

17th June 1990

Doves Nest Caves Glaramara Neolithic Axe Factory
Old Mining Site In Grains Gill

This meet started on a warm, sunny morning from Seatoller. Seventeen members walked up Coomb Gill to Doves Nest Crag. This crag has, in the distant past, slipped a few metres down the hillside, leaving an interesting system of open cracks, chimneys and crevices leading into the dark inner reaches, where it is possible to climb up to the attic cave. There are a number of variations depending on (a) how bold you are, or (b) how thin you are. For a fuller description of Doves Nest Caves, refer to the book "Fell Days" by Graham Sutton, 1948.

After lunch we ascended, steeply at first, towards the summit of Glaramara. At 2500 ft is a small Neolithic (circa 3000 BC) stone axe factory site. On a sloping grassy shelf is an area of man-made flakes and chippings which are noticeably different from other rocks nearby. No rough-outs were found on this occasion, but I did find a large one here some years previously.

Most of the party carried on over the summit and along the ridge to Allen Crag where a right turn was made down Grains Gill. Some distance down here, well to the right of the path, is a small ruined building and a spoil heap with a run in level behind it. The level appears to be driven into a moraine. A deep ravine just to the east of this point contains a tunnel driven in solid rock. Just about everyone scrambled down to enter it. When the river is in spate it would be impossible to reach. Crossing the ravine nearby is a strong 10" wide white vein. On discussing this later, we could not agree whether it was quartz, calcite or barytes. The tunnel itself was only ten yards long and gave no clue as to what the miners of old were seeking. The day was rounded off by a pleasant walk down to Seathwaite, past the graphite mines and on to our waiting cars parked at Seatoller.

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