

Parking and access for Cae Coch Sulphur Mine

Cae Coch Mine can be approached from the East or the West via an overgrown and poor footpath.

The route from the west leaves the B5106 on a forest track opposite a council yard (SH7776562). There is space to park one or two cars, but make sure the track is not blocked as it may be used by forestry vehicles. Follow the track up and it bends to the right and eventually joins another track at SH77676574. Turn left heading South. After about 500m a wet area, devoid of vegetation, may be noticed on the right. This is due to acidic water percolating out of the No 4 Adit. After about 100m there is a widening in the track with a stone revetment wall on the north side. A small building on the right is hidden in the trees. This housed a transformer and still has a couple of glass insulators on the outside. This is about 10 minutes walk from the junction and before a clear fork off to the left.

Looking up the hillside, the incline can be seen. Behind the transformer building a faint path climbs steeply North West through the trees and joins the remains of an old tramway. The number 4 adit lies to the right of the path and emits a strong draught. A little higher up the collapsed number 3 adit is reached (its difficult to spot now due to vegetation) and carrying on up the steep slope the number 2 adit is reached. This is recognisable by the 'Danger - Old Mine' signs. The adit appears as a large cleft. The path continues to climb towards the older workings and number 1 adit, but is quite difficult to follow due to fallen trees.

The route from the east starts near the building 'Blaen-y-Wern' at SH77286542 on a minor road which leaves Trefriw heading for the farm at Rhibo. A little further along the road is a cattle grid and a poor track to the cottage. There is space for a car, but parking is awkward. The route takes the track to the cottage through the gate and down the side of the house to a garden area with a gate heading east into pasture. Follow the field boundary, though a boggy section to a stile. Cross the stile and head downhill towards the older mine workings. Pass a couple of flooded trials and the number 1 adit then cross a fence. The number 2 adit is ahead and is recognisable by the fences and 'Danger - Old Mine' signs.

Cae Coch is a winter roost for lesser Horseshoe Bats and so there is no access between October and April to avoid disturbing hibernating bats.

