

Site Name: Old Hall

Grid Reference: SN 9000 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. Most 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. Some of them contain excellent examples of burrows made by bottom-dwelling organisms, indicative of well-oxygenated seafloor conditions. Less common, however, are laminated and thinly bedded grey and nearly black mudstones that record fluctuating oxygen-rich and -poor bottom conditions, which give researchers important information about the environment of deposition. The darker, less well-oxygenated deposits are the main RIGS interest here because some of them contain abundant Monograptid graptolites, beautifully preserved in pyrite and commonly tens of centimetres in length. The RIGS lies within 1:50,000 Llanidloes sheet being remapped by British Geological Survey, which will provide new information, interpretations and nomenclature; otherwise, this region is one of the least well-documented parts of Wales.

Surveyed by: W.R. Fitches