

Dudley Canal and Wren's Nest Field trip May 1st 2019



The Dudley Canal was built by the Earl of Dudley to transport limestone which had previously been moved by horse and cart. The tunnels show much evidence of calcite (white) as in photograph below, coal (black) and iron oxides (red) staining the tunnel roof and walls.



If a worker, (life expectancy 40 years). found one, the Dudley bug (trilobite) could be sold to a collector for two years' pay. The Earl banned this activity, once aware of it. Trilobites are easily found today as the picture below shows.

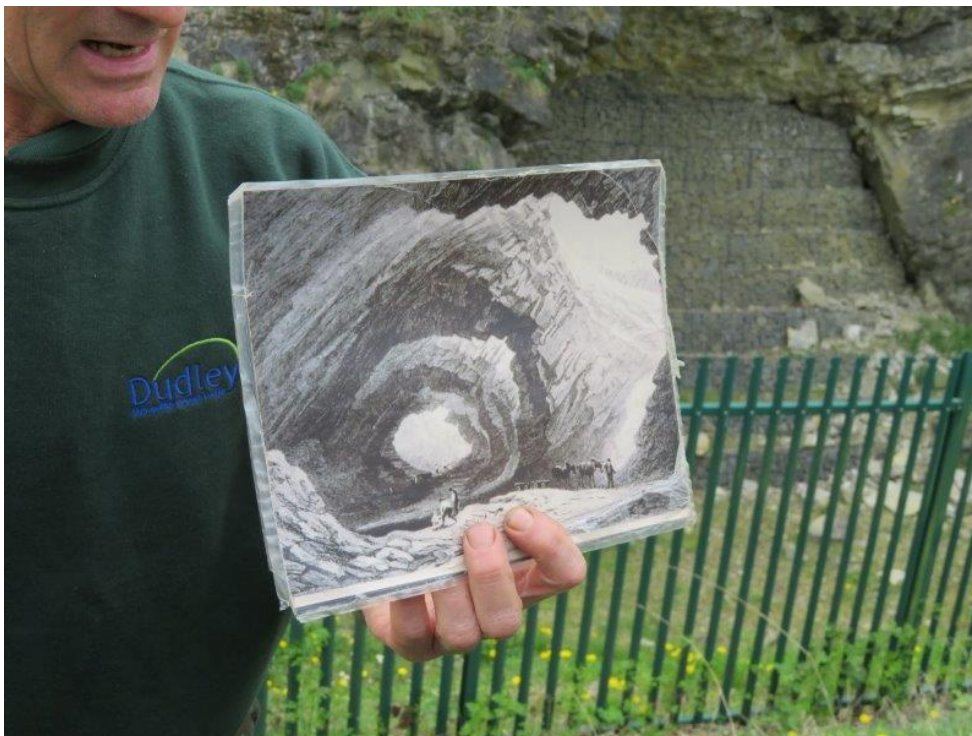


In Victorian times Murchison lectured in the huge caverns, and concerts were also held (as they are today). One of the canal tunnels (closed at present and needing £28 million to reopen) leads to the Seven Sisters at the Wren's Nest. Here there is evidence of the layers of rocks being thrust upwards with angles of 45-49 degrees. These Silurian rocks , many showing ripple markings, formed in shallow warm sea, are packed with fossils .

Below is a picture of the Wren's Nest showing the angle of heave



The Seven Sisters now



The Seven Sisters as they were

Ripple marks from a shallow seabed (below).

