

Site Name: Craig Ddu Mine

Grid Reference: SJ 062 240

RIGS Category: Scientific

Earth Science Category: Mineralogy and Structural Geology

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 136 Bala

RIGS Statement of Interest:

This extraordinary site was revealed during track-widening operations in 1996 by Forest Enterprise, which exposed a series of quartz veins adjacent to a small open shaft-cum-stope. The veins traverse a sequence of black shales with a number of intercalated tuff beds generally around 0.6 m in thickness. Each tuff bed contains numerous parallel vertical quartz veins; upon entering the shale the mineralisation either thins dramatically or completely dies out into a sub-vertical clay-lined fracture, only to reappear in the next tuff band. This is a splendid example of lithological influence on fracture-hosted mineralisation. It illustrates to perfection how brittle and plastic host rocks react under the extensional stresses associated with vein emplacement. The primary mineralisation is of interest for the varied inclusion assemblage occurring in the galena, and is thoroughly deserving of an in-depth investigation - something this site has in common with the other RIGS in the Llangynog district.

Surveyed by: J.S. Mason