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LOW LEVEL and HOOKS. BANK VEIN DOWBER GILL, KETTLEWELL.

by

R.S. HARKER.

LOW LEVEL was the first to be examined. Exploration was followed by a rather rapid survey using a hand-held prismatic compass and 50ft. tape. No back sights were taken. The accuracy of the survey therefore leaves something to be desired.

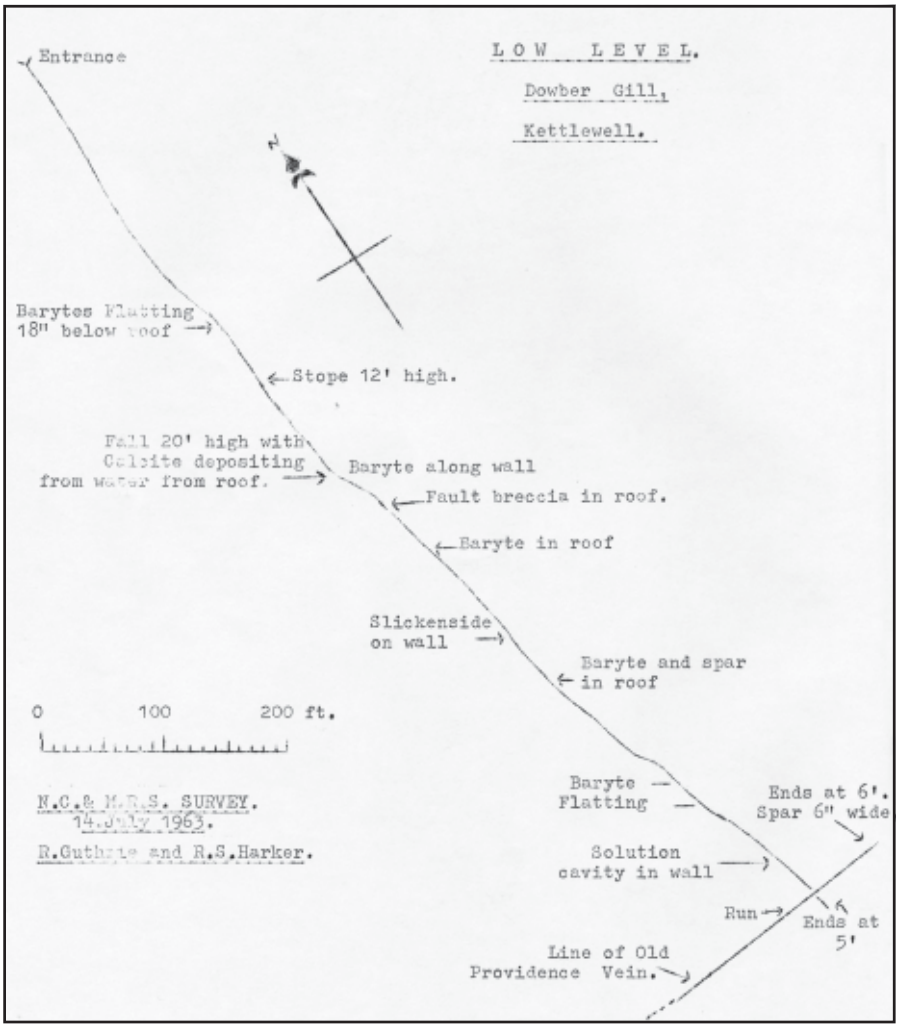
The level is driven through good solid limestone following a slightly mineralised fault in a northerly direction for 175 fathoms. Although following a fault, little timbering was required and the level is still quite safe, only very small roof falls being encountered. Mineralisation of the fault consists chiefly of barytes, visible in many places along the roof of the level. Fluorspar and calcite were observed at one point only. In searching for lead the "Old Man" stoped the roof in several places, but apparently without success. In many places, the fault plane is filled with clay and slickenside is visible particularly at one spot where it covers the length of a wall from roof to floor. In one or two places barytes occurs as a flatting in the right hand wall, being about 6 ins thick.

After 175 fathoms Old Providence Vein is reached - the object of the level. Turning to the East a level has been driven in the vein for some 20ft. with a small timbered stope in the roof. The vein appears to be from 2 to 3 ft. wide consisting largely of good quality fluorspar with some calcite. No galena is visible.

Towards the West the vein appears to have been worked to some considerable extent but after some 20ft access to the workings is blocked by a boulder fall which rises for some distance above the level. Water issues from the fall. On the left hand wall, excellent crystals of fluorspar were seen.

Low Level is said to have connected with Providence Mine further up the gill by way of over a mile of workings along Old Providence Vein.

HOOKS BANK VEIN is further upstream than Low Level and is on the other side of the gill. The entrance is somewhat constricted but inside the workings are found to be on two levels, the upper level being largely natural with a 4 fathom winze to the lower workings. The entrance level was driven directly on the vein at the level of a calcite flatting. After a few feet a natural rift at right angles to the vein was struck, being 2 to 3 ft wide and up to 10ft. high. From this rift 11ft. to the left of the vein and parallel to it a thin string has been explored by means of a short level and a shaft which is now flooded. Calcite appears to have been the main mineral in the string.



Just beyond the rift the main vein is stoped up a few feet and a 4 fathom winze leads down to the sole of the workings. From the foot of the winze the workings are accessible for some 14 fathoms back under the entrance towards the gill - in fact at one time the lower workings probably holed to grass - a depression being visible on the gill side at a point corresponding to the run at the end of the stope.

[19]

Indeed, near the run, shot holes are visible having been driven from the run towards the winze foot. Along this section of the vein, stopes go up to 20ft. in places. The

vein is 6 to 8ft wide at this point the main gangue minerals being fluorspar and calcite, spotted with galena in places. A green mineral was observed and specimens were collected. This mineral has not yet been positively identified but it is thought that it may be a double carbonate of zinc and copper - aurichalcite or rosasite, minerals which have been turning up in many localities.

The workings N.E. from the foot of the winze have been explored for some 40 fathoms and appear to go beyond this. The vein fluctuates somewhat in width along this section but retains the same mineralogy. Stopes go up to 20ft. or more and good quality fluorspar is visible in substantial quantities. 20 fathoms from the winze a cross cut has been driven for some 5 fathoms into the left hand vein. A few feet beyond this, some extremely tatty timber holds up quite a quantity of deads above a deep winze in the floor on the right hand side 20 fathoms beyond this, a great deal of water issues from the roof. Exploration was not pushed further.

A quick survey was made using the same method as with Low Level, however when it came to drawing out the survey it was found that the bearings of the upper and lower workings on the vein, which were directly above one another, differed by 15°; consequently a re-survey is necessary. As time was becoming short no further work was carried out in the gill.

References: Memoirs of the Geological Survey. Vol.XXVI - Lead and Zinc Ores of Durham, Yorkshire and Derbyshire.