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An Update on the Geology of the Black Country Graham Worton

(Keeper of Geology, Dudley Museum & Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark Lead Officer)

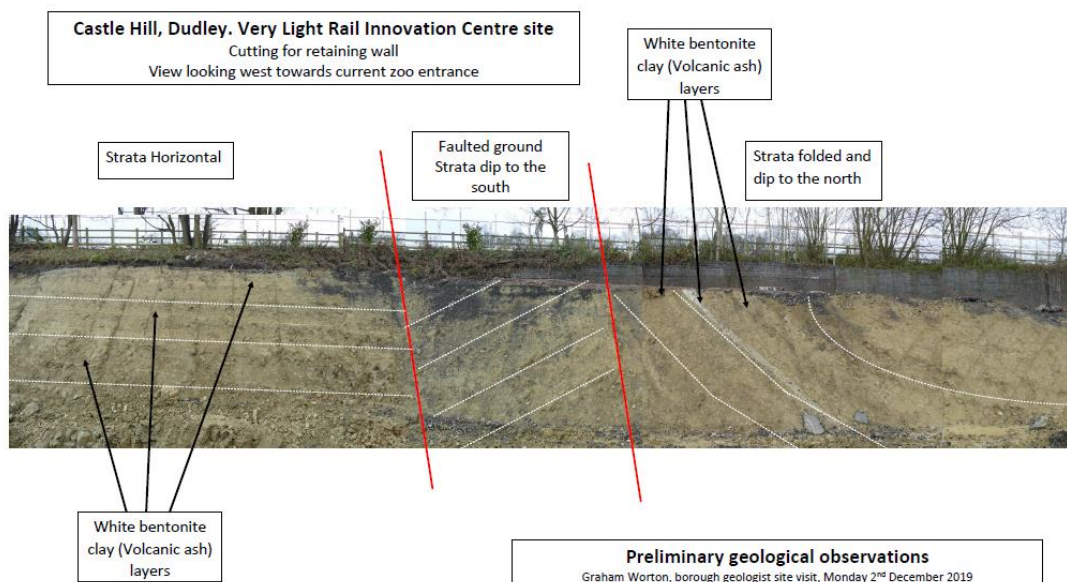
Tuesday 10th October 2023 | Mott MacDonald, 10 Livery St, Birmingham B3 3NU / Zoom Video Conference | 6:30pm start

Abstract:

This will be an update of the geology of the Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark area (South Staffordshire Coalfield and its immediate surroundings) particularly useful to those new to working in the complex ground conditions of the area. The talk will review established knowledge, draw together recent research and update the interpretation of the geology of this particularly complex and diverse geological terrain.

The talk will use a number of recent case studies to illustrate new geological discoveries and will highlight the emerging areas of research that are being encouraged by international agendas such as the Global Geopark Network and national initiatives such as the UK governments recently published Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. The Geopark is in the process of establishing a new research group to identify gaps in our knowledge of both pure and applied aspects of the geology of the area and investigate its intrinsic links to cultural heritage and Biodiversity Net Gain.

There are considerable opportunities for members of the West Midlands Group of the Geological Society to be involved with this research work to foster the acquisition of new knowledge that will help us all to better understand the detailed nature of the ground beneath the Black Country.



2020 excavations at Castle Hill Dudley for the Very Light Rail retaining wall revealing complex tectonic structures on the side of the Castle Hill anticline

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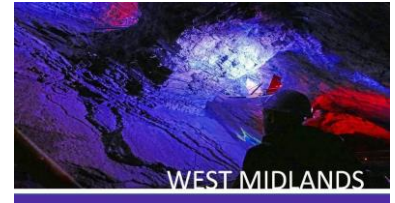
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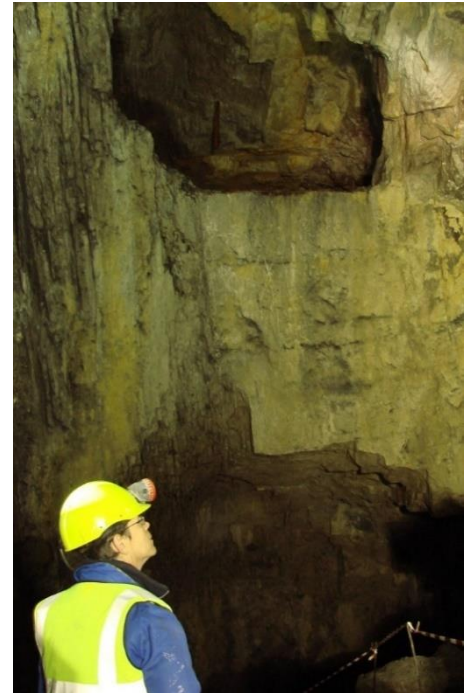
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About the Speaker:

Graham been a professional geologist since graduation in 1984 working in the UK and overseas. He worked as researcher with Ecotec Research and Consulting Ltd as the geologist in a multi-disciplinary contaminated land unit until taking a role as senior environmental geologist with Johnson Poole and Bloomer working with contaminated land remediation, landfill design and mine stabilisation. In 2000, he took the role of keeper of Geology at Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and has been a lead advisor in geological heritage aspects of planning and development and lead on geoconservation across the Black Country Authorities. Within his roles in industry or the public sector he has supported the further education and training of early careers geologists throughout his career as borough geologist and keeper of Geology since 2000.

His interests in academic and applied geology have existed in parallel throughout his career and he has developed particular experience advising on heritage aspects of active planning applications for development and particularly in environmental, engineering and tourism projects. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society and a Chartered Geologist. He is also chairman of the Black Country Geological Society. Since 2008 he was the lead officer for the establishment of a Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark, to recognise and use the exceptional geological heritage of the area . This became a reality in July 2020.



His attitude and passion has gained a number of accolades and respect within museum and engineering circles where he has been nominated for a number of awards by colleagues and groups These include; the Les Nichol Award from the Midlands Geotechnical Society for services to Geology in the Midlands and the profession. 2013 Awarded the Halstead Medal of the Geologists Association of Great Britain for 'work of outstanding merit for the promotion of geology and public engagement' 2016 Awarded the Brighton Medal of the Geological Curators Group of the Geological Society of London in recognition of breadth of Graham's work.

Forthcoming Talks:

Date	Title	Speaker	Venue
Tuesday 14 th November 06:30pm start	Jurassic Railway: Engineering Geology of HS2 in the South Midlands	Simon Butler, Atkins/HS2	Mott MacDonald's Birmingham office / Zoom Video Conference

The WMRG is constantly on the lookout for fascinating talks. If you would like to present, know someone who is willing, or would like to request a subject please contact the WMRG committee (details below) and we will try our very best to accommodate your requests.

Contact:

For all enquiries regarding the West Midlands Regional Group and events please contact us using the details below.

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