

West Stonesdale Mine

In 1850 Christopher Lonsdale Bradley leased the ground at Stonesdale as it contained the western extensions of the rich Blakethwaite vein running from Gunnerside Gill. A shaft was sunk to 45 fathoms and a crosscut driven northwards to meet the vein. The cross vein yielded £12,000 of ore but when the Blakethwaite vein was eventually reached, it was found to contain no ore. Further trials were made east and west for 100 fathoms but again no ore was found. Between 1855 and 1860 the mine produced 716 tons of ore but work there ceased in 1861.



Ruins of West Stonesdale Engine House

A water pressure engine was installed for pumping and winding and the remains of the engine house are still present today near the shaft. Water for the engine was piped across the moor from Foss Firth Tarn. A waterwheel and dressing plant were built at the site to dress the ore; the 28ft waterwheel was later dismantled and relocated to the Sir Francis mine in Gunnerside Gill.

This small mining complex is situated on the West bank of Startindale Gill and is accessible via a footpath from the Tan Hill road that leads down to the site. The site is a designated Scheduled Monument and the engine house has now been fenced off from the public access. The main mine shaft is directly above the engine house.

Arngill Mines

Between Swinnergill and Muker, on the east side of the river, are the Arngill mines which accessed the south-eastern ends of the ore veins that run from Keldside and Kisdon. In 1811 a partnership of local men drove a hand level into West Arngill and then in 1866 the A.D. Company reopened this level and named it after one of Sir George Denys's daughters – Eliza Level, however no ore was found.



The 'mine shop'

Early in the nineteenth century, in East Arngill a level was driven to drain workings that had been started by shafts on the moor above. In 1865 the A. D. Company drove a lower level (Adelaide Level) and this produced a large amount of ore.

George Cottingham and his son hit a rich flat of ore which was said to have produced approximately £12,000 worth of ore. In 1918 the level was again worked, and another flat was discovered that produced around thirty tons of ore. It was worked for two years and then had to be abandoned as ongoing problems with water levels resulted in it being unprofitable to keep open.