

Health and Safety Risk Assessment for Henfwlch Mine – NAMHO 2019

Henfwlch mine consists of a long adit of about 400 metres driven as a crosscut to meet the Hafan lode at an oblique angle. At its end after a short scramble it enters a backfilled stope. There is a continuation of the adit past this point as an exploratory drive with several branches.

The stope contains a small wheelbarrow usually known as an “ore barrow” in very good condition.

Doubling back at a slightly lower level just before the stope with the barrow, a narrow road leads to a low crawl. This opens out onto the head of a very steep rubble slope leading down through a large stope. (Waterfall stope). Near the bottom a traverse enables some further exploration.

Apart from the aforementioned deep stope the mine is very stable with no unexpected dangers or hazards and has archaeological and geological value while presenting a very easy explore to underground visitors.

Hazard	Description	Mitigation
General Hazards	<p>Uneven floor with strewn rocks as usually encountered underground. A side level near the end has a 48 foot winze at its end. This is rather obvious and does not represent any particular danger. There is no incentive for a party to descend this as the workings below can be more easily reached by a recent dig. There is another winze at the side near the very end, again there is no incentive for a party to descend this as it is blind because it was originally sunk for exploratory purposes.</p> <p>The main shaft has a partial collapse which creates a complete blockage below adit and requires some scrambling to pass, there is also a descent and climb up just past here. None of this presents any real danger.</p>	<p>Individual explorers should be suitably attired for underground exploration with sturdy boots or wellies and exercise a reasonable amount of care.</p>
Waterfall Stope	<p>Steep slope loose in places with some large rocks. Traverse along a narrow ledge near the bottom leading to minor workings at the back.</p>	<p>There is an in situ handline fitted which continues along the ledge of the traverse. All explorers should be equipped with cowstails attached to strong belay belt or SRT sit harness and be experienced in moving along a traverse. They should also keep to the right hand side of the descent which has had some safety clearance work performed</p>