

Location MT15

SO 74711 62481

Rodge Hill Summit

This location is on the track on the west side of the line of trees along Rodge Hill, which is part of the Worcestershire Way. Here you can see the underlying strata exposed in track surface.



Usage of the track has resulted in much of the bedrock becoming exposed in the track's surface. We have already noted that the rock seen at Location MT12 is known to

continue southwards underlying the ridge of Cockshot and Rodge Hills. Exposures such as seen here at Location MT15 have been used to provide evidence for this. Although the rock in the track surface is somewhat nodular as well as more flat-bedded, it has a distinctly layered structure, and its strike is very evident.

Measure the strike. Is this consistent with the strike readings at Location MT12?

Taking a dip reading is not easy here because of limited vertical exposure, but an impression of a steep dip – even vertical in places - is present.

Walk on up the track to the south for a short distance and you will have a view to the west like this:



Here, the view is across the valley of the River Teme and the upland beyond. The view is to the south on the left, continuing through west, to the north on the right. The western upland has a level skyline and forms a distinct plateau. On the extreme north end of the view, can be seen Titterstone Clee Hill and Brown Clee Hill in south Shropshire, their highest points underlain by the hard igneous rock dolerite, once quarried there and widely

used to surface roads across Britain. To the south, the plateau country becomes lower and is more broken up by incision of local rivers and streams. The River Teme is bordered by very level ground, forming its floodplain; the river follows an irregular meandering course across this, ultimately flowing south: in front of you, the river is flowing eastwards towards you, as it passes along one of the meanders. The bedrock underlying the Teme valley here is softer (you saw it at Locations MT1, MT3 and MT4) than that to its east and west, and is likely to have contributed to its course becoming established where it is seen today.

The plateau is capped by a harder rock – a red sandstone from the Devonian Period of geological time, called by the BGS, the Freshwater West Formation, named after a location in Pembrokeshire, where the best example (type section) of it is found.