

## **Dolaucothi Gold Mines Access Statement 2024**

### **Dolaucothi Gold Mines**

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### **Introduction**

Dolaucothi Gold Mines sits in the heart of the Cothi Valley where gold was mined from the hills more than 2000 years ago. The Mine Yard sits within one of our largest workings, a large open cast pit.

From the car park, make your way up the 80m tarmac, sloped 1:7 driveway connecting the car park to the Mine Yard. There is a drop off point near the reception building, but no parking spaces. The Mine Yard is level with steep steps leading you out into the mining landscape.



Mobile phone reception on the Mine Yard is variable depending on network, with best reception nearby the head frame or on higher levels of the site.

Assistance dogs are welcome on the whole of the site including the tours. Please let us know if you are bringing an assistance dog with you.

Dogs are welcome everywhere on site, including the guided Roman Tour only. They can also be taken on all self-led audio tours and estate walks. Water bowls are provided on the Mine Yard. There is a dog waste bin next to the gated entrance to the car park and in the woodland car park with general waste bins on the mine yard.

Access to the 'Roman' and 'Mining through the ages' tours are via a number of steep steps and slopes. Stout enclosed footwear is essential for visitor safety and comfort. There are low headspaces underground and it is essential that all visitors wear a hard hat. The Roman Tour is approximately 1.25 hrs and the Mining Through The Ages tour 1 hr.

The 'Level' Mine Tour is accessed from the mine yard level, stout enclosed footwear should be worn for visitor safety and comfort. Hard hats need to be worn for the duration of the tour.

There is no seating on any of our guide led tours.

There is a wheelchair available but no mobility scooters are available at Dolaucothi for hire.

## Arrival & Parking Facilities

Dolaucothi Gold Mines is signposted (brown signs) from the A482 and is also signposted from the A40 at Llanwrda.

There is a drop off point for disabled visitors next to the Visitor Reception with a turning point. Visitors are not permitted to drive into the mine yard during opening hours.

There are 3 disabled parking spaces in the main car park. The main car park including the disabled parking area is gravel and chippings. The woodland car park situated across the lane from the main car park also has gravel and chipping surface.

There are no transfer vehicles available at Dolaucothi.

At the sheltered seating area there is a wheelchair friendly picnic bench.

## WCs

To the rear of the Visitor Centre we have accessible toilets with alarm cord, handrails and space to turn a wheelchair around.

Entrance doorway is 840mm wide and the disabled doorway is 990mm wide with the door opening out into the corridor. There are no adult changing facilities but baby changing is available in the accessible toilets.

All toilets have tiled floors and ceiling mounted automatic lights triggered by movement. There are also natural light sources available through the windows.

Ladies and Men's toilets doorways are 760mm wide. All toilets have automatic hand driers.

There are no other toilets available to visitors on the site or underground.

## Visitor Reception

The Visitor reception is up a small ramp and turn right through non-power assisted door of 850mm.

The door opens outwards and is open.

The floor is tiled with a seagrass rug.

The room is lit by LED lights. Natural light comes in from 4 windows and the doorways.



The lower part of the split level reception desk is 74 cms in height.

There are induction loops on site. No member of staff is trained in British Sign Language. There are adequate levels of light for lip reading and the till has a visual display.

There is room to move a wheelchair around the reception. The exit door onto the Mine Yard may be closed in colder weather, but staff are on hand to assist.

## Field Centre

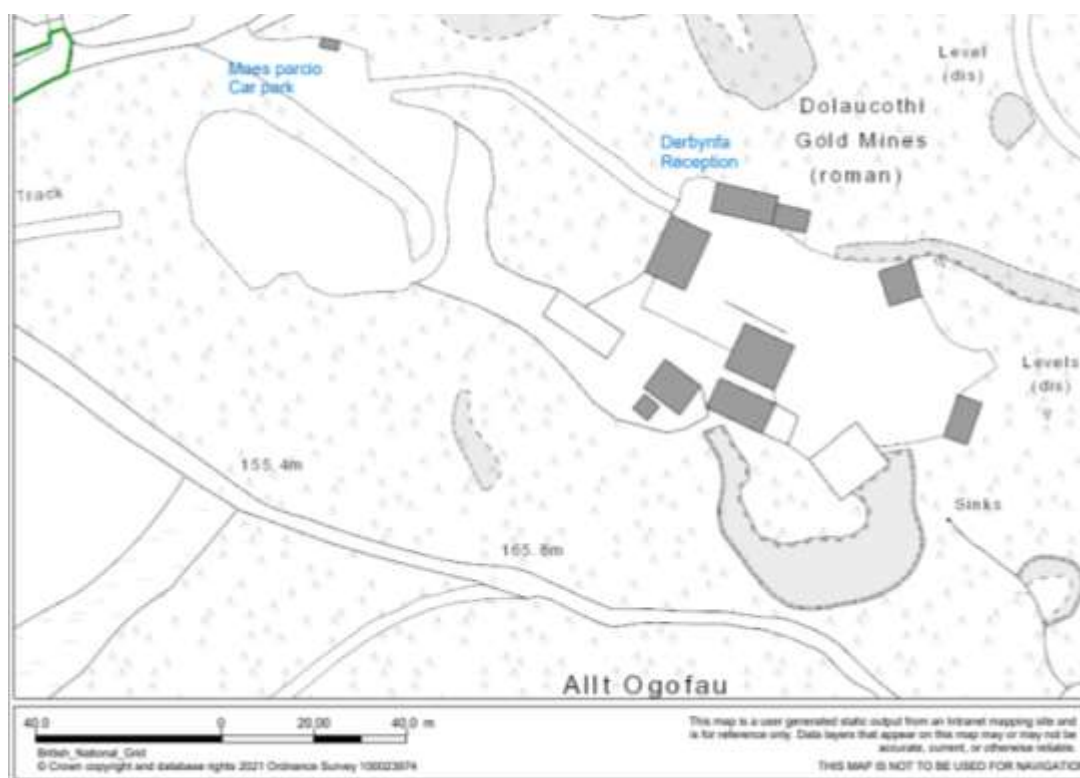
The entrance to the Visitor Centre is up a non-slip ramp onto a wooden veranda. The entrance door opens outwards. The door is not power assisted but will be secured open. The doorway is 890mm wide.

The flooring through the Field Centre is a hard-wearing seagrass carpet.

The Visitor Centre is bright and airy and lit by LED lights with additional light coming in from the doorways and 3 windows letting in natural light.

The exit doorway to the driveway is 865mm wide and opens outwards.

## Mine Yard





#### Allwedd/Key

1	Canolfan Faes	1	Field Centre
2	Derbynfa ymwelwyr	2	Visitor reception
3	Swyddfa	3	Office
4	Gweithdy	4	Ranger's Workshop
5	Panio am aur	5	Gold Panning
6	Gweithdy	6	Workshop
7	Sied Wisgo	7	Kitting Up Shed
8	Sied Cywasgyr	8	Compressor Shed
9	Sied Car Dirwyn	9	Winding Gear Shed
10	Toiledau	10	Toilets

The Visitor reception exits onto the Mine Yard.

The Mine Yard is mainly a gravelled surface with an area of grass under the Headframe. Pathways are swept for ease of access for wheelchairs and push chairs, however there are some deeper areas of gravel that cause some difficulty for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

There are a number of 'dram tracks' (railway tracks) around the Mine Yard with concrete ramp crossing points.

Entrance to the Kitting Up Shed has a non-slip ramp onto the Mine Yard through a 900mm doorway. The exit is at the same level as the Mine Yard through an 845mm doorway.

There is a large doorway more than 2m to the Workshop with a 50mm step. There are machinery displays behind a fence.

A large step over 230mm is in the entrance way into the Winding Shed with no disabled access. There is a viewing window at the front of the building.

Access to the Compressor Shed is at the same level as the Mine Yard, and has an entrance doorway more than 2m.

The doors to visitor buildings on the Mine Yard are always open during opening hours.

All the Mine Yard buildings are corrugated iron sheeting and have concrete flooring. All the buildings have adequate turning space for a wheelchair.

The buildings are lit either by a hanging bulb or fluorescent strip lights. Natural light comes in from the doorways and windows.

There is usually a member of staff or Volunteers available on the Mine Yard, however there may be times during the day when there are no staff on the Mine Yard. There are staff in the Visitor Reception throughout the day in radio contact with other members of the team.

There are audio guides available for the Roman tour

There are no restrictions to mobility scooters or wheelchairs other than access.

There are a number of seating areas. Wooden benches on grass areas next to the Head frame, on the veranda at the Field Centre, and at the Gold Panning area with wooden picnic benches on the Mine Yard and in the undercover seating area.

## **Gold Panning**

The Gold Panning troughs sit on an area of gravel/duff on the Mine Yard. This area is outside and has no electrical lighting. There are a number of benches around the panning area and an ornamental rill.

There are 3 troughs of varying heights, accessible for small children and wheelchair users. The tallest is 940mm high, the medium is 680 mm and the lowest is 460mm high. There is a board giving written instructions and illustrations of how to pan for gold. Staff/Volunteers are available to give demonstrations and assist with panning.



## **Catering**

There is no café available. A limited supply of snacks, cold drinks and ice-cream are available to buy in reception with self-serve Tea and Coffee in the Field centre.

## **Underground mine workings**

Underground mine workings are only accessible on a guided tour. Visitors must book onto the tours via the website before visiting. The tour guides will explain about the route and what an underground tour entails. All visitors are required to wear a hard hat. Kitting up for tours takes place in the Kitting-up Shed.



The **Roman Tour** is approximately an hour and a quarter walking tour, the distance is approximately 1.6 km and involves walking across the gravelled Mine Yard and crossing the tram lines, then up 40 + steps with a sloped footpath, through a pedestrian gate.

The tour crosses the road (quiet country lane) and makes its way up a track after passing through a wooden gateway. Tour guides open gates and supervise visitors crossing the road and will give a warning if a vehicle is passing.

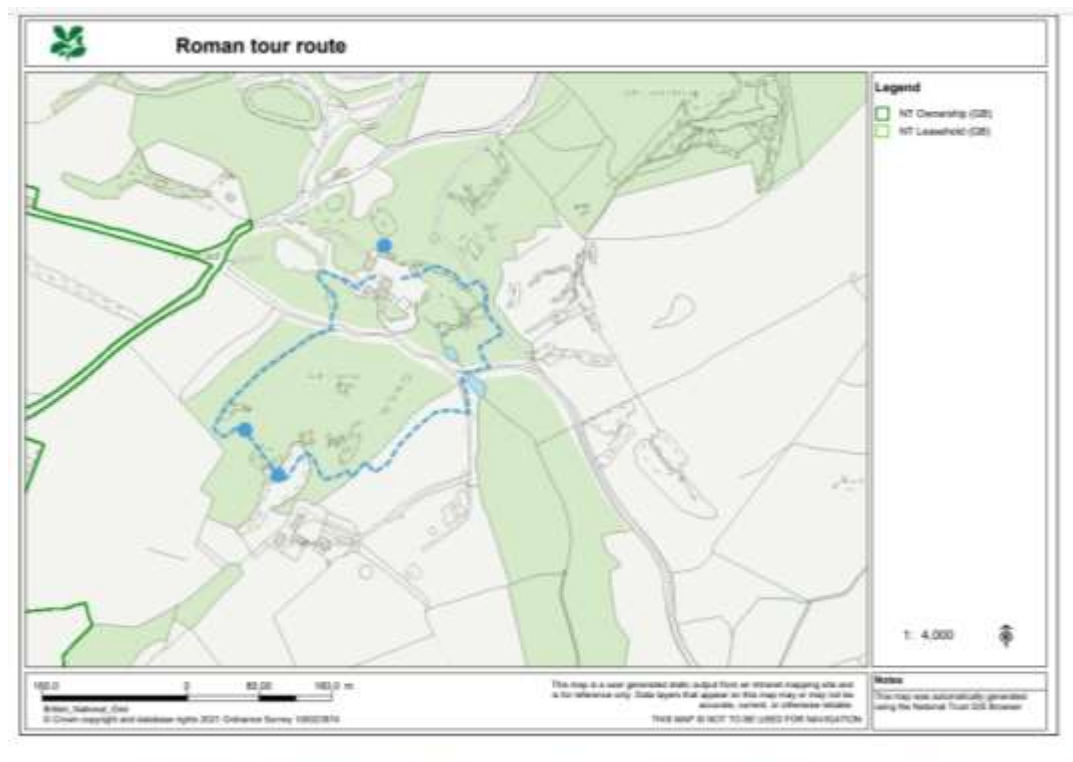
The woodland path is wide enough to comfortably walk two abreast and the surface is earth and grass, the gradient is sloped upwards. There are a number of interpretation panels with text and illustrations.

The route through the mine has low head height in places and is wide enough to walk two abreast. The surface is bedrock and gravel. The mine is lit by electric light and tour guides carry a lamp. The exit is up a metal staircase.



The tour route continues along countryside footpaths and steps to a tarmac driveway, this driveway leads to a country lane. After crossing the lane there is earth/grass footpath leading to a shale/rock track. The route back to the Mine Yard from the track involves descending 84 steps. There is a handrail on the left of the steps that terminates before the Mine Yard leaving 5 steps with no handrail.

Tours finish with de-kitting in the kitting up shed.



The **Mining through the ages** tour takes approximately a one hour walking tour and involves crossing the gravelled Mine Yard and climbing 38 steps without handrails onto the Drovers road. This old roadway has bedrock shale and quartz surface and can be slippery when wet. The tour guides will point out any hazards on route. The tour leaves the Drovers road through a wooden gateway that the tour guide will open, and onto a gravelled path. The path leads to a mine opening.

The adit/ tunnel is gated and padlocked. The tour guides hold the keys and will explain to visitors about the low head height and drainage channel that runs through the mine.



There is no lighting, each visitor wears a lamp with a battery for light. The mine floor is made up of bedrock and chippings and runs slightly uphill on a gentle gradient. The exit from the mine involves 39 steps, some cut out of rock and others made of wood. This route out of the mine is optional and another guide will be in the mine to escort those who choose not to climb the steps.

The route back to the Mine Yard involves 86 steps. There is a handrail on the left of the steps that terminates before the Mine Yard leaving 5 steps with no handrail.



The **Level Tour** is approximately 30mins long and involves making our way from the kitting up shed across the gravelled Mine Yard to the entrance of a Victorian mine. The tunnel is gated and padlocked. The tour guides hold the keys and will explain to visitors about the low head height on entrance and drainage channel that runs through the mine. There is no lighting, each visitor wears a lamp with a battery for light. The mine floor is tarmac and runs slightly uphill on a gentle gradient. There is a small turning space towards the end of the mine as visitors exit the mine the same way as they came in.

All tours finish with de-kitting in the kitting up shed.

### **Contact details for more information**

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