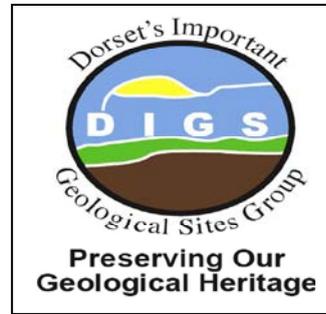


# Minutes for DIGS Meeting 7.00 pm Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dorset Wildlife Trust, Brooklands Farm, Forston



1. **Present:** Andy Bradley, Alan Holiday, Charles Jackson, Geoff Pettifer, Paul Ramsden, Geoff Rowland, Malcolm Wright
2. **Apologies for absence:** Jeremy Cranmer, Ian Hacker, Kelvin Huff, Rhiannon Rogers, Niall Simpson, Pat and Roger Snelgrove, Jo Thomas, Giles Watts.
3. **Minutes** of last meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018) and matters arising. The minutes were taken as read and there were no matters arising.
4. **Financial update:** Lloyds balance of £584.82. Nationwide is 3358.08.
5. **Recent happenings:**
  - (a) **Death of Doreen Smith** and its impact. Alan gave a brief account of the sad and sudden death of Doreen who had been a very important person in the local geological community for many years. She was a founder member of DIGS as well as being the newsletter editor and web manager for DGAG. She was always very generous with her time and her passing will leave a major gap, but also a lasting legacy.
  - (b) **DGAG field trip to Portland:** The trip was a success helped by favourable weather. The visit to Albion Stone's Jordan Mine was extremely interesting and provided evidence of the significant way it has developed over the past 10 years or so. The open days run by Albion Stone are always very interesting. This was followed by visit to several localities on Portland and despite limited participants the day was a great success.
  - (c) **Report on Fleet Study Group** meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July. Items of relevance to DIGS members was that (a) no progress on coastal access along the Fleet, determining the route of the Coast Path through the Ilchester Estate land north of Langton Hive Point. (b) A code of conduct for fossil collecting along the Fleet is being worked on by Sam Scriven (Jurassic Coast Trust) and Charlie Wheeler (Fleet Warden). There was a presentation by Peter Emery about the use of dowsing for archaeological research. He reported finding evidence of a number of Roman remains at the northern end of the Fleet around Shipmoor Point. He also had some rather strange ideas about the Romans getting coal from Kent. It seemed that there was a need for a geologist during the exploration!
  - (d) **Visit by Belgian film team** (14<sup>th</sup> June). Sofie Benoot visited some DIGS sites and hopes to return on September 27<sup>th</sup> to carry out some filming of conservation activities hopefully at the Upwey Cutting. However, given the current weather it is difficult to know whether any clearance will be possible!
  - (e) **Lewis Quarries dinosaur footprints** (29<sup>th</sup> June). Alan was contacted by Brian Smith at Lewis Quarries and he visited the site near Acton with Ian West. The footprints were discovered in the winter and the quarry management wanted them recorded before further quarrying took place. Prof. Matthew Bennett from Bournemouth University was also present, and he returned on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June to fully record the prints. They appeared to be similar to those in Keates Quarry in terms of horizon but were not particularly clear.

(f) **DGAG Field Trip to Worbarrow Bay** (21 July). This was due to be the Chairman's Picnic but due to the death of Doreen Smith it was just a normal field trip. The highlight was probably a tree trunk around 3 metres long in the Wealden Series.

(g) Following the death of Doreen Smith DGAG will have to generate a new website <https://dorsetgeologists.weebly.com/> and a newsletter is to be published at least four times a year (thanks to Kelvin Huff).

6. **Rodwell Cutting developments.** See papers already circulated from Geoff Pettifer. It was agreed that the Rodwell Trail should be designated as a Local Geological Site (DIGS site) with the agreement of local parties and letters with suitable documentation will be sent out imminently. Thanks to Geoff for his efforts on this development.

7. **Sites and conservation:**

Reports on recent site visits (a) Ridgeway Cutting (30<sup>th</sup> May & 19<sup>th</sup> June). This work was a success following the two visits.

(b) Wanderwell, Further work has been carried out at Wanderwell and another session is planned for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

(c) Holt Farm and Evershot recce showed that work is needed and Andy and Geoff will visit Evershot Friday pm after Wanderwell. A session at Holt Farm will be organised when a brush cutter is available.

(d) Rockpit Farm (13<sup>th</sup> July) was successful and the site is now in good condition. Periodic visits have meant that it becomes easier to look after the site. The recent visit was also interesting because of the fossils that were collected from the basal Chalk.

(e) Red Lane 14<sup>th</sup> July & 16<sup>th</sup> July were visited in preparation for visit by the Rockwatch Group during their annual residential visit to Leeson House (Swanage). Todber Recce 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Planned work** to be carried out in the next two months. **Wanderwell** 27.7.18, **Portesham Farm** 31.7.18 (also for Rockwatch visit on 1.8.18). **Todber** Church Lane and Birds Quarry 6.8.18. **Poxwell** 3.9.18.

**Swanworth Quarry** report from Geoff Pettifer already circulated. Thanks to Geoff for attending the community liaison meeting on 12.7.18 and providing the detailed report.

8. **Future Events:**

(a) Fossil Fayre, Square and Compass, Worth Matravers 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a DIGS / DGAG presence on the two days (11.00-17.00), support welcome from members.

(b) Rockwatch visit to Dorset 31<sup>st</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August. As mentioned the group will visit Red Lane and Portesham as well as Kimmeridge and sites in Purbeck.

(c) DGAG field trip Charterhouse, Mendips (9<sup>th</sup> August.), contact Malcolm Wright if you are interested in attending.

(d) Hampshire Fossil and Mineral Show, Lyndhurst, (1.9.18). We have been asked to be present (Doreen Smith used to attend). There will be a DIGS / DGAG presence at the show, 10.00 to 16.30 at Community Centre. Again help would be appreciated.

(e) Memorial event for Doreen Smith, Etches Museum, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

(f) DIGS / Wessex OUGS conservation/field trip Langton Matravers Crack Lane. (21.10.18)

9. **Any other business:** None

10. **Date of next meeting:** AGM & General Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> September?

Alan Holiday 25.7.18