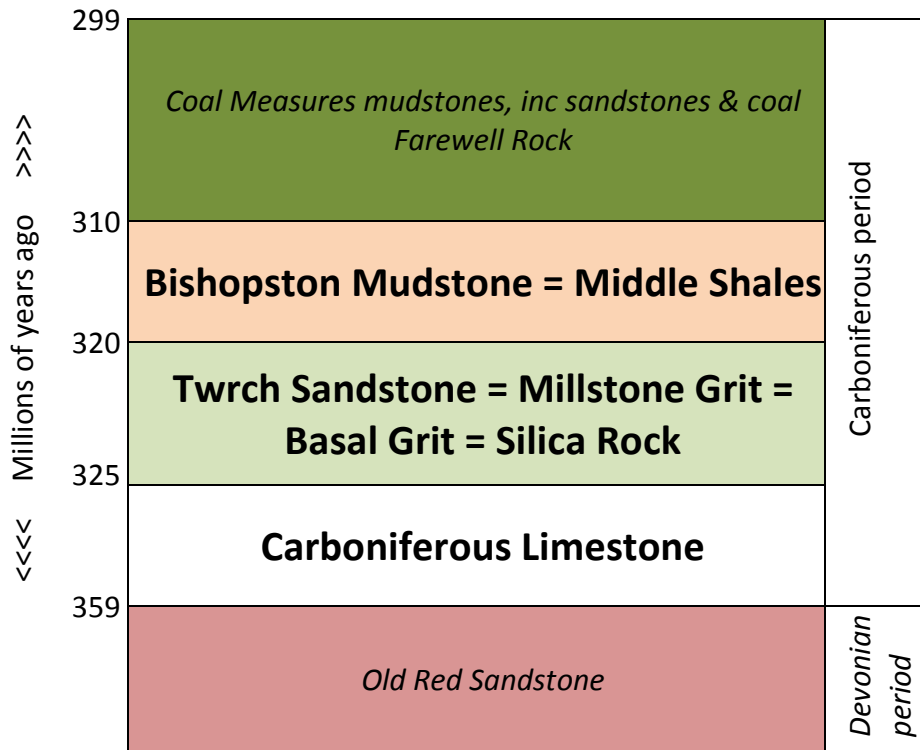


# Exploring the Sychryd Gorge

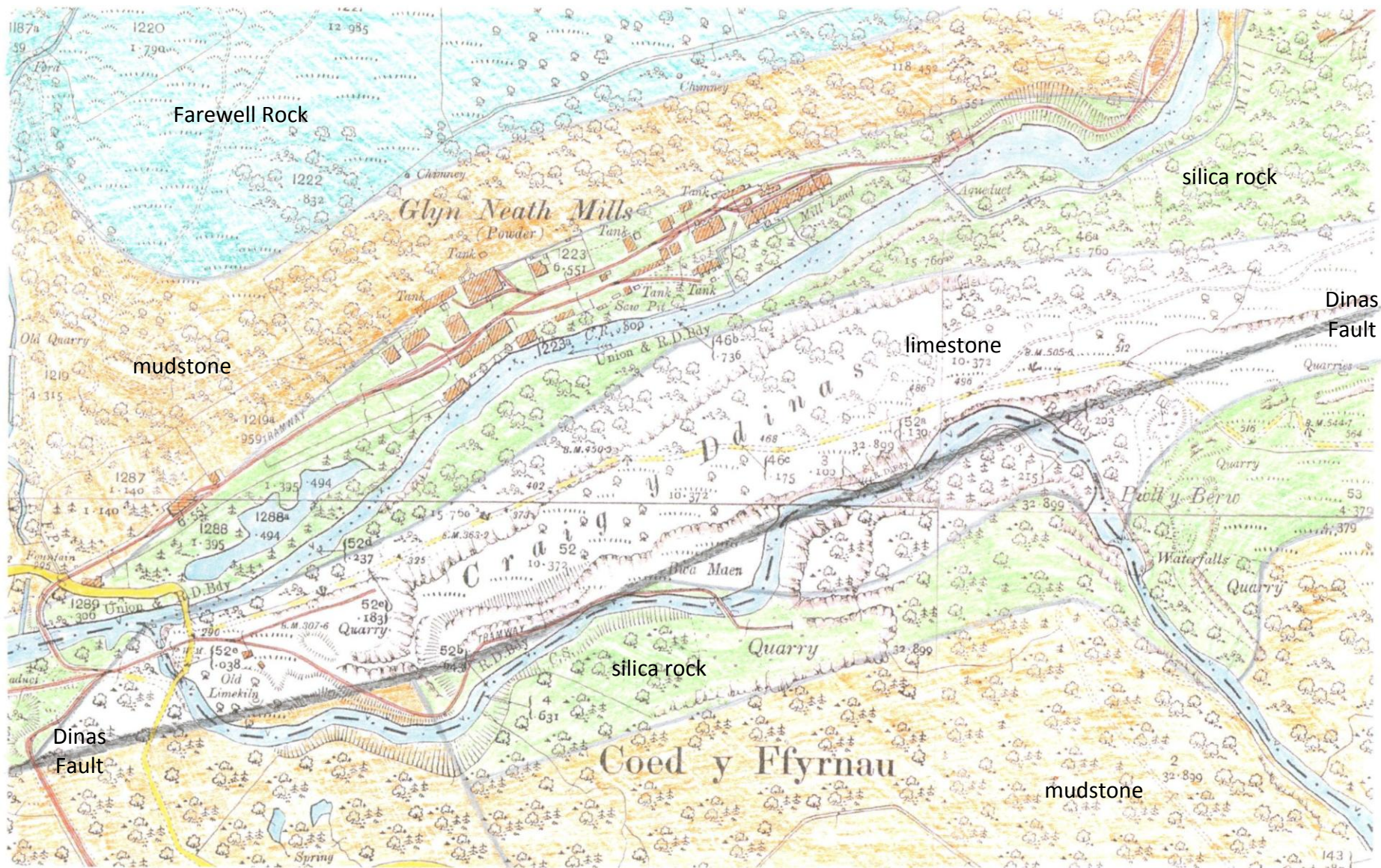
A 'layer-cake' of rocks between 300 and 400 million years old. . . . those in **bold** in the table below are found around the Sychryd gorge.



- This thick pile of sedimentary rocks was squeezed during the **Variscan Orogeny** – a mountain-building period during the Carboniferous period when, away to the south France and Spain collided with us, The **Dinas Fault** and **Bwa Maen** fold date from this time.
- In the last few hundred thousand years a series of ice ages led to glaciers deepening the **Vale of Neath** and tributary rivers like the **Sychryd** cut gorges into the rock pile.
- In the last few thousand years and particularly the last couple of centuries man has altered this landscape, not least by quarrying and mining eg **Dinas Rock limestone quarry** and **Dinas Rock silica mine**.

A Bowring / Fforest Fawr Geopark, BBNPA / 20 June 2011





100 year old Ordnance Survey mapping of Sychryd gorge coloured to show geology (simplified).

**General key**

**yellow** = roads,      **yellow dashes** = main paths,      **red** = former tramways,      **orange** = former buildings,      **blue** = water

**Geological key**

**white** = limestone, **light green** = 'silica rock' (a.k.a. Basal Grit, Twrch Sandstone or Millstone Grit), **orange** = mudstone, **dark green** = Farewell Rock