

2012 FIELD TRIP PROGRAMME

Saturday May 5th

The HERTFORDSHIRE PUDDINGSTONE MYSTERY

Led by Graham Williams

The Puddingstone lurks in Hertfordshire's fields, where it attacks farmers' ploughs. Puddingstone fragments were treated as Pagan idols, Breeding stones, Growing stones and Hagstones (Witch stones). Where does it hide? How was it formed? When was it formed? Perhaps it really is a Breeding stone growing randomly in the fields. We tour the area around Hertford and Much Hadham to find out more.

Sunday to Sunday June 10th – 16th

GEOLOGY OF NORTHERN NORTHUMBERLAND

Led by Dr Leslie Dunlop

Wooler provides easy access to the Cheviot Hills and the coast. We will examine the Silurian strata into which the volcanic complex of the Cheviots was emplaced, and look at later Devonian and Lower Carboniferous sediments. The most recent bedrock is the Whin Sill dolerite, seen most dramatically on the coast at Lindisfarne. Two of Hutton's unconformities, which shaped his theories, are at Siccar Point and Jedburgh. Finally, we hope to visit the Farne Islands to see the Whin Sill and the wildlife. We stay at the Tankerville Arms 17thC coaching inn, an independent family run hotel noted for its food.

Wednesday July 18th

BETCHWORTH & REIGATE, CHALK & GREENSAND

Led by Dr Graham Williams

We visit a disused Chalk quarry and a working Greensand quarry. The Reigate Greensand quarry shows not only particularly fine exposures of both sedimentary structures but also tectonic structures – unusual in such a friable sediment. Also, we will look at how to examine, describe and interpret rocks.

Friday to Monday, August 31st to September 3rd

THE YORKSHIRE DALES

Led by David Walmsley

Ingleton, Clitheroe, Malham, Salhill are all famous geological locations. We will see the geology of Craven Fault, Lower Palaeozoic sediments of the Askrig Block, the sub Carboniferous unconformity, Carboniferous Limestone reefs and **Waulsortian Mud Mounds**; also, water sinks and hydrogeology, limestone pavements, clints & grykes, and the relationship between geology and Romano-British and Norman archaeology. We stay in a typical Yorkshire budget hotel in Clapham,

Sunday September 30th

IVINGHOE & WOBURN

Led by Dr Graham Williams

The Ivinghoe Beacon walk demonstrates the relationship between rock, Quaternary (glacial and periglacial) processes and landscape; it provides one of the few opportunities to compare the Chalk Rock and the Middle Chalk which form such prominent landscape features. The Woburn Sands are justifiably famous for their shallow marine sedimentary structures including huge sand waves.

Saturday to Sunday October 13th to 14th

RIVERS THROUGH GEOLOGICAL TIME

Geologists' Association Conference

FGS members can join this conference at the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter. There will be a day of lectures by eminent geologists describing river systems from Pre-Cambrian to Quaternary times, followed by a day of field trips including Triassic, Tertiary and Quaternary fluvial sites. This promises to be a very exciting weekend.

I hope this programme will provide something of interest for everybody - interesting places, beautiful landscapes and seascapes, wild life and plants, ancient and modern rocks, building stones, ancient and "modern" archaeology and good food.

Please contact me if you wish to join any of the trips.

**Dr Graham M Williams
FGS Field Trip Secretary**