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CLOUGH HEAD LEVEL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN.

J.M. Dickinson.

This level is situated on the upstream, left hand bank of the beck which flows through Lumb Clough, Sutton-in-Craven; being about 100 yards downstream from the waterfall at the head of the clough.

The entrance to the level is some six feet above the beck and partly overgrown by thick grass and ferns. The level is driven through a hard and thinly bedded dark grey shale, on a bearing of S 25 degrees W for 320 feet. The passage is fairly uniform in shape, being some three feet high and two feet six inches wide, at its widest part. Both the floor and the roof are quite flat due to the passage being cut through the thin shale beds. The sides of the level have been cut to a slightly concave shape, as though to allow a miner to push a truck or sledge. At a point some 135 feet down the level, the floor becomes covered with a calcite like substance, stained a deep rich brown. From this point onwards small runs of calcite appear fairly regularly in the roof and to a lesser extent on the walls.

From the entrance, to the 135 foot point, the level is driven horizontally; at this point the level rises on an approximate gradient of 1 in 100 feet to the termination.

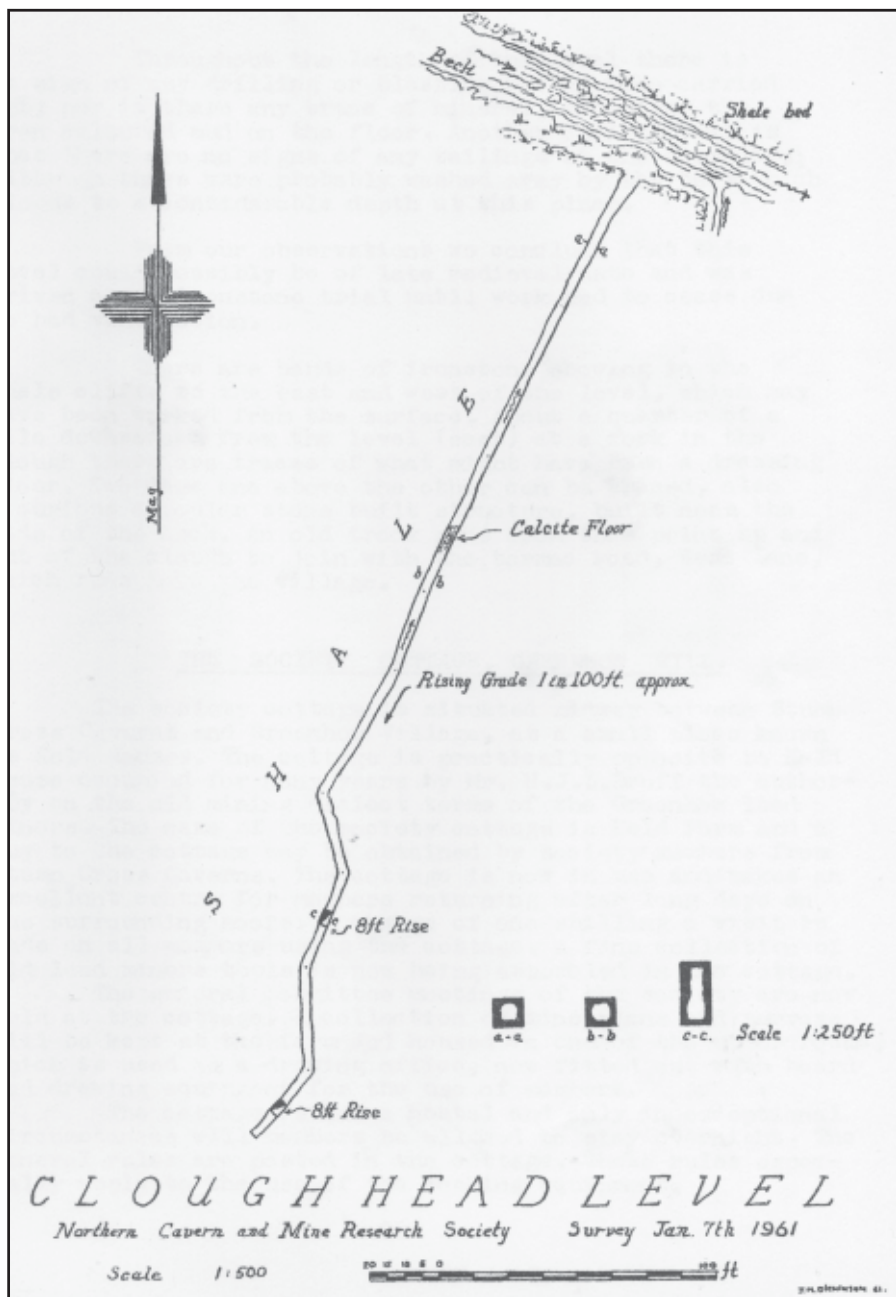
Some 200 feet from the level mouth the exploring party noticed that the air was becoming foul, although not bad enough to prevent further exploration by some of the party. As a precaution an air test was made every 20 or 30 feet. At the level forefield the atmosphere was bad, to say the least, and we presume that it was for this reason that the trial came to an end at this point.

The floor of the level from the 250 foot mark onwards is covered by a coating of fine orange-red mud. Two small faults cross the level towards the end and at both of these points a rise of eight feet has been worked upwards.

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Throughout the length of the level there is no sign of any drilling or blasting having been carried out; nor is there any trace of mineral, excepting the iron coloured mud on the floor. Another curious fact is that there are no signs of any tailings at the entrance, although these were probably washed away by the beck which floods to a considerable depth at this place.

From our observations we conclude that this level could possibly be of late mediaeval date and was driven as an ironstone trial until work had to cease due to ban ventilation.



There are bands of ironstone showing in the shale cliffs to the east and west of the level, which may have been worked from the surface. About a quarter

of a mile downstream from the level (east) at a fork in the clough there are traces of what might have been a dressing floor. Two dams one above the other can be traced, also a curious circular stone built structure, built near the side of the beck. An old track runs from this point up and out of the clough to join with the tarmac road, West Lane, which runs into the village.