

BRITISH MINING No.19

MEMOIRS 1980 - 1982



R.E. Hewer. 1980-82 "Hartsop Hall Mine 1980"
British Mining No.19, NMRS, pp.34-36

Published by the

THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD U.K.

© N.M.R.S. & The Author(s) 1982.

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.

HARTSOP HALL MINE 1980.
NGR 397122

By R.E. Hewer.

During the spring of 1980 it was decided by a small party of NMRS members to make an assessment of Hartsop Hall Mine near Ullswater, Cumbria.

No.4 level enters the flank of Wood Side at the top of the mill site and crosscuts 160ft to a crosscourse whereby the level turns directly north east along the vein of barytes and galena which it follows crossing a copper vein 70ft in and enters a medium stope 150ft long, the end of which is pierced by two levels. One, 12ft above the adit level. Both have run.

Directly above No.4 level are a series of surface workings and No.3 level. The latter enters onto the vein for 20ft and has run in. A little further north east there is a rubble filled stoping appearing as an inclined shaft. We descended the incline for 90ft onto a ledge. The whole of the vein above and below has been stoped out. Slightly above the ledge and 50ft north east a sub level (or No.3) pierces the vein and travels some distance – it has still to be explored. Below the ledge another sub level enters the vein but is rubble filled.

An electron ladder was lowered into position over the ledge and we descended a further 25ft into a zone of collapsed stoping in the area of the upper level seen in the No.4 levels stope. A small passage leads back SW from the ledge into an area of collapse. Another ladder was threaded 20ft through a hole in the floor onto rubble. We had finally reached No.4 adit level on the far side of the fall. Under the rubble is the site of Hesleps sump. No.4 level continues north eastwards to a large old stope which has been widened to head height at a later date. Distance from the cross cut 420ft. The level then enters a long barren section until the large stopes surrounding Helens sump and Ore Pass sump is reached 480ft from the ladder. The level proceeds forward 150ft by-passing the old collapsed stopes in this section, (branch vein stopes are very old) and follows through two branches of the vein picking up the main vein further along, running for 60ft to the forehead, the vein pinching to six inches in width. Barytes and Galena. Several detonator boxes and short lengths of test fuse were found by our party in the area of the branch veins. Nearby are the old elm rails, oak pegs, curved rails and steel strips for the three and a half inch square elm rails. This area is of interest.

No.2 level is 150ft above No.4 and a quarter of a mile north east. Commencing with a crosscut 100 ft to the vein which is stoped out up to No.1 level directly above. Two connections and a level below No.1 level can be seen through the stopes. The level travels over 200ft south west to Ore Pass sump where the No.1 stopes can be seen from a rise. Could be climbed. The hanging and standing walls in sections are in a very poor condition tending to shear off.

North east of the crosscut the stope continues for sixty feet to Joe Sump, 60ft deep. This was crossed by the party and we walked on a long barren section 230ft until we entered a large collapsed and shaky stope section over 110ft long. We had to ladder through some large rock falls over Jon's sump and climb upwards weaving through huge rock segments some 50ft into the stoping. (This was where the rich shoot of ore was found). A very old ladderway could be seen heading upwards towards the surface. We then descended passing the incline to Birdcage stope and once again entered No.2 level with the metal rails and air pipe still intact. The end of the level enters a small stope 60ft long with a small 4ft deep sump. Nearby are a lot of rotting stemples which one of our smaller robust members disturbed creating a situation for a hasty return. Wood level is directly above at this point standing in ore. The total length from the crosscut to the north-eastern forehead is \pm 580 feet. The vein at the forehead is 18 inches wide.

No.1 level is directly above No.2 but has run in 15ft from the entrance.

Only the foundations and part wall sections remain of the mill which was built on the old mill site. Water fed the mill from a le at running to Dovedale Beck.

[34]

Although the mine has deteriorated to some degree, especially in No.2 N.E., many of the sections are in good condition and worthy of further investigation. The area above Ore Pass Sump on No.2 level would be of interest. An old plan of the workings show a level and a shaft south west of Ore Pass but on the same horizon as No.1 level. Also from a rise by Ore Pass a way can be seen into the No.1 workings. The way upwards is accessible. In the entrance of No.3 stope leading to No.4 level there is a level, open and inviting, it has been suggested that this level travels right through the middle ore body. Again a little laddering is required to reach it.

Unfortunately Hartsop Hall Mine had to be abandoned due to circumstances not foreseen when the development work had been carried out. Lack of capital, change of lease were among the factors which closed the mine. The position now for reopening the mine is very doubtful, not for the lack of ore but for the large amount of dead capital required for clearing the workings, erecting a mill and developing the ore body and lastly for the objections from conservationists.

Some of the plans of Hartsop Hall Mine are not totally accurate. A thorough survey of ALL accessible parts may reveal some very interesting results.

R. HEWER,
36, BENOMLEY CRESCENT,
ALMONDBURY,
HUDDERSFIELD,
HD55 8LU

[36]