

Site Name: Bailey Einon

Grid Reference: SO 085617

RIGS Category: Scientific

Earth Science Category: Ordovician (Llandeilian) Stratigraphy

Geology 1:50,000: BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 179, Rhayader

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The locality is an extremely unusual site consisting of a collapsing river bank and adjacent exposures of drift. There is no outcrop except for the presumed glacial deposits, but included in the till are large mudstone clasts containing the most abundant and best-preserved trilobites to be found in Wales. More importantly, there are specimens of the rare and highly contentious putative echinoderms known as cornutes, as well as other extremely unusual fossils such as possible priapulid worm tubes. The drift itself is of very limited extent, and appears to be a slump or landslip deposit. The fossiliferous mudstone is of unknown, but presumed very local origin. The topographical context of the locality, in a steep-sided valley on a loop in the River Ithon, and the drift sequence, provide the potential for useful discussion of glacial geomorphology and sedimentology, and the clasts are of great palaeontological interest. The site is included as a significant curiosity, with elements of international importance.

Surveyed by: J.P. Botting & W.R. Fitches