Coal is currently (January 1970) produced from eight coal faces in four different seams: Lidgett Seam 2' 3" thick (three faces); Thorncliffe Seam 3' 6" thick (two faces); Silkstone Seam 2' 7" thick (two faces); Blocking Seam 2' 1" thick (one face). Additional faces are being developed in the Low Haigh Moor and Parkgate seams.

All the coal faces are 100 per cent mechanised and modern self-advancing roof supports have been successfully adapted to thin-seam conditions. The coal face machines cut the coal from the face and load it on to face conveyors at the start of its journey out of the pit. Belt conveyors carry the coal from the working districts to two main trunk conveyors. One system takes the Lidgett coal to No. 3 shaft for winding to the surface in mine cars; coal from the other three seams is carried by conveyors all the way to the bottom of No. 2 shaft where it is loaded into large enclosed containers (skips) for winding to the surface.

The skips hold eight tons and the 1,750 h.p. winding engine at this shaft can wind a load a minute at top speed.

The washery in the coal preparation plant, where the product is graded and cleaned for the various markets, is capable of handling 300 tons an hour. Almost all Woolley's coal goes to the industrial market — more than half to a giant chemical works in Cheshire and another quarter to the steel industry for the manufacture of coke.