

## 2.8 Prim Gap

This compact area sits on gently sloping ground either side of a footpath running from the main road to Stripe Lane. Features in this area mark the western edge of the mineralisation.

The first group of features at the south of the area are a series of shafts associated with the end of the Prim Gap Vein. A shallow quarry like feature 3 may also be connected with working this vein. Shafts 6, 8, and 19 have flat tops and an off centre shaft suggesting the use of a horse gin, but as with other area no evidence remains. Moving north 14 and 15 are closely spaced shaft mounds typical of meer working, the line of which continues through the boundary.

The main area of activity is within the northern most enclosure and consists of a number of shafts and large opencuts where the topography drops off. Associated is a large dam and two distinct ore dressing areas. The main open cut 39 is a large open fronted trench on two levels, which suggests two phases of operation. The sides of the trench are marked by large spoil heaps, the scale of which may suggest a modern origin, although there is currently no evidence of the use of mechanised plant. The foot of the trench is cut by a smaller feature 42, which has probably been excavated by hand and may be contemporary with the higher part of 39.

There is some evidence that water has been collected and led to the top of the main trench, however it is unlikely that this represents evidence of hushing as the topography is too slight to provide the required head of water. The orientation of the dams (29 and 31) also suggests that this is not the case.

To one side of this area is a large earth and stone dam fed by a water leat, which probably extended from Gill Beck. In front is an area of ore dressing, which contains grassed over heaps of spoil and a series of connected small shallow tanks. These appear to be simple buddles. A further dressing area against the boundary displays similar but less well-defined features.

This area contains a variety of features many of which probably date from an expansion of the mines at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Some features such as 14 and 15 suggest an earlier phase of working, as does the name Prim Gap but this name evidence needs to be treated cautiously. Under customary mining law a prim gap is a space between two sets of meers which is less than a meer long. The main workings on the Prim Gap Vein are further east and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century High View Farm was called Prim Gap.

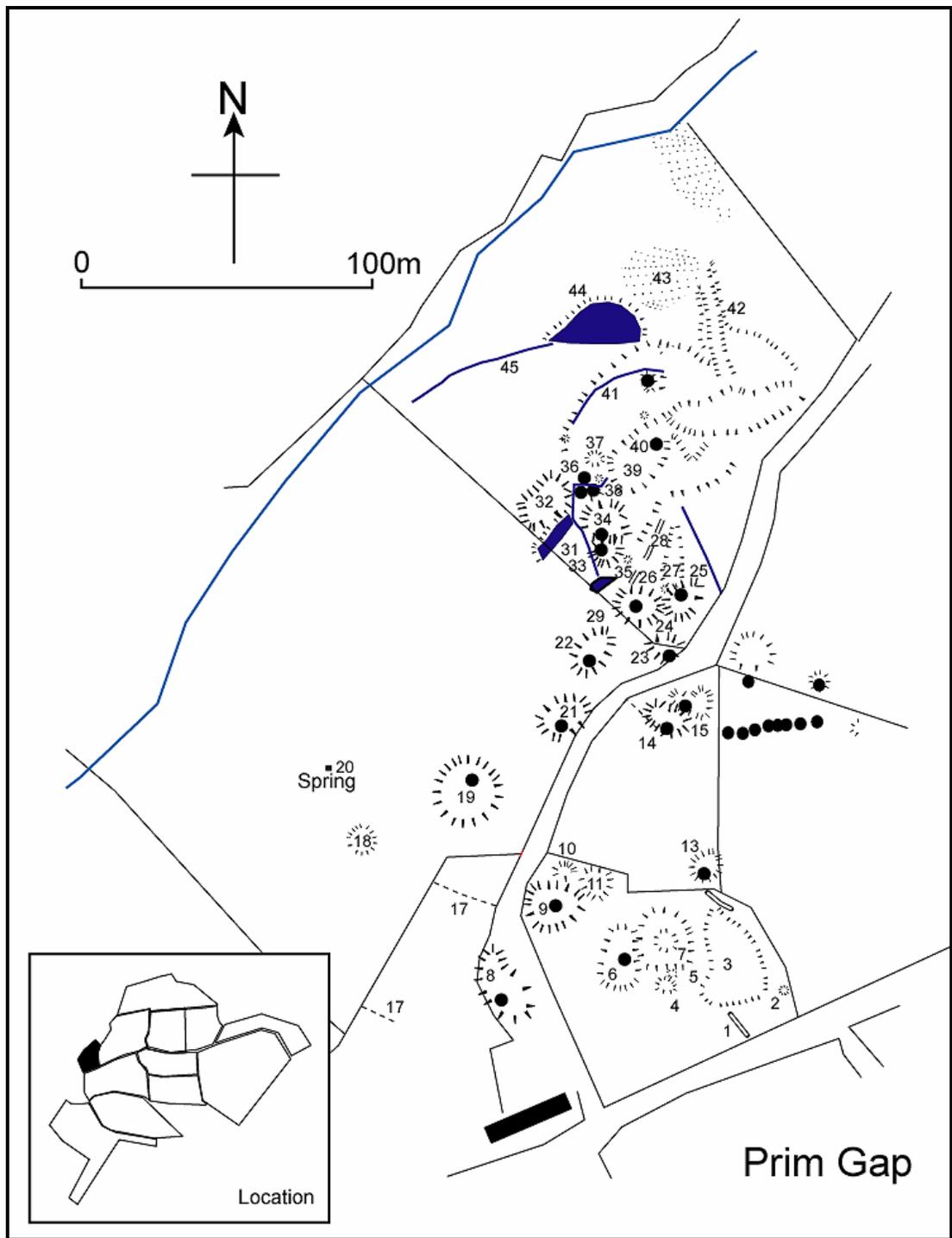


Fig.36 Prim Gap

Table 7 Prim Gap				
Feature Number	Description	Zone	Northing	Easting
1	Trench 10m long 2m wide	SE	10805	63998
2	Pit / shaft 3m dia	SE	10821	64010
3	Open cut / quarry 30m x 20m	SE	10802	64022
4	Shaft mound 10m dia no obvious shaft	SE	10779	64012
5	Pit square 4m x 2m, 1m deep	SE	10781	64016
6	Shaft mound 12m x 10m possible gin site	SE	10763	64022
7	Shaft mound 20m dia large slumped area in centre	SE	10778	64027
8	Shaft mound 15m x 30m possible gin	SE	10722	64010
9	Shaft mound 22m x 18m	SE	10738	64040
10	Low shaft mound 10m x 6m damaged	SE	10743	64052
11	Low shaft mound 10m dia damaged	SE	10755	64048
12	Trench / holloway 1m wide x 12m	SE	10795	64043
13	Shaft mound 12m dia	SE	10794	64054
14	Shaft mound 18m x 10m tip partly runs over wall footings	SE	10778	64106
15	Double shaft mound 14m x 10m includes a possible covered shaft c.3m dia	SE	10789	64111
16	Wall footings 14m long	SE	10679	64001
17	Wall footings 24m long	SE	10711	64042
18	Possible shaft mound 10m dia	SE	10672	64062
19	Shaft mound 24m dia possible gin site	SE	10709	64079
20	Spring enclosed on three sides by stone wall	SE	10661	64088
21	Shaft mound 20m x 16m possible gin shaft	SE	10743	64107
22	Shaft mound 20m x 12m possible gin shaft	SE	10754	64130
23	Shaft mound 10m x 14m mound crossed by enclosure wall	SE	10779	64130
24	Shaft mound 18m x 16m	SE	10771	64145
25	Shaft mound 16m x 14m	SE	10785	64146
26	Pit 2m x 1m	SE	10779	64151
27	Open cut trench 8m x 20m up to 2m deep	SE	10781	64160

28	Holloway 2m wide 26m long	SE	10774	64166
29	Dam wall earth construction fragmentary	SE	10756	64152
30	Water leat runs from dam to edge of opencut	SE	10752	64167
31	Bank 3m wide 20m long possible dam wall crossed by enclosure wall	SE	10737	64171
32	Shaft mound / tip 24m x 16m no obvious shaft	SE	10737	64182
33	Shaft mound 10m dia	SE	10757	64163
34	Shaft mound 18 x 14 possible gin shaft	SE	10757	64176
35	Shaft hollow overlain by spoil from opencut	SE	10766	64161
36	Shaft	SE	10749	64185
37	Shaft	SE	10750	64190
38	Pit / shaft	SE	10756	64190
39	Large complex opencut feature 80m x 50m organised on two levels, wide bank on both sides, bank contains pits and shafts	SE	10771	64201
40	Stone lined shaft in base of opencut filled.	SE	10776	64202
41	Water leat fades and disappears	SE	10761	64225
42	Trench 10m wide x 40m long upcast banks on both sides, this feature is cut by the main opencut and therefore predates it.	SE	10796	64246
43	Area of dressing activity 25 x 20m grassed, over earthworks suggest buddles and heaps of waste	SE	10776	64261
44	Dam wall earth and stone construction 4m wide 1.5m high	SE	10757	64253
45	Water leat	SE	10718	64231
46	Disturbed area suggesting ore dressing and buddles	SE	10788	64297
47	Leat 1m wide upcast bank on both sides	SE	10792	64165



Fig.37 Shaft on The Virgins Vein (features 14-15)



Fig.38 Large open-cut (feature 39)



Fig.39 Earth and stone dam (feature 44)