



working life. But in 1912 a committee of freeminers sold their rights in the South Eastern United Group of deep gales to the Parkend and New Fancy Deep Navigation Colliery Company. This opened up 460 acres of new coal reserves under the existing gales for the Colliery Company. The new reserves were estimated to contain over 10 million tons of 'good marketable coal'. The main shaft was 861 feet deep.

Electric pumping, haulage and coal cutting equipment were installed in 1914. Production of coal reached about 500 tons per day in 1906, and there were 694 employees in 1922. The output of New Fancy steadily declined until closure in August 1944. During the lifetime of the colliery just over 3.5 million tons of coal were mined, over half of that amount before 1880.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FANCY AS AN AMENITY SITE

Nothing much happened until about 1960, when the development of the Llanwern steelworks in South Wales meant that there was demand for huge quantities of shale to stabilise the marshy area where the new steelworks were to be built. Consequently large volumes of shale were removed from the New Fancy spoil heaps. At the end of the process the spoil heap at New Fancy had been reduced in size by two thirds.

Under The Forestry Act of 1967 and the Countryside Act of 1968 the Forestry Commission was required to "provide or arrange for or assist in the provision of tourist, recreational or sporting facilities", thus in the Forest of Dean, in response to this initiative, many new amenity and recreation projects were started by the Forestry Commission, including New Fancy.

By 1974 work had started to create a viewpoint and picnic site at the site of the former New Fancy Colliery. The eminent landscape architect, Dame Sylvia Crowe designed the scheme. New Fancy was finally opened as an amenity site in 1976. In 2014 contractors working for the Coal Authority made safe shaft numbers 1 and 2 at New Fancy, making the sites of the mine shafts accessible to the public. Recently, with the help of Keith Bell builders and others, the Forest of Dean Local History Society placed a new commemorative stone at the site of shaft 2 at New Fancy to permanently mark the site of the shaft and

to commemorate the 15 miners who are known to have died in New Fancy pit.

MORE ABOUT THE MINERS MEMORIAL PROJECT

In 2003, the Forest of Dean Local History Society obtained a grant for £11,737 from the Local Heritage Initiative. The grant was used to facilitate a number of different elements which made up the Miners Memorial Project; the Roll of Honour CD, the Roll of Honour Memorial Volumes, the Mines Trails Walks, and the Roll of Honour Sculpture

In 2003, the History Society announced a competition for the Roll of Honour Sculpture. Five designs were submitted for judging. The winning design was submitted by John Wakefield and Graham Tyler. The three arms of the sculpture represent the three elements which were mined and quarried, namely coal, iron and stone. The finished sculpture is 11 feet in height, with the coal element represented by blackened Forest oak, the iron element represented by fabricated and pre-rusted steel, and the stone element being sourced from Forest of Dean bedrock. Each of the elements has set into it a number of stainless steel discs, similar to the 'Checks or Tokens' carried by Miners in the event of an accident in order to determine who was still underground. The three elements were then mounted on a steel chassis, before installation at the New Fancy amenity site in 2005. Descriptive plates were then installed adjacent to the sculpture, including a description in braille.

MORE ABOUT THE GEOMAP

In 2007, the Forest of Dean Local History Society was awarded a grant to produce a piece of sculpture, known as 'The Geomap'. The Geomap is an amalgam of two maps. Firstly it is a geology map of the Forest of Dean which the public can walk on. Secondly, it is an industrial history map showing the location of 102 collieries, 35 iron mines and 49 stone quarries, as well as the main railway lines and three tramroads. The mines and quarries are located using numbered discs on the map; basalt for the collieries, steel for the iron mines and marble for the quarries.

The Geomap demonstrates the link between the underlying geology and the quarrying and mining industries in the Forest of Dean.

Download the Geomap leaflets from our website:
www.forestofdeanhistory.org.uk

The New Fancy Viewpoint is in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, two miles south of the Speech House Hotel. Follow the A40 out of Gloucester, picking up the A4136 towards Monmouth, or take the A48 from Chepstow to Lydney

Nearest post code GL15 4HS
 Map reference SO628095

Forest of Dean Local History Society



NEW FANCY SITE GUIDE



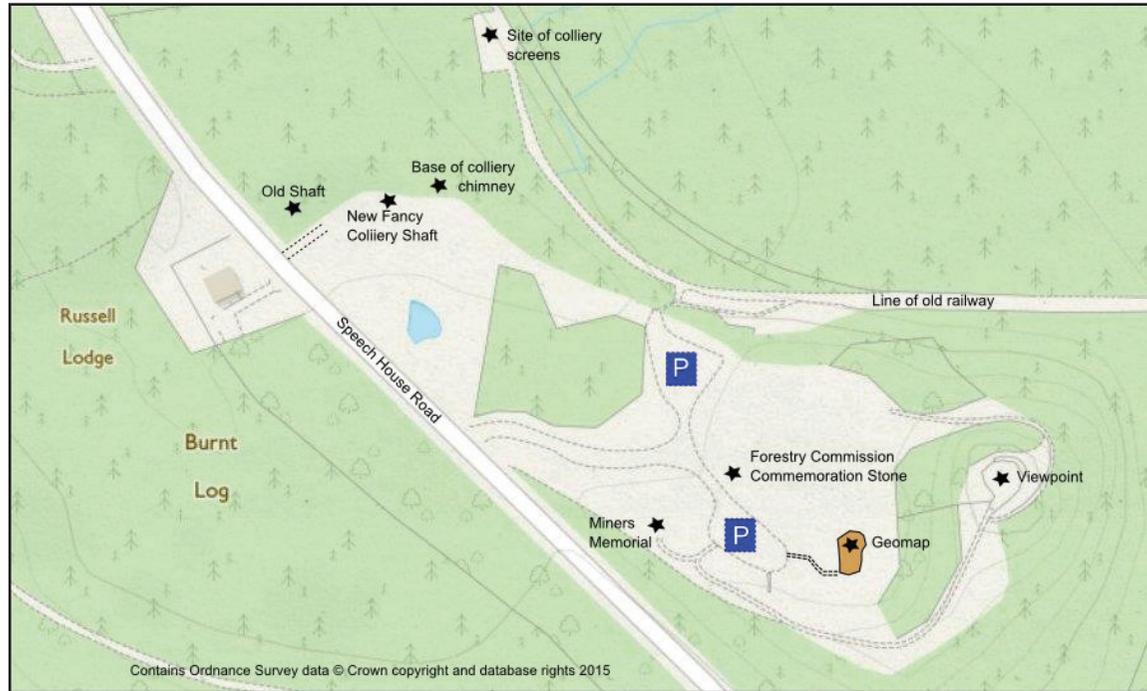
New Fancy is a Forestry Commission amenity site, and is a great place to discover some of the history of the local mining and quarrying industries. At New Fancy you can see the unique Geomap, which represents the geology of the Forest of Dean. Overlain on the map is the industrial history including the location of collieries, iron mines and stone quarries, as well as the main railway lines and tramroads. Over 600 men died because of accidents at work in the local mines and quarries. These men are remembered through the 'Roll of Honour' sculpture at the New Fancy site. You can also see some of the remnants of the New Fancy Colliery from which coal was mined until 1944.

NEW FANCY COLLIERY

Sinking of shafts started at New Fancy in about 1852, and 250 tons/day of coal were being produced by 1860. Compressed-air coal cutters were introduced as early as 1884, one of the first such installations in the west of England. Ownership of the colliery passed through several different companies during its

NEW FANCY COLLIERY
 THE SITE OF SHAFT NO. 2
 1852 ~ 1944
 Peak Production 500 tons per day
 Employed up to 700 workers
 15 lives lost
 FODLHS-2016

New Fancy - Site Map



The remains of the colliery screens, where the mined coal was loaded into railway wagons



The base of one of the two colliery chimneys at New Fancy



The top of the main shaft at New Fancy with commemorative stone



The top of the old shaft after being made safe in 2014



The Viewpoint offers 360 degree views over the surrounding Forest



Forestry Commission commemorative stone installed in 1976 when New Fancy became an amenity site



Pictured left, the 'Roll of Honour' sculpture, better known as the Miners' Memorial



Pictured right, the Geomap seen from the Viewpoint