

Visit to Coppett Hill and Goodrich Castle 7th August 2019

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Figure 1 Examining the quarry

Coppett Hill, is formed of very strong conglomerate rock with sandstone and outcrops of Carboniferous limestone. Most of the limestone has been eroded and only occurs now on the east side where we visited a large quarry with plenty of limestone to be found and saw a limekiln.

After walking on the ridge of the hill and identifying the geological features of the excellent view we went to a large outcrop of conglomerate (puddingstone), valuable as a building stone as it is so hard.



Figure 2 View from Coppett Hill



Figure 3 Quartz Conglomerate

We also found some very bubbly stone and received a helpful reply from Moira:

“In the Quartz Conglomerate there are areas full of quartz pebbles and other areas of finer sandy material. It was a deposit of a flash flood after and storm and torrential rain in the mountains far to the north west. What you show in the photo is an area where there were probably originally mud clasts which have weathered out or areas of the rock which were not so well cemented and have since been worn away”

In the afternoon we went on to Goodrich Castle and followed the Earth Heritage Trust’s building stones trail. We learned that the castle was quarried from the moat. From the moat we could see the castle was built on a rocky outcrop of sandstone with a pronounced dip (30 degrees) and also that there were plenty of massive blocks (figure 4). The keep, which was the oldest building was built of greyer coarser pebbly sandstone.

Earlier building work used the quartz-rich stone which was supported in places by sandstone buttresses, some of which are badly weathered. A conglomerate was used in the mortar, again not weathering as badly as the blocks of stone (figure 5).



Figure 4 Eileen demonstrating the size of the bedrock blocks



Figure 5 Goodrich Castle