

Site Name: Cribarth Quarry

Grid Reference: SN 954 525

RIGS Category: Scientific

Earth Science Category: Ordovician (Ashgill) Stratigraphy

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 196, Builth Wells

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The Cribarth RIGS is a major, active, 5-level quarry c. 8 km (5 miles) west of Builth Wells. The main importance of this RIGS is the information it provides about fluctuations in sea-level and the palaeogeography of Wales associated with the late Ordovician (Hirnantian) glacial event that resulted from global climate change c. 446 million years ago. Most of the quarry is cut into late Ordovician sandy mudstones, muddy sandstones and siltstones of the Cribarth Formation that were deposited in an offshore marine setting. Shelly fossils are found in some of these rocks. At the top of the quarry, sandstones and pebbly sandstones of the Cwm Clyd Formation rest on the Cribarth Formation. Two other formations between them were removed by erosion during the sea-level fall associated with the Hirnantian glaciation. The Cwm Clyd Formation sediments were then deposited as sea-level rose again during de-glaciation, spreading coarse shallow marine sediments progressively further south-eastwards. This RIGS complements the Dolderwen Cutting RIGS (369) to the south; the quarry exposures are much more extensive but less accessible due to active quarrying.

Surveyed by: W.R. Fitches