

File:P521486.jpg

From Earthwise

[Jump to navigation](#) [Jump to search](#)

- [File](#)
- [File history](#)
- [File usage](#)



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[Original file](#) (800 × 620 pixels, file size: 126 KB, MIME type: image/jpeg)

Summary

Rock specimen of shale. Glenkiln Burn, Kirkmichael, Dumfriesshire. The sample is a black shale containing graptolite fossils on bedding surfaces. The shale is very fine-grained and thinly bedded. British Geological Survey Petrology Collection sample number EMC 3636. Large tracts of the Southern Uplands of Scotland are formed of shales. These rocks were deposited as sediments in a deep oceanic basin. They consist of very fine-grained minerals, mainly of clays and micas. The specimen of shale will belong to the Ordovician Glenkiln Shales. They are generally black shales yielding many species of graptolites, tiny colonial animals that lived in a series of interconnected tubes made from collagen. Each animal lived in a thecae that made up branches called stipes, the

whole colony being called the rhabdosome. They were free floating animals in the Ordovician seas and have been used extensively to date the rocks in which they are found. P521486

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[JenniferFindlay1](#)
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Rock specimen of shale. Glenkiln Burn, Kirkmichael, Dumfriesshire. The sample is a black shale containing graptolite fossils on bedding surfaces. The shale is very fine-grained and thinly bedded. British Geological Survey Petrology Collection sample nu...

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File usage

The following page links to this file:

- [Graptolites: Ordovician and Silurian biostratigraphy - an excursion](#)

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[Category:](#)

- [License tags](#)

Navigation menu

Personal tools

- Not logged in
- [Talk](#)
- [Contributions](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Request account](#)

Namespaces

- [File](#)
- [Discussion](#)

Variants

Views

- [Read](#)
- [Edit](#)
- [View history](#)
- [PDF Export](#)

More

Search

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)
- [Help about MediaWiki](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Browse properties](#)

• This page was last modified on 3 August 2015, at 19:51.

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- [About Earthwise](#)
- [Disclaimers](#)

