**The record of coal exploration in the Ordovician-Silurian in the Southern Uplands of Scotland and Ireland**

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**Supplementary Information**

**Transcripts**

**Localities for evidence for coal**

**Supplementary References**

**Transcript of Fig. 3.**

A close up of a handwritten letter

Description automatically generated

At Gernonstown a mile north west from Slaine there is a coal pit which had been wrought, the coals found to be very good, but the proprietor Councillor Frorbish dying the work ceased. There is at Rathmaiden not far from the former, a colliery far exceeding the other for goodness, would be of great use to the inhabitants because scarce of turf, Mr. Rigmaden of Meath Street, as the people here say has let it to some gentleman in England who is a collier and intends to put the work forward but when tis not known, the inhabitants speak very hard of Mr. Rigmaden for stopping the work hindering them from getting fire, likewise the trade and commerce of Slaine which is quite sunk and gone.

**Transcript of Fig. 5.**

A letter with writing on it

Description automatically generated

Selkirk August 18 1733

This received by me John Bell portioner of Redpath from James Miller present this P. of Selkirk the sum of five pound sterling money towards carrying on the coalwork at Redpath. In witness of I have subserved the present date and written before these witnesses Walter Scott of Burnfoot and John Moon late Dean of Guild Selkirk.

John Bell

Walter Scott witness

John Moon witness

**Table S1. Localities for evidence for coal in Ordovician-Silurian, Southern Uplands-Down-Longford Terrane**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Locality | Map code | Grid Reference | Description | Reference |
| **Ireland** |  |  |  |  |
| Glasleck, Shercock, Co. Cavan | GL | H 7204 | ‘Strong vein of blind coal’  Very sulphurous.  Worked as fuel in bad winters. | Coote 1802,  Walford 1818,  Long 1833,  Kinahan 1889 |
| Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan | BJ | N 5290 | Alderman Bevan sank shaft. ‘Vein (blind coal) of very good quality’ | Coote 1802, Long 1833 |
| Castlerahan, Co. Cavan | CR | N 5387 | Shaft near lake sunk some few years pre-1837 | Lewis 1837 |
| Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan | KL | N 430905 | Several shafts,  Some fuel produced | Whitty 1854, 1855  Symonds 1858 |
| Ballylane Lough, Co. Armagh | BL | H 9634 | Trials for coal | Egan 1877 |
| Enagh Lough, Co. Armagh | EL | J 0332 | Trials for coal | Egan 1877 |
| Lissummon, Co. Armagh | LS | J 0433 | 2 small shafts sunk. Tradition of burnable coal. | Egan 1877 |
| Drumlack, Co. Armagh | DL | H 9541 | Thin seam of excellent coal | Lewis 1837 |
| Coulter’s Bridge, Co. Armagh | CO | H 9519 | Pit opened | Egan 1877 |
| Drumcrow, Co. Armagh | DW | H 9832 | Slight search | Egan 1877 |
| Lislea Cottage, Co. Armagh | LL | H 8034 | Pit yielded coal adequate for blacksmith | Egan 1877 |
| Scarva, Co. Down | SV | J 0743 | Inhabitants report coal; 1799 trial intended.  Coal Mine on estate 1842 | Stewart 1799,  Dublin Evening Packet 1842 |
| Coalpit Bay, Co. Down | CB | J 594788 | Eponymous | Hull et al. 1871 |
| Donaghadee, Co. Down. | DD | J 5879 | ‘Colliery near Donaghadee’ assumed by Woods to be mistaken | Woods 1985 reporting on Pococke 1760 |
| Kirkistown, Co. Down | KK | J 6457 | Coal found, new trial intended | Stewart 1799 |
| Killough, Co. Down | KH | J 5336 | Shaft sunk in search of coal | Smith & Harris 1744 |
| Gilford, Co. Down | GF | J 0648 | Several attempts to find productive coal | Lewis 1837 |
| Hillsborough, Co. Down | HB | J 2458 | Marquis of Downshire opening coal mine | Tralee Chronicle 1850 |
| The Temple, Co. Down | TP | J 3561 | Application to develop coal discovery | Northern Whig 1901 |
| Lawrencetown, Co. Down | LT | J 0849 | Coal shafts (on 1837-42 6-inch map) | Egan 1872 |
| Donaghcloney Bridge, Co. Down | DC | J 1353 | Shaft sunk for coal by Lord Downshire, 109ft depth | Egan 1872 |
| Slane Coalpits, Co. Meath | SC | N 974762 | Mining directed by Lord Cunningham pre-1802.  Coal works ~30 years pre-1837. | Pococke 1752, Thompson 1802  Lewis 1837 |
| Rathmaiden, Co. Meath | RM | N 9677 | Colliery seeking investment | House of Commons 1763 |
| Lurgankeel, Co. Louth | LK | J 0212 | Shaft sunk for coal | Newry Telegraph 1872, Iron and Coal Trades Review 1918 |
| **Scotland** |  |  |  |  |
| Borrow Head, Wigtownshire | BH | NX 4534 | Trials | New Statistical Account of Scotland 1845 |
| Coalpit Burn, Rivox Fell, Dumfriesshire | RF | NT 0005 | Two shafts sunk ‘of considerable depth’ | Harkness 1851,  Ordnance Survey 2009 |
| Breckonside, Dumfriesshire | BK | NT 1102 | Shaft in search of coal | Taylor 1791 |
| Glenkiln, Dumfriesshire | GK | NY 007895 | Deep shaft in search of coal | Lapworth 1878 |
| Kirkmichael (Auchenbraith?), Dumfriesshire | KM | NY 0187  (NX 9991) | Trials | Jameson 1805 |
| Larghill, Dumfriesshire | LH | NX 817745 | Horizontal shaft | Harkness 1851 |
| Coal Hole, Dumfriesshire | CH | NX 729990 | Eponymous | Harkness 1851, Ordnance Survey 2009 |
| Lindean, Selkirkshire | LD | NT 4931 | Bored for coal | Lapworth 1872 |
| Cauldshiels, Selkirkshire-Roxburghshire | CS | NT 515323 | Bored for coal.  Possibly same or contiguous to Bowdenmoor | Lapworth 1870, 1872 |
| Maxton, Roxburghshire | MX | NT 6030 | Coal sought through thin ORS cover | Milne 1843, Jedburgh Gazette 1912 |
| Milsington, Roxburghshire | MS | NT 4012 | Report of mine in early Travelogue. No corroboration. | Lowther et al. 1894 |
| Redpath, Berwickshire | RP | NT 5836 | Receipt for coal exploration | Bell 1733 |
| Cadon Bank,  Peeblesshire | CD | NT 3435 | Mining operation by Earl of Traquair, bed ~8 cm thick | Jameson 1840, Nicol 1850 |
| Windylawsburnfoot, Peeblesshire | WB | NT 2444 | Digging of pit, supported by council in 1759 | Chambers 1864, Buchan 1925 |
| Kilbucho, Peeblesshire | KB | NT 0835 | Exploration for coal | Statistical Account of Scotland 1792 |

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