

# **CRÛG FARM QUARRY SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**



**YOUR SPECIAL SITE AND ITS FUTURE**

‘Your Special Site and its Future’ is part of our commitment to improve the way we work with Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) owners and occupiers. In it, we explain what is special about the geology on your site, and what care is needed to look after its geology into the future.

All SSSIs are considered to be of national importance and we recognise the crucial role that owners and occupiers play in their management and protection. We need you to share your views and knowledge of this site with us, to help safeguard it.

We hope that you will find ‘Your Special Site and its Future’ interesting and helpful. Please contact us if there is anything about the site and its management that you would like to discuss.

## **What is ‘special’ about the geology at Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI?**

Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI has one special feature:

- Ashgill (Upper Ordovician) sedimentary rocks exposed in a disused quarry.

The small, disused workings at Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI are of national importance because they provide the type locality, or reference section, for the Crûg Limestone, a marine sedimentary unit that falls within the Cautleyan Stage of the Upper Ordovician Ashgill Series. The limestone, which is approximately 445 million years old, is fossiliferous and the site is the type locality for several species of trilobite (an extinct marine animal resembling the modern-day horseshoe crab) and conodont (the jawparts of an extinct group of small eel-like marine animals).

## **What do we want Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI to look like?**

The following is a description of how we would like to see the feature at Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI:

*Our aims for this site will be focussed on maintaining the current level and continuity of rock exposure, as well as keeping all existing rock outcrops visible and accessible. Some rock exposures have become obscured by vegetation growth through the passage of time. In consultation with the landowner, we may wish to periodically re-expose these concealed rocks, especially ahead of any proposed research initiative. In seeking to achieve our aims, we will thereby ensure that the bedrock geology at Crûg Farm Quarry will continue to be one of the best localities in Wales for the study of these important fossil-bearing Ordovician rocks.*

## **What management is needed on Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI and why?**

Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI is an excellent place for the study of late Ordovician fossil faunas and sites such as this are vital for furthering our understanding of geological science and Wales’ Earth heritage. However, it will only remain so if the necessary management continues and CCW’s priority is to work with you to ensure that this management is carried out.

## **What does this mean in practice?**

There are a number of different factors that could damage the special feature at Crûg Farm Quarry SSSI if they are not properly managed. These are the ones we regard as most important:

- **Accessibility**  
Students and researchers need access to study the sedimentary rocks and fossils that occur in the disused quarry. However, the site lies on private land and access is therefore entirely at the discretion of the landowner.

- **Visibility**  
Any activities that might obscure the rock exposures, for example the dumping of earth, spoil or other waste materials, and the buttressing and/or battering of the quarry faces, should be avoided. As noted above, vegetation growth has obscured some of the geological feature, particularly that part of the quarry nearest to the satellite station, and site clearance works would be needed in order to re-expose these rocks.
- **Agricultural practices**  
Current agricultural practices, namely animal grazing, have no effect upon the feature of geological interest and are probably beneficial in keeping vegetation down.

### **Finally**

Our knowledge and understanding of geology is continually improving. It is possible that new issues may arise in the future, whilst other issues may disappear. This statement is written with the best information we have now, but may have to change in the future as our understanding improves. Any information you can provide on the geology of your site, its management and its conservation would be much appreciated.

**If you would like to discuss any aspect of your SSSI, or have any concerns about your SSSI, please contact your local CCW office.**

**Your local office is;  
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