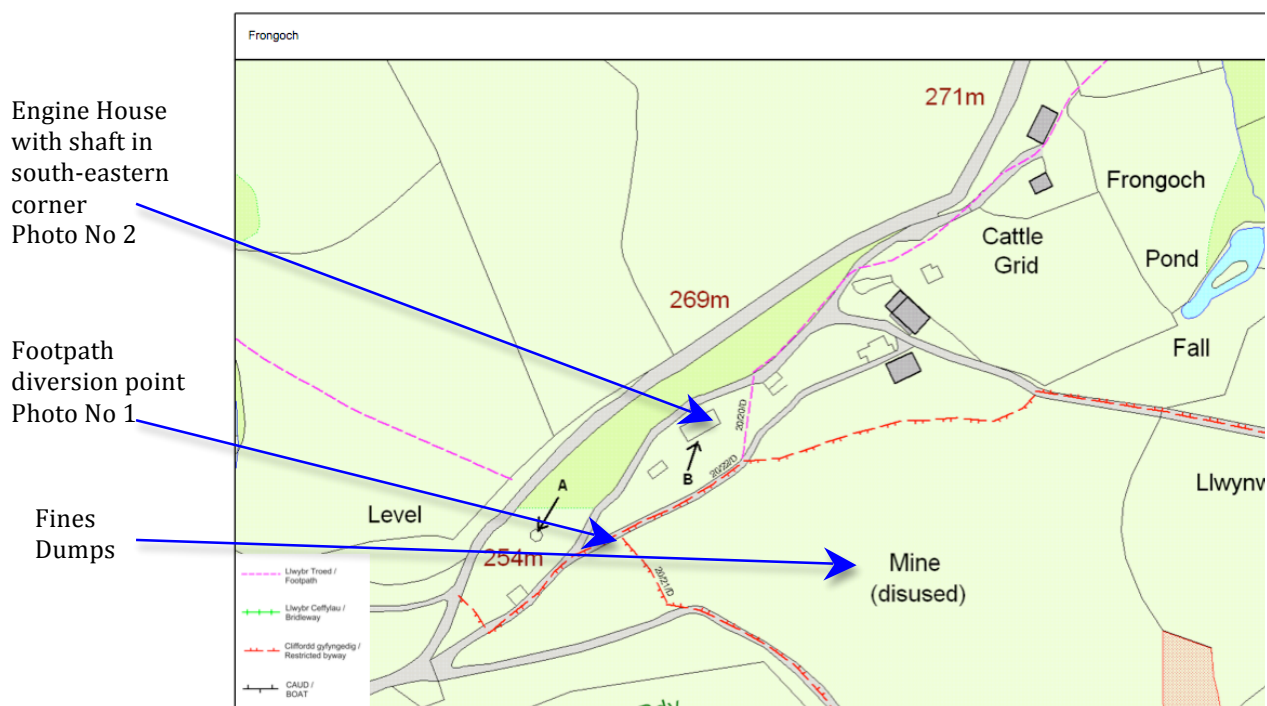


## FRONGOCH MINE REPORTED COLLAPSE

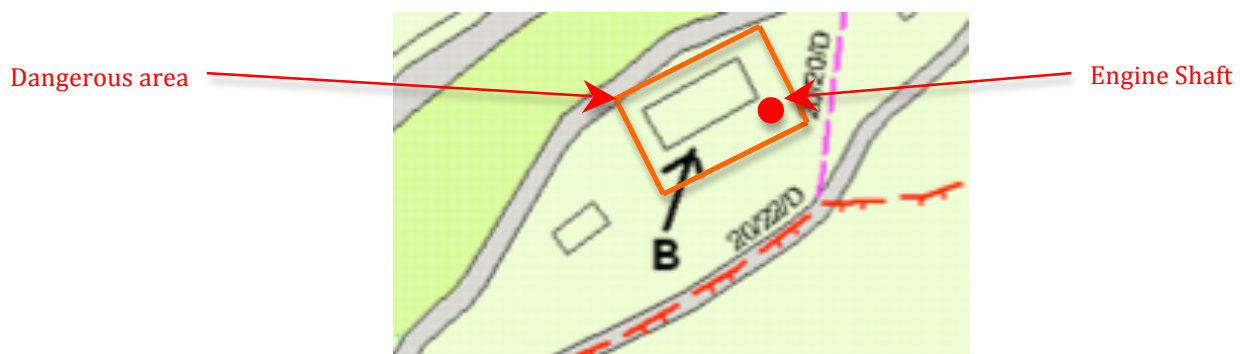
Following reports of a further collapse at Frongoch Mine, close to the footpath, I visited the site on Friday 27 April 2012.

Whilst there were no surface signs or effects of the latest collapse there had been some recent collapse of the stone lining of the Engine Shaft (SN 72089 74432). The Engine Shaft and the adjacent Engine House are deteriorating badly, the area is not a safe one for casual visitors from the nearby footpath to get close to.

The footpath from the south-western gateway divides just to the south-west of the Engine House. The diversion to the right (south-east) takes users well away from the dangerous area but the continuation of the path in the north-easterly direction takes users very close to the dangerous area.



In my opinion Ceredigion County Council should consider closing the footpath leading north-east from the diversion until some form of fencing and suitable signage is erected to prevent accidental access to the dangerous area.



I understand that the Environment Agency are planning some future work on the Fines Dumps at Frongoch, perhaps suitable signage, fencing and/or a diversion of the footpath can be incorporated in this work.

Dangerous  
route  
passing  
Engine  
House and  
shaft



*Photo No 1: View taken looking north-east from the diversion point. The diversion to the right is a safe route, the route straight on is the unsafe route passing the dangerous area on the left. The post in the left foreground has an arrow pointing to the route to the right but on the right-hand side of the post is an arrow pointing to the unsafe route.*

Shaft



*Photo No 2: View taken from edge of path of the Engine House and shaft*

Shaft



*Photo No 3: View of shaft*



*Photo No 4: The recent collapse in the shaft of the stone lining (lighter coloured rock) arrowed.*

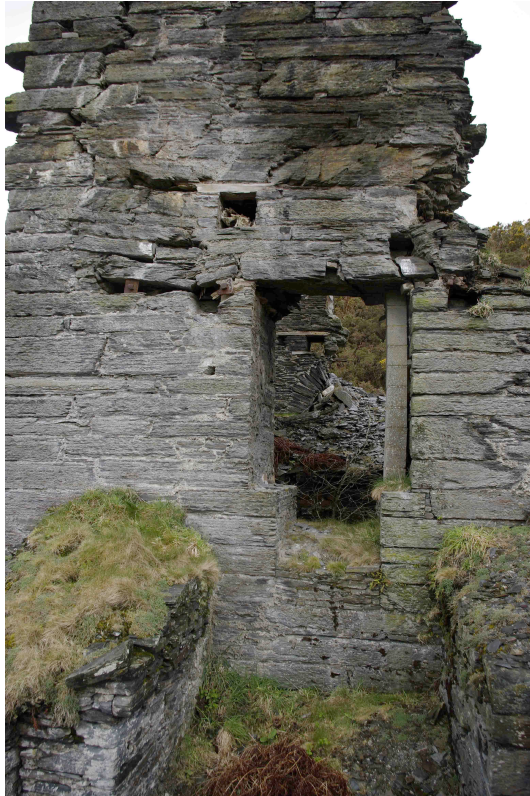
In addition to the collapse in the shaft, the major problem at Frongoch is the condition of the buildings especially the remains of the Engine House. It is a miracle that it is still standing, there are several terminal structural faults with the building itself but these are added to by the gradual erosion of the shaft and its stone lining.



*Photo No 5*



*Photo No 6*



*Photo No 7*



*Photo No 8*

I hope this report and description explain the situation at Frongoch and my concerns with the close proximity of the footpath.

Years ago Frongoch had the best collection of mine buildings in Cardiganshire, efforts by David Bick the founder of the Welsh Mines Society and the Welsh Mines Preservation Trust to ensure their conservation failed; even though they were at one time Scheduled Monuments. In my opinion the area around the Engine House and shaft should be fenced off and the building be allowed to decay and collapse with dignity rather than be demolished.

Please feel free to contact me if any further information required.

Graham Levins

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1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.