During the project, mining records have been deposited in the Record Office so that they can be copied, indexed and preserved for the future. Murton Heritage Society, established in 2002, agreed to be a project partner from the outset. The Society has an impressive local history collection displayed in a purpose-built heritage gallery on the first floor of the Glebe Centre in Murton.

In December 2009 an archivist met the Society’s secretary to sort through some original Murton Colliery records. Several registers, subscription books, accident reports and mining plans were transferred to the Record Office on long-term loan and project staff began the process of copying the records for indexing. Volunteers were soon busy indexing a signing-on book containing the names of thousands of men and women who worked at the colliery between 1937 and 1973.

Bowburn Local History Society

Bowburn Local History Society decided to index the records they had deposited in the Record Office in 2006. Two volumes of Northern Colliery Officials’ and Staffs’ Association minutes were photographed using a specialist overhead camera and members received 455 digital images on a memory stick. The use of digital or paper copies has allowed several volunteers to work on one book at the same time.

If you have any mining records that could be indexed, and you would like further advice, please contact the Record Office in County Hall, Durham.