

November 1989

Misc

CDJ returned from a summer holiday in Portugal last year enthusing about mines & mining remains in the Iberian sulphur belt. Chris and DB followed this up with a mini (six day) expedition to S.W.Spain last December. Their visit was primarily to the cuperous pyrites deposits developed by the Victorians at Rio-Tinto and Tharsis. (Rio Tinto though is of great antiquity, perhaps mined by the Phoenicians and extensively worked under Roman occupation.). Their trip also included a visit to a haematite mine owned and worked for several decades by the Millom & Askam mining company.

This years Nenthead weekend did not include Smallcleugh, indeed none of the Nenthead mines were visited. Saturday's visits were to Ashgill, Garrigill and a working near Tynehead. Sunday's exploration was a couple of shaft descents and a level near Ashgill Head. Virtually all new ground to the group but only the Garrigill workings provided significant underground trips for all the members attending.

Don Borthwick