

WGCG / EMGS Field Excursion - leader: Mike Allen

A 'Geowalk' around the "Dudley Volcano" - Sunday August 3rd 2025

Assemble at 11.00 a.m. on Vicarage Lane, near the entrance to St. Mark's Church, Brierley Hill. (Turn on to Elgar Crescent off the A4101 just east of Russells Hall Hospital, by a conspicuous war memorial). **Postcode: DY5 4JJ** **O.S. NGR SO 9155 8935** **what3words: *film.softly.dwell***

Approximate walking distance 2-3 miles (3-5 km) mostly on gravel tracks, locally muddy, steep or stepped in places; with 'off-piste' options into thickly wooded and overgrown (!) areas on rough and narrow tracks. A short diversion into Tansey Green claypit can be wet and muddy underfoot. Progress will be at a modest pace, **planning to finish around 3.00 – 3.30 p.m.**

Please note that there are **no facilities available** on this walk. Bring a packed lunch / drinks.

Stout, comfortable boots / footwear and outdoor gear appropriate for weather conditions expected on the day are advised. Walking poles will be helpful, if you like using them.

A severe forecast may result in postponement. Final decision made on the Saturday (if relevant)

A & E facilities: Russells Hall Hospital, Pensnett Road, Dudley, DY1 2HQ, (Tel: 01384 456111)



The summit cross on Barrow Hill

The Barrow Hill Nature Reserve, north of the A4101, 3 km west of Dudley, offers a glimpse of the Midlands in late Carboniferous times, in an area of with a mixed sequence of sedimentary and volcanic rocks including small intrusive bodies of microgabbro (dolerite), especially that forming the summit of Barrow Hill itself, from which there are good views of surrounding hills if conditions are favourable.

Exposures are, unfortunately, not at their best since conservation work is presently curtailed by spending cutbacks, but they are sufficient to present a record of the geological, prehistorical and industrial history of the area, as we follow trails over Barrow Hill and around the wider vicinity.



An 'honest' current (April) view of columnar jointing in the Eastern Quarry



View across ancient meadows and fields left almost unchanged by industrial activity