Site Name: Penyclun Mine **Grid Reference**: SN 934 875

RIGS Category: Historical & Scientific
Earth Science Category: Mineralogy
Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 164, Llanidloes

RIGS Statement of Interest:

A key feature of the eastern part of the Central Wales Orefield, in western Powys, is the relative abundance of barium mineralisation, which was worked in significant quantities in the Llanidloes district. Penyclun Mine RIGS, and the neighbouring Bryntail Mine RIGS, 1 km along strike on the same lode to the WSW, are the best localities for studying the mineralisation and in addition both feature interesting industrial archaeology.

Penyclun mine worked the Van Lode, or a branch of it, and produced about 1800 tons of galena concentrates during the mid 19th Century. The tips were reworked to a small extent for witherite (barium carbonate) in the 1930s. Thoroughly scoured by mineral collectors over the years for the excellent crystal-lined cavities in massive witherite for which the mine is best known, the site still yields plentiful research material. The tips also contain calcite, barite, sphalerite and the uncommon barium-bearing zeolite mineral, harmotome. The chief interest, both here and at Bryntail (where barite is the predominant Ba-bearing phase) is the origin of this localised area within the orefield where Ba mineralisation is so well-developed; apart from one very minor occurrence it is absent from Ceredigion. It is noted that scattered occurrences of Ba mineralisation are present from the Llanidloes area to the Welsh Border, with, just beyond, the SW Shropshire Orefield, where barite was a major product. It is a subject deserving further study.

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