paths, some of which still exist among the hills. The first coke-heated furnace was built by Francis Hurt in 1780, and other blast furnaces were erected near Chesterfield and at Wingerworth and Staveley in the following year. In 1855 there were thirty furnaces, with an annual output of 158,000 tons, out of 746 in Great Britain producing 4,400,000 tons.[1] The great modern successors of the old Derbyshire ironmasters abandoned the local ores in the sixties, when Northamptonshire oolitic ironstone took their place. In 1875 Lincolnshire stone was introduced and used with great advantage as a fluxing agent, mixed with the more silicious Northamptonshire ore, of which it is now an important rival; for not only is it used in the Derbyshire furnaces, but large blast-furnace plants have been erected in the midst of the mines themselves, notably at Scunthorpe, thereby saving the heavy carriage rates on the ore.

The coal worked almost exclusively until recent years was that of the valuable "Top Hard" seam, known in Yorkshire as the "Barnsley Bed," great quantities of which are taken by railways and steam-users in the Midland

[1] The number and capacity of blast furnaces in the Derbyshire district in 1855 were as follows:—

Name of works.	No. of furnaces.	Weekly make per furnace. Tons.	Annual production of furnaces. Tons.
Staveley	4	90	18,720
Codnor Park	3	110	17,160
Alfreton	3	90	14,040
Butterley Hall	3	100	15,600
Wingerworth	3	120	18,720
Staunton	3	120	18,720
Morley Park	2	70	7,280
Renishaw	2	110	11,440
Clay Cross	2	100	10,400
Adelphi	2	100	10,400
West Hallam	2	100	10,400
Newbold	1	100	5,200
Total	30		158,080