

Cumbria RIGS Group

Cumbria RIGS Group is a voluntary geological conservation group working to record and look after important geological sites.

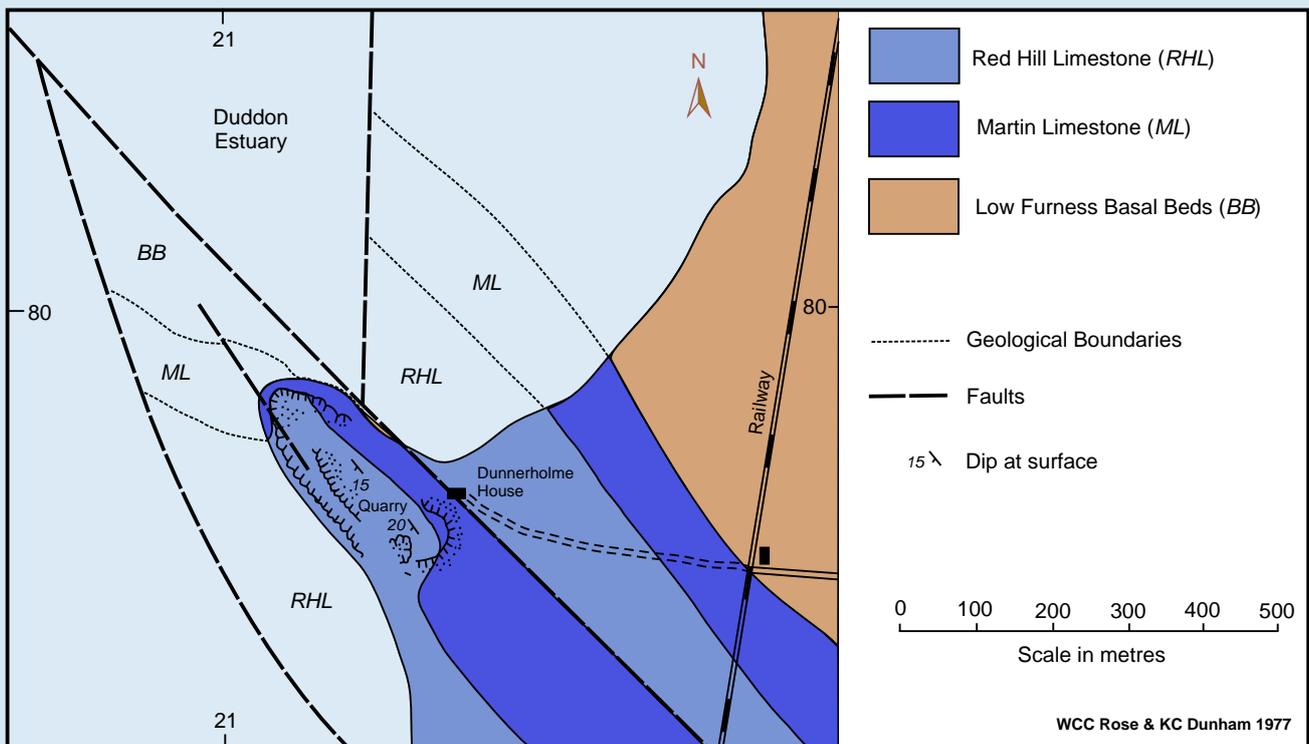


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DUNNERHOLME POINT RIGS



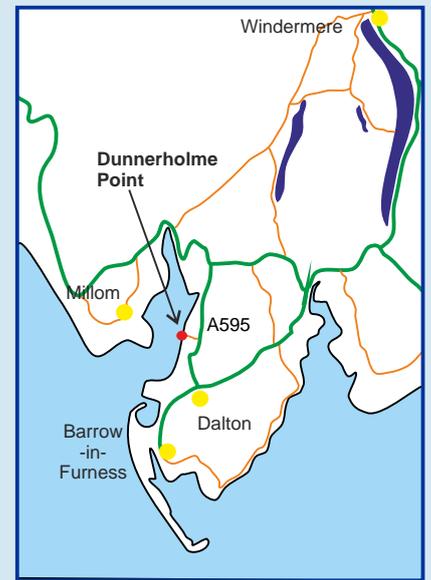
Lower Carboniferous rocks are seen at the surface at Dunnerholme Point, where the upper beds of the Martin Limestone and the lower beds of the Red Hill Limestone are well exposed in low cliffs and quarries. Elsewhere in the area the solid rocks are concealed by up to 45 metres of superficial and glacial deposits, but boreholes have proved the Basement Beds (Low Furness Basal Beds) and probably also part of the Dalton Limestone.



Geological map of Dunnerholme Point (Scale 1:10,000)



A fault that is stained red by mineralising fluids containing hematite cutting into the sea cliff at Hodbarrow Point.



Dunnerholme Point is located at grid reference SD 211798. Access via an unclassified road off the A595 three miles north of Dalton-in-Furness.

The exposures west and northwest of Dunnerholme House show the highest 18 metres of Martin Limestone comprising calcite mudstone and fine-grained limestone with algal nodules. The formation is capped by the 1m thick Algal Band, which is in turn overlain by 21 metres of pale grey 'pseudo-oolitic' and fragmental limestones of the Red Hill Limestone. Some of the beds are secondarily dolomitised; this may be associated with the NW faults. The Red Hill Limestone contains caverns partly filled with collapse-breccias, in which the fragments are wholly dolomitised and generally cemented by coarser crystalline calcite. The caverns are overlain by undisturbed and undolomitised limestone.

An area where Martin Limestone overlies the Basement Beds and shows the horizon where seawater entered the shallow basin in the Lower Carboniferous.

