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Mercia Mudstone, Salt and Gypsum

Adrian Collings

(Arup)

9th March 2021 | Zoom Video Conference | 6:30pm start

Abstract:

The Mercia Mudstone Group (or formerly Keuper Marl) is a sequence of predominately mudrock geological units which underlie much of central and southern England. Deposited in the mid to late Triassic the Mercia Mudstone was laid down in three main ways; settling-out of mud and silt in temporary lakes, rapid deposition of silt and fine sand sheets and the accumulation of wind-blown dust on wet mudflats.

The Mercia Mudstone Group is composed predominately of red, occasionally grey and green mudstones and siltstones. Interbedded at certain stratigraphic levels are also substantial Sandstone and evaporite beds, typically Halite, which can cause significant problems during construction.



The talk is focussed on the Mercia Mudstone Formation. It will explore geological context and background, provide a brief history of research and a summary of nomenclature.

The talk will also consider salt and gypsum deposits associated with the Mercia Mudstone in terms of occurrence and solution. Specifically, it will cover the occurrence of salt in the Needwood Basin, Stafford Basin and Cheshire Basin.

Finally, a summary of a presentation given to the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) in 2019 will provide an overview of Mercia Mudstone Periglacial weathering processes.

About the Speakers:

For many years Adrian Collings was the Senior Geologist in the Arup Midlands Geotechnical Team. Projects he has been involved with include the West Midlands Limestone Study, the Review of Mining Instability in Great Britain, the M6 Toll, the

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Etiihad Stadium, and more recently HS2. Overseas he has also been involved with highway projects in Canada, airport schemes in Turkey and the Statue of Unity in India.

He has served on the Geological Society Engineering Group Committee and on the West Midlands Regional Group of the Geological Society as Chair and Treasurer.

After retirement at the beginning of 2020, Adrian continues to work with the Arup Midlands Geotechnical Team as a consultant and was awarded the Les Nichol Award by the Midland Geotechnical Society in 2020 for exemplary commitment to the profession of Ground Engineering.

Forthcoming Talks:

DATE	TITLE	SPEAKER	VENUE
Tuesday 13 th April 2021	Cold Supraglacial Volcanic Deposits and their effects on Glacial Ablation	Dr Laura Hobbs (Lancaster University)	Zoom Video Conference
Tuesday 11 th May 2021	What is a Geological Disposal Facility?	Jonathan Turner (Radioactive Waste Management)	Zoom Video Conference
Tuesday 8 th June 2021	Chartership Evening (TBC)	Shaun Richardson (Geological Society)	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.

In line with the thematic year programme, 2021 will be the Geological Society's Year of Space. The Year of Space will see the Society direct its gaze upwards and outwards, beyond the earth beneath our feet, towards the lesser explored corners of our universe. Space science seeks to answer some of life's biggest questions – why are we here, how did life evolve, and are we alone?



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