

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group (WGCG)

Local Geological Site - LGS 92 Chapel Green, Update November 2020

Brief Description:

Section 1 (South side): comprises a quarried face c.25m x 6m high in the Keresley Member of the Salop Formation (Upper Carboniferous) which has weathered to reveal cross-bedding. The sediment in the lower 1.5m has accumulated as a massive, well jointed, uniform medium to coarse ferruginous gritstone. Above, there is 2m of well jointed, thinly bedded sandstone.

Section 2 (North side): comprises a section c.10m x 2m high with two distinct units separated by a ?fault. The unit on the left is a medium to coarse bright orange ferruginous gritstone with a 'rubbly' bedding while that on the right displays fine bedding in c.3cm units and is a duller brown in colour.

Monitoring Report:

The owner has denied access to this site and has requested that the site be withdrawn from the LGS list. This prevents a full condition monitoring.

This report is based on viewing the site from the nearest entrance which, at the time of the visit, was gated. The report addresses the key issues in the planning permission enquiry of 2017 (see Appendix). Note the visit was made at the time of the Corvid 19 'lockdown'.

- a) The bridge is still in place
- b) The waterfall was not in operation at the time of the visit;
- c) As far as it was possible to see the animatronics dinosaurs have been removed; it was not possible to see the bottom of the quarry so it is not know if the other objects have been removed.
- d) However, a new feature has been installed – a large tree trunk, rising above the level of the bridge, which has a sculpted head of a man topped by a green wreath (a green man?)
- e) As far as can be seen the quarry face is in good condition.
- f) The proposed hotel behind the LGS was not part of our concern (but the reason for the bridge). However no new build could be seen from outside the gates.

Notes:

- i) the exposure outside the gates, which is part of the LGS, is still accessible and is in good condition, although with light vegetation growth.
- ii) In the garden of the house immediately outside the gates there is a continuation of the exposure of the sandstone which forms the old quarry of the LGS. This exposure is listed in the Geological Sites Record (GLCR) held by Warwickshire Museum.

Appendix

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group observations with regard to Local Geological Site 92 (Chapel Green) and planning application PAP/2016/0480.

- 1 The Local Geological Site (LGS) is only a small component of a much larger planning issue which is set out in the section of the PAP headed Observations on pages 5/172 to 5/174 [first paragraph]. WGCG does not wish to comment on the wider planning issues, but recognises that a decision on those wider issues will affect the LGS, providing different possible outcomes outlined below.

The following observations relate to the PAP's Recommendation 2 in respect of the LGS (page 5/176). We understand that the land owner is appealing against the implementation of these recommendations to the Planning Inspector.

2. With respect of the unauthorised bridge:
 - i) The removal of the bridge would contribute to restoring the LGS to the condition in which it was designated in September 2006 with the agreement of the present land owner. WGCG was not consulted about the installation;
 - ii) However the removal of the bridge would expose the damage done to the upper part of the quarry face when the bridge was installed, which would affect the integrity of the LGS. We would expect to be consulted about the restoration of the upper face;
 - iii) We acknowledge that the bridge does allow for closer inspection of the quarry face.
3. With respect to the waterfall:
 - i) The removal of the waterfall would contribute to restoring the LGS to the condition in which it was designated in September 2006 with the agreement of the present landowner. WGCG was not consulted about the installation;
 - ii) We recognise that rocks have been placed at the waterfall foot to prevent undercutting;

- iii) The waterfall is fed from a mock rock (fibre glass?) structure at the top of the sandstone rock face. This only just projects the water far enough out to prevent water running down the face of the rock.
- iv) However we are concerned about the risk of damage to the rock face by spray from the falling water leading to saturation of the face and the resulting weathering and possible rock decay leading to long-term deterioration;
- v) If the waterfall is retained the mock rock above the quarry face is unsympathetic to the stone in the quarry and needs replacing with something more appropriate. When it is replaced it should project water further from the quarry face to reduce the risk of wetting of the rock;
- vi) We acknowledge that the waterfall affects only part of the quarry face in the LGS.

4. With respect of the animatronics dinosaurs and other features in the bottom of the quarry:

- i) The dinosaurs are inappropriate as they belong to a different geological period than the rocks in the quarry;
- ii) They are attractive for visitors and could be used elsewhere in the grounds;
- iii) The plastic human skeleton and plastic vegetation should be removed. The vegetation could be replaced by something living and more appropriate to the age of the rocks – ferns would be an obvious choice;
- iv) These objects, the bridge and the waterfall were not installed at the time of the last routine WGCG condition monitoring of the LGS on 09/08/2012.

Whatever the outcome of the appeal to the planning inspector WGCG remains ready to maintain good relations with the site owner and his agent by co-operating with any further developments of the LGS. These might include:

- maintaining the LGS in good condition
- consultation on any repairs needed to the site
- consultation on any planting in the bottom of the quarry
- interpretation of the LGS for visitors to the Conference and Events Centre for example by an interpretation board, designed by WGCG and installed and paid for by the site owner
- advising on the vegetation, especially the trees, above the quarry face
- provision of safety railings above the rock face.

Signed
 John Crossling
 Chairman
 Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

BE/WGCG CC 2016-7/chapel green

2012 Photograph of a Section of the Quarry Face



L6592 Chapel Green, Fillongley from SP26978538 facing south

Link to Original LoGS (RIGS) document
<http://lgs.wgcg.co.uk/LoGS92.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.