Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

Warwickshire Local Geological Site		
Site No: 18	Corley Cutting	
Geological Formations	Salop Formation (Carboniferous)	
Criteria Form		p 2
Description		p 3
Photographs		p 4
Location Map		p 5

Local Geological Sites (LGS), 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 LGS 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 LGS in Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Please note that designation of a site as a LGS 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: Corley Cutting	**Also known as:** Corley Rocks; *(formerly Corley Cutting / Corley Rocks)*		
District: North Warwickshire	**County:** Warwickshire		
Grid reference: SP302 852	**LoGS Number:** 18	**ESCC Class:**	ER

Brief Description: Road cutting, partly overgrown; 60% exposure in 2009. This site is the type exposure for the conglomerate within the Corley sandstone of the Keresley Member of the Salop Formation (Upper Carboniferous). The conglomerate is one of four in the Keresley Member, but is unique in that it is the only one where the sediment supply lay to the east.

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

A Good Example of Conglomerate from the Corley sandstone

Educational Fieldwork

1. Educational Potential	✓	2. Physical access	✓	3. Safety	✓

Scientific Study

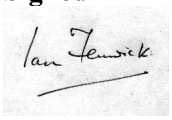
1. Diversity of interest	✓	2. Rarity of interest		3. Size of feature	✓
4. Typicalness of feature	✓	5. Geological/physiographic linkage to: *Coventry Ring Road (20)*			✓

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	**Natural England**
J Radley, Keeper of Geology	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	18	Corley Cutting *(formerly Corley Cutting / Corley Rocks)*
Parish		Corley
District		North Warwickshire
County		Warwickshire
National Grid Reference		SP 302 852
Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50000 **1:10000**		140 SP 38NW

Location

Road Cutting, partly overgrown - 60% exposure (2009). The site is reached by turning NE off the B4098 Tamworth Road, just south of Corley, into Rock Lane.

Summary of Interest

This site is the best exposure of the conglomerate found within the Corley sandstone within the Keresley Member of the Upper Carboniferous Salop Formation.

The Keresley Member comprises redbed sequence; mudstone dominated in lower part but becoming increasingly arenaceous towards top. Thin Spirorbis limestone beds at some levels. Impersistent conglomerates in upper part. Formed approximately 290 to 308 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period, these rocks were formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat; includes estuarine and coastal plain deposits mapped as alluvium.

The conglomerate at this site is one of four in the Salop Formation, but is unique in that it is the only one derived from the east. The section comprises 10.7m of massive, red-brown sandstone, overlain by 1.5m of coarse lenticular conglomerate, 3.0m of massive sandstones with thin strings of conglomerate, 3.7m of coarse, massive sandstones passing laterally into irregular masses of conglomerate, and 4.6m of coarse brown sandstone with streaks of fine conglomerate. The clasts in the conglomerates contain two suites of fossils: one of Silurian (Llandovery) age and another of Lower Carboniferous age. This site, when used in conjunction with the Coventry Ring Road site (LGS 20), is very important in deducing the palaeogeography of the area during the late Carboniferous. The existence of an upland area to the east of Coventry can be inferred, of which there is no longer any trace. The clast sizes at this site are smaller than at the Coventry Ring Road site, suggesting that this site was further away from the source of the sediment.

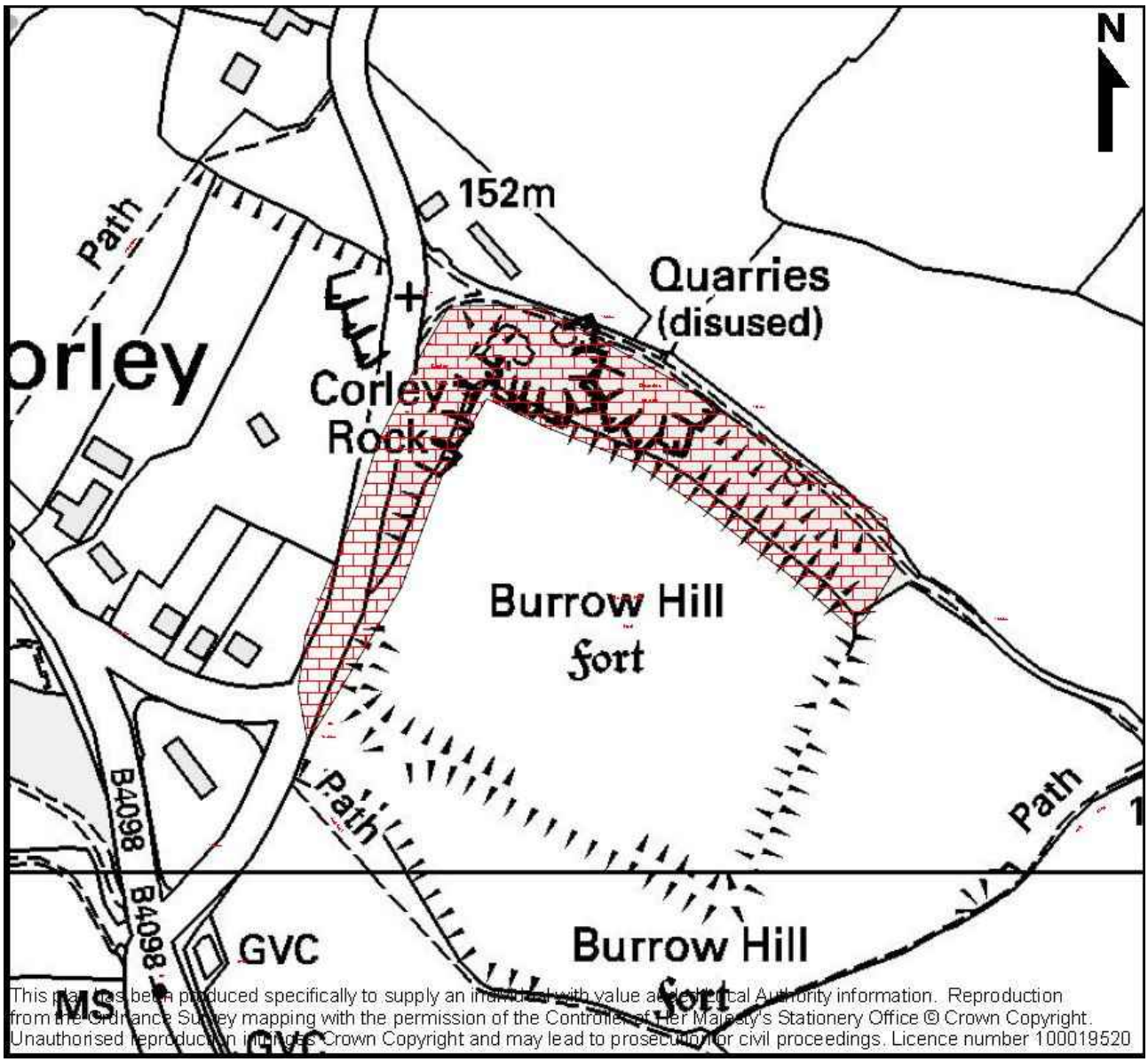
This locality is of educational value from A Level to Degree standard.


LGS18 Corley Cutting SP3039085212 facing SE


LGS18 Corley Cutting SP3039585228 facing S


LGS18 Corley Cutting SP3039085212 facing SE


18 Corley Cutting SP3029885102 facing N 10 degrees E



Link to Resurveyed LoGS document
http://lgs.wgcg.co.uk/LoGS18-Resurvey.pdf