Golwern slate quarry

Golwern (Goleuern) sits on the hillside above Fairbourne, over looking Barmouth bay, and Offers amazing views towards the west and north. Although a small opencast working, it was probably the most successful in this area. A walk around the hills reveals many scratchings, some so small they could easily be missed. Sadley, only a couple have any underground workings.
Golwern started life around the 1860's. the slate was carted via a steep winding path to the nearby river mawdach and taken across to barmouth by boat. In 1871 an incline was built to give slate an easier journey to 'ground' level. Henddol, a neighbouring quarry, took over the workings around 1890

<u>Whats there</u>

The site is very compact which makes things very easy to establish how it all worked.
There appears to be four working levels (I have called the lowest level '1')

Floor 1- the footpath brings you onto this level first. There are dressing sheds almost complete and the foundations of an unknown building. There is a sealed tunnel (1901) that gave access to the quarry itself. This has now caused the quarry to flood up to level 2.

Floor 2- this is the floor that attracts hill walkers and idiots, however, it is in pretty good shape considering. The initial attraction being the access tunnel (open) to the flooded quarry. The tunnel has a small amount of lightweight rail. There are remains of amos & francis dressing machines scattered near to the tunnel, and adjacently, remains of possibly dressing sheds. In the centre of the floor is the remains of the drum however the housing has disappeared, leaving a small pit/foundation. The bottom of an incline can be seen here, and when climbed leads to .....

Floor 3- at the top of the incline is a pit and sheave wheel. A small gap to the left gives access to one of the terraced workings in the quarry. In this gap sits a small shed in good condition and just visible through the moss is a section of rail linking the terrace to the incline. There are faint remains of a disused incline which had been converted to steps, leading to .....

Floor 4- at the top of the steps is a weigh bridge, the plate still sits cock-eyed in the pit. Access onto the highest terrace working can be gained here which gives a nice overview of the actual quarry and the water's deep blue colour can be appreciated.

Of note, there are some very nice bridges onsite spanning the paths.