

## Uffington Mine

Trust member Peter Brown has collated some interesting information about a mine closely connected with the Shrewsbury Canal.

From: *Shropshire Conservative*, 24 April 1841, page 2, col 1:

### Valuable Coal Mines

Situate near Uffington, within three Miles of Shrewsbury, in the County of Salop TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

BY MR WHITE

At the Corbet Arms, in the Village of Uffington, on Monday, the 26th day of April, 1841, at three o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will then be produced.

The leasehold Interest of Mr JOHN CARTER, a Bankrupt, in all those Mines, Beds, Veins, and Seams of Coal, and Brick Earth and Sand, lying in and under the respective Farms of Mr John Allen, and Mr Thomas Minton, situate in the Parishes of Uffington and Upton Magna, in the County of Salop, for the unexpired term of seven years, from the 25th Day of March last past, subject to the Royalties which are very low, and other usual Mining Restrictions.

Also a Steam Engine of 20-horse power, and one of 6-horse power, each now in full work on the said Premises, with the Pipes, Pumps, and flat Winding Chains, and of 150 yards long, nearly new, a Weighing Machine, a Brick Kiln Oven, a Brick and Tile Stove, five Brick and Tile Cottages for Workmen, Office adjoining the same, Blacksmith's Shop, and various Shed and other Erections, to a compensation for which the Lessee will be entitled on the expiration of his Lease, or on the refusal of the Lessor to pay same he will be entitled to remove same within twelve months.

LOT II. The Bankrupt's unexpired Interest in the Leasehold Wharf, with a commodious Bason, on the Shrewsbury Canal, opposite Mr Marshall's factory, with Offices and Weighing Machine attached. And all that well-accustomed Public House, known by the Sign of the Golden Ball, adjoining the Wharf, and fronting the road leading into Shrewsbury, with the Meadow land in the Rear, containing in the whole 3 Acres, or thereabouts, at the annual Rent of £18.

The Lessors are entitled to the Option of taking to the Erections at a Valuation on the Expiration of the Lease in the Year.

Further Particulars may be obtained on Application to the Auctioneer, or at the Offices of Messrs Kough and Saxton, Solicitors, Shrewsbury.

From: Roderick Impey Murchison, *The Silurian System*, Part 1, 1839, pages 92–94: Shropshire Archives, qC15:

Shaft section of coal pits at Uffington [some bands aggregated]:

	Yards	Feet	Inches
Drift clay	14	–	–
Marls, pound stone etc	20	1	7
Coal	–	–	6
Marls, pound stone etc	19	–	–
Blue clods and roof of coal with plants	7	–	–
Coal	1	–	–
Poundstone	2	1	–

Beneath this lies a whitish sandstone rock with blue strips and other measures overlying the only good bed of good coal, which is worked at a depth of 35 yards below the limestone. [Does this mean  $49+35=84$  yards below ground level?]

In the works at Uffington an effort was lately made to find the lowest of the two coal, which in so many parts of this district occur below the limestone; but like the upper coal it proved to have thinned out and disappeared, for at a few yards beneath the coal, the trial shaft reached the purple schistose greywacke (Cambrian) inclined in a nearly vertical position ...; notwithstanding such palpable evidence the speculator continued *to sink* for fifty additional yards in these ancient beds.

From: Barrie Trinder, *Industrial Archaeology of Shropshire*, 1996, page 79: In the 1840s coal from the mines at Uffington (SJ533126), in what Murchison called „the little patch of coal measures occupying the low ground between Haughmond Hill and the Severn“, was conveyed along the Shrewsbury Canal to the Golden Ball basin (SJ499138) near the Ditherington Flax Mill, which is now a housing estate.

[This map reference for the mine would put it to the east of the canal and south of the Uffington–Atcham road. This is in the parish of Upton Magna, the canal here being the boundary (although the boundary could have been different in 1840). The 1:25,000 map shows „Brickyard Cottages“ just to the west of the canal; these are in Uffington parish.]

*Peter Brown*