

**Site Name: Pont Bell Quarry**

**Grid Reference: SH 9271 0099**

**RIGS Category:** Scientific

**Earth Science Category:** Silurian (Llandovery) Stratigraphy

**Geology 1:50,000:** BGS Sheet 164, Llanidloes

**RIGS Statement of Interest:**

This small, c. 40 m long quarry provides a well-exposed section through parts of the early Silurian Dolgau Mudstone Group in a region of generally lacking good exposure and fresh rocks. It comprises excellent examples of mud turbidites and includes several layers of volcanic ash altered to bentonite. These rocks are in the NW limb of an unexposed synclinal fold that lies between here and the Talerddig Cutting RIGS. The rocks offer important information about the palaeogeographic evolution of the Welsh Basin and early Silurian volcanic activity. A characteristic both of the mudstones and bentonites is their crust of iron and manganese minerals; the origin of this alteration is unknown to the surveyors and may offer research potential.

The geology of this district was last investigated more than 50 years ago by Bassett (1955). As part of the Llanidloes 1:50,000 geological map, it is being remapped (2006) by the British Geological Survey; revision and re-naming of the stratigraphic units as used by Bassett can be expected. This RIGS provides an important section that requires conservation for current investigations and future research.

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