The Huc­klow Edge Vein

The map below the eastern section of the Huc­klow lead rake is based on a 19th Century Ordnance Survey Map of the area.

The Lead Mines of Huc­klow Wood

It is difficult to believe that from around 1850 until about 1890 Huc­klow Wood was the site of five lead mines and that most of the trees were eventually felled for use in the district. By the end of the 19th century the trees had been partially replaced by a dense growth of birch, alder and willow, which were extensively harvested for use in the district. The lead industry in the district was based on the extraction of lead from the ores in the area. The mines were worked using a combination of underground and surface mining techniques. The lead ore was transported to the surface using a network of mine shafts and adits. The ore was then refined at the mills, where it was smelted to produce lead metal. The lead was then transported to other parts of the country for use in the manufacture of lead products. The lead industry in the district was based on the extraction of lead from the ores in the area. The mines were worked using a combination of underground and surface mining techniques. The lead ore was transported to the surface using a network of mine shafts and adits. The ore was then refined at the mills, where it was smelted to produce lead metal. The lead was then transported to other parts of the country for use in the manufacture of lead products.

In 1585 the Milly Dam Mining Company was allowed to mine the section beneath Smoot Hoo before 200 feet, and between 1688 and 1697 reached a depth of 482 feet yielding about 250 tons of lead ore a year. The mine was closed in 1884 when the Milly Dam Mining Company became bankrupt. Surrounding the mine were large spoil heaps which were reworked in the last century to reclaim the flumes and discarded the old mines as worthless rubbish. These were completely removed and the land levelled to make the mining playing field only as recently as 1897. Old Edge Mine is very difficult to locate exactly. It was bought by John Bagshawe of Huc­klow Hall in 1678. The shaft was sunk and ore gained by hand labour only and without the help of a horse-powered engine (1680). From 1683 to 1708 the miners raised 1,235,3 tons of lead ore.

New Edge Mine is situated to the south of the Huc­klow Hoo from which there is a short mine-road distinguished by two large stone gate-keepers. The mine flourished from 1687-1714 but then declined until a brief revival in the late 1890s, producing 88 tons in 1727, but only 32 tons in 1778. Cornwall and Hare Al Mine are at the far end of the wood just to the south of the footpath marked by the finger-post. The actual site of Cornwall Mine is very difficult to determine, but one of the shafts of Hare Al Mine is marked by a depression half way down the footpath to the Bredon Road. Both mines were profitable for the first thirty years of the 1790s, until until water again became a problem. By the mid-1850s both mines along with New Edge Mine were owned by John A S Bowlesworth of Harewood, and their last mention is in 1891.

Bank Close and Speed Grove Mines are in the Green Lane. The remains of Bank are just beyond the wall which is the boundary of the estate of the wood, and Speed was on the course marked on the map. The mines eventually became part of the Silence Mine complex.

In ancient times the onefield was divided into pasture called Liberties, which were for the most part based on the memorial boundaries.

- Land in the Liberty of Green Lane
- Land in the Liberty of Great Huc­klow
- The course of the Huc­klow Edge lead
- Rocks
- Footpaths

Sources of lead mining activities in the late 18th Century. Jocophone from top left:
1. Miners working a shaft or stope above a shaft. 2. Filling bags with lead ore and weighting them before transport to the smelter by pack-horse. 3. A miner descending a ladder in to the mine with his bucket of water slung over his shoulder. 4. A group of miners using a should hoe in rock with an iron shaft. 5. A group of miners in the old mine with their heads and shoulders exposed as they work.

Photography by Paul Deakin taken inside lead mines in the area. Above, left to right, in Rosedale Mine:
1. The roadway of an ore wagon
2. A passage into a "upper" adit - wooden beam joists in the sides of the passage supporting a stack of ore wagons
3. A "lower" adit - an area where the mineral vein has been completely removed by the old miners.
Left: inside Smoot Hoo, a tunnel adit to drain water from stope on Smoot Edge. Note: Communication of the two shafts by a shaft is shown on the map. The authors would like to thank the members of the Huc­klow Society for their help and advice.