

Summarised description

Unit name

Laforêt Formation

Code

LAF

Status

Formal Formation

Parent unit

none

Child units

none

Characteristic description

Alternations of laminar and micaceous greenish-grey to grey shale and silty to sandy shale, commonly with chlorite, pyrite and magnetite crystals.

Age

Lochkovian

Thickness

300 metres

Area of occurrence

Ardenne Anticlinorium, west of the Mogimont Fault.

Type locality

Sections along the left bank of the Semois River, south of Laforêt, complemented by a section along its right bank south of Chairière.

Alternative names

Phyllades de Laforêt

Authors

Gosselet (1884)

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 Laforêt Formation, 23/09/2025. National Commission for Stratigraphy Belgium. <https://ncs.naturalsciences.be/lithostratigraphy/Laforet-Formation>

Full description

Unit name

Laforêt Formation

Code

LAF

Status

Formal Formation

Parent unit

none

Child units

none

Origin of the name

After the village of Laforêt, on the western bank of the Semois River valley.

Alternative names

Phyllades de Laforêt

Authors

Gosselet (1884, p. 177): *Phyllades de Laforêt sur la Semoy*

Modified after

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

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Characteristic description

This unit comprises alternations of greenish-grey to grey shale and silty to sandy shale, commonly laminar and micaceous, with occasional carbonate nodules that are decalcified and limonitic on the outcrop. Chlorite, pyrite and magnetite crystals of millimetric size are frequent. The shale has a characteristic silky touch. The upper part of the Formation displays decimetre- to metre-thick beds of sandstone with micaceous shaly intercalations.

Area of occurrence

Ardenne Anticlinorium, west of the Mogimont Fault.

Type locality

Sections along the left bank of the Semois River, south of Laforêt, complemented by a section along its right bank south of Chairière.

Age

The Laforêt Formation has not yielded any biostratigraphic elements but by extrapolation with the lateral equivalent Saint-Hubert Formation, it is most probably Lochkovian.

Thickness

At least 300 m in the type area (Belanger & Ghysel, 2017), 450 m in the French Meuse River valley (Hatrival & Beugnies, 1973).

Lower boundary

Above the last bed of reddish or purplish siltstone of the underlying Anloy Formation.

Upper boundary

Below the first bed of greyish sandstone bed of the Mirwart Formation.

Regional correlations

This lithostratigraphic unit is a lateral equivalent of the Sainte-Marie and Saint-Hubert formations Asselberghs (1946). It passes to the former east of the Mogimont Fault near Vivy. Westwards, the Laforêt Formation is traced up to the Meuse River valley near Joigny-sur-Meuse (France) where it disappears under the Jurassic sedimentary cover.

References

- Asselberghs, E., 1946. L'Éodévonien de l'Ardenne et des régions voisines. Mémoires de l'Institut géologique de l'Université de Louvain, 14, 1–598.
- Belanger, I. & Ghysel, P., 2017. Carte géologique de Wallonie : Vivy – Paliseul 64/5-6. 1/25 000. Service public de Wallonie, Direction générale de l'Agriculture, des Ressources naturelles et de l'Environnement, Namur, and its explanatory booklet, 48 p.
- Gosselet, J., 1884. Sur la faille de Remagne et sur le métamorphisme qu'elle a produit. Annales de la Société géologique du Nord, 11, 176–190.
- Hatrival, J.N. & Beugnies, A., 1973. Carte géologique de la France à 1/50 000, feuille 69, Charleville–Mézières. BRGM, Orléans, and its explanatory booklet, 23 p.