

This was a short-lived works all trace of which had disappeared by 1882. In 1817 Cecil Weld Forester leased land near Cochshutt Lane to Robert Evans which included a plot known as the Lower Fishers which was just under 5 acres. In 1818 John Onions Snr. and Jnr. took out a sub-lease of mines and minerals excepting clay from Robert Evans Snr. and Jnr. Master colliers of Rudge Wood and Broseley. Four coal pits are shown within the plot but no brickworks and the mineral rights for clay were excluded from the lease to Onions. There was however a provision for Evans to erect ovens, kilns or other buildings and getting beds or seams of clay.¹ An undated plan shows that Mr Evans was getting coal from the northern part of the Fishers and Mr Hartshorne from the southern portion.²

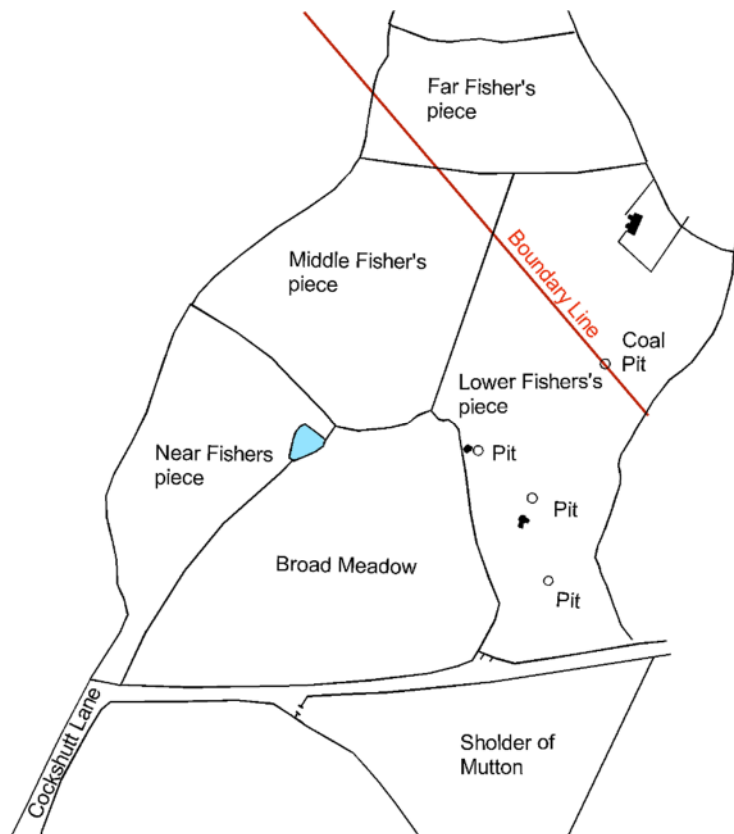


Figure 1: 1818. Sub lease of Lord Foresters Land. Evans & Son to John Onions & son. Shropshire Archives 1190/4/180.

The works were likely erected in the six years between 1818 and 1822 on land already worked by him for coal. The first reference to Hezekiah Hartshorne as a brickmaker was in 1822 although the trade directory of that year only lists J. Hartshorne as a brickmaker so he may have founded the works.³ The Hartshorne family had been in the area since the 1600s and in 1713 Richard Hartshorne, a carpenter, bought a plot of land in Church Street and built a house which was eventually occupied by Hezekiah. He married Susana Ashford (1797-1885) in February 1824 in her home town of Deptford, Kent. Their first daughter, Susanna Ashford was born on 25th December 1824 in Broseley but for some reason, she was christened on 20th July 1825 at Kingsacre, Hampshire, Hezekiah being listed as a Brick and Tile Manufacturer of Broseley. In 1826 his son Frederick Hezekiah was baptised in Broseley at the Parish Church however all subsequent children were baptised at the Birch Meadow Baptist Chapel.

In 1831 Hezekiah is listed in the Poll book for the Borough of Wenlock as a brickmaker and in 1835 the book shows him as having a brickwork and coal mines at Cockshut Lane. By the time of the 1838

¹ Shropshire Archies 1190/4/180. 4th Oct 1818. Lease of 2 messages and lands in Fishers Leasow and Barn Meadow and the mines and minerals (shown on plan on lease) except clay

² Shropshire Archives 1190/4/181

³ *Vin Calcutt*, Alison House, Broseley Local History Society Journal 2015. Pigots Trade Directory 1822.

Broseley tithe survey (map drawn 1840) he also had the works at The Rock, and it is possible that the Cockshutt Lane premises were already being run down by this time.

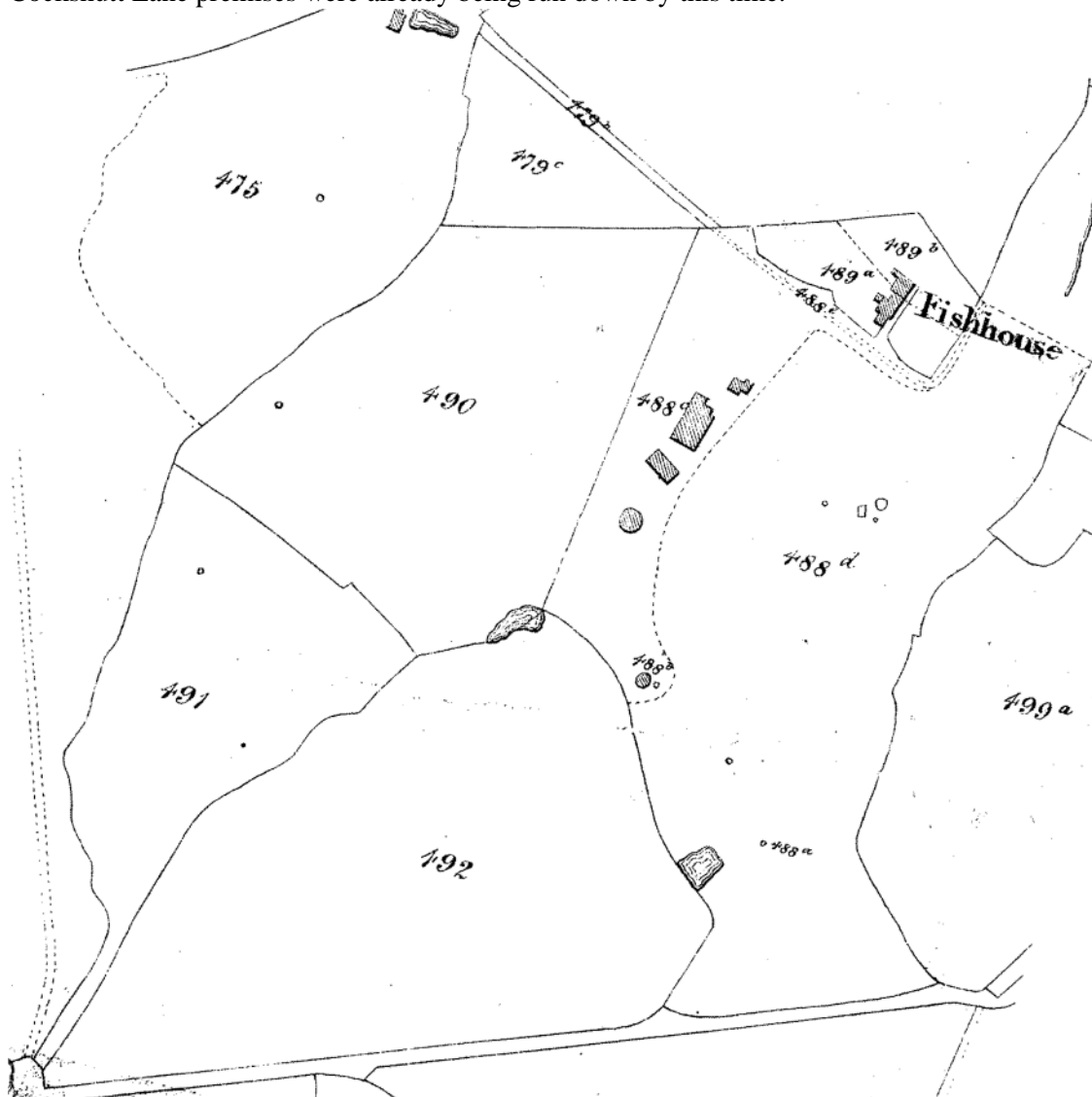


Figure 2: 1840 Broseley Tithe map. Hartshorne occupied plots 488b a Coal Pit and 488c Brickshed, Claypit, & Branch Railway on land owned by Lord Forester. Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

The Tithe Map shows three buildings and a circular structure which may have been the beehive brick kiln to the southwest of the Fishhouse cottages. The rectangular structure south of the largest building may also have been a kiln. The area around the brickworks including a coal pit is should within a dotted line which may indicate the extent of the works and this area would have included the clay pit. The pit would presumably have supplied coal for firing the kilns.

Hezekiah died on 10th March 1841 without leaving a will however his widow Susanna inherited an estate of under seven hundred pounds.⁴ There is no record of the works in the rent books for the Willey estate for 1842 and 1845 although John Onojns was mining coal at Cockshutt Lane. The site had been cleared by the time the 1882 OS map was surveyed and the site is shown as scrub land.

⁴ Administration of Hezekiah Harthorne brick manufacturer, 13th April 1841 Shropshire Archives 1681/113/20

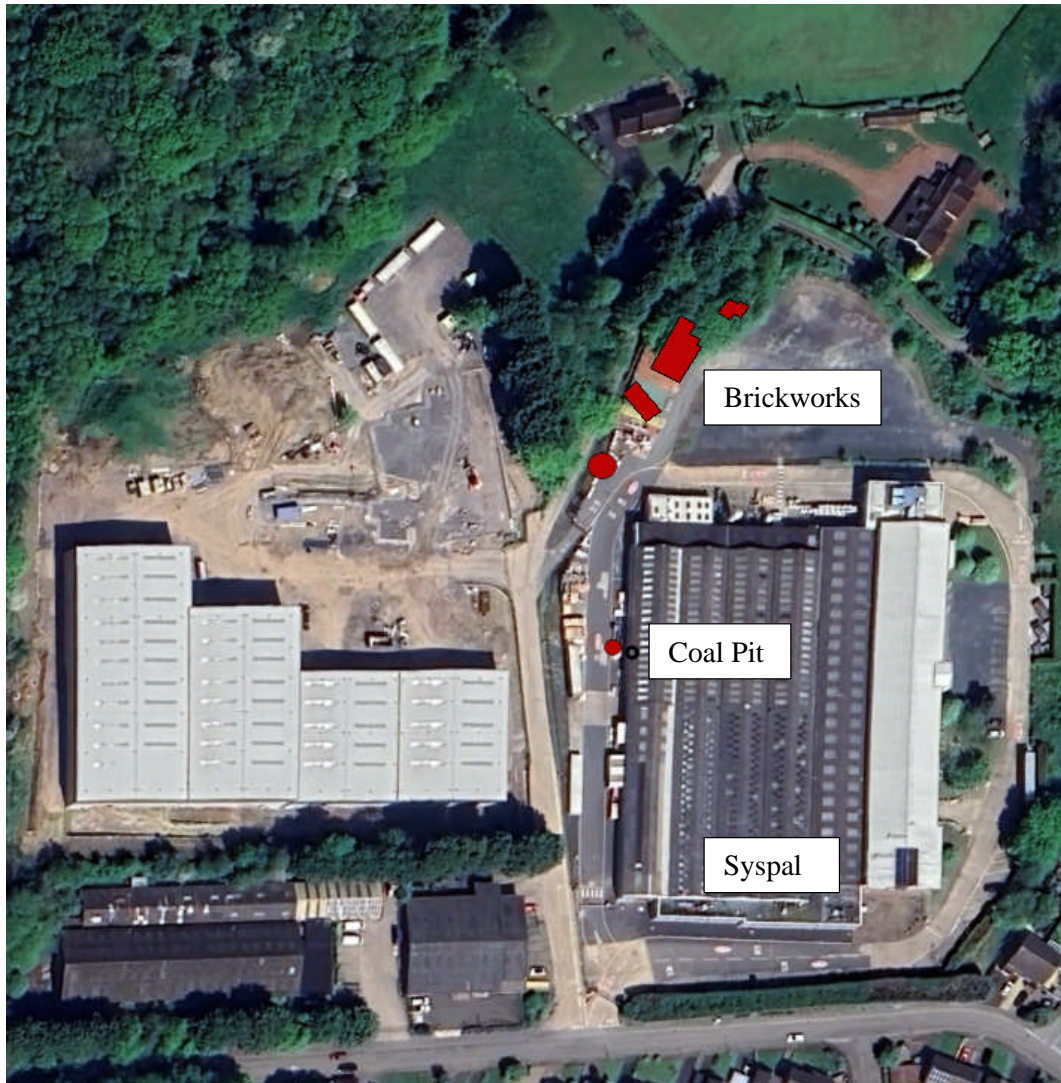


Figure 3. The location of the works is now within the boundary of the Syspal. (Google Earth)