

Site Name: Poyning Farm Quarries

Grid Reference: SO 130683

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Silurian (Ludlow) Stratigraphy

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 180, Knighton (not yet mapped)

RIGS Statement of Interest:

This site comprises two small quarries, almost adjacent to each other, in which Silurian marine sedimentary rocks are exposed. The age of the rocks is early Ludlow. In the NE quarry, the lower few metres of strata are simply and gently inclined to NW but higher beds have been severely contorted by spectacular slumping of the sediment before it was lithified. A 10 cm thick layer of volcanic clay (bentonite) near the boundary between intact and disturbed beds may have acted as a slip surface at the base of the slumped unit. Fossils in this quarry included graptolites, broken crinoid stems and brachiopod shells. During our RIGS survey, a well-preserved coiled cyrtocone, 10 cm diameter, was found in a concretion in the slumped unit; the fossil is of museum quality. The less easily accessible SW quarry is cut entirely within the slumped unit. These sedimentary, fossil and volcanic features are of considerable interest to researchers and educational groups, and they may be included in public awareness material aimed at drawing attention to the local and regional geology.

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