

Site Name: Constitution Hill Breakwater

Grid Ref: SN 582827

RIGS Category: Educational

Earth Science Category: Silurian (Llandovery) Stratigraphy

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

RIGS Statement of Interest:

Part of the RIGS is a c. 100 m long sea cliff and foreshore section below Constitution Hill to the north of Aberystwyth promenade; a concrete-stone breakwater bisects the section. This part belongs to a GCR site (Aldridge, 2000) that was designated for its early Silurian Aberystwyth Grits Group of sedimentary rocks. Between the breakwater and the north end of the promenade is a c. 150 m long pebble beach that is also included in the RIGS.

The site is designated here for its educational and public awareness importance. The Aberystwyth Grits are known nationally and internationally as some of the best examples of turbidite sediments that were recognized as such during the infancy of turbidite studies. This RIGS is visited by many educational groups from the UK and elsewhere. A field guide leaflet has been published by RIGS (Bates, 2007) and there is scope for preparing educational packs and work sheets for various age groups. The beach pebbles (Bates et al., 2006) also attract attention of the public and educational groups, partly for aesthetic reasons and partly because they include about 30 different rock types brought from northern Britain by the Irish Sea glacier in the Ice Age to be worked and polished by the sea.

Surveyed by: W.R. Fitches