

15th January 1989
Coniston Copper Mines

CONISTON MINES EXPLORATION MEET 15.1.89 PADDY END WORKINGS

Members attending

The objects of this Meet were threefold:-

P. Fleming (Leader)

Site 1 Complete the exploration of the stope to the NE of Dead Dog Passage SE branch.

Mike Mitchell

Ian Matheson

Site 2 To excavate the tunnel recently noticed by Ian Mathieson at the bottom of Woodends Rise in the same stope on its NW branch.

Dennis Webb

Dave Bridge

Site 3 To descend via Top Level and Windy Stope to the chamber below Middle Level first entered on 2.4.84, to investigate suspected blocked levels.

Angela Wilson

Guy Jones

Everyone made their way to Levers water and down the crater to Dead Dog Passage via M.A.G.S. Catwalk. New stemples and boards were erected at the end of the passage to hold back loose rubble from the upper reaches of the stope, which is believed to be on the Belman Hole Vein. P. Fleming and D. Webb had meanwhile ascended Woodends Rise to photograph the wooden barrier before work commenced on the dig below. Having done this they then joined Ian Matheson and Dave Bridge in the higher reaches of the SE stope which had been ascended with the help of a "maypole" placed there on a previous visit. These workings are close to the surface and a few metres NE of Simons Nick. It is difficult to estimate the date of the workings but there was much evidence of pick marks and a few shot holes lower down.

The maypole was then dismantled and carried and lowered down to Top Level and the Windy Stope. In the meantime the dig was started. This progressed quickly, the material being a fine light-coloured slurry containing no solids. It must have been tipped down the shaft, but why and where it originated is a mystery. A tunnel was revealed which was paced out to be approximately 18m. to a blind heading. This task completed, everyone, with the exception of Guy Jones who had battery problems, made their way down to the site of the third objective. The maypole was erected and raised on a bolt anchor to reach an opening higher in the stope suspected to contain access to a cross cut on Middle Level. Mike Mitchell and P. Fleming ascended the pole and entry to the opening was gained only to find it led into the stope again, with large blocks jammed across it.

Meanwhile, in the top corner of the chamber to the north, a dig was commenced where roof timbers of another branch of Middle Level were identified by compass bearings

taken and visual alignments, but no progress was made. More work needs to be done here in the future. The members then returned to the surface and descended in darkness back to the cottage.