

# 40 Population of Snailbeach

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YEAR	Snailbeach	Minsterley	Pontesford
1841	116	336	452
1851	127	576	403
1861	109	669	424
1871	96	573	259
1881	110	821	256
1891	70	657	215
1901	98	637	240
1911	22 Households	334 Households	124 Households

The figures are taken from web sites showing UK census data. Unfortunately the details obtained free showed population up to 1901 but then only the number of households for 1911.

The graphs showing production at Snailbeach Mine could be compared with these figures.

## Pontesford

The total population falls during the period surveyed.

1. Coal was mined here from 1785- 1862. Presumably the miners had to go elsewhere when the mine closed.
2. There was a lead smelter here until 1862, when a new smelter was built at Snailbeach. Workers might have moved to Snailbeach, or walked to work there.

## Minsterley

Figures are given for this nearby large village surrounded by dairy farms. The railway came to Minsterley in 1861. There is a steady rise in the population.

## Snailbeach

1. Note that not all the miners would live at Snailbeach.
2. When a replacement smelter was built here, with some cottages for workers, the total population did not rise.
3. Numbers of miners declined throughout the period, because of
  - Economical working (the Yorkshire methods of Eddy)
  - Mechanisation (drilling with compressed air after 1882)
  - Drop in the price of lead making mining unprofitable
  - The 1901 census came as the last push to extend the mine was taking place