



South Wales RIGS Group Site Record RIGS Description

SECTION A

General	South Wales
Site Name: Gorsedd Stones, Cathays Park Cardiff	File Number: Site_RSK_21
RIGS Number: 587	Surveyed by: Rhian Kendall
Grid Reference: ST 18387 76892	Date of Visit: 24 th June 2011
RIGS Category: Historical,	Date Registered:
Earth Science Category: Historical, Building Stones	Owner: Cardiff County Council
Site Nature: Standing Stones	Planning Authority: Cardiff County Council
Unitary Authority: Cardiff County Council	Documentation prepared by: Rhian Kendall
OS 1:50,000 Sheet 171	Documentation last revised: 24 th March 2012
OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet 151	Photographic Record: Attached
BGS 1:50,000 Sheet E263	
<p>RIGS Statement of Interest:</p> <p>This site has been chosen as a RIGS because it illustrates the importance of local stone to the cultural heritage of Wales.</p> <p>The site is a Gorsedd Circle in the Civic centre in Cardiff. Gorsedd circles are constructed to commemorate the visit of the National Eisteddfod to a community and the stones are typically sourced from the local area. It is constructed of a local building stone known as "Radyr Stone" which is fairly restricted in its use as a building stone to the Cardiff Area.</p>	

Geological setting/context:

Gorsedd Stones and circles of standing stones that are constructed for the National Eisteddfod of Wales and are used in the druidic ceremonies associated with the Eisteddfod. Until recently, the standing stones were a lasting memorial of the National Eisteddfod being held in a particular community.

The circles are typically made up of twelve stone pillars, often locally sourced. In the middle of the circle, serving as a platform is a large flat topped stone, known as the Logan Stone.

In the Civic Centre, in front of the National Museum of Wales is one such circle. The circle was originally constructed in 1899, where the City Hall now stands, to mark the Eisteddfod that was held in the town that year. But was moved to its current position and the Gorsedd Gardens constructed around it in 1905 when Cardiff was declared a city. The circle was apparently not reconstructed in its correct order and so this circle may not be typical.

The Gorsedd Stones in the civic Centre in Cardiff are constructed from “Radyr Stone”, probably from quarries in Radyr or Llandaff where this building stone was extracted.

The Radyr Stone is Triassic in age and forms part of the Mercia Mudstone Group (Marginal Facies). Triassic sedimentation in the Cardiff district was governed by Triassic landscape which was dominated by the effects of the erosion of the Cardiff-Cowbridge Anticline. The Carboniferous limestone and Upper Old Red Sandstone units on the two limbs of the fold formed major ridges with the softer Lower Old Red Sandstone being easily eroded along its axis to form a south eastward trending basin which connected with the main Triassic Basin.

Only Late Triassic deposits are preserved in the Cardiff District. These are made up of up to 200m of lacustrine and continental deposits, comprising the Mercia Mudstone Group which progressively onlap the irregular Triassic topography. Towards the end of the Triassic, there was a change to marine conditions, continuing the onlap. This marine sequence is up to 12m thick and is known as the Penarth Group and is made up of mudstones with thin limestones. The thickest accumulations of the Mercia Mudstone Group are to be found in Cardiff where it includes an argillaceous facies and a contrasting heterogeneous marginal facies. The argillaceous facies is made up of red mudstones, representing a lake or inland sea deposit. The marginal facies is made up of breccias, conglomerates, sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, evaporites, calcretes, limestones and dolomites. These rocks represent continental and shoreline or continental scree and alluvial fans and plains deposits.







References:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/southeast/sites/nhob_walk/walk01.shtml

<http://www.peterfinch.co.uk/gorsedd.htm>

WATERS, R A and LAWRENCE, D J D. 1987. Geology of the South Wales Coalfield, Part III, the country around Cardiff, Memoir BGS sheet 263 (third edition).

SECTION B

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green			
Accessibility:			X 
Comment: The memorial is fenced off but very close access is easy			
Safety:			X 
Comment: Site is within a busy city centre park.			
Conservation status: There are no known conservation designations of this RIGS			

OWNERSHIP/PLANNING CONTROL: Owner/tenant: Cardiff County Council Planning Authority: Cardiff County Council Planning status/constraints/opportunities: There are no known planning constraints or opportunities

CONDITION, USE & MANAGEMENT: Present use: Memorial in a public park Site condition: Good Potential threats: None Site Management: Maintain in its current condition
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SITE DEVELOPMENT: Potential use (general): No development is necessary. Potential use (educational):

Other comments:

Photographic Record



General view of the Gorsedd stone and gardens



One of the standing stones



An example of a standing stone, illustrating brecciated nature of the stone. Light grey clasts of Carboniferous limestone are common.

Annotated Sketch