



An aerial shot of the mines



Left to right: Prof Roger Earis, chairman of the Cambrian Mountains Society; Judy Johnston, trustee and Peter Foulkes, trustee and chair of Designation Committee at Esgair Ffrith Wheel Pit 15DPJ15OCT223

Historic mines 'under threat from fly tipping'

A PRESERVATION group has warned that two historic metal mines in north Ceredigion will be "increasingly under threat" from fly tipping and off-roading if a bid to protect them is not successful.

The Cambrian Mountains Society are urging the Welsh Government and Cadw to protect the heritage and history of Esgair Hir and Esgair Ffrith, situated close to the source of the Afon Lluestygo to the east of Talybont in the Cambrian Mountains.

The structure of the mines, which produced lead, copper and silver and were mined from the late 17th century until the early 1900s,

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are well-preserved, but in urgent need of further care, the society said.

Last year an application to Cadw by archaeologist Dr Sandy Gerrard to have both mines designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monuments failed.

"The Cambrian Mountains Society now believes the site is under further threat from fly tipping, off-roading and other activities," a spokesperson for the society, which was formed in 2005, said.

"Investigations have revealed the mines have a long history, perhaps even dating back to the Bronze Age, but with their heyday in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"Fine examples of wheel pits, an engine house with connecting flat rod channels, a barracks, powder house, shafts and adits can still be clearly seen around the site.

"This is a rich archaeological resource that demonstrates the character and evolution of metal mining technology, backed up by exceptional documentary evidence.

"The site is of great importance in the history of non-ferrous metal mining, not just in Wales but in the UK

as a whole."

Cambrian Mountains Society chairman, Prof Roger Earis said: "The mines are already designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest on the basis of their rich fern flora and rare lichen community, but the site needs protection for its industrial archaeology.

"The society supports the case made by Dr Gerrard and has written to the minister responsible, Ken Skates, to press for protection of this important example of Wales' mining heritage.

"Our Welsh mining heritage is an important tourist asset and needs preservation."