

Site Name: Middletown Quarry Grid Reference: SJ 29971282

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Igneous

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 151, Welshpool

RIGS Statement of Interest:

Middletown Quarry provides a particularly well-exposed and accessible section through middle Ordovician shallow marine coarse-grained sedimentary rocks derived from volcanic debris (volcaniclastic rocks), together with muddy interbeds, deposited on the flank of a highly energetic explosive volcano. The volcano was probably fringed by reefs and is likely to have resembled those active today in the Caribbean region, Indonesia and elsewhere. The rocks of this stratigraphic unit were examined in detail here and nearby some 20 years ago, notably by Dixon (1986), and described in a field guide by Cave & Dixon (1993). No research into their geochemistry, isotope geology and alteration has been carried out; the rocks at this site well suited for this purpose.

Surveyed by: R. Cave & W.R. Fitches