

THE VILLAGE OF KINGSEAT WAS BUILT ON COAL

"Kingseat" – Tradition states that a seat hewn out of a large rock existed at the location of the now extinct Craigenat Quarry (which lay at the south easterly end of Henderson Street) and that it was customary for some of the James of Scotland to rest here when passing from Falkland to Dunfermline. Until circa 1865 the only house to be seen was an old farm known as "Kingseat", this was located at the north easterly end of the village. By 1880 some 130 families lived in the village with a population being over 300. In 1887 it is reported that there were 126 houses in the village with a population of 800. Coal mining in this area probably dates from early 19th Century. Henderson, Wallace & Co. established Kingseat No 1 pit in 1863 and others quickly followed. The last pit to be worked in the area was the Kingseat "Dean No. 3" colliery (Henderson Pit) and the Dean No. 4 surface Mine which were abandoned in December 1945 due to flooding.

Four mines were opened up under the Dean colliery No's 1, 2 and 3 close to the site of the original Kingseat No 1 Pit. The locations are indicated on the map by ↘ which indicates the direction of working.

Kingseat Colliery No 1 Pit - Henderson, Wallace & Co., Halbeath cut the first turf in 1863. The pit was closed 1902.

Kingseat No 1 pit was taken over and redeveloped by the Kingseat Colliery Company, later the Kingseat Company Limited in 1905 operating as the Dean Colliery. The pit was re-sunk in 1925 working successfully until the late 1930's. During 1928 some 280 miners worked at this pit

Coal production

This varied considerably as the fortunes of the pits changed

1886 - The three pits of Kingseat Colliery had an output of 170,000 tons per year. In 1900 this had declined to 47,000 tons.

Dean Nos. 1, 3 & 4

1923 – 80,000 tons per year

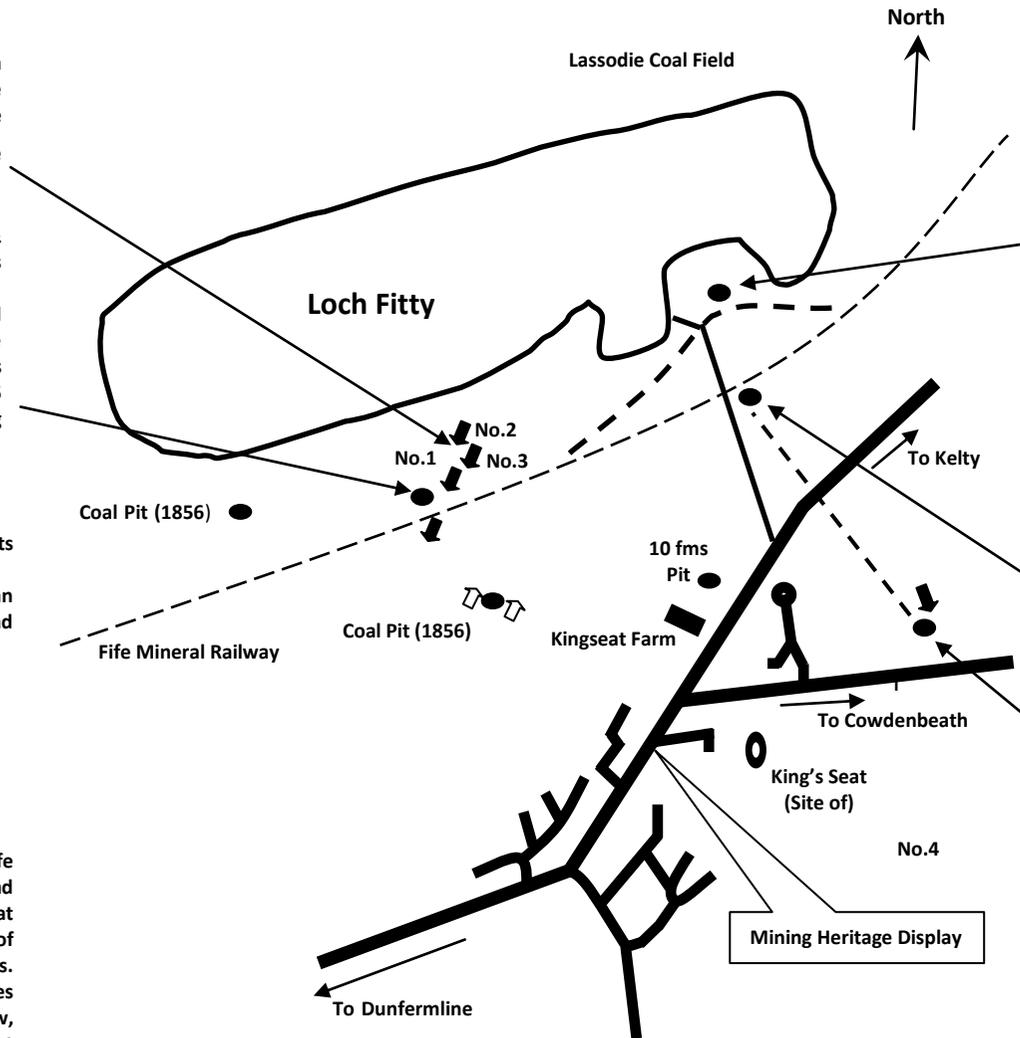
Dean Nos. 3 & 4

1940 - 100,000 tons per year

1945 – Dean No 3 & 4 were closed.

The Human Cost

Although not exhaustive The Kingdom of Fife Mining Memorial Book lists 27 names of men and boys who lost their lives working in the Kingseat pits, one as young as 11 years and two 14 years of age. Many more miners received horrific injuries. The last two miners to lose their lives were, James Main and James Nellis who were brothers-in-law, on the 30 November 1945 working their last shift at the flooded Kingseat Dean No 3 Pit.



Kingseat Colliery No 3 Pit – Was sunk by Henderson, Wallace & Co., Halbeath between 1863 & 1873, it was known as the "Henderson Pit", and worked by them until 1902. Later it was operated by John Irvine and Sons, under licence, until approximately 1911. Following this date the pit was taken over by the Kingseat Company Limited as the Kingseat Dean No. 3 pit and redeveloped in 1934 to access coal from under Loch Fitty and the Lassodie coal fields. A major pithead fire occurred in 1939; however, coal production was not affected as it was linked to the Dean Surface mine No 4 by an underground roadway where coal was extracted. The pit was worked until 1945 when it was closed due to flooding. Including Dean No 4 surface mine, 300 miners lost their jobs.

Kingseat Colliery No 2 Pit – This pit was sunk by Henderson, Wallace & Co., Halbeath in 1867 and was known as the Wallace Pit. The pithead was remodelled and became the principal Kingseat colliery in 1902 employing some 100 miners. It was operated by John Irvine and Sons, under licence, until approximately 1911. The pit was then developed by the Kingseat Company Limited and operated as Dean No 2 Pit until the early 1930s.

Dean Surface Mine No 4 – The mine was opened in 1934 and extracted coal which lay towards the Hill of Beath. It was known locally as the "Henderson" Mine (or Teenie). The mine closed at the same time as Dean Pit No 3 in 1945.

Other Pits in the Area

Kingseat No 4 Pit – Little is known of this pit which appears in the abandonment plans of 1883.

Queen Pit – Listed 1874 to 1878. No details are available.



Kingseat
Council

Community



In the preparation of this display panel we wish to acknowledge the use of information presented by the Fife Pits and Memorial web pages.

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