

Site Name: Claerwen Dam Grid Reference: SN 872635 to SN 872642

RIGS Category: : Aesthetic & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Silurian (Llandovery) Stratigraphy

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

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The RIGS is a c. 1 km long road, shoreline and inland outcrop section along the east shore of the Claerwen Reservoir. It is an easily accessible and almost continuous section through the early Silurian Cwmere, Derwenlas and Rhayader Mudstone formations. The upper formations are assigned to the Claerwen Group, named from this section. The *Monograptus sedgwickii* shales at the base of the Rhayader Mudstones are exposed in northern parts of the section and are made conspicuous by their rusty weathering surfaces. They are an important marker unit in much of Wales, providing information about the age of strata and changes in the marine depositional environment. The Cwmere, Derwenlas and Rhayader Mudstone formations occur in large parts of Wales. The rocks here are subtly different from those in southern parts of Central Wales, for example, the differences pointing to contrasting depositional environments and sediment supply. This RIGS is part of the jig-saw puzzle that gives a picture of the geography of Wales in the early Silurian.

Surveyed by: W.R. Fitches