

Table of contents of the revised edition of *The Alderley Edge Mines*

1. Introduction
2. Geology of the Area
3. History of the Edge
4. West Mine and Wood Mine
5. Engine Vein
6. The Cobalt Mines
7. The Other Alderley Edge Mines
8. Mottram Mine
9. After the Mining
10. Alderley Mines in Myth and Legend

Postscript

- Appendix 1 Mineral species recorded and reported from Alderley Edge
- Appendix 2 Production figures for the period 1857–77 (excluding Mottram Mine)
- Appendix 3 Probable working mines in each historic period
- Appendix 4 Brief chronology
- Appendix 5 Short biographies of some key characters in the history of Alderley Edge mining
- Appendix 6 Contact details

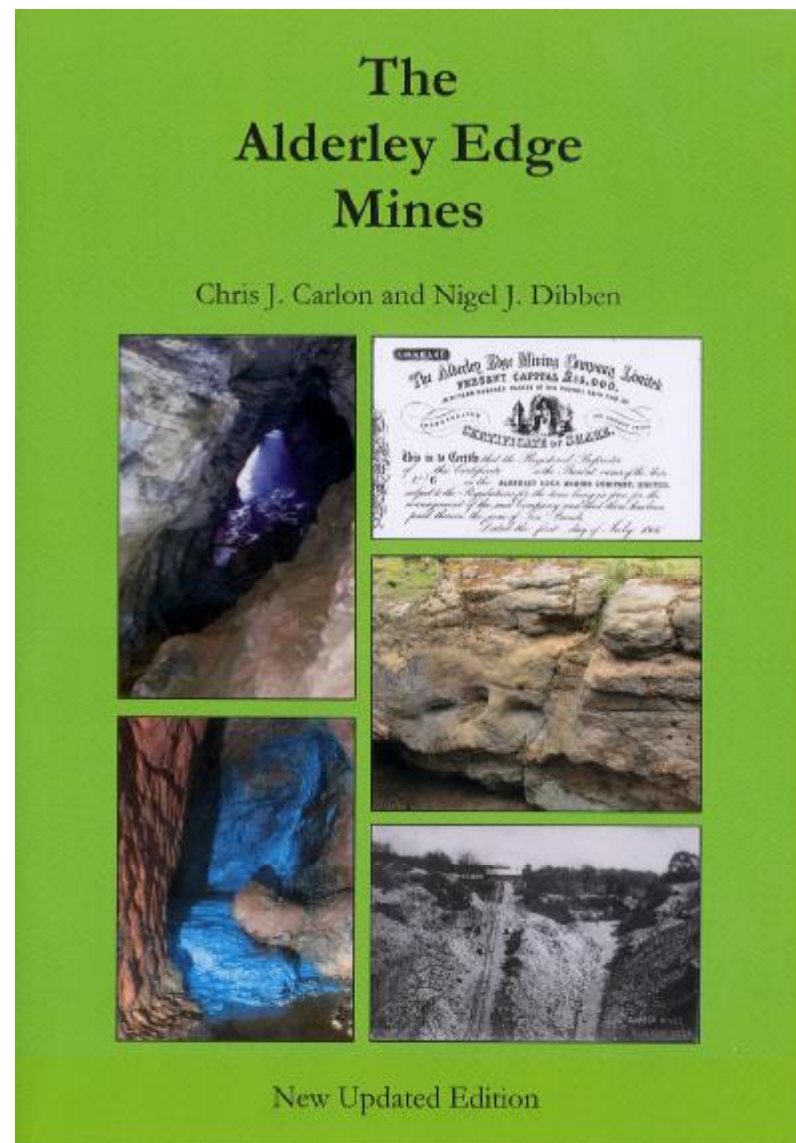
References and selected bibliography

Glossary

Index

New edition ...

... January 2013



The Alderley Edge Mines

by Chris J. Carlon and Nigel J. Dibben

The Alderley Edge Mines in north east Cheshire have a history going back four millennia to the Middle Bronze Age when copper was extracted from the rock by simple methods involving charcoal and a lot of hard work. Romans visited the area in the first century AD, probably soon after the invasion of Britain, and they left their mark in a shaft and tunnel now nearly 2000 years old. Other mining followed although we have no historical record until the late 17th century but from then until the early twentieth century, mining for copper and lead took place with few interruptions.

The mines have attracted much interest over the years, especially since the mid-19th century. They have been the focus of geological and archaeological study from then until the present.

This book was originally published in 1979 as a result of one person's curiosity into the lack of detailed information about the mines. Chris Carlon's book was published ten years after the Derbyshire Caving Club regained and formalised access to the mines and just four years after West Mine had been reopened. In the three decades that have elapsed since then, many changes have occurred:

- Wood Mine was connected to the Hough Level in 1980
- Engine Vein was capped and access secured in 1981
- Brynlow Mine was rediscovered and opened in 1982
- The Bear Pit and Blue Shaft were cleared in 1988
- The Hough Level was cleared from Engine Vein to Dickens Wood in 1992
- The Roman coins were found in Pot Shaft in 1995
- Almost all the mines have been resurveyed to a high standard
- A detailed photographic and archaeological record has been built up by the DCC

All of this change means that a new edition of Chris's book has been long overdue.

In addition to the exploratory work by the Derbyshire Caving Club (DCC), a major historical research project, the Alderley Edge Landscape Project (AELP), was carried out from about 1996-2005. This led to a number of significant findings and also to the 1857-77 treatment works area and Engine Vein being scheduled as ancient monuments. A separate book has already been published on the archaeological work under the AELP and a further book will be published in 2013 covering the wider topics of the project.

The new version of *The Alderley Edge Mines* concentrates on the mining and the mines and has been heavily revised with chapters on each major location containing history, descriptions and plans. The geology has been revised to incorporate new terminology and the latest understanding about the development of the ore-bodies. History has changed with the finding of new documents about the mines and research into the main characters involved in the 19th century.

This edition of the book is A5-size and stitched to enable it to be used in the field as a reference source. It contains 184 pages of text, illustrations (17 monochrome and colour diagrams and plans, 12 monochrome pictures, 36 colour pictures), appendices, references and index.

The price is £12 plus £2.50 postage and packing.
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