
Fferam-uchaf

[SH 3617 8668], [SH 3618 8655] and [SH 3650 8657]

Introduction

An exposure south-west of Fferam-uchaf is of significance because it is one of only two localities on Anglesey from which the *murchisoni* Zone has been recognized. It was reported by Greenly (1919, p. 452), who also noted two outcrops nearby that yielded graptolite faunas indicative of the underlying *D. artus* Zone. All three exposures are within the topmost part of the Nantannog Formation and lie at the northwesterly extremity of its outcrop.

Description

West of the road, at the bend 180 m west of Fferam-uchaf farm [SH 3617 8668], are shales, fine gritty beds with fragments of grey mudstone and thin ribs of fine sandstone that dip north at 30–50°. Bates (1972, p. 40) redetermined Greenly's collection from here as follows:

Didymograptus 'bifidus' (Hall) (probably = *D. artus* Elles and Wood), *D. (Expansograptus) hirundo* Salter, *Orthambonites?* sp. and *Paterula? balclatchiensis* (Davidson). More or less along strike, 170 m south-east of the farm [SH 3650 8657], similar beds yielded a shelly fauna including brachiopods (*Dactylogonia* sp., *Ptychopleurella* sp., and *Skenidioides* sp.), bryozoans and pelmatozoan columnals. To the south-west of the farm [SH 3618 8655], shales and fine sandstones yielded the graptolite *Didymograptus murchisoni* (Beck), trilobites (*Bergamia?* sp., *Cyclopyge?* sp., *Placoparia* sp., and *Iliaenus (sensu lato)* sp., an orthid brachiopod and a bivalve).

Interpretation

The mixed shelly–graptolitic faunas from the top of the Nantannog Formation here are probably indicative of fairly shallow-water conditions. The presence of rock fragments within the matrix implies redistribution of an already deposited sediment (Bates, 1972, p. 56). Because beds assigned to the *murchisoni* Zone crop out to the south of those of the *artus* Zone in a north-dipping sequence, the former are either downfaulted or folded into their present positions (Bates, 1972, p. 40). At Fferam-uchaf itself, the Fferam ironstone and overlying graptolite shales to the north belong to the Llanbabo Formation (basal Caradoc, *gracilis* Zone). Although the contact with the Llanvirn is not exposed, it is presumably unconformable or faulted, and there is no evidence for the intervening *teretiusculus* Zone.

Conclusions

The outcrops at Fferam-uchaf are important in providing fossiliferous exposures of both the Abereiddian (Llanvirn) graptolite zones, *artus* and *murchisoni*, in a mixed shelly–graptolite facies. They are complementary to the larger exposures in Nantannog Ravine (see site report).

[References](#)