

# Update No 10: Autumn (Sept 2020)



Working in partnership with Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) and Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT) to encourage appreciation, conservation and promotion of the geology of Somerset <http://wp.somerc.co.uk/specialist-groups/somerset-geology-group/>

Dear all

## SGG meeting 2020 cancelled

This is mainly to tell you that our next SGG meeting, provisionally planned for Mon 5 Oct 2020 at Ham Hill Country Park, will **not** now take place - due to the coronavirus situation. We will work towards something similar, on site or on-line, for next year.

## Review of Somerset's Local Geological Sites

The good news is that we have been able to continue with desk work over the last few months for our project with SERC - and revised SWT risk assessments and procedures will shortly enable us to start again with site visits.

Wesley (Wes) Harris, our temporary 2-day per week LGS assistant at SERC, is working from home, with remote access to SERC, while Garry Dawson (my SGG Co-coordinator) has set up Google *Hangout* meetings, so that Wes, he and myself can coordinate our activity.

John Kirby, Dee Edwards and Dave Williams have started desk preparation and reconnaissance to review some first LGS in South Somerset; Doug Robinson has continued desk work on Mendip sites; Saranne Cessford, Phil Parker and Garry have been completing desk work for some LGS in the Taunton area; and I have been desk-reviewing LGS in the Devon part of Exmoor.

We held the LGS Panel in April as an email consultation, when we reconfirmed c 30 LGS, and will be organising a further Panel consultation for November. Wes has also been working on post-Panel processing from earlier meetings.

## South Somerset

We were delighted to hear in June that SERC has been awarded a grant from South Somerset

District Council's (SSDC) Community Fund to assist with our LGS review in South Somerset – with the understanding that progress will slower than originally hoped, as we have not been able to appoint graduate volunteers this summer.

SSDC has also won first-stage funding to develop a Lottery bid for its Ham Hill Country Park over the next 18 months. We hope to provide advice and contacts to ensure that geology is fully integrated into the project. Our LGS project focus on South Somerset is timed to help with this.

**Thanks** - our thanks to everyone from SGG who is helping with the LGS project. It is supported by contributions from: the Curry Fund of the Geologists' Association; the Pat Hill-Cottingham Memorial Fund of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society; Exmoor National Park Authority; the Quantocks and Mendips Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; South Somerset District Council; Wessex Water; and Geckoella geological consultancy; with help in kind from many others, including the Mendip-based Somerset Earth Sciences Centre and advice from Natural England.

**Planning** - in May we wrote to Somerset County Council to request that information on the LGS at Barnclose Quarry in the Mendips be included in considering an application for screening of proposed development there. We had become aware of the lack of information of the LGS in the submission, from the Mendips planning web site.

Wendy Lutley, Coordinator

Our next *Update* - with more detail on progress with our LGS review - will be April 2021. See our last *Update* (available on our web page – link above) for geo-event organisers relevant to Somerset and our data protection policy.

SGG is a member of **GeoConservation UK**, which encourages the appreciation, conservation & promotion of local/regional geological sites for education & public benefit. See [http://wiki.geoconservationuk.org.uk/index.php5?title=Main\\_Page](http://wiki.geoconservationuk.org.uk/index.php5?title=Main_Page) .

We also aim to encourage delivery in Somerset of the UK Geodiversity Action Plan [www.ukgap.org.uk](http://www.ukgap.org.uk) and England Geodiversity Charter [www.englishgeodiversityforum.org](http://www.englishgeodiversityforum.org) .