

Diamond drilling at the Stanhope colliery

by V. M. Threader

Diamond drilling at the Stanhope colliery has been carried out over the past 19 years by the mining company using a lightweight machine and producing 0.8 inch diameter core. Records of core logging are incomplete and locations of holes are, in some cases, uncertain.

The present owner has suggested that the Stanhope colliery (easterly workings) mined a seam lying 50 feet above that mined at the New Stanhope colliery (westerly workings).

This report summarises available data and discusses the validity of the theory.

Departmental surveyor G. Benn has conducted a tie survey in order to construct the attached composite map (fig. 1) from the two mine plans 1336 and 1371 produced by T. D. Hughes in 1954 and 1956.

A tabulated summary of the drilling results is given. A more detailed account is not warranted due to the poor state of the records. A portion of this drilling is also shown on the accompanying sketch section (fig. 2). The elevations of the holes are given relative to the bottom of the New Stanhope seam. The coal intersections 40–50 feet above the seam in this section presumably represent the upper coal seam which Mr Stanley correlates with the Stanhope seam. Mr Stanley sited two new holes, A and B, to test the theory. Hole A was drilled to 105 ft and did not intersect a workable seam (see attached log). Hole B has not been drilled.

It is suggested that a hole sited at C would be better placed to test the theory. It should intersect the Stanhope seam at approximately 40 ft and, if it is present, the New Stanhope seam at 90 feet. The poor quality of the upper coal intersections in holes 15, 16 and 17, and the absence of significant coal seams in Hole A, suggest that the two mines worked the same seam.

The drilling to date has tended to be unsystematic and wasteful and the benefit obtained from the 3,000 ft of drilling already carried out has not been sufficient to warrant the expense.

It is suggested that future drilling be carried out by an experienced operator using heavier machines capable of producing larger diameter core.

[6 July 1972]

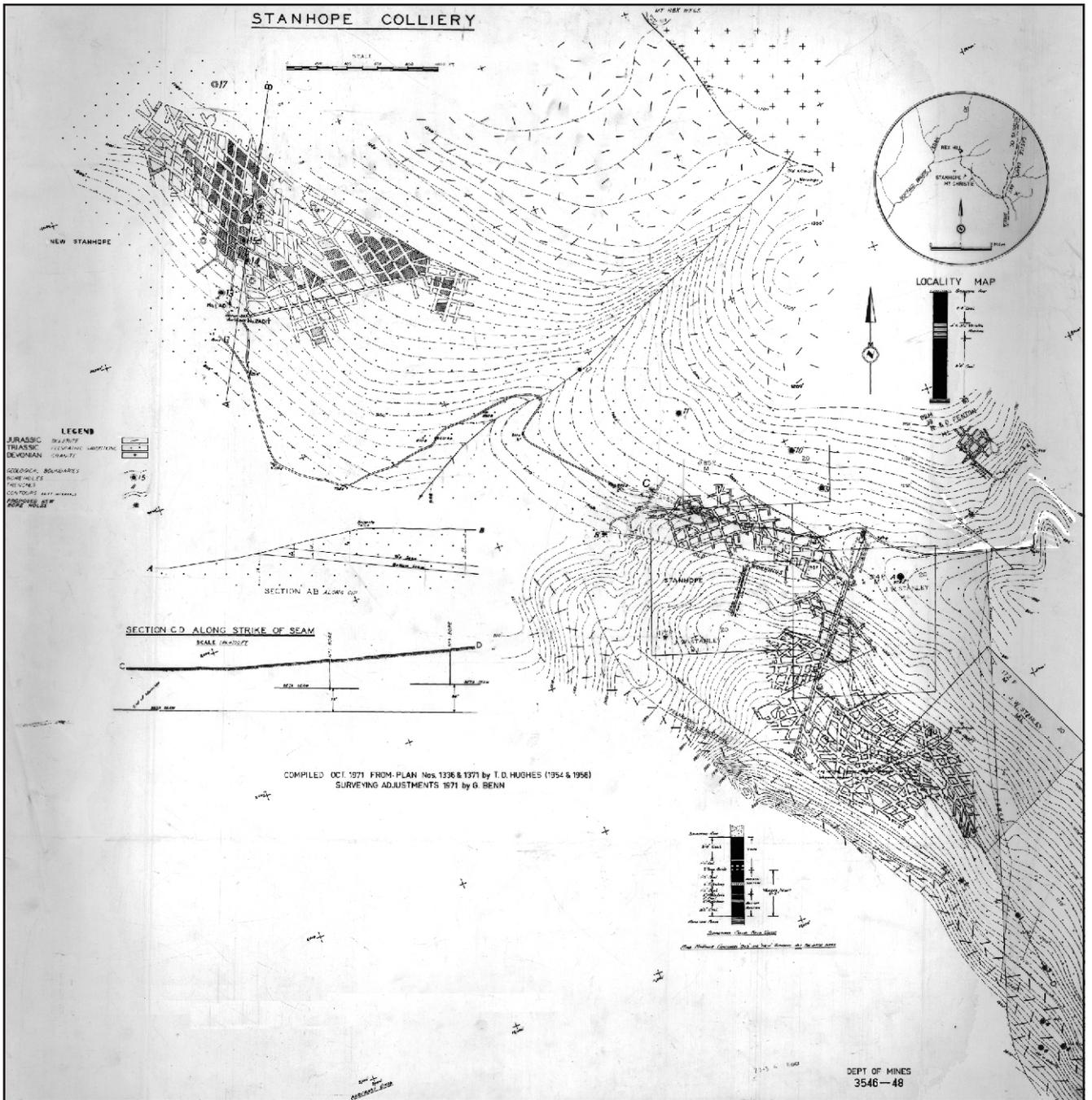


Figure 1
Mine plan, New Stanhope Colliery

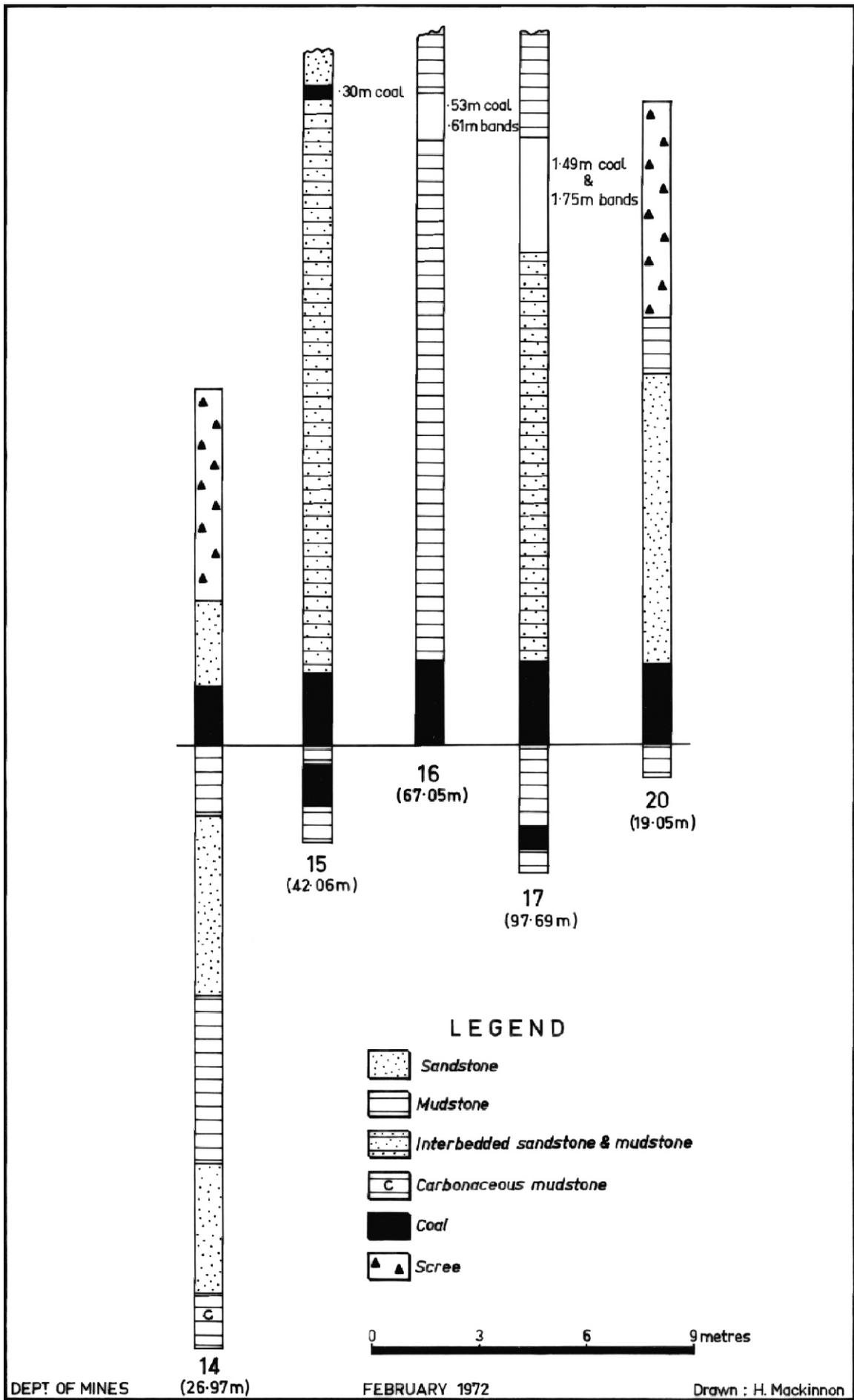


Figure 2
Bore logs of some drilling, New Stanhope Colliery

SUMMARY OF DIAMOND DRILLING, STANHOPE COLLIERY

No.	Date drilled	Location	Plotted	Depth ft in	Significant coal seam	Remarks
1		SE of old Stanhope workings	Y	115 0	Stanhope seam	See section C-D on Figure 1
2			Y	168 6	Nil	Drilled in downfaulted rock
3			Y	119 6	Stanhope seam	
4			Y	120 0	Nil	Dolerite in situ
5			Y	-	Nil	Dolerite in situ
6			Y	457 0	Nil	Dolerite in situ
7		Bonneys Plains	-	16 0	-	
8	1954		-	220 0	-	
9	1962	North and above Stanhope workings	Y	38 9	Bands only	Too shallow to intersect Stanhope Seam — see Figure 1
10			Y	-		
11			Y	87		
12			Y	75		
13		Vicinity of New Stanhope workings	Y	200	8' 6" at 177' 7"	New Stanhope seam
14			Y	88 6	5' 4" at 27' 7"	
15			Y	138	5' 6" at 73' 2"	
16			Y	219 10	7' 5" at 212' 5"	
17			Y	320 6	7' 0" at 302'	
18			-	120 0	Nil	
19			-	65 0	Nil	
20			-	62 6	6' 6"	
21			-	123 0	Nil	All in scree
22			-	122 1	?	
A	1971	Vicinity of Stanhope workings	Y	105 0	Nil	Located below the Stanhope seam outcrop
B	-		Y	-	-	

LOG OF BOREHOLE A, STANHOPE COLLIERY — DRILLED 1971

Depth		Core recovered ft in	Recovery %	Log
from ft in	to ft in			
0 0	28 0	10 10	34)	Medium grained lithic sandstone
28 0	35 9	2 9)	Mudstone with interbedded siltstone bands
35 9	37 9	1 3	100	Bright coal
37 9	62 0	12 0	49	Mudstone with interbedded siltstone bands
62 0	63 6	1 0	67	Fine grained sandstone
63 6	65 2	1 0	60	Coarse grained sandstone
65 2	67 8	1 3	50	Fine grained sandstone
67 8	78 9	5 6	50	Coarse grained sandstone
78 9	90 0	2 0	62	Mudstone
90 0	96 0	2 6	42	Siltstone with interbedded mudstone bands
96 0	101 6	2 9	50	Fine grained sandstone
101 6	105 0	2 3	64	Medium grained sandstone
Average 42				

Note: The core was badly broken and in part was bored in reverse order, this together with poor core recovery indicated drilling of a very low standard.