

# Paradise Lost and Found

**F**rom this splendid vantage point you can see a large part of Wick Quarry. Fossils found in the stone from this Quarry show that this area must have once been an underwater tropical paradise.

Between 354 - 323 million years ago the rocks you can see here were soft sediments at the bottom of a warm tropical sea. The clear, warm waters supported many living creatures, including abundant corals, shellfish and fish. You can find fossils of some of these creatures in the two large rocks near this interpretation board.

The distribution of land and sea was very different from the map of the world as we know it today. This area was near the equator - see the world maps below.

The soft sediments gradually changed into limestone due to the pressure of more and more sediments. This happened during the time we call the Carboniferous Period - see the time scale below. After the rocks were formed, movements of the Earth's crust caused them to be folded and crumpled. The layers of the former seabed are now tilted at an almost vertical angle in the rockface of the quarry.

The same rocks can also be seen where this limestone ridge reappears at Barnhill Quarry near Chipping Sodbury. Limestone of the same age can be seen in the Avon Gorge in Bristol and Cheddar Gorge in Somerset.

**Avon RIGS Group (Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites)**

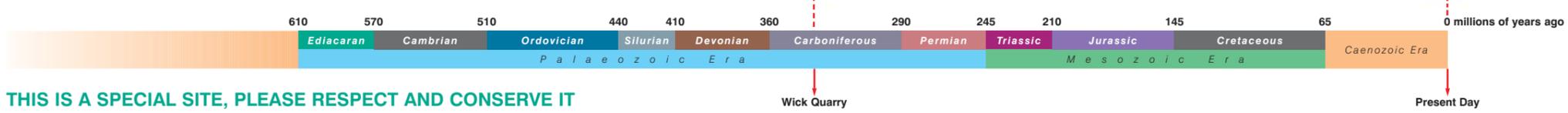
The Group's aims include the conservation and promotion of local geological and geomorphological sites. The Group is coordinated by Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC). A leaflet is available and there are other panels like this one at other sites.

To find out more about the geology of Wick Quarry, why not visit [www.avonrigs.org.uk](http://www.avonrigs.org.uk)

**Friends of Wick Golden Valley Nature Reserve**

The Friends Group helps to look after the reserve. Membership and information leaflets may be collected at Wick Post Office or visit [www.golden-valley.info](http://www.golden-valley.info)

 Wick Quarry is owned and worked by Cemex and produces over 450,000 tonnes of crushed stone each year, which is used in the road and construction industry. **THE QUARRY IS DANGEROUS AND ON PRIVATE LAND. DO NOT ENTER**



**THIS IS A SPECIAL SITE, PLEASE RESPECT AND CONSERVE IT**



**Funders:** This interpretation board has been a joint project between BRERC, the Avon RIGS Group and South Gloucestershire Council. Funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, which is administered by English Nature.  
Designed by Graphics and Mapping, South Gloucestershire Council • Illustrations by Shane Feeney