

THE GEOLOGY OF CHARNWOOD FOREST

Leader: Dr. T.D. Ford

Sunday, 7th June 1964

The party, some 35 in number, met at Mountsorrel granodiorite quarry (SK 577149) and the variation in colour was demonstrated to have an apparent association with the hydrothermal effects of the Carboniferous dolerite dyke intrusion. Numerous basic xenoliths were seen, as well as occasional aplite dykes. The early pneumatolytic molybdenite mineralization of joints was also seen, but the late pyrite-dolomite-bitumen veins were found only in the debris.

Lunch was taken at the Forest Rock Hotel, Woodhouse Eaves, conveniently situated outside the Woodhouse Church Quarry (SK 531140) with its faulted contact between Woodhouse Beds and Brand Grits. Examination of the xenoliths in the Mountsorrel granodiorite cross above the quarry was interrupted by a hailstorm.

Moving onto the Beacon Hill (SK 540148) the structure and lay-out of Charnwood Forest were explained, to the accompaniment of a violent thunderstorm. Current bedding was observed in the hornstones.

In the grounds of Charnwood Lodge (SK 464158) the pyroclastic deposits of the Felsitic Agglomerate and the Bomb Rocks were examined, and considerable argument ensued as to the nature of the latter - were they true "volcanic bombs" of porphyroid lava, or were they a beach boulder bed of the same rock type?

After rain the party moved to High Sharpley (SK 448170) to see the sheared and cleaved Peldar porphyroids, now generally believed to be lavas.

At this stage further heavy rain set in and the party dispersed.

T.D.F.