

Geological Society of Glasgow

Macgregor's Guide to the Geology of Arran

J.G.MacDonald & A.Herriott (editors) 1983

When it was suggested in August 2014 that a new feature in the society website on local sites of geological interest should have links to the appropriate published field itineraries, I agreed to look into the possibility of including the three relevant itineraries from Macgregor's guide, namely:

Excursion 4: Corrie Shore

Excursion 7: Loch Ranza, North Newton and Cock of Arran

Excursion 13: Drumadoon and the Tormore Dykes

As copy of the above itineraries was originally prepared on now obsolete electronic media it is no longer available. Creation of facsimile copies was considered inappropriate as the quality of the maps was insufficiently good and in any case changes in local access, the availability of a more up-to-date 1:50 000 BGS geological map Arran, revision of stratigraphy and important research published since 1983 have devalued the usefulness of the 1983 field guide.

Accordingly I agreed to re-type the three excursion itineraries but to undertake some revision of the text and to add photographs where appropriate and available from my collection. When I started on the revision of the Corrie Shore itinerary I quickly realised that a more extensive revision was needed. This required a short visit to Arran during which I visited all the localities on the Corrie Shore and in addition spent a limited amount of time checking up on a number of other coastal localities around the north of the island, concentrating on some of those featured in the other two itineraries.

The revised Corrie Shore itinerary is a shortened version of a more complete revision that is of an extent suitable for inclusion in a future edition of the full guide. The other two are less extensively revised but provide the basis for full revisions incorporating the latest published data and other information gleaned from recent and forthcoming visits to Arran. I feel it to be inappropriate to publish the full revisions of the itineraries for free access on the web as this could prejudice the commercial viability of a new guide.

I propose to return to Arran periodically this year and next to continue work on the preparation of a new guide to the geology of Arran. The offer made at a recent meeting of Council that I might receive assistance in this project, especially in the testing of the itineraries and access to some of the more challenging terrains of the island, is enthusiastically embraced. Chris Burton kindly agreed to proof read the three short itineraries that have been completed. His thoroughness and attention to detail have eliminated a number of pitfalls that might otherwise have been unattended to.

Jim MacDonald
5th February 2015