

Site Name: Cwm Pwllfa

Grid Reference: SO 068207

RIGS Category: Aesthetic, Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Quaternary & Geomorphology

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 231, Merthyr Tydfil

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The site provides an example of a magnificent cirque moraine set in a classic north-east facing hollow at the eastern extremity of the highest part of the central Brecon Beacons upland. It is less well known than some of its counterparts to the west perhaps mainly because it is relatively inaccessible. There is growing belief by some researchers that some of the suite of landforms in the Brecon Beacons may represent formation by non-glacial cold-climate (periglacial) processes and by processes conditioned by the relative instability of the landscape immediately following glacier ice wastage (paraglacial processes). It is considered by analogy with dated moraines in the Brecon Beacons at Craig Cerrig-gleisiad and Craig y Fro, that the Cwm Pwllfa moraine dates from the Younger Dryas (c. 12 900 - 11 500 years ago).

Surveyed by: R.A. Shakesby