

DORSET LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES SURVEY

Site number G ST72/12

Site name Church Close (Todber DCC depot)

Summary description

Jurassic, Corallian Group, Todber Freestone and Clavellata Beds

The east/west section running along the northern boundary of the properties in Church Close is the eastern part of the type section of the Todber Freestone. (This was previously used as a DCC depot, but is now residential.) Up to 3m of the Todber Freestone is visible, in 3 to 4 beds of cream, hard, massive oolitic limestone which is cross-bedded. The beds are separated by friable oolitic sand, and have been weathered along the joints to produce a zig-zag outline on the oldest face south of the church. The Freestone has an undulating surface covered by a friable oolitic sand. Above this sand there is up to 2m of the Clavellata Beds, with a hard, massive, bluish-grey shelly limestone followed upwards by a hard flaggy limestone.

Site description

Jurassic, Corallian Group, Todber Freestone and Clavellata Beds

The east/west section running along the northern boundary of the properties in Church Close for approximately 20-25 metres, is the eastern part of the type section of the Todber Freestone. Up to 3m of the Todber Freestone is visible, in 3 to 4 beds of cream, hard, massive oolitic limestone which is cross-bedded. The beds are separated by friable oolitic sand, and have been weathered along the joints to produce a zig-zag outline on the oldest face south of the church. The Freestone has an undulating surface covered by a friable oolitic sand.

Above this sand there is up to 2m of the Clavellata Beds, with a hard, massive, bluish-grey shelly limestone followed upwards by a hard flaggy limestone. The fossil content is mainly in the form of shell fragments (bivalves) suggesting a high energy environment of deposition, which is also suggested by the oolitic nature of the sediment. Some of the larger shell fragments are crystalline indicating post depositional diagenetic changes to the sediment.

Overall the exposure shows a very shallow anticline with apparent dip to east and west from the centre of the exposure.

This old quarry was previously used as a DCC depot, but is now residential. When the site was redeveloped, access to the face was maintained in the car park of a pair of offices.

Published references

Wright, J.K., 1981, The Corallian rocks of North Dorset. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, vol. 92, 17-32.