

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: HUGLITH MINE

DISTRICT: SHREWSBURY & ATCHAM

SITE REF: 15WLA

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

Local Planning Authority: SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 405016

Area: 4.19 (ha.) 10.35 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 40 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 15.3.93

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description & Reasons for Notification:

Huglith Mine provides one of the best exposures of barite mineralisation in red beds seen in Britain. The series of mine workings follow the Huglith Main Vein (known as no. 2) which occupies a 070° trending, 70° south dipping fault, over 800 metres along strike. This fault intersects the major Pontesford-Linley Lineament to the west.

The vein is situated in fluvial red and purple coarse grits of the Longmyndian Oakwood Group of Precambrian age. Comprising almost solid barite, the vein is wide (up to 6 metres in parts) and anastomosing in several localities. It is well exposed at several mine adits in the site where the morphology may be studied in detail.

The barite is usually massive and pink, the colour being due to iron staining from the country rocks. The barite veins and the sides of fault fissures are often stained green or blue by secondary copper minerals. Hydrocarbons also occur in the ore.

The Huglith Mine was by far the biggest producer of barium in the west Shropshire Orefield and is selected as the best and only example of a barite deposit in this important region.