

## 2.9 Cockhill

Situated in the valley below the village this area contains a range of features dating from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main features are associated with levels driven to work lead veins under the village including Jackass Level (5), Gillfield Level (17), and Cockhill Level (23). Both Gillfield and Cockhill levels have extensive tips typical of long level networks driven in the late 18<sup>th</sup> early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cockhill tip is directly in front of the level, however the tip from Gillfield is to one side and above the entrance to the level. This unusual arrangement may be because there was insufficient space available for tipping in front of the level as Sand Beck, which runs between the two sites was a boundary between the two mines. Near the entrance to Cockhill are the remains of a dressing floor including the remains of bouse teams for ore storage and a water powered ore crusher (26). A nearby flat area built over a culvert is the probable location of further dressing equipment. No such defined areas have survived at Gillfield. Cockhill and Gillfield Levels are arched with stone at the entrance. Jackass level is driven in solid rock and is approached by a cutting in outcropping gritstone and appears to have been driven by pick only.

This area contains the remains of three smelt mills; Cockhill Mill (14), Gillfield Mill (10), and Providence Mill (33). Cockhill Mill consists of wall footings and with some fragments of standing wall. Of interest are a series of cast iron columns, which formerly supported arches over the ore hearths. The remains of flues run up the slope behind the mill to the base of a chimney (13). Gillfield Mill survives as footings and rubble spreads, although the rear wall cut into the hillside stands to a height of approximately 2m. Providence Mill consists of walls standing to a height of several metres and a fine arch carries the remains of a flue across a possible track to run up the hillside. Each of the mills are served by water leats. Cockhill Mill by a leat (25), which begins in Thieveshaw Gill, crosses the line of the tramway / drain from Cockhill Level and continues as a culvert (24) to the mill. Gillfield Mill is fed by a leat (7) coming from Sand Beck and Jackass Level and Prosperous mill by a large leat (32) running from Branstone Beck.

A water leat (2) runs down the hillside from the adjacent North Coldstones area towards Gillfield Level. A further leat (6) begins in Sand Beck possibly just above Jackass Level and runs to a depression, which probably represents a shallow shaft onto Gillfield Level. It is likely that this was part of a water blast ventilation system.

There is evidence of a number of structures, which survive mainly as building platforms. 9 appears to be a two-celled building on the side of Sand Beck, 11 is a stone and concrete platform suggesting a 20<sup>th</sup> century structure, as is 15 with wall footings and a concrete engine mounting. 22 is a stone built structure, which suggests an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century origin but fragments of machinery indicates 20<sup>th</sup> century reuse. 20 is a two-celled building which contains a wooden box / cistern in one corner. 29 is a small stone built structure resembling a grouse butt, however there are no other butts in the area, which suggests another function. Its location tucked away in a hollow in the tip and facing away from all the other building suggests that it may have served as an explosives store. 16 is a modern prefabricated concrete building belonging to Leeds University. A final structure

is located in the side of the tip from Gillfield Level, however it is fragmentary and partly buried by tip material, which obscures its function.

Other features in the area include an extensive area of shallow gritstone quarries (1). Another quarry (31) is associated with a track leading down to Cockhill Level, which suggest that it may have provided stone for underground arching in the mine. Naturally outcropping gritstone above Jackass Level may have also been quarried (4). Many boulders in this area have been carved with dates and initials.

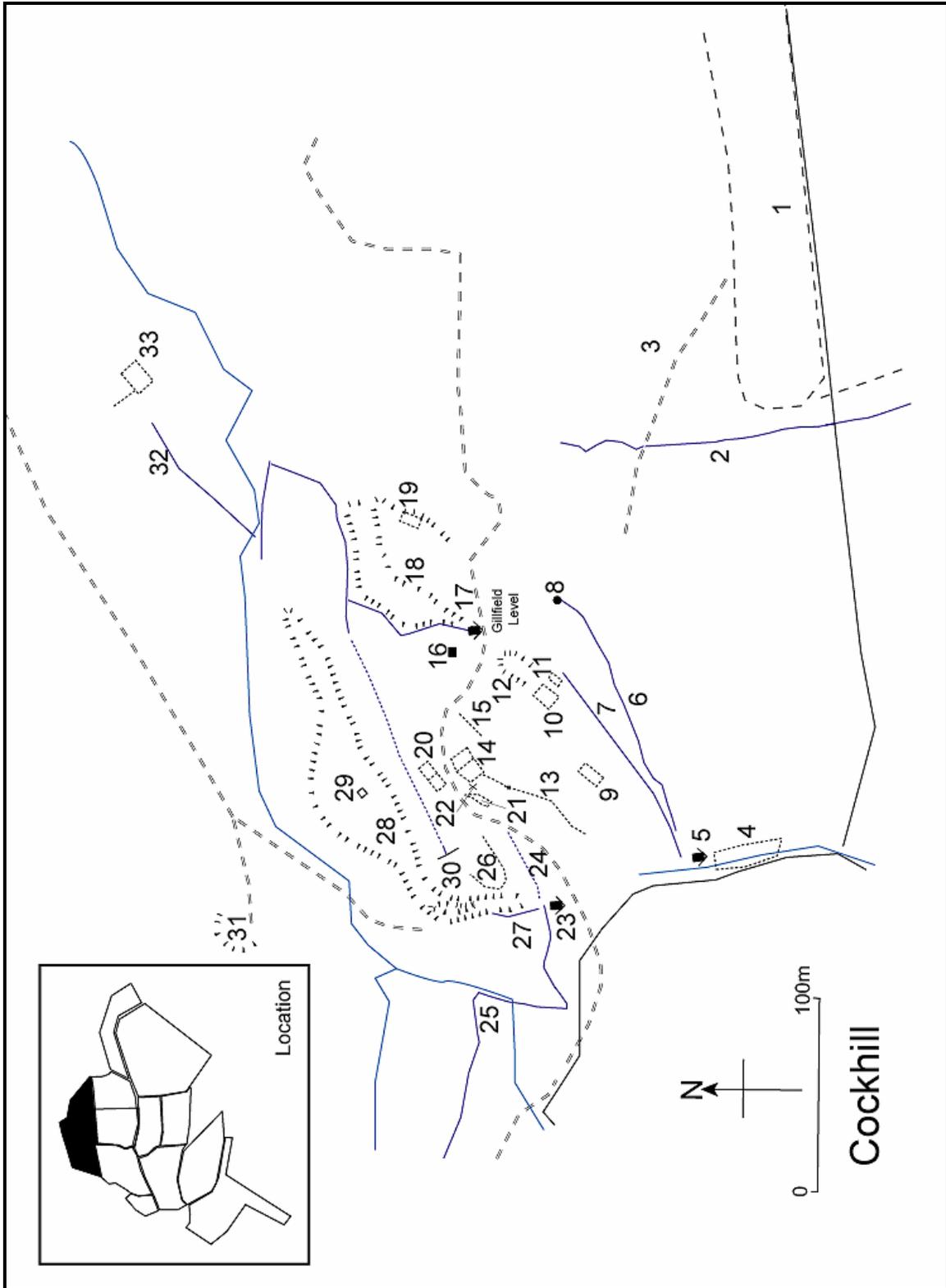


Fig.40 Cockhill

Table 8 Cockhill				
Feature Number	Description	Zone	Northing	Easting
1	Area of shallow gritstone quarries	SE	11850	64711
2	Water leat which fades.	SE	11626	64724
3	Trackway	SE	11652	64760
4	Natural gritstone outcrop which may have been quarried, many boulders with initials carved on.	SE	11409	64716
5	Thornhill or Jackass Level	SE	11407	64740
6	Water leat which begins slightly above Jackass Level	SE	11487	64779
7	Leat which fades close to Gillfield smelt mill	SE	11468	64784
8	Waterblast shaft onto Gillfield Level served by feature 6	SE	11542	64815
9	Possible 2 celled building	SE	11451	64797
10	Gillfield Smelt Mill, building platform with fragments of upstanding walls.	SE	11492	64820
11	Platform, stone and concrete possible site of 20th century building	SE	11500	64815
12	Possible tip of shale material	SE	11507	64835
13	Line of smelt mill flue including base of chimney	SE	11443	64832
14	Cockhill Smelt Mill, wall footings and fragmentary walls.	SE	11457	64862
15	Stone alignment marking one side of a building containing concrete engine mountings.	SE	11476	64859
16	Modern flat roofed building	SE	11515	64870
17	Entrance to Gillfield level	SE	11526	64857
18	Tip from Gillfield Level appears to be two phase with an upper and lower portion. Much disturbed by recent activities.	SE	11558	64879
19	Possible structure on edge of tip, some modern material present which suggests 20th century origin.	SE	11584	64891
20	2 celled building, footings and fragmentary walls, wooden box in one corner	SE	11452	64881
21	Remains of 20th century ore sorting jig	SE	11444	64858
22	Stone built structure showing evidence of 20th century reuse.	SE	11437	64854
23	Entrance to Cockhill Level	SE	11382	64814
24	Course of culverted water leat	SE	11403	64830
25	Water leat	SE	11352	64820
26	Site of bouse teems and ore crusher, some recent damage to bouse teems apparent.	SE	11394	64841
27	Watercourse from Cockhill level which take water to a culvert under the tip.	SE	11377	64839

28	Tip from Cockhill Level	SE	11420	64903
29	Small stone three sided structure. Looks similar to a grouse butt, however there are no others in the area. Form and location suggests that the structure could have been a 20th century explosives store.	SE	11441	64916
30	Ore dressing area behind a retaining wall, culvert carrying water from Cockhill level emerges at foot of wall.	SE	11409	64871
31	Gritstone quarry, The location suggests that this quarry may have produced stone for underground drystone arching.	SE	11366	64983
32	Feature which could be a water leat or trackway. In places this is cut into the hillside which is supported by a retaining wall.	SE	11604	65006
33	Providence Smelt mill, footings, standing walls and an arched flue running up the hillside.	SE	11658	65036



Fig.41 Entrance to Jackass Level  
(feature 5)



Fig.42 Entrance to Cockhill Level  
(feature 23)



Fig.43 Entrance to Gillfield Level (feature 17)



Fig.44 Cockhill smelt mill (feature 14)



Fig.45 Gillfield smelt mill (feature 10)



Fig.46 Providence smelt mill (feature 33)



Fig.47 Possible explosive store (feature 29)



Fig.48 Carved stone near Jackass Level (feature 4)



Fig.49 Carved stone near Jackass Level (feature 4)