



South Wales RIGS Group Site Record RIGS Description

SECTION A

General	South Wales
Site Name: Ysgwydd Hwch	File Number: Site_DH_5
RIGS Number: 699	Surveyed by: Rhian Kendall and Adrian Humpage
Grid Reference: SO 0520 3780	Date of Visit: 5 th October 2011
RIGS Category: Educational	Date Registered: Owner: Forestry Commission Planning Authority: Powys County Council
Earth Science Category: Educational, palaeontological	
Site Nature: Series of small quarries	Documentation prepared by: Rhian Kendall
Unitary Authority: Powys County Council	Documentation last revised: 7 th March 2012
OS 1:50,000 Sheet: 160	Photographic Record: Attached
OS 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet: 188	
BGS 1:50,000 Sheet: 213	

RIGS Statement of Interest:

This RIGS comprises a series of quarries within Brecon Forest, surrounding the transmitter at Ysgwydd Hwch. The four Upper Silurian (Ludlow age) quarry exposures on the side of forestry tracks have plentiful scree material containing abundant fossils which are easily collectable making site very useful for educational purposes.

Geological setting/context:

The forestry surrounding the transmitter at Ysgwydd Hwch has a number of small quarries, opened periodically, by the Forestry Commission for the purpose of acquiring road stone for its roads within the forestry. These small quarries and path sections are small enough as to open and become overgrown in fairly short periods of time. At the time of writing, 4 small quarries were visible and provide abundant scree material, containing abundant fossils which are very easily collected making this area very useful for education and enthusing people regarding geology.

The oldest quarry visited is at SO 05747 38064 and is fairly overgrown. It is possible however to see the sections. Here, 15m of Upper Silurian (Ludlow) rocks are exposed. The sequence consists of mid grey mudstones, siltstones and muddy limestones. Beds dip 019 deg to 030. *Leptaena rhomboidalis*, *Dayia navicula*, *Fuschella amydalina*, Dalmanellids, chonetids, Orthocones and *Serpulites longissimus* are all recorded from this locality.

At SO 05558 37810 a small quarry has been recently dug. It is approx 20m wide by 3 to 4m high. It exposes mid grey, fine grained mudstones and calcareous mudstones which weather to mid brown. The rocks are well bedded with individual beds of a few centimetres thick and are steeply dipping at 34 deg to 154 SE. Abundant brachiopods area to be found in the scree, as decalcified moulds.

There is another small quarry at SO05532 37949 which is approximately 60m wide by 10m high. It exposes mid grey siltstones and mudstones, calcerious in part which weather to buff brown and grey brown. As at the previous quarry, the rocks are well bedded and steeply dipping at 34 deg to 148 S. This time the beds are slightly thicker at 20 to 30cm thick. Brachiopods and orthocones are very common.







Another larger quarry can be found at SO 05004 07731. This quarry is partly older but has been recently extended. It is approximately 80m by 5m high. The bedding here is much less distinct and there are a number of small faults. The rocks are mid grey mudstones and siltstones and again, fossils, mainly decalcified moulds and casts are prolific. These include brachiopods, bivalves and orthocones as well as examples of serpulid worm burrows.

References:

BARCLAY, W J, DAVIES, J R, HUMPAGE, A J, WATERS, R A, WILBY, P R, WILLIAMS, M, WILSON, D. 2005. Geology of the Brecon district : a brief explanation of the geological map sheet 213 Brecon. British Geological Survey

DAVIES, J H, HOLRODY, J, LUMLEY, R G, OWEN-ROBERTS, D. 1983. Geology of Powys in Outcrop.

SECTION B

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green			
Accessibility:			X 
Comment:			
Safety:			X 
Comment:			
Conservation status: There are no known conservation designations of this RIGS			

OWNERSHIP/PLANNING CONTROL: Owner/tenant: Forestry Commission Planning Authority: Powys County Council Planning status/constraints/opportunities: There are no known planning constraints or opportunities
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CONDITION, USE & MANAGEMENT: Present use: Series of small quarries Site condition: Some are overgrown and some are very new Potential threats: Site Management: The continued policy of opening small local quarries within the forestry to maintain the roads will maintain the outcrop and access to fossil material in this area
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SITE DEVELOPMENT: Potential use (general): Potential use (educational): The quarries have plentiful scree material which contains abundant fossils which are easily collectable making site very useful for educational purposes.
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Other comments:

Photographic Record



Quarry at SO 05747 38064



Quarry at: SO 05558 37810



Quarry at: SO 05532 37949



Quarry at: SO 05004 37731



Orthocone fossil



Bivalve Fossils



Brachiopod fossils



Serpulid burrow