Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group (WGCG)
Local Geological Site - LGS 54 Mows Hill Dingle, Tanworth in Arden, Update Aug 2019

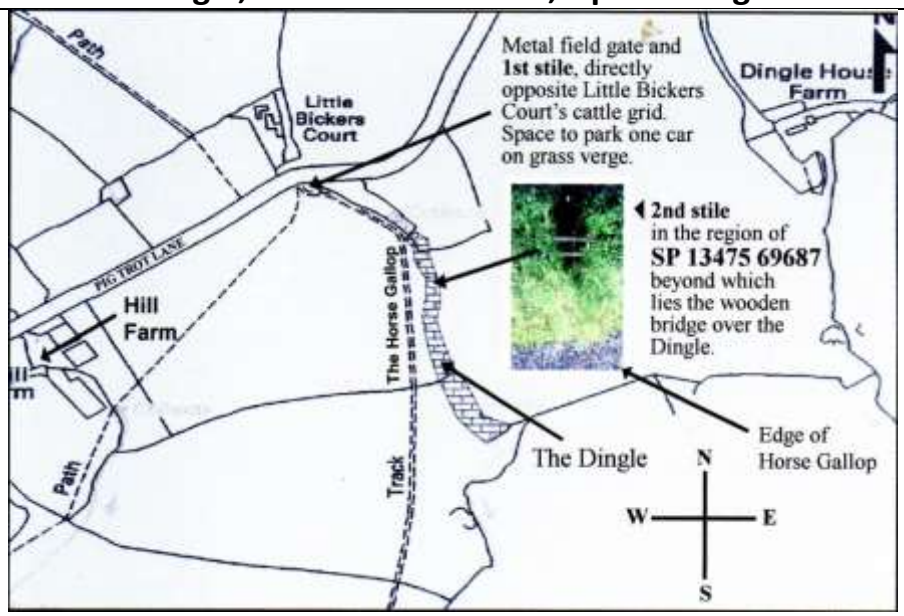
Brief Description:

- This area contains two small streams running in deep gorges, possibly cut by glacial meltwater streams, in the Triassic Arden Sandstone. The western gorge contains two waterfalls, one 2m high and one 3m high, and also excellent exposures of the sandstone in the vertical faces. There are also areas of deposition of tufa including some with evidence of internal structure indicating deposition on vegetation, possibly mosses. The presence of these 10m deep gorges with two waterfalls is almost certainly unique in Warwickshire.

MONITORING REPORT

Access:

- With the owner's permission, the Dingle can be approached via the Horse Gallop, after climbing the **1st stile alongside the metal field gate**.
- The Dingle's gorge is situated within the wooded area to the left. Initially shallow with low banks at its head, the sides of the gorge become progressively deeper travelling south. This, coupled with often impenetrable vegetation makes inspection exceedingly difficult.
- However a **second stile** leading to a pedestrian bridge over the Dingle can be found approximately 140m alongside the outside of the Gallop, in the area of **SP 13475 69687**. See Figure above. Here in the hedgerow, barely visible and easily missed, the stile immediately leads to a short pedestrian bridge.
- This seemed to be the only place from which a descent into the stream bed to effect a close inspection could be made. The bank at this point is approximately 8ft deep and can be slippery. Any descent should be carefully planned and only carried out under supervision. Fortunately the summer water-flow was a mere trickle at the time of our visit and this made viewing the exposures easier. See Figures 3 and 4.



Above, Fig 1 at SP 13475 69687
Map showing our route from the metal field gate via the Horse Gallop to the bridge over the Dingle.

Above: Fig 2 at SP 13475 69687.
The partially concealed stile which led to the bridge over the Dingle. Fortuitously, the stream was barely running at this point and the tall banks were dry enough to make it safe for Mike to descend into the watercourse and make his way through overhanging brambles and branches towards the waterfalls.

- A supervised descent into the gorge and a walk downstream towards the first waterfall were undertaken. This made it able to view, and estimated the height to be between 4 and 5 feet. However this was the limit to access and inspection and the uneven terrain made it unsafe to take photographs of the waterfall at that point.
- Continued shrub and tree growth partially impeded the walk which is well-worth conservation to better access the gorge's exposures. See Future Access (below).

Future Access:

The site owner expressed an interest in using his mechanical digger to clear sufficient vegetation to allow access south of the waterfalls, currently assumed to be in the region of **SP 1354 6947** (although this has yet to be verified). These might then be approached moving upstream at this lower, safer level. It was thought that this might best be done through a second visit perhaps in late autumn once the leaves are off the trees. However the height and condition of the bank would then need to be viewed to determine whether further exploration and inspection could be safely undertaken.

Physical Obstacles Making Access Difficult or Unsafe:

- It was often necessary to negotiate dense foliage, briars etc. This needed to be done with care, as always, by wearing protective gear to guard against impact with overhanging branches etc., etc.
- Problems descending into the gorge etc have already been mentioned in item 4.

Gates or Fences Enclosing the Site:

- The metal five bar gate off Pigs Trot Lane and the stile at its side were both in good condition as was the stile and wooden bridge over the Dingle.

Interpretation Boards on the Site:

- There were none.

Grid References:

- Those given in the previous Report marked the beginning and end of the Dingle, from the Collection Point to the outflow.

Above. Fig 3 at **SP 1354 6947.**
The stream bed close to the bridge, descending in steps 6 to 9 inches in height over eroded bedding planes.

The photograph was taken when the stream was barely flowing. At other times this approach would have been impossible.

- However we are including a further OS Reference (**SP 13475 69687)** which indicates the only point we were able to find where access might be achieved, and that at the bottom of a steep embankment, and then, only at low water.
- We have assumed that the OS reference SP 1354 6947 as given in the 2014 Report, marks the position of the waterfalls and hope to confirm this on our next visit.

River Management:

- None apparent or thought urgent at this time.

Water Level Changes:

- Will constantly fluctuate.

Conclusion:

- This is potentially a very interesting site which is presently very difficult to monitor. However with help from the owner and the application of a WGCG working party it could become much more approachable so that the condition of the waterfalls and rocks could be more readily examined. Currently the monitor's observations indicate that the rock faces at low water levels are well exposed and clearly identifiable. However it was not possible to compare any exposures with previous photographic evidence as no OS references of the waterfalls were recorded in the previous Report.

NB *Where no OS reference is given it is not always possible to identify the positions from which photographs for previous inspections have been taken. This makes comparison difficult in the monitoring process. If the second visit, planned for, is confirmed any further observations can be recorded via newly available apps or the Group's hand held device.*

Link to Original LoGS (RIGS) document:
http://lgs.wgcg.co.uk/LoGS54.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.

Above. Fig 4 in the region of **SP 135 697.**
Close up showing bedding planes close to the waterfall.