Craig y Dinas, skeleton proposal for improving access to Upper Silica Mine.
Natural Amenities Ltd. January 2017

The Upper Dinas Silica mine is a popular venue for explorers and is frequently used by divers who have the task of transporting heavy equipment up to the mine. The existing route is the path to the north (left facing the Dinas Rock) of the car par and involves a very steep ascent followed by a descent to the entrance of the mine.

The original mine road is to the south of the car park and follows the Afon Sychryd as far as a concrete hard standing area just below a waterfall where it ends. When the mine was working there was an incline ramp leading up to a continuation of the road adjacent with the top of the waterfall. This structure became unsafe and was demolished in the 1980s.

I feel that any attempt to reinstate this would seriously impact the natural beauty of the waterfall.

There is also a ledge high up on the rock face now blocked off for safety. This possibly provided an alternative pedestrian access at a time when the incline ramp was in use as a hopper.

This proposal is for a fabricated steel pedestrian walkway to be fitted and also the upper route to the mine be made good where required by the use of gabions or in other suitable manner.

This would provide and easy route to the mine requiring only 50 feet as ascent. Such a system has been used elsewhere and below is a photograph of such a structure at Carrs Tourist Mine, Nenthead, Cumbria.

The picture below shows the position of the existing ledge.

There are additional advantages to the project in that the proposed walkway would be a fantastic viewing area as well as providing an interesting circular walk whereby following the new route and using the existing route to return to the north of the car park would be a less strenuous route ideal for the less bodily able. It would also allow easy transport of materials to the mine for any necessary safety work or maintenance. Map below shows existing paths and position of proposed walkway at point no 3.