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# Geoconservation Workshop

**Primary Speaker: Lesley Dunlop, Senior Technician, Northumbria University**

**Support Speakers: John Crossling (WGCG), Alan Richardson (Earth Heritage Trust)  
Andrew Harrison (BCGS)**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Birmingham and Midlands Institute

Refreshments at 6.00pm for a 6:30pm start

Geoconservation is an expanding and dynamic activity that is well established in the UK, Europe and many other parts of the world. With the growth of UNESCO Global Geoparks there is a growing, strong international community involving more countries than ever before. It is possible to demonstrate how geoconservation can inform and enlighten the public and how geological and geomorphological features, processes, sites and specimens can contribute to the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development.

Put simply geoconservation can be defined as action taken with the intent of conserving and enhancing geological and geomorphological features, processes, sites and specimens. As successful conservation often depends on understanding and valuing the feature, process, site, or specimens to be conserved, the actions taken often also include promotional and awareness raising activities. Geoconservation usually involves working with natural change to retain a feature of interest, for example, maintaining a clear exposure of a stratigraphical sequence in an eroding cliff, despite the erosion. It is not about stopping the erosion and freezing the exposure in time.

Within the UK Geoconservation would never have happened without those who advocated and got involved in making it happen. Important roles have been played by so many individuals, communities, societies, associations, groups, organizations, governments, landowners and business interests. At the local and regional level, the work of local communities, natural history societies, RIGS groups (now GCUK) and Geology Trusts, museums, cave owners, managers, enthusiasts, private companies and local authorities is vital. Geoconservation is only really effective with local buy-in, and local buy-in can only be secured by local champions and local action. Throughout the history of geoconservation, local action has provided examples of good practice that have been picked up and disseminated at national and international level.

**About the Speaker: Lesley Dunlop** is Fellow and Council Member of the Geological Society of London and serves on the Geoconservation Committee. She is Chair of both the English Geodiversity Forum and GeoConservationUK and is a member of the Executive Committee of ProGEO (European Geoconservation). Locally she works with Berkshire Geoconservation Group and Oxfordshire Geology Trust to raise awareness and conserve sites in these areas. Away from geoconservation she is doing research using geophysical techniques.

**Forthcoming Talks:** The WMRG is constantly on the lookout for fascinating talks. If you would like to present, or know someone who is willing, please contact the WMRG committee (details below) and we will try our very best to accommodate your requests.

**Contact:** For all enquiries regarding the West Midlands Regional Group and events please contact us using the details below.



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