



The Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter

Society News

AGM

The 2009 AGM will be held on 7 March at the Cross Keys Inn, Otley Road, Skipton, BD23 2JR. The Cross Keys is near the centre of Skipton and on the east side of the town. Please book in advance if you want a free buffet – see the enclosed form for contact details.

The buffet will be available from 12 noon. Before the business meeting, we will have a presentation by Neil Redfern of English Heritage. In response to letters expressing our concern about the management of the mining remains on Grassington Moor, Neil has offered to come and answer our questions.

The agenda for the AGM is – Minutes of the 2008 AGM, matters arising from the minutes, Reports (Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Secretary, Editor, Sales Manager, Newsletter Editor, Website Manager, Recorder, Librarian, NAMHO, President), Insurance, Election of Officers (nominations may be made using the enclosed form), any other business.

February 2009

Grassington Moor Lead Mining Landscape Update

English Heritage's Response to NMRS' letter written after the Autumn Meeting

At the Autumn Meeting, considerable concern was expressed about the damage being done to the lead mining remains on Grassington Moor.

Those present at the meeting authorised Sallie to write to English Heritage, the local MP, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the leader of the local Council. The first three replied and Neil Redfern of English Heritage has asked that his letter be made available to all NMRS members.

Although, in the letter, he invites further questions, in the first instance he would like these to be brought to him at the AGM. If you cannot attend, please send questions and comments to Sallie (015 24241851 or sbassham@nildram.co.uk)

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and only after that write to English Heritage with any further points and questions.

Dear Ms Bassham

Re: Grassington Moor Lead Mines

Thank you for your letter to Dr Simon Thurley of the 29th October 2008 regarding damage to the mining remains at Grassington, I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

Large parts of the lead mining remains are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. As you mention in your letter it is a criminal offence under the 1979 Act to undertake certain works without the consent of the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture Media and Sport. English Heritage is aware of the issues around the maintenance of the 'New Dukes Road' which crosses Grassington Moor and the use of spoil heaps as part of this work. We are currently in discussions about the management of the road and the wider industrial remains with the Shooting Estate, local landowner and National Park and hope to develop a long-term solution to some of the issues you identify in your letter.

To inform these discussions our own Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team is working with us to assess and record the features adjacent to the road and offer us advice on the impact of different maintenance works to the track. From this we hope to develop a management plan to inform future repairs and maintenance to the track and to avoid the use of sensitive spoil heaps. At this time we do not intend to take forward any legal proceedings as it is clear maintenance and management works to the track will remain necessary in the future. Our objective is to secure an appropriate methodology to undertake this work.

Initial survey work has indicated that the works to the New Duke's Road actually have some beneficial results by preventing wider damage to the monuments from water runoff after heavy rain. The survey work has also shown that since the abandonment of the industrial activity on the moor, natural process have taken over which are very hard to control without intensive management such as that which has taken place to the New Duke's Road over the years.

We remain concerned by the use of spoil heaps to repair the track but hope our approach will develop a long-term, evidence based solution to some of the management issues affecting the monument.

Thank you very much for your interest in the site and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Neil Redfern

North Yorkshire Team Lead & Inspector of Ancient Monuments

NMRS LATEST REPORT

Damage to Grassington Moor Scheduled Ancient Monument

During the spring and summer of 2008 unauthorised repairs were made to the road system on Grassington Moor. These works, including the removal of material from several areas to carry out repairs to the roads, have resulted in damage to the Scheduled Ancient Monument. English Heritage was told that damage was occurring in April yet it continued until at least August.

A Scheduled Ancient Monument is the highest level of designation given to an archaeological site. This means that

Grassington Moor has the same level of protection as monuments such as Stonehenge.

An independent assessment of the damage has recorded events associated with the unauthorised works. These have been scored using a scale of 1 to 3; with 1 representing the most damaging events and 3 the least damaging.

A total of 130 events were recorded. 20 are classified at Level One, 15 are classified at Level Two, 93 are classified at Level Three, and two events were classified as non-damaging.

The 20 Level One events are the most damaging. These include 15 areas where mining waste has been disturbed and removed. This has affected over 700m² of ground.

This survey has pointed out that the road repairs:

- ◆ are of a poor standard - many are failing already - this means that they will need re-doing soon because this was not a long-term solution
- ◆ have been carried out insensitively with no consideration for the historic importance or protected status of the site
- ◆ are directing surface water and fine material onto inappropriate areas, contaminating archaeological deposits and causing other potential problems such as directing water down a shaft, and onto scheduled structures
- ◆ have caused unnecessary damage to areas of waste tips reworked during the 20th century. These areas have had no archaeological study but in most cases have a unique physical character relating to the plant and machinery used to work them
- ◆ have caused unnecessary damage to undisturbed areas, both directly

by removal of material and indirectly by redirecting surface water.

The English Heritage Website states:
*"It is against the law to:
Damage a scheduled monument
by carrying out works without consent
Cause reckless or deliberate
damage
Use a metal detector or remove
an object found with one without
a licence from English Heritage
Conviction for these offences
can lead to fines."*

These works have all been carried out without consent and could be considered as reckless and deliberate damage.

If this level of damage happened at Stonehenge the public would expect prosecution. Should Grassington Moor be treated differently?

If your answer is NO, then help our campaign to save Grassington Moor by sending complaints about this damage to:

Dr Simon Thurley,
Chief Executive,
English Heritage,
1 Waterhouse Square,
138-142 Holborn
London
EC1N 2ST

The English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the area will be coming to the AGM on March 7th at The Cross Keys Inn, Skipton to answer questions on this matter. It would be very useful to have as many society members as possible attending to demonstrate support for this campaign.

Further information including photographs of the damage will be added to the Society website www.nmrs.co.uk.

Meets in 2009

Please, always contact the meet leader beforehand; do not just turn up on the day. If you have never been underground before and do not have a hard hat and lamp, contact the meet leader to see if a loan can be arranged.

11 April. Underground meet at Hudeshope Valley. Both easy and moderate options will be available depending on the experience and preference of those attending. Meet at the pump in Middleton-in-Teesdale at 10.30am. Leader is David Young, 018 336 31165.

2 May. Walk at Cow Green, Teesdale. Meet at the reservoir car park (NY 81 30) at 10.30am. If the weather is fine we will walk to the Greenhurth and Dubbysike mines (mostly on mine tracks): if it is raining we will concentrate on mines nearer the car park. Bring BM77 if you have a copy. Leaders are Ray Fairbairn and Sallie Bassham, 015 2424 1851.

16 May. Underground meet at Smallcleugh, Nenthead. Meet in the Heritage Centre car park at 10.30am. Leader is Ian Eeles, 01913 882275.

6 June. Walk in Littondale to see the 'clouder' sites which aroused great interest when they were the subject of Yvonne Luke's talk at the 2008 Autumn meeting and her article in British Mining 78. Meet on the Green at Arncliffe (SE 93 71) at 10am. Bring packed lunch, wear suitable walking boots for rough terrain and carry water-proof clothing.

4 July. Poynton Collieries. 10.30am start. Meet at Nelson Pit Visitor Centre, Lyme Road, Higher Poynton. NGR SJ944833. Plenty of car parking and bus service (191) hourly from Stockport. Walk looking at features and remains of collieries that last operated in 1935.

Surfaced and unsurfaced footpaths, approx 5 hours including lunch break at Visitor Centre picnic area/pub/cafe. Maximum number 16 people. Leader David Kitching, 01625 423249 or email davidk@broccross.co.uk

25 July. Underground meet at Greenside Mine, Helvellyn. The mine is fairly dry and level, apart from a scramble to get in and out. Meet at the top end of the Glenridding Lake District National Park car park (NY 38 16) at 10am. Leader is David Young, 018 336 31165.

22 August. Sleil Gill – Booze Moor, Arkengarthdale. 10.30am at Langthwaite car park, NZ005023. A surface walk and discussion of the mining remains. Maximum of 12 people. A strenuous walk on rough terrain. Leader Miles Johnson 01969 652361 or miles.johnson@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Joint meet with PDMHS on 5 September 2009

We are going to welcome PDMHS to Grassington Moor and offer a choice of six of walks (long and short, strenuous and easy) to see some of the great variety of mining landscape features. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help – more volunteers welcome, especially to co-lead walks and to be available at Yarnbury as 'gofers'.

Tea and coffee will be available at Linton Church from 10am – there are several miners' graves in the church-yard – and walks will start from Yarnbury. Everyone will be provided with a free packed lunch, and Peter Pearson has kindly volunteered to provide hot drinks at Yarnbury when people finish their walks.

Pre-booking is essential – sbassham@nildram.co.uk and 015 2424 1851.

Library News

Thank you to Ivor Brown for a box of Journals. These include several copies of Mining Magazine, some Subterranea Britannica publications, International Mining Equipment Reviews, course notes from Imperial College on Developments in the Exploration and Exploitation of Gold, eight copies of Leeds University Mining Association Magazine and two copies of the Yorkshire Subterranean Society – one includes an interesting article on the mines of Cleveland.

Thank you to Ian Thomas for a copy of his co-authored "The Geology of Chatsworth House". The latest copy of Archive has arrived and contains a long and interesting article on Burnhope colliery.

Sallie Bassham
Honorary Librarian

NAMHO News

Research framework

The extractive industries research framework was mentioned in the last Newsletter and at the NMRS Autumn Meeting; there are details on the website at www.namho.org. A steering group (on which NMRS is well represented) has been set up and meets for the first time in mid-February. The work will concentrate on extraction and not consequent processes, such as smelting.

Input on topics, such as

- specific extractive industries which are currently poorly represented by past or current investigation
- specific time periods which need more research
- any current or future research
- developing a strategic framework for research

can be sent to Peter Cloughton at p.f.cloughton@exeter.ac.uk.

NAMHO conference

The 2009 NAMHO Conference will be 19th to 22nd June at Matlock, Derbyshire. There will be a lecture programme on 20th and 22nd and a wide variety of surface and underground meets: details will be on www.namhoconference.org.uk, as they become available. The 2010 Conference will be based in South Gloucestershire.

Sallie Bassham

The 8th International Mining History Congress: 12-15th June 2009

To be jointly hosted by the University of Exeter's Department of History and Geevor Mining Museum at the Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth in Cornwall. The congress aims to bring together practitioners of mining history in all of its forms – archaeological, economic, environmental and health, social, technical – to exchange recent research findings and stimulate contact and collaboration across national and regional boundaries.

The meeting will start with a plenary session on the evening of Friday, 12th June, and will conclude at lunchtime on Monday, 15th June, with continuous paper sessions on Saturday and Sunday, 13th and 14th June. Pre-session events will include field trips to mining and related sites across Cornwall and west Devon.

Further details and a pre-registration form are available on the congress's website:

<http://huss.exeter.ac.uk/history/imhc/>

Mike Gill

Events

Alan Mills has sent in details of these three interesting talks to be given by fellow members of the Society.

Tuesday 17th March, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Austwick, nr Settle; Lead Mining in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale; Alan Mills; £1 entry

Wednesday 18th March, 2pm, Reeth Methodist Chapel, The Smelt Mills of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale, Dr Richard Smith; Friends of the Swaledale Museum £2, others £3

Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm, Swaledale Museum, Reeth, Lead Mining in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, Mike Gill; Friends of the Swaledale Museum £2, others £3

NMRS Publication News

For those of you still with some gaps in your BM collections we only have one copy of BM50 Memoirs 1994 left (£10), and three copies of BM38 A history of the Manor and Lead Mines of Marrick, Swaledale (£10).

Still available are some copies of the Mines of Cardiganshire (Metalliferous & Associated Minerals 1845-1913) £8 and the Mines of Shropshire & Montgomeryshire with Cheshire & Staffordshire (Metalliferous & Associated Minerals 1845-1913) £12.

Normal members discount apply but if interested please phone 01282 614615 or e-mail mansemmins@btopenworld.com for availability before sending a cheque made out to NMRS

We will be having a table selling NMRS publications at the "Archaeology and the Historic Environment in the Yorkshire Dales" event to be held at Grassington Town Hall on Saturday April 25th. Further details of this event can be found by

phoning 01969 652338 or e-mailing herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Another plea for your help. If during your travels in 2009 you visit a place where you feel our publications could be sold please let me have the details. Thanks to those who responded previously.

Barbara Sutcliffe

And finally ...

Recession? What recession?

Rio boss tipped for BP post in executive shuffle

Jim Leng, a former senior executive with the steelmaker Corus, is to succeed former Shell executive Paul Skinner as chairman of the mining group Rio Tinto. Skinner is to step down in April at Rio's annual meeting, but there is now speculation that he will be announced - perhaps as early as next month - as a successor to BP's chairman Peter Sutherland, who steps down this summer. BP insiders insist no decision has been taken on who will replace Sutherland, who is a former European competition commissioner, but they admit that Skinner's energy experience would make him a good choice.

Terry Macalister
(The Guardian
Thursday 15 January 2009)

Deadline for next submissions for the newsletter will be 17th April. Please keep sending in your articles, letters, adverts etc - they are very much appreciated!

Lynne Johnson

Archaeology and the Historic Environment in the Yorkshire Dales

The ninth annual archaeology day school

Saturday April 25, 2009

10.00 am - 4.30 pm

Grassington Town Hall, Grassington



The Yorkshire Dales have some of the best preserved and most extensive historic landscapes in the country. Speakers at this Day School will discuss the most recent archaeological and historical survey and research.

Programme

The Great Dales Coalfield	Mike Gill (Northern Mine Research Society)
The Archaeology of the Settle to Carlisle Railway	Robert White (YDNPA)
The Buildings of the Settle to Carlisle Railway	Don McLellan (YDNPA)
Catastrophic Climate Change at ca.800 BC in the Yorkshire Dales	Graham Swindles
The Druid's Altar, Threshfield: a Scottish stone circle in Craven?	Roger Martlew
Home on the Range: Hillforts on the Catterick Training Area	Phil Abramson
Rethinking Ingleborough Part 2	Yvonne Luke (English Heritage)

For further information and to book a place please telephone 01969 652338 or
e-mail herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter.

Please continue to send material for the newsletter. Contributions can be sent by email to me. Alternatively, you can post contributions either as text, or on disc, all are welcome. If you require anything returning, please ask and it will be returned to you as soon as possible. In particular, photographs, plans and pictures are welcome as long as they can be reproduced well in black and white.

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Visit our Website www.nmrs.co.uk

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that the NMRS maintains a list of their names and addresses solely for the purpose of printing labels for membership cards and posting newsletters and publications. Such details are deleted from the database for any member who leaves the society, either after the committee has been notified, or after it has been determined that an overdue subscription has not been paid for several months.

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