

Site Name: Eisteddfa Gurig

Grid Ref: SN 795833

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Silurian (Llandovery) Stratigraphy

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

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The RIGS is a forest-road cutting a few hundred metres off the A 44 trunk road near the hamlet of Eisteddfa Gurig on the Ceredigion-Powys boundary. Situated on Forestry Commission land, the c. 20 m long cutting is easily accessible on foot. The cutting is made conspicuous by the bright rusty colour of the slightly weathered rocks. These rocks belong to the earliest Silurian (or possibly latest Ordovician) Cwmere Formation that is composed of marine mudstones and siltstones, some of which contain fossil graptolites. Their colour comes from the weathering of pyrite, an iron sulphide that formed in the sediments soon after deposition and one of the hallmarks of stagnant, poorly oxygenated conditions on the seafloor during sedimentation. The site is mainly of interest to geologists researching Welsh marine environments and their age from fossils. As it is easily accessible and largely safe this RIGS is also of interest for geological educational purposes, especially for studying ancient marine sedimentation and fossils.

Surveyed by: W.R. Fitches