODUCTIVE

"It is possible that it may contribute to raising production to 1,900 tons per day. Its introduction will release about 40 men for other and more productive tasks in the pit."

The two original shafts are to be maintained and **used for man riding (see later photograph)** and the carriage of stores. This will save miners having to walk long distance to commence their work.

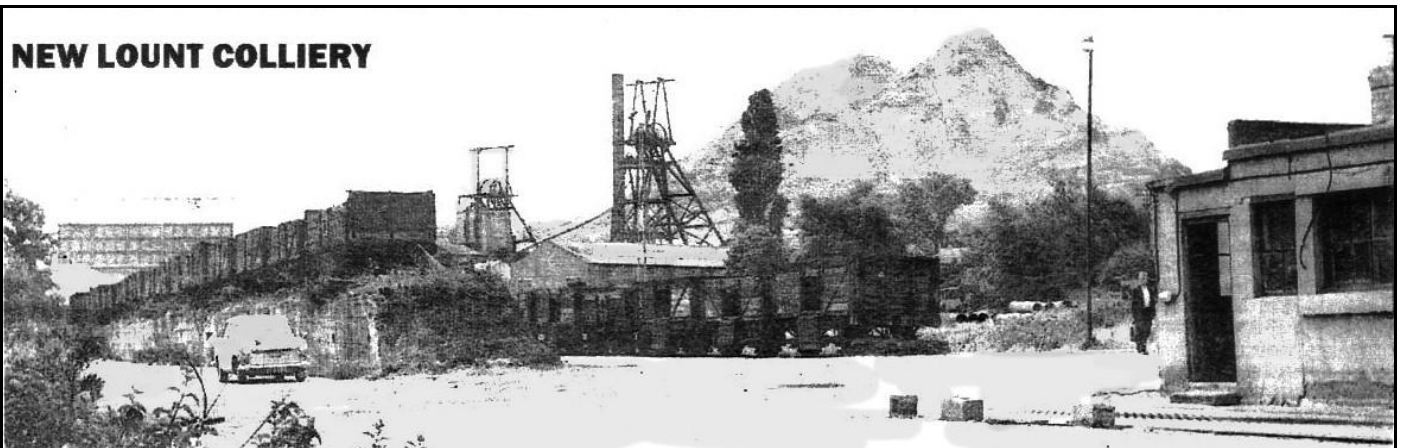
The conversion has been planned by Mr. P. L. Richardson, the pit manager; Mr. F. Ashley, area chief engineer; Mr. J. Emmerson, group manager and Mr. Butterly.

New Lount pit, about 100 yards deep is relatively shallow and therefore suited to drift mining methods.

**See photographs and diagrammatic sketch on the following pages:-**

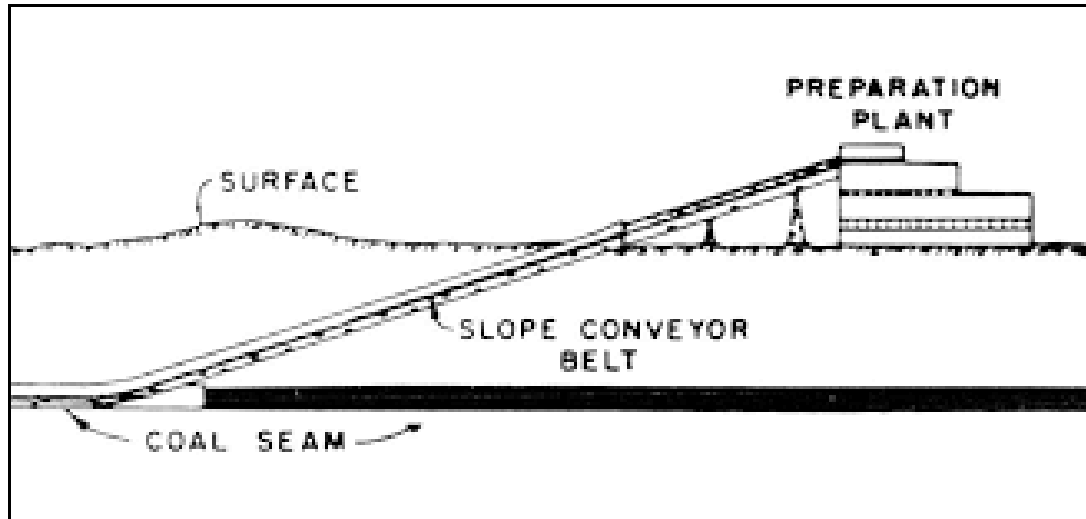


The new sloping tunnel emerges at ground level. The whole output of the pit will be travelling along a conveyor belt within the tunnel which then traverses directly to the screens.

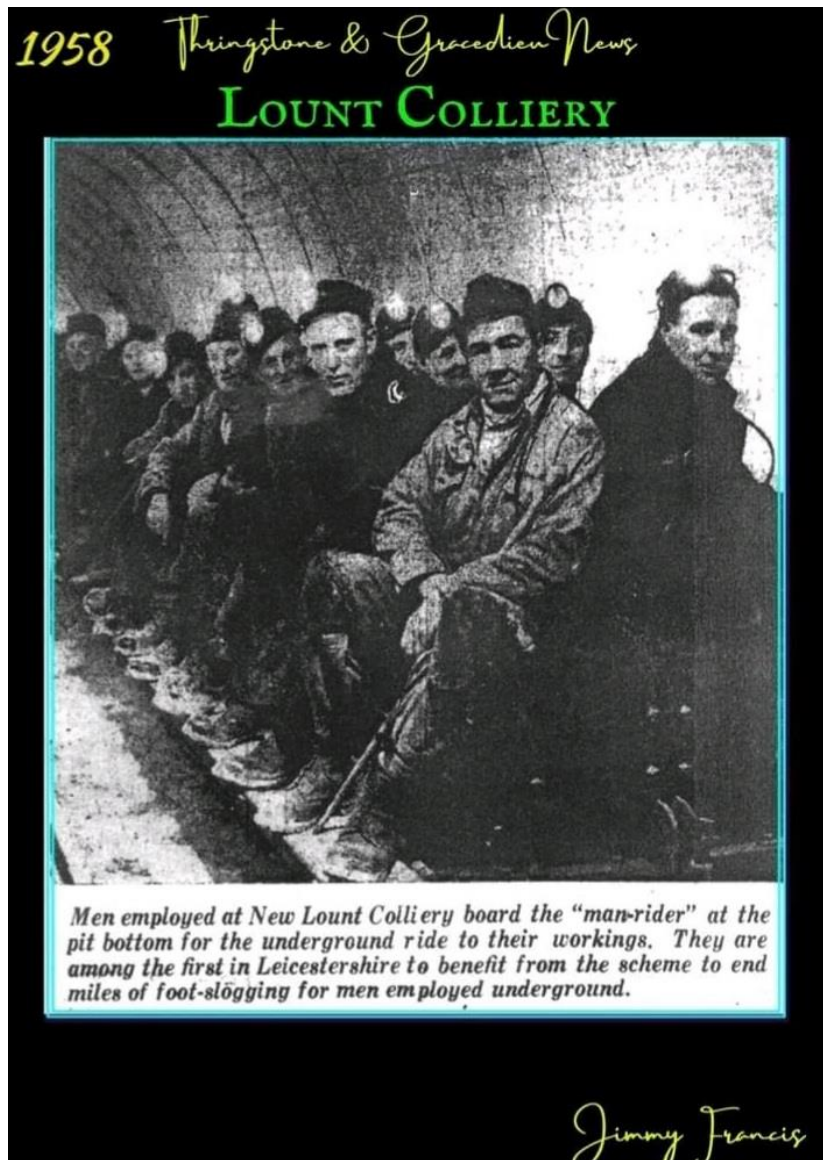


## **NEW LOUNT COLLIERY**

In the distance is the conveyor system which took the coal from the coal seams to the screens and can be seen running along the top of the upper picture.



Basic representation of the drift mine shaft at New Lount colliery



By courtesy of Jimmy Francis