REPORT

The Ketton Geological Trail

Limestone has long been extracted from a huge quarry at Ketton, Lincolnshire for the purpose of manufacturing cement. Before the days of cement however, many other quarries in the area extracted building stone, especially the beautiful oolitic freestone used in so many towns and villages in the region. The sections in the working quarry are fascinating and of considerable scientific value. They include not only the Lincolnshire Limestone but also the overlying Rutland Formation (formerly Upper Estuarine Clays), Blisworth Limestone and Blisworth Clays. The same sequence is displayed in the adjacent disused stone quarries, though these are very overgrown, having last been worked in the 1940s. Stamford and District Geological Society (SDGS) thus approached Castle Cement, the operators of Ketton Quarry, to suggest clearing part of one of the old quarries, in order to make a safe site for visiting geological parties to use. Work started in September 1994, and Castle Cement were highly supportive throughout in providing financial and practical assistance. The project also required the approval of English Nature due to the site's proximity to an existing botanical SSSI.

The first task was to clear and burn large quantities of scrub and undergrowth, then to cut access paths and steps up the fallen talus at the foot of the quarry face, much of which was clay derived from the overlying Rutland Formation. Volunteers from the SDGS tackled this with gusto but progress was very slow. However, just as members began to think the task was beyond them, Castle Cement came to the rescue, in the person of Barry Bedford, the quarry manager. A mechanical excavator appeared and in three days of concentrated digging the scree and scrub was completely removed and dumped to make an access road across a gully. This left a vertical face exposing all the geological sequence and features that had been hoped for, with the added bonus of a fault running obliquely across the face.

Then, however, disaster struck. The wettest winter for years turned the clay into glue and the building of steps progressed only very slowly. The heavy rain lubricated the clay and, eventually, the whole face collapsed. In due course the excavator returned and a further three thousand tons of clay and rock were removed, this time leaving an angled face. Nevertheless, collapse of the face in wet weather is likely to prove an ongoing maintenance problem.

As spring arrived the weather improved and the days lengthened, with the opportunity for the dozen or so volunteers to work evenings instead of alternate Saturdays. The work moved on quickly, rewarded by nightly barbecues to socialise and survey the work done. The wildlife also flourished in the hot weather and much enjoyable time was spent in eager searches for the glowworms which live in the quarry. The quarry was also visited on 28 June 1995 by about 32 members of the East Midlands Geological Society as part of their evening walks programme.

Castle Cement rounded off the work by constructing a concrete approach path with access for wheelchairs. They also made a car park, provided a seat and built a permanent barbecue. English Nature also funded the purchase of paving material for over 100 steps. The East Midlands Geological Society sponsored the display boards by providing financial assistance, and an explanatory leaflet is in production, courtesy of the Curry Fund of the Geologists' Association.

The opening ceremony took place on 16 September 1995, a very wet Saturday morning, almost exactly a year after the first tree was felled. The Bishop of Grantham, the Rt Rev Bill Ing, officially opened the trail with a lively speech (and poetry recitation!) after introductory remarks by Alan Dawn, SDGS President.

It is hoped that the trail will eventually be designed a R.I.G.S. (Regionally Important Geological Site). The site is located off Pit Lane, Ketton (NGR SK 984 051) and is openly accessible throughout the year. It is intended to allow safe and easy examination of the geological features by local schools and adult education groups, as well as amateur and professional geologists. In addition to the geology there are interesting wild flowers, including orchids, so visitors are required to keep to the trails and not to trample vegetation. EMGS members will find much of interest here and maybe a little inspiration too.

Compiled by the Editor from individual contributions by Alan Dawn, Andrew Swift and Alan Filmer.

CORRIGENDUM

Ediacaran fossils from the Precambrian (Charnian Supergroup) of Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, England — revision of nomenclature

H. E. Boynton and T. D. Ford

It has been brought to the authors' notice that the generic name *Ivesia* applied to a Precambrian fossil in Charnwood Forest (Boynton and Ford, 1995) is inappropriate in that the name had already been used for an arachnid by Petrunkevitch in 1925 (Brignoli, 1993). As the rules of zoological nomenclature do not permit the use of the same generic name for two separate genera, we propose to substitute *Ivesheadia* for the homonymic *Ivesia*. All references to this fossil should be amended accordingly.

References

Boynton, H. E. and Ford, T. D., 1995. Ediacaran fossils from the Precambrian (Charnian Supergroup) of Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, England. Mercian Geologist, 13, 165-182.
Brignoli, P. M., 1993. A catalogue of the Aranaea described between 1940 and 1981. Manchester University Press.

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