

Date	6 July, 2006		British Land Reclamation Society
Event	Summer visit		
Theme	The Physical & Economic Regeneration of Silverdale and Chatterley Whitfield Collieries, Staffordshire		

Commentary

Chatterley Whitfield

Chatterley Whitfield is the best surviving example of a mining complex in Great Britain spanning the entire period of development through to decline of the British Coal Industry. It was the first British Colliery to produce 1 million tonnes of coal in a year; it pioneered the use of electrification and developed improvements in miner's welfare and pastoral care. The site comprises an 11 hectare 'core' monument site within a wider setting of 50 hectares. In 1993 English Heritage recognised the site's unique status, and it was designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The vision for Chatterley Whitfield: "is for a destination containing a vibrant mix of both commercial and non-commercial uses that captures the essential and unique historic character of the site. History and latest technology will be united through existing and potential new buildings being linked by high standards of sustainability".

A three-phase master plan exists, of which Phase 1A had been completed. This had involved the refurbishment of Buildings 12, 13 and 14 which was the original Main Office Complex. The complex now boasts approximately 1,305 square metres of space for employment generating uses, and improved accessibility, including disabled lifts to the first floor. There are also seminar and training rooms, a café and an outside canopy for training breakout space. Alongside the main complex refurbishment, the realignment and development of the access road via a new roundabout leading from the A527 to the Chatterley Whitfield access gates has also been completed. All services to the site have been upgraded including drainage, telecoms and gas, a new cycle path, lighting, re-grading and landscaping of adjacent areas and the replacement of the original heritage. The next phase of the master plan will involve the transformation of the spoil heaps and essential re-profiling of a 900 m culvert, which is at risk of future collapse. Our visit included a walk in the core monument site and a walk to examine the spoil heap and the culvert area (from a safe distance!).

Silverdale

Silverdale Colliery closed on 24 December 1998 finishing 202 years of use of the site as both a coal mine and an iron works. English Partnerships and Staffs County Council held a series of community consultations which resulted in the creation of a Masterplan comprising approximately 95 Ha of public open space and 8.5 ha of residential development. Delivery of the masterplan will create a wonderful area, very attractive, diverse ecology, a great place to live, high quality business development adjacent but well screened enhancing the sustainability. All the Project Team had to do was to overcome the methane, the presence of several protected species, a partially unstable landform, a complete lack of growing medium, a highway access network which is early Victorian, a 5,000,000 m³ void in the adjacent hillside, acidic leachate of pH in the low

2's and a very strong minded community who have a reputation for taking on major organisations (and winning) if they try to do anything that they don't like. EP & SCC secured £13.6m from the ODPM in Autumn 2004, Outline Planning permission was in the process of being sought and at that stage, the community were still on board.

Photos

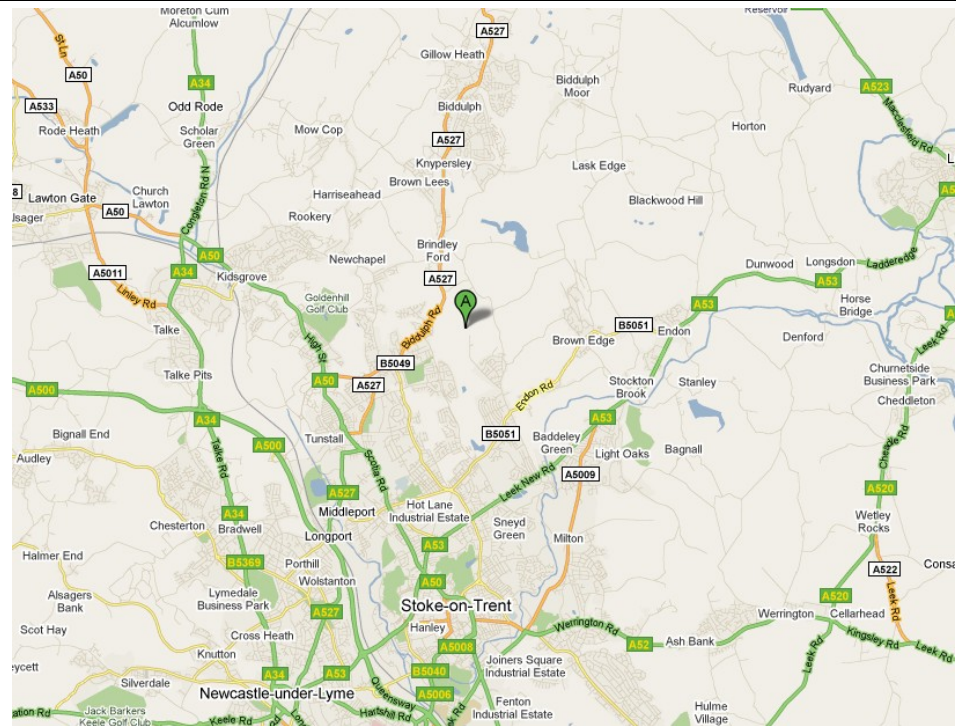
Presentations

Chatterley Whitfield Colliery – Andrew Ashton, Stoke-on Trent City Council
 Silverdale Colliery and adjacent High Lane Void - David Charmbury, EP, Project Manager for the Silverdale New Vision Project.
 Chatterley Valley area. – Eric Henderson, Staffordshire County Council

Venue

Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire.

Location



Thanks to hosts the Homes & Communities Agency [nee EP], Stoke-on-Trent City Council & Staffordshire County Council, see:

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk, www.stoke.gov.uk and www.staffordshire.gov.uk