# Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

| Warwickshire Local Geological Site | | |
|---|---|---|
| Site No: 15 | Arley Tunnel Cutting - West | |
| Geological Formations | Salop Formation (Carboniferous) | |
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Local Geological Sites (LoGS), designated by locally developed criteria, are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The designation of LoGS is one way of recognising and protecting important Earth science and landscape features for future generations to enjoy.

WGCG is responsible for the identification of LoGS in Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Please note that designation of a site as a LoGS does not confer a legal right of access. Unless the site is on a designated public right-of-way, the landowner's permission is required before visiting.

# Warwickshire Local Geological Site - Criteria Form

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Site name:** Arley Tunnel Cutting - West | **Also known as:** | | |
| **District:** North Warwickshire | **County:** Warwickshire | | |
| **Grid reference:** SP300 915 | **LoGS Number:** 15 | **ESCC Class:** | ER |

**Brief Description:** Railway cutting; largely overgrown in 2009, situated due south of Ansley. The site exposes red mudstones of the Upper Carboniferous Salop Formation together with interbedded limestones.

**This site qualifies as a Local Geological Site for the following criteria**:

**A Good Example of** Whitacre Member of the Salop Formation containing one or more limestone bands.

**Educational Fieldwork**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Educational Potential | | 2. Physical access | | 3. Safety: **dependent on negotiations** | |

**Scientific Study**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Diversity of interest | | 2. Rarity of interest | ✓ | 3. Size of feature | |
| 4. Typicalness of feature | ✓ | 5. Geological/physiographic linkage to: *Newdigate Colliery Mineral Railway Cutting (17)* | | | ✓ |

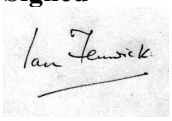
**Historical Value**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Celebrity link | | 2. Pioneering research | | 3. Historical link | |

**Aesthetic Value In The Landscape**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Local importance in the landscape | | 2. Promotion of Earth science | |

**Signed**



I M Fenwick, Chairman,
**Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group**

**Date first selected** February 1992

**Reviewed by LoGS panel** Oct. 2009

**Further survey required**

**LoGS Confirmed** ✓

**Endorsed by**

**Warwickshire Museum**

J Radley, Keeper of Geology

**Natural England**

J A Irving, Conservation Adviser

**In the event of any development or planning consultation relating to this site or its surrounds please inform:**
The LoGS Officer WGCG, c/o Keeper of Geology, Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA (tel: 01926-418182)

**WARWICKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION GROUP**
**LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITE (LoGS)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Site** | 15 | Arley Tunnel Cutting - West |
| **Parish** | | Ansley |
| **District** | | North Warwickshire |
| **County** | | Warwickshire |
| **National Grid Reference** | | SP 300 915 |
| **Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50000**<br>**1:10000** | | 140<br>SP 39 SW |

## Location

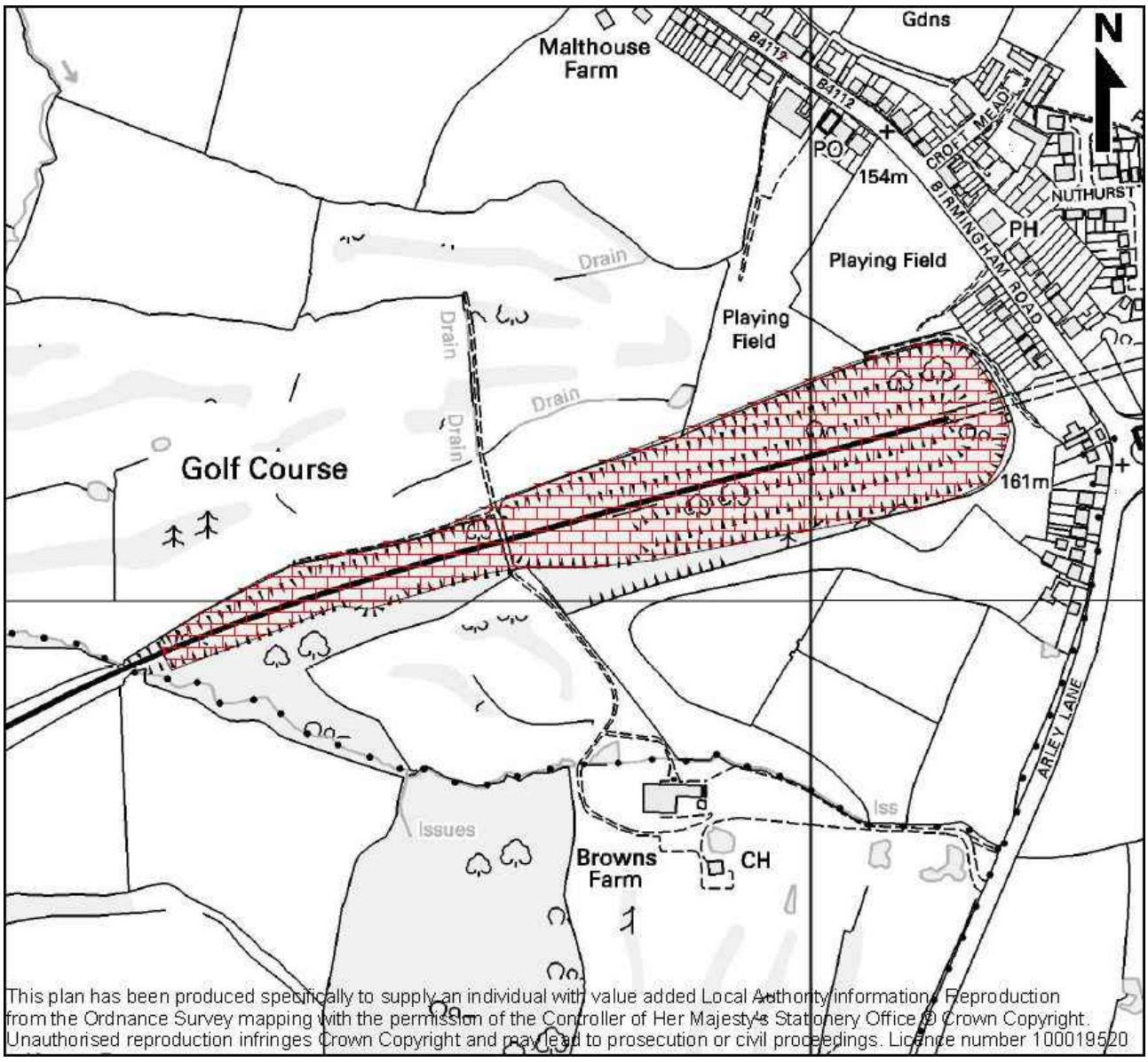
Railway cutting, almost totally overgrown (2009), situated due south of Ansley. As the main line between Birmingham and Leicester runs through this cutting, access is extremely limited. A footpath leads southwards from Ansley adjacent to Malthouse Farm and crosses over the cutting on a footbridge. On the south side of the cutting a footpath leads off towards the east, along the top of the cutting. The path eventually reaches the road to New Arley.

## Summary of Interest

The site exposes red mudstones of the Whitacre Member of the Upper Carboniferous Salop Formation containing limestones. The limestones are often brecciated and occur in association with calcareous pellet-rocks. They contain the fossil wormtube *Spirorbis* and are thus known as the Spirorbis limestones. There are four Spirobis limestones at different levels within the group, but exposures are rare. This site would be of value to researchers only.

The Salop Formation comprises red and red-brown mudstone, and red-brown (mostly sublitharenite) sandstone containing beds of pebbly sandstone and conglomerate itself containing Carboniferous limestone and chert clasts, and thin 'Spirobis' limestone beds and caliche in the lower part of the unit. It was formed approximately 290 to 308 million years ago.


15 01 2009 15 46


Malthouse Farm
B4112
Gdns
N
PO
154m
CROFT MEAD
NUTHURST
PH
Playing Field
BIRMINGHAM ROAD
Drain
Playing Field
Golf Course
161m
ARLEY LANE
Issues
Browns Farm
CH
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