Snailbeach Mine

Main Dates

Roman Period - Lead mining was taking place in the area but no direct proof that mining took place here, although a Roman pig (ingot) of lead was found nearby.

Dark Ages  No direct evidence of mining but there was a demand for lead so mining was almost certainly taking place.

1552  John Clifton had a mine in Hogstow Forest and this could have been Snailbeach.

1676-86  Derbyshire miners had leases for mining at Snailbeach. This is the first positive reference.


1766  Map shows details of the mine including shafts and buildings.

1782  Mine leased by Thomas Lovatt & partners.

1784  Company leased Nags Head Colliery and built a smelt mill at Pontesford.

1790s  Drainage adit driven from Wagbeach to 112 Yard Level and connected to newly sunk engine shaft. Pumps operated by waterwheel at adit entrance and flat rods up the adit.

1797  A Boulton & Watt steam pumping engine was in use (thought to have been housed in the building adjacent to the Blacksmiths Shop).

1820  The mine had been re-equipped and Black Tom Shaft sunk.

1827  Reference to proposed Bromley Bank Shaft and driving of Foxhole and Calamine levels.

1848  Plaque over Day Level suggests major reorganisation of workings.

1857  Stephen Eddy appointed as agent.

1858  Cornish engine installed on Engine Shaft to pump the mine.

1859  Chapel Shaft sunk.

1860s  Major re-fitting of mine, including re-modelling of dressing floors.
1862  Chapel Shaft winding engine started operation. New smelt mill completed at Snailbeach.


1867  Snailbeach Mining Company Ltd formed.

1869  Eddy resigns as manager.

1870  Henry Dennis appointed as manager and further refurbishment carried out.

1872  Shed built for 8 jiggers and 4 buddles. New winding engine for George's Shaft.

1873  Crusher constructed.

1874  Extension of barytes working in Perkins Level.

1876  Jiggers running from crusher engine. Smelter chimney repaired.

1877  Snailbeach District Railway (SDR) opened.

1881  Compressor House built.

1884  Mine losing money.

1885  Company liquidated and reformed as Snailbeach Lead Mining Company. Smelter chimney rebuilt.

1895  Underground exploration ceased and smelt mill closed.

1900  Halvans Company formed to work Black Tom area and rework spoil tip.

1905  Halvans Company took over lease of mine.

1911  Pumping stopped and mine flooded. George's Shaft headgear changed from double to single pulley.

1912-13  Halvans Company mining in shallow levels and re-working tips for barite but some lead and zinc ores still being produced.

1921  Jigger at Black Tom in use.
1941  Lead, zinc and barytes being produced but main products were calcite and quartz.

1942  SDR ceased taking material from mine and served quarries only

1950  SDR locomotives scrapped

Early 1950s  Perkins Level plant in use.

1955  Underground mining ceased

1956  Tip being re-worked for pebbledash.

1959  SDR closed

1970s  Surface re-working ceased

1985-1990  Various investigations into problems and solutions.

1990  Site acquired by Shropshire County Council and start made on consolidating buildings.

1993-1995  Land reclamation and mine stabilisation work took place.

1999  Visitor Centre set up in Miners Dry. Headgear re-erected over George's Shaft.

2004  Site being managed by Shropshire Mines Trust

Remember that there is a lot of information on the mine website and you should check it all out yourself, as well as recommending it to visitors.

http://snailbeachmine.org.uk

There is also an Education Pack online which will be of particular interest to teachers.

http://shropshiremines.org.uk/educpack/index.htm

Of course there is always the book “Snailbeach Mine” available for sale.