



# MUCH WENLOCK SHROPSHIRE



## INTRODUCTION TO MUCH WENLOCK

Thank you for enrolling on our fossil hunting event.

Fossils found around Much Wenlock are from the Homerian Stage of the Silurian period, a time in which Britain lay south of the equator with a tropical to sub-tropical climate. A sea covered Britain, that was shallower in the south (forming limestones) and deeper in the north (sandstones and mudstones). Typical Silurian fossils include corals, brachiopods, trilobites and graptolites and these are well-represented in specimens to be found at this location.

The area around Wenlock Edge is SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), so no hammering of the bedrock is permitted. However, fossils are abundant and can be picked up easily enough. Plenty of fallen blocks can be investigated to find various fossils preserved in the limestone. Nearly every block contains fossils.

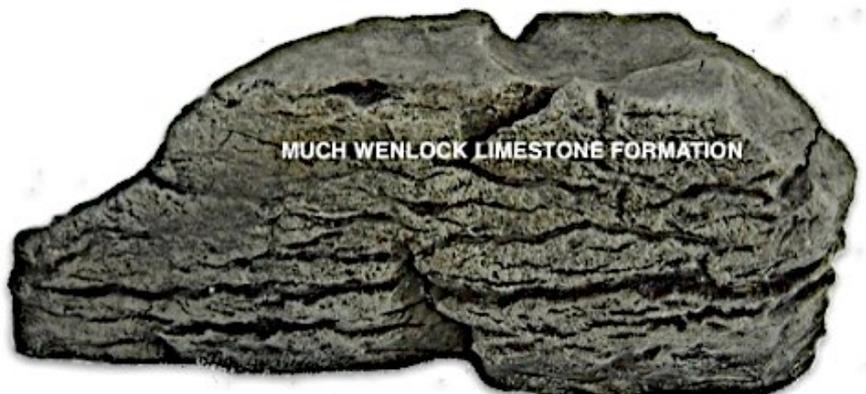
## THE GEOLOGY

The Silurian-aged rocks of the Much Wenlock Limestone Formation were formed approximately 421 to 433 million years ago. These sedimentary rocks are shallow and generally comprise fine-grained sediments, with carbonate material (coral, shell fragments) forming interbedded sequences.

Reef fossils, such as crinoid stem parts, corals and brachiopods, are all abundant. The majority of fallen blocks contain fossils, with many being full of small pieces of crinoid. Nearby Wenlock Edge is a scarp of Silurian limestone which runs for over thirty kilometres (18.6 miles) from Craven Arms to Much Wenlock. It is a prominent and well-known feature, of interest for its extensive exposures of rocks of the Much Wenlock Limestone Formation (Silurian).

SILURIAN

HOMERIAN



## WHAT FOSSILS MIGHT YOU FIND?

At any fossil hunting event, you cannot be guaranteed to find fossils. The frequency of fossils depends on the rates of erosion, the weather and of course, if others have already scoured the site beforehand!



Above: An example of Wenlock Limestone and the fossil fauna associated with it.



Above: Brachiopod - possibly *Dolerorthis rustica*.

Below: Examine fallen blocks for fossils



Below: *Labechia (Monticularia) conferta*  
A crinoid.

Bottom: *Cornulites*, a horn coral



We hope you enjoy your day at Much Wenlock. Please visit our website for further events which might be of interest to you at <https://ukafh.com/> Our book, with over 50 other sites across England & Wales, can be purchased at £16.95 here: [http://www.ukge.com/en-GB/A-guide-to-fossil-collecting-in-England-and-Wales\\_p-3439.aspx](http://www.ukge.com/en-GB/A-guide-to-fossil-collecting-in-England-and-Wales_p-3439.aspx)

