

Hazard Assessment for Temple Mine in the Rheidol Valley

Temple Mine has three levels, the two upper levels both cut a major stope at height after a short distance and have therefore been grilled for safety as there is nothing to explore.

The deep adit is fairly straightforward as a drive on the lode which enters the stope after some distance. There are no vertical pitches or deep water to negotiate.

The deep adit is by the downstream side of the wheelpit and is famous for the remains of a massive underground angle bob. This was actuated by a wire rope running through the adit from a waterwheel in a pit immediately outside the adit portal and built into the gorge on the one side. An iron take off from the crank of wheel actuated a timber bob mounted in the roof of the adit just inside the portal. From here the wire rope ran through the adit for some distance to another roof mounded bob, and then to iron flat rods, one of which can still be seen connected with the angle bob. Along the adit the sockets for twin horizontal stemples can be seen, these probably mounted pulley wheels for the wire rope.

The mine is important from a geological as well as an industrial archaeological point of view, it is therefore highly desirable that access be maintained.

| Hazard | Description | Mitigation |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Trip Hazards | Uneven floor with strewn rocks as usually encountered underground. | Visitors should be properly equipped for underground exploration and wear sturdy boots or wellies suitable for purpose. |
| Fragile masonry structure at entrance | The downstream riverside corner of the wheelpit is in poor condition with missing stones and a noticeable crack on the downstream side. Collapse of this structure would be very dangerous to anyone in the vicinity. | Avoid contact with the downstream riverside corner of the wheelpit. Do not walk on the top of the wheelpit on the downstream or river sides. |
| Falling Rocks/Timber | Most of the unstable ground which formed false floor in the upper levels has now fallen, however there remains the possibility that more may come down. | Mine explorers should use their eyes and ears – often there will be warning signs of an imminent fall which normally starts with small stones. |
| Spalling roof inside portal | Just inside the portal the roof is spalling, although unlikely to cause a major injury care should be taken. | Enter the mine keeping to the right hand side, be aware of the roof condition on the left. |
| Underground Shaft | Although this appears to be filled with rubble it could well be debris resting on timbers. As its under water the timbers will remain preserved however. | Explorers should be aware of this possibility and keep over to the left in this area. |