

Summarised description

Unit name

Wiltz Formation

Code

WIL

Status

Formal Formation

Parent unit

None

Child units

None

Characteristic description

Dark grey to greenish-grey shale and siltstone displaying a fine cleavage and usually fossiliferous.

Age

Late Emsian

Thickness

300-700 metres

Area of occurrence

Neufchâteau–Eifel Synclinorium, east of Ebly.

Type locality

Section along the disused railway between Wiltz and Schleif (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg).

Alternative names

Schistes de Wiltz

Authors

Gosselet (1885)

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

Full description

Unit name

Wiltz Formation

Code

WIL

Status

Formal Formation

Parent unit

None

Child units

None

Origin of the name

After the town of Wiltz in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Alternative names

Schistes de Wiltz

Authors

Gosselet (1885, p. 262): *Schistes de Wiltz*

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

The Wiltz Formation consists of dark grey to greenish-grey shale and siltstone displaying a fine cleavage. It includes some rare thin sandstone beds and more frequent, more or less decalcified carbonate nodules, which are usually transformed in limonite. The lower part of the Formation yields an abundant fauna (crinoids, brachiopods, bivalves, corals, trilobites, see Franke, 2010) preserved as steinkerns. In the upper part, centimetre- to decimetre-thick beds of greenish-grey sandstone occur in metre-thick bundles. They are lenticular and display oblique stratifications and basal erosional surfaces (Asselberghs, 1913, 1946).

Area of occurrence

Neufchâteau–Eifel Synclinorium, east of Ebly.

Type locality

The stratotype is located along the disused railway between Wiltz and Schleif (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg). In Belgium, the basal part of the Formation is exposed between Traimont and Witry (Ghysel, 2023).

Age

Late Emsian (middle and upper parts) based on the diverse brachiopod fauna (Jansen, 2016). Steemans et al. (2000) recognised a spore assemblage indicative of the Late Emsian AP Zone.

Thickness

The Formation is up to 300 m thick in the Belgian part of the Neufchâteau–Eifel Synclinorium (Ghysel, 2023), and up to 700 m thick near Clervaux in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (Dejonghe, 2021). The top of the Formation is not exposed in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Lower boundary

First shaly bed overlying top of the Berlé Quartzite or the variegated shale of the Clervaux Formation.

Upper boundary

Unknown in Belgium and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. In the German part of the Neufchâteau–Eifel Synclinorium, the Wiltz Formation is overlain by the sandstone-dominated *Wetteldorf-Schichten* (Werner, 1969).

Regional correlations

The Wiltz Formation is time-equivalent with the Hierges Formation of the Dinant Synclinorium.

References

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