CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE   **ALLT PENYCOED STREAM SECTION**

Date of Notification: 1985

National Grid Reference: SN 444181

O.S. Maps: 1: 50 000 Sheet number: 159
1: 10 000 Sheet number: SN 41

Site Area: 1.6 ha

Description:

The most complete section in the Cwmffrwd Member of the Arenig Carmarthen Formation. This is the best exposure through the thick turbidite/shale sequence which makes up this unit, showing the base of the member and good sections in the underlying Pibwr mudstones. The latter shows changing trilobite faunas indicative of significant ecological changes related to water depth and oxygenation. An important site with ecologically and stratigraphically significant trilobite faunas and sediments.

In layman's terms, the interest of this site may be expressed more simply, and such a statement is provided below. This should not be taken as definitive and further information as to details of the interest can be obtained from the Nature Conservancy Council.

This stream section provides important exposure of a sequence of fossil-bearing sandstones and muds which were deposited in deep-water marine conditions some 500 million years ago. The fossilised remains of a new extinct group of sea-living arthropods, known as trilobites, have been recorded from this area and have helped geologists understand the conditions which existed on the sea bed during the period when sediment was accumulating. The rich fossil assemblage described from Allt Penycoed has also allowed geologists to compare this section with rocks of a similar age throughout South Wales and the rest of the British Isles.

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