

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
(Registered Charity Number 1144717)

Financial statements
for the year ended 31 August 2018

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**Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 August 2018**

Full name Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

Principal address

c/o Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA

Committee members

John Crossling (Chair)
Max Down
Brian Ellis
Philip Henser
John Hiatt

Peter Howden
Roy Johnston (Secretary)
Frances Morley
Jim Watts (Treasurer)

Observers

Dr Jon Radley – Keeper of Geology, Warwickshire Museum
Mary Berry – Natural England

Bankers

HSBC, 46 The Square, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1EA

Independent Examiner

Nigel Grounds, Mercia Community Accounting, Lorton, Tamworth, Staffordshire

Governance and management

The organisation is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 19th October 2011. A number of Trustees were elected or re-elected at the AGM 18th October 2017. All new Trustees attend an Induction Course soon after their election.

The governing body of the WGCG is the Management Committee which comprises 9 Trustees and 2 observers. Unfortunately, Natural England are withdrawing their observer due to staff shortages. There are 3 sub-committees – Education, Conservation and an Outreach Group, which is largely responsible for organising outside events. Decisions of these sub-committees are subject to approval by the Management Committee.

The charity has a series of documents outlining policies and procedures relating to financial management, reserves, management of risk, safety, volunteers and conflict of interest. These are subject to periodic review by the Management Committee. The most recent versions are contained within the 2018 Trustees Folder.

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group Trustees' annual report (continued) for the year ended 31 August 2018

Aims and objectives

- a) To advance the education of the public in the significance of geology for the understanding and aesthetic appreciation of landscapes, for human settlements and economic activity, for recreation and leisure and for ecology.
- b) To conserve the geological heritage of Warwickshire through identification and active conservation of geological sites and through fostering an interest in and knowledge of the geology and landscapes of Warwickshire.

When planning our activities, the Trustees take note of the Commission's guidance on public benefit. To meet these Objects and provide 'public benefit' the Trustees have promoted a concerted programme of Education, Outreach, Conservation and Publications. It remains the Group's policy to focus on the links between these activities.

None of our work would be possible without the willing cooperation of a large number of volunteers. They are involved directly in practical activities including supporting outreach events, designating, recording and monitoring Local Geological Sights (LGS) and maintaining the database, curating the Group's collection, supporting the lecture and field programme, contributing to and producing the bi-annual Newsletter and other publications, dealing with local enquiries, talking to community groups and not least attending a variety of meetings. This is in addition to the large number of people who are involved in running what is an increasingly complex organization.

The Holloway Bequest

As previously reported the Group has received a bequest from a former member, Robert Holloway, which was invested in February 2012 so as to secure an annual income big enough to support the increased range of education, conservation, outreach and publications activities now being undertaken and to secure the long-term future of the Group. The performance of the investment portfolio is monitored by a group of three Holding Trustees and is reported to the Management Committee at its bi-monthly meetings and to the membership at the AGM. Our financial adviser attends a meeting of the Management Committee once a year on the anniversary of the initial investment.

The Holloway Award, according to the wishes of the benefactor, aims, amongst other things, to encourage an interest in geology in children and to support young geologists early in their career. This year has seen the successful expansion of the scope of these awards. Specifically, support has been given to the following activities:

- A primary school had a day's geological fieldwork,
- Secondary schools have competed in the Cornwall School Mining Games run by the Camborne School of Mines, as part of the International Mining Games (IMG)

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group Trustees' annual report (continued) for the year ended 31 August 2018

- Six Birmingham University geology undergraduates and five from Camborne School of Mines (Exeter University) have been supported financially to complete their field mapping projects;
- At Leicester University we have funding in place to support students undertaking outreach activities as part of their undergraduate course work.
- Following the success of previous years, the Bequest has again funded two places for practicing teachers at a Summer School at Keele University which is designed to enhance the teaching of geology in secondary school. The Summer School is organized in conjunction with the Earth Science Education Forum (ESEF)

Education Programme:

A core of the Group's activities is the monthly winter series of lectures (September to April). It continues to attract good audiences (average 50 per meeting) and covers a wide range of geological topics.

The programme of summer field excursions included three Wednesday evening visits led by members and two whole-day visits. The day visits involved (i) an examination of the brickwork and building stones in Shipton on Stour (ii) a visit to Ecton Hill, a lead and copper mine in use from the Bronze Age until 1891. An additional day visit was a joint venture with the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Midland group entitled "a landscape walk around Berkswell" which was led by a member of our group and attended by others.

There were two residential trips – (i) a study of part of the geology of North Yorkshire coastal area and (ii) a study of the geology of the lower fellsides above Coniston and Tover in the Lake District. The first was led by three members of the Group whilst the second by an external expert

An important part of our educational programme is the work undertaken with primary school children. There was a field visit to the Burton Dassett Country Park led by one of the WGCG members who is an experienced school teacher. This was to give the children some hands-on experience of geology

The main educational event this year was a one-day course on viewing thin sections. Fifteen members attended a workshop which utilised thin sections, mainly made by a group member, to identify a dozen or so common minerals. Digital images were projected using two microscopes and associated equipment owned by the group and two members. Grouped in fours, participants examined photographic images of thin sections and the sections themselves to identify characteristic features seen using the petrological microscope. At the end of the 5 hour workshop all participants could recognise some key features of rock thin sections and identify at least a handful of minerals such as quartz, plagioclase and biotite.

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group Trustees' annual report (continued) for the year ended 31 August 2018

Education via Public Events (Outreach):

The Outreach Group attended the Warwickshire Scout camp at Bramcote Barracks near Nuneaton. There were 3,000 scouts and 1,800 leaders in attendance. We were joined by a Holloway award holder and a colleague from Leicester University. From the outreach perspective the event was a huge success.

A local primary school were taken to Burton Dassett for a field study day and the prize for the best report went to a junior WGCG member, so special congratulations are in order. A third event was at Upton House as part of their "Nature Days" series. It was well attended mostly by families wanting to entertain children in the school holidays. Upton House have now adopted the idea of a children's trail based on WGCG information which is available for any child visiting the House.

A new venture was our input into GeoWeek, an international drive to involve the wider public into geology. This was the first year of UK participation in the scheme. WGCG ran town walks to show the geology within the building stones of Warwick, Leamington; walks in Kenilworth on its geology and a visit to the LGS site on the Greenway. Walks and talks were held on the geology around Upton House.

Publications

The group continues to produce a newsletter twice a year in Spring and Autumn. The Group has collaborated with WWT to produce an interpretation panel for the Bubbenhall reserve though there is no date for its erection. The Group has made a contribution to the new WWT leaflet on Ufton Fields containing the White Lias exposure which the group have cleared. A geological interpretation of the Ufton Fields site has now been added to the WGCG website. Following on from the success of the web-based leaflet on Solihull Building Stones a hard copy leaflet has now been produced. Agreement has been reached with the Warwickshire County Council to design and produce geological interpretation boards for the Burton Dassett Country Park. In conjunction with the Conservation Committee the first board is currently being designed with an expectation that it will be erected in Autumn 2018.

As a followup to the field trip to Durham one WGCG member has had an article published in the geological magazine 'Down to Earth'

Conservation Programme:

WGCG has now designated over 100 Local Geological Sites (LGS) in the County. The rotational monitoring of the condition of the Local Sites has continued in the current year with each site being visited at least every five years. This information is also fed into Warwickshire County Council's Single Data List and is also provided to Natural England in support of their construction of a national database of geologically designated sites. A training day was held during the winter to update existing and new voluntary monitors about the LGS scheme and its associated recording.

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In light of the Group's policy of concentrating physical clearance work and interpretation on those sites with high visitor levels to maximise the value of the effort, valuable joint work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) has continued on the development and interpretation of one of their existing reserves in an abandoned limestone quarry at Ufton Fields (LGS 102 being a rare example of White Lias conveniently alongside the visitor footpath.

WWT have recently purchased an old sand and gravel quarry site which includes an LGS (Wood Farm). The quarry has now been backfilled and planted with trees. WGCG is actively involved in the development plans for Bubbenhall Meadow which is important as a representative location for the Ice Age geology of Warwickshire. There is also potential to develop further interpretive material at Ryton Pools visitor centre adjacent to the Bubbenhall Meadow.

There has been ongoing dialogue with the WCC Country Rangers Service regarding a new interpretive panel for Burton Dassett country park on the Warwickshire Oxfordshire borders. A team of volunteers have drafted an outline plan for this LGS once used as source of ironstone for smelting.

The Conservation Sub-Committee continues to comment on specific planning proposals likely to impact on LGS sites in the County.

External Relations:

In the course of the year members of the Group have assisted other local organisations with their public education programmes by giving talks or leading field excursions.

A Local Nature Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull has been established in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), amongst other organizations. Progress of LNPs is slow due to funding problems but the cooperation has led to a closer working relationship with WWT.

As a member of the Geology Trusts the Group has cooperated on conservation matters with other county geology groups in the West Midlands and further afield. Through this organisation it contributes to national environmental policy development. It is gratifying that the Group is being increasingly seen as a source of geological and geoconservation expertise.

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group for the year ended 31 August 2018

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages nine to eleven.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect that the requirements have not been met viz. –
 - to keep records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed _____ Date _____
Nigel Grounds, Mercia Community Accounting