

1988 Easter Welsh Meet

MEET REPORT By A.C-P-Thomas.

Members present; D. Blundell, A. Sibbald, P. Blezard, A. Danson, P & M Fleming, A. Lings, A & S C-P-Thomas, S. Sparkes.

Fri. 1/4/88. Setting out late a.m. for Glasdir (Cu, Pb, Au) leaving Alistair pitching his tent in the rain (having driven off the ferry at Liverpool that morning) to follow. A descent was made of the huge quarry like outcrop and underground, Andrew made a further descent of the shaft from the upper chamber which apparently led down to a water filled chamber across from which the adit level could be seen, access to which could not be effected without some means of boatage.

On emerging from Glasdir we met up with Alistair and after lunch drove round to look at the mill site. I think we were all rather surprised to see that the 9 terrace mill, usually obscured by overgrowth and Christmas trees, had been cleared. We didn't manage to establish who was doing this work, but whoever it is is doing a good job in exposing this impressive edifice. From Glasdir we moved on to Ceunant Hyl, an aesthetic little mine (Cu, Au,) worked between three levels over a vertical range of approx 150 ft. The main lower level leads in from an attractive waterfall and from this horizon progress could be made up the stope to a sub level a few feet below adit No 2. From No 2 a short stope climb gave access to level No 3.

On the way back to the cars, Alistair with wet suit forced a short wet trial which opened on to the roadside.

Sat. 2/4/88. Another wet day and an apparent unanimous decision to get underground and dry at Bryneglwys slate mine Abergynolwyn. Unfortunately the meet leader for the day was seduced away en route, unbeknown to us at the rendezvous, by the lure of hot soups and things at the Alternative Technology Centre and those of us in the field spent a long time thrashing about trying to find a portal on the heavily be-forested slopes. Eventually we did find the portal to level 10C and two of us made a ladder/handline descent to level 15C. Rails are still extant in level 15C upon which sat a rubbish wagon. Also to be seen here was a slab bogey and three impressive slab winches, one as a kit of parts.

Sun. 5/4/88. Whilst most of the team went to look at Manganese workings Nr Bontddu and later to some gold panning at the head of Cwm Alluf Aithfull, Andrew, Sheila and I went to look at the little mine waterwheel that we missed out on last Easter. This little mine features a superb little wheel, the drive from which was taken along the level by means of shafting and universal joints (all still in situ) to a small crank at sump head. The crank presumably once drove a small pump in the sump bottom.

Another site visited was the iron mine above the Cross Foxes inn Nr Dolgellau (SH 760 165), the principal interest of which is its antiquity. In 1709 a Quaker chap set up an iron furnace at Dolserau Nr Dolgellau, the whole project being justified by the local iron

deposit. Due to local religious discrimination however the project failedapparently it took the bloke two years to collate enough charcoal for one blast! But presumably the mines worked on regardless. On site I'm not sure if we found any testament to the t'owd mans' workings, unless of course the modified trench like open casts once bore witness to this, but of more recent origin are the surface tramways (rails still in situ), inclines, buildings and underground shafts. The shafts were not descended but from the chambers off the upper cutting appear to be about 100 ft deep. In the forest below we part unearthed a side tipping bogey.