

Site Name: St Michael's Church

Grid Reference: SO 085615

RIGS Category: Educational

Earth Science Category: Building Stones

Geology 1:50,000: BGS Sheet 196, Builth Wells

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The small, secluded church of St Michael's and its graveyard are situated about 3 km east of Llandrindod town centre and are served directly only by public footpath. The church walls, its roof and the tombstone are a remarkable display of a wide variety of rock-types, many of them of museum quality, beautifully polished and mostly with clean surfaces that show up their minerals and textures. Among the 35 tombstones, 10 different rock types are represented and several more have been used to wall and roof the church itself. The source of many of the rocks can be recognized, notably purple roofing slate from the Cambrian of North Wales, buff-brown Grinshill sandstone from Cheshire, and various Ordovician volcanic rocks of very local origin. Others, such as red granite and grey gabbro, are probably from overseas. Their study could easily be included in an itinerary for younger children that would also cover local heritage (the church) and adjacent sites of biodiversity (a protected woodland), archaeology (Cefn Lllys Castle ruins) and other geodiversity (Bailey Einon RIGS fossils and Neuadd Farm RIGS Ordovician volcanic rocks). A particular objective would be to show the inter-relationships between these topics.

Surveyed by: W.R. Fitches