

1st November 1987
Force Crag Mine

Meet Leader: Peter Fleming

Twenty-two Members and guests arrived for this popular meet at what is the only working metaliferous mine in the National Park. Our host, Pete Blezard enlisted the assistance of the members who arrived early in order to clear a roof fall near the entrance to Zero Level.

Whilst this was progressing the main group entered No. 1 level and examined two stopes, one of these formerly connected with No. 2 level, which is now blocked at the entrance. We continued to the end of No. 1, where it is sealed with a brick wall on account of the Radon Gas. A copious flow of water, however, is allowed to escape.

We retraced our steps to the connecting ladderway, which we descended to Zero Level. Half way down a sub level was entered and the mineral deposits noted - mainly Barytes, and Zinc with a little Dolomite and Galena. An ore slusher and associated machinery were also examined.

On reaching Zero, we followed the rails to the end and climbed a ladder into a recently worked new stope which still has a fine wide vein of white barytes in the roof. Walking back towards the portal we looked at the flooded shaft and hopper which the previous mine owners had installed.

By now the collapse near the entrance had almost been cleared, so we returned to the mine office for lunch.

In the afternoon No. 3 level was entered and explored to its end. The Laporte incline was then ascended and the rickety ladders climbed through the 100 ft level to the 80 ft level. Many artifacts remain in these areas.

The stopes were then climbed to High Force Crosscut where two old wooden ore wagons still stand on the rails. Unfortunately the large roof fall which occurred about four years ago still seals off the exit to the fellside, so we returned down the incline to No. 3 and back to the Mine Buildings.

Our thanks are due to Pete and Anne for allowing CAT Members free access to their mine workings once again.

Members Attending:-

Peter Fleming	Don Borthwick	Gordon Gilchrist	Mike Mitchell
Damian McCurdy	Ian Tyler	Barbara Mitchell	Dave Bridge
Clive Barrow	David Bowers	Angela Wilson	Steve Clarke
Sheila Barker	Guy Jones	Martin Riley	Paul Timewell
Chris Moore	John Adams	Roy Garner	

Guests:- Cheryth Wood-Johnson , Simon McCurdy, Walter Bullen.