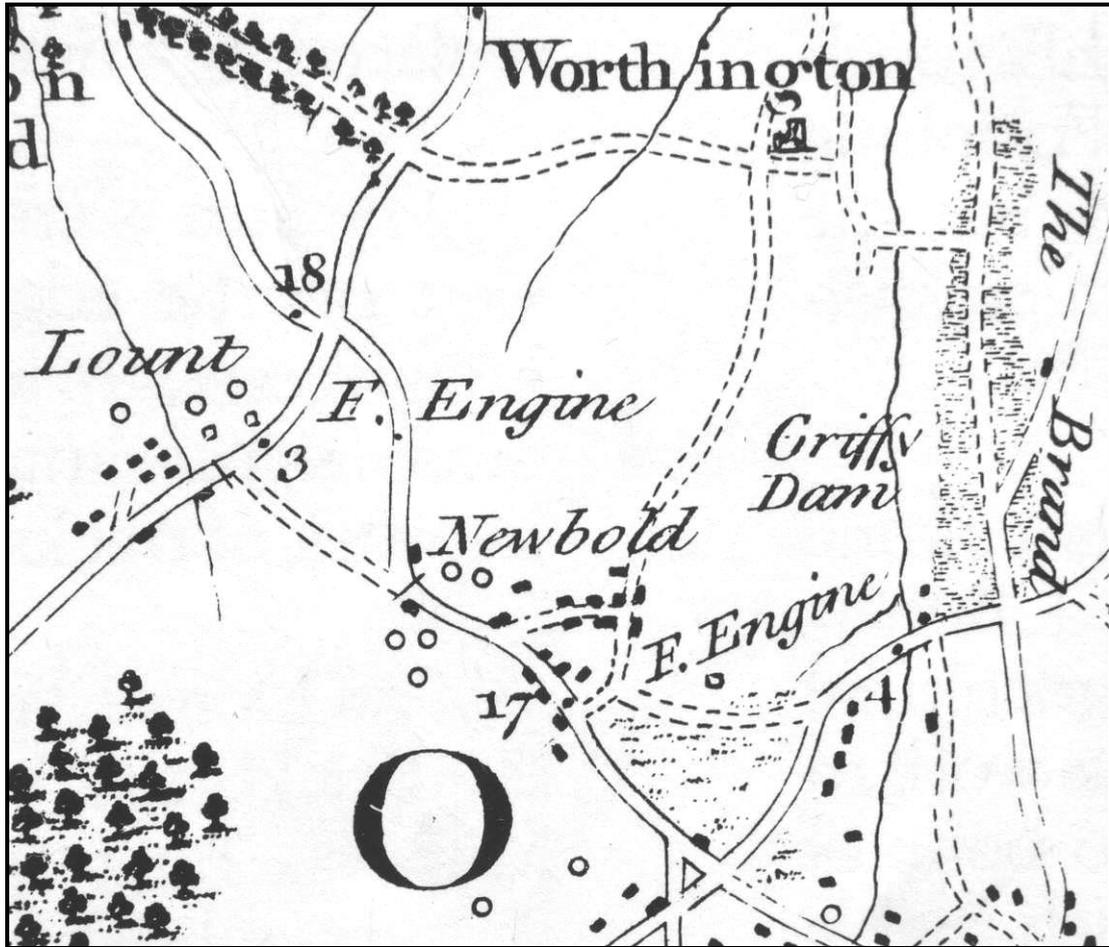


**NEWBOLD COLLIERY
AND CYLINDER PIT**



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - FEBRUARY 2024

FRONT COVER

This is an enlarged extract from John Prior's 1777 Maps which most local historians will be familiar with. References are made to this later in the publication.

PREFACE

The purpose of this publication is to try and ascertain where Joseph Boulton's "Newbold Colliery" was located in the late 1700s. Although much has been written about it, no one seems to have actually defined this, presumably because of the paucity of old records.

COMPLIMENTARY READING

"COAL MINING IN THE SMOILE" which is free to download and read on the author's website samuelstewart.com

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If we first refer to Prior's 1777 map on the front cover, he defines a number of what would have been Bell Pits around Newbold Gate. More importantly he defines an "F Engine" (fire engine). This was a pumping engine for pumping water out of deep shaft coal mines. These were also commonly known as "Newcomen Engines". We know that "Newbold Colliery" was being worked in the late 1700s so this adds credence that this could have been the location for the colliery. Colin Owen tells us that Joseph Boulton's view of Newbold Colliery in 1781 as an almost exhausted concern certainly appears suspicious, particularly in view of its continued output and the fact that the Land Tax Commissioners rated it at £250 in 1790 the year of Joseph Boulton's death. His office of Steward to Lord Beaumont passed to his Eldest son Joseph. It seems likely that this is the point when Newbold Colliery ceased to exist.

The author is of the view that Benjamin Walker lived at Newbold farm, and before 1827, sank shafts to another colliery nearby to the original Newbold Colliery which is born out by the following

Further evidence of the survival of the industry, is provided by a survey of the Beaumont estates by Edward Knight shortly after the death of Sir George Howland Beaumont 7th Baronet in 1827. This showed that Benjamin Walker's farm at Newbold was in a reasonable state apart from the condition of the fields and fencing around his colliery which suffered from the "unruly conduct of the people at the coal pits".

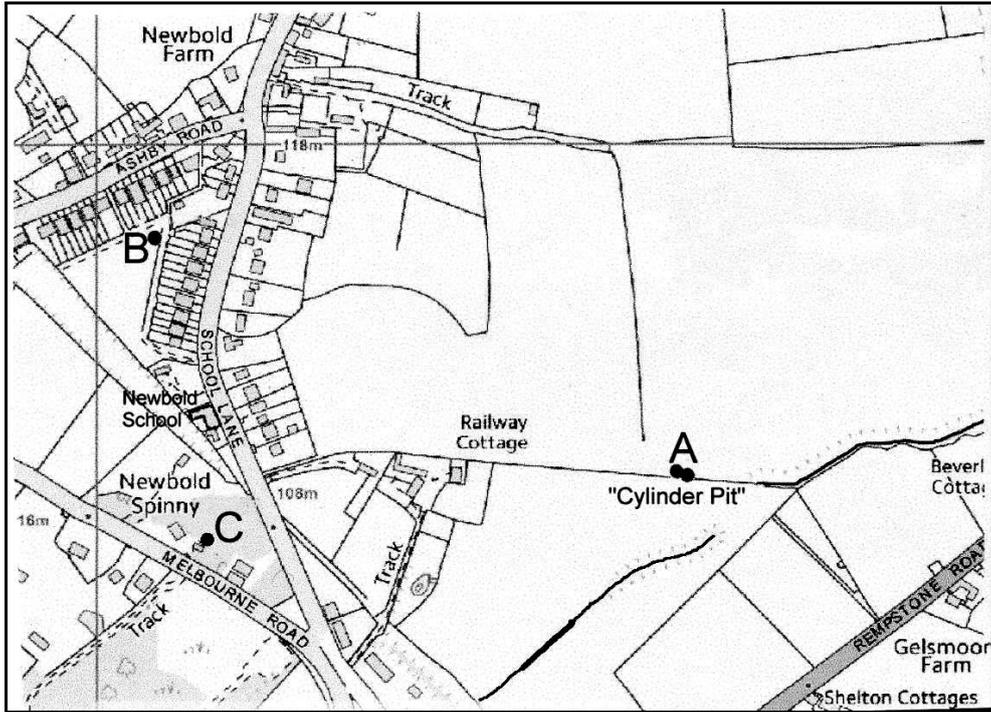
As the land on which the shafts were sunk was part of Newbold farm, this seems to confirm the author's view that Benjamin Walker lived there. See the following maps.

It is thought that this colliery was in fact referred to as "Cylinder Pit" which is the name which was appended to the following shaft information obtained from a reliable but confidential source. Two shafts were sunk which were 1.5 metres diameter and 70.5 metres deep. Because of the severe water problems in the low lying ground in that area, it is more likely that one of them was a pumping shaft with a pumping engine. They were approximately 10 metres apart and their location has been estimated and annotated by the writer at **A** on the following map. The writer has estimated that they were approx 360 metres from School Lane following the field boundary line and approx 207 metres in from the Rempstone Road in a direct line. **It would be useful to carry out a field walking exercise in that area to see if any evidence of shafts still exist.**

It is not known when this colliery was closed but abandonment records suggest that it was in the mid 1850s. The colliery was of course close to the Coleorton Railway which would have provided advantages for the transport of the coal. Benjamin Walker had developed various mining interests by this time, including the "Smoile" colliery near Lount but within Coleorton parish.

William White's Trade Directory and Gazetteer of 1846 and 1861 list Benjamin Walker (b.1785 in Coleorton) as a "coal master" and farmer, living at "White House Hall Farm", Coleorton. This is confirmed in the Coleorton 1841 /1851 censuses also. He had a large family with him (wife and 7 daughters), and had clearly relinquished Newbold Farm by this time. Six of his daughters were born in Worthington, and one in Coleorton. His wife was born in 1791 in Worthington.

In 1828, Lady Beaumont apparently described Benjamin Walker, rather dismissively, as a "butty collier", however, he was clearly a man of ability and ambition confirmed by his future involvement in local coal mining. On Oct 11th 1830, he took over the lease on Coleorton Colliery, commonly known as Smoile Colliery, and by July 1832 he had become described as a "coal master", and was arranging to lease 25 cottages in Coleorton, Worthington and Thringstone from Sir George Beaumont.



Map based on an O/S Map although it should be noted that the location shown for Newbold Farm is miss-leading (see the following 1885 issued O/S map for the correct location).

