

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU  
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: CITATION**

**CARDIFF**

**RHYMNEY RIVER SECTION SSSI**

**Date of Notification:** 1981, 1982, 2008

**National Grid Reference:** ST 209789

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet No: 171  
1:25,000 Sheet No: ST 27

**Site Area:** 0.78 ha

**Description:**

Rhymney River Section is of special interest for its geology. Located along a short tidal stretch of the Rhymney River estuary in Cardiff, it includes 300m of the river and its steep bank. The most accessible and visible rocks are located at river level, and are most completely exposed at low tide.

Rhymney River Section contains the most comprehensive sequence of strata in the Cardiff Silurian inlier. These rocks were laid down approximately 420 million years ago, when the area that now forms south Wales lay just to the south of the equator, and was covered by a warm, shallow sea. There are two main rock units, the Cae Castell Formation and the Hill Gardens Formation above, the former laid down during the Wenlock Epoch of the Silurian Period. The river section provides the only opportunity of examining more or less the whole of the local upper Wenlock succession, in particular that part above the Rumney Grit, continuing into the later Ludlow Series, and finally Old Red Sandstone strata.

The locality also has some palaeontological significance. Several gastropod and bivalve species from both Wenlock and Ludlow parts of the sequence were first described at this site. Rhymney River Section is used as the 'type locality' for these species, and provides a standard against which other fossils from this period found elsewhere in the world are compared.

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