

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group (WGCG)

Local Geological Site - LGS 87 Brailes No 1 - Geological, Update 19 Aug 2019

Brief Description:

A steep slope, mapped as the feather-edge of the Chipping Norton Limestone above the Northampton Sand and Grantham Formations. Scissum beds facies of the Northampton Sand produce much field brash, comprising sandy limestone with a fauna of serpulids, solitary corals and bivalves. Rusty sands are traceable above. The Chipping Norton Limestone is seen in what is probably a natural slip scar where it comprises sandy, flaggy-bedded limestones. The limestones appear to dip steeply, possibly due to Quaternary cambering.

Monitoring Report

Route to the Site:

- The site is situated on the Western flank of Brailes Hill and *can best be accessed via Roundhill Farmhouse and then, only with the owner's permission, via his private land which leads first to Brailes Hill 2 and then upwards to Brailes Hill No 1.
 - To reach the Farm travelling from Shipston on Stour take the B4035 and head east for Upper Brailes. After approximately 1½ miles take a right hand turn into the entrance of **Roundhill Farmhouse**.
 - The well surfaced entrance track leads directly to the farmyard. Beyond this, Brailes Hill No 2 can, with the owners permission, be approached via a somewhat steep and uneven track. This leads first to Brailes Hill No 2 and then onwards to Brailes Hill No 1.
- * *A public right of way leads part of the way to the two sites but it is necessary to cross onto private land at some point if they are to be investigated fully.*

Access to the Site:

- On foot, the steep ascent would be long and arduous and in the shooting season quite out of the question. It is unlikely that permission would be given for an unescorted traverse of this land by the new owner at any time of the year.
- The owner generously provided us with an escort who welcomed us at the farmyard and then took us to the summit in his off-road vehicle.
- The escort accompanied us throughout our inspection of both sites and through his intimate knowledge of the terrain, was able to identify most of the areas from which previous photographs had been taken.

Parking:

- Subject to the farm manager giving permission this can be done close to the yard but allowing proper consideration for machinery movements.

Future Access:

- In the light of fresh information proffered by our guide, regarding previously unseen limestone scarps in Brailes No 2 it was hoped that a return visit, possibly to both sites, might be arranged at the turn of the year**. It was undertaken to progress these hopes via the farm management and our Conservation Committee.

** *This was subsequently deferred because of the lockdowns imposed to restrict the spread of the Corona virus.*

Physical Obstacles Making Access Difficult or Unsafe:

- None were noted, possibly due to our route and mode of transport.

Gates or Fences Enclosing the Site:

- None beyond the yard to impede our route

Interpretation Boards on the Site:

- There are none.

Grid References at the Site:

- No OS references to previous photographs were available at this time, so locating the precise positions of exposures evidenced in the earlier report was not possible. Accurate 'now and then' comparisons could not therefore be made. However the photographs in this report compare favourably with their forerunners.

CONCLUSION

There were no significant changes since the 2014 report other than that the quarry on the summit at **SP29562 38968** had been filled in recently. Only some broken Chipping Norton Limestone and mixed sandy rubble was visible.

NB. *A note of caution when examining quarry infills in that, in addition to local material, this will often be supplemented by material of unknown origin brought in from further afield.*

Link to Original LoGS (RIGS) document:

<http://lgs.wgcg.co.uk/LoGS87.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.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Above, Fig 1: at SP 29518 39007 .
Trig point at summit of Brailes No 1,
to be found within a small stand of
beech trees adjacent to the infilled
quarry.

Below, Fig 2: at SP 29562 38968
Close up of section of quarry infill.



Below, Fig 3: at SP29562 38968. Compass bearing 259 degrees.
View of quarry infill a few yards lower than the trig point.

