

160th Session Founded 1859

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18/06/2019

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The field excursion to Llandudno on the 29th June has had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances

Field excursion to Garn Prys and Deganwy

Leader: Ray Humphries

Date: 30th June 2019

Notes:

The day will be split into two sessions revisiting two sites: Garn Prys and Deganwy. These sites were last visited by LGS, Sunday 16th March 1986.

Start for session 1 Garn Prys: Meet at Pentrefoelas car park (GR 874515) (turn left off A5 in centre of village). We will then organize to share cars and leave at 10.30. There are also public toilets here and a chocolate shop with cafe. Garn Prys has limited parking and is about 10 minutes away.

Estimated time in the field - 1hr 30 minutes. Strenuous 1km walk up a farm track - normal clothing based on weather - footwear sturdy shoes, hard hats optional.

Start for session 2 Deganwy: Meet at Conway Business Centre car park (GR 796776) next to McDonalds and close to the cinema opposite from Tesco. Toilets available at various outlets. Start 2.00 sharing cars again

Estimated time in the field 1hr. Minimal walking - a few hundred metres on public paths and a little bit of a scramble at one point

The journey from Pentrefoelas to Deganwy is 25 miles. Approximate journey time is 45 minutes. This allows people to stop at various locations for lunch.

After Deganwy there is an opportunity for people to go by themselves to see the limestone on the Great Orme, Llandudno or visit anywhere else on their return journey.

Outline for the day:

Garn Prys: This itinerary is based upon a paper 'Garn Prys: a mid-Silurian canyon, feeder to the Denbigh Grits of North Wales' Authors R. Cave; J.A.Evans; and S.D.G. Campbell published in Geological Journal, Vol 27, 301-315 (1992)

Garn Prys (SH8862 4835) is a hill, 534m O.D. and 3.5km SSE of Pentrefoelas. The hill comprises of conglomerates, sandstones and mudstones deemed to be part of an infilled submarine canyon of Wenlock age (Silurian). The palaeocurrent was thought to flow north towards the main scarp of the Denbigh Grits (5km to northeast).

Evidence for this is in the sedimentary structures and the acid volcanic clasts from Snowdonia (Llewellyn Group). The rocks are unconformable with the surrounding Caradoc (Ordovician) sandstones. There will also be an opportunity to use cleavage/bedding as a way for determining wayup, thus allowing a fold to be identified along with possible faults.

Deganwy Quarries: These disused and small quarries contain 35m of mainly sandstones with some pebbly sections known as Conway Castle Grit (Hirnantian age) resting on Deganwy mudstones. Beds dip steeply to SE and their deposition is linked to the Hirnantian glaciations when sea level was estimated to be lower by more than 100m. The sediment was deposited by deep water turbidity currents or near shore storm deposits. You decide!

You will have seen coarse pebbly conglomerate at Garn Prys, here at Deganwy you will see that the rounded coarse clasts are composed of a friable mud while the coarser surrounding matrix contains some marine fossils which are not collectable.

