

Summarised description

Unit name

Alle Member

Code

ALL

Status

Formal Member

Parent unit

Mirwart Formation

Child units

none

Characteristic description

Dark slate with a tight cleavage and thin quartzitic laminae.

Age

Pragian

Thickness

85 metres in the type area

Area of occurrence

Neufchâteau-Eifel Synclinorium (mostly western part).

Type locality

Sections along the Semoy River in Alle-sur-Semoy.

Alternative names

Phyllade d'Alle

Authors

Gosselet (1888)

Modified after

Denayer, J. & Mottequin, B., 2024. Lower Devonian lithostratigraphy of Belgium. *Geologica Belgica*, 27/3-4, 115–154.

Date

23/09/2025

Cite as

Denayer, J. & Mottequin, B., 2025. The Alle Member, 23/09/2025. National Commission for Stratigraphy Belgium. <https://ncs.naturalsciences.be/lithostratigraphy/Alle-Member>

Full description

Unit name

Alle Member

Code

ALL

Status

Formal Member

Parent unit

Mirwart Formation

Child units

none

Origin of the name

After the village of Alle-sur-Semoy in the Semoy River valley.

Alternative names

Phyllade d'Alle

Authors

Gosselet (1888, p. 288): *Phyllade d'Alle*

Modified after

Denayer, J. & Mottequin, B., 2024. Lower Devonian lithostratigraphy of Belgium. *Geologica Belgica*, 27/3-4, 115–154.

Date

23/09/2025

Cite as

Denayer, J. & Mottequin, B., 2025. The Alle Member, 23/09/2025. National Commission for Stratigraphy Belgium. <https://ncs.naturalsciences.be/lithostratigraphy/Alle-Member>

Characteristic description

In the upper part of the Mirwart Formation, the Alle Member can be individualised. It consists of a unit of dark slate with a tight cleavage and thin quartzitic laminae capped by a horizon with chloritised plant debris (dominantly *Taeniocrada decheniana*). This unit has been quarried for roof tiles in the Semois River valley (Laforêt, Frahan, Alle, etc.) where three c. 10 m thick slate horizons, namely *couche de Laspote*, *couche de Hour* and *couche de Laviot*, are separated by 5 to 50 m thick packages of sandy slate and quartzite (Asselberghs, 1924).

Area of occurrence

The Alle Member exists on both flanks of the Neufchâteau–Eifel Synclinorium but is particularly well expressed along the southern one.

Type locality

Sections along the Semoy River in Alle-sur-Semoy.

Age

In the Semois River valley (Chiny), a Lochkovian to Pragian age is proposed by Steemans (1989; Lochkovian Z to Pragian W zones).

Thickness

The Alle Member is c. 85 m thick in the Semois River valley (Belanger & Ghysel, 2017).

Lower boundary

First thick bed of dark slaty siltstone.

Upper boundary

Last thick bed of ark slaty siltstone.

Regional correlations

Towards the west, this unit passes to the upper part of the *Schistes et Quartzites de Nouzon* (Beugnies & Waterlot, 1965) in France.

References

- Asselberghs, E., 1924. Les ardoisières du Dévonien de l'Ardenne. *Annales des Mines de Belgique*, 25/4, 1037–1098.
- Belanger, I. & Ghysel, P., 2017. Carte géologique de Wallonie : Bouillon – Dohan et Muno 67/1-2 et 6. 1/25 000. Service public de Wallonie, Direction générale de l'Agriculture, des Ressources naturelles et de l'Environnement, Namur, and its explanatory booklet, 60 p.
- Beugnies, A. & Waterlot, G., 1965. Carte géologique de la France à 1/50 000, feuille 53, Fumay. Service de la carte géologique de la France, Paris.
- Gosselet J., 1888. L'Ardenne. Ministère des travaux publics, Mémoires pour Servir à l'Explication de la Carte géologique détaillée de la France. Baudry & Cie, Paris, 881 p.
- Steemans, P., 1989. Étude palynostratigraphique du Dévonien inférieur dans l'Ouest de l'Europe. *Mémoires pour servir à l'Explication des Cartes géologiques et minières de Belgique*, 27, 1–453.