

BRITISH MINING No.11

# MEMOIRS 1979



Gill, M.C. 1979 "The Mines of Littondale"  
British Mining No.11, NMRS, pp.87-89

Published by the

THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY  
SHEFFIELD U.K.

© N.M.R.S. & The Author(s) 1979.

**NB**

**This publication was originally issued in the A4 format then used by the society. It has now been digitised and reformatted at A5. This has changed the original pagination of articles, which is given in square brackets.**

## THE MINES OF LITTONDALE

by M.C .Gill.

Mining in this area was on a very small scale, most veins being only inches wide. The veins are all in carboniferous limestone and follow two distinct patterns, those on the north bank of the Skirfare following the near east-west trend of the Wharfedale veins and those to the south on Kilnsey and Hawkswick Moors being north-east to south-west.

### Middlesmoor Pasture Mines. (N.G.R. SD 962711).

This group of east-west trending veins with a small number of crosscourses running N.N.W. to S.S.E. was being worked by Charlton & Co. of New Providence Mine (later Wharfedale) in 1864 but they were certainly worked much earlier.

### Cold Streak Mine. (N.G.R. SD 947717).

Here two strong east-west veins and three parallel strings have been worked in the Hardraw Scar Limestone.

The southernmost vein – Blea Scar Rake - was leased in 1744 and again in 1748 to James Waterhouse, Morley and partners, who took four meers. Working was from small open cuts and shallow shafts, the vein pinching before 45 m depth.

The northernmost vein – Great Spar Rake – was open casted over a length of 170 m and numerous handshafts sunk upon it. In 1753 the Barmaster's Book notes that ground had been let on this vein.

A short level worked a cross vein running W.N.W. – E.S.E. but no attempt was made to drive along its intersection with the Great Scar Rake or its southern string.

### Black Rock Mine. (N.G.R. SD 939727).

A weak vein can be traced from Cold Streak Mine running at N 35° W up the hillside. Where this reaches the base of the grit beds, it has been tried by a number of shafts. In 1779, ore was smelted at Kilnsey and in 1823 the lease extended to allow working north of the old works and on Binks Cave Vein.

### Potts Gill (Litton) (N.G.R. SD 904748).

In 1756 this weak vein was booked and can be traced for a short distance up the west bank of Potts Gill.

### Arncliffe and Hawkswick Clouders and Kilnsey Moor.

This highland area of limestone is crossed by a series of shallow veins trending N.E. to S.W. which is parallel to the joint pattern. Minerals present are barite, calcite, fluorspar, galena, sphalerite and traces of copper carbonates. In Cote Gill, John Calvert was granted 80 meers on Davey Vein in 1756. In 1813, Thomas Rathall and 10 partners were granted a lease of 10 x 2½ meers either side on Davey Vein provided that they drove a level to dewater the mine. The level, driven from N.G.R. SD

## THE MINES OF LITTONDALE

93587008 at an altitude of 1250 ft. A.O.D. and another at N.G.R. SD 93467011 at 1275 ft A.O.D. can still be seen.

Davey Vein and two associated strings can be traced for 600m westwards and has been extensively open casted.

[87]

At Lineseed Head the remains of a small dressing floor is evident and a group of three veins running N. 40° E. cross the valley, one, Snotty Bess Rake, was leased in 1745 (3 meers) and in 1746 Richard Proctor, leased additional ground on the vein.

On Proctor High Mark, four veins trending N. 50° E. have been open casted and worked from shafts about 80 feet deep. A number of these shafts are still open and have been descended by the N.M.R.S. but all veins seen were only inches wide and soon pinched out. Only small amounts of stoping had been done and the whole offers an indication of the persistence of the adventurers.

A group of three veins trending N. 65° E. cross high ground at N.G.R. SD 952661 and presumably were the ones worked by Nathan and John Tillotson and Robert Airey after 1742.

At the head of Howgill at N.G.R. SD 94956795, a small dressing floor was established and can still be clearly seen and may repay excavation. The mines were served by a small smelt mill at Kilnsey, built by the Duke of Devonshire prior to 1735, which was equipped with an ore hearth and worked until c1860.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Raistrick, A. "Notes on Wharfedale Smelt Mills", N.C.M.R.S. Memoirs, 1969.

Lawson, J. "Mineral Statistics - Central Pennine Orefield Pt.1", N.C.M.R.S. Memoirs, Vol.2 No.1.

Lawson, J. "Mines and Mine Owners in the Central Pennines Pt.2", N.C.M.R.S. Memoirs, Vol.2 No.4.

Raistrick, A. Lead Mining in the Mid-Pennines.

Raistrick, A. & Jennings, B. A History of Lead Mining in the Pennines.

38, Main Street,  
Sutton,  
Keighley,  
YORKS.  
BD20 7HD.

[89]

