

Tedbury Camp and Vallis Vale by Alan Holiday, Chairman Dorset Geologists' Association Group

I visited Tedbury Camp and Vallis Vale again on Saturday 17th September during a field trip for South Wales Geologists' Association. I was struck again by the disparity in the state of these two outstanding geological sites which I have visited many times over the past 20 years or so. Tedbury Camp is now in a pretty



Newly-cleared Tedbury Camp

pristine state as a result of efforts by a number of people coordinated by Martin Whitely. The most recent conservation, in August this year, was mentioned at the Worcester Conference on geoconservation. Members of Dorset Geological Association, Dorset's Important Geological Sites Group and Wessex Open University Geological Society have helped in this work over the last two years.

The SSSI sites at Hapsford Bridge and Vallis Vale continue to be in a declining state despite some work earlier in the summer which was curtailed by the removal of Government funding. The Hapsford Bridge section is overgrown and spoilt by rubbish that has been dumped. The Vallis Vale unconformity surface

is over grown and the classic face is become obscured by shrubby growth. There is also no readily available information on these sites to emphasise their importance while there is a wealth of information on Tedbury Camp on the ESTA website. I have attached this report to an email to Jonathan Larwood at Natural England in the hope that some local initiative can rescue this exceptional site before it deteriorates any further.

After the success of the morning at Red Lane Abbotsbury on Sunday 18th September reported elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter (as well as the work at Tedbury Camp mentioned above) it is obvious that all it needs is a small group of volunteers to make a real difference. Wessex OUGS will be at Vallis Vale in February 2012, so if anyone has not visited the site perhaps you should try and sign up for that trip. Before then I hope a conservation session can be arranged.



The overgrown de la Beche site needs clearance

.....and a final howler!

Geologists enjoy Nappes between thrusts!