

Site Name: Henfwlch Mine

Grid Ref: SN 737883

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Mineralogy

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

RIGS Statement of Interest:

Henfwlch Mine is of regional geological importance for its primary metalliferous mineralisation, which includes a variety of rare cobalt and nickel minerals including siegenite, millerite, ullmannite and the exceptionally rare (in global terms) tucekite, and for its secondary mineralization, in particular the quality of hemimorphite specimens. This interest is located entirely in the spoil tips.

Located on the ENE-striking Hafan Lode, the mineralisation is hosted by dark mudstones and sandstones of the Lower Silurian (Llandovery Series) Cwmere and Derwenlas formations. In addition to the rare species listed above, the tips contain quartz, calcite and abundant ferroan dolomite with galena, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, pyrite and marcasite. These minerals can all be identified in the field, but the Co-Ni species are generally only identifiable in polished sections. Aspects of both the early- and late-stage parts of the Central Wales mineralisation are represented.

With regard to the secondary mineralization, fine specimens of crystalline hemimorphite occur on quartz, ferroan dolomite and sphalerite. Cavities within rotted ferroan dolomite contain attractive sprays of aragonite crystals up to 15 mm in length. Needles of cerussite and green crystalline coatings of pyromorphite are common and occasional examples of wulfenite on pyromorphite have been recorded. Linarite, malachite, brochantite, langite, serpierite, chrysocolla and aurichalcite occur as small specimens.

Surveyed by: J.S. Mason