NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1992

FUTURE MEETS

28th March 1991 The Society Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner. This will be held at the Ascot House Hotel, 53 Kings Road, Harrogate. N.Yorks HG1 5HJ. Tel.0423 531005.
As in previous years the dinner will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting which will commence at 4.00 p.m.
There is a choice of menu which was shown on the booking form which was included with the November 1991 Newsletter.
If you haven't got a form, then ring J.H.McNeil on 061 747 8652 to get details.

Accommodation is available at the hotel at a specially reduced tariff of £37.00 single or £26.00 each in a twin or double room for B & B. If you require accommodation please make your own arrangements with the proprietor, Mr.Stephen Johnson. Tel. (0423) 531005.

Please give this event your support and help to make it a success. The dinner provides an excellent opportunity to get to meet other Society members and discover common interests.

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1992 NAMHO FIELD MEETING

This is scheduled to be held on 27-28th June 1992. It is being hosted by the Shropshire Caving & Mining Club with the venue based at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

The Shropshire Caving and Mining Club are expanding the traditional programme of underground trips by offering a wide choice of activities to cater for every taste. These will be :-

1. WORKSHOP SESSIONS - taking place over the whole weekend, allowing participants to learn new skills or compare notes with expert instructors. The sessions will be on

   a) Underground surveying) These sessions will be for
   b) Underground video recording) restricted numbers.
   c) Single Rope Techniques

2. SEMINARS - on the theme of surface preservation of mining sites. The theme will culminate in a surface field trip to Snailbeach Mine on the Sunday afternoon.

3. SURFACE FIELD TRIPS - taking in areas of mining and general industrial archaeology.

4. UNDERGROUND FIELD TRIPS - with a wide choice of visits to the mines of

Shropshire. These will vary from easy trips to strenuous ones involving extensive use of SRT and ladder climbing.

5. SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL - with a bar, meal and entertainment.

The seminars and workshop theory sessions will be held at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Practical workshop sessions and field trips will take place at numerous surrounding sites in Shropshire, with minibus transport to most locations. A central camping site will be available but all types of accommodation exist locally. A standard charge of £5 per person will be made to cover general expenses over the weekend. The Saturday night social is optional and will be charged for separately.

To ensure you receive a booking form when available, send an A5 SAE to:- Adrian Pearce. 72, Hopkins Heath, Shawbirch, Telford, Shropshire. TF5 0LZ Tel. 0952 253310

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Accompanying this Newsletter you should also receive your membership card for 1992. If it's not inside then the most likely reason is that you have not paid your 1992 sub!!. If this is the case and you don't pay soon this will be the last Newsletter that you will receive. Now you may be pleased at that, but you won't be pleased when you also miss the next British Mining! So be a good member and send off that sub. right away. The renewal form was sent with the November Newsletter.

Recent additions to the Records

A copy of the Archive Report (1990 Season) on the excavations at the Old Gang and Surrender Lead Smelting Mills. An off-print of a paper by R.F.White on "Aerial Reconnaissance: Recent Results. Lead Mining in Arkengarthdale", which appeared in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal. The paper describes a photograph of the landscape around the Octagon and the New smelt mills, at Langthwaite, which was taken as part of a wider programme to enhance the Sites and Monuments Record.

Copies of material from BT31 relating to the formation of mining companies in the Yorkshire Dales. Copies of the Annual Statements of Receipts and Disbursements (relating to mining) of the Duchy of Cornwall's estate, made to the House of Lords from 1849 to 1919. Items relating to mining in Medieval and Early Modern Britain from the Calendars of Patent, Liberate, Fine and Close Rolls. Details of the output from the Grinton Moor Mines, Swaledale.

The Recorder wishes to thank everyone who has donated material to the Records and to add that he is always pleased to receive more information, regardless of quantity.

Mike Gill. Recorder.

MEET REPORTS

Teesdale 14th & 15th September 1991

The day started with 14 members and three visitors joining the meet-leader by the Fountain which had been erected to honour R.W.Bainbridge by the employees of the London Lead Company in 1877. The sun was shining and a convoy of cars left the centre of Middleton in Teesdale to head for the largest car park in the area. This is situated on the cleared lower mill area of Coldberry Mine at the head of the road in cHudeshope valley north of Middleton. Up here it seemed a bit more windy so sweaters were donned and the party set out on a tour of the remains of Coldberry Mine.

Coldberry has been mined over several centuries for lead and was still in operation up to 1955. During the period 1852-1902 when it was being worked by the London Lead Company 45,000 tonnes of lead concentrate were produced. The mine shop,

water-balance hoist, various shafts and levels were inspected together with parts of the 4km long leat system which brought water from Hudeshope Grains. Many sections of this leat system are still in very good condition and are stone lined and covered to keep out debris and prevent freezing in winter.

In the afternoon we made our way in as few cars as possible to Firestone Level which is almost directly above Low Skears Level and with which it connects. There being so many attending it was decided to split into three groups of six. Each group being led by one of the three members of the D.D.M.S. who proved themselves to be absolutely invaluable to me as a source of very comprehensive knowledge of the Teesdale area. The three gentlemen concerned were Tony Fretwell, John Harrison and Alan Suddes. Tony had previously sent me a package of information including maps and showing mines in the area and a plan of Firestone Level. These were copied and distributed to those attending. We were therefore very expertly given a tour of the level which is quite extensive with some well-preserved features. D.D.M.S. have been working in this level for several years and have installed fixed ladders in places to give access to some of the more interesting areas.

About three hours later we emerged to a howling gale and rain which was moving sideways up the valley. It took about 30 seconds to become completely soaked to the skin. There was no idle chat or comparing of notes as is sometimes the case at the end of a trip, in fact the speed of dispersal was perhaps something of a record!

Sunday started reasonably bright, the rain having blown away to make way for what I hoped was to be pleasant weather since most of the day would be on the surface. This morning the numbers were down to 11 members but the composition had changed with only six of members attending both days. In the morning we made our way down the Hudeshope valley from the same starting point as Saturday and passed and inspected Marlbeck Mine and level, High Skears mine and level and looked across to the trial level known as Elphatory Level. We also examined the small lime kilns and the mine and level known as Jack's Scar. It was really warm now as we headed back to the cars for lunch.

We set off up the valley in the afternoon and looked into the Hudeshope Level and then proceeded to Fangio's Level on the other side of the beck. This small mine was worked up to a few years ago and some very good specimens of blue fluorspar were picked up off the floor of the level. After Fangio's we moved on to Racket Gill mine which has become completely blocked just inside the timbered section at the mouth of the level. Further up the valley we arrived at what was thought to be Hudeshope Grains Level. This was paced out to be 2,000ft long. A result which was somewhat unexpected. John Harrison advised the leader and Tony Fretwell that there was a further level higher up the valley which would take about ten minutes to look at and return to the party. Half an hour later we returned, yes, there was another level and it looked quite interesting. It was however badly silted up, so its extent is not yet known. It may in fact be Hudeshope Grains level and not the one below whose length had been something of a surprise.

It was about 5pm by the time we arrived back at the cars. John Harrison said he had never covered the Hudeshope valley from top to bottom in one day. Perhaps he was feeling the effects. I would like to thank all those who attended and especially Tony Fretwell and John Harrison for being there, answering all the questions I didn't have a clue about and giving me so much encouragement and help. To Sally Bassham - I'm sorry the water went over your wellies, but they are small wellies!!

Damian J.McCurdy

Nenthead 19th & 20th October 1991

I arrived at the car park at Nenthead at 10.10am on Saturday morning to be confronted by a car park with only one space left, which I took. What a turn-out! I

handed the signing in list around and got 33 signatures- 26 members and 7 visitors. By 10.30 everyone was ready to go. Such punctuality was something of a novelty, but certainly appreciated.

The long snake of helmeted folk preceded up to the portal of Smallcleugh, the weather was fine and dry and several of the features were pointed out on the way. On entering the main horse level the party followed it up to the Waterblast shaft and then continued along the Hard cross-cut and turned right towards the Smallcleugh flats which were reached passing by the incline flats. The target was the well known Ballroom flat where lunch would be taken. The party continued through the Wheel flats and stooped its way through Hetherington's cross-cut, along First Sun Vein and duly arrived at the Ballroom. Those who had not been there before were suitably impressed.

After lunch it had been the leader's intention to follow the same route back looking on the way at New Fan flats and the Incline flats. However I was informed by John McNeil that the badly flooded section of the main horse level had been recently dug and this could be an alternative to my original plan. This we decided to do and visited on the way the Old Fan flats and the "Mini Ballroom Flat" an area which was new to me as well as most of the party. The horse level was followed further to the Whimsey sump where several theories were propounded as to the later use of the winding gear after it had ceased to be used as a horse gin.

The party then went out to day and walked over to the reservoir which supplied the huge waterwheel for the smeltmill bellows and the hydraulic system at Brewery shaft. After spending some time looking at these most of those remaining went into Rampgill as far as Brewery shaft to take a closer look at the shaft and the pipework which is still largely in situ. and this brought to a close the day's activities.

Sunday morning, fine weather again, and yes, the Nenthead car park was full again. This time 24 members and 4 visitors. We then drove down to Brownley Hill mine and the Broomsberry Horse Level. This was entered and progressed as far as the Wellgill Cross Vein where the party turned north along the vein. Stopping to look at the connection shaft to Haggs Level where the compressed air pipework put in by the Vieille Montagne company was routed down from Brownley Hill Mine to Haggs Level. This is still extant. After inspecting this the party returned to the main horse level which was followed to its forehead, a considerable distance from the level portal.

Lunch was taken here and steps retraced to examine the stopes and flats on the Brownley Hill North Vein and the Brownley Hill Vein. Due to a misunderstanding between myself and Malcolm Street (who knows his way round Brownley Hill much better than I do) the party split up. Malcolm thought he was going to meet up with me on the Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein but it was not to be, and they were never seen again until we arrived back at the car park and found them there. Malcolm explained that he had been looking for me and my party underground. It sounds better when I write it that way! However, John McNeil had told me of a very large stope which had been recently re-discovered in the inner reaches of the mine and we made our way to find it. On passing the level which led directly to day we parted company with some of the party who wanted to be making their way home. The rest of us set off and John took us to find the stope he had described. It certainly was impressive 60' high 18' wide and 300' long.

After looking around as much as was prudent, the party made its way out. It was amazing to find that the party with me had dwindled down to number only 6 by the time we emerged. Where were all the others? I was sure that apart from those who had chosen to go early all the rest would be with Malcolm, and he wouldn't get lost, would he? We marched on back to where we had parked the cars. Thank goodness, no cars without people, I hadn't lost any one!

I would like to thank all those who turned up to make what I thought was a most enjoyable and instructive weekend. I certainly learned a lot more about both mines thanks to those who shared their knowledge and experiences.

Damian J. McCurdy

BOOK REVIEWS

Archaeology in National Parks. Edited by R.F.White and R.Isles and available from the National Park Staff Association, c/o Yorkshire Dales National Park, Yorebridge House, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire. DL8 3BP. £4.50 + 50p post and packing.

In October 1989, ten of the eleven National Parks in England and Wales were represented at a workshop on the problems of archaeological management and approaches to conservation. The papers given at that workshop, which form the core of this volume, cover current archaeological projects or topics within National Parks. They are therefore diverse in nature but share a theme which reflects the way that archaeologists are working with the National Park Authorities' policy of pioneering new methods of countryside management and interpretation.

Of particular interest to Society members are sections dealing with gunpowder mills on Dartmoor; Greenside and Coniston mines and Duddon iron furnace in Cumbria; Crindledykes lime kiln in Northumberland; a brick kiln in Derbyshire; and smelting mills and other lead industry remains in the Yorkshire Dales.

Mike Gill

Steam Engines and Waterwheels. A pictorial study of some early mining machines. By Frank D.Woodall. Originally published by Moorland Publishing Co.Ltd. in 1975, this edition has been re-published this year by Fraser Stewart Book Wholesale Ltd. Abbey Chambers, 4 Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex. EN9 1DQ. ISBN 0 903485 35 4. Hardback. Price, not indicated on the book; I picked my copy up from a discount book shop for £4.99. Not bad for 96 pages!

Frank Woodall was born in 1912 and started work in an engineering firm making gas and oil engines. Visits to Cornwall brought together his interests in mines, minerals, engines and photography. He then joined a machine-tool company, and also became a skilled model engineer, not unnaturally making many models of mining machines. His models are to be seen at the Holman Museum, Camborne, The Earby Mines Museum near Colne and the Tolson Museum in Huddersfield.

This book has 113 excellent quality black and white illustrations, many from the 1930's and earlier. Chapters cover detail of the Cornish Pumping Engine and Rotary Engines. A chapter on Cornish Engines outside Cornwall includes their use in Cumbria at the iron mines and also colliery use.

The chapter on Vertical Winding Engines features mainly colliery applications and there are very interesting specific applications of engines to continuous winding, compound pumping, ventilation fans and Der Fahrkunst - A strange German Mining Machine, which turns out to be a man engine which uses cables instead of the more usual flat rods.

This is a volume which for those who missed the original is a must for every mining enthusiast to pick up this time around, and such excellent value at the price I paid.

Damian J.McCurdy

GENERAL NEWS ROUND UP

Conserving Britain's Mineralogical Heritage

A Special Meeting is to be held under the auspices of the Mineralogical Society, The Geological Society Conservation Committee and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. The Organising Committee comprises Dr.Richard Bevins, Dr.Bob Symes, Mr.Brian Young, Dr.Des O'Halloran and Mr.Chris Syevens.

The sites of mining activity, be they outcrops, underground workings or surface spoil heaps, are an important element in the landscape of Britain. They attract a wide range of interest from a diversity of users including mineralogists, archaeologists, historians, botanists, mineral collectors, mining companies, planners, tourist entrepreneurs and of course the general public.

The meeting will address the need to conserve mineralogical sites as features of considerable national, regional or local importance and as a resource for future mineralogical research, study and recreational collecting.

The meeting aims to bring together all individuals and organisations who use, own or manage mineralogical sites to share their particular interests and concerns, and examine ways of working together. Such sites are a fragile, and sometimes poorly valued element of our landscape and are coming under increasing threat from a number of directions. They can only be conserved for future generations if the diverse user groups co-operate with planners in developing integrated land use strategies.

A provisional programme for the 3 day meeting is :-

31 March 1992 (am): Field excursion, Alderley Edge
(pm): 1st discussion session, University of Manchester

1 April 1992 (am): 2nd discussion session, University of Manchester
(pm); 3rd discussion session, University of Manchester

2 April 1992 (all Day): Field excursion, Coniston, Lake District

Attendance and contributions from all user groups are invited. Anyone wishing to contribute an oral or poster presentation on topics related to the theme of the meeting should forward an abstract (max 150 words) to Dr,Des O'Halloran, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough. PE1 1JY. Tel.0733-62626.

Scotland

Birkhill Fireclay Mine at Birkhill, Bo'ness, West Lothian has been opened to visitors as a tourist attraction. The Scottish Railway Preservation Society have restored a steam train service to the mine which was open for the production of fireclay until 1980.

Shropshire

The Tankerville Estate owns the mineral rights over an area of some 11.5 Sq.Km. containing a number of abandoned mines. The numerous mineral veins, within Ordovician shales and sandstones, have been exploited for ores of lead, zinc and barytes, with minor quantities of silver, since Roman times. The peak of activity was towards the end of the last century, when the area was one of the largest producers of lead and zinc in the world.

Potential exists for the exploration of the area with a view to locating further mineral deposits, possibly at depth. Offers are invited from parties

interested in purchasing these mineral rights. Contact Wardell Armstrong, 22 Windsor Place, Cardiff.

Mining Magazine Oct.1991.

Norwich

Over the last few years some quite spectacular holes in the ground have appeared in and around Norwich. The area is not normally associated with mining but chalk and flint have been worked beneath its streets since ancient times. Extensive activity continued from medieval times until the mid-1940's.

Quite recently a woman went shopping after taking a bath in her home's rear extension. Returning, she was more than a little concerned to discover the bathroom floor had vanished down a hole. It was soon followed by the rest of the rear extension and then by the house itself. Despite such dramatic incidents the problem has attracted less attention, and a great deal less cash, than the much publicised problem of the Black Country's limestone caverns, the subject of vastly expensive infill work likely to take decades.

Two surveys have been under way. The first was commissioned by the city council 18 months ago. Consultants, Wardell Armstrong, looked at mining and subsidence in four areas of the city. It looked at existing data and included field surveys to establish the stability and condition of the mines. Last autumn, the DoE commissioned a second survey. Consultants, Howard Humphreys and Partners, are spending two years looking at the problem of land instability across the whole city, including natural subsidence. It is essentially aimed at land use planning and will give a broader picture.

It would appear that mining took place in two distinct phases. At first both chalk and flints were sought. With the introduction of brick for building, the miners no longer sought flint and turned to areas where there were less of them in the chalk. The 19th and 20th century mines are generally in very good condition but those from the 18th century are beginning to deteriorate. It is the 17th century workings that are close to collapse.

The workings are generally unlined tunnels in the chalk, very different from the Black Country limestone caverns where only stone pillars were left to hold up the galleries' roof. The tunnels tend to be trapezoid shape with flat runs on bedding planes. In the early medieval mines the tunnels are small, as little as 1.2m in diameter. Later on they got bigger, anything up to 6m high and 3.5m wide.

Some remedial work is under way. This year £70,000 is being spent on filling one third of the unstable Earlam Road workings with foamed concrete. Another problem is carbon dioxide which occurs naturally in chalk. Earlam Road is being provided with a borehole to ventilate it.

Surveyor Sept.1991.

Progress at Cononley Lead Mine

The Cononley project has gone well this summer, and many of the major pieces of work necessary for site safety have been completed by the Friends of Cononley Mine. The work includes a reinforced concrete retaining wall, built in the tip alongside the bob-pit at the Engine Shaft, which will relieve the pit and shaft top of any pressure from the dumps. The latter have been replaced and landscaped to hide the wall. The area around the top of the Engine Shaft and over the stone arched bob-pit was also dug out and back-filled with concrete to consolidate it. It is intended to replace the shaft's temporary cap of concrete railway sleepers with a grille. The material which had collapsed onto the bob-pit from the arch and dumps has also been removed. Sadly however the only traces of the pitwork were two holding-down

bolts near the shaft edge.

The large thorn bush growing from the top of Taylor's Shaft was removed and the ground dug out to the clay sub-soil. The shaft, which is in good condition but flooded at around 30 metres, is a stone lined oval about 1.8 by 1.3 metres. A raft of concrete sleepers was laid across the shaft and capped with concrete. A vent pipe was also left in.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers spent their second week on site this summer and rebuilt a section of the drystone arched culvert which carried the beck under the dumps. Sadly however, owing to a lack of stone, much of which has been denatured by the acid in the spoil, and the major damage done by the dragline used to reclaim barytes in the 1950's, it will not be possible to rebuild all the culvert. Instead it is proposed to pipe the middle section, which is the most badly affected, and leave the culvert at both ends.

The overflow to the mine reservoir, which had been breached, has been repaired and to allow its use as an outlet a spillway built to prevent erosion. Next year however it is intended to re-open the original outlet, which has collapsed and is silted up, to provide a means of draining the dam if necessary. Many thanks to John McNeil for risking his all and creeping down the outlet for us. In the meantime, we have ended the summer with the dam full of water and not in danger of drying up like last year. This is appreciated by the sundry birds, frogs, newts and fish which live in it and the cattle which drink from it. The jet-skier who arrived to sample the delights of this new stretch of water was not so welcome and was told so.

The portal of the Inclined Shaft, which was filled with old cars and 'chicken exhaust', has also been cleaned out, but it needs a handrail around it and the stonework wants some repairs. Further to work done by the Earby Mines Research Group, a start has been made on pointing the Magazine and Smithy buildings. The site roads have also been scraped and dressed with (limestone) quarry waste. This is not in keeping with the mine's geology (grit, shale and mudstone) but it makes better roads and is easily recognised as foreign matter. Moreover, it also matches the whiteness of the dumps, which crushed sandstone would not.

Work will continue through the winter, and next year it is intended to put up notice boards etc. to guide visitors around the site. If members wish to visit Cononley before then, however, they are welcome to do so but please leave cars on the road and walk up the private track. There are still plenty of tasks to be done, and offers of help will be welcome. Please contact Mike Gill (0535 635388).

Scotland

There is a real danger of a blowout at Leadhills due to the build up of water behind a blockage in the drainage level. Trouble was first noticed in August'91 when the discharge, from a point about 3km from the village started to dry up. Recently one of the vertical shafts along the level started to overflow. Clyde River Purification Board has called in Babtie Shaw & Morton, who produced a report saying that although there is no immediate hazard there could be the risk of a violent blowout caused by the 30m head of water. It is thought that water is gathering at a rate of 5 million gallons a day.

Explosive Free Blasting

A Swedish rock cracking technique that uses hydraulic pressure instead of explosives will be shown for the first time at the Construction Machines'91 exhibition in Gothenburg early next month.

Likely users of the patented technique, dubbed Dermanite, are contractors on noise sensitive sites or where it would be dangerous to use explosives.

Quarries that specialise in cutting out stone blocks could also use the technique, says Uls Statjlint of marketing company Westboenergi.

In the technique, oil is pumped into a specially designed expanding cartridge, which is then placed in a borehole in the rock. The borehole needs to be 32mm in diameter and not deeper than 400mm to ensure maximum pressure on the rock's outer layers. The standard cartridge develops an 'explosive' force of 60tonne at low pressure and up to 125tonne at highest pump force.

Maximum pump pressures for cartridges are 750, 1000 and 1500bar, up to 80% of rocks will crack at or before a pressure of 700bar.

Construction Weekly 27 Nov 1991

Nenthead

A through trip underground from Capelcleugh to Nentsberry Haggs mine has been accomplished by a group of friends from Weardale led by Brian Harrison on Sunday 10th November 1991.

Entering Capelcleugh, they waded, crawled and swam to the 130ft laddershaft up into the Middlecleugh 2nd Sun Vein in Smallcleugh mine. Moving outbye as far as Prouds Sump, where they abseiled and climbed down through Carrs Level into Rampgill mine. The waist-deep water in Rampgill was negotiated as far as Scaleburn Vein which was followed down to a sub-level from which a 70ft sump gave access to the chest-deep water in Brownley Hill mine.

Following the Scaleburn and Rampgill Cross Veins as far as Guddamgill Vein, the Horse level was followed past the entrance level as far as Gin Foot Sump where the last descent of 60ft through a small flat gave access to the Haggs mine from which they emerged beside the road, 5 hours and 40 minutes after entering Capelcleugh.

The team consisted of Brian Harrison, Steve Robinson, Andrew Fairless, Andrew Hugill and Melvin Lonsdale.

Boles and Smeltmills

The Historical Metallurgy Society is organising a seminar on "Boles and Smeltmills" to stimulate work on the archaeology and metallurgy of the lead industry. This will be held on the 15th-17th May 1992, at Low Row in Swaledale, North Yorkshire. Provisional costs are £10 non-residential or £35 residential. Full details from David Cranstone, 59a Dartmouth Avenue, Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. NE9 6XA. Phone 091-482-2004.

Clwyd

Grosvenor Caving Club have been busy over the last few years in opening up various sections of the Westminster Vein at Erryrys, Clwyd. The whole vein was drained by the Nant Adda Adit which until recently was blocked after about 200yds. This blockage has now been cleared and much more of this adit is now accessible. Work has also been carried out on the Upper Day Level of Westminster Mine and the extension of the Nant Adda Adit which was driven to drain the Bog Mine. So far in excess of two miles of workings have been opened up and work continues.

Cris Ebbs.

The Yorkshire Dales Project

The Yorkshire Dales Project is jointly funded by English Heritage and the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments (England) and supported by the YDNP and the North Yorkshire County Council. It began in January 1989 and is due for completion at the end of March 1992. It is essentially a desk-based project to provide a basic inventory of the archaeology of that part of North Yorkshire west of easting 420 on the National Grid. It is based at Shelley House, in York, where the RCHME's Air Photographic Unit and its National Archaeology Record are collaborating to produce overlay tracings of the 1/10,000 O.S. sheets, showing the archaeological features, together with a computerised data base containing details of each site. They are taking the data from vertical and oblique photographs, combined with the first edition (c1850) 1/10,560 Ordnance Survey County Sheets, with the National Grid as control.

The results of the project, which will have an immediate impact on development control, are not intended to be a complete inventory. Nevertheless, it is a very cost effective way of mapping large areas and all aspects of archaeology are being recorded. Of particular interest to members, however, valuable knowledge has been gained on recording the "industrial landscapes" produced by mining and quarrying. Mike Gill visited the project in York and was very impressed with the accuracy of the work he was shown.

Corrections

A couple of corrections are required to the November'91 Newsletter. These have been kindly pointed out by members and in both cases are correcting items extracted from various newspapers - always a bit suspect!

1. Geevor does not date back to Phoenicians. This was apparently an invention, now disproved, of a 17th century Welsh romanticist. The earliest recorded working of Geevor was in 1768 as The Geaver Mine (yes, this spelling is correct!) in 14 shares. The late Cyril Noall, who wrote the book on Geevor, was aware of this fact but somehow omitted it.

2. The Aberfeldy item mentioned the mining company responsible as being NI, this should be MI Great Britain, a part of the American Halliburton Group. Also the mine is intended to produce Barytes and not Pyrites.

EDITORS COMMENTS

Thanks. Thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter both those named after certain articles and the following who have also sent in information which has been used:- John McNeil, Dave Blundell, Justin Brooke, Kevin McLaren, Dave Banks, Mike Gill,

The next Newsletter will be published in May 1992. Please send any material for inclusion to the Newsletter Editor, at the address below before 31st March 1992.
Damian J.McCurdy, "Denefield", 111 Barn Lane, Golborne, Warrington. WA3 3PR.
Tel:- 0942 718192.