

Llanevan Hill area 3rd July 2019 Report by Fred Porton

This month's field trip was to study the Silurian rocks forming the upper sequences of the Ludlow formation, in particular, the Gorstian (Lower Ludlow) and Ludfordian (Upper Ludlow) rocks.

This area has not been fully mapped with regard to dating the formations and we had been asked if we found fossils, particularly graptolites, to record exactly where we had found them giving a grid reference, using GPS, photograph and send specimens for further examination,

The Llanevan Hill area, to the east of Radnor Forest in Powys contains a number of quarries where the formations can be examined. This area in the mid- to late- Silurian was in a receding marine environment, so much of the rock being formed was of a sandy mudstone nature interspersed with thin carbonaceous mudstone fascies

The first quarry we visited exposed the "striped flags" of late Gorstian Age. The Gorstian rocks form a laminated siltstone, known as the Bailey Hill Formation. We could not get close to the quarry face due to an overgrowth of vegetation, but we were able to see the large blocky sandstone units over which the 'striped flags' were deposited.

Subsequent quarries exposed later depositions of mudstones and siltstones and we found some fossils which we duly recorded. We also found nodules of hardened sandstone, about the size of hen's eggs. which we were subsequently told were formed by small pebbles, organic or other material rolling down slopes and gathering increasing in size, rather like a miniature snowball rolling down a hill.

Progressing over Llanevan Hill, we stopped at a small quarry which exposed a slump fold where the material had rolled down a slope.



Finally we spent a short period at Cwm Blithus, where the complete sequence of the formation could be examined.