

with basal Silurian rhyolites and tuffs. These are underlain by Ordovician (Arenig–Llanvirn) shales and overlain by Silurian Llandovery mudstones. The whole package has been folded into an overturned syncline with remobilisation of some of the sulphides into the surrounding sediments.



*Pyritised mudstone (photo: Tim Colman)*



*Overtuned syncline at west end of Great Opencast, just below the viewing platform, looking west (photo: David Bate)*

We started at the Copper Mine Trail car park (SH 437904) and walked to the viewpoint which gives an excellent vista of the Great Opencast. We then walked along the trail past flow-banded rhyolite and down into the Great Opencast to see the intensely mineralised black cherty sediments in the core of the syncline which

was visible in the western end of the Opencast looking back towards the viewpoint. We then followed the trail back to the car park. Ian Stimpson was thanked for a highly informative, well planned and executed field trip. The weather had been dry throughout, although one member of the group, who had stayed at Conwy, said that the mainland had been wet throughout the weekend.

*Tim Colman*

## BOOK REVIEW

**Delving along the Derwent – a history of 200 quarries and the people who worked them**, The Delvers, 2019, 191 pp (printed by Gomer Press, Llandysul), ISBN978-1-871827-43-9.

The Delvers are a group of individuals brought together by Ian Thomas, a former President of our Society and for many years Director of the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth, which he himself initiated. Together, and with the assistance of many others, the Delving Team undertook to research the history of quarrying across a 20-mile stretch of the Derbyshire Peak District based around the Derwent River between Matlock, Parwich and Wirksworth in the north and north-west, and Derby in the south. The book begins with a widely applicable guide to sources of information on stone quarrying before going on to describe the study area's geological setting (Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit and Coal Measures) and completes this introductory section of the book with a history of stone working from prehistoric times to the mid-18th century. Of especial interest is the recognition by the team members of the historic significance of Alderwasley as a source of Iron Age and Romano-British quern stones manufactured from Millstone Grit. Examples of these early rotary hand-driven querns, employed for milling flour, were discovered at the sites where they were quarried.

The main part of the book is a detailed, well-illustrated gazetteer of quarries and associated features and buildings from at least Roman times up to the present day. Special attention is given to the nationally important Hopton Wood Stone quarries, which all fall within the study area. This valuable account includes illustrations of the varied applications of Hopton Wood Stone in buildings, memorials and the arts. Also given special treatment are the quarries and educational facilities that make up the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth. There is a section on the manufacture of mineral pigments and paints, and a final section (followed by appendices) on quarrying families.

The work warrants re-publication in a more lavish (e.g. A4) format giving more room for the many images to be expanded in size. Copies of the book are available from the Rock Shop (price £18) at the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth.

*David Bate*