

CAT

**The Newsletter of the Cumbria Amenity Trust
Mining History Society**



Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society
Newsletter No 73, November 2003

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Cover Picture.

Mine buildings at Cartagena.

In March this year I visited the province of Murcia, in southern Spain, to follow a bike race, and whilst there I also did some touristy things. The Rough Guide to Spain says of Cartagena 'Whether you are approaching from one of the numerous resorts along Mar Menor, inland from Murcia, or from Almeria to the south, it's not a pretty sight. Scrub and semi- desert give way to a ring of hills littered with disused factories and mines ...' I thought that it sounded interesting and went to have a look. I found a landscape that many people would describe as hellish, miles and miles of ochorous wasteland dotted with dozens of abandoned mines. I drove up to look at this one, on the top of a small hill just off the main road. The whole thing is just as it was left after it last worked, with most of the buildings and machinery still in place, and no apparent restriction to access. I couldn't work out what it was they were mining, but there must have been a lot of it. Does anyone know about the history of mining in southern Spain?

A few years ago a small group of CAT members, led by Chris Jones, went on a mining trip to central Spain, and more recently there was a meet to the mines in the Picos de Europa in the north. Perhaps it is time for another visit?

Ian Matheson



Abandoned mine near Cartagena. The tower on the skyline is at the top of a shaft, and still contains the headgear and cages. In other buildings there are shaking tables and classifiers.

Editorial

Apologies

I didn't think that there would be any this time, but I was wrong. Mark Scott's telephone number on the Meets List should be 01229 466096, the phone number of the Crown Hotel on the Christmas Dinner invite should be 01539 441243 – not my mistake this - and I apologise to Richard Shaw for sending him a package with no stamp on it.

AGM & Dinner, Saturday 13th Dec.

Don't forget to return your booking form to Sheila! You should also have received an agenda and minutes for the AGM, which commences at 4.30 pm. You have time for a good day out before the AGM. Come as you are, there will be time afterwards to get changed for the dinner. Note the change of venue – This year both events are at the Crown Hotel, Coniston.

There will be a meet on the Sunday, a walk in the Coniston Fells, in good company, and I am sure there will be something which you have not seen before. The BMSC hut in Coppermines Valley is booked for the weekend for our exclusive use. It is fully equipped with night storage heating and all other facilities, self catering, bring your own sleeping bags. At least 17 of our members are also members of the BMSC. For them the overnight charge is only £1. For non-members it is £5.00. All bookings and enquiries to Peter Fleming.

NAMHO 2004

Planning is well underway for this event, mostly by Sheila Barker and Jon Knowles. It is advisable to book accommodation in Coniston for this event *now*, as places are filling up fast!

CATMHS Library & Archive

The CAT Library has had several visitors since it was moved to the Armit at Ambleside. Please make an effort to call in if you are in the area as the Armit will continue to house our collection if it is used. There will be a visitors book in the bottom drawer of the filing cabinet so that you can record your interest.

We desperately need a librarian to keep an eye on things and to catalogue new material. It is not a big job, as a minimum it may involve an hour or two about four times a year, although a keen librarian could expand this considerably if they wished. Any volunteers?

New additions

Audio tape -- Broadcast on Radio Cumbria by the FMA about their conservation work at Newland Furnace. Contributors Include Dr John Marshall, John Helme, Paul Timewell, Dave Robson & Peter Sandbach.

The Gunpowder Mills of Cumbria – Ian Tyler

Newland Furnace Conservation Plan – Oxford Archaeology North.

Fluorspar in the North Pennines. - Friends of Killhope. See the review below.

Book review: “Fluorspar in the North Pennines” Friends of Killhope

Edited by Raymond A Fairbairn
ISBN 0 9518939 3 9, 132 pages, £7.50

This work covers the entire history of fluorspar extraction and concentration in the UK a period of just over a hundred years from production of 13 tons in 1883 to just short of 250,000 tons in 1975 and the closure of the last mine, in 1999. It is

very difficult to believe that until 1927 Weardale was the principal source of fluorspar imported into the USA. The end came with massive low cost production in China, decline and changes in steel production in the UK and reduction in demand for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) following the Montreal protocol of 1987.

All aspects from the geology of the area, characteristics of the mineral, mining and finally a very detailed technical description of mineral concentration are covered. Those who attended the CATMHS 21st celebration will be delighted to renew acquaintance with Dr Paul Younger, who writes a splendid account of Frazer's Grove, the last producing mine.

Ignore the minor typographical problems; anyone interested in the Pennine Ore field (indeed anyone interested in British mining) should have a copy of this excellent book on their shelves

William Bickford

Membership

Subscriptions and Insurance.

As well as supporting the meets and conservation activities of the society your membership subscription pays for the administrative costs of the society, the newsletter, and, until now, third party insurance via NAMHO and the BCRA.

Since Sept 11th insurance cover has become dramatically more expensive and also more difficult to obtain, and this newsletter and your subscription renewal notice is late because of uncertainty regarding the insurance element. The Committee had resolved to raise subscription charges substantially

to cover increased third party insurance, but then the cost went even higher. Now it seems it is not available at any cost.

Subscriptions will therefore be unchanged, but membership will no longer carry third party insurance cover. If insurance cover can be obtained then it may be necessary to levy an additional charge at a later date. There should be a letter from the Treasurer with this Newsletter explaining the situation.

New members

We welcome the following new members:

Alan Gilbert-Voss, from Coalville, Leicestershire. Alan is a metal polisher with an interest in classic vehicles. His mining interests are underground meets, photography and preservation.

Peter Stewart Blezard

Not Pete Blezard, proprietor of Broughton Minerals, partner in the New Coledale Mining Co and founder member of CAT, though they are distantly related. Peter lives at Blackwell, Carlisle. He is a member of the digging team and has done sterling work at Greenside Mine, Hudgillburn and at Coniston. Am told that he used to be a CAT member, but has lately been involved in MOLES. Welcome back.

News

The National Trust Open Day at Force Crag Mine, 11th October

Approximately 22 people attended this event. They included local historians, members of the National Trust, mining enthusiasts, several members of MOLES, including Ian Tyler and Ian Hartland. I was the only member of CATMHS in attendance. Also present was Lindsay Greenbank (who worked

the mine with Peter Blezard, Anne Danson, and Mike Sutcliffe as the New Coledale Mining Company until its closure in 1991), and Eric Bainbridge, who worked at the mine in the 1960's under McKechnies Ltd., was also there.

The object of the Open Day was to gather information about the mill buildings and its machinery, and hopefully to persuade volunteers to lead the public on guided tours of the mill next year, when it will be open on a restricted number of days. We all gathered at the new National Trust offices one mile south of Keswick, on the Borrowdale road. We were met by the National Trust Property Manager for Borrowdale, Shirley Muir and the Countryside Officer, Penny Webb. Two minibuses took us all to Foece Crag Mill, which now has a new roof and has generally undergone a substantial conservation project from grants made available from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We spent some time looking at the internal machinery where Lindsay Greenbank explained how it all worked, and who better to do this! Others threw in interesting anecdotes. I suggested that as the National Trust had demonstrated an interest in conserving the mill perhaps they should next acquire grant aid to develop a show mine by re-opening Zero Level and No 1 Level, linked by the laddered rise in between. It would make an ideal and authentic show mine, something we lack in the Lake District National Park. However this seemed to fall mainly on deaf ears, as few National Trust members or staff had any idea of what was underground, or even that the mill would not have been here if it was not for the mine. One of their archaeologists should have attended this visit, but this did not happen.

After a brief walk round outside we returned to the National Trust offices for tea and biscuits and for a general discussion. Lindsay showed a collection of photographs taken in the mine and a large plan and section of the workings.

Whilst I found the visit interesting, and it was encouraging that the National Trust in the Lake District are at last showing an awareness of our mining heritage, I felt that the meeting ended rather inconclusively. If any of our members feel that they could offer assistance as guides around the mill complex next year, ring Penny Webb on 017687 75644.

Peter Fleming.

Water power set to return at Coniston.

From the Westmorland Gazette, 8th August 2003.

An historic energy scheme is set to be resurrected in the heart of the lakes, harnessing the power of fast flowing water and converting it to electricity for hundreds of homes. Planners have approved a small-scale electricity scheme, which will see a dam, underground pipeline and stone built power-house built at Church Beck.

More than half a century ago the ample rain flowing through Coniston was transformed into energy with the help of a turbine. This week a report to the Lake District National Park Authority planners said "Church Beck has been used as a source of water power for many years. A water intake upstream from Miners Bridge was used for an hydro-electric installation to provide power from Coniston from 1932 until the mid 1950's."

The green energy idea was put forward by a collective of Coniston residents who applied to the Lake District National Park Authority to resurrect the 1930's hydro-electric scheme. Once complete the turbine would be capable of supplying electricity to 290 homes.

The applicant, Sue Hext of Holywath, plans to feed the power generated by the beck into the National Grid, operated by United Utilities. Planners approved the project after hearing that the works would have little visual impact on the character and appearance of the area, and would not damage wildlife. An officer's assessment of the scheme said "Church Beck has been subject to pollution from the period when the copper mines were in operation. The proposed hydro-electric scheme would not have any impact on the existing ecological quality of Church Beck."

To get the project up and running the existing concrete weir will be raised and faced with local stone. Water will be channelled via an intake on the left bank of the beck about 150 metres up-stream of Miners Bridge, and fed into a 700 metre long underground pipe. A new stone faced slate roofed building will be created to house a power generating turbine, along with an alternator and electrical control panels connecting the power supply with United Utilities.

Once the water has passed through the turbine it will be returned to Church Beck through a two meter deep channel cut in the rock below the building's foundation. The meeting also heard that the turbine would not affect water quality, and would take around nine months to build.

NB. The application was subsequently approved by the Planning Board

Quarries under fire as crippling insurance costs lead to a shortage of local stone. From the Westmorland Gazette, Oct 3rd 2003

Historic Lake District buildings may not get repaired unless something is done to stop soaring insurance costs crippling small quarries. Trust Property Manager for Coniston & Langdale, Jim Loxham said insurance premiums were scuppering plans to revive small quarries and limiting supplies of local stone needed to maintain vernacular architecture.

Mr Loxham said that the problem was highlighted by the case of Old Guard's Quarry, near Coniston. The Trust won planning permission two years ago to restart the extraction of urgently needed black Brathay slate at the quarry, but the man keen to take on the lease had not been able to obtain affordable insurance.

The cheapest quote came in at £20,000 a year – the same as the estimated annual revenue from the quarry. Firms all insisted on public liability cover, which had pushed up prices.

Mr Loxham said insurance brokers had explained that they were less prepared to provide insurance cover for risky operations after the insurance industry had lost a lot of money in the wake of September 11th and the recent power black-outs that had blighted large parts of North America. The situation has left small quarries economically unviable, which is threatening attempts to boost supplies of local stone for historic building repairs, he said. Meanwhile big quarry players were not filling the breach

'The things they are producing aren't your local building stone for small projects. We would support small scale

quarrying looking inward to the local market' said Mr Loxham.

He said small quarries were also being threatened by declining interest in rock extraction as a career. Rather like farming, the average age of quarrymen is now 58 – 59. The Trust in Coniston and Langdale is now relying on erratic supplies of recycled Brathay slate, old rock that is not always as desirable as freshly quarried stone. Restoration of Dog Kennel Folly, just north of Coniston was stopped in 1999 because the Trust ran out of slate and money. Work was re-started because Burlington Slate just happened to knock down a building at Kirkby Moor, which released the right kind of stone. Another job to repair an old wall around a garden at Monk Coniston Hall is waiting until slate becomes available.

In all the Trust has some 300 private houses and cottages and 90 farms in the Lake District, all of which are going to require distinctive local stone for maintenance in the future. Demand is being increased still further by LDNPA rules that demand properties are built, or at least faced, in local stone.

Furness Relic Survey.

This work was started many years ago in order to compile a record of the mining remains of the Furness peninsular, which were perceived to be disappearing fast as a result of exploitation and redevelopment.

Although some momentum was lost due to the foot and mouth episode and because of the commitment of the FMA to the Newland Furace, a huge amount was done, and a very high quality record compiled. It is to be hoped that interest can be re-generated and that some new

individuals will come forward to complete this very worthwhile project. The following account was written a few years ago by Peter Sandbach, and gives some idea of the fieldwork undertaken:

Last Friday, the FMA were out as usual, clearing hawthorn bushes and brambles, this time at S5 Pit, Roanhead. We have been clearing brambles at Roanhead for some time now, so it may be worth considering why we are doing it and whether it will ever be finished.

It began with a COMRU meet, organised by Chris Jones in November 1992, which took the form of a paper chase around several underground sites in Furness. Several local members of CAT were present, and I went along as a guest. One of the sites visited was Crossgates railway tunnel, where an imposing limestone portal leads to a short tunnel to nowhere. It was less imposing than when I had last seen it. Limestone blocks had been hacked out from the tunnel and it's approaches and taken away to build a garden wall. A nearby engine bed had been virtually destroyed by the removal of it's limestone cladding.

There was a general feeling that the remains of the Furness mining industry were being lost to time and weather, as well as to landfill and agricultural development. With Dalton bypass threatening more destruction, this unnecessary act of vandalism fired Anton into action. The next day he wrote to Barrow town hall, and then to the CAT committee and to CIHS. From some fairly heated discussions arising, there emerged a plan. We would compile a record of all the mining remains in Furness. The purpose of the record would be twofold:

It could be used to convince the authorities that mine buildings were of interest, and worth listing, or failing that,

it would create a permanent record of what had been lost.

The area was to be divided into ten manageable patches, and ten volunteers would walk their patch to see what they could find. Then they would go to the archives and read all they could find about their patch. Having read the history of his patch, the patchholder would walk the ground again and find more relics in the light of new knowledge. When we had a list of structures to work from, we would go out into the field with tape measures and sketchpads to produce detailed drawings of what we had found. Easy. We should have it done within the year....

Well, it did not work as planned. Some patches had no remains, others had no records. Most had no tenants. The process of making detailed sketches proved slow and laborious. With two official meets on the meets list for 1993, some progress was made. By now we were taking photographs of each relic, and Anton was working up sketches from those. We would then go back and add dimensions to Anton's sketches, which he would draw out again to make a final copy. It all took several visits to each site, and if there was any delay, then the brambles which we had cut down on the first visit would have grown back.

There were other distractions. At Woodbine Pit, Newton, Anton found a chimney in need of repair, and volunteered the services of his skilled team of steeplejacks. At Roanhead, I found a mine store on the verge of destruction. Open to the wind, the next easterly gale would remove more of the roof, then wet rot could assist the woodworm in finishing off the timbers. This was not allowed to happen, but we were taking on more brickwork jobs whilst the surveying remained bogged down at two sites, Violet pit and Sandscale No1. Surveying became a

seasonal activity, February to May, when the brickwork season began.

Early in 1996, we thrashed out a policy for the new season. We would clear one site and photograph it until there was no more to record. Then we would move on. About this time, Sheila Thomas bought her husband a brush cutter. This tool has proved it's worth many times over in the relic survey, but never more so than in the dense bramble thickets around Violet Pit. The season closed when a duck's nest was exposed, the duck sitting tight on her eggs while the jungle was demolished around her. The engine bed that drove the ore washing machine was photographed at the cost of a clutch of eggs. Then, having apologized to the farmer for scrattin, we begged permission to return to Sandscale No1 to finish what we had started there.

Another relic that had been previously sketched but not photographed was the miners privy at Rita. We had previously drawn and measured it in the belief that it was some kind of pumphouse. There is hardly a brick missing from the outside walls, which demonstrates the truth of the old saying.

The 1998 season saw us finally clear of Rita sop. Peggy, Ethel and Nigel pits all needed serious scrub clearance, but by now we were becoming good at it.

This year we started at Burton pit. What looked like a simple photographing job turned into a weight lifting exercise. The single engine bed had been covered in a patent glue composed of 92% manure, 8% baler twine. This was not easy to remove. Woodhead No1 engine bed was harder still. The covering of ivy could not be removed without destroying the brickwork, so the photographs after clearance resemble a neatly trimmed hedge.

If this record sounds like a catalogue of Roanhead mines, there is a reason. Roanhead contains more engine beds than you can shake a stick at, but we hope to have it finished by this time next year. The rest of Furness has not been entirely neglected, so another three years might see the project complete. Then we might go back to digging.

Book Review

A Gazetteer of Charcoal-fired Blast Furnaces in Great Britain in use since 1660, Philip Ridden, revised 1987.

This is a well presented paperback of 174 pages. At £10.95 it is fair value, though it cannot be described as a good read. Not everyone will rush to Blackpool, Pembrokeshire to visit a furnace which may or may not have existed in the eighteenth century.

Philip Ridden states his intentions in the introduction. "To provide an outline history of every charcoal-fired blast furnace which operated in Great Britain after 1660, to locate the site on the ground and, where appropriate, to describe what can be seen there today. For each site, he tries to identify the ground landlord and occupiers, the date of closure and of building.

It is hard to believe that these 170 furnaces are a true total. Many of those listed are known only by a few traces on the ground with no written record, or a single document referring to a site which cannot now be found. Given that the evidence is so hard to find, there might be two dozen furnaces lost without a trace. At Low Wood, he states that there are no visible remains, though I am sure that I was shown the base of the furnace there, and an ore shed converted to later use. At Backbarrow, he does not mention Harrison Ainslie or the Charcoal Iron Company as owners

Ridden challenges the generally accepted chronology of some furnaces of local interest. Goatfield built 1875? Ridden says it was there in 1855 and provides the evidence. Duddon closed in 1867? Ridden reckons 1857, with a last campaign in 1871 from the evidence of the mineral statistics. He relies heavily on the Mineral statistics for closure dates of the last charcoal furnaces, i.e. the Harrison Ainslie furnaces. We know that in the case of mines, the statistics can be ambiguous, with Harrison Ainslie's entire production being put down to Lindal Moor. Does this apply equally to cast iron? That would take several weeks in the records office to check, but in the meantime, anyone writing about the charcoal furnaces will need a copy of this book at their elbow.

More importantly, this book puts the Furness charcoal iron industry into it's proper perspective. The period of interest to Ridden is from 1660 (chosen because of the shortage of earlier data) to 1750, the eve of the era of coke smelting. The period of interest to an observer in Furness might be from 1812 with the establishment of Harrison Ainslie until 1966 when Backbarrow closed. It could be argued that the existence of Colony Candles is further evidence that Furness remains consistently 150 years behind the times.

Peter Sandbach

Stone Axes at Coniston.

Since the discovery a few years ago of several mortar stones at Coniston and at Dale Head, there has been speculation about their age. The stones are large flat river pebbles with a circular depression in the centre of one side. It is thought that copper ore was placed in the depression and pounded to a powder in order to separate out the copper, and to

prepare it for smelting. Some of these anvil stones have been re-used as building stones in structures which are believed to be Elizabethan in origin.

The mortar stones could be Bronze Age in origin, but it has not been possible to date them. At the Great Orme Bronze Age Copper Mine, where there are similar mortar stones, numerous hammer stones have been found, but none have so far been found at Coniston. If the hammers were iron then they would be more likely to have been taken away from the site and used for other purposes, thus giving credence to the notion that the mortar stones are later than the Bronze Age, probably of Elizabethan origin

However, the following extracts from an article featured in *Archaeology North*, No. 16, winter 1999, gives food for thought:

‘The rediscovery of two stone hammers from Coniston, Cumbria.

Jamie Lund (Archaeologist with the National Trust NW region) describes two objects that may change our ideas about early copper mining in the Lake District.

Unfortunately little is known about where or when these two stone hammers were first found. Their present owners rediscovered them in the loft of their farmhouse situated on the slopes east of Coniston Old Man and have found a use for the stones as doorstops in recent years. ... little more can be said regarding the location or context of their original discovery, although geological analysis of the hammers suggests that these artefacts are certainly local to the region. ... the colour of the rock used in the second sample varies between olive green and pale grey. Tiny fragments of green chlorite and other minerals are

visible over the surface of the stone. This coloration is characteristic of the pyroclastic breccia local to the Coniston area. The erosion of minerals from the surface of the tool has caused the stone’s pitted and pock marked appearance. These pits ... disguise any working abrasions ...

Both stones appear to be water rounded cobbles, modified for hafting by the pecking of a shallow groove around the broadest part of the stone ... Stone hammers have been found in large numbers at many early mining sites in Britain. However it’s only in the last decade that excavations at these sites have produced C14 dates which have shown ore extraction to be taking place during the early Bronze Age ... it is reasonable to say that these articles, together with other Cumbrian examples, appear similar to the ‘single grooved’ stone hammers associated with Bronze Age mining at Alderley Edge and Mottram St Andrew and at Ross Island, Co. Kerry.

At present no prehistoric mining sites are known in the Coniston area, although the destruction of earlier workings by later activity is of course a problem at many early mining sites. On the strength of the two stray finds alone it is impossible to attempt more than making a connection between the discovery of similar tools at prehistoric copper mining sites and the significance of the Coniston Copper mines in later history. However it cannot be ruled out that these stone tools were hafted and utilised during the later working of the copper mines for tasks such as the erecting of wooden pit props. In the light of these finds it may be worthwhile to investigate the outcropping mineral veins for any visible signs of early mining activity.’

Meet Reports

A walk round the German workings at Coniston.

Peter Fleming, evening of 2nd July

Nine members attended this Wednesday evening meet. The first stop was outside “Cobblers Level”, circa 1614. It was explained how this was the first hand-driven “coffin” level at Coniston, designed to draw water from the ever deepening workings on the Bonsor Vein higher up the fellside. It would also provide direct access to the water powered stamping mill believed to have been built at the base of the waterfall by the Mines Royal Company just outside the level. In the late eighteenth century Cobblers Level was widened with explosives to accommodate wheelbarrows.

Climbing the steep fellside above we looked at the substantial remains of two stone buildings. There are several clues within and around that suggest they are of a seventeenth century origin and were built in connection with the open workings of the German miners on the nearby Bonsor Vein. Mortar stones can also be found in this area. We then looked at remains of the open works on the Bonsor vein, which was the first documented site for the working of copper on the Coniston Fells. It was known by the Elizabethans simply as “The Coniston Mine”, and was worked by them from 1599. It eventually reached a depth of 180 ft by 1630.

Walking across Red Dell Beck, we briefly examined the “New” or “White Work”, which is a continuation of the Bonsor vein, but not discovered by the Germans until the late 1620’s. They worked it by hand to a depth of sixty feet.

The next stop was made at the old working below Kernal Crag near Tongue Brow. The earliest reference to this mine was found in a letter dated 8th May 1620, written by Daniel Hechstetter. It was noted how the floor of this working has dropped in recent years and does not hold water.

Time was getting on and so we had to give the workings at Leverswater a miss. The last site we visited was the small open work next to Leverswater Beck. Originally known as Grey Crag Beck Work, it is merely a 10 meter long, hand worked slot 20” wide. It has never been re-worked since the German miners left it. The group then departed for the valley, some opting for a de-briefing session in the Black Bull. For a fuller account of the workings and sites visited refer to the Mine Explorer V, “The German Copperminers at Coniston”.

Peter Fleming.

The Writing On The Wall

You are probably familiar with the names of these ironmasters, but what were they up to on these dates?

Answers on page 24

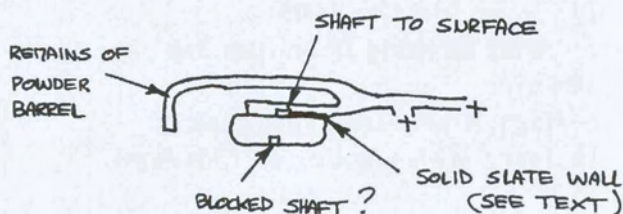
1. Alexander Brogden on August 10th 1868.
2. Mr. J W Lawn on July 29th 1896.
3. H W Schneider Esq., Mayor of Barrow on 19th July 1877
4. Wor Bro. Myles Kennedy, PM, PPCV, on 31st Oct. 1905.
5. Myles Kennedy JP on June 3rd 1904.
6. Harry Arnold Esq., Chairman of Hodbarrow Mining Co., on 13th April 1905.

Wales Weekend 5th July – Meet Report

Jon Knowles (ML)
John Ashby
Chris Cowdery
John Aird
Mark Waite
Steve Brown (NB)

For continuity readers are advised to read the report on the previous meet which was in February 2003 and is contained in the May Newsletter, before reading further.

A good strong team arrived in Corris Uchaf for this meet. The team split up into two groups. The first group comprising John Aird, Chris Cowdery and the Meet Leader rigged and descended chamber 5. Summer had brought a considerable growth in vegetation, although ice on the rope was no longer a problem, so the initial part of the descent through the undergrowth proved a pain but once in the chamber everything was OK. Descending past the level we had entered in February a landing was made on what is believed to be another level but fallen material prevented access or confirmation that this was the case. Rebolting using the meet leaders new drill allowed a further descent via an awkward re-belay (which if his colleagues are to be believed is his speciality) gave access to a further small flat area which is again assumed to be another level but again no access was possible. At this point it became clear that although the meet leader had a shiny new drill he was running short of hangers and attainment of the bottom looked doubtful. Fortunately luck was on our side and a further descent through what appeared to be a short but large roofing shaft dropped us into the top of a chamber which was descended to floor level.



Plan of Chamber 5 on Floor E

This chamber (chamber 5 on floor E on section), like most others at Tyn-y-berth was damp but unusually did have a good working face and a fine wall between the chamber and the level in the foot wall. This “wall” consisted of a rib of slate approx 6 – 8” thick and up to 15 feet long and at just the right height for lunch. The accessible level was explored (see sketch) but there was no communication with the rest of the mine. The remains of what appeared to be a powder barrel were found in the blind level beyond the chamber. The chamber had been worked below the horizon of the level and there was clear evidence of drainage, although choked, into workings below.

The ascent to day passed without incident save that towards the top the rope passed down a moss covered wet slab and the movement of the rope showered those ascending with wet and muddy moss. Returning to the surface the walky talkies were sending out further plea’s to borrow the drill.



Chris Cowdery Ascends Chamber 5

Group 2 comprising John Ashby, Mark Waite and self proclaimed rigging “expert” Steve Brown were to descend chamber 1 at the top of the site. The exact sequence of event remains unclear but a descent had been made to the bottom of the chamber but the accessible workings had not been explored. The rigging “expert” was also unhappy with the rigging and had made two partial descents and much quicker ascents. Reports have circulated that part way down the pitch he mentioned he had Not got a Bottle (NB) and needed to go up again. A couple of bolts later messers Ashby, Aird and Knowles were on the chamber floor whilst the remainder of the group enjoyed the company of the hungry midges. Leaving chamber 1 and heading outbye, deep water was soon encountered. Pressing on through this the level soon became dry and an opening on the right gave access to a chamber going both up and down. Debate on whether this chamber had been entered previously on a lower level followed. To settle these debates the author descended the face to find the bolts he and John Ashby had put in during our trip in February 2003. This proved that this was chamber 3. The slightly alarming discovery was that chamber 2 which is flooded water filled at surface, and appears to be a swampy lake, is blocked by material in the level below. This material is holding back water to a height of approx. 60’ and was treated with respect.

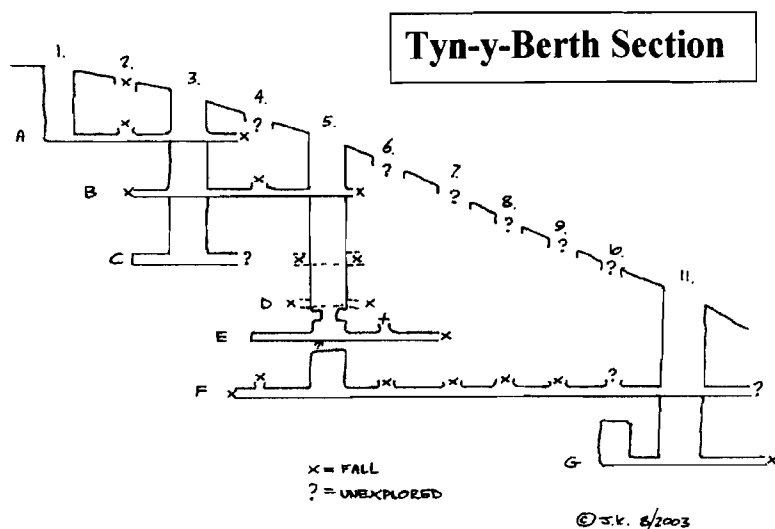
John Aird extracting his keys from the Land Rovers chassis.



Treasurer Aird and his tackle.

Returning to our vehicles we were amused by Treasurer Aird narrowly avoiding descending in a total panic when recovering his keys from inside a hole in the Land Rovers chassis after dropping them whilst recovering them from his hiding place. Cursing seemed to assist in their eventual recovery. Comments that it was a rust hole in the chassis were denied.





1) During our explorations in 2000 we incorrectly counted the number of chamber entrances on what we will term level F.

2) There are additional levels between level D and level E which have yet to be explored.

3) There are chambers on level E which do not connect with the surface.

It appears to the author that the distance between chambers 8 and 9 on the surface is much larger than that between any of the others adjoining chambers.

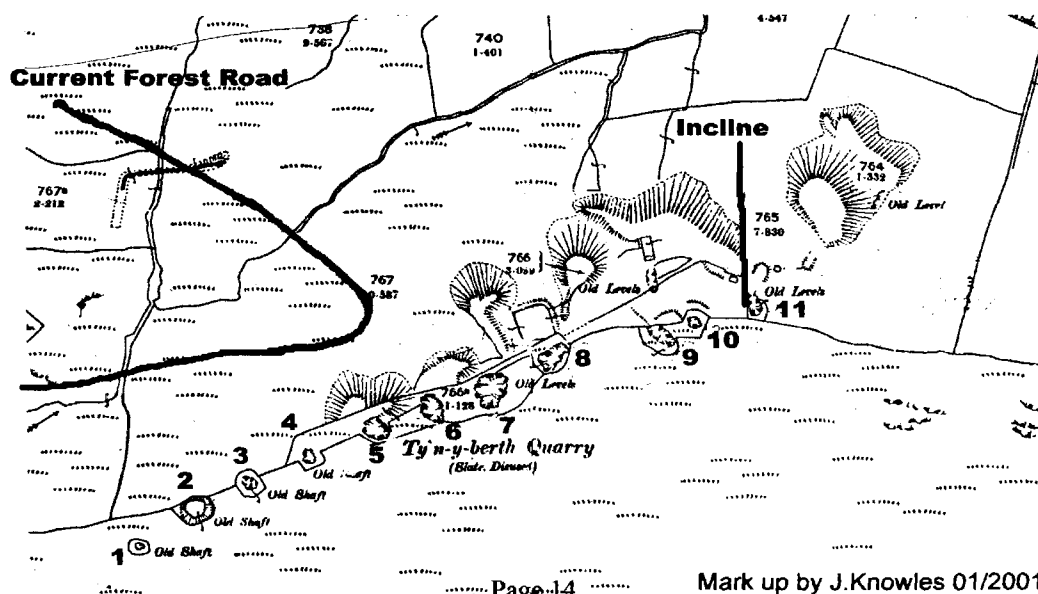
Notes regarding section :-

1. Not to scale.
2. Floor D may not exist.
3. All chamber and floor numbers used have been allocated by the author and are almost certainly not those whilst the quarry was working.

Discussion

Eagle eyed Aird has pointed out an anomaly with the above. Our explorations in 2000 found that chamber 5 was accessible but that it did not connect with above which does not does not lie well with the more recent discoveries which would indicate that chamber 5 should be filled with washed in material. There are two possible explanations :-

Whilst the 2003 meet had been planned to answer all remaining question on Tyn-y-berth it is now clear that a further meet will be required to descent some of the lower chambers to fill in the remaining blank spaces on the section. It will also be necessary to descend again chamber 11 and head outbye, this exploration having been deferred on our earlier visit. A surface visit in August 2003 identified chambers 8 and 9 as suitable for descending. At this juncture it is also prudent to record the a summary of the status of all the chambers which connect with surface :-



1. Open. Descended 2003.
2. Flooded
3. Open.
4. Open. Wet since stream enters.
5. Open. Descended 2003.
6. Open.
7. Open.
8. Open. Suitable for descent.
9. Open. Suitable for descent.
10. Open.
11. Open. Descended 2000.

The general feel of Tyn-y-berth is of a Quarry where a vast amount of money has been spent of extensive exploration and large levels. The promoters obviously ran out of money before they could find much good slate, assuming that it was there to be found.

On Saturday night we were all provided (except Treasurer Aird who had made other arrangements) with accommodation by Mark and Jackie. The evening was spent at the Buckley Pines Hotel partaking in the usual slanderous banter.

Wales Weekend 6th July – Meet Report

Jon Knowles (ML)
 John Ashby
 Chris Cowdery
 John Aird
 Mark Waite
 Steve Brown (NB)

Returning to Bryn Eglwys we split into three groups. John Ashby and Steve Brown rigged and descended the shaft near where the New Mill had been formally located and descended to the Level Fawr. Whilst John Ashby then went inbye to join up with Chris Cowdery and the Meet leader, Steve Brown headed outbye – Note 1. Chris and Jon had walked up the Lefel Fawr from its mouth to meet the above mentioned shaft at which point material which has fallen down the shaft has backed the water up so that it is armpit deep. Progressing in bye the Main Shaft is encountered down which a considerable

volume of water flows having run out of Floor 25 above. This water is certainly some of the river water which has flowed through the workings since the collapse of 1939. Progressing further inbye the vein is eventually encountered. Generally floor 50 is a damp, misty, cold place with few redeeming features however inspecting the upper part of chamber 6C with our lamps a number of chains and timber staging could be seen. Whilst the plan of the workings given in Alan Holmes book “Slates from Abergynolwyn” indicates that this chamber does not connect with anything above this is clearly not the case and a typical Bryn Eglwys slab “slide” down the face of the chamber can be seen. All agreed that a determined effort would need to be made to ascend this chamber at a later date since it gives the real prospect of accessing a part of floor 25 which appears never to have been accessed since the mine ceased working and may include artefacts.

Since John Aird had not visited the site previously, experienced mine tour guide Mark Waite gave an impromptu and free tour of the upper workings before going up the deep level from adit. Mark and John entered and partially ascended what is believed to be chamber 1C or 2C but were unable to access a higher level.

Post Trip Note

The author and Peter Hay assisted by PDMHS member Andrew Hurrell bolted approx. 50' up chamber 6 in August and a rope has been left in situ. It will now be necessary to cross the chamber and ascend further. Exploration continues.

Notes

1. A Mine Explorer is defined as one who explores mines !
2. NB = No Bottle

Jon Knowles

Rampgill 24th August

John Aird (ML), John Ashby, Chris Cowdery, Peter Fleming, Jon Knowles, Mark Simpson, Mark Waite

Also underground

Sheila Barker, Don Borthwick

Surface exploration

Clive Barrow, Mike Mitchell

The Meet Leader had done his best to obscure his role by circulating the illustrious Secretary's name on the meets list rather than his own. Probably for that reason all the above assembled at the Nenthead car park and set off along the Rampgill Horse Level for the Rampgill Underground Shaft, 2 km from the entrance. This was sunk 370 feet below the Horse level, by the Vieille Montagne Company. A cross cut was driven to the vein and an inclined shaft driven another 300 feet down the vein, but this was found to split up at depth, the incline being abandoned. The shaft was equipped with a double-deck cage taking four wagons (the base of the cage complete with rails lies on the bank of the Nent opposite the bunk house) and was used to extract ore, some from the Rampgill vein but principally from the Barney Craig Flats in what had been the Beaumont Coalcleugh mine. The soft strata beneath the Great Limestone in which the Horse level is driven has collapsed blocking the shaft some 30-40 feet below the collar. Using the remaining air and hydraulic pipework underfoot Chairman Simpson bolted across the shaft wall with élan and the aid of Jon Knowles' drill and dynamic rope. Sheila and Don had arrived to check on progress and watch John Ashby install a static line and commence exploration on the far side, being the only party member who had been there before. It was intended to follow the route pioneered by NORPEX up into the

flats above, through them and back down to the Horse Level. All having crossed, ascent was made into the winding chamber about 12 feet above the floor level (via an interesting tubular ladder with rungs at a spacing of three feet, followed by a four foot vertical scramble up the rock). There was much lamenting about the disappearance of artefacts in comparison with the previous visit.

Descending again the party continued along the adit finding at the end a wire rope ladder running up a raise. What the previous ladder lacked in substance this one made up for in spades, the main cables being suitable for mooring a battle cruiser. Peter Fleming demonstrated his pedigree by nipping up about 30 feet and securing a safety line at the top and the rest followed. Not all agreed with the observation of one member that "there was nothing to climbing ladders, it was all a matter of technique". At this stage the party was overcome by an attack of lunacy or mass hysteria, finding themselves in set of flats (about two to three feet high) of considerable complexity, in which the route was indicated by a measuring tape running off from the top of the raise. Being convinced that this was designed to mislead (backed up by J Ashby's helpful "I don't recognise this at all") every other exit was examined for some distance before it was reluctantly accepted that the tape would have to be followed. Since the party was encumbered with SRT gear and bags it took some time to get about 160 metres along the tape involving a considerable amount of crawling. (Further consternation was caused by oblongs of yellow marker tape found on the floor before it was decided they were intended to protect clog prints). Finally when a squeeze was reached, so tight that it would have required SRT gear removal it was decided

enough was enough and the party returned by the entry route. Chris Cowdery descending the ladder unprotected after casting off the rope and John Ashby de-rigging the shaft top.

Sheila and Don had pointed out that the sump closest to the shaft on the way out along the Horse Level, which had previously been flooded, had drained completely. Stopping on the way out to inspect it, Mark Waite investigated the level running off at the rear and discovered a most substantial steel kibble, completely intact. Since it was in the middle of the level, which was blind, it was difficult to know why it was there, additionally the block and chains on the beam above the sump did not look adequate to support it. Looking down into the sump a large wooden ladder could be seen descending, since there was no water running in this could be an interesting future venue, in addition to the completion of the route through the flats.

Awards: -
Most Impressive Hat
Peter Fleming
Most Impressive Vehicle
Chris Cowdery
Man of the Meet

Unquestionably the good Dr Descender, whose confident assertion that it was time to return and "there's no need to rush, it's not a race" was followed by disappearing back through the flats faster than a ferret into a pheasant feeder.

Force Crag, 14th September

Ten members attended this meet, many travelling long distances in order not to miss out on the fun and excitement of an internal ascent of Grizedale Pike via the underground Laporte incline. Those attending were Peter Fleming, meet leader, Dave Bridge, John Aird, John Ashby, Jon Knowles, Chris Cowdery, Roger Ramsden, Julian Davey, Mike Mitchell, Angela Wilson.

After the two and a half mile walk in along the Coledale Valley we had a look at the work the National Trust are doing on the Mill Buildings. They are currently clad in scaffolding, being restored and re-roofed and made secure. The machinery within, the jigs and flotation cells, etc., are also being re-assembled and restored to the condition they were in when the New Coledale Mining Company operated there until the early 1990's, two of our members being working directors. When the National Trust completes the work with the aid of various grants, it is intended to open the mill to visitors on a limited number of days per year, as a static example of a fully equipped mining mill, the only one left in the Lake District.

We then went up the spoil tips, past No.1 Level, which still discharges copious quantities of ochrous water. At No.3 Level eight members entered the mine, the other two went fell walking.

We soon reached the bottom of the incline and began the ascent. The service shaft and ore pass were looked at on the 650 ft level. There is also a winch and slusher to be found here above the two hundred foot deep shaft which dropped down to No.3 Level. Continuing up the incline the deep grooves cut in the rock by the winch wires were very noticeable. Because

of the very dry summer there was little water coming down the incline. Sometimes it is necessary to force your way up through a long cascade of water. The incline was completed about 1964.

On reaching the 1100 ft level an inspection and partial ascent was made of an old chain link ladder that could be an alternative way up to the higher workings, but this was not pursued. We had our lunch break nearby, close to a large winch in the side passage. From here the meet leader informed the group "We are about to embark on the equivalent of a commando assault course" in order to reach the High Force Cross Cut and daylight once again. All manner of obstacles and dangers were to be overcome "every man for himself and no turning back. Wimps won't be tolerated and protests will be ignored. Let's do it!"

Above the 1100 ft level, just to confuse everyone a reverse numerical system comes into play to identify the levels. From High Force Level they are numbered downwards, i.e. 50 ft, 80 ft and 100 ft levels.

To reach the 100ft level it was necessary to climb a rise up a rotten broken ladder, followed by a steep ore pass covered in loose debris. This brought us into the extensive stopes where large tonnages of barites have been extracted from the upper reaches of the mine. These stopes go all the way to surface, 400 ft up on Grizedale Pike at an altitude of over 2000 ft. Bridges of white barites, 5 ft thick have been left in to hold the walls apart. In this area is a fine shaft kibble, which was photographed. The next test piece was a short rock climb with the aid of a loose compressed air pipe. A walk along the 80 ft level brought us to the base of a wide shaft, with most

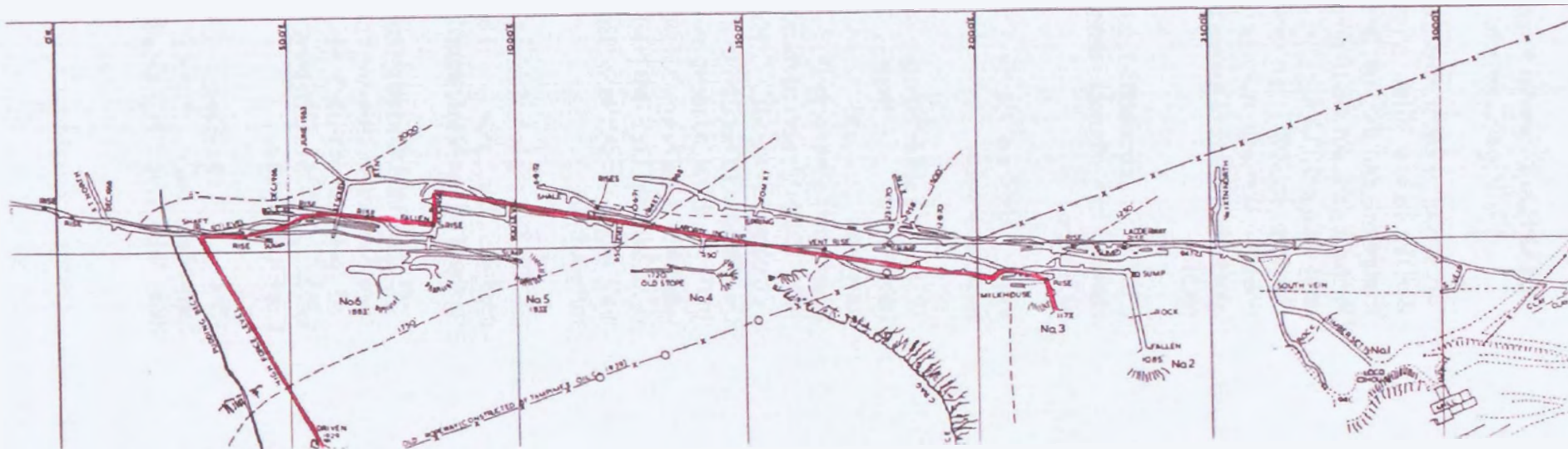
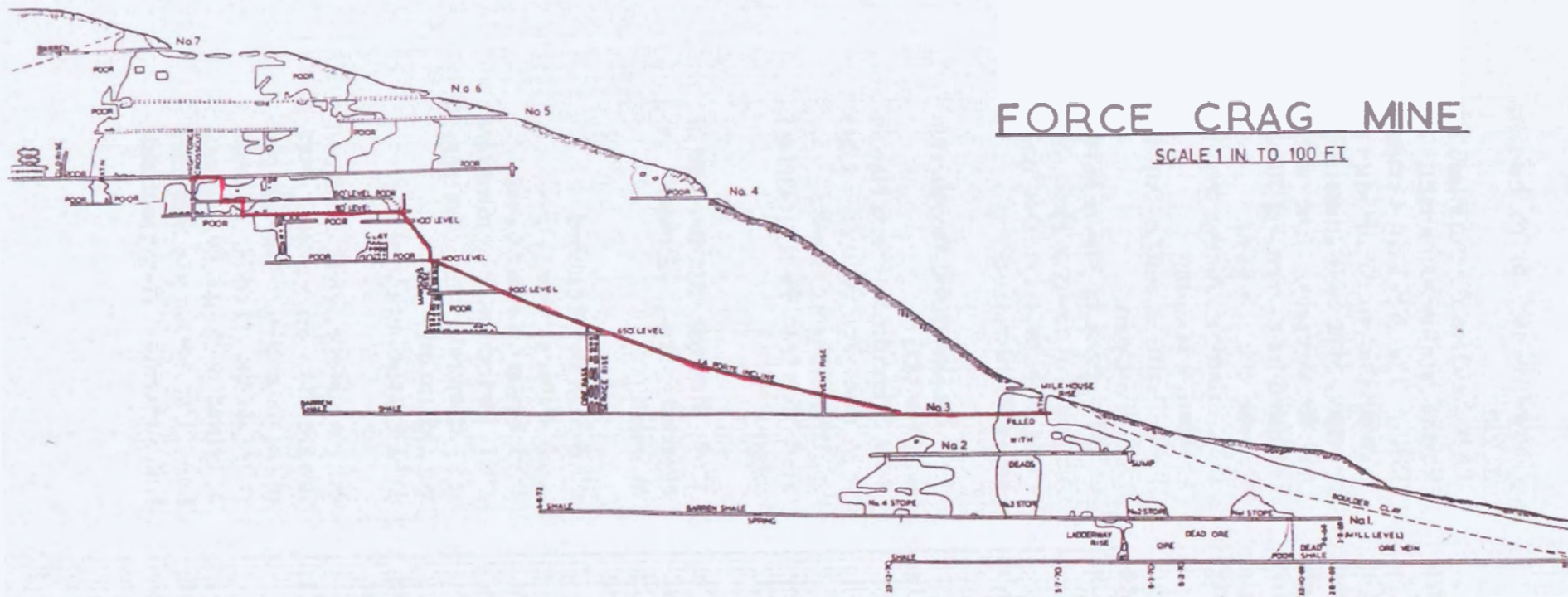
of the ladders and stagings still in situ. The way out at the top was blocked in 1987 by a large roof fall on the High Force Level at its junction with the vein. This was an important haulage shaft and manway in its time. It was completed in 1946 and pre-dates the Laporte Incline.

The next obstacle was a knotted rope ascent passing through the 50 ft level, then two very dodgy wooden ladders stood on equally dodgy wooden platforms had to be climbed. This was aided by a safety rope suspended down the previous week by the conscientious leader with the help of Geoff Cram. This brought us to the High Force Horizon in the vein, but it was not over yet. The way out is blocked by the large roof fall previously mentioned. However, in this tunnel stood four medium sized wooden ore wagons, still on the rails. Several other artefacts were nearby, interesting relicts of a prosperous era in the mine's history.

In order to reach the crosscut and daylight we had to climb higher into the stopes via a short SRT pitch, then scramble over collapses down the other side, then through a dig past the roof fall. All that remained was a walk out to the fellside high above Force Crag. On the way down to the valley we were rejoined by the two fell walkers and then on to the car park where an attempt to slash his wrist by one member was thwarted by the others with sticking plaster. Some of us then went to round up a good day with tea and cakes at a café in Portinscale.

FORCE CRAG MINE

SCALE 1 IN TO 100 FT



The Last Charcoal Furnace

By Peter Sandbach.

It is well known that Harrison Ainslie had a fifth furnace in Hampshire, but the significance of Warsash has not been mentioned until Philip Ridden produced his Gazetteer in 1987. To show how unlikely Warsash was, here is a rough chronology of events leading up to it.

c.1540 Introduction of the charcoal blast furnace, though not in Furness.

1709 Abraham Derby runs his furnace on coke.

1711 Establishment of the Backbarrow Company by Rawlinson and Machell, Backbarrow furnace built.

1736 Establishment of the Duddon Company by Kendall, Latham & Co. Duddon furnace built.

1746 Establishment of the Newland Company by Richard Ford, William Ford, Michael Knott and James Backhouse, Newland furnace built.

c.1750. Coke smelted iron used to produce bar iron. Charcoal furnaces seriously threatened.

1753 Newland Company build the Lorn furnace at Bonawe and take 110 year lease of woodlands.

1755 Duddon Company build Goatfield furnace.

1764 Alderwasley furnace, Derbyshire built. Ridden argues that this was the penultimate

charcoal furnace to be built in Britain.

1799 Newland Company take the lease of the Muncaster royalty.

1812 The Newland Company becomes Harrison Ainslie when the manager, Matthew Harrison buys into the company. The scotish woodland leases represent 70% of the value of the company.

1824 Harrison Ainslie buy the Backbarrow company

1828 Harrison Ainslie buy the Duddon company.

c. 1831 Harrison Ainslie have a monopoly of charcoal iron. Any rivals who have not shut down have converted to coke.

1857 Duddon closed, though it ran briefly in 1871.

1859 Schneider & Hannay blow in their first two furnaces. Coke smelting arrives in Furness.

1864 Woodland leases in Scotland expire.

1868 Harrison Ainslie build a charcoal iron furnace at Warsash.

1876 Lorn Furnace closed.

1877 Warsash furnace closed.

1891 Newland furnace closed.

1921 Backbarrow, now owned by the Charcoal Iron Company, converts to coke.

1966 Backbarrow closed.

Why would they build a charcoal furnace 150 years too late? FWL offers some clues. Warsash pigs were stamped LORN, a brand associated with quality charcoal iron. The furnace was associated with a chemical works, established

1864, where charcoal was distilled. He states "The furnace was round, and a very large one and was built in firebrick, tapering from the bottom till at the top it was about half the size". This does not sound like a normal charcoal furnace. The few that survive are massive stone structures protected by a rubble core and then a firebrick lining. If a conventional charcoal furnace had been built on this site, it would be standing today unless considerable effort had been made to demolish it. It may be that was part of a plan to continue production while Newland was being converted to the hot blast process, but there is some evidence that this was done by re-opening Duddon furnace. The Hampshire site would also be convenient for shipping to their best customer, A Dalifol & Co, of Paris.

My guess is that they had found a limited supply of charcoal and built a temporary furnace to consume it. It was not intended as a permanent replacement for Duddon or Warsash. This strategy would match the manner in which they operated their mines, which is thoroughly described in "The Iron Moor"

F.W.L states that Mr James Dickenson was sent to manage the works in 1867. Forty men were employed as cutters and carriers in the woods between Botely and Swanwick. In 1882, the charcoal works failed, and this vitally affected the supply of charcoal for the smelting and supplies had to be brought from Wales. Shortly after,

the smelting works were closed down, and Mr James Dickenson was transferred to the works at Newland. There he remained until 1893, when he retired to Warsash. Ridden, quoting the mineral statistics, states that the furnace was in blast in 1869, 1874 and 1877 only. There is a stock book of Newland and Backbarrow furnaces in the records office, BDB2/9/1. It confirms Ridden's dates in as much as there was 500 tons of grey and mottled pig iron stored there in 1879 and 226 tons in 1881, no iron being produced after 1879.

References

A short history of Warsash, F.W.L
A gazetteer of charcoal-fired blast furnaces in Great Britain in use since 1660, Philip Ridden

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 14th July 2003 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston, starting at 5pm.

Agenda.

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Apologies for absence | 2 | Minutes of the last meeting |
| 3 | Matters arising | 4 | Secretary's Report |
| 5 | Treasurer's Report | 6 | Membership Secretary's Report |
| 7 | Meet Report | 8 | Newsletter |
| 9 | Publications | 10 | Library |
| 11 | Coniston Coppermines | 12 | Hudgillburn |
| 13 | NAMHO 04 | 14 | Date and venue of next committee meeting |
| 15 | Any other business | | |

Present M. Simpson (MS), S. Barker (SB), J. Aird (JA), D. Bridge (DB), P. Fleming (PF), M. Mitchell (MM), and A. Wilson (AW). Jon Knowles also attended.
The meeting commenced at 6 00 pm. 8 members attended.

1 Apologies for absence from: I. Matheson (IM), M. Scott (MSc) and J. Brown (JB) .

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 12th May had been previously circulated to members. It was **PROPOSED** by MS and **SECONDED** by J that the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Item 3.1 SB could not now find the CIH website.

3.2 Item 5.2 SB had written to EH, but had not received an answer.

3.3 Item 15.2 PF reported on developments regarding Woodbine Chimney:

A) P. Sandbach had spoken to the landowner (Peter Beck) who had demolished the rest of the buildings, but wished the chimney to remain. He would like us to finish pointing the chimney. We started this work several years ago but could not finish, as in those days we could not afford the scaffolding.

B PF had enquired regarding the status of the chimney-nil.

B) JA had got an estimate of £4728 which included 4 weeks work and the hire of scaffolding.

It was decided that if we were to try and raise money for this work, the chimney should be scheduled under the MPP to give it protection. SB to contact EH.

3.4 Item 5.1 PF and others CAT members had met with A. Postlethwaite (LMRA), ? Dewey (RIGS) and M. Balderstone (Westmorland Geological Soc.), on last Wednesdays field meet at Daylight Hole. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of Daylight Hole being scheduled as an ancient monument and also as a RIGS site. Also discussed was the FMA survey of Furness Sites, SB to contact D. Robson to discuss prospect of publishing the survey in some form.

Diamond Pit was also discussed; there the landowner appears to be getting ready to remove material from the tips.

Day Light Hole and Diamond Pit (already a RIGS site) were both recommended for scheduling in Step 3 of the MPP some years ago. SB to contact EH to find out present position.

5 Secretary's Report

Received since last meeting:

5.1 Part One of a draft of the LDNPA Management plan.

5.2 Asked to comment on a planning application for hydro electric scheme at Church Beck Coniston.- could see no objection

5.3 At LDNPA 's National Archaeology Day 20th July 10-4pm at Brockhole. Mark speak to John Hodgson about:

- A) Printing our plans.
- B) Speaking at NAMHO Conference.
- C) Underground scheduling.

5.4 Information sent by Brian Lee about: a) Rimmington Mine on CD which SB could not read-Wordpro 96/97 - Action MS

b) A CD of photographs said to be of Roan Head Mine and a group photograph of Askham miners, also drawings out of Captain Kneebones notebook.

6 Treasurer's Report

JA presented a balance sheet for the period 31st December to the 12th May, which included:

- 9600.00
- £145.23 paid for stone for Hudgillburn.
- The current a/c now stood at £875.12 and the building society (Scottish Widows) a/c at £800.12
- £50.00 paid- rent Mandall's
- Total donations for Journal No. 5 now amounted to £446.
- £763.08 received from Inland Rev-gift aid repayment
- £35.08 paid -council tax for Roan Head store.
- £227.00 for subs received.
- £291.40 Donations Received
- £148.50 from publication sales.
- £291 received donations.

7 Membership Secretary's Report

IM had sent a written report, there had been two new members Adrian Mills from Cockermouth and Tracy Binks from Furness, also John Davies had rejoined.

8 Meets Secretary's Report

The Welsh meet, had been very successful and JK was organising a trip to Aberfenni, as It was about to stop working.

9 Newsletter

JA reported that there were no copies of our Newsletters in the Armitt Library. To discuss with IM the possibility of putting them on CD for easy storage.

10 Publications

The CAT Publicity leaflet had arrived. Many thanks to Karen Beer for her work on the design and for printing.

11 Library

The Armitt Library in Ambleside had produced a flyer which includes the CAT archives, IM will send a copy to each member with next NL. Please remember to use the library.

The filing cabinet is now at the Armitt. It was suggested we should also think about putting the mine plans on to CD, as they would be much easier to access.

12 Coniston Coppermines

PF had contacted the LDNPA regarding the possible re-opening of Levers Water Mine. John Hodgson (JH-Park Archaeologist) with helpful comment. Scheduled Monument Consent would have to be sort and health and safety regulation gone into. PF to meet JH on site to discuss the idea. IM had wished his view stated "In his opinion the entrance to this mine and the funnel beneath it is unsafe, due to the unstable nature of the ground above and around it. I believe that we have a duty of care not to put anyone at risk by taking, or encouraging them to pass through this danger zone unless or until it has been made safe. As the area is Scheduled and very high profile, this should be done only after permission has been obtained. DB had been reading a paper in Barrow Record Office titled 'Coniston Mines and Other Mines in the Area' written by R. Bland in 1987 which contain interesting material.

13 Hudgillburn Mine

The re-arching of the level was going ahead, the five tons of stone had been delivered and paid for. MS suggested we should start the survey project ASAP.

4 NAMHO 2004

A lengthy discussion was held regarding CATMHS organizing this event-see separate paper.

14 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

To be held on 8th September 2003 at the BMSC Hut, Coniston, at 6PM.

15 Any other business

15.1 AGM and Dinner - PF had contacted various pubs in the area, it was decided that event should be held at the Crown Hotel in Coniston, on the 14th December, PF to confirm booking.

15.2 IM reported he had a copy of the Newland Furnace conservation report, which anyone could borrow.

15.3 IM had bought the new display boards, cost £305.49, MS has them at present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

SB 15/07/03

Chairman

The Writing On The Wall

The answer in each case is a spot of bricklaying!

1. Alexander Brogden laid the foundation stone at Dalton Methodist Sunday School.
2. Mr. J W Lawn, mines manager to Barrow Haematite Steel, laid the date stone at the adjacent Wesleyan Sunday School.
3. The Mayor laid the datestone at Roose Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, where work to convert the building to a house seems to have stopped halfway.
4. Myles Kennedy laid the foundation stone of Ulverston Masonic Lodge, and
5. also the Coronation Hall.
6. Harry Arnold celebrated the completion of the Hodbarrow outer barrier with a memorial stone.

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

| | |
|--|---|
| Honorary President: | Lord Egremont |
| Vice President: | Major J.W.B. Hext |
| Chairman: | Mark Simpson, 3 South View, Leeming Lane, Burton in Lonsdale, Lancs, LA6 3LE. Phone 01524 262824 |
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| Meets Secretary: | Vacant! |
| Publicity Officer: | Alistair Cameron, Linden Lea, Pass Street, Eckington, Worcs, R10 3AX. Phone 01386 750494. |
| Librarian / Archivist: | Vacant |
| Committee members: | John Aird Sheila Barker Dave Bridge Peter Fleming Ian Matheson Mike Mitchell Mark Scott Mark Simpson Angela Wilson |
| Honorary Members: | Sheila Barker, Peter Fleming, John Marshall, Mike Mitchell, Dave Bridge. |