

GEORGE'S FIELD NOTES

LOCATION: GWYDIR RIVER

GEOLOGICAL FEATURE: RIVERBED SEDIMENT DEPOSITION

ROCK UNIT: MODERN SEDIMENT, 0 MILLION YEARS OLD

There are many different parts of a river and all of these parts create different sedimentary features.

In the middle of the river channel the water moves much faster and has more energy. This means the water is able to pick up and wash away small pieces of sediment like sand and mud and leave only the larger bits of rock behind, such as pebbles.

On the banks of the river, the water moves a bit slower and with less energy. If the water is carrying something like sand, it does not have enough energy to keep carrying it and the sand drops out of the water and gets deposited.

Sediment the size of mud particles can be carried by water with even tiny amounts of energy and gets carried long distances. If the river floods, mud is carried over the river bank and onto the flood plains. When the flood waters dry up, a layer of mud is left behind.

As the river moves over time, the places where these different sediments get deposited change, and creates layers of different sediment stacked on top of one another.

