Bulletin of the Peak District Mines Historical Soc. vol. 6, No.6, pp.293-4. Dec.1977.

GANK HOLE MINE, LATHKILL DALE

by L.J. Riley

Summary: A survey and brief description of the Gank Hole Mine is presented.

In 1884 a scheme was started to drive a level along Gank Hole Vein, a branch out of the Lathkill Dale Vein, which trended west-northwest across the tributary valley north of Carter's Mill. Driven under the name of "Mycross Mines and Lathkilldale Level" it was intended to unwater all the mines on Mycross vein and Greensward veins to the northwest, but to produce lead and iron ore during driving. For a time they were raising 3 to 5 tons of ochre per fathom with an iron content of over 50%, but the price did not cover costs and only 230 yards of level were driven. Further work in 1889 and 1891 did not produce much tangible result.

The original portal was just below the footpath up the Dale but this has collapsed, and entry can be gained by one or other of the holes up the dale side, which are frequently blocked by scree or brushwood.

Several visits were made by P.D.M.H.S. members in 1972 and the accompanying survey is the result. Access was via an open stope to a series of upper levels and stopes, from which ladder descents could be made at intervals into the main level. A collapse partly blocks this so that the recommended descent of 20 feet by ladder should be made via the third hole in the floor. The level has been driven along the vein and shows 2 to 3 feet of earthy iron oxides (ochre) with some barytes. Wooden sleepers have been tipped to one side when the rails were removed. At the end of the stopes there is a working forefield with battens laid for a wheelbarrow plankway. Sets of plug and feathers were found here, also an auger and a chainwheel pulley.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Terry Worthington and Steve Thompson for help in the survey, and to Jim Rieuwerts for historical data.

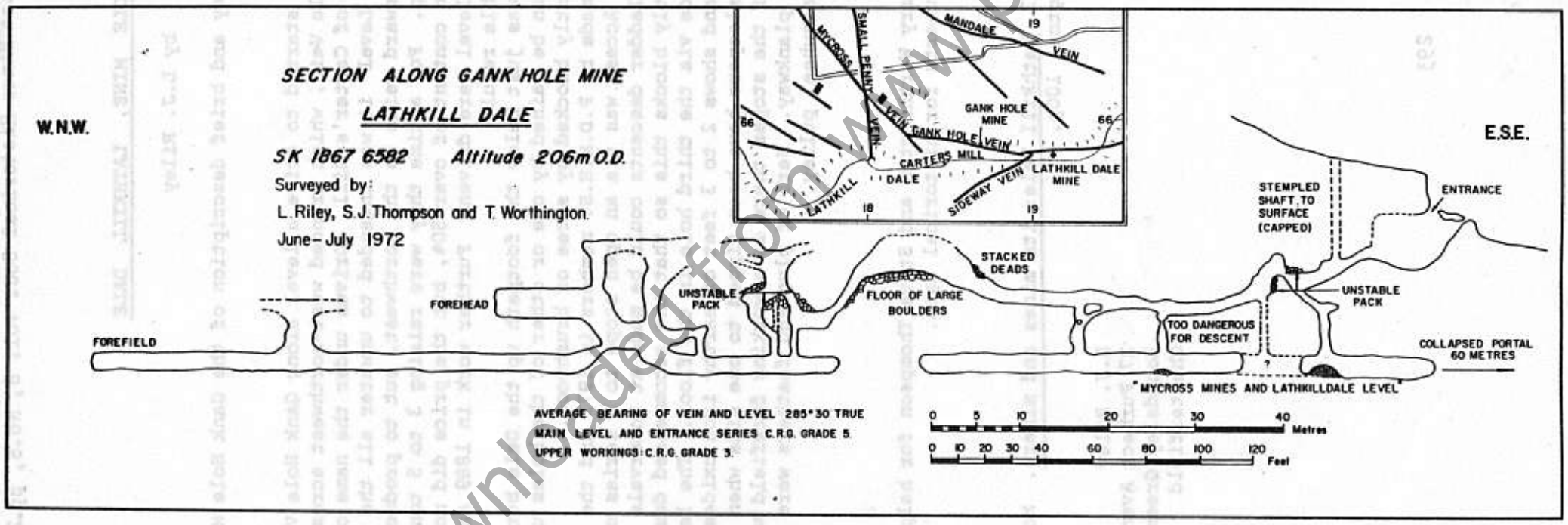
Reference

Rieuwerts, J.H. 1973 Lathkill Dale: its mines and miners. Moorland, Hartington, 100p.

October 1977

L.J. Riley
27 Purbeck Avenue
Loundsley Green
Chesterfield

Downloaded from www.pdmhs.com



Downloaded from www.pdmhs.com