

Coldbeck Limestone Formation

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Coldbeck Limestone Formation (**CLK**), Carboniferous, Northern England Province

Coldbeck Limestone Formation is part of the [Great Scar Limestone Group](#)

Name

The name is derived from Coldbeck, Ravenstonedale, Westmorland.

Lithology

See Mitchell (1978)^[1]; Dunham and Wilson (1985)^[2]. The formation comprises dark grey, fine-grained, well bedded limestones with mudstone partings, and flaggy dolostones characterised by an abundance of algal macrostructures including stromatolites and oncolites.

Genetic interpretation

The formation was deposited in a carbonate-dominated, nearshore to peritidal, restricted marine environment.

Stratotype

The type area is Ravenstonedale (see Taylor et al., 1971^[3]; Mitchell, 1978)^[1]. 52 m of strata are visible in a continuous section in Stone Gill (NY 71 03).

Lower and upper boundaries

The lower boundary is at the base of the 'Spongiostroma Band' of Turner (1950)^[4], which overlies the thick-bedded, porcellanous limestones and thin-bedded dolostones in the upper part of the Stone Gill Limestone Formation, Ravenstonedale Group (Figure 9, Column 16).

The upper boundary of the Coldbeck Limestone Formation is at the top of the Algal Nodular Beds. These conformably underlie the dark grey limestone of the Scandal Beck Limestone Formation.

Thickness

Some 52 m of strata are visible in a continuous section in Stone Gill, Ravenstonedale, but Turner (1950, p. 30)^[4] estimated that a further 31 m are cut out by faulting. The formation is about 50 m thick at Gaisgill, but thins westward from here.

Distribution and regional correlation

Ravenstonedale, Cumbria and the Stainmore Trough.

Age and biostratigraphical characterisation

Early Chadian. There are at least three algal bands within the formation.

References

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- ↑ Taylor, B J, Burgess, I C, Land, D H, Mills, D A C, Smith, D B, and Warren, P T.1971.British regional geology: northern England (4th edition). (London: HMSO for Institute of Geological Sciences.)
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