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To cite this article: Andrew, C.J (1986) A diagrammatic representation of the Courceyan stratigraphy of the Irish Midlands. *In:* Andrew, C.J., Crowe, R.W.A., Finlay, S., Pennell, W.M., and Pyne, J.F. '*Geology and Genesis of Mineral Deposits in Ireland*', Irish Association for Economic Geology, Dublin. 239-241. DOI:

To link to this article: <https://>

A diagrammatic representation of the Courceyan stratigraphy of the Irish Midlands.

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The Lower Carboniferous carbonate-hosted base metal deposits of the Irish Midlands are, with few exceptions, most widely developed within limestones and calcareous silici-clastics of the Courceyan Stage. The diagrams included here are designed to assist the reader unfamiliar with the succession and the informal stratigraphic nomenclatural systems of this Stage in common usage in Ireland, and which are extensively used throughout the following papers.

The lithostratigraphy of the Courceyan Stage of the Lower Carboniferous is shown diagrammatically in Figure 1 (over). This pseudo-section is based on 35 drilled stratigraphic sections through this part of the Carboniferous stratigraphy across the country. Due to the well-developed diachronous nature of the transgressive clastic and carbonate succession, the section is correlated to a chronostratigraphic datum (the contact between the uppermost beds of the *Polygnathus communis carina* conodont biozone and the lowermost beds of the *Scaliognathus anchoralis* (and equivalent species) conodont biozone). Figure 2 shows the most commonly-used formation and group names for the lithostratigraphy shown in Figure 1.

For local detailed stratigraphic information the reader is referred to the individual deposit description papers in this volume and, more generally, to Philcox (1984).

Reference

PHILCOX, M. E. 1984. *Lower Carboniferous Lithostratigraphy of the Irish Midlands*. Irish Assoc. Econ. Geol., Dublin. 89 pp.

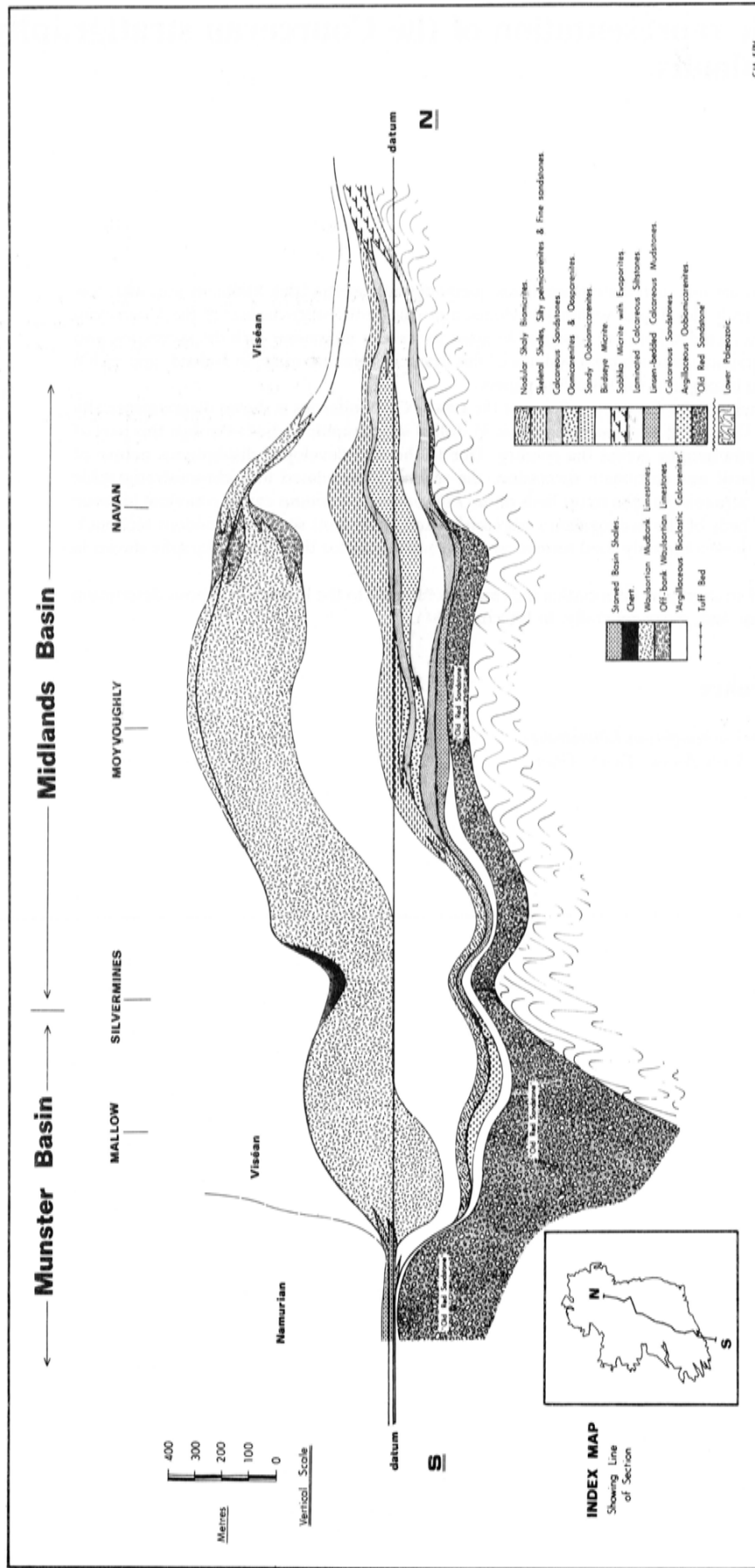


Figure 1. Schematic pseudo-section from the south coast (Innishannon) to north of the Longford-Down Massif (Armagh) through the Courceyan Stage of the Lower Carboniferous. The diagram is based on 35 drilled sections, although only the position of the deposits described in this volume are shown. The datum line is the contact between the *P. communis carina* and overlying *Sc. anchoralis* conodont biozones. Horizontal axis is not to scale.

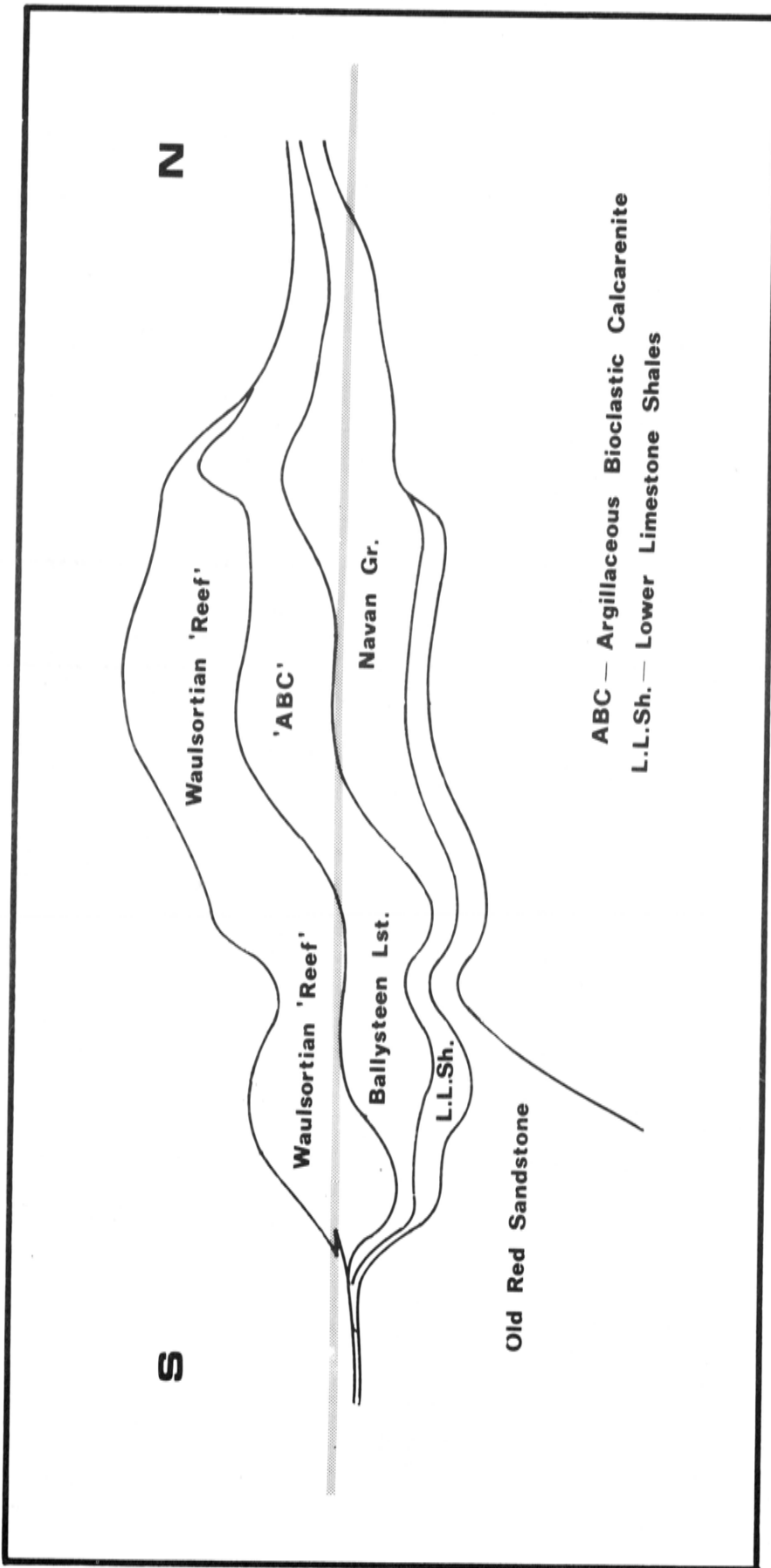


Figure 2. Schematic outline of Figure 1 showing the most commonly used stratigraphic nomenclature of the Courseyan Stage. The formation names given on the left-hand side of the diagram are those used in the Munster Basin, whilst those on the right-hand side are those in common usage in the Central Midlands Basin.