

Grinshill: Mike Rosenbaum: 17th July 2013

This was a joint Field Trip with the Mid Wales Geology Club and a more glorious summer day could not possibly have been wished for. The full complement of 25 members from the two societies were led by Mike and Tony Thorp.



Grinshill is the home of Shropshire's most exported rock and the itinerary included the numerous quarries which had been used over time to extract this top quality Permian sandstone rock. We began in the working quarry (*photo above*) and immediately went to Downes Quarry in order to study up close the dolerite intrusion - a Palaeogene

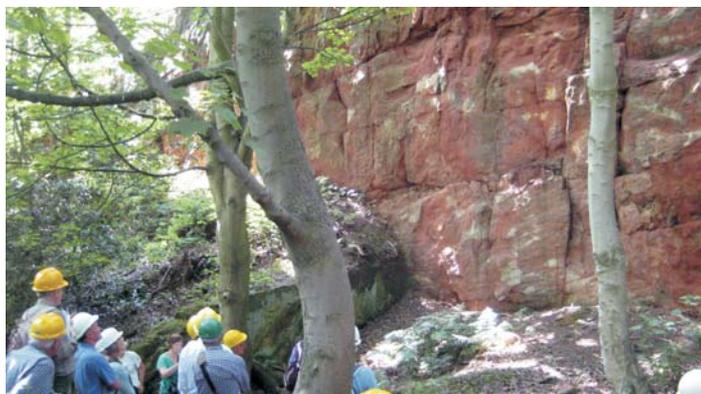


dyke cutting through the Grinshill Sandstone Member (GSM). The intrusion (*photo above*) is not only an important feature within the quarry itself, but also, as Mike explained on a number of occasions throughout the day, had such an influence on the sandstone rock and the "lie of the land". We were fortunate to be able to go into the works and speak to the workers there who saw up the freshly quarried sandstone into blocks of various sizes. One of the qualities of the sandstone is that it is easily workable when fresh but hardens considerably when exposed to the elements. We were all given a small packaged piece of the sandstone to take home with us.

We moved on to see a number of contacts between the GSM with its Esk Bed cap and the overlying Tarporley Siltstone, and the effects of the nearby Brockton Fault which cut across our pathway.

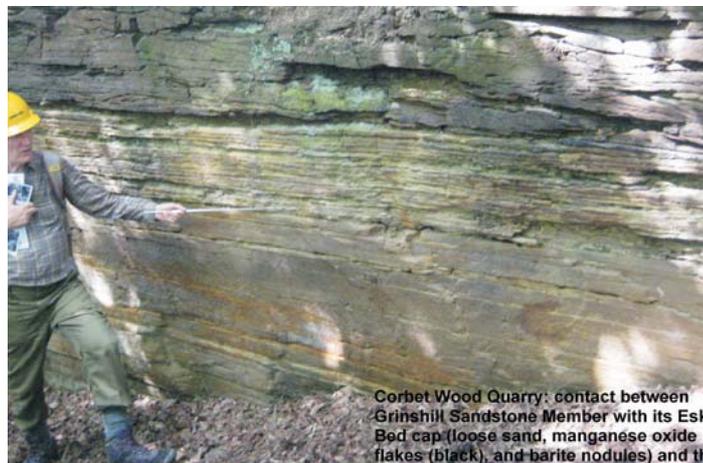
After lunch, at the top of Grinshill itself, Mike gave us a very detailed exposition concerning the geographical and geological features we could see from the summit, which included the very interesting information from Journal Geol. Soc., 151, Cope, J.C.W., 1994. "A latest Cretaceous hotspot and the southeasterly tilt of Britain".

A steep descent took us to the 1838 Grinshill School, now the village hall, built in the red sandstone derived from the nearby Village Quarry (*photo below*) where the faulted face showed mineralisation, slickensides and for me anyway, a first time naming and possible explanation of liesegang ring markings.



We continued our gentle ascent looking at Bridge Quarry with both aeolian and fluvial facies. This area enabled us to appreciate the vast amount of stone quarried in the past from the hillside.

Our final stop, Corbet Wood Quarry, was near our starting point so we could see the contact between the GSM with its Esk Bed cap and the overlying Tarporley Siltstone (*photo below*).



Many thanks to Mike for all his preparatory work and his detailed but very lucid explanations of all that we saw.

Keith Hotchkiss