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## Welsh Mines Access Group

It has come to the notice of the Welsh Mines Society that Miles Moulding has set up a BCA-registered access control body named 'Welsh Mines Access Group' and registered the Internet domain [welsh-mines.org.uk](http://www.welsh-mines.org.uk).

The formation of Welsh Mines Access Group was announced on the Mine-Explorer website on 20th December 2013

(see <http://www.mine-explorer.co.uk/bbs/forums/thread-view.asp?tid=5182>).

On this website Miles Moulding states 'I never really wanted Go Below [*Go Below Underground Adventures* (<http://www.go-below.co.uk>), which is operated by Miles Moulding. – Ed.] to become an ACB as that's just not what GB is supposed to do. I have set up an ACB for the mine though, as my obligations require me to do, which covers the recreation access insurance etc., but because it encompasses several mines in the area, I've just generically called it Welsh Mines Access. We don't want a separate ACB for every venue as it's loads of extra cost and paperwork. For the moment though just ring the Go Below number for the code when you want it. There are no access requirements or anything.'

According to the Welsh Mines Access Group website <http://www.welsh-mines.org.uk> 'The WMAG is a registered and insured Access Controlling Body through the British Caving Association intended to serve the interests of both landowners and those who wish to explore their underground property, by acting as an intermediate party. WMAG is a non-profit entity with no commercial interest or affiliation with any club or society beyond ACB membership of the British Caving Association.'

The Welsh Mines Society has no immediate concerns about access to those mines or underground quarries that the Welsh Mines Access Group controls (currently thought to be Cwmorthin and Wrysgan underground slate quarries) because as far as is known there has not been any change to the access arrangements for those locations.

However, the Welsh Mines Society is concerned about the possibility of confusion between the names and websites of the Society ([www.welshmines.org](http://www.welshmines.org)) and this access control body ([www.welsh-mines.org.uk](http://www.welsh-mines.org.uk)).

Also, considering that a number of other caving clubs, societies and other organisations are Access Controlling Bodies for various mines in Wales, the Welsh Mines Society is concerned that the name Welsh Mines Access Group might be taken to be the controlling body for all mines in Wales. This is of particular concern considering that negotiations between the Cambrian Caving Council and Natural Resources Wales concerning access to mines on Forestry Commission land are currently at a critical point.

The Welsh Mines Society wish to make it known that Welsh Mines Access Group has no connection with the Welsh Mines Society and the Society was unaware of the formation of Welsh Mines Access Group or the domain registration before it was announced on the Mine-Explorer website.

Please pass this information on to any other organisations or interested parties you think should be made aware.

*John Hine*

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