

Site Name: Llanidloes Cutting Grid Reference: SN 9597 8470

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Silurian (Llandovery) Stratigraphy

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 164 Llanidloes

RIGS Statement of Interest:

This site provides a section through part of the Lower Silurian Caerau Mudstones. Some of the rocks in the cutting are unremarkable, uniformly grey marine mudstones deposited by low-energy density currents and by settling of fine sediment from the water column. In these rocks, there are excellent examples of burrows made by bottom-dwelling organisms, indicative of well-oxygenated seafloor conditions. The site has been selected, however, mainly for the well-displayed laminated and thinly bedded grey and nearly black mudstones that record fluctuating oxygen-rich and -poor bottom conditions. In most parts of Central Wales, most rocks of this type are badly degraded and poorly exposed. This exceptional location provides fresh rocks which give researchers important information about the environment of deposition. The RIGS lies within 1:50,000 Llanidloes sheet being remapped by British Geological Survey, which will provide new information, interpretations and nomenclature; this region is presently one of the least well-documented parts of Wales.

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