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Nature Conservancy Council - the Geological Conservation Review

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KRAUSE, J. (1983). Nature Conservancy Council - the Geological Conservation Review. *Proceedings of the Shropshire Geological Society*, **3**, 26. Extracts concerning the Lye Stream (Lower Old Red Sandstone sequence and fish remains) and the Ercall Quarry.

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The following extracts are taken from Earth Science Conservation No. 20, Feb. 1983, the journal of the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), and are of interest to Shropshire geologists.

The Lye Stream, Shropshire

In Earth Science Conservation 19 (p.34) it was reported that, following excavation at this classic locality, a major study was being made of the newly exposed Lower Old Red Sandstone section. Work has continued during the past twelve months and several new discoveries made. Probably most significant is the discovery of *Arthrodires* in the lower part of the section. This is the oldest reported occurrence from anywhere in the world of this group of fish, which were later to become important members of the Middle Devonian freshwater faunas. Another exciting discovery is of the arthropod *Kampecaris*, which is probably one of the oldest known myriopods. Even amongst the better known species, important new developments have resulted from this work. For instance, Mr Peter Tarrant has been able to make the first comprehensive reconstruction of the head-shield of the important zone fossil *Traquairaspis symondsi*, previous attempts having been hampered by more fragmentary material. All of the fossils found are being located with great accuracy and related to the individual channels in the sequence. From this it is hoped to draw some conclusions about the original life assemblages. In September, the Ludlow Research Group visited the section as part of their excursion to the Welsh Borders. The meeting was arranged in order to examine possible stratotypes for the topmost stage of the Silurian System. The Lye Stream represents the best inland section for the highest part of the Silurian in the area and clearly shows the boundary with the Devonian as developed in the Old Red Sandstone facies.

The Ercall Quarry, The Wrekin, Shropshire

For the past two years members of the Shropshire Geological Society have been carrying out detailed surveying in the Ercall Quarry, Shropshire, with a view to producing a geological trail guide (Earth Science Conservation 19, p. 42). Their work achieved sudden prominence when, during 1982, NCC were consulted over plans for redevelopment of the quarry. The workings are nearing the end of their productive life and the landowner is now seeking a beneficial after-use. Late in the year, a preliminary meeting of' the many authorities with statutory responsibilities relating to the Ercall was convened to consider proposals. These took the form of a Country Park development containing a range of entertainment and educational facilities. It seemed likely that the proposed geological trail could well be an integral part of such a development; this suggestion was favourably received by the landowner who sought further details of the proposed trail for assessment by his development consultant. As work on devising the trail by the Shropshire Geological Society had almost reached completion, it was possible for a full outline of the proposed trail and its accompanying guidebook to be submitted almost immediately. Shortly afterwards the Section received a comprehensive outline plan for the Country Park development which not only made provision for protection of the key quarry faces but also included specific reference to the geological trail. This outline plan is now under consideration by the planning authorities and, if accepted, will be followed by a fully detailed application. Further developments will be reported in future issues of the journal,

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