



## South Wales RIGS Group Site Record

### RIGS Description

#### SECTION A

General	South Wales
<b>Site Name:</b> Conybeare Grave	<b>File Number:</b> Site_RSK_23
<b>RIGS Number:</b> 791	<b>Surveyed by:</b> South Wales Geologists' Association
<b>Grid Reference:</b> ST 1555 7809	<b>Date of Visit:</b> numerous to date
<b>RIGS Category:</b> historical	<b>Date Registered:</b>
<b>Earth Science Category:</b> historical	Owner: ?Church of Wales Planning Authority: Cardiff County Council
<b>Site Nature:</b> memorial	<b>Documentation prepared by:</b> RSK
<b>Unitary Authority:</b> Cardiff	<b>Documentation last revised:</b> June 2012
<b>OS 1:50,000:</b> 171	<b>Photographic Record:</b> Attached
<b>OS 1:25,000:</b> 151	
<b>BGS 1:50,000:</b> 263	
<p><b>RIGS Statement of Interest:</b></p> <p>This RIGS, within the graveyard of Llandaff Cathedral is a memorial to the geologist William Daniel Conybeare who was once dean of the Cathedral.</p> <p>He was a notable figure in 20<sup>th</sup> Century geology. The more famous highlights of his career include the naming of the Carboniferous System. He also coined the generic name Pleisiosaurus. Both of which are still in use today. He also wrote an influential book of its time called "Outlines of the Geology of England and Wales" and influenced some of the leading geologists of his time such as de la Beche, Sedgewick and Lyell.</p>	

**Geological setting/context:**

William Daniel Conybeare was a geologist and palaeontologist who lived between 1987 and 1957. Conybeare was originally trained as a clergy but managed to combine this was an interest in geology.

During his career he had a number of religious appointments. Importantly for the South Wales area, he was the rector at Sully between 1823 and 1836 and was instituted into the deanery of Llandaff in 1845.

Conybeare was an early member of the Geological Society of London where is was a contemporary of notable geologists such as Buckland and Sedgwick and De la Beche. He published numerous papers, on subjects such as the Thames Valley, on theories about mountain chain and landslips. His principal publication is "Outlines and the Geology of England and Wales" published with Phillips in 1822. Other highlights include his work on marine reptiles which led to him giving the generic name "Plesiosaurus" to a group of such reptiles, a name that is still used to this day. He also named the Carboniferous System for the abundant carbonaceous remains found within the rocks.







The dean of Llandaff Cathedral is remembered with a large memorial close to the chapterhouse in the grounds of the Cathedral.

**References:**

Knight J. 2008. W.W. Conybeare and the development of the Geological Sciences: symposium report. Yorkshire Geological Society Circular 542.

Oakes E.H. 2010. Encyclopaedia of World Scientists. Infobase Publishing.

**SECTION B**

<b>PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:</b> Please score Accessibility and Safety Red Amber or Green			
<b>Accessibility:</b>			X 
Comment:			
<b>Safety:</b>			X 
Comment:			
<b>Conservation status:</b> Listed Monument			

<b>OWNERSHIP/PLANNING CONTROL:</b>	
<b>Owner/tenant:</b> ? Church of Wales	
<b>Planning Authority:</b> Cardiff County Council	
<b>Planning status/constraints/opportunities:</b> none known	

<b>CONDITION, USE &amp; MANAGEMENT:</b>	
<b>Present use:</b> monument within a grave yard	
<b>Site condition:</b> Good	
<b>Potential threats:</b> None	
<b>Site Management:</b> Maintains as at present	

<b>SITE DEVELOPMENT:</b>	
<b>Potential use (general):</b> none	
<b>Potential use (educational):</b> useful educationally to illustrate the importance of Conybeare in the development of the science of geology	

<b>Other comments:</b>	
Llandaff cathedral is also interesting for its building stones.	

## Photographic Record



William Conybeare. (Wikimedia - This image (or other media file) is in the public domain because its copyright has expired [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William\\_Conybeare.gif](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Conybeare.gif).)



Grave marker in Llandaff Cathedral Cemetery (Photograph Andy Kendall).



Detail of inscription on grave marker (Photograph Andy Kendall).

### **Annotated Sketch**