



South Wales RIGS Group Site Record

RIGS Description

SECTION A

General	South Wales
Site Name: Georgetown	File Number: SITE_CCC_111
RIGS Number: 588	Surveyed by: South Wales Geologists' Association
Grid Reference: ST 1170 8320	Date of Visit: 25 th Oct 2009
RIGS Category: Historical, Educational	Date Registered: Unknown
Earth Science Category: Historical, stratigraphic	Owner: Cardiff County Council Planning Authority: Cardiff County Council
Site Nature: Disused Brick pit	Documentation prepared by: Rhian Kendall
Unitary Authority: Cardiff County Council	Documentation last revised: 26 th October 2009
OS 1:50,000 Sheet: 171	Photographic Record: See attached
OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet: 151	
BGS 1:50,000 Sheet: E249	
RIGS Statement of Interest: <p>There are two main reasons why this site at Georgetown has been recommended as a RIGS. The first is that this area exposes the only Lower Coal Measures in the County of Cardiff. The second is that this site is one of the sources of clay for the Penttyrch Brickworks.</p> <p>Site requires clearance</p>	

Geological setting/context:

The South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation are grey, coal bearing mudstones and siltstones with seat earths and minor sandstones.

The Georgetown locality includes the lowermost parts of this formation, including the conjectural position of the Subcrenatum Marine Band which marks the lower boundary of this formation with the Marros Group. In this part of the succession, coal seams are thin and impersistent and marine bands are relatively common. There are also several thick quartzitic sandstone beds, collectively known as the Farewell Rock.

The sandstones are interpreted as representing mainly southward prograding deltas lobes or fluvial sands with channelled bases.

Waters et al 2009

This area was the source for the Pentyrch Brickworks which was in existence since the late 1800's. The brickworks were part of a massive industrial landscape in this area of collieries, limestone quarries, Coke ovens, foundries and forges. Most of this history is now lost with very few buildings remaining as testament to a time when this area was on a par with the Merthyr district for the production of steel. Evidence of this era and the geology that supported it is still evident in the quarries and old dismantled railway lines that remain in this area.

This site has been nominated for its geology and historical interest but does require site clearance to see most of the features of interest.

The site, although much overgrown consists of ribs of sandstone, standing proud of areas of mudstones which were exploited for the production of bricks at the nearby brickworks. The sandstones quartzitic and are light grey and fine to coarse grained, sub to well rounded, very hard. The mudstones are med grey, very fine grained and friable. The rocks are dipping at 36 deg to 340deg North.

References:

WATERS, C N, WATERS, R A, BARCLAY, W J and DAVIES, J R. 2009. A lithostratigraphical framework for the Carboniferous successions of southern Great Britain (Onshore).

DAVIES, J B, OWEN, J G. 2003. Iron! (The Garth Domain No20) Pentyrch and District Local History Society.

SECTION B

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green

Accessibility:



Comment: Very overgrown but close to new and well maintained footpaths

Safety:



Comment: Slippery and very overgrown.

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: None. Area of woodland

Site condition: Poor. Very overgrown

Potential threats: Main features of this site are almost entirely overgrown and are in danger of being lost all together

Site Management: Site needs to be cleared of vegetation to be useful and maintained periodically.

Photographic Record

SITE DEVELOPMENT:

Potential use (general): The site could be used as part of a network in the Taffs Well area, illustrating the lost industrial landscape. Leaflets and boards could be utilised to reconstruct the buildings and to show the relationship with the features still visible in the area.

Potential use (educational):



General view of outcrop



Sandstone and mudstone layers



Detail of sandstone and mudstone layers