

Autumn 2025



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Nant y Mwyn Lead Mine

Community Update



We're pleased to share the latest community update from the Wales Metal Mines Programme, highlighting recent progress at the historical Nant y Mwyn lead mine near Rhandirmwyn.

Since our last update, we've been busy behind the scenes exploring remediation options, with a particular focus on surface water interventions.

To better understand the local environment, we've carried out a range of ecological surveys, including assessments for otters, water voles, and pine martens, as well as technical drone surveys to support our work.

Why This Work Matters

The Nant y Mwyn and Nant y Bai watercourses flow into the Afon Tywi which is impacted by metal pollution from historical lead mining. Our long-term goal is to reduce metal loadings entering these tributaries and, ultimately, the Afon Tywi, which currently fails to meet Environmental Quality Standards for zinc.

What We've Found

Since the last newsletter in November 2023, a Feasibility Study has been underway to assess the technical, environmental, and economic viability of various intervention options. One key finding is that the Nant y Bai is actively eroding spoil heaps along its banks, a likely contributor to elevated metal levels and contaminated sediments in downstream watercourses.



What We're Planning

To help tackle spoil heap erosion and reduce contamination, we're planning the following targeted interventions:



Scour protection

We aim to protect approximately 100 metres of Nant y Bai embankment with the installation of scour protection, which may include:

- Gabion baskets
- Rock or gravel filled bags
- Geotextile matting
- Timber stakes
- Grassland translocation to stabilise disturbed areas

We're currently finalising designs for this phase of the project with the cooperation of landowners.

Further work will continue in the years to come, but we anticipate that these initial interventions will have a significant impact at Nant y Mwyn. They will also provide valuable groundwork for future phases of the project, helping us to better target long-term solutions to reduce pollution from the mine.

Areas of the mine site are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We will ensure our approach respects the protected ecology and will seek the necessary permissions, including the SSSI assent required, to allow the project to proceed.

Working Together

We're committed to keeping the community informed and involved. As the project moves forward, we'll share more updates, including timelines and ways you can get involved or share your views.

If you'd like to learn more, receive updates by email, or share your thoughts, we'd love to hear from you.

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Watercourse management

We plan to divert water away from the spoil heaps, helping to prevent further pollution from entering the stream.



Sediment Management

We will deploy sediment traps to capture mobile spoil material before it reaches the watercourse



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bit.ly/NantyMwynMetalMine



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Old mines are dangerous places with many hidden hazards. Many of our projects are located on private land where public access is not permitted without landowner approval.