

NAMHO Conference 2010

Surface Walks



NAMHO CONFERENCE 4 to 8 June 2010

Surface Walks

We are offering a varied range of surface walks in South Gloucestershire and surrounding areas. This document gives the timetable for the walks and a brief description of what you should expect to see. Ask for more information if you need it (ring Steve Grudgings on 07768 381502 or email steve.grudgings@btinternet.com).

All the walks have a maximum party size, so book as soon as you can.

All delegates on surface walks must have BCA third party insurance (if you have it quote your number on the application form, if you don't add £5 fee to cover and we will arrange it for you).

Meeting points are shown in the trip descriptions and are linked from the website using Google Maps. Grid reference, nearby postcode and lat/long are given, but if you have any queries, PLEASE ASK. A guide to the travel time by car from the conference venue to the meeting point is also shown.

Some of the walks are over rough and overgrown land, lots of brambles, nettles and thorns, etc, so boots and good trousers are recommended. Each walk has brief details of the terrain as a guide. Also as it will be in June in England, the weather may be anything from extreme heat to torrential rain, so dress accordingly! Toilet facilities are only available at walks S5, S6, S8, S13, S14, S15 & S16. It is always a good idea to take a drink and snack; gloves and a lamp or torch will also be useful in places.

This file will be updated during the run up to the conference, so please be sure before booking that you have the latest version by checking back on the website.

Information on how many places are left for each trip.

The status of walk bookings as at 20 May is shown on [page 2](#). The number shown in the Booked column is the number of people already booked on that walk. As at this date, there are plenty of places left on all walks.

The 12noon visit to Goldey Grotto, gardens and Newcomen engine house has been cancelled as all those wanting this visit are accommodated on the 10:00am trip.

[Version 2: Contact details above amended; minor rewording to walk S1]

[Version 3: More details added for S6 Somerset Coalfield and S12 Golden Valley]

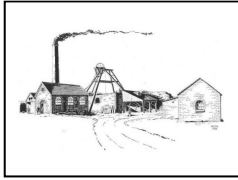
[Version 4: length of walks and guide to terrain added. Status of walk bookings added. Also start time for S6 corrected]

[Version 5: Details added for S13, S14, S15 and status of bookings at 16 March added]

[Version 7 S17 and S18 (Sat & Sun) visit to Serridge Pit added, Status of bookings updated, More detail added for S13 & S14]

[Version 8 more info added for S7 and S15. S1 day of trip corrected in description. Meeting point for S7 changed and for S4 added]





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Surface Walks Timetable

Booked so far status as at 20 May

Friday 4 June 2010

Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked
S1: Glyn Pits and selected local colliery sites, South Wales	11:00 to 16:00	15	9

Saturday 5 June 2010

Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked
S2: Coalpit Heath circular walk	09:30 to 12:30	15	4
S3: Ram Hill, New Engine and Serridge Pits	09:30 to 12:30	15	0
S4: Cromhall Coalfield	10:00 to 12:30	15	1
S5: Nailsea Coalfield, North Somerset	10:00 to 13:00	15	0
S6: Somerset Coalfield tour	12:00 to 16:30	20	3
S7: Dramway, southern end	14:00 to 17:00	15	6
S8: Oldwood Pits – site visit	17:00 to 18:00	15	2
S17: Serridge Pit – site visit	17:00 to 18:00	15	0

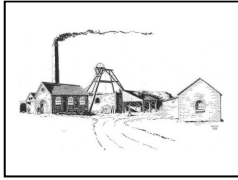
Sunday 6 June 2010

Name of Trip	Times	Party Limit	Booked
S9: Ram Hill, New Engine and Serridge Pits	09:30 to 12:30	15	3
S10: Parkfield, Shortwood and Brandy Bottom circular	10:00 to 13:00	15	3
S11: Engine Common Collieries	09:45 to 12:30	15	2
S12: Golden Valley Pits	10:30 to 12:30	15	3
S13: Goldney Grotto, Clifton	10:00 to 11:00	15	4
S14: Goldney Grotto, Clifton	CANCELLED --- CANCELLED		
S15: Kingswood Museum & gardens (Donation to Museum)	14:00 to 17:00	15	8
S16: Oldwood Pits – site visit	17:00 to 18:00	15	2
S18: Serridge Pit – site visit	17:00 to 18:00	15	0

Monday & Tuesday 7 & 8 June 2010

Depending on demand we **may** be able to repeat some of the trips. Please write on the booking form which you would be interested in.





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WALK DESCRIPTIONS AND BRIEF HISTORIES

S1. Glyn Pits and selected local colliery sites, South Wales

Friday 11:00 to 16:00

The eastern valleys of South Wales are particularly rich in mining remains. We have included this “out of area” walk with the intention of enabling attendees to visit “en route”. We will select our destinations from the remaining buildings at Crumlin Navigation Colliery, the Cornish Pumping Engine House at “British”, Talywain Navigation Colliery Engine House, the Baum Washer for Abersychan Colliery, Hills Pits Chimney, Glyn Pits and of course Big Pit itself, all located within a few miles of each other. Walking boots and nettle-proof trousers, drinks and snacks are recommended. We will be driving between sites but some walking up rough hillside is involved. The maximum individual walk section length is about 3 miles. The walk will be led by SGMRG Chairman Steve Grudgings who has been delving into this area for the last 30 years.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: Big Pit Carpark, Blaenavon
NGR SO237087, postcode NP4 9XP, lat/long 51.77177, -3.10725
Follow the brown signs from M4 J25a (westbound) or J26 (eastbound).

Travel time: 1 hour 15 mins to 1 hour 30 mins

S2: Coalpit Heath circular walk

Saturday 09:30 to 12:30

The Coalpit Heath area has been extensively mined from the fourteenth century up until 1949 when Frog Lane Colliery closed. The circular walk will cover a number of sites including Ram Hill and New Engine Pits as well as some sites from as far back as 1700. The walk will also touch on the history of the families that owned and ran the collieries. Much of this walk is on roads and the rest is on footpaths so you shouldn't need boots. Distance about 5 miles. The walk will be led by Trevor Thompson, chairman of the local history society and an expert on local mining history

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: at the conference venue, Miners Institute, Coalpit Heath
NGR ST675809, postcode BS36 2QB, lat/long 51.52645, -2.46828

Travel time: N/A





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S3: Ram Hill, New Engine and Serridge Pits

Saturday 09:30 to 12:30

An opportunity to investigate 3 specific sites from walk S2 in more detail. The Serridge Engine Pit was the last Newcomen Engine to be installed in the local area and is the subject of an ongoing archaeological investigation by SGMRG. New Engine Pit has one of the last remaining (semi) complete Horse Gin House in South Gloucestershire alongside a truncated Beam Winding Engine House. Ram Hill Pit has the remains of a Horse Gin and atmospheric winding engine house at the terminus of the "dramway" taking the coal to the River Avon near Keynsham, then by boat to Bristol. Much of this walk is on roads and the rest is on footpaths so you shouldn't need boots. Distance about 4 miles. The walk will be led by Steve Hillyard, Chairman of the Friends of Ram Hill Colliery.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: at the conference venue, Miners Institute, Coalpit Heath
NGR ST675809, postcode BS36 2QB, lat/long 51.52645, -2.46828

Travel time: N/A

S4: Cromhall Coalfield

Saturday 10:00 to 12:30

The Cromhall area is the most northerly section of the Bristol Coalfield. Set in a relatively isolated and rural area, the walk will include Cromhall New Colliery Engine house as well as some of the earlier mine sites. This walk is about 2 miles over rough and overgrown land, lots of brambles, nettles and thorns so boots and good trousers recommended. The walk will be led by Ian Greenfield, local mining expert and consultant to Bristol Coal Mining Archives.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: In Datastor car park, The Old Mushroom Farm, Cromhall on the B4068.
NGR ST696892, postcode GL12 8AX, lat/long 51.60162, -2.43935

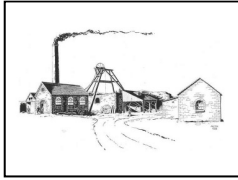
Travel time: 20 to 25 minutes

S5: Nailsea Coalfield, North Somerset

Saturday 10:00 to 13:00

The Nailsea coalfield is an isolated one that we have "borrowed" for NAMHO (it's in Somerset). We have included it on the basis of a unique range of surviving Engine Houses. The star of these is the "Elms Colliery" an almost complete atmospheric winding engine house, 2 horse gins circles etc. Nailsea is also home to the only complete example of a Bull Engine House. The walk will also include the enigmatic Scotch Horn Engine House and if time allows other sites. The walk is about 4 miles, mostly on road but Middle Engine Pit is heavily overgrown, so boots and good trousers recommended. The walk will be led by Trevor Bowen, local mining history expert. Ian McLaughlin of SGMRG is "hosting" the group and handing over to Trevor.





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Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: the “Mural Wall”, Tesco’s Car Park, Nailsea
NGR ST474709, postcode BS48 1AQ, lat/long 51.43476, -2.75708

Travel time: 40 to 50 minutes

S6: Somerset Coalfield Tour

Saturday 12:00 to 16:30

The pits in the Somerset Coalfield survived until 1973 and the family of our leader and local mining expert, Dennis Chedgy worked in the industry up to closure. Meeting at the museum with views of Middle Pit we will make our way across Radstock to Ludlows Pit, and a tour of the site of the mines rescue practice centre run by Gasex; this has a fascinating exhibition of old mines rescue equipment as well as a lot of general mining artefacts – and a “practice mine”. From here we will walk along the valley to the Upper and Lower Writhlington and Foxcote colliery sites. Following the path of the old Somerset & Dorset railway and Somerset Coal Canal, we will pass Whitelands, remarkable for the preservation of the large miners housing. We will then return past the Tying pit site and Waldegrave terraces, which are also specified within the world industrial heritage status award, to Radstock centre and the museum where among other information on the coalfield, a reprint of the Down & Warrington’s History of the Somerset Coalfield is available in the shop and refreshments will be available. The museum can also be visited if wished afterwards, entry charge - £4.00. The walk is about 5 miles, mostly on road and good footpaths.

Party limit: 20

Meeting Point: Outside Radstock Museum, Waterloo Road, Radstock
NGR ST689549, postcode BA3 3EP, lat/long 51.29305, -2.44647

Travel time: 50 minutes to 1 hour

S7: Dramway, southern end

Saturday 14:00 to 17:00

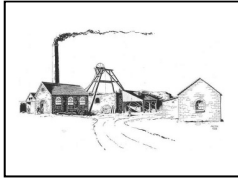
The routes of the southern end of the dramway are clearly visible and the features we plan to visit include a tunnel (not accessible) and a gravity worked incline from California Colliery (the last pit to work in the area). The original stone sleeper blocks are visible in a number of locations. The walk is about 4 miles, mostly on the dramway itself (a good path most of the way) and some parts on the road; however in places the dramway may be heavily overgrown, so boots and good trousers needed .

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: Kingswood Heritage Museum car park, Tower Lane, Warmley.
NGR ST667727, postcode BS30 8XT, lat/long 51.45267, -2.48019

Travel time: 15 to 20 minutes





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S8: Oldwood Pits

Saturday 17:00 to 18:00

Not too much walking but lots to see at Oldwood Pits, one of the last pits sunk in the area in 1873. By the kind courtesy of the landowner, Jenny Humphris, SGMRG have been actively conserving and restoring a number of unique features on this site for a number of years. In addition to the only remaining drift mine entrance (partially flooded) in the coalfield, the offices, heapstead and railway embankment of this isolated colliery and the collection of mining artefacts give us plenty to look at. The walk is less than 1 mile, but some climbs and nettles involved. Oldwood Pits is a working smallholding so boots are a good idea as some parts may be quite muddy. The walk will be led by Chris Wilmore SGMRG Secretary. Jenny will also be providing refreshments on site (chargeable) and we encourage you to sample her home made cakes!

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: Oldwood Pits, up lane heading north from cross-roads at NGR ST700851, postcode BS37 7PZ, lat/long 51.56395, -2.43416

Travel time: 15 to 20 minutes

S17: Serridge Pit, Coalpit Heath

Saturday 17:00 to 18:00

Serridge Engine Pit is near to the conference venue, only a few minutes away. This was a pumping engine site (as distinct from a "coaling" shaft) A large Newcomen Engine was installed here in 1791 and is thought to have continued to around 1870 (by which time the nearby Frog Lane Colliery with its 85 inch diameter Cornish Engine was fully operational)

SGMRG have been excavating on the surface and in the underground chambers. NAMHO Conference volunteers will be at the site on the Saturday and Sunday late afternoons, to let delegates look at the site. We will explain what we think that above ground excavations may be. There is also some of the site underground; for details see U18 in the Underground Trips file.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: At Serridge Pit, parking is down drive at Serridge Cottage or walk from campsite NGR ST674796, postcode BS36 2UL, lat/long 51.51458, -2.46982

Travel time: 5 mins by car, 15 mins walk from conference venue, 5 mins walk from camp site

S9: Ram Hill, New Engine and Serridge Pits

Sunday 09:30 to 12:30

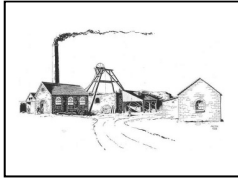
A repeat of Walk S3 from the previous day. Led this time by Andy Brander, local resident and SGMRG webmaster. See Walk S3 for details

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: at the conference venue, Miners Institute, Coalpit Heath NGR ST675809, postcode BS36 2QB, lat/long 51.52645, -2.46828

Travel time: N/A





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S10: Parkfield, Shortwood and Brandy Bottom circular

Sunday 10:00 to 13:00

Parkfield Colliery was the penultimate closure in our area in 1936 and whilst the remains are fragmentary the local area contains many unusual survivors. We plan to spend time “behind the wires” at Brandy Bottom Colliery (subject to permission from AIBT, the site lessors). This isolated site contains a ruined Cornish Engine House, the remains of a atmospheric winding engine house and a later horizontal engine house complete with heapstead and chimney. The site is securely fenced and safety helmets and boots are required. In addition the walk will include the sites of the Shortwood Collieries where some remains still exist and will take in the sites of 2 early Newcomen installations at the appropriately named Engine Bottom! The walk is about 6 miles, mostly on road, but Brandy bottom site is very overgrown and thorny so boots and good trousers recommended.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: at north end of Parkfield Road
NGR ST692774, postcode BS16 9PT, lat/long 51.49405, -2.44635

Travel time: 15 to 20 minutes

S11: Engine Common Collieries

Sunday 09:45 to 12:30

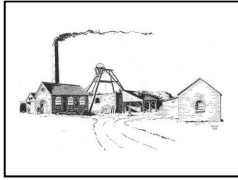
Engine Common was presumably so called because of the number of engines it contained! The local pits include Kedge, Dog Trap, Staleys and Oldwood and we plan to visit all these sites. Details of Oldwood are given under walk 8 and not repeated here. The walk will include a converted Newcomen Engine House, the site of at least one more, the railways that connected two of the pits as well as other features. The walk is about 3 miles with some patches of nettles, so long trousers are recommended. The walk will be led by SGMRG member Geoff Baker, who lives in this area.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: Oldwood Pits, up lane heading north from cross-roads at
NGR ST700851, postcode BS37 7PZ, lat/long 51.56395, -2.43416

Travel time: 15 to 20 minutes





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S12: Golden Valley Pits

Sunday 10:30 to 12:30

The Golden Valley Collieries (Painter's Pit, Old Pit and New Pit) were the deepest in the Bristol Coalfield; the Parrot seam was one worked at 1920 ft depth. Set in a quiet rural valley this is the site of the last complete colliery furnace ventilation chimney, carefully restored (and tested) by John Cornwell and the Bristol Industrial Archaeology Society (BIAS). Nearby are the remains of the winding pit which was excavated at the same time, the horse gin track and the shaft top. The walk is planned to include both sites and will be led by the SGMRG Vice Chairman Mike Taylor. Walk is fairly flat and short (less than 1 mile), but good footwear and long trousers are recommended. For more history see "Kingswood Coal" published by SGMRG, page 10.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: 1 mile north along Golden Valley Lane, left from A431 in Bitton just past the White Hart (if travelling east from conference venue). Meeting point will be signed "Painters Pit" NGR ST689708, postcode BS30 6NS, lat/long 51.43539, -2.44875

Travel time: 20 to 25 minutes

S13: Goldney Grotto, Clifton

Sunday 10:00 to 11:00

S14: Goldney Grotto, Clifton

CANCELLED

Sunday 12:00 to 13:00

Set in the pleasant grounds of Goldney House in Clifton and overlooking Bristol is a Newcomen Engine House, not exactly what you expect ! Thomas Goldney was for a period the principal shareholder in the Coalbrookdale Iron Company in the mid C18 and held the agency for their products in the west of England. These "products" included cylinders and heavy castings for a number of Newcomen Engines installed in the Bristol Coalfield. Goldney installed an "undersize" Newcomen engine in what is now known as "Goldney's Tower" (this round castellated building is around 70 feet high!) to power the water fountains in his garden and grotto. Much of Goldney's wealth came from his agency in the West of England for the Coalbrookdale Company. Through this arrangement, he sold numerous Newcomen engine parts to mines in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Gloucestershire as well as other large castings to a wide range of customers. The whole site is of considerable interest and is probably the most unusual application of an atmospheric engine

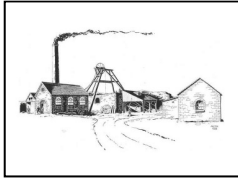
The walk is probably less than half a mile, but some slippery sections underfoot so good footwear useful. The walk will be led by Cassie Newland who, under Professor Mark Horton's direction, excavated the area around the engine house. This walk is designed to be undertaken in conjunction with the Sunday morning visit to the nearby Clifton Rocks Railway.

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: at Goldney House, Lower Clifton Hill, Bristol, NGR ST574728, postcode BS8 1BH, lat/long 51.45309, -2.61391

Travel time: 30 to 45 minutes; allow time for finding a place to park. Lift sharing recommended.





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S15: Kingswood Museum and gardens

Sunday 14:00 to 17:00

Kingswood Museum and Gardens are worth a visit and should not involve special footwear. The excellent museum has a large section on Coal mining as well as good coverage of other local industries (shoes and Douglas motorcycles deserving a special mention). The site used to be Champions Brass works and the remains of the reservoir and other features, including a grotto and an ice house (mostly underground) will be highlighted in the grounds. The walk part of the visit is less than half a mile and you should be able to get away with beachwear (if the museum staff don't object!) The tour will be led by one of the museum volunteers. For more about the museum, see <http://www.kingswoodmuseum.org.uk>

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: Kingswood Museum Car Park, Tower Lane, Warmley, Bristol,.
NGR ST668727, postcode BS30 8XT, lat/long 51.45272, -2.47937

Travel time: 15 to 20 minutes

S16: Oldwood Pits

Saturday 17:00 to 18:00

A repeat of Saturday's walk. See walk S8

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: Oldwood Pits, up lane heading north from cross-roads at
NGR ST700851, postcode BS37 7PZ, lat/long 51.56395, -2.43416

Travel time: 15 to 20 minutes

S18: Serridge Pit, Coalpit Heath

Sunday 17:00 to 18:00

Serridge Engine Pit is near to the conference venue, only a few minutes away. This was a pumping engine site. For further details see walk S17 (Saturday afternoon)

Party limit: 15

Meeting Point: At Serridge Pit, parking is down drive at Serridge Cottage or walk from campsite
NGR ST674796, postcode BS36 2UL, lat/long 51.51458, -2.46982

Travel time: 5 mins by car, 15 mins walk from conference venue, 5 mins walk from camp site

