

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group (WGCG)
Local Geological Site - LGS 26 Kenilworth Castle Quarry, Update 29 Sept 2020

Brief Description:

- The best exposure in the County of Shotton's 'Lower Breccia' which lies within the Permian, Kenilworth Sandstone Formation. Although described as a breccia, the exposure comprises a 1.2m section of rounded clasts set in a sandy matrix; clasts reach up to 55cm diameter, & are overlain by 0.8m of massive brown sandstone with scattered pebbles and an uneven base.

Monitoring Report:

- This site can be reached by either of two routes, both a few minutes walk from the west end of the English Heritage car park (Bray's car park) off Castle Road, close to the castle.
- The first route from the car park is along the Millennium Way with a fine view of the castle to the right. After 70-80m leave the path to the left, across a sunken lane, into a field. The site is 60-70m diagonally across the field in a group of mature trees.
- The first hollow reached is not the main quarry. A scramble up the west end, over a barbed wire fence revealed the quarry below a near-vertical drop. A possible way down to the right was quickly ruled out owing to a dense under-storey of brambles, nettles, and saplings.
- The second route to the site from the car park, a private road, is a tarmac lane leading to a couple of houses and Grounds Farm. About 100m along here the south side of the quarry is immediately next to the road for 50m, but completely out of site behind mature trees and a mix of thick hawthorn, brambles and nettles.
- A search revealed a small gap through which a limited view and access were possible. A careful descent down the steep slope of loose soil into the quarry was made through this gap, using saplings for handholds. The main floor is a mass of dead branches and other debris from the numerous mature trees. The sides are obliterated by brambles, nettles and young trees such as elder.
- The limited search possible revealed a total absence of exposures. There is another floor, estimated to be 4-5m lower, at the east end, and less than a quarter of the total area.
- The dense vegetation made this inaccessible. The conclusion has to be that this site is unsafe to visit, and of negligible geological value. This is regrettable with its association with Kenilworth castle.



Above: Kenilworth Castle - The direction of the photograph of the castle is NNW.



Above: Kenilworth Castle Quarry – Direction of the photograph is E of ENE.

Link to Original LoGS (RIGS) document:

<http://lgs.wgcg.co.uk/LoGS26.pdf>

IMPORTANT

- Visitors to LGS sites do so at their own risk and WGCG cannot accept responsibility for any injury, loss or damage which may occur.