

MOEL FERNA MINE

This is a bigger mine than Penarth and as Adits are blocked you go in through the airshaft. This is about 35 ft and easy to ladder as there is a good tree and iron stakes for belays.

This mine is approached off the A5 by a minor road between two farm buildings between Llidiart y parc and nearer to Glynfrwdy . Don't take the shorter road that is further west as it degenerates into a muddy quagmire. This one is a bit further away from the road than the other one.

The road soon becomes a gated road but you can get a car to abandoned farm building (Plas Newydd) then walk the rest of the way along a grassy track.

Walk up to the spoilheaps, up the incline above then up obvious spoil hap grassed over from the excavation of the ventilation shaft. Nice little hollow with 35 ft shaft. At bottom head into mountain as other way soon blocked. Big passage leads to climb up through partially blocked off wall, there is a shaft to one side where bats were seen. On past brick lined hole in the floor then right at junction into the big stuff.

On this level is a wooden structure with white mould "Tablecloth". Basically a lot of chambers on about 5 or 6 levels. You can follow an iron pipe down into the lower workings and walk over a wooden bridge, there is also a wooden "Cog" of stacked up poles holding the roof up and a stone with lots of inscriptions on. With a bit of scrambling you can get down to the lowest flooded levels and reach the adit tunnels out but these are all blocked, Takes about 4 hours to do it all.

I cannot really describe a route but generally there are tunnels running along at each level and worked out voids intersecting them . In the lower reaches there are some superb rock pillars left behind to hold the roof up.

Steve Joyce