



South Wales RIGS Group Site Record RIGS Description

SECTION A

General	South Wales
Site Name: Herbert's Quarry	File Number: Site_AB_14
RIGS Number: 637	Surveyed by: Rhian Kendall
Grid Reference: SN 7340 1910	Date of Visit: 4 th September 2011
RIGS Category: Scientific, Aesthetic, Educational, historical	Date Registered:
Earth Science Category: Industrial, Stratigraphic.	Owner: Unknown Planning Authority: Carmarthenshire County Council
Site Nature: Disused quarries and lime kilns	Documentation prepared by: Rhian Kendall
Unitary Authority: Carmarthenshire County Council	Documentation last revised: 23 rd February 2012
OS 1:50,000 Sheet: 160	Photographic Record: Attached
OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet: OL12	
BGS 1:50,000 Sheet: E230	
<p>RIGS Statement of Interest:</p> <p>The limestones of south Wales have been extensively quarried and used to make lime over centuries, throughout the region. Herberts Quarry is a particularly good example of this in an area where the history of limestone extraction is particularly evident; on the Black Mountain.</p> <p>Another interesting feature of this site is the abandoned limekilns, some of which are in really good condition and are fairly easy to access. Associated with these are the extensive, spectacular, developments of tufas.</p> <p>There are also a number of small caves within and around the quarries. The largest of these is Ogof Pasg which is 421m long and Ogof Foel Fawr which is 423m long. These have been connected to make one larger cave system.</p>	

Geological setting/context:

The limestones of south Wales have been extensively quarried and used to make lime over centuries and the evidence of this work is fairly common in the region. Herberts Quarry is a particularly good example of this in an area where the history of limestone extraction is particularly evident; on the Black Mountain.

It is thought that Black Mountain has been used as a source of limestone and other minerals since the Roman Period. The first evidence of the manufacture of lime here however, dates from the 12th and 13th century when limekilns were used to produce lime mortar for the construction of Carreg Cennen Castle. Limestone was extracted to produce lime as fertiliser but as flux for the production of iron. The large scale exploitation of limestone was as a result of that demand for lime for the iron industry.

Pant-y-ffynnon, Craig-y-nos and Blaen-y-gwawr are all names given to the quarries that make up Herberts Quarry. The name that the site is now known by – Herberts Quarry- is after the last owner of the quarries in this location. The earliest documents relating to the site are from 1847 which licences the land for quarrying and early OS maps from that period, also depict kilns in the Pant y Fynnon area.

In 1899 the price of coal rose and it became uneconomic to produce lime here. However, research by Cambria Archaeology has shown that between February and July in 1944 Herbert's Quarries employed 13 people with an output of 1211 tons. In 1948, the company is listed as producing 1999 tons of lime and 2369 tons of stone from Black Mountain. In 1952 however, records appear to show that the quarry closes as the company goes into liquidation.

At SN 7316 1905 there is a memorial, marking the death of David Davies in 1884 at the age of 22. He was crushed by a lime cart.

The quarry exploited the Cil-yr-ychen Limestone, now remained as part of the Dowlais Limestone Formation of the Pembroke Limestone Group. The Dowlais Limestone is "tabular, thick-bedded, mid- to dark grey, fetid, bituminous, fossiliferous, peloidal grainstone, packstone and wackestone limestones with dark grey shale interbeds; minor dark grey, micritic limestones and pale grey ooidal limestones and some local basal sandstones". (BGS Lexicon)

Another interesting feature of this site is the abandoned limekilns, some of which are in really good condition and are fairly easy to access. Associated with these are the extensive, spectacular, developments of tufas. These originate from precipitating waters which seep through the burned lime in the kilns. Deposition of tufa is still active even though produce of lime ceased here many years ago. The quantity of tufa at this site is impressive and the variation in deposition is also of interest, including gower pools and crusts of calcite and oncoid development.

There are a number of small caves within and around the quarries. These include: Redbrick Cave, Ogof Dan y Chwarel, Ogof Carreg Llwyd and Herberts Quarry Cave, all of which are very small, averaging no more than a few metres in length each. Ogof Pasg (Easter Cave) (421m) and Ogof Foel Fawr (423m) are the larger caves in the

area. These two caves were connected in 1988 by Hereford Caving Club to form one system.

References:







SCHLEE, D. 2005. Herberts Quarry and Limestone extraction on the Black Mountain. An archaeological and historical scoping study. Cambria Archaeological Report.

STRAHAN, A, CANTRILL, T C, THOMAS, H H. 1907. Geology of the South Wales Coalfield, Part VII, the country around Ammanford. British Geological Survey, Sheet 230

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). British Geological Survey Research Report, RR/09/01.

South Wales Caves <http://www.ogof.org.uk>

SECTION B

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green			
Accessibility:			X 
Comment: Car park at the quarries give easy access			
Safety:			X 
Comment: Site is safe as long as care is taken not to cross warning signs. Caves are only accessible by experienced cavers with appropriate safety equipment.			
Conservation status: There are no known conservation designations of this RIGS			

OWNERSHIP/PLANNING CONTROL: Owner/tenant: Unknown Planning Authority: Carmarthenshire County Council Planning status/constraints/opportunities: There are no known planning constraints or opportunities
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CONDITION, USE & MANAGEMENT: Present use: Site attracts visitors so may be thought of as a amenity Site condition: Good Potential threats: Kilns are deteriorating and would benefit from remedial action. Reopening the site for limestone extraction would probably destroy tufa's and kilns. Site Management: As present.
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SITE DEVELOPMENT: Potential use (general): This site is provides research opportunities especially in regard to the extensive tufa development. These environments provide opportunity to study organisms especially adapted to extreme environments (high pH) its is also an interesting site in dating the kilns to better understand the archaeology of this site Potential use (educational): This site already attracts visitors to see its industrial remains and spectacular views. More interpretation boards describing the geology and industrial heritage could make this a really useful site for education.

Other comments:

Photographic Record



General views of Herbert's Quarry



Remains of quarry buildings.

DRAFT



Tufa at Herberts Quarry



Details of tufa texture



Spreads of tufa



Detail of tufa deposits



Example of a kiln.



Cemented mass movement deposit of probably Holocene age