

**Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
(Registered Charity Number 1144717)**

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2019

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Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group
Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2019

Full name Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

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

Management Committee members

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| John Crossling (Chair) | Peter Howden |
| Roy Johnston (Secretary) | Brian Ellis |
| Jim Watts (Treasurer) | Frances Morley |
| John Hiatt (Minutes Secretary) | Philip Henser |
| Max Down (Chair of Conservation) | |

Observer Dr Jon Radley – Keeper of Geology, Warwickshire Museum

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

Independent Examiner. John Duncan Innes Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

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 2018. All new Trustees attend an Induction Course soon after their election.

The governing body of the WCGG is the Management Committee which comprises the 9 Trustees. 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 2019 Trustees Folder.

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:

- Two classes from one primary schools have had a day's geological fieldwork.,
- Four Birmingham University geology undergraduates and four from Camborne School of Mines (Exeter University) have been supported financially to complete their field mapping projects; in addition a new university (Derby) has been recruited for this scheme and four students were supported.
- A grant of £2000 was made to Edinburgh University to support its purchase of the Charles Lyell geology notebooks
- We have continued to fund two places for practising teachers at a Summer School at Keele University which is designed to enhance the teaching of geology in secondary

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school. The Summer School is organized in conjunction with the Earth Science Education Forum (ESEF)

- There has been a pause this year in the support of outreach work undertaken by students at Leicester University due to staffing changes there

Education Programme:

A core of the Group's activities is the monthly winter series of lectures (from September to April, including the A.G.M. and a Christmas Social gathering), which embrace a wide range of geological topics each season. 2018-2019 included lectures on "Doctors in Geology", the geological makeup of the mobile phone, the Wren's Nest and Dudley's application for UNESCO Geopark status, Jurassic reptiles, analysis of the bones of King Richard III, and the "Geology of Norway". These typically attracted between 30-60 people (including non-members or guests).

During the 'summer' months (normally April to September) a mixed programme of field excursions is organised, including evening walks, day visits and at least one residential trip of longer duration. These may be organised jointly with fellow geological groups, or on a reciprocal arrangement of invitation to each other's activities. All excursions that incur cost are paid for by participants themselves, but external leaders' expenses / fees (with a small gratuity) are mostly funded by the Group.

Summer 2019 saw evening events around Warwick town centre including the Museum, another to Ufton Fields near Harbury and two full day excursions to the Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill. The latter included an appreciation of the archaeology of the Iron Age hillfort on the summit. The residential trip was something of a new departure from the usual 'weekends away', with a full week being spent on the 'geology of the English Riveira' based in Paignton. This year, all these activities were supported, and led, by local experts, whom we were fortunate to engage..

In recent years, it has been the custom to provide a Saturday 'workshop' for the membership, in which a particular aspect of geology is examined in specific detail. February 2019 provided a day of study on the subject of fossils, on this occasion presented by an experienced member of the society. All aspects of palaeontology were covered – basic identification of different groups of fossils, where they can be found, the use they are put to professionally in both correlation of different rocks and the light they throw on the environments in which they lived. These events typically attract around 20 members, which suit the size of the venue available, and are well received as an opportunity to learn more about, or gain confidence in, the subject in hand.

Education via Public Events (Outreach):

Two groups from a local primary school were taken to Burton Dassett for a field study day. The first was 17/9/19 and the second 8/10/19. The children were taught to observe the geomorphology and were shown how to look at rocks. Lots of fossils were collected and a great fun day was had by all.

We repeated our involvement with GeoWeek, an international drive to involve the wider public into geology, with the intention of building on the momentum created the previous year. WGCG ran a town walk to show the geology within the building stones of Banbury; we

explored the rocks of Kenilworth. A geological exploration of Upton House – A National Trust property was again popular. A trip to explain the geology of the Burton Dassett Hills challenged people to put practical field observations into practice to work out what the rocks could tell us about past environments and events. Finally an explanation of the geological wall at Brandon Marsh nature reserve was organised.

Publications

- The interpretation board designed by WGCG was installed at the Burton Dassett Hills Country Park mounted on a large block of the local Hornton Stone. This has been a very productive co-operation with the Park's ranges and Warwickshire County Council
- The year had been dominated by work associated with the Dunsmore Living Landscape Project in conjunction with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and two Country Parks (Coombe Abbey [Coventry City Council] and Ryton Pools [Warwickshire County Council]). This has involved:
 - production of geological information for the new interpretation display in the visitor centre as part of the preparation for the Coventry City of Culture year in 2021;
 - the design of a new geology interpretation board at Ryton Pool
 - the design and production of a trail guide leaflet for Ryton Pools and the adjoining Bubbenhall Meadows and Woodlands Nature Reserve Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

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.

The Group's policy is to concentrate physical clearance work and interpretation on those sites with high visitor levels to maximise the value of the effort. LGS 97 (Kenilworth Cutting) is situated beside an old railway line which is now a well-used bridleway and a Sustrans cycle route. This year the site survived being on the equipment access route for work in connection with a new housing development and therefore a working party restored it to its pristine condition.

A new interpretive panel for Burton Dassett Country Park on the Warwickshire Oxfordshire borders is in place. A team of volunteers have drafted an outline plan for this LGS once used as source of ironstone for smelting. With cooperation from WCC Country Rangers a large block of limestone from nearby Edge Hill was located and moved to a prominent position to act as backing for the illustrated information panel.

GeoWeek, a new initiative launched the previous year promotes "active geoscience" via a "week" of nine days, by fieldwork activities across the UK. The intention is to introduce as many members of the general public to geoscience as possible, mainly through outdoor activities such as urban and rural fieldwork.

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This initiative was developed by the Earth Science Education Forum (ESEF) who approached as many geoscience organisations across the country as possible encouraging them to become involved in the initiative

WGCG via the Geology Trusts continued to be involved in the concept with the essential contributions from members of the group. The approach of running different events at different locations during the week requires a considerable amount of planning. Key to building on the success of the previous year was the need to enhance the pre-publicity and this was achieved mainly through the sterling work of Mike Heath (a volunteer member) who invested a significant amount of time in generating publicity through emails; press releases and coverage on social media. This was very successful and we were able to run a series of events which are indicated in the outreach section earlier.

The Conservation Sub-Committee continues to comment on specific planning proposals likely to impact on LGS sites in the County. Two neighbouring sites at Napton on the Hill (LGSs 58 and 98) have been the subject of planning applications and discussions were held with the local authority and developers to maintain part of the geological feature at one site and to possibly relocate the sandstone doggers (large boulders) from the other. The doggers were moved to their present location from elsewhere on the hill when they were they were uncovered during earlier quarrying operations.

Information was provided to Stratford on Avon District Council on LGS sites within their area.

External Relations:

In the course of the year members of the Group have assisted other local organisations LGS 97 (Kenilworth Cutting) was registered at a time when the Group was developing policy of concentrating physical clearance work and interpretation on those sites with high visitor levels to maximise the value of the effort. Situated beside an old railway line, which is now a well-used bridleway and a Sustrans cycle route. This year the site survived being on the equipment access route for work in connection with a new housing development and therefore a working party restored it to its pristine condition.

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The organisation's policy on reserves

In the charity's Reserves Policy, the purpose of the reserve is:

- to ensure continuity of services and benefits to members during lean times
- to contain shortfalls in current income to meet overhead costs and unforeseen setbacks
- to prepare funding bids for new projects
- to set aside a separate reserve of 'unrestricted' funds to finance grant-aided projects where expense claims are reimbursed in arrears by funding agencies
- to aid strategic planning to sustain and develop future activities
- to fund initiatives and to take advantage of new opportunities
- develop and maintain Holloway Bursaries to young and early career geologists in line with our benefactor's wishes

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Signed

(Chair) Date:

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 _____

John Duncan Innes FCA

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales