

# OR/19/054 Introduction

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Gareth Farr<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Graham<sup>2</sup>, Andy Marriott<sup>1</sup> & Elliott Hamilton<sup>1</sup>. 2019. Survey of selected tufa forming sites in Staffordshire, UK. *British Geological Survey Internal Report*, OR/19/054.

1 *British Geological Survey*

2 *Fenland Botanical Surveys*

Tufa sites are not well described for Staffordshire. Calcareous tufa forming springs, seepages and water courses with the mosses *Palustriella commutata*, *Palustriella falcata* qualify as the European habitat 'H7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)'. Naturally occurring tufa forming springs and seepages are important wildlife habitats, especially for invertebrates, but remain little known in Britain for invertebrates (Boyce, 2002<sup>[1]</sup>). Several tufa-forming sites are known to occur within existing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but are not directly referenced within the citations. The aim of this survey is to report on a small selection (7) of known tufa sites within Staffordshire determine the presence of H7220 habitat and make recommendations for enhancement. This is not a comprehensive survey of Staffordshire's tufa forming habitats.

Table 1 Site location, geology and occurrence of tufa and H7220 habitat.

Site	Grid Ref	Flow	Site description & geology	Active Tufa	Palustriella	H7720
<b>Stanton Pastures</b>	SK1198 246962	Springhead	Spring head with tufa dome in open field. Carboniferous Bowland Shale.	Yes	<i>P. falcata</i>	Yes
<b>Limestone Hill</b>	SK1381 646140	Seepage	Wooded stream valley (Ordley Brook) with waterfall and adjoining seepages with tufa. Sandstones of the Triassic. Chester Formation.	Yes	<i>P. commutata</i>	Yes
<b>Kirksteads Brook</b>	SK0908 056817	Surface water brook	Lightly wooded brook with series of tufa barrages. Carboniferous Ecton Limestone formation.	Yes	No	No
<b>Trickle Ridge</b>	SK0069 248260	Seepage	Tufa seepage in woodland with large tufa block 'Trickle Ridge'. Carboniferous Woodhead Hill Rock.	Yes	<i>P. commutata</i>	Yes
<b>Emerald Cave</b>	SK0050 748425	Seepage	Tufa seepage in woodland with localised tufa domes. Carboniferous Woodhead Hill Rock.	Yes	<i>P. commutata</i>	Yes
<b>Booth's Wood</b>	SK0008 848546	Seepage	Wooded seepage with small amounts of tufa. Carboniferous Lower Coal Measures formation.	Yes	<i>P. commutata</i>	Yes
<b>The Petrifaactions</b>	SJ9209 634761	Seepage	Wooded valley with shallow waterfalls, steep rock faces with tufa. Triassic Kibblestone member and Mercia. Mudstone Group.	Yes	<i>P. commutata</i>	Yes

## References

1. <sup>[1]</sup> BOYCE, D C. 2002. *English Nature Research Report Number 452: A review of seepage invertebrates in England*.

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