

Saturday 15th October 1988
Nenthead

Mike Mitchell, Barbara Mitchell, Don Borthwick.

Not the best attended meet of the year! LMQT were also at Nenthead that day I wonder how many more they were able to muster?

The day started with a rather long wait in the hope that someone else would turn up, it was then decided that Mike's original intention of a visit to Scraithole Mine in the West Allen was not appropriate. As the sun was shining (though not for long) it was decided to basically have a surface day a little further a field.

Firstly there was a short stop in Allenheads to look at what may have been a level, then up the Rookhope road with another short stop to look at what may have been a chimney. Corbitmea Dam was visited next and the tops of two capped shafts (one of which will be the Corbitmea shaft on the Allenheads Fawside Level). Neither shaft is accessible though the cappings are still basically sound. While exploring the area along the line of the vein Barbara found a hole, but as we had not brought lights and helmets on this walk we could not explore. Next we had a short look at Frazer's Hush Ironstone quarry, an odd place reminiscent of Greenside's High Horse level dressing floor barroways. Nice to see Grove Rake Mine working again (via an incline to Frazer's Hush).

Next we travelled to Ramshaw via the now totally cleared Redburn mine site. Ramshaw district was first mined for lead around 1525 & continuously worked from mid 17th century until quite recently. Working for lead being superseded by the extraction of the flourspar in which the lead had been found. Whiteheaps mine at the head of the valley was the last to be worked (now looking a little sorry for itself) see page 8 of newsletter 21. Near Ramshaw village a fence and a sign marked danger attracted our attention this turned out to be a rubbish filled shaft. A waterwheel pit and the remains of a dressing floor were visited before moving on. (This area could probably do with a more detailed investigation, I have learned subsequent to our visit that there is a balance bob somewhere on the site.)

Finally we travelled up the hill to the site of Whitesike mine which features:- A chimney (still in quite good condition) at the end of a long horizontal flue from a smelter situated near Ramshaw. Two reservoirs and an extensive system of leats. A boiler chimney, remains of a boiler house and other buildings, a winch and a large capped shaft top.

A gulley leads from here down to Whiteheaps and Ramshaw below. Following this down there is a level heading toward the shaft top from which rails emerge. The level can be entered and leads via a stone lined then unsupported passage to a short section with curved iron supports reminiscent of colliery practice. This iron supported section carries the level to an intersection with the shaft and it is likely ore though hauled from above was trammed out at this point. A little further down the hill is a waterwheel pit & the

remains of a dressing floor. It is thought that this mine was last worked for flourspar in the 1930's.