Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group (WGCG)
Local Geological Sites - LGS 98 The Dumble Tuffa Springs, Update 11 Nov 2016

Brief Description:

- The site is a "finger" of woodland occupying a narrow gulley cut by a stream on the east side of Kingsbury Wood and known locally as The Dumble.
- It contains well developed tufa features in several locations, including four springs and tufa covered rocks at the confluence of a tufa spring tributary with the main Dumble Brook.
- The geology map of the area shows that the underlying rocks in the east and west edges of The Dumble are sandstones of the Whitacre Member of the Carboniferous Salop Formation with the middle section being mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Carboniferous Halesowen Formation.
- It is suggested that the source of calcium carbonate, forming the tufa found at the sites, is the Spirorbis limestone from either the Whitacre Member or the Halesowen Formation, although no exposures were located during a recent survey.
- At SP 23806 97526 there is a calcareous water spring. The spring emerges about 4 metres below the field level and flows down the slope into the Dumble Brook. All of the debris in the path of the water, including hazel nut shells, twigs and pebbles, are coated with light grey tufa. Limited excavation at the point of emergence of the water revealed some reddish-buff sandstone.
- At SP 23735 97365 a spring outlet pipe emerges to flow over some sandstone blocks which are coated in tufa. Another stream also joins it at this point from the north bringing water from another spring under the woodland. The debris in its path is also coated in tufa. At SP 23572 97369 the stream from the above features flows down the edge of the wood and into the Dumble Brook. The water is so calcareous that tufa is still visible on the rocks just before the confluence about 160 metres from the springs.
- At SP 23635 97231there is the site of an old concrete reservoir that was partly dug into a bank below the fields. Seepage springs in the bank below the field at the back of the

Above: Figure 1

Above: Figure 2

reservoir discharge over the back wall forming encrustations of tufa which look almost like stalactites, but are in fact encrusted sedge leaves.

Monitoring Report:

- The site was monitored on 11 Nov 2016 and disappointingly the Tufa was a dirty brown colour and not the nice white of the tufa at some more famous sites.
- Point B, SP 23735 97365. It was very over grown, mainly with brambles. Monitoring is best done in spring before the growth gets rampant. Figure 1 shows where a spring emerges but the I was not convinced that this point tallies with the web-site description.
- Point C SP23572 97369 was easier to identify, (see Figure 2). There was very little water flowing (as October and the start of November were very dry). The tufa was slight (and not very exciting).
- Point D SP 23635 97231 was easily the best example with the tufa coating sticks and plants as well as more permanent structures (see Figure 3).
- Point A has been left till last, and could not be found. I must have been very close but could not identify the spot. It may have been difficult because of the lack of water, Dumble Brook was hardly flowing. I did have a GPS with me but it is very old, must have been one of the first, and down near the stream and under the trees it could not pick up signals.
- Not a very successful reconnaissance. Perhaps I should go out with someone who knows what they are doing and reporting on. A good GPS and a compass seem essential.

Link to Original LoGS (RIGS) document

http://lgs.wgcg.co.uk/LoGS98.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: Figure 3

Dense undergrowth making the location of the features very difficult