

Site Name: Carno

Grid Reference: SN 935953

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Quaternary & Geomorphology

Geology 1:50,000:

RIGS Statement of Interest:

A series of very large “staircases” of terrace-like landforms are widely developed on the hillsides of several valleys (Cledan, Cerniog and Colwyn valleys) in mid Wales. Comprising “grey stony clay with frequent grit boulders” (Pissart 1963; probably glacial till), these large (200-300 m wide and up to 15 m high) features are found mostly on northeast and eastward facing slopes and have a convex morphology in plan view. The upper surfaces slope at 3-4° whilst the fronts generally slope at 20-25°. The best examples are probably those to the west of Carno in the Afon Cerniog which can be viewed easily from the top of the undesignated road that runs from just SE of the village. They are easily recognisable on aerial photos. Pissart (1963) describes several other zones of these landforms throughout mid Wales (e.g., in the Nodwydd valley, 8 miles (13 km) WNW of Llanfair Caereinion). The precise origins of these landforms, however, are very uncertain. This RIGS therefore has substantial research potential.

Surveyed by: N. Ross