

St. Peter's Mine, East Allendale

The St. Peter's mine, developed on the St. Peter's vein, is located along the road between Allenheads and Allendale Town, near the hamlet of Spartylea in Northumberland. The current entrance is a vertical shaft of almost 100 meters (more than 300 feet) that accesses both vein and flats at the High Flat horizon of the Great Limestone.

According to Dunham (1990), the St. Peter's vein was discovered during construction of the Blackett level, an adit originating at Allendale Town and driven 7.5 kilometers southward toward Allenheads to explore and provide drainage for mine workings in East Allendale. Work began on the level in 1855 and was discontinued in 1903 at a point not far south of the St. Peter's vein.

The mine was worked for lead in the late nineteenth century by the Beaumont Company, which drove a level below the Great Limestone from the East Allen wash, with a rise reaching the flats. During the first half of the twentieth century the mine was operated by the Weardale Lead Company for fluorspar from both vein and flats in the Great Limestone. The mine was closed in 1946 when the Great Limestone (and ore-bearing veins and flats) was found to be truncated to the west by glacial sediments filling the East Allen Valley.