



South Wales RIGS Group Site Record

RIGS Description

SECTION A

General	South Wales
Site Name: Rudry Common and Mynydd Rudry	File Number: Site_TS_6
RIGS Number: 638	Surveyed by: T Sharpe
Grid Reference: ST 1810 8680	Date of Visit: 1 st September 2011
RIGS Category: Scientific, educational, aesthetic	Date Registered: Owner: Unknown
Earth Science Category: Startigraphic, historical	Planning Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site Nature: Hilltop and common land	Documentation prepared by: T Sharpe
Unitary Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council	Documentation last revised: 23 rd February 2012
OS 1:50,000 Sheet: 171	Photographic Record: Attached
OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet: 166	
BGS 1:50,000 Sheet: E249	
RIGS Statement of Interest:	
<p>Mynydd Rudry offers an exceptional view across the landscape of the SE Wales from the Brecon Beacons in the north to the River Severn in the SE. Immediately north lies the Caerphilly Basin a topographical and geological basin which contains some of the youngest rocks in the coalfield. The basin is fringed by ridges of Pennant Sandstone of which Mynydd Rudry is formed. Exposures of rock near the summit show features that indicate the origin of the rocks as southerly-derived river deposits. To the south, the lower ground of Rudry Common is formed of softer rocks containing coal seams and to the south of that, the ground rises to the limestone ridge of Cefn Onn. This view illustrates well the relationship between geology and landscape.</p> <p>The low ground of Rudry Common is pitted with the remains of bell pits, early small scale coal workings. This is one of the best sites in SE Wales to see such workings.</p>	

Geological setting/context:

The summit of Mynydd Rudry escarpment provides an excellent view over the geology and landscape of the surrounding region. To the south lies the wooded limestone ridge of Cefn Onn which continues east to Machen Quarry. In the distance to the SSE can be seen the River Severn and the Second Severn Crossing. The limestone passes north onto lower ground formed in the Marros Group shales and sandstones and the coals and mudstones of the Lower and Middle South Wales Coal Measures Formation. Mynydd Rudry itself is formed of the cross-bedded sandstone of the Pennant Sandstone Formation. The view northwards is of the Caerphilly Basin underlain by some of the youngest strata in the South Wales coalfield. Pennant Sandstone also forms the ridge above Bedwas and the hills beyond between the valleys of the South Wales coalfield. On a clear day the highest summits of the Brecon Beacons can be seen to the north.

Cross-bedded Pennant Sandstone crops out on the steep southern scarp slope with benches and small infilled or collapsed adit marking the positions of worked coal seams within the Pennant.

The low ground of Rudry Common north of the car park is pock-marked with the remains of bell pits which once worked the lower and middle Coal Measures here.

References:

SQUIRRELL, H C. and DOWNING, R A. 1969. *Geology of the South Wales Coalfield, Part I, the country around Newport (Mon.). Explanation of One-inch Geological Sheet 249, New Series.* Third edition. London: HMSO, xiii + 333pp.

SECTION B

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green

Accessibility:



Comment: The site has an adjacent public car park and is accessible by numerous footpaths on open ground.

Safety:



Comment: The site is generally safe, although holes of former coal workings should be avoided.

Conservation status:

There are no known conservation designations of this RIGS

OWNERSHIP/PLANNING CONTROL:

Owner/tenant: Unknown

Planning Authority: Caerphilly County Borough Council

Planning status/constraints/opportunities:

There are no known planning constraints or opportunities

CONDITION, USE & MANAGEMENT:

Present use:

Site condition: Good, but overgrown by bracken on the low ground.

Potential threats: Bracken growth obscures the old coal workings in summer and autumn.

Site Management: Control of bracken.

SITE DEVELOPMENT:

Potential use (general): Good site for an overview of the geology of this part of the South Wales coalfield margin.

Potential use (educational): Has great potential for demonstrating to students the relationship between landscape and geology.

Other comments:

Photographic Record



Bell pits in Lower and Middle Coal Measures, Rudry Common



Pennant Sandstone outcrop on S scarp of Mynydd Rudry. Machen limestone quarry in the distance.