

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

Warwickshire Local Geological Site	
Site No: 96	Staircase Lane, Allesley
Geological Formations	Allesley Member of the Salop Formation (Carboniferous)
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Local Geological Sites (LGS), designated by locally developed criteria, are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The designation of a LGS is one way of recognising and protecting important Earth science and landscape features for future generations to enjoy.

WGCG is responsible for the identification of LGSs in Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Please note that designation of a site as a LGS does not confer a legal right of access. Unless the site is on a designated public right-of-way, the landowner's permission is required before visiting.

Warwickshire Local Geological Site Criteria Form

Site Name: Staircase Lane, Allesley	Also known as:
Location: Allesley, Coventry	LGS No: 96
District: Coventry	Grid Reference: SP3019081183
ESCC Class: ER	

Brief Description:

Rocks are exposed on both sides of a 'cutting' in the sunken "Staircase Lane" on the northern slope of the valley of the River Sherbourne where it cuts through the WNW-ESE trending outcrop of the Allesley Member (formerly known as Coventry Sandstone) of the Carboniferous Salop Formation (Warwickshire Group).

This site qualifies as a Local Geological Site for the following criteria:

Education – the value of the site for educational purposes in life-long learning			✓
Valuable for fieldwork	✓	Easily and safely accessible	✓
Access permitted	✓	Capable of maintenance	✓
Scientific - the value of the site for study by both professional and amateur Earth Scientists			✓
Diversity		Rare or exceptional feature	✓
Size or extent		Typicalness	✓
Fragility		Naturalness	
Historic - the value of the site in terms of Earth Science knowledge, events or human exploitation			
Linked with a prominent geologist		Associated with an important scientific concept	
Linked with an historic building or monument		Associated with an important industrial process	
Aesthetic - the value of the site in the landscape			
Has features that form a prominent part of the landscape and are locally well known			
Has features that contribute to understanding landscape-scale geological or geomorphological processes			
Easily and safely accessible by the public			

This site has been selected by the LGS Selection Panel on: 19th October 2010

Signed **Ian Fenwick**
Chairman, Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

Endorsed by:

Signed **Jon Radley**
Keeper of Geology, Warwickshire Museum

Signed **Anton Irving**
Area Conservation Adviser, Natural England

In the event of any development or planning consultation relating to this site or its surrounds, please inform the LGS Officer on-line at www.wgcg.co.uk or by post to The LGS Officer, WGCG, c/o Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA

WARWICKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION GROUP

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITE (LGS)

Site No:	96	Site Name:	Staircase Lane, Allesley
Parish			Allesley
District			Coventry
National Grid Reference			SP3019081183
Ordnance Survey Sheets	1:50000		Landranger 140
	1:25000		Explorer 221

Location
<p>The site is located on either side of Staircase Lane, Allesley, Coventry approximately 200 metres north of the bridge over the River Sherbourne.</p> <p>Staircase lane is a single track road with no suitable parking places. It is possible for cars to be parked at the junction of Staircase Lane with Butt Lane.</p> <p>The perimeter of the site is defined by Grid References SP3019281198, 3020181194, 3018081171 and 3018881167 extending about 3m either side of Staircase Lane.</p>

Summary of Interest
<p>The rocks are exposed on both sides of a 'cutting' in the sunken "Staircase Lane" on the northern slope of the valley of the River Sherbourne where it cuts through the WNW-ESE trending outcrop of the Allesley Member of the Carboniferous Salop Formation (Warwickshire Group). The relatively steep slope of the lane cuts obliquely upwards through the outcrop.</p> <p>The Allesley Member is a redbed sequence; mudstone-dominated at base but becoming more arenaceous towards top. Impersistent conglomerates at some levels. Formed approximately 290 to 308 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period, these rocks were formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat; includes estuarine and coastal plain deposits mapped as alluvium.</p> <p>On the east side of the lane (right hand coming from Allesley Village) a 1.25m thick bed of sandstone is exposed which is well jointed and with clear parallel bedding planes. This is overlain by about 1m of laminated (1-2cm beds) sandstone again in parallel beds. Further clearing is needed to examine the nature of the contact between these two beds. At the top of the exposure is at least 1m of weathered material, not easily accessible, but with a clayey appearance. Near to the bend in the road the thick sandstone appears to be underlain by another horizon of laminated sandstone.</p> <p>On the west side of the lane a similar pattern of thick and laminated beds exists but their structural relation to the beds on the east side needs resolving by careful measurement and some minor talus clearance. This should confirm how many horizons there are in the whole exposure.</p> <p>The sandstones are buff to pale red, weathering to red. They consist of well-sorted, uniform sized angular, well compacted, largely quartz grains with feldspar(?) cement, with some darker grains.</p>



Staircase Lane, Allesley from SP 30190 81162 facing North



Staircase Lane from SP3019281188 facing E 10 degrees S



Staircase Lane, Allesley Flaggy sandstone, Coventry Sandstone Formation (Enville Group).
BGS 1988 Photo: P213323

