



## South Wales RIGS Group Site Record RIGS Description

**SECTION A**

General	South Wales
<b>Site Name:</b> South Ty Rhos Crag	<b>File Number:</b> Site_RCT_536
<b>RIGS Number:</b> 721	<b>Surveyed by:</b> Andrew Haycock
<b>Grid Reference:</b> SN 9740 0395	<b>Date of Visit:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2004
<b>RIGS Category:</b> Scientific	<b>Date Registered:</b>
<b>Earth Science Category:</b> Stratigraphic	<b>Owner:</b> Unknown <b>Planning Authority:</b> Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
<b>Site Nature:</b> Crag	<b>Documentation prepared by:</b> Rhian Kendall
<b>Unitary Authority:</b> Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council	<b>Documentation last revised:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
<b>OS 1:50,000 Sheet:</b> 166	<b>Photographic Record:</b> Attached
<b>OS 1:25,000 Sheet:</b> 170	
<b>BGS 1:50,000 Sheet:</b> E248	
<b>RIGS Statement of Interest:</b> <p>The South Ty Rhos Crag provide the opportunity to examine a very well exposed section of Middle Coal Measures, one of the best sections in the region found outside a working opencast mine.</p>	

**Geological setting/context:**

The crags at South Ty Rhos are an exposure which remains as a result of open cast mining in past. The cliffs are up to 10 - 12 m high by 500 m long and expose relatively fresh South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation.

Regionally the South Wales Middle Coal Measures are "Grey coal-bearing mudstones/siltstones with seat earths and minor sandstones. Thick, extensive coal seams, seatearths and numerous ironstone bands are common". The formation is thought to be deposited in mainly southwards prograding deltas and contains fluvial sands and channelled bedding. (Waters et al 2009)

The following sections were observed at the crags:

At western edge of crag:

Dark shales rich in ironstone nodules and thick ironstone bands - 3m

Massive (overhanging) sandstone - 2m

Thin coal - 12cm

Dark shales with ironstone nodules - interbedded with ironstone bands (5-25cm thick) - 6m

Local small scale folding observed (as a result of slumping?)

Walking east – there is a large gully controlled by the presence of a fault which is seen to disrupt the bedding - offset by fault movement. The fault is N - S trending and is downthrown to the east.

A prominent crag to the east of the faulted gully shows a very good section of measures. There are occasional thin coals (3-4 inches thick) within dark shales with interbedded iron bands. Large ironstone nodules were found in the shales towards the base of the section.

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

WOODLAND, A W. and EVNAS, W B. [1964]. South Geology of the South Wales Coalfield Part IV. The country around Pontypridd and Maesteg (Sheet 248). 3rd Edition

<b>PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:</b> Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green			
<b>Accessibility:</b>		X	
Comment:			
<b>Safety:</b>		X	
Comment: NB - Material is very loose, and some large sandstone blocks have fallen, care must be taken.			
<b>Conservation status:</b> None			

<b>OWNERSHIP/PLANNING CONTROL:</b>	
<b>Owner/tenant:</b> Unknown	
<b>Planning Authority:</b> Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council	
<b>Planning status/constraints/opportunities:</b> N	
<b>South Ty Rhos Crags</b>	
one known	

<b>CONDITION, USE &amp; MANAGEMENT:</b>
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**Present use:** Disused quarry faces

**Site condition:** Good

**Potential threats:** None

**Site Management:**

**SITE DEVELOPMENT:**

**Potential use (general):**

**Potential use (educational):** This site is academically interesting but may not be suitable for educational groups as faces are unstable and there are loose scree slopes.

**Other comments:**

## Photographic Record



Shales with ironstone banding (Photograph by Andrew Haycock)



Shales with overlying massive sandstone (Photograph by Andrew Haycock)



Exposure of coal measures in crags (Photograph by Andrew Haycock)



Coal seam (Photograph by Andrew Haycock)



Ironstone nodules (Photograph by Andrew Haycock)