

Brownley Hill Mine, Alston Moor

The Brownley Hill mine (sometimes called Bromley Hill) is located approximately 1 kilometer northwest of the village of Nenthead, Alston Moor, Cumbria. The mine accesses a number of associated veins and flats, with workings developed primarily in the Great Limestone. Earliest records indicate that work at the Brownley Hill mine dates back to at least the first half of the eighteenth century.

During the latter eighteenth and most of the nineteenth centuries, the mine was worked for lead by a succession of independent leaseholders and small mining companies. By the latter nineteenth century, high-grade lead ores were depleted, and production shifted to zinc. The final leaseholder was the Vieille Montagne Zinc Company of Belgium, which operated the mine until 1936 (Green, McCallum, and Wood 2000).