

Evening Field Excursion to Middleton, The Breidden Hills

Les Dolamore¹

DOLAMORE, L. (1983). Evening Field Excursion to Middleton, The Breidden Hills. *Proceedings of the Shropshire Geological Society*, 3, 20. The field excursion visited a small domestic quarry on the Long Mountain. This exposure is in the Wenlock Series of the Silurian: deep water graptolitic shales. There was evidence of some changes in places, due to the proximity of intrusive bodies; a few fossils were uncovered in the dark grey brown weathering shales.

Middletown Quarry on the eastern side of the Breiddens was then visited. The quarry itself is a small circular volcanic plug and the material being excavated is a greenish feldspathic, rather soft granitic rock which is deeply weathered and chemically altered.

There were shafts and adits also in the area, which indicated some evidence of past copper mining activity.

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An evening Field Excursion to Middleton, near the Breidden Hills, took place on 15th June 1983, led by Keith Chell. The group met on a fine warm evening; included in the party were students from Adcote School and Ludlow College.

The evening was divided into two parts, the first was by car up the narrow lanes onto the Long Mountain, to a farm where a small domestic quarry was recently noticed by Keith. This exposure is in the Wenlock Series of the Silurian: deep water graptolitic shales. There was evidence of some changes in places, due to the proximity of intrusive bodies; a few fossils were uncovered in the dark grey brown weathering shales.

The party then returned to the car park and set off on foot up towards Middletown Quarry on the eastern side of the Breiddens. The many exposures on the path were in Ordovician, rather altered by

the very large intrusive masses around the area. The shales gradually gave way to ashes, tuffs and other clastic rocks with plenty of large "bombs" embedded in them.

The quarry itself is a small circular volcanic plug and the material being excavated is a greenish feldspathic, rather soft granitic rock which is deeply weathered and chemically altered. There were shafts and adits also in the area, which indicated some evidence of past copper mining activity.

The evening was rounded off with a final walk up to one of the summits of Middletown Hill to get a better impression of the structure of the area.

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