

Knighton Mapping Project – Autumn 2015

Having just returned from the Marches Geology conference, where I met up with Adrian, Neil and Mike, and had a chat with Alan, and an e-mail from Sue, then I thought that I would take a few minutes to note down where things have got to.

Status of surveying

A good deal of work has been done during this first season of work – significant progress has been made by : Mike Brooks, Paul Bate, John Moseley , Ingrid Darnley and Arthur Tingley.

Progress has been slower with Neil Raha, Adrian Wyatt and Alan Hughes with Sue Chester, although it seems that they are each planning to work in the Autumn. Certainly in some areas then Spring and Autumn will be best time to do work.

I have received a lot of reports back from Paul Bate, he has kept me very well informed of his progress, and he has nearly completed the initial survey of his area. He in common with most of the surveyors is quite nervous of writing down his geological observations, so I am going over his reports to ensure that they hold the data needed. The Field Sheet and the traverse report , with photographs is the core [only] repository of the data, so it needs to be complete. From that I also observed that we need to have a simple but co-ordinated reference numbering system, hence my additional note on that subject.

It was very useful to both Paul and me to go over his work and identify issues that we could both improve upon, and indeed use. Also almost immediately after he showed me some of his samples it usefully extended my knowledge to east of my sheet boundary.

My own reports are not quite so pristine, but after each survey I compile a dossier of data for each traverse, and this forces me to label my samples and put them in sequence and context, sometimes this leads me on to compile a vertical log, and in doing so the clouds are beginning to clear. Thus posing questions for the next field trip, and steering my direction of travel next time.

I am going append some examples of my and Pauls work so that you can see how each of us has presented our notes. Not forgetting that whatever is written down will become the archive of our work. It does not need to be perfect, it's a notebook which others in the future will need to look at, [but one look at a BGS geologists notebook would convince you that yours is fine ! Hence why they bury them deep in the archives, if they survive at all]. Anyway, by way of generating feedback and continuous improvement, then I would encourage you to give me some scans of your work so that we can compare , contrast and learn from each others method and weaknesses; it actually is the only way out of your potential nervousness about whether your work is 'good enough' – reduction of uncertainty = confidence= action.

My use of your notes and the field slips will be to work out the fair copy, depending on the amount of detail that you provide, we will either use your work directly or visit important sites which you have pinpointed.

I am also attaching a traverse spreadsheet which I keep up to date for my area, showing my locations and reference numbers. This helps me to index my observations and make sure that the cross referencing is accurate. The problem is that as I mark things on the map directly then I don't write down the grid ref. so I need to correct that tendency.

Reporting progress communications between us

Feedback has been quite slow , not least because I don't want to harass you, because you need time to find your feet. However, silence is not actually that helpful either, so it would be healthy if there are problems to let me know what they are, so we can do something about it. As we move on next year, each others results will become more important to the rest of us. Even if things are going very well then it is very comforting to everybody to know that its working. So...

We can just simply e-mail each other, and eventually meet up, but probably when you are all less busy with life in general, however there is a plan B...

Mike Brooks has also been busy setting up a 'reporting database', not to replace the hard copy field slips, but to provide a secondary avenue for reporting progress. One of the biggest challenges is to know where things have got to, and a flow of communication between us. So Mike's system provides us with a 'platform' to report some of our more interesting results. He has sent you each an e-mail and password for that system. If you would like to go in and have a look around, then in the dark days of winter you might experiment with putting on the system some of your own observations. You will see that there are some observations on it from the rock atlas. I intend to especially put some structural data on it initially. Then if everybody at least put some dips on then we could see a pattern emerge. [I will be a bit slower putting images up as mine seem to be too big to just drop onto the system quickly, so I will have to choose carefully, and reduce the memory size].

However , in choosing images it might be worth considering this as another kind of reporting mechanism for illustrating to your colleagues what range of rock types [facies] that you are encountering. Thus only a representative sample would be needed.

I am actually holding off setting up a meeting between us for the moment, not least because I really want to see that everybody has been able to do some field work before we meet, otherwise we won't get the best out of it. Added to that it would be worth having a purpose rather than just a bit of a ramble. Maybe confidence building in describing and classifying rocks of this type , and then moving on to comparative facies identification/ correlation ?

Issues arising from the Murchison Meeting

I produced a 'poster' for the Murchison Meeting, you might be interested to see it, so I shall photograph that and send that to you as well.

I met with Tomas Jones –Durham University [bought up in Martley] he has taken away some of my specimens and will be making some up into rock slides for analysis, and using the Electron Microscope to get at the constituents.

Discussion with David Siveter [Leicester Uni] regarding micropalaeontology , all the specialists have died off !! One look at the circulation list of the Pander Society [yes that is the name off the international specialist conodont society !!] shows that UK only have 3 living specialists in this field, and none of them answer their phone.

And finally, I am beginning to lose track of what I have sent out to you or not, so I have made a list t of what documentation you should have. If you have not got it then I will send out again as needed.

Is there anything else that you would like me to cover ?

Documentation to date

Field Slips for your area

References covering your area

Guidelines for Surveyors

Appendix to the above

Note on reference numbering

Rock Atlas

Travers Sheets [ie notebook]

Travers Log [Excel spreadsheet] – appended here