

29th May 1988
Caldbeck Fells

Thomas Level – Deer Hills Airshaft

Members met at “Nether Row” at 10’oclock. Whilst waiting Mrs C Bonnington passed walking the dogs, soon followed by yet another distinguished person the infamous “R.E Hewer” unfortunately Richard was just passing and could not come with us.

The party suitably attired we marched off to “Thomas Level”.

A little bit of digging was done to clear the entrance. On entry the pitch was rigged and all members descended the 150’ to the No 1 Level on the Deer Hills Lode. On returning to the level the pitch was de-rigged and all members walked up the 350 yard dead straight “Shaws Cross Cut”. The small stopes on the north side of the cross cut were explored.

A pair of rubber gloves left by myself nearly a year previously were still where I had left them and were subsequently returned.

On Completion of our explorations, the entrance was made secure and we made our way across the fell to the “Deer Hill Airshaft”.

This was descended by Ian Tyler, W Allison, I Matheson, A Danson.

The area at the foot to the 130’ shaft is littered with rubbish, from here the level/stope is driven west to a forehead. A “Crosscut South” just short of the forehead contains a small quartz stringer the contents of this have been analysed by the British Museum. They have indicated there is a rare mineral within the matrix (N Thompson).

It is also of interest to note that the level has been railed out to the forehead another interesting feature of this mine is that just “west” of our descent is a “stemple ladderway” rise going up some 50’ to a sublevel perhaps? (Unable to climb).

East of our descent the area is badly smashed and further exploration is restricted, however, at the far end of the stope is a superb dry stone collared shaft dropping down to a small sub level on completion of the exploration the party prussicked to surface.

Note: A larger boulder at the edge of this shaft is now loose and needs removing.

Meet Leader – Ian Tyler

W Allison

I Matheson

A Danson

D Borthwick

R Hewer (did not stay)

N Thomson (associate)