



# South Wales RIGS Group Site Record

## RIGS Description

### SECTION A

General	South Wales								
<b>Site Name:</b> Mynydd Llangynidr Caves	<b>File Number:</b> Site_karst_3								
<b>RIGS Number:</b> 572	<b>Surveyed by:</b> A Kendall								
<b>Grid Reference:</b> See below	<b>Date of Visit:</b> June 2011								
<b>RIGS Category:</b> Scientific, aesthetic, historical	<b>Date Registered:</b>  <b>Owner:</b> Unknown								
<b>Earth Science Category:</b> Karst, geomorphology	<b>Planning Authority:</b> Powys County Council and Blaenau Gwent county Borough Council								
<b>Site Nature:</b> Karst	<b>Documentation prepared by:</b> A Kendall								
<b>Unitary Authority:</b> Powys County Council and Blaenau Gwent county Borough Council	<b>Documentation last revised:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2011								
<b>OS 1:50,000 Sheet:</b> 161	<b>Photographic Record:</b> Attached								
<b>OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet:</b> OL13									
<b>BGS 1:50,000 Sheet:</b> 232									
<b>RIGS Statement of Interest:</b>									
<p>This site has been proposed for its karst features and caves. A series of caves are known under this hillside which together with the shake holes further define the close relationship between the millstone grit surface exposure and the underlying limestone. The shake holes have been documented in the Mynydd Llangynidr RIGS write-up. Notable caves under this hillside are</p> <table> <tr> <td>Chartist's Cave (Ogof Fawr)</td> <td>SO 12800 15200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crescent Cave</td> <td>SO 12977 15062</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ogof Cynnes</td> <td>SO 14090 15390</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carno Adit *</td> <td>SO 16400 12700</td> </tr> </table> <p>(* Reference is for tunnel entrance. see Carno Adit Caves RIGS writeup for details on that cave) and the associated tunnel</p> <p>This site is a GCR site for general Karst features including shakeholes, but is not covered by SSSI staus. Also the boundary of the site is amended from the GCR proposal</p>		Chartist's Cave (Ogof Fawr)	SO 12800 15200	Crescent Cave	SO 12977 15062	Ogof Cynnes	SO 14090 15390	Carno Adit *	SO 16400 12700
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**Geological setting/context:**

All of the known large cave systems on this hillside with the exception of Carno Adit caves are close surface caves whereby initial development is just below the millstone grit. Crescent Cave, Chartist's Cave and Ogof Cynnes all have entrance passages which are actually in the Millstone Grit rather than the Limestones

The limestone is known to underlie the whole area as is shown by the large extent of shake holes, but with a high level of collapse evident it has long been thought that it is possible that long caves will not be able to be explored. The limestone is thought to have a maximum potential thickness of 140m, but due to the existence of the Llanelly Formation (shales) at about 70 m below the top of the Dowlais (upper) Limestone it is unlikely that many caves reach this depth

Carno Adit however provides evidence of a deeper and more stable cave system and therefore it is considered more likely that other longer and deeper cave systems could be present. Carno Adit has a known proven dye trace by local caver Bill Gascoine in 1979 to Ffynnon Gisfaen in the Clydach Gorge

A brief description of the caves from the Cambrian Cave Registry is given here (Carno Adit and cave are described in more detail in their own site documents)

Name	Description	Bibliography
Crescent Cave SO 12900 15100	On open moorland. Sink in doline complex, 200m ESE of Chartist Cave. Water sinks into boulder chamber with grit roof. Crescent Cave was visited on 14/03/09 and it was found that the scaffolded shaft in the floor of the entrance chamber was full of rubble. The cave is not accessible at the moment. There appears to have been a collapse of the right hand wall which filled the shaft.	SVCC: 'Trefil Caves in Brief', 1974
Ogof Cynnes SO 14080 15400	There is a small entrance on the East side of a long oval doline. The entrance is very difficult to find, being on open moorland. Best approached from Blaen Onneu Quarry. Head roughly West towards the Trig. Point and then from there turn slightly South of West for about 800 metres to the head of a large dry valley. There is a small rock outcrop and cairn on this side of the valley with two oblong shaped shakeholes nearby. The larger of the shakeholes contains the entrance. An interesting and sporty cave which is dry but exceedingly muddy.	Descent 112 Stratford, T. Caves of South Wales. 1995 Schuurmans, T. A Caver's View of the Clydach River, 1986. Cwmbran Caving Club

	Parts of the cave are very arduous. A series of rifts, squeezes and pots lead to a main chamber 10m high with passages leading off.	
Chartist Cave SO 12800 15200	A large entrance facing South, just to the North of a shallow lake in a peat hollow. The entrance leads to two passages. The West passage is excavated to a lower series of phreatic chambers and rifts (SVCC, 1970). Length 480m. The East passage ends in a boulder choke. Length 21m.	SVCC: 'Trefil Caves in Brief', 1974 Stratford, T. Caves of South Wales. 1995 Schuurmans, T. A Caver's View of the Clydach River, 1986. Cwmbran Caving Club The cave is well known as part of the Chartist Movement folklore.

### References:

Gascoigne 1987 from

<http://www.btinternet.com/~brynmawrcavingclub/Carno/billarticle1.html> as at 18 June 2011

Mark "Tarquin" Wilton-Jones 2011

<http://www.cavinguk.co.uk/info/CrescentGeology.htm> as at 18 June 2011

Mark "Tarquin" Wilton-Jones 2011

<http://www.cavinguk.co.uk/info/Crescent.htm#Survey> as at 18 June 2011 includes survey and geological description of the cave

### SECTION B

### PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green

#### Accessibility:

X

X

Comment: The surface features of the caves are not easy to find as they are in shakeholes and also not easily visible from many directions. Prior to GPS a number of caving parties were unsuccessful in locating these caves.

There is a report in the Cambrian Cave registry that "Crescent Cave was visited on 14/03/09 and it was found that the scaffolded shaft in the floor of the entrance chamber was full of rubble. The cave is not accessible at the moment. There appears to have been a collapse of the right hand wall which filled the shaft."

#### Safety:

X

X

Comment: The underground aspects of the caves are complex and dangerous in places and should only be visited by experienced cavers properly equipped. To reach the surface features is a strenuous walk over rough terrain

#### Conservation status:

This Rigs site is within a CGR site in the main although this study recommends boundary alterations to include the land above Carno Adit cave

**OWNERSHIP/PLANNING CONTROL:**

**Owner/tenant:** Unknown

**Planning Authority:** Powys County Council and Blaenau Gwent county Borough Council

**Planning status/constraints/opportunities:**

There are no known planning constraints or opportunities

**CONDITION, USE & MANAGEMENT:**

**Present use:** Open moorland in the main. Some forestry

**Site condition:** Good

**Potential threats:** The western boundary of the GCR site is threatened by quarrying. However this is too far from any significant known cave systems to pose an active threat to them.

It could however intercept the water which is known to flow from Crescent Cave to Ffynnon Sion Sheffrey (sometimes spelt Sieffre) just north of Shon Sheffrey Reservoir near Trefil village at . SO 12650 11880. As this resurgence is Reputed to have a population of white trout and is a water supply feeding into Sion Sheffrey reservoir this should be considered in any possible development and limits set on depth of quarrying in relation to the water table. There is a possible argument for extending the RIGS definition to the current boundary of the quarry and extending it southwards to the resurgence, but this should be based on a more in depth study than this report is capable of

**Site Management:** maintain current agricultural use for best protection to the caves

**SITE DEVELOPMENT:**

**Potential use (general):** Sport caving, recreational walking

**Potential use (educational):** Historical education (Chartist Cave)

**Other comments:**

Proposed boundary conforms to the proposed boundary for Mynydd Llangynidr GCR but should be amended to include Carno Adit Caves and the catchment area of the cave as shown in the site boundary maps

## Photographic Record



Entrance to Chartist Cave. Photograph courtesy of B Marris. South Wales Caves. [www.ogof.org.uk](http://www.ogof.org.uk)"



The Lower Main Chamber – Chartist Cave. Photograph courtesy of B Marris. South Wales Caves. [www.ogof.org.uk](http://www.ogof.org.uk)"



The Main Chamber – Ogof Cynnes. Photograph courtesy of B Marris. South Wales Caves.  
[www.ogof.org.uk](http://www.ogof.org.uk)”

### **Annotated Sketch**

Water flow from Crescent cave to Ffynnon Sion Seffrey.

It should be noted that with a 48 hour flow it is unlikely that the water takes such a direct route and the actual route may deviate significantly to the East or West of this direct line Given the distances involved and the lack of other known sites it is NOT proposed to extend the GCR boundary in this direction