

## MINE NAME: GWYNFYNYDD

### Archaeological

#### *Welsh Mines Society*

Several significant features are known to exist on this site - structures and earthworks connected with tramways, inclines, ore preparation mills, sundry offices and the entrances to underground features. However, as the mine has only recently been abandoned, and it is understood that work on re-treating material in the dumps is continuing, it is impossible to give a full account.

Remedial work could have a significant impact on the archaeology and landscape value of the site. A detailed topographical survey and full archaeological assessment is required before work commences. Care should be taken in siting any treatment area intended to reduce the effect of mine discharge waters given the limited space available for this and earlier mine related features.

#### *Cadw*

There exists a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cwm Heisian ME 204) on the south side of the Afon Mawddach. It consists of 19th century processing site, with remains including crusher house ruins, leat, wheel pit and a small smelter (a rare survivor from Welsh metal mines) known to be in existence before 1845. There are also important remains at Gwynfynydd itself (on the north side of the river) that will require assessment for possible further scheduling.

#### *Gwynedd Archaeological Trust*

Although recently abandoned, the site survives intact as an example of late 20th century mine, complete with railway and mining machinery. The site requires further assessment for possible scheduling.

### Mineralogical

#### *Countryside Council for Wales*

There are no designations in respect to this mine site.

### Biological (Habitat / Species)

#### *Countryside Council for Wales*

#### Fauna

In respect to Otters and Badgers our records are not complete for this river and hence further assessment is required. The Gwynedd area is a strong hold for the Lesser Horseshoe Bats and therefore likely to exist at this site. The woodlands are significant in supporting various bat species. The destruction or obstruction of bat flight paths (which are sometimes less than one metre from the ground) should be considered with any planned remedial works.

#### Flora

Lower plants such as the scarce copper mosses, liverworts and lichens will require further assessment at this site, especially around spoil tips. The river gorge may contain significant bryophyte records but to date records for this are incomplete.

Downstream of the mine site is an area within a cSAC. Any remediation measures could potentially destroy sensitive biology. CCW would have to be consulted for any remediation work proposed at or around the mine site.

### Other

#### *Gwynedd Archaeological Trust*

As the site is a surviving example of an intact Meirionnydd Gold Mine, it would lend itself to interpretation for visitors.

#### *Gwynedd Council*

A public footpath runs directly past the mine buildings. If remediation works were to encompass the land where the public footpath runs, the Agency would be advised to consult with the council's Highways Authority prior to instigating works. It may be necessary to apply for temporary prohibition or restriction.

#### *Crown Estate*

The Crown Estate (with Wardell Armstrong appointed as mineral agents) has ownership of gold and silver. No mineral licence or lease exists. Arrangements are in place between the Agency and Wardell Armstrong for monitoring and inspection of the mine water.

#### *Snowdonia National Park*

The National Park Authority is the Mineral Planning Authority for the area. There are existing planning permissions on the site.

#### *Prospector*

A private individual is renting the mine buildings from Welsh Gold Plc to rework the spoil tips. Tips No.2 and No.8 worked until 31st March 2002 whereupon ownership changes to the local landowner. At the end of 2002 the use of the buildings and lagoons will be returned to Welsh Gold Plc.

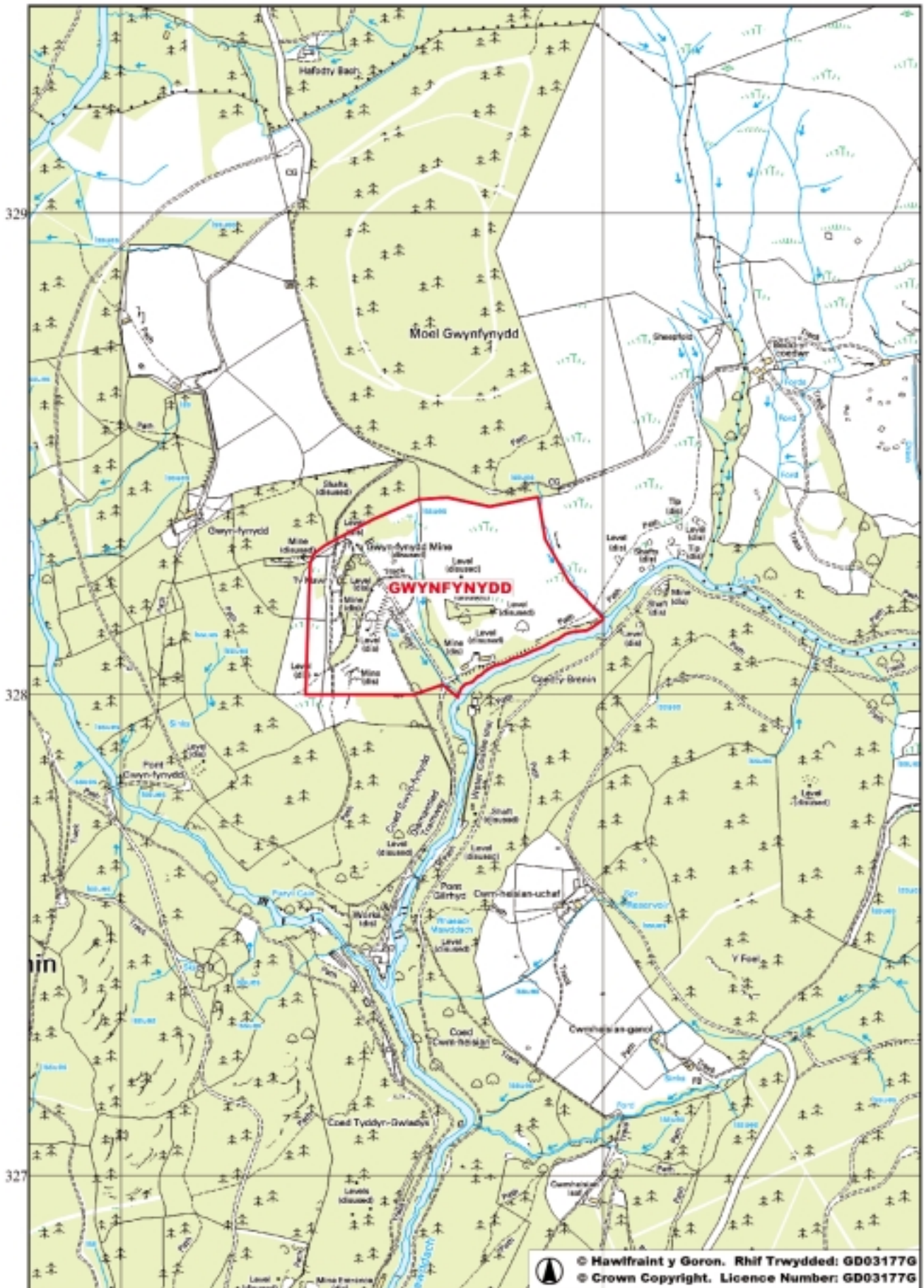
#### *Forest Enterprise*

While Gwynfynydd mine (north side of the river) is privately owned. Forest Enterprise owns much of the surrounding area including all the south side of the Afon Mawddach. This area is very popular with mountain biking, walking, horse riding, canoeing and fishing activities.

#### *Welsh Development Agency*

In 1978 this site was perceived as not doing significant environmental harm, therefore not ranked by WDA, but does have physical health and safety hazards.

# GWYNFYNYDD



Approximate Scale - 1:10,000