Site Name: Dylife Mine Grid Reference: SN 864940

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific **Earth Science Category**: Mineralogy

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

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The large area of spoil tips adjacent to the road at Dylife provides an ideal facility in the Central Wales Orefield for the demonstration of vein textures and the identification of common vein minerals, and is well suited for students and amateur mineralogists, who have regularly visited the site for many years. The tips are rich in vein material which consists of mineralised breccias and crustiform fissure-fillings. Characteristic textures of the Central Wales veins are clearly demonstrated and cross-cutting or re-brecciation textures also occur.

The mineralized veins in the Dylife area are hosted by mudstones of various Lower Silurian (Llandovery Series) units ranging from the Cwmere Formation up to the Devil's Bridge Formation. Early mineralization comprises quartz-cemented breccias, carrying galena and chalcopyrite, which have been invaded by ferroan dolomite. Later mineralization consists of breccias and banded fissure-fills in which chalcopyrite, galena and sphalerite all occur with quartz, followed sequentially by fibrous sphalerite with quartz, and later by sphalerite, galena and calcite, while very late pyrite and marcasite occur in minor amounts. This is additionally only one of two mine sites in Central Wales where the iron sulphide pyrrhotite has been recorded. Secondary mineralization is generally limited to surface coatings and comprises malachite, serpierite, hydrozincite, hemimorphite, greenockite and gypsum, all of which have been formed by post-mining weathering of sulphides within the tips.

For a more detailed account of this mineralisation and its Central Wales Orefield context, please refer to the Additional Geological Information section below. Further information on the minerals of Central Wales is appended to this set of RIGS documents.

Surveyed by: J.S. Mason