

Health and Safety Risk Assessment for Frongoch Mine – NAMHO 2019

Frongoch mine consists of a long adit of about ¾ mile driven along the north of two lodes with a crosscut south to boundary shaft and the south lode. Exploration is possible along the main adit as above, plus about 80 feet of fixed ladders up to the 18 fathom level. Most ladders are short within platforms being of about 7 or 8 feet, a final section is about 16 feet. The ladders were fitted in 2015 and are all sound as are the platforms..

The final section of deep adit passes a short winze of recent making, there is not real risk at this point but could present a short hang up as could the ladders.

Main risk is at Engine Shaft where much fallen rock and debris is apparent.

Hazard	Description	Mitigation
General Hazards	Uneven floor with strewn rocks as usually encountered underground plus a fair degree of wading.	Individual explorers should be suitably attired for underground exploration with sturdy boots or wellies and exercise a reasonable amount of care.
Laddered rise to 18-14 fathom level	Initial sections are of about 7 or 8 feet, the final is narrow and of about 16 feet. Some uneven rungs and the narrowness could cause a delegate to loose footing.	A safety line is to be fitted and delegates will need to be either top lined or self lined with suitable equipment.
Tight crawl in 18-14 fathom	Persons meeting in the tighter section will be unable to pass.	Leaders to ensure one way traffic with groups moving inbye to give way to any moving outbye.
Williams Shaft in side chamber to the right of the 18 fathom is sometimes under water which can become clouded making location indistinct	Delegates could be unaware of its presence and walk into it.	Leaders to advise all delegates of the presence of the shaft which may be below clouded water

<p>Potentially a large number of delegates underground at same time.</p>	<p>Groups could become mixed up and get in each others way.</p>	<p>Members of each group to carry a mark of some kind to identify their group, groups moving inbye to give way to groups moving out if encountered.</p>
<p>Engine Shaft has debris in the shaft which could come down</p>	<p>Falling debris</p>	<p>Delegates to stay clear and avoid the temptation to climb the debris bank and look up the shaft.</p>