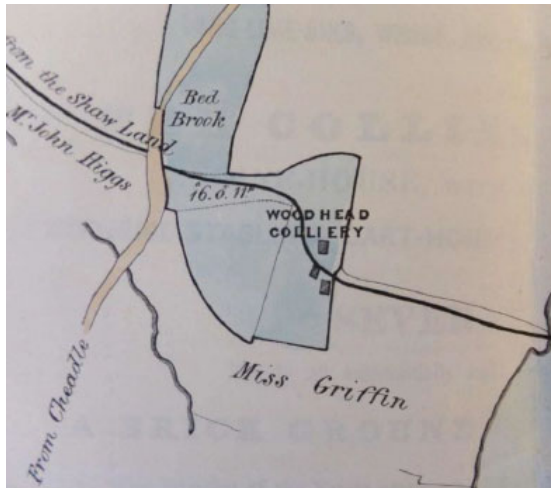


## POTTERY GARDENS, CHEADLE



1. Sargent, A. 2012. Heritage Statement Land at Little Hayes Farm, Donkey Lane, Cheadle, Staffordshire. Henshaw & Associates

A copper smelting plant, established by William Patten in around 1768 in the vicinity of the Pottery Gardens site closed in 1792, though its exact location is uncertain. Recent archaeology found no evidence of the copper works, and an alternative site about 300m northwest has been proposed based on cropmarks.

Coal mining likely began nearby here in the mid-18th century under the Leigh family of Woodhead Hall. By 1800, John Leigh and William Hurst had developed a complex of colliery buildings at Woodhead, including a main shaft and weighing machine. The colliery's name derives from the Woodhead estate, connected to the local area's name origins tied to ancient words meaning "wood."

In the early 19th century, John Leigh expanded mining operations and built a tramway linking the pits to the colliery and the Uttoxeter Canal. The tramway had two connected sections, traceable

via historical maps and later footpaths. It remained visible as a public right of way with some original stone sleepers until recent housing developments.

The Bowers family took over the colliery during the 19th century, expanding the site but removing much of the original tramway trackwork by 1880. The colliery declined later in the century and was replaced by Little Hayes Farm by the 1920s.

Recent archaeological investigations found remains of colliery buildings dating from the late 18th century onward and drainage features, showing site development over time. However, no evidence was found of the earlier copper works.



2. Eloy, P & Sargent, A. 2023. Archaeological evaluation at: Donkey Lane, Cheadle, Staffordshire. Henshaw & Associates