Gulet Quarry Malvern Hills

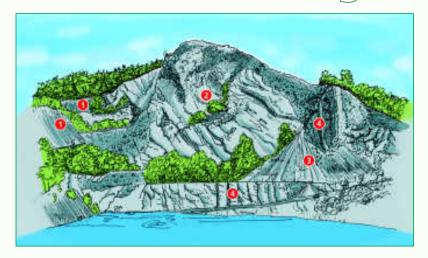


Illustration References

- 1 Silurian Reds These marine heds formed about 430 million years ago in a warm shallow sea that washed against a jagged, rocky, cliff coastline that was to become part of the Malvern Hills.
- 2. Gneiss. A rock that has been metamorphosed (altered) by heat and pressure and consists of alternating bands of crystallized minerals with either a grainy or elongated structure.
- 3. Pegmatite. These red intrusive rocks are some of the oldest rocks in the Malvern Hills and date from about 670 million years ago. They are a coarse-grained igneous rock with interlocking crystals and a composition similar to granite
- 4.Schists. A metamorphosed rock that can easily be split into sheets and slabs, Composed of flake-like minerals such as mica that have become aligned in the same direction.

THE QUARRY INDUSTRY

The quarrying industry became lucrative in the early 20th century when the increasing popularity of the car led to demand for road improvements; Malvern Stone was ideal for road construction. The guarrying industry caused a great number of scars to be formed across the Hills and was also the cause of noise and dust during extraction and transportation. This led the then Minister of Housing and Local Government to consider the future of guarrying in the Hills in 1953. Essentially, it was decided that all guarrying should cease. but at Gullet Quarry, the Minister gave permission for work to continue for about another 20 years. The last of the quarries here closed in 1977.

GEOLOGICAL UNCONFORMITY

The spring-fed lake at the Gullet is approximately 5m deep with the quarry face above rising up a further 60 metres. The massive crystalline rocks are 670 million years old and were formed when molten rock solidified deep in the earth's crust in latitudes near the present south pole. Over the long period of their existence, the rocks have been crushed, altered and shifted in latitude by the relentless movements of the earth's crustal plates.

About 430 million years ago, the rocks became a land mass in the tropics, fringed by a shallow sea. The land was eroded and sediments were deposited on the surrounding sea floor. These sediments now form the rock layers at the extreme top left of the quarry. Originally horizontal, the layers are now tilted by 60 degrees and the remains of the ancient rocky coastline have been detected nearby. It is this junction between the sediments and the crystalline rock which is called a geological unconformity.

PUBLIC USE AND SAFETY

Gullet Quarry provides an attractive place for guiet recreation, but like all disused guarries, can be dangerous. Members of public must keep to the path around the pool.



DO NOT SWIM - the water is very cold and can cause sudden cramps which lead to drowning.



DO NOT DIVE - the water is shallow in places and you risk severe injuries.



DO NOT CLIMB - the quarry face is unstable in some areas.



Gullet Quarry in the 1960's before landscaping by the Conservators

WALKS FROM GULLET OUARRY

The map above illustrates three walks that can be accessed from Gullet Quarry and incorporate a number of points of interest. At Castlemorton Common, you are able to view an area of common land rich in history and nature conservation. Eastnor Castle's fairy-tale turrets are surrounded by a beautiful deer park, arboretum and lake; the Obelisk in the park commemorates members of the Somers family who fell in battle. The Iron Age hill forts of Midsummer Hill (owned by the National Trust) and British Camp are impressive earthworks that afford far-reaching views as far as the Cotswolds and the



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ne Malvern Hills Conservators are one of Britain's oldest conservation bodies set up under the Malvern Hills Act of 1884 to conserve and manage the Malvern Hills and surrounding Commons for public recreation. Their funds are obtained by a levy on local Council Tax payers, car parking revenue and grants from outside organisations. The total area under their care is now over 1200 hectares (3000 acres).





