

They contained fossils, but these had not been made use of in defining the subdivisions. There was thus neither a basis for comparison with other regions, nor for the ascertainment of the true position of the North Welsh rocks in the great territory of Greywacke. In the second place, there was no clue to the connection of these rocks with any known formation, for they were separated from everything younger than themselves by a strong unconformability. The Carboniferous and Old Red Sandstone strata were found to lie on the upturned edges of the older masses, and it was impossible to say how many intervening formations were missing.

Murchison's researches, on the other hand, brought to light the actual transition from the base of the Old Red Sandstone into an older series of fossiliferous formations underneath. There could, therefore, be no doubt that part at least of his Silurian system was younger than Sedgwick's series in North Wales. And as he found what appeared to be older strata emerging from underneath his system, and seeming to stretch indefinitely into the heart of Wales, he naturally believed these strata to be part of his friend's domain, and at first left them alone. Such, too, was Sedgwick's original impression. The two fellow-workers had not drawn a definite boundary between their respective territories, but they agreed that the Silurian series was less ancient than the rocks of North Wales.

As a distinct name had been given to what they believed to be the younger series, Murchison urged his associate to choose an appropriate designation for what they regarded as the older, and in the summer