Site Name: Crychell Moor Grid Reference: SO 078737 and SO 077734

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific
Earth Science Category: Quaternary & Geomorphology

Geology 1:50,000:

RIGS Statement of Interest:

A number of small, shallow, circular peat-filled depressions, with enclosing ring-ridges (ramparts) <1.5 m in height, are found at Crychell Moor, 4 km west of Llanbister, in tributary valleys of the Afon Ithon. These landforms, referred to as 'ramparted depressions', may have formed either as a result of the collapse of periglacial ground-ice mounds, such as open system pingos (Rudeforth et al. 1984) or lithalsas (mineral palsas) (for definitions see Geological setting and Other comments sections below) or by the stagnation and melt-out of downwasting glacier ice buried by supraglacial sedimentation (deposition of sediment on the surface of a glacier). The site therefore has considerable potential to provide key information about both the style of deglaciation in the mid Wales uplands and the permafrost regime that developed following deglaciation. Furthermore, the palaeoecological records within the numerous peat-filled basins at this site may have the potential for helping to make detailed reconstructions of Lateglacial and Holocene palaeoenvironments in the mid Wales region. Investigations of this nature have not been undertaken at this site.

The ramparted depressions at Crychell Moor are some of the best preserved examples of this type of landform in Wales. The least modified landforms are located within a part of the site that already has SSSI designation for biological reasons, but this designation excludes many of the landforms in adjacent fields.

Surveyed by: N. Ross