

# SURFACE REMAINS OF THE NEW VENTURE LEAD MINE, BRADWELL MOOR, DERBYSHIRE (PART THREE)

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**Abstract:** The substantial preservation work which has been carried out by PDMHS members at the mine over a period of over two years has drawn to a close. Earlier work on this site was reported in Heathcote (1997a and 1997b).

## INTRODUCTION

The mine site on Bradwell Moor has been the scene of a substantial preservation programme by a group of Society members over a period of over two years.

## SURFACE REMAINS

The last feature noted in 1997(b) on the site remained virtually untouched by the group. This was the vein exposure and level that is to be found at the eastern end of the site. This feature was almost covered by rough grass and nettles. These were cleared at an earlier date to expose the feature more clearly. At this time it was noted that the level was approximately 25 feet in length, which information was subsequently found to be incorrect (see Fig. 1, feature 22b, 1997b p52).

On the 6th September 1997, four members of the group met at the site to carry out the final piece of work needed at this location. It was decided to partly cover over the exposed part of the vein-head in an attempt to prevent the re-growth of the vegetation that had been removed from the vicinity. This was done by covering the vein-head in sheets of corrugated iron with clods of earth on top. It is hoped that this will prevent direct sunlight from entering the area around the vein-head and level entrance therefore restricting the growth of nettles and rough grass, which would otherwise obscure the feature once again (Fig. 1). Attention was now turned to the level situated underneath the vein-head, at the bottom of the depression. It was decided to clear away the loose soil that had almost blocked the entrance, making the level more accessible. This proved to be easier said than done because of the lack of working space. The entrance was slowly cleared, sufficiently to have a look inside. The level is entered by means of a slope of earth which levels out soon after the entrance is negotiated. The roof consists of the vein that can be seen above the entrance, but inside where it is unweathered the different mineral bands are more obvious. These comprise barytes, calcite

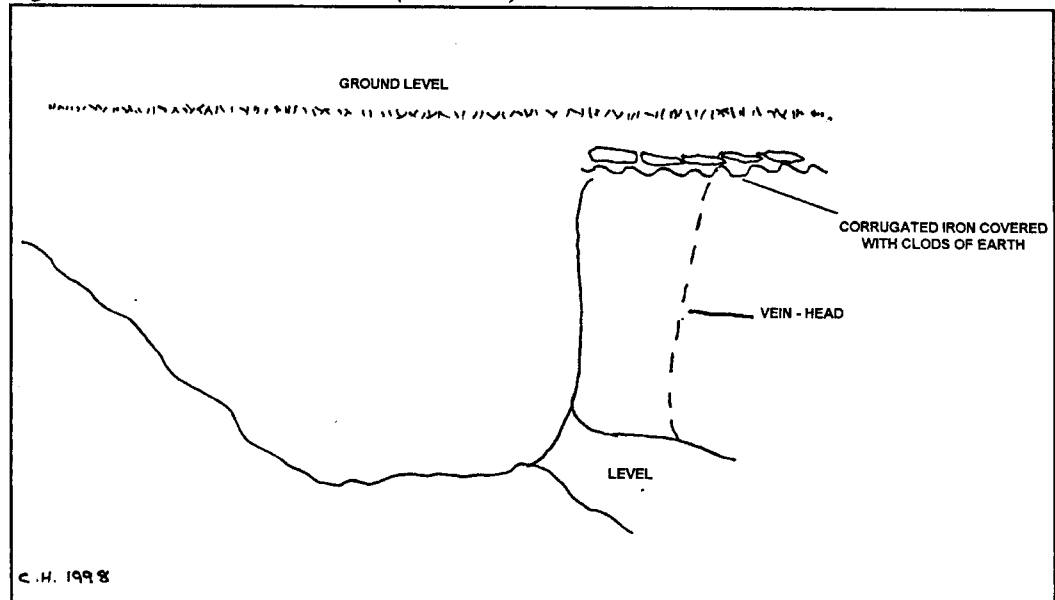
and very thin stringers of galena. The vein is approximately 18 inches in width and at one point a large vugh is to be seen. At approximately 8 feet from the entrance, stone stemples replace the vein in the roof and a few feet further on the level is completely blocked by a fall of earth. A depression in the surface appears to be directly above this fall, so it is probable that the level originally continued in an easterly direction towards Bird Mine. It was also noticed that the walls of the level contain pickmarks in several places. This is the only location on the site that tooling marks have been seen.

Once the level entrance was cleared attention was turned to the slope of loose earth at the bottom of the depression. A series of steps have been cut into the slope to enable easier access to the level (Fig. 2). All that then remained to be done was the removal of all the rubbish that had been removed from the opencuts from various parts of the site which was done on the 1st November. A six-wheeled lorry was kindly supplied by Furness Brothers of Hope Valley and left at the entrance gate to the site.

(It was amazing how much rubbish had been removed from the opencuts. It consisted of old fencing, coils of barbed wire, sheets of corrugated iron and rotted fence posts and when loaded onto the lorry it half filled the back).

The only outstanding work is the excavation of the water storage pond and buddle dam: this is intended to be done in the spring of 1998 onwards.

Fig. 1. Method used to cover vein head (not to scale).



## CONCLUSION

The completion of preservation means that soon this site, along with others in the Castleton area, are to become part of a Mining Heritage Trail. The hard work and enthusiasm of the group and Society will thus not go un-noticed.

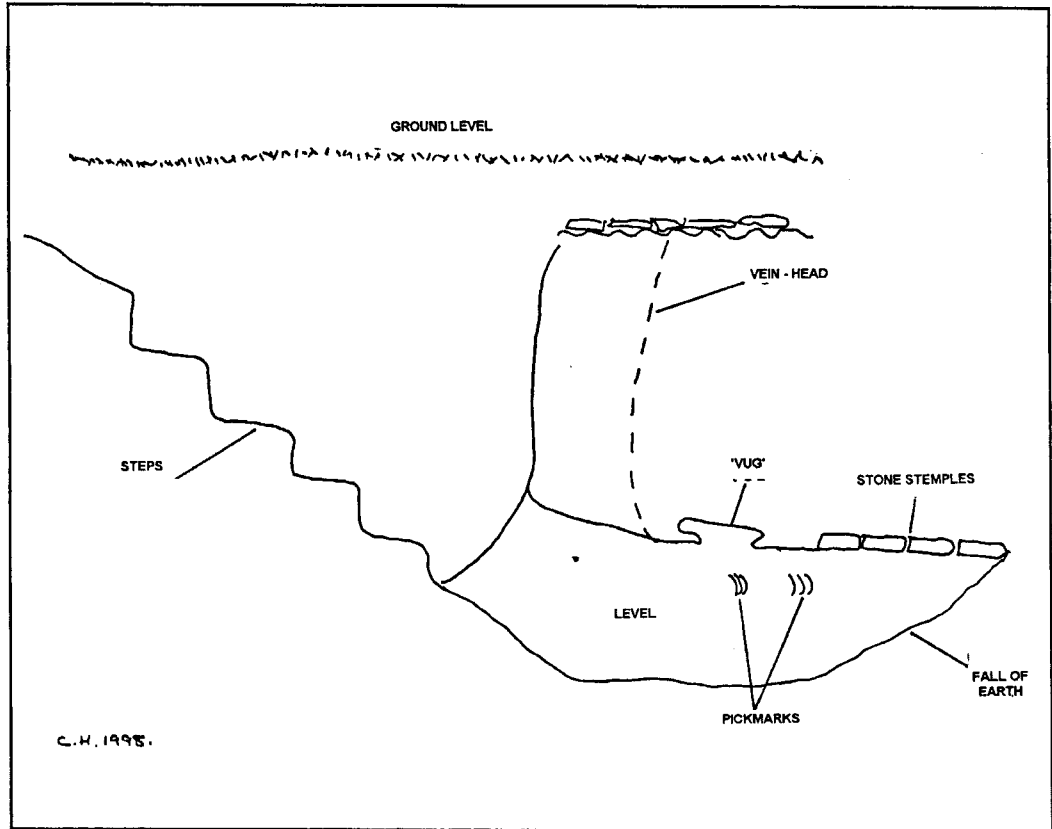


Fig. 2. Details of Level (not to scale).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr. Peter Dumenil and Blue Circle Industries plc. for continuing to supply the various materials used at the site, to Furness Brothers of Hope Valley for allowing the group the use of one of their vehicles and to all of the Society members who have helped in any way with the project over the intervening period. Without your help, enthusiasm and hard work, sometimes in atrocious weather conditions, the surface remains at the mine could have been lost forever.

## REFERENCES

- Heathcote, C. 1997a Surface Remains of the New Venture Lead Mine, Bradwell Moor, Derbyshire. *Mining History* 13:3, pp53-56.
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