

6th November 1988
Seathwaite Wad Mine

On a superb autumn day seventeen people arrived at Seathwaite to explore the mine.

It was decided that in view of such a large party we should split into two groups. One to be led by M Mitchell taking a party of eleven to the upper two stages of the "Wad" entering at "Gill Stage" and making exit via "Fareys Stage". The other party of four led by myself to explore the area below "Fareys Stage". The reason for the imbalance of the split was because of a recent report of a rock slide in the lower half of the mine.

The small party of four led by myself descended the "Grand Pipe" from "Fareys" on proceeding down to the next pitch we passed through a "new rock" by the "window". This presents no problem and is easily negotiated.

Passing through the window we proceeded down the rubble slope and so on to the next pitch. This is a short 30' pitch (which had recently been rebolted) down to the head of the final descent. On reaching the next landing it was easy for me to see the volume of rock that had recently been displaced and is of considerable proportions. I descended 100' to the head of the final pitch. Here much of the debris had collected although much must have fallen down the final pitch to land in "Gilberts Level" 90' below. However, there are problems; the infamous "Perched boulder" which used to hover half way down the pitch is now resting on the lip of the shaft next to it in a loose pile of rubbish is another large boulder waiting to descend into the shaft below. In view of the fact that the other party could be below, a clearing operation could not be carried out.

On returning to the others, Don Borthwick descended and took photographs, Guy came to the top of the 30' pitch to see if some of the others could make the through trip the answer unfortunately had to be no.

All returned to Fareys and some quick exploration was done along the level where a bat was in residence.

The descent was made down to the car park. M Mitchell's party has had a full day's exploration of the top workings without incident.

It is my intention to return to "Seathwaite" as soon as possible to clear the problem area and make the mine SAFE. As soon as done, you will be advised.

Ian Tyler (Meet Leader), W Allison, D Borthwick, T Keets

M Mitchell (Sub Leader), B Mitchell, J Helm, J Helm, J H Taylor, S L Taylor, Guy, M Scott, Mrs Scott? (not underground), P Timewell, C Barrow, P Addison, A Cameron.