

13th April 1986
Eagle Crag Mine (Patterdale)

M.L.I. Tyler
Weather – Showers

A total of 17 members met at ‘Grisedale Road End’ Patterdale all prepared for the long walk up the Grisedale Valley. P.Fleming and M.Mitchell kindly offered to ferry the tackle by car up to ‘Elmhow’ – on meeting at ‘Elmhow’ gear was distributed amongst the party.

The ‘Stone Arched’ level of Watson Crosscut 850 AOD under St. Sunday Crag was not visited as most members were aware that the level is run 20yds in (A dig could give access to a level some 300yds long). A beeline was made towards Eagle Crag to the No.1 Level (level dug out I.Tyler – D.Blundell 1982). M.L. and A.McFadzean were the only two to venture in; the level is standing in 2’ of water.

Eventually No.2 Level was reached (level dug open I.Tyler - J.Adams 1985). All members explored the level to the forehead – the rise up to No.3 which is approx 60yds from the forehead was choked with rubble. M.L. and A.McFadzean made a fleeting attempt to remove the offending deads – it might need something stronger than manpower, we agreed.

The party climbed up to No.3 Level via the site of a large dressing floor – No.3 Level is run after 20yds and is flooded – a dig was started on the roof behind the collapse by members without success. The area of No.3 is dominated by the ruin of the old mine office.

After lunch the party circumnavigated the crags and eventually by means of the old mine track gained the large plateau on which No.4 Level has its own mine office and large dressing floor. Alas No.4 Level is run. A small trial in the crags between No.3 and No.4 was visited by M.Mitchell / P.Fleming / A.McFadzean.

Onwards and upwards the steep climb up to No.5 Level now totally obscured by scree was passed virtually unnoticed.

The party were now strung out – mist was swirling and large patches of snow were in evidence. Three intrepid would be mine explorers launched off in the wrong direction – only to be retrieved by the shrill whistle of M.Mitchell and the curses of the M.L.

No.6 consists of a 20’ flooded sump and a short level driven E/W. This was covered by snow.

No.7 Level is a x-cut south to the E/W vein and is directly below No.6. The entrance here again was covered in snow making access impossible. Adjacent is the old dressing floor and office as are the stopes which run E/W from No.6.

Two pitches were rigged in the stopes and 10 members descended the 60’ slope – M.L – A.McFadzean – M.Mitchell descended down a further 30’ over stacked deads to a

shoty sub level which undercuts the stope above. This was totally run – no further exploration was possible.

On returning to the surface the party descended via the old miners track which follows down the course of the Nethermost Beck, where at 1300' AOD, on the north side, is to be found 'Nether Most Beck Level', again the party could muster only a total of 5 to brave the 3' deep water. A discussion was held about the hut – its anvil and flue.

The team now descended to the 'Main Smithy' and onto 'Elmhow' and the tackle transport.

The meet disbanded at Grisdale Road End at 6.30pm

M.L – I Tyler – K.Tyler – J.Adams – D.Borthwick – M.Mitchell - C.Barrow S.Cole – P.Fleming – A.Mcfadzean – C.Jones – C.Moore – D.Ramshaw – A.C.P.Thomas – G.Gilchrist.

S.Niven * 50p

G.Hodgson * 50p

N.Thompson * 50p

I.Tyler

Ps Own rope used for descent.