

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

| Warwickshire Local Geological Site | |
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| Site No: 100 | Astley Castle – Moat |
| Geological Formations | Sandstone of the Carboniferous Whitacre Member of the Salop Formation |
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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: Astley Castle Moat | | Also known as: | |
| Location: Castle Drive, Astley, Nuneaton CV10 7QD | | LGS No: 100 | |
| District: North Warwickshire BC | | Grid Reference: SP 31193 89460 | |
| ESCC Class: ER | | | |
| <p>Brief Description:</p> <p>The site is a 30metre long exposure of sandstone of the Carboniferous Whitacre Member of the Salop Formation on the north side of a moat which surrounds Astley Castle. Astley Castle, which is strictly speaking a fortified manor more than a castle, has been in continuous occupation since the Saxon period. At Grade II*, the castle is counted of national significance. Its site includes the moated castle, gateway and curtain walls, lake, church and the ghost of pleasure gardens in a picturesque landscape.</p> | | | |
| 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 | | 10 th December 2012 | |
| Signed | | | |
| Brian Ellis | | Chairman, Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group | |
| Endorsed by: | | | |
| Signed | | | |
| Jon Radley | | Keeper of Geology, Warwickshire Museum | |
| Signed | | | |
| Anton Irving | | Area Conservation Adviser, Natural England | |
| <p>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</p> | | | |
| WGCG Criteria Form Version D – July 2010 | | | |

WARWICKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION GROUP

LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITE (LGS)

| | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Site No: | 100 | Site Name: | Astley Castle Moat |
| Parish | | | |
| District | | | North Warwickshire BC |
| National Grid Reference | | | SP 31193 89460. |
| Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50000 1:25000 | | | Landranger 140 Explorer 221 |

Location

The site is located beneath and in front of the curtain wall of Astley Castle to the east of the entrance bridge.

The site is a 30metre long exposure of sandstone on the north side of a moat which surrounds Astley Castle. Astley Castle, which is strictly speaking a fortified manor more than a castle, has been in continuous occupation since the Saxon period. At Grade II*, the castle is counted of national significance. Its site includes the moated castle, gateway and curtain walls, lake, church and the ghost of pleasure gardens in a picturesque landscape.

Summary of Interest

The exposure is a pale orange-brown sandstone which is paler than the exposure in nearby Dark Lane. The grain is quite variable in both size and composition with quartz, feldspar and fragments of rock, mainly mudstone, 3-4 mm in size present. In appearance it is perhaps similar to a gritstone.

The sandstone is well jointed but flat, parallel bedding planes are not present, and there is no evidence of small-scale current bedding. The sandstones have an apparent domed structure. The outcrop could be interpreted as fluvial sandbars or sandbanks.

The mixed nature of the sediment suggests that this sandstone was deposited in much higher energy conditions than those in Dark Lane

The soil cover on the platform in front of the wall is very thin and in parts the rock is exposed.

At the east end of the exposure a coarser grained sandstone can be exposed at the base. This appears to be totally unsorted.

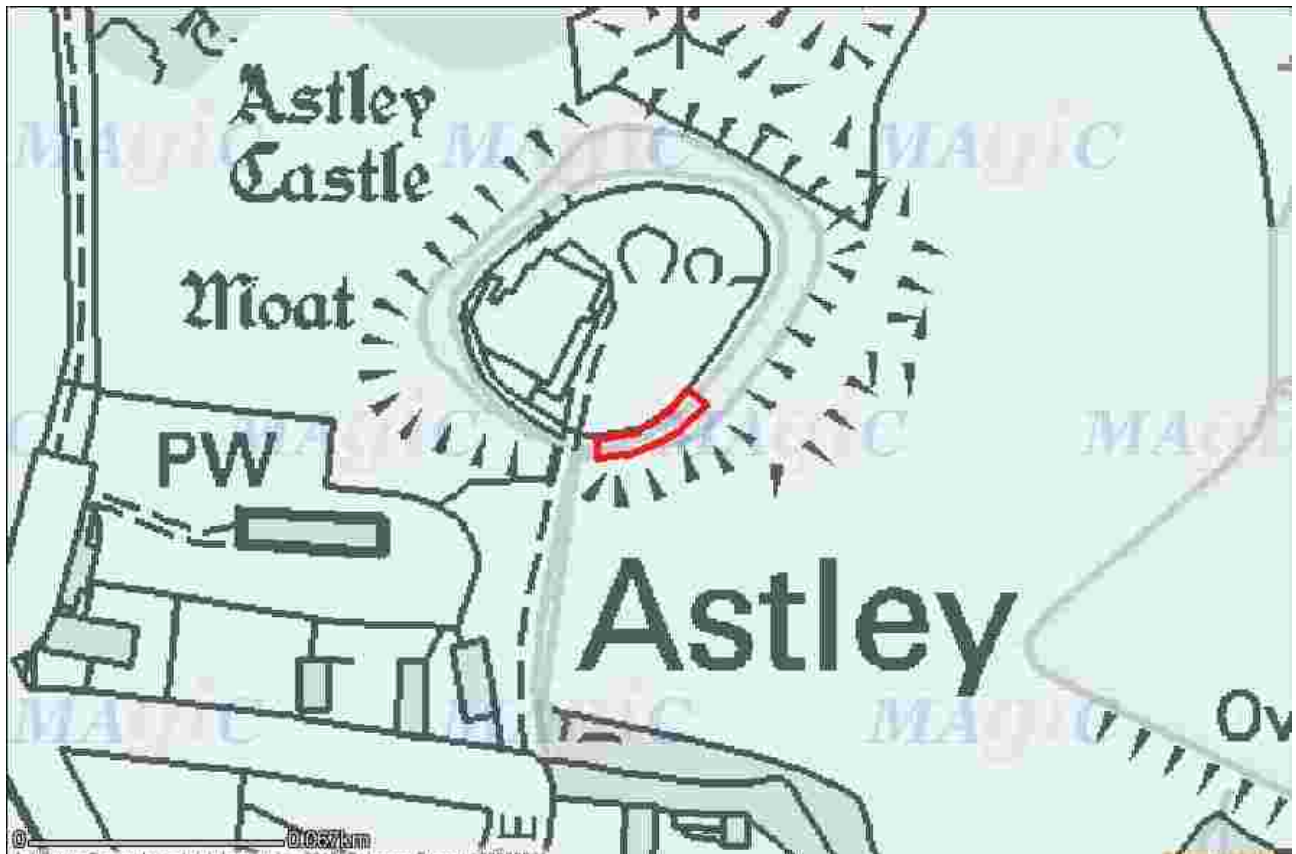
The base of the bed was not exposed so its sedimentological relationship with the overlying sediment could not be determined. This is presumably the conglomerate referred to in the section on the 1: 50 000 geology map.



Astley Castle Moat from SP31197 89460 facing N



Astley Castle Moat from SP 31200 89460 facing N 30 degrees E



The red outline defines the extent of the LGS

Link to Resurveyed LoGS document

<http://lgs.wgcg.co.uk/LoGS100-Resurvey.pdf>