

COUNTY: SHROPSHIRE

SITE NAME: SNAILBEACH MINE

DISTRICT: SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

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, South Shropshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 374023

Area: 0.85 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 126

1:10,000: SJ 30 SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 14/11/95

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

A Geological Conservation Review site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

A series of lead-barium veins within the Ordovician Mytton Formation have been exploited for lead, possibly since Roman times. Most of the mines are now inaccessible. The once extensive mine dumps on the east side of the Stiperstones-Ploxgreen Road testified to the scale of working in Snailbeach Mine, the largest lead mine in the district. Although most of these mine dumps have been reclaimed, a conservation section retains samples of the coarser grained material from which good specimens of galena, sphalerite, barite and calcite can be obtained. Of particular interest is the presence of witherite. Specimens have recently been obtained in which typical waxy witherite is attached to a heavy carbonate with a rhombohedral cleavage.