geoheritage Fife

geoheritage Fife was established in 2000 to:

* promote geotourism
* provide educational resources in geology
* generate geovisitation

If you would like to assist with these aims, consider joining the group or making a donation by contacting:

geoheritage Fife
T: 01334 262895
Scotch Charity No. SC025079

FIFE LGS/RIGS

RIGS were Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites, but are now known as Local Geovisitability Sites (LGS).

Fife LGS is concerned with identifying and assessing important sites and notifying the statutory planning authorities of these sites. Fife LGS was incorporated into geoheritage Fife in 2003.

SAFETY INFORMATION

This trail is about 2 km long, and involves walking on public footpaths and crossing roads. Wear footwear suitable for walking, and observe pedestrian crossings.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Rail: The nearest railway station is Comrie.

Road: A91 from Stirling, A915 from Kirkcaldy, A917 from Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Glenrothes.

Local services.

Rail: The nearest railway station is Leuchars, about 7 km to the north. There are services to Edinburgh and London via St Andrews and Dundee.

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The buildings in this area were built between 1850 and 1890 and were designed to mimic the Georgian style of Edinburgh's New Town. The houses are an example of directed holding in sandstone two blocks to the left of the “Aberfoyle Cress” road sign. This distorted layering could have resulted from dumping of wet sand during an earthquake.

This distinctive building was built as the Grand Hotel in 1894. The frontage is built of red sandstone of Permian age from quarries at Locharbriggs, near Dumfries. The rock was deposited as sand under desert conditions which oxidised iron minerals to the red mineral haematite. Close examination of some blocks reveals diagonal lines of bedding - cross bedding - that are typical of sand dunes and which give an indication of the wind direction during the Permian period; more than 250 million years ago!

This was the original chapel to the college of St. Salvator's, established by Bishop Kennedy in 1450. The oldest part is the tower which is built of pinkish Carboniferous sandstone from Craighead Quarry. This is the oldest of the sandstone quarries in Fife, and one of the most important in Scotland. The landing stage is in the basement. The stonemasons of St. Salvator's were skilled in the use of sandstone for building.

This church was an early “cathedral” and is believed to date from the 1070's. All that remains is the tower and part of the choir. Notice how well-cut are the rectangular blocks of stone for a building of this age. This Carboniferous sandstone probably came from north of St. Andrews, although its indistinctness suggests it may have been hand-split by its proximity to an igneous intrusion. The mortar contains tiny fragments of shell, indicating that beach sand was used in making the mortar.

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF FIFE

Throughout the geological history of Fife, sandstones have been a major source of building stone. Most sandstones are made of quartz sand crystals, which give them their characteristic hardness and durability. Sandstones are classified into different types based on their texture and mineral content.

Ordovician: 485 - 444 Ma

Sandstone that is characterized by its composition of quartz sand grains and its foliated texture. Ordovician sandstones are common in Fife, particularly in the north of the region.

Gabbro: An igneous rock composed of feldspar and iron- and magnesium-rich minerals. Gabbros are typically dark in color and are found in the Dalradian and Dalradian Belt formations.

Quartzite: A metamorphic rock formed from detrital quartz sandstone. Quartzites are characterized by their high quartz content and foliated texture.

BASICS OF SANDSTONE

Sandstone is a sedimentary rock formed from the accumulation and cementation of sand-sized particles of mineral and organic materials. Sandstones can be classified into different types based on their texture, mineral content, and methods of formation.

Sedimentary rocks are classified into different types based on their composition and texture. The following are the five main types of sedimentary rocks:

- Sandstone: A sedimentary rock composed of sand-sized particles of mineral and organic materials. Sandstones are typically yellow, brown, or gray in color.
- Limestone: A sedimentary rock composed of calcium carbonate. Limestones are typically white, gray, or yellow in color.
- Dolomite: A sedimentary rock composed of calcium magnesium carbonate. Dolomites are typically white, gray, or yellow in color.
- Shale: A sedimentary rock composed of clay-sized particles. Shales are typically dark in color and are often used as a source of oil and gas.
- Coal: A sedimentary rock composed of plant material. Coals are typically black or brown in color and are used as a source of energy.

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GEOLOGICAL MAP OF FIFE & TAYSIDE

This map shows the different geological formations and strata that make up the land in Fife and Tayside. The map is divided into different color zones to represent different types of rocks and geologic units. The map includes a legend that explains the symbols used on the map, as well as a scale bar and compass rose for orientation.

LIST OF QUARRIES

- Spittal Quarry, Caithness
- Dalradian: c.800 - 541 Ma
- Ordovician: 485 - 444 Ma
- Jurassic: 201 - 145 Million years (Mega Anni = Ma)
- Carboniferous: 359 - 299 Million years

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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