

Site Name: Hendre Quarry

Grid Ref: SN 722697

RIGS Category: Scientific

Earth Science Category: Structure & Silurian (Llandovery) Stratigraphy

1:50,000 Geological: BGS Sheet 178, Llanilar

RIGS Statement of Interest:

This RIGS is an active quarry, so safety issues must be addressed during visits. The quarry, described in the Aberystwyth District field guide (Cave, 1995) and the Llanilar memoir of the British Geological Survey (Davies et al, 1997), includes several long and accessible faces that provide excellent examples of folds and faults produced by regional deformation in the Devonian Period. Some of the faces are in tiers so that structures can be traced vertically as well as horizontally. On-going extraction reveals useful new information from time-to-time, and enables a 3-dimensional picture of structures to be built up.

Also important and exceptionally clearly displayed are the sedimentary features of these sandstone-dominated sequences that belong to the Ystrad Meurig Grits Formation of early Silurian age. Quarried blocks provide particularly clear examples of these features. These rocks yield key information which, in conjunction with data from other RIGS nearby (e.g., RIGS 27 Tynygraig railway cutting and RIGS 6 Ceredigion Council Quarry) leads to an understanding of the palaeogeography of Central Wales in the Silurian Period. Similarities and contrasts in these rocks of the same age are attributed to different environments on the seafloor, notably through the construction of a huge submarine lobe of sand.

Surveyed by: W.R. Fitches