

Site Name: Standard Quarry

Grid Reference: SJ 21830767

RIGS Category: Educational & Scientific

Earth Science Category: Ordovician and Silurian Stratigraphy, and Igneous

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

RIGS Statement of Interest:

The Standard Quarry, described by Cave & Dixon (1993) in a field guide, is situated in the northwest suburbs of Welshpool. It was developed to exploit an Ordovician intrusive igneous rock, a trachyte, for use largely as building stone. The stone, a distinctive grey-green when weathered, can be found in many of the older buildings and walls of the district, notably on the Powis Estate, and this usage is one of the reasons the site is regionally important. Another reason is that the trachyte shows columnar cooling joints. The columns, several metres in length and hexagonal and pentagonal in section, are not as spectacular as those of the Giant's Causeway in Antrim, but are among the most striking examples in Wales.

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