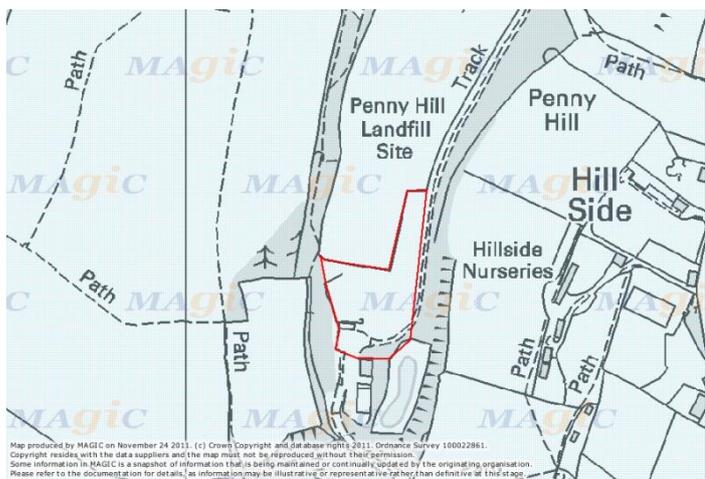


Penny Hill Quarry

LOCATION INFORMATION					
Parish	Martley	Grid Reference	East exp SO 75160 61333 West exp SO 75125 61335	Locality Type	Disused quarry
BGS 1:50 000 Sheet No.		182	OS 1:25 000 Sheet No.		Explorer 204

KEY SITE FEATURES	
Stratigraphy	SILURIAN (Wenlock) / Much Wenlock Limestone Formation.
Lithology	Nodular limestone, silty limestone and calcareous siltstone.
Fossils	Brachiopods – <i>Sphaerirhynchia sp.</i> , <i>Atrypa reticularis</i> . Crinoids. Corals – <i>Halysites</i> , <i>Favosites</i> , <i>Rugosa</i> . Trilobite – <i>Dalmanites sp.</i>
Mineralisation	Calcite veins in mineralised joints.
Structure	Steeply dipping and overturned.

SITE DETAILS
<p>To access the quarry, leave Martley on the B4197 and take the second turn on the left. Take the first right up a steep hill and the site is at the end of the road.</p> <p>This quarry has the finest exposure of Much Wenlock Limestone in the area. What remains exposed today is just a small part of what was once a much larger quarry, the rest of the site being infilled with landfill waste, and the gas used to generate electricity.</p> <p>There is a western and eastern exposure. The former is becoming overgrown, but is important because it shows that the strata on that side have been overturned: corals which would have been attached to the sea floor, have been found upside down. The beds on the east side of the quarry are the right way up, indicating that the two sides of the quarry are the two limbs of an overturned fold - one that has been pushed over sideways towards the west.</p> <p>Roughly 12m thickness of strata is exposed, dipping steeply towards the east, consisting of grey crystalline nodular limestone with olive-grey silty limestone and calcareous siltstone between nodular layers. Many of the limestone beds are only up to 10cm thick. Crinoid and shell debris sometimes forms a marked proportion of the thicker beds, often amounting to several feet in thickness; most of these occur in the lower part of the succession. The site is highly fossiliferous, presenting several species of brachiopod, coral and crinoid, as well as the trilobite <i>Dalmanites sp.</i></p> <p>On the east side of the main eastern exposure, calcite veins and mineralised joints occur. Some minor displacement is evident along the jointing, although this may be the result of pressure release following quarrying.</p>



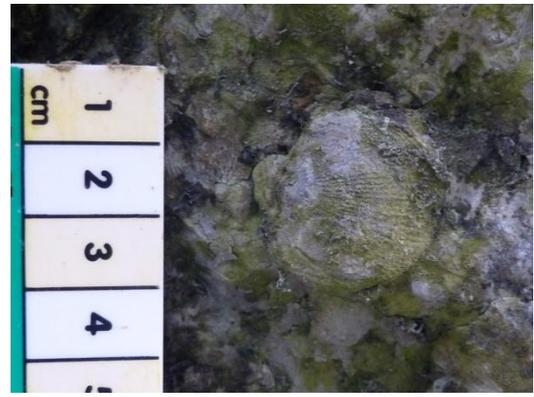
A plan of the site. The red outline marks the area of the present-day exposures. The remainder of the site is now landfill.



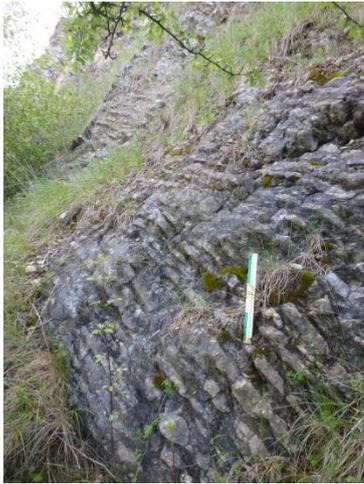
Western side of the quarry showing the underside of the overturned beds. Highly nodular limestone.



The west face of the eastern side of the quarry.



A small fossil on the bedding plane.



Thinly bedded, nodular limestone. West face of the eastern side of the quarry.



The east face of the east side of the quarry.



Thin bedding.



Tectonically produced joint structures on the eastern side of the main exposure. Calcite veins occur along the joint planes.