

Site Name: Bwlchglas Mine

Grid Reference: SN 710878

RIGS Category: Scientific and Educational

Earth Science Category: Mineralogy

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 163, Aberystwyth

RIGS Statement of Interest:

Bwlchglas Mine is located on the ENE-striking Hafan Lode that transects steeply dipping mudstones and thin sandstones of the Lower Silurian (Llandovery Series) Devil's Bridge Formation on the western limb of a small anticline. The site is of regional geological importance for its in situ primary and secondary mineralisation and also it provides an excellent underground mapping and study facility.

The underground workings, which are only accessible from the top or shallow crosscut adit, reveal good exposures of pre-tectonic bedding-parallel and bedding-normal quartz veins, whilst NNE-striking reverse faults and drag folds developed during Caledonian earth movements are well exposed in a number of places. Post-Caledonian reactivation of these structures is demonstrated by minor displacement on the metalliferous veins. Two phases of lode mineralization and a clay-filled movement plane are clearly visible. The mineralization includes excellent examples of hydraulic breccias and crustiform fissure-fillings. Secondary mineralisation of ancient, post-glacial and post-mining origin is also well demonstrated: indeed, this is what brought the site to the attention of mineralogists in the 1970s. Examples of both primary and secondary minerals also occur on the tips.

Surveyed by: Dr Bob Mathews & J.S. Mason