

## Visit to Wimberley Slade 27 July 2025

On 27 July 2025 Ray Wilson was our guide for a walk around Wimberley Slade which was attended by 24 members and friends.

We visited the Wimberley Quarry (right) which operated until the early 1920s, which in the 1880s was owned by the Trotter, Thomas and Company, and later by E R Payne and Sons, during whose ownership high quality pennant stone produced was used in the construction of Cardiff Docks and also at Cardiff Castle. In 1909 the quarry passed into the ownership of the United Stone Firms Limited, which by 1914 claimed to be the largest quarry owners in the country. The site is now a nature reserve managed by Gloucestershire Nature Trust.



We followed the route of the former tramway and looked at the site of Hopewell (Wimberley) Mine and also the site of Wimberley Colliery, and that of Cannop Colliery, sunk as a deep mine in 1906 with the High Delf seam being reached in 1909, with the first winding of coal taking place in 1912. It remained in operation until 1960.



We also visited the abandoned New Cannop Drift Mine formerly operated by Harvey Gwilliam, who obtained consent to work the Yorkley seam in 1960, and was abandoned in 1992. It is an extremely steep incline into the drift mine and the remains of a winding machine can be seen on site. The photo on the left shows the machine room.

On our return up the hill, we also visited the location of Worcester Colliery (below) which was originally abandoned in 1996 but continued to work intermittently until 2005.

It



was an excellent afternoon exploring the area with Ray as our guide and with additional expert information provided by Ian Standing - members were very appreciative of the visit.

**Chas Townley**