## Site Name: Bwlchgwyn & Llwynteifi Mines  Grid Ref: SN 738787

**RIGS Category**: Aesthetic, Educational & Scientific
**Earth Science Category**: Mineralogy
**Geology 1:50,000**: BGS Sheet 163, Aberystwyth

**RIGS Statement of Interest**:

This site is of regional geological importance because it provides one of the most informative combinations of mining geology and primary mineralization, located in one of the finest early mining landscapes in the Central Wales Orefield. The site incorporates two disused mines, namely Bwlchgwyn (SN 739789) and Llwynteifi (SN 741790), which formed a linked sett extending upslope from the minor road to the western flank of the Rheidol Valley. The two mines have a long history of mining which probably dates back to the 17th Century and, together with Ystumtuen and Penrhiw mines, immediately to the west, were sometimes operated as one during the 19th Century. They are all drained by deep crosscut adits driven in from Cwmrheidol.

The workings are located on the major, ENE-striking Castell Lode which is hosted by grey mudstones and sandstones of the early Silurian (Llandovery Series) Devil's Bridge Formation. The primary mineralization at both mines is dominated by quartz-cemented breccias with abundant sphalerite, galena, calcite, marcasite and pyrite. Good examples of primary mineralization are common on the spoil tips, particularly those associated with the large Eastern Shaft, and specimens exhibit open-textured breccias with coarse-grained sulphides and crustiform banding. Pyrite-marcasite veining, a late-stage process, has caused contamination of the ores, to the extent that in some cases they were discarded on the tips. Secondary mineralization is restricted to thin coatings formed since the waste was tipped.

**Surveyed by**: J.S. Mason