

7th October 1984
Greenside Mine

A good turn out. We split into two groups – group A to descend to the horse Level via Glencoyne Level, group B to enter Low Horse Level through the adit and attempt to make a connection with the other group.

Group A under the leadership of Mike Mitchell, once safely down on Low Horse Level decided to follow the cast iron pipe which had at one time carried water down to the hydraulic engines at the head of Willie Shaft from the High Horse Level. They found that the pipe disappeared into a masonry wall soon after it left the foot of the first shaft, so they removed the wall and discovered a short level which terminated in a collapse. Mike Mitchell reckons that this short level was driven solely to take the pipe round in a gentle curve otherwise, had the pipe followed the original tunnel, the bend at one end of the junction would have been too severe. The collapse is deemed to be directly under the Great Stope.

Group B, under the leadership of myself, after arriving at the fork close to the huge collapses in the outer reaches of the Low Horse Level, decided to follow the wooden cable hangers which had at one time carried power cables down Willie Shaft and thence to the engine at the head of Smiths Shaft. After poking around it was found that both branches carried hangers. The right passage ended in a collapse of massive boulders, obviously at one time a huge stope, the other collapsed also after a short crawl over deads. Myself and Wickenden dug for about an hour before giving up.

Interesting point – the left hand branch has been driven from inside the mountain and the cable hangers seem to be of a younger appearance. The collapse material in this branch has the appearance of boulder clay debris crashed in from the surface.

Members present were:

Alen McFadzean

Mike Mitchell

Mark Wickenden

Ian Tyler & Daughter

Angela Wilson

Alisdair Lings

Damian McCurdy

Dennis Webb

Alan Westall

Dave Blundell

C.H.Jones

Richard Hewer