

Rock Cannon found at Parys Mountain



The first site has 16 holes arranged in two horizontal rows of 8. The holes are around 1.5 inches' diameter and depths ranging from 5 to 7 inches. **The remains of some sort of black powder has been found at the bottom of some of the holes and people are advised not to poke into the holes.** There are no obvious tracks linking the holes so they may have been connected on the surface of the rock using grease impregnated with gunpowder.



The rock face in which they are located is about 1 foot above ground level and slopes at 45 degrees to the vertical. When fired the cannon would have been aimed in the direction of the village of Penysarn to the north east. From the probable trajectory the blast would not have been seen from outside the opencast. It is likely that the echo of the blast in the opencast would have intensified the sound.



The second site, close by, has 14 cannon holes arranged in a pattern of 8 and 6. The group of 8 have a diameter of 1.75 inches. The other group range from 1 inch to 1.75 inches in diameter. The depth of these holes range from 4 to 27 inches. The bottom of some of the longer holes seem to contain a black powder which may extend the total depth of the holes even further.



The main group are again about 1 foot of the ground and the holes appear to be almost horizontal. Material ejected from them would be fired across the opencast in a North Westerly direction towards Amlwch town. Again it is unlikely that the blast would be seen from outside the opencast. The positioning and direction of fire making maximum use of echo within the open cast.

The third group consist of 10 holes in a single line. They are 1.5 inches in diameter and between 3 and 6 inches deep. The direction of fire appears to be higher than the previous ones described.