
Exploring the landscape of Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel

A walkers' guide to the rocks and landscape of Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel

by Keith Ambrose, John Carney, Graham Lott, Gill Weightman and Annette McGrath

Bibliographic reference: Ambrose, K, Carney, J N, Lott, G K, Weightman, G, And McGrath, A. 2007. Exploring the landscape of Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel. A walkers' guide to the rocks and landscape of Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.

Cover photograph: The front cover features scenes from Bradgate Park. The main picture is a view eastwards across Cropston Reservoir, with cleaved Precambrian rocks in the foreground. In this park can be found typical Charnwood walking country, the famous landmark of Old John Tower, and herds of deer.

Walking photograph: ©Libraryphotos.com. Deer photograph: ©istockphoto.com

Old John Tower photograph: Reproduced by permission of the Bradgate Park Trust

Contents

[Contents](#)

[Welcome to Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel](#)

Useful information

Further reading

The National Forest

Further information

Acknowledgements

[Walking in Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel](#)

The geological timescale

Plate tectonics and the rocks of Charnwood Forest

Precambrian — volcanoes, seas and the dawn of life

Cambrian — the sea advances

Ordovician — more magmatism

Silurian and Devonian — orogeny, and the Caledonides mountain belt

Carboniferous — warm seas and coral reefs

Permian and Triassic — deserts and mountains

Jurassic and Cretaceous — tropical seas

Quaternary — the Great Ice Age

[Walk 1: Buck Hill, Out Woods and Beacon Hill](#)

[Walk 2: Bardon Hill](#)

[Walk 3: Cademan Wood and Grace Dieu](#)

[Walk 4: Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve](#)

[Walk 5: Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood](#)

[Walk 6: Ordovician granodiorite at Castle Hill and quarry, Mountsorrel](#)

[Walk 7: Morley Quarry](#)

[Walk 8: Blackbrook Reservoir](#)

[Walk 9: Mount St Bernard Abbey](#)

[Walk 10: Hill Hole Quarry, Markfield](#)

[Walk 11: Tickow Lane](#)

[Minerals of Charnwood Forest](#)

[Charnwood's quarries](#)

[Stone in Charnwood Forest's buildings](#)

[Geological glossary](#)

(Front cover) Front cover

(Rear cover) Rear cover

A walkers' guide showing the rocks and landscape of Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel



Exploring the landscape of
Charnwood Forest
and Mountsorrel



Front cover.



Charwood Forest in Leicestershire has highly distinctive scenery, with crags of ancient Precambrian rocks jutting through a cover of much younger strata. These ancient rocks have long fascinated geological enthusiasts. Illustrated in this map and guidebook are the many discoveries made in this area, including the 'roots' of volcanoes and Britain's oldest fossils.

Explore 600 million years of geology through a series of walks and discover the evolution of the Leicestershire landscape. You will see natural rock exposures and many quarries resulting from the rich industrial heritage of the area. There is something here for everyone, from the Sunday stroller to the keen walker, as well as both amateur and professional geologists. We hope you enjoy exploring the landscape of Charwood Forest.



British Geological Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Rear cover.