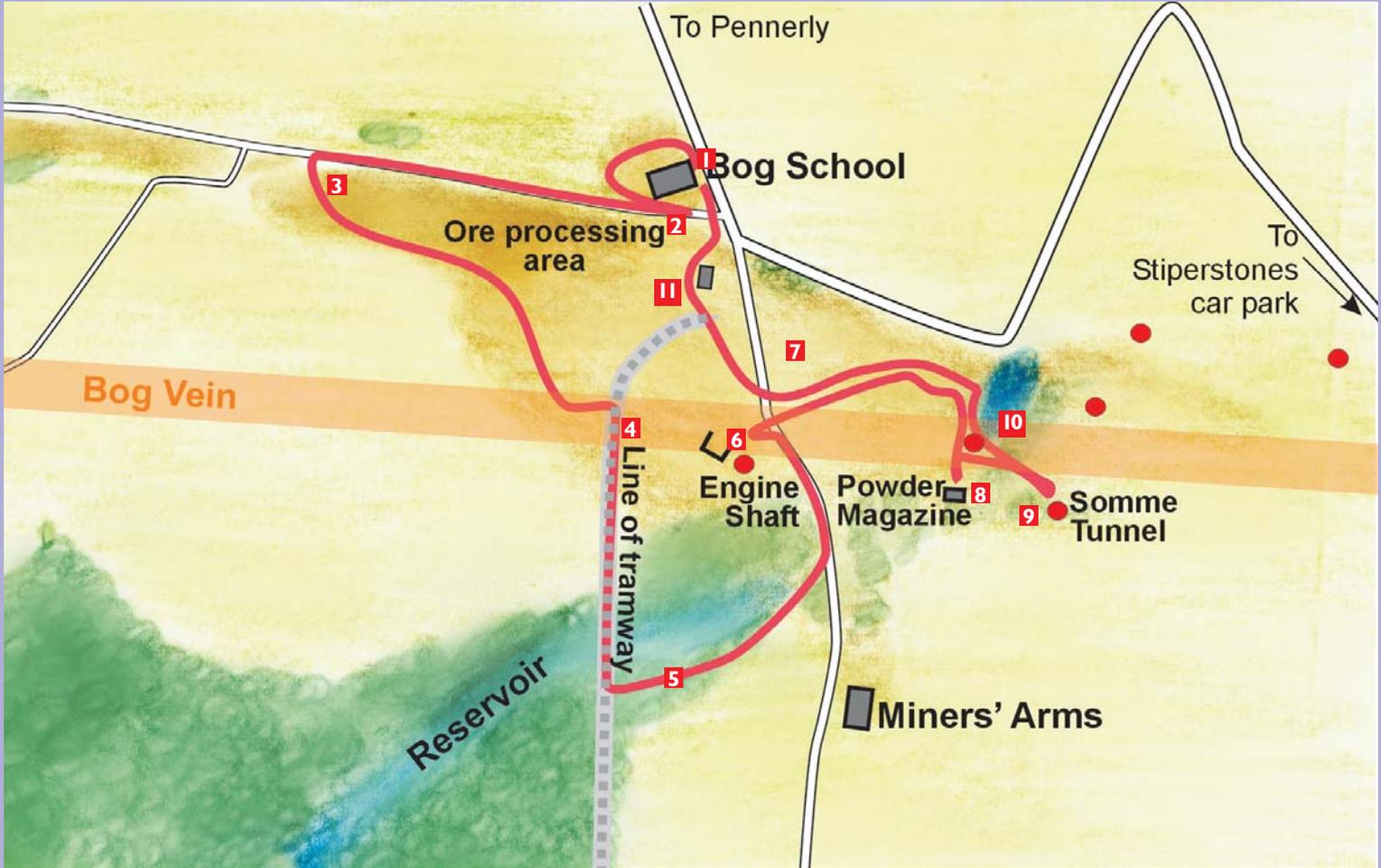


Wonder as you Wander around the site of The Bog lead mine

Take a short stroll to see the rocks involved and find the clues to the workings of this once-flourishing mining community



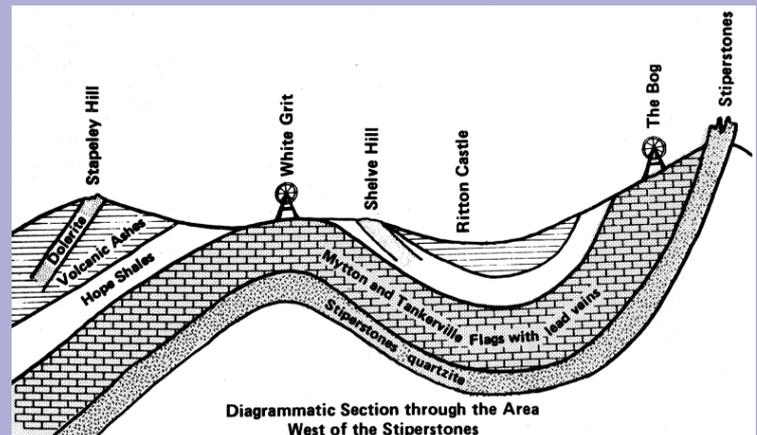
Introduction

This short stroll around site of the old Bog Mine will help you to place and understand the information given in the Bog Visitor Centre. The route marked on the plan embraces all visible features of interest.

Note that it involves walking over largely flat but often uneven ground. There is no distinct path in all areas, and it is not suitable for wheelchairs or the infirm. However, several of the numbered sites can be reached by other paths or seen from the road. You walk this route entirely at your own risk, and should take due care.

The Setting of The Bog Mine

The south-west Shropshire lead mining area lies to the west of the Stiperstones ridge. The occurrence of the lead ores is determined by the distribution of the dark well-bedded (layered) rock, Mytton Flags. Earth movements about 400 million years ago folded the sequence of rocks here in the way shown in the simplified diagram. Only the Mytton Flags developed a pattern of vertical joints (cracks) roughly at right angles to the axis of the folds, into which hot mineral-rich fluids were later injected. These crystallised to give the veins of lead, zinc and barytes ores upon which the mining settlements developed.



1 Look up above the front door and you will see two types of stone. The dark blue-black slabby rock is the Mytton Flags. The other is a patch of Stiperstones Quartzite, the white crystalline quartz rock. The date (1830) suggests this may have been a chapel before it became a school.



2 Walk around the school playground, looking at the other three walls of the building. These are made out of the very hard Stiperstones Quartzite which can be used only in random blocks. This rock was the sand of an ancient beach about 500 million years ago, as the sea in an ocean to the west rose gradually over a continent to the east. Leave by the side gate and turn right down the un-metalled track.



3 Turn left off the track and make your way across the area of waste, towards the tramway embankment. Proceed with caution as there is no set path here. If too wet or rough return up the lane and pick up the sites in a different order.



The rough ground was the area where the ore was processed: crushed and separated from the waste minerals of quartz and calcite. This area is roughly in line with the Bog Vein. When first spotted, possibly in Roman times, the vein probably came to the surface as an upstanding feature. Patches of lichens, thinly covering the gravelly ground, are often the only plants as little else can tolerate the levels of lead and zinc in the soil.

4 Climb up onto the prominent embankment. This was the bed of a tramway. It was a late feature of the site, built in 1916 to the Ramsden Shaft from which barytes was being mined, after lead mining had ceased. Turn right along the embankment. You cross an area with trees growing in waterlogged ground. This was a reservoir needed to provide water for processing.



5 Where the track on the bank becomes more overgrown, turn left on a path which clearly shows the remnants of the reservoir on your left. Proceed up here, around the end of a normally locked gate, and onto the road. Turn left, but look to your right to spot the old Miners Arms; now a private house.



6 Turn left into the car park area to see the information boards about the history, mining and wildlife of the site. They are on the foundation walls of the old Miners Institute. This in turn had been part of the site of the original Engine Shaft, the capped depression of which is still visible.



7 Turn back to the road and cross over to the other car park. In 1902 you would have passed the buildings shown on this old postcard: cottages and workshops at the heart of the Bog Mine.



8 Head diagonally towards the top left corner of the car park then take the small path to the old Powder Magazine. This one is, as usual, well hidden in case of an explosion.



9 Retrace your steps a few metres and turn right up the boarded track to the Somme Tunnel. Built in 1916 (the year of the battle of the Somme) the adit was driven in an unsuccessful search for barytes. It is gated to protect it as a bat roost.



10 Retrace your steps on the board walk and follow the track back down to the car park. You will see another small pond, again built to supply processing water to the works and now a valuable wildlife habitat.



11 Cross back over the road to the Cow House. Along with the quartzite and flags seen earlier, the walls of this building used an extremely fossil-rich, hard sandstone quarried from a very small outcrop over the fields. Look closely and you will see the moulds of shells and corals from which the original calcite skeletons have been dissolved away.



Further Information

The Bog Visitor Centre in the old school houses an extensive collection of information about the history of the mine and its community, as well as a collection of rock specimens. It also offers light refreshments, books and craft stalls.

For details see:-
www.bogcentre.co.uk or
phone **01743 792 484**

