

Summarised description

Unit name

Bois d'Ausse Formation

Code

BAU

Status

Formal Formation

Parent unit

none

Child units

Bölia Member, Tréko Member, Masuis Member, Nonceveux Member

Characteristic description

Dominantly grey or light-coloured quartzitic sandstone beds with abundant sedimentary structures (cross-beds) and few siltstone and shale thin beds.

Age

Pragian

Thickness

35 to 300 metres

Area of occurrence

the northern and eastern limbs of the Dinant Synclinorium and in the Vesdre area, from Wiheries to Eupen

Type locality

Section in the Tréko River valley section at Vitriaval.

Alternative names

Grès du Bois d'Ausse

Authors

Gosselet (1873)

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 Bois d'Ausse Formation, 23/09/2025. National Commission for Stratigraphy Belgium. <https://ncs.naturalsciences.be/lithostratigraphy/Bois-d'Ausse-Formation>

Full description

Unit name

Bois d'Ausse Formation

Code

BAU

Status

Formal Formation

Parent unit

none

Child units

Bôlia Member, Tréko Member, Masuis Member, Nonceveux Member

Origin of the name

Section along the Namur–Arlon railway line through the crossing of the Bois d'Ausse close to Sart-Bernard, *Grès du bois d'Ause* in Gosselet (1873, p. 19).

Alternative names

Grès du Bois d'Ausse

Authors

Grès du bois d'Ause in Gosselet (1873, p. 19). D'Omalius d'Hallo (1868, p. 514) mentioned the *Bois d'Ose* south of Namur where the sandstones of the *Système du Grès de Montigny* are particularly well developed.

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Characteristic description

The Bois d'Ausse Formation starts with the first grey, blue-grey or light-coloured quartzitic sandstone beds that overlie the green or variegated sandstone and siltstone of the Fooz Formation (Fig. 8B). The contact with the red facies of the overlying Acoz Formation is also clear-cut. Three members were defined in the Tréko River valley by Dejonghe et al. (1994c, p. 107), but their lateral extension seems to be limited, and their distinction is not possible eastwards in the Hoyoux River valley. These are, from base to top: the Bôlia, Tréko and Masuis members (*Membre de Bôlia*, *Membre du Tréko*, *Membre des Masuis* in Dejonghe et al., 1994c, p. 107). The **Bôlia Member** is characterised by thick beds of grey to grey-green quartzitic sandstone, usually arkosic, rich in cross-stratifications that are separated by thin beds of green to green-blue siltstone and shale. Its top includes a plurimetric unit of olive-green sandstone. The **Tréko Member**, consists of alternating thin

beds of green sandstone and siltstone, reminiscent of the Fooz Formation (Delcambre & Pingot, 2014). The **Masuis Member** comprises lenticular beds of light grey to grey-beige quartzitic sandstone and arkosic sandstone that are separated by centimetric to decametric beds of grey shale. Some of the quartzite beds include shaly pebbles and plant fragments (Fig. 8C).

Locally, the upper part of the Bois d'Ausse Formation displays a sequential character and was previously considered as a distinct unit, i.e. the Nonceveux Formation (Hance et al., 1992; Dejonghe et al., 1994d). It consists of a succession of thinning-upward sequences, ranging from 1.6 to 15 m in thickness, divided into a lower, light-coloured, sandy part, and an upper, grey, beige or reddish, silty and shaly one, but with no clear boundary. The base of the sequences is well marked, sometimes erosive and recurrences of sandy and/or silty beds are observed in the fine-grained parts. These lithologies were described as *facies du Bois de Fraipont* by Asselberghs (1946) and individualised as the Nonceveux Formation by Hance et al. (1992), based on the Nonceveux section in the Amblève River valley. Michot (1953) and Monseur (1959) pointed out the rhythmic character of the upper part of the Bois d'Ausse Formation at Huy on the northern limb of the Dinant Synclinorium. On the new geological maps of this part of the Dinant Synclinorium (Mottequin et al., 2021; Delcambre, 2023; Marion et al., in press), these rhythmical facies were not mapped distinctively. Therefore, it is here considered that they form the **Nonceveux Member** of the Bois d'Ausse Formation.

Area of occurrence

The Bois d'Ausse Formation is recognised on the northern and eastern flanks of the Dinant Synclinorium and in the Vesdre area, from Wiheries to Eupen. It is also recorded in the Bolland borehole (Graulich, 1975). The Nonceveux Member exists along the eastern limb of the Dinant Synclinorium (north of the Xhoris Fault), and in the Vesdre area. The Nonceveux Member is also recorded in the Bolland borehole (Graulich, 1975).

Type locality

As the historical Sart-Bernard section is incomplete and poorly exposed nowadays, Dejonghe et al. (1994c) proposed the Tréko River valley section at Vitriaval as the stratotype that can be complemented by that of the Chevreuils River valley at Dave where the lowermost part of the formation is better exposed.

Age

Based on palynology, Steemans (1989a) suggested a Lochkovian to late Pragian age for the Bois d'Ausse Formation, which spans the interval of the Siß Zone to the Su Zone. In Huy, the shale of the Nonceveux Member yielded an assemblage indicative of the Pax Zone (Dejonghe et al., 1994d) whereas in Pepinster, the upper Lochkovian Z Zone is recorded. Hence the Nonceveux Member displays a diachronic age and becomes younger westwards (Steemans, 1989a).

Thickness

It is highly variable: 200–300 m south of Binche (Hennebert & Delaby, 2017), 150–170 m in the Bième River valley at Acoz (Delcambre & Pingot, 2000b), 100 m at the stratotype (Dejonghe et al., 1994c), more than 300 m in the Meuse River valley (Delcambre & Pingot, 2017), c. 300 m in the Hoyoux River valley (Mottequin et al., 2021), and 35 m in the Vesdre area (Hance et al., 1992). The Nonceveux Member is 110 m thick at the stratotype (Hance et al., 1992; Dejonghe et al., 1994d), 100–120 m thick at Pepinster (Laloux et al., 1996) and thins out westwards.

Lower boundary

First thick beds of quartzitic sandstone overlying the reddish siltstone of the Fooz Formation.

Upper boundary

First reddish siltstone and sandstone of the overlying Acoz Formation.

Regional correlations

The Bois d'Ausse Formation passes laterally to the Mirwart Formation along the eastern limb of the Dinant Synclinorium, between the Xhoris and Mormont Faults. North of the Stavelot-Venn Massif, it passes in Germany to the Siegen-Formation.

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