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## SMALL MINES AND TRIALS AROUND ENNERDALE, CUMBRIA

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### SYNOPSIS

*The following short article covers the small mines and trials found around Ennerdale, Cumbria. The details were originally traced and researched for inclusion in the Monograph:- 'A History of the Kelton and Knockmurton Iron Mines' By R.E. Hewer. but were removed before publication along with other details for reasons of economy.*

*Research by Richard Hewer, Albyn Austin, John Adams, Dave Banks and 'The West Cumbria Mines Research Group'.*

### Floutern Tarn

Also known as Red Gill Mine NGR 128 169. Tried by various prospectors prior to 1870. Faithful Cookson 1870 - 71; The mineral rights for the Red Gill venture and an Eskdale Sett (which included Boot Mine, Bann Garth and several other trials in 1866 and Floutern Tarn in 1869) were acquired by Faithful Cookson who was renowned for his dubious mining activities in the south west, indeed some of his Ennerdale dealings were questionable too. Cookson was made to take back the Floutern Tarn rights and £35,000 in shares from this and the Eskdale Sett dealings in 1873.

1872 - 1877 Whitehaven Iron Mines Co. Ltd; The vein was sited 300 yards to the east of Floutern Tarn and of moderate value. Early trials had collapsed the ground over the 9 inch wide vein. The line of the vein was traced for 2,800 feet and had an iron content of 65% (See NMRS 1973 Vol.2. No.3. J.D.J. Wildridge).

### Scale Force Mine

NGR 150 170. Ownership:- Faithful Cookson 1870 - 1871; Whitehaven Iron Mines Co. Ltd, 1872 - 1874. The low level by the footpath was driven several yards on a N-S lode, 4 feet wide containing layers of ore 1 inch to 3 inches in width. The vein yielded between 40 and 50 tons of ore. Open cuts above the low level produced a little ore. Quantities of kidney ore still lie scattered around. The path by the side of Scale Beck runs over the back of the lode, fell walkers boots exposing the vein!

**Trials** (NGR 140 170 Centre of area).

Several veins have been explored along the flank of Gale Fell. The small veins of iron have previously been located by noting the occasional hollows in the fell's flank. This indicated softer ground where the veins had decomposed in relation to the host rock. Trenches were then excavated on the backs of the vein. Each vein yielded only 2 or 3 cwts of ore which were sorted, bagged and wheel barrowed away. (Buckleuch Archives).

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### **Crag Fell Mine** NGR 103 140

Originally known as Ennerdale Forest Mine, was worked by Elias de Pass at Anglers Crag. Several trials were driven prior to 1865 but from then on extensive driving was vigorously prosecuted. A level was driven in Coal Gill and Ben Gill, another started from the foot of the lake and an old level was cleared for 300 feet. Trials were also made along the summit of Anglers Crag.

The sett was taken up by Messrs. Brogden & Sons and managed by a Captain Cook. The level at the foot of the lake was discontinued and efforts concentrated on a level 200 feet above the shore line, driven by 4 men. During December 1874 and January 1875 a tramway was laid (down the fell?). The upper level was abandoned shortly afterwards. The level ran 564 feet to the forehead which showed a vein 8 inches wide and poor. Attention turned to the old level in Ben Gill and was extended by 2 men, driving also continued in Red Gill (West) where a vein had been discovered by trenching (Buccleuch Archives).

The workings in this area were extended at a later stage by Messrs. Cammell around 1896. They employed 16 men underground and 3 at the surface. There were several drifts:- Crag Fell (main drift), Top Drift (Crag Farm), Coal Gill, Pennington Drift (GR 105 139), Goat Gill, Ravelin Drift, Red Beck Drift, Boat How Drift, Iron Crag Drift. It was planned to chute the ore in a flume or slide to Ennerdale Water.

### **Lingmell**

Trials at GR 135 135; 145 135; 149135; Other trials were made at: Gillerthwaite Beck for Copper. Captain Robinson was the manager.

Clews Gill. Mined opencast and thought to be the source of iron for the bloomery at Smithy Beck during the 12th and 13th centuries. Ownership Faithful Cookson & Co. 1870 -1871; Whitehaven Iron Mining Co. 1872 -1874. Agent W.H. Hosking.

Extensive trials by the Gravel Fell Mining Co. (Site unknown) who sold 80 tons of sulphur in 1875. Six tons copper to a Mr. Jones of Middlesbrough and 20 tons of copper to Mr. Musprall, Liverpool. The produce from 6 levels.

### **Iron Crag Drift**

NGR 128 124. 860 yds SE of Iron Crag Fell summit and 290 yards west of Silvercore Beck at 1250 ft OD. Level driven NW in ore along a vein towards Pennington Drift. Ownership 1881 - 1886 Richard Eaton. Production 1881 - 100 tons; 1882 - 400 tons.

### **Pillar Mine**

Ownership 1881 - 1886 Richard Eaton. 1881 - 30 tons, 1882 - 10 tons.

### **Herdus Fell Mine**

J. Fiddler 1866. Three men at a trial.

### **Silvercore Trial**

One level in the east side of Deep Gill. GR 139 125.

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