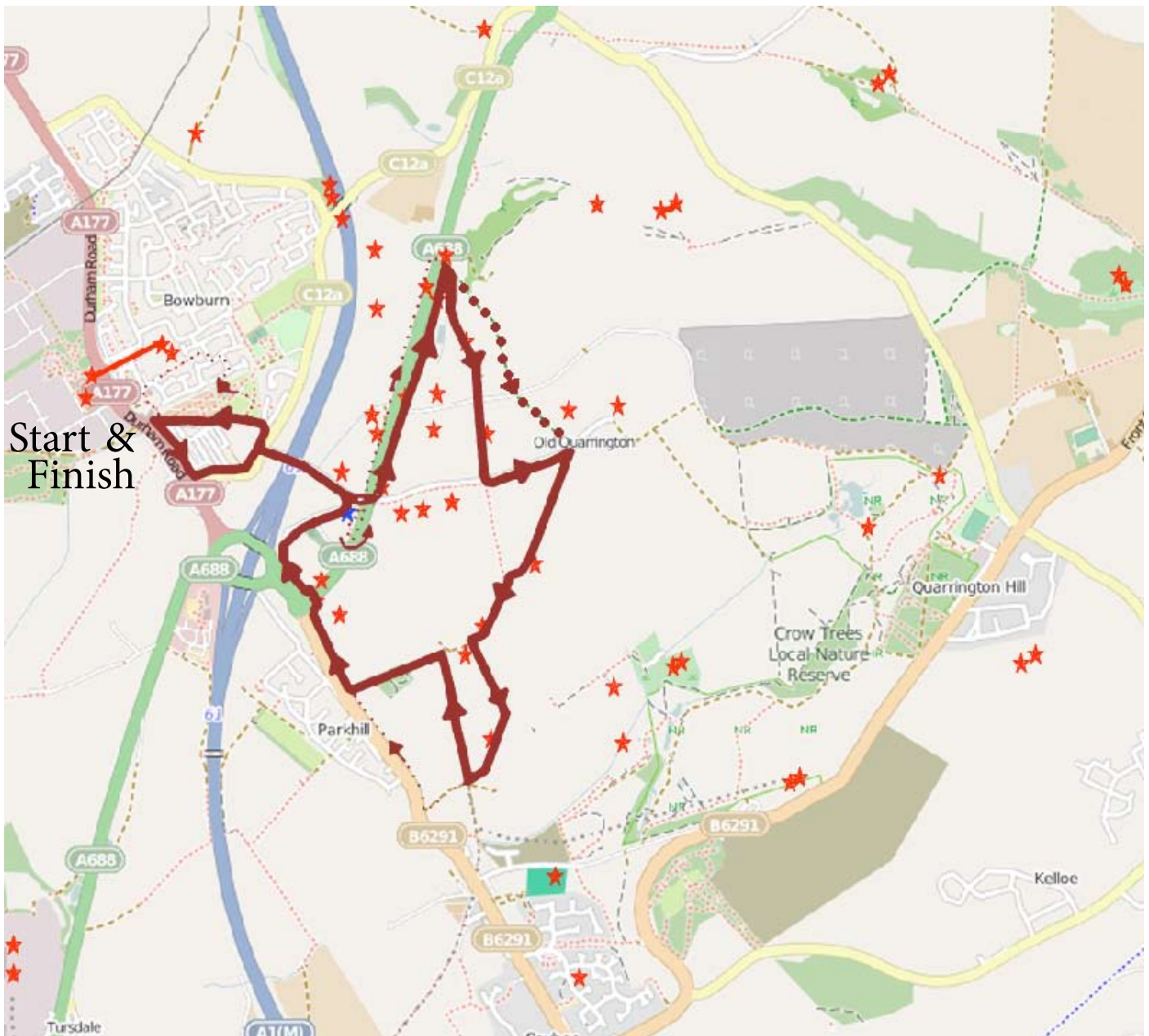


An old collieries walk

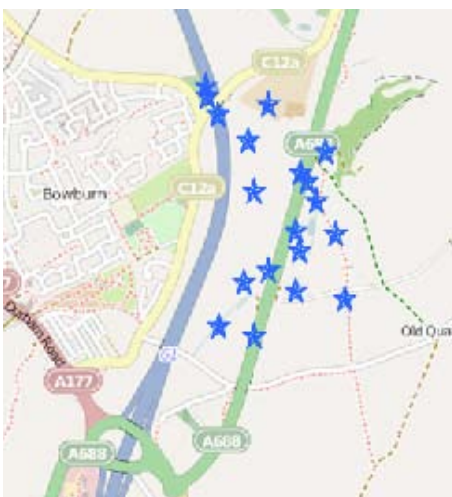
Bowburn Local History Society – 16th January 2015



Start & Finish

The map above shows the route planned for today's walk, starting and finishing at Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Rd, DH6 5AT (NZ 430652 537858).

The red stars show where shafts are recorded on NCB and/or Ordnance Survey maps.



Those maps did not show every pit shaft there has ever been, however.

The blue stars on the map on the left show where pits at Heugh Hall and Crowtrees were indicated on an 1847 royalties map. (Two in the middle were engine pits.)

The blue crosses on the map on the right show where pits were indicated on a Quarrington map in 1805.



Seam outcrops and faults



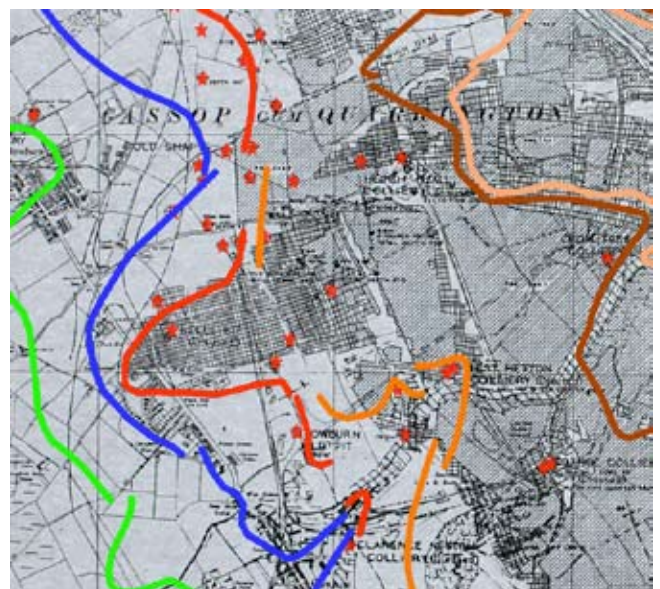
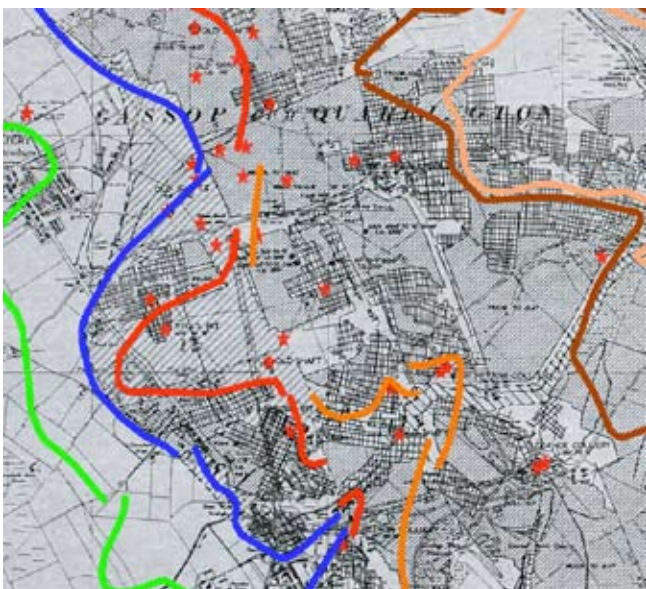
The above map shows where coal seams “outcrop”, i.e. are exposed at ground level. From west to east, they are: Durham Low Main (J–dark green), Maudlin (H–light green), Main Coal (G–blue), Five Quarter (F–red), High Main [Metal] (E–orange), Ryhope Little (D–dark brown) and Ryhope

C–light brown). Not all these seams were workable in this district.

The light blue lines on the above map show faults, where geological strata have slipped out of alignment – sometimes by as much as 100 feet. The Yellow lines (WSW to ENE) show the Hett Whin Dyke (where the coal

has been cindered by volcanic activity), across the entire district, and, at the top left corner of the map, part of the Ludworth Dyke.

The two maps below show abandonment maps of the Main Coal seam (left) and the Five Quarter seam (right).



Five 19th century periods of coal mining in Quarrington (and Coxhoe)

- **Pre-1824: Landsale** – Coal was transported by turnpike road to S. Durham and N. Yorkshire. John Burdon, of Hardwick and Coxhoe Halls, owner and lease-holder of local coal royalties, died c.1792. The first Tees & Weardale Railway Bill failed in May 1824. (T&WR was forerunner of Clarence Railway.) William Hedley, of Wylam, returned from giving evidence to Parliament, in support of the Bill, and sub-leased coal royalties in Quarrington.
- **1824-1834: Hedley – The Railways are coming!** – In 1827, Henry Blanshard, a big investor in the Clarence Railway, bought the Coxhoe coal royalties from the Misses Hale, Burdon's heirs, and acquired the leases of royalties in Quarrington, Cornforth and Cassop. He then leased or sub-leased mining rights to various colliery owners – including Hedley and Nicholas Wood & partners. The Clarence Railway Co. was formed in 1828. The first coals from Crowtrees colliery – probably the original landsale colliery at Crowtrees – were shipped at Stockton, for London, via the Clarence Railway, in January 1834. A new Heugh Hall colliery was sunk at Old Quarrington.
- **1834-1844: DCCC – Railway rivalries and Joint Stock adventures** – Durham County Coal Co. was formed in 1836. Various DCCC directors and shareholders (Barrett, Darling, Philipson, Tennant, Rayson, Quelch...) bought and sunk collieries in Quarrington and Coxhoe (Crowtrees, Heugh Hall, West Hetton, Bowburn, Clarence Hetton, Coxhoe [Joint Stocks].) Competition with Clarence Railway... In 1839, the new Crowtrees Colliery, bought from Hedley, was first to use Quarrington Hill incline to ship coal at Old Hartlepool, via Hartlepool Dock & Ry. Co.'s line. The Great North of England, Clarence & Hartlepool Jn. Ry. opened in 1839. Hartlepool West Harbour & Dock Co. was formed in 1844.
- **1844-1866: Jackson – The rise of West Hartlepool** – In 1846, West Hetton, Crowtrees and Heugh Hall were acquired by John Robson & Ralph Ward Jackson, who bought others in the area soon after. All coals were then transported via Clarence Ry. and Stockton & Hartlepool Ry.; Q. Hill incline closed. The West Hartlepool Harbour & Ry. Co. was formed from S&HRC and Hartlepool West Harbour & Dock Co. in 1853. Robson died in 1856. Collieries ownership was transferred to WHH&RC in 1860. Jackson downfall: resigned in April 1862. WHH&RC taken over by NER in 1863. Bowburn, Coxhoe, West Hetton, Crowtrees, Heugh Hall and South Kelloe collieries were bought by James Morrison & Co. (later Rosedale & Ferry Hill Iron Co. Ltd.) in 1866. (Morrison was an associate of Wm. Hedley's sons.)
- **1866-1877: Morrison – Coking for the iron industry** – Iron industry flourished at Coxhoe, Cornforth and Ferryhill. Trade depression closed all remaining collieries in 1877 – though Joint Stocks Colliery may have briefly re-opened and closed again c.1878-79. (Meanwhile, Bell Bros., ironmasters of Middlesbrough, had sunk Tursdale South Pit, in 1859...)

19th century collieries

- [NB:– Includes informed guesswork!]
- Bowburn 1 (“Quelch’s Pit”) (at Bowburn) – 1841
 - Bowburn 2 (nr Park Hill) – 1848
 - Cinder Pit – ??
 - Clarence Hetton (“Clayhole Pit”) (at Coxhoe) – 1839
 - Coxhoe (“Joint Stocks”) – 1836
 - Crowtrees 1 (at Crowtrees) – 18thC
 - Crowtrees 2 (nr Q. Hill) – 1837
 - Crowtrees 3 (nr Q. Hill) – c.1870
 - Hedley’s Pit – 1833?
 - Heugh Hall 1 (at Heugh Hall) – 1820s?
 - Heugh Hall 2 (at Old Q.) – 1833?
 - Heugh Hall 3 (at Old Q.) – 1840
 - John Bell’s Pit – 1827
 - Quarrington (including Newcomen engine) – 18thC
 - West Hetton 1 – 1832?
 - West Hetton 2 – 1837

Coal Royalty owners

- Bishop of Durham
- Blanshard, Henry
- Burdon, John*
- Hale sisters*

Colliery owners

- Barrett, Charles (1798-1884)**
- Bell, John (1782-1862)
- Darling, Ralph (1812-??)**
- Durham County Coal Co. (1826-1854)
- Hedley, William (1779-1843)
- Jackson, Ralph Ward (1806-1879)
- Morrison, James (1805-1878)
- Philipson, Ralph Park (1799-1879)
- Quelch, John George (1810-1879)**
- Rayson, Robert (1783-1849)
- Robson, John (1778-1856)
- Tennant, Thomas Allison (1787-1840)
- W. Hartlepool Harbour & Ry. Co.
- Wood, Nicholas (1795-1865)***

Other viewers, Quarrington agents &c., in 19th century

- Baker, Charles Andrew
- Johnson, Richard Sheraton
- Lishman, William (snr & jnr)
- Lockwood, George**
- Menzies, George
- Pearce, Mountjoy**
- Ramsay, William
- Wood, John***
- Wood, Thomas Outerson
- Wood, William Henry

Family connections:

- * Related–1
- ** Related–2
- *** Related–3

Seam depths (in feet)

Five Quarter Seam (F Seam)

Pit	Surface ASL	Seam
Bell's Pit	354	51
Bowburn (Old)	315	0
Crowtrees 2	475	270
Heugh Hall 2	441	223
Joint Stocks	470	203
West Hetton	395	123

(The Main Coal seam [G Seam] is about 50ft below the Five Quarter.)

Railways

- Clarence Railway
- Durham & Sunderland Ry.
- Great North England, Clarence & Hartlepool Junction Railway
- Hartlepool Dock & Railway Co. (Old Hartlepool)
- Hartlepool West Harbour & Dock Co.
- Newcastle & Darlington Jn Ry.
- Stockton & Hartlepool Ry.
- West Hartlepool Harbour & Railway Co. (= Stockton & Hartlepool Railway + Hartlepool West Harbour & Dock Co.)



Five Quarter seam at John Bell's Pit, being cleared before construction of the A688 Bowburn to Wheatley Hill link road, in 2007.

This coal was worked in the 18th century but then John Bell's miners "robbed the pillars" in the 1840s.

(Below is a pit shaft, filled with clay, found amidst the workings. Note narrow width.)

