

REWANUI INCLINE

The Rewanui Incline wound its way up a valley at the back of the village of Dunollie, a “suburb” of Runanga 10 kilometres to the northwest of Greymouth on SH6. Unfortunately for the explorer of “ghost” railways signs on the gates of Spring Creek Mine, owned and operated by Solid Energy,ⁱ make it very clear that there is no possibility of vehicle access. However, keen walkers or cyclists can make their way onto the rail line to the right of the gates and follow it through two short tunnels to the yards at Rewanui. There are apparently views of the current mine along the way and rail and coal relics still to be seen. A West Coast tourist website suggests: “You will need to be fit in order to complete the walk to the top. We suggest good footwear [*sic*] and a drink for this outing.”

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following websites will be of interest to those who are considering a visit:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rewanui_Branch

<http://brians-place.com/trains/ghosts/rewanui.html>

<http://www.arnoldacres.co.nz/blogs/rewanui/>

<http://www.westcoastdriveguide.co.nz/explore/walk-rewanuiincline.html>>

ⁱ Since late 2012 Spring Creek Mine has been under care and maintenance: “a transitional state, a time when a mine has stopped production for technical, environmental, financial or other reasons but the owner has not yet decided if or when mine operations will resume, or if it will be sold, or closed and abandoned. During care and maintenance, a smaller workforce ensures the mine presents no danger to human life or the environment and that any remaining capital equipment, including developed roadways, is maintained in a state which does not excessively constrain future options.” <http://www.coalnz.com/coal/operations/spring-creek-underground-mine.html>