

1st April 1983
Clogau Mine

Present were: -Mark Wickenden
Alan McFadzean
Chris Jones
Chris H Jones (The Younger)
Dave Blundell
Alun Davies

We set off from Bontddu to look at Clogau Mine and first down from the car park to look at the Vigra dressing mill but were disappointed to find so little. We then went up the disused incline to see Jenny's adit. The next step was at the Wechfraith adit which is now well gated due to a reworking. Much evidence of this is to be seen with compressors and generators. From there we changed and walked up to the level Fawr Adit, this too was found to be heavily gated and despite Dave's advice on padlock removal we decided to look elsewhere. We walked up to the open workings some 400 feet up the mountain and after a look in a blind adit we found an open shaft almost hidden amongst rhododendron bushes. A.M, C.J, C.H.J, M.W, decided to descend whilst the other two checked out the rest of the open works. The shaft was about 70' deep and perfectly oval. This kinked and was followed by a 60' pitch onto a steep, loose boulder slope. In a nearby level two wooden powder boxes were found and one of these was later remove by C.H.J.

Unfortunately at this point we ran out of rope so C.J climbed back out and walked down to the cars for more. On his return M.W had descended the boulder slope and then down a 15' pitch at the end on an old ladder which was very shaky. This led to another steep boulder slope at the end of this a drop led into untold depths. M.W descended first only to find that there was another level about 25' down under the overhang. From this level an old ladder way dropped some 50' into a major level which prove to be level four.

We explored most of this towards the N.E and were brought to a halt only where the level comes into fault where it meets the no: 1 or St David's Mine. We were unable to descend to the Llechfraith Adit due to another shortage of rope. Having fully explored Level Four to its main cross-cut to surface and taken photographs we started the long climb to surface. This was fairly uneventful except for Alen breaking a rung out of the original ladder. On later consulting the plan we think that part of the descent took place in no: 5 shaft.

On the way back to the cars we encountered a friendly local shepherd with whom we spent a few moments discussing his problems at lambing time and who wished us a safe journey back.

Christopher D. Jones