

# Somerset's Local Geological Sites (LGS)

Local Geological Sites are assessed against four criteria:-

- **Scientific** – geological/scientific interest;
- **Historic** – history of Earth sciences and economic geology;
- **Education** – potential educational use, including field studies and interpretation for the public;
- **Aesthetic** – contribution to landscape character/local distinctiveness/wider geo-diversity.

Metadata for each site (i.e. location, other landscape designations, planning authority, ownership, previous survey details etc.), geological background (previous research papers, rock formations etc.), the results of field survey (photos, description of site features) are also used in the assessment.

Sites must meet one or more of the criteria, which is assessed based on key questions relating to each criterion. A criterion is met if the site holds features which confirm one or more of the key questions.

**Scientific:** *The value of the site for study by professional and amateur Earth scientists:-*

- The site is considered to be one of the best in Somerset (or within Exmoor National Park/an AONB/its National Character Area), or one of only a few places to study a particular geological formation, stratum or phenomena.
- Or the site reveals an aspect of geology that is rare or unusual in Somerset (or within Exmoor National Park/an AONB/its National Character Area), or realistically with some work could it have the potential to do so.
- The site one of the best places in Somerset (or within Exmoor National Park/an AONB/its National Character Area) to see a particular geomorphological feature or a process in action.
- The site is, or potentially could be, important either for geological research or stratigraphic correlation.
- The site is, or potentially could it be, capable of yielding significant fossils or minerals. For example, sites that have produced rare or new species in the past will usually have the potential for such finds in the future if the deposits can be re-exposed.

**Education:** *The value of a site for educational purposes in life-long learning:-*

- The site is considered to be the only place, or one of, an only few places in Somerset (or within Exmoor National Park/an AONB/its National Character Area) where a particular aspect of geology can be explained, demonstrated or celebrated.

**Historic:** *The historical value of a site in terms of important advances in Earth science knowledge, events or human exploitation:-*

- The site has played a significant part in the history of earth sciences or geological research in Somerset (or within Exmoor National Park/an AONB/its National Character Area).
- The site provides an excellent opportunity to inform the public about the economic geology of Somerset (or within Exmoor National Park/an AONB/its National Character Area), or the link between geology and currently active or a formerly important local industry.
- The geology of site makes a significant contribution to understanding the archaeological, industrial archaeological, historic landscape or other historic interest of the area.

**Aesthetic:** *The aesthetic value of a site in the landscape, particularly in relation to promoting public awareness and appreciation of Earth sciences:-*

- The site's geology play an important or unique role in defining the attractiveness of the site, its 'sense of place' or local distinctiveness, or in understanding the surrounding landscape.

