

## Spout Gill Mines:

The main mining complex of Spout Gill is located on the east side of Oxnop Gill, on the right hand side of the road leading to Hill Top Lodge. The mines had been leased to Alderman Thompson from Lord Wharton in 1682. In 1732 a report stated that *'Spout Gill continues to be exceedingly rich and they are now more yn double in value wt was soe known in ye times of Lord Philip or Thomas Wharton'*.

The Spout Gill shafts were very productive, one of them raising £40,000 worth of ore in one year. This attracted the attentions of the Company of Mine Adventurers in the early 1730's. A smelt mill was built at the south side of Foss beck although no remainder can now be seen. At the time this smelting mill was of significant importance, as the ore from Spout Gill mine was smelted there along with the lead from the nearby Beezy and, until 1770, the Beldi Hill mines at Keld. The mill is was an improved design and is documented in the British Museum in the Egerton MSS. The drawing is titled *'The Draught of a Smelting Mill used by the Company of Mine Adventurers and others in Yorkshire in 1735'*. Although it does not name Spout Gill mill per se, the company had no other mill at this time. The mill was an important location in the Great Beldi Hill Trial and dispute between Lord Pomfret and the Parkes brothers.

The hushes at Spout Gill are very ancient, but they were being worked in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when a dispute to the water rights on Satron Moor resulted in the water supply having to be brought from the head of Foss Beck on the other side of the valley. This involved building a long water race which first ran up to the head of the gill, until it crossed the beck by launder, and then ran back down round the hillside to the Spout Gill mines. The miners completed this work in their spare time, and were promised £10 for the first quart of water they delivered into Spout Gill. On payment, this money was immediately spent by the miners at Jenkin Gate near the Muker road, which at that time was a public house popular with the miners and smelters of Spout Gill. The course can still be seen today from the road that passes through Oxnop Gill.

On the east side of Oxnop Gill, Stottergill Level entrance can still be found; this was driven in 1767. An old lease of this mine dated 1823 was granted to William Metcalfe of Hipswell, Nathan Whitelock, John Broderick, Edward Metcalfe, and John, Richard and George Winn. 1/7<sup>th</sup> share for 14 years, duty 1/6<sup>th</sup>.

On the footpath from Hill Top Lodge to Gill Head House the remains of several buildings can still be seen; this was the location of a small cluster of miner's dwellings but the dressed stone has been taken for dry stone walling and other purposes over the centuries.