



See *Ordovician Trilobites of Mid Wales 1* for non-Trinucleid Trilobites

Trilobites are an extinct group of arthropods, which lived in the seas between about 520 and 250 million years ago. They were one of the most diverse animal groups, and formed an important part of early marine ecosystems. Their hard exoskeletons are often found as fossils.

Find more nature guides or get in touch with our museum scientists for help with identification: museum.wales/collections/on-your-doorstep

Ordovician

Ordovician rocks cover much of mid Wales and represent a time when the area was home to volcanic islands surrounded by ocean. Most of the rocks are mudstones or shales laid down at the bottom of the sea between the islands. The Ordovician period lasted from around 445 to 485 million years ago, with the trilobites found at Ordovician sites in mid Wales being from 460–470 million years old.



Bettonia (up to 1.5cm)



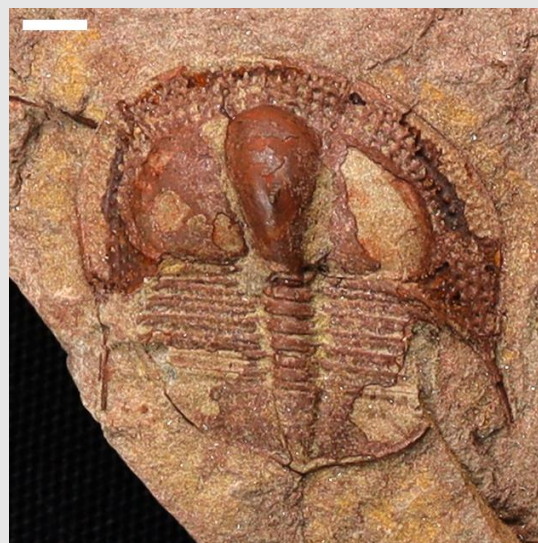
Broeggerolithus (up to 1cm)

Trinucleids

Trinucleids were a distinctive family of trilobites, which had a fringe around their head. The fringes have rows of pits, which are thought to have been either sensory or used for filter feeding. The number and arrangement of pits helps to identify different species. Trinucleids are only known from the Ordovician period and several species are found in mid Wales. In some fossils the fringe may be broken or buried in the rock.



Botrioides (up to 1.5cm)



Salterolithus (up to 2cm)

Scale Bars

All scale bars are 3mm.



Whittardolithus (up to 1cm)



Trinucleus (up to 3cm)

Please do not hammer at cliffs, or at any fossils in layers of solid rock.