

Twechar's buried secrets

The miners in the Twechar and Gartshore shafts risked their lives to win coal that was formed some 325,000,000 years ago from decaying trees of these swamps. Large rivers flooded the forests covering the trees in a sandy mantle and with the passing of time, they were slowly converted into coal.

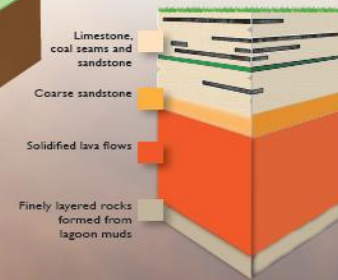


Photographs from left to right: Carboniferous coal forest, the 'Scaraben Shark', Twechar Colliery No. 1 Pit 1962, Twechar Colliery Swells Workers, Twechar Colliery No. 1 Pit 1962 © Ian Adams, Twechar Colliery Swells Workers © Ian Adams, Twechar Colliery Swells Workers © Ian Adams

Find out the secrets that lie in the turf along the Roman invaders' wall.

Discover more secrets that lie beneath in the layers of rock; Tropical swamps? Coastal lagoons with predatory sharks? Lava flows like those in Iceland right here around Twechar.

As in any good detective story, the clues lie in the rocks, but reveal only some of the answers.



Some 15 million years earlier volcanic vents around Kilsyth spewed out lava covering the land. Look to the north to the Kilsyth Hills - these are the lava flows. Today's landscape formed over the past tens of thousands of years when glaciers scoured the land. The lavas are harder than the mudstones and sandstones around here so they form hills.

Now look to Barhill. Standing high above the Kelvin Valley it is formed of a similar hard rock. In this case the molten rock was squeezed between the layers of sandstone and hardened there to form a flat sheet called a sill. It also forms the hill and quarry at Croy and the crag that Stirling Castle stands on.

