Fig. 4 Broad history of Gower, as revealed by its rocks

CONDITIONS IN GOWER

QUATERNARY

TRIASSIC

UPPER
CARBONIFEROUS

(The
Coal
Measures)

NAMURIAN

LOWER

CARBONIFEROUS
(The
Carboniferous
Limestone)

DEVONIAN

(The 'Old
Red Sandstone')

Glacial. Ice-sheets cover much of South Wales

Desert. Erosion of mountains by flash floods

HERCYNIAN OROGENY Rocks folded & faulted.

Mountains created

Rivers building immense deltas into the sea. Coal formed by burial of forest material as subsidence continues

Uplift of land-mass to north increases sediment-influx, halting limestone deposition. Mudstones & shales laid down.

Clear, tropical seas, with little detritus supplied from adjacent land-masses. Limestone deposited continuously, with only minor interruptions as small fluctuations of sea-level take place.

Desert conditions, with erosion of mountains created by the foregoing, Caledonian Orogeny. Braided streams, alluvial fans, monsoonal climate.