



Geologists' Association - South Wales Group **Cymdeithas Y Daearegwyr - Grŵp De Cymru**

Registered Charity Number 1054303

50 YEAR ARCHIVES 1960-2010 - FIELD MEETINGS

This section includes field meetings from 1960 to 2010.

The compilation has been taken from the field meeting programmes up to 1997 (passed to the Group in 2009/10 by Alun J Thomas (Secretary 1966-1989)), all cross checked against other records, then from various records up to 2010 including annual programmes, annual reports, newsletters etc. As far as possible, it is the actual meetings that are included; these are not necessarily those given in programme listings as meetings were sometimes changed at the last minute (eg bad weather, foot and mouth disease, illness).

It is possible that there are some meetings in the compilation that were actually cancelled but were not recorded as such. It is believed that this number is small.

Session 1 1960

Field Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1960

9 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Vale of Glamorgan: Llanharry iron ore mine; Carboniferous Limestone quarries at Ruthin (Triassic reptile fragments in fissure deposits); Ewenny; St Bride's; Bonvilston and Taff's Well; coastal sections of Lower Lias and Carboniferous Limestone between Ogmored-by-Sea and Southerndown.

Leader: Trevor M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Cardiff)

Approximate cost: 7/6d

Leave Fitzalan Place, Cardiff at 10.00am.

Packed lunch to be carried

Return to Cardiff about 5.30pm

23 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Head of the Vale of Neath: Fossiliferous Millstone Grit at Pont-nedd-fechan; faulting and sharp faulting associated with Neath Disturbance near Craig-y-dinas; Dinas silica levels; Port-yr-Ogof; Ystradfellte (weather permitting).

Leader: T.R. Owen (University College of Swansea)

Approximate cost: 10/-d

Leave Fitzalan Place, Cardiff at 9.30am, picking up at Neath (10.45 to 11.00)

Return to Cardiff about 7.00pm

Packed lunch to be carried

7 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Chepstow Area: Shore sections with Triassic-Carboniferous unconformity and Neptunian dykes, Beachley; Trias, Rhaetic and Lias section, Aust Cliff; Carboniferous Limestone and Old Red Sandstone exposure and incised meanders Monmouth; return to Cardiff across Old Red Sandstone and Trias country.

Leader: Professor J.G.C. Anderson (University College Cardiff)

Approximate cost: 12/6d

Leave Fitzalan Place, Cardiff at 9.15am.

Packed lunch to be carried

Return to Cardiff about 5.30pm

21 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Llandeilo-Llandovery Area: Cross Hands (discussion of regional structure); Llandeilo (fossiliferous Upper Silurian-Lower Old Red Sandstone); Fairfach (fossiliferous Llanvirn); Carreg Cennen (faulted Carboniferous Limestone outlier); Dynevor Park (fossiliferous Llandeilo); Llandovery, Halfway and Capel Horeb (fossiliferous Wenlock Limestone); Llangadock (river development); Caer Gals (fossiliferous Ludlow); Pont Clydach to Swansea (Brownstones, Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Coal Measures, Geomorphology and Faulting).

Leader: Professor F.H.T Rhodes (University College of Swansea)

Approximate cost: 12/6d

Leave Cardiff at 9.00am, picking up at Neath (10.30 to 10.45) and Swansea (11.15 to 11.30).

Packed lunch to be carried

Return to Cardiff about 8.00pm

[Possible visit to the North-East Crop of the Coalfield, with Dr RCK Blundell in September does not seem to have gone ahead]

BRITISH ASSOCIATION – CARDIFF MEETING

The British Association will hold its Annual Meeting in Cardiff this year from 31st August to the 7th September. Section C (Geology) will arrange, in addition to lectures, some 16 field excursions to various places of geological interest in South Wales. Details will be published in due course in the official hand-book.

It is also proposed to organise a joint Geologists' Association and British Association (Section C) Field Meeting from 8 September to 12 September inclusive, to examine the glacial geology on the southern shore of the Irish sea.

Session 2 1960-61

Field Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1961

15 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The geomorphology of Southwest Breconshire: Structural control of surface morphology; karstic or limestone scenery – swallow holes, dry valleys, limestone pavements, collapsed millstone grit; glaciated landforms – roches moutonnées, perched blocks, smoothed and striated surfaces; gully erosion.

Leader: Trevor M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Cardiff)

Cost: 10/-d-

Packed lunch to be carried

Leave Fitzalan Place, Cardiff 10.00am, Neath Bus Station 11am, Morriston Cross 11.30am

29 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The North East Crop of the South Wales Coalfield Mid-Coal Measure unconformity – Twm Barlwm near Risca; Lower Coal Series and topographical features of east crop near Pontypool; Millstone Grit of Blaenavon area; Carboniferous Limestone of Clydach Valley.

Leader: Dr C.R.K. Blundell (University College Cardiff)

Approx. cost: 10/-d

Leave Fitzalan Place, Cardiff 10.00am, Forge Lane 10.15am.

13-14 May, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Excursion to Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire:

Saturday 13th: Trias, Rhaetic, Lower Lias at Westbury-on-Severn; Middle Lias at Battledown Brickworks, Cheltenham; Middle Jurassic at Leckhampton Hill and Birdlip.

Sunday 14th: - Kimmeridge Clay, Portland Beds etc. at Wheatley Quarry, Oxford; Corallian sands and Coral Rag near Cummor; sponge gravels at Farringdon; the chalk scarp at Uffington.

Leaders: T.R. Owen (University College of Swansea), and B. Norris (Dynevor Grammar School, Swansea)

Coach: start from Swansea (Albert Hall) at 8.30am, Saturday 13th May, travelling via Neath (Neath Gardens), Bridgend (Bus Station), Cardiff (National Museum 10am approx) and Newport; returning to Swansea by 9pm on Sunday 14th May.

Cost of transport – from Swansea 25/-d: from Cardiff 20/-d.

Accommodation : arranged in and near Abingdon; approximate cost £2.

The party will be limited to 30 members, and those wishing to take part in the excursion should send a deposit of 10/-d with their application to the Excursion Secretary – Mr T.M.Thomas, Ministry of Housing & Local Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff not later than Saturday March 18th 1961

27 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Southeast Glamorgan Coast: Trias-Carboniferous unconformity at Sully Island; littoral Trias and Rhaetic-Lias succession around Lavernock; Keuper algal limestone in the Dinas Powis area. Some rough beach walking is involved.

Leader: Dr H. Ivimey-Cook (H.M. Geological Survey, London)

Approx. cost: 5/-d

Leave Fitzalan Place, Cardiff 10.00am.

3 June, Field Meeting, Saturday

The stones of Llandaff Cathedral:

Leader: Dr F.J. North (late of National Museum of Wales)

Approx. cost: 1/6d

23-24 September, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

The St Davids District:

Leaders: T.R.Owen (University College of Swansea), and D.B. Norris (Dynevor Grammar School, Swansea)

Session 3 1961-62

Field Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1962

31 March, Field Meeting, Saturday

Karstic features and Glacial landforms in the Millstone Grit and Carboniferous Limestone West of the Upper Tawe valley:

Leader: T.M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Cardiff)

Leave from Fitzalan Place, Cardiff (10.00a.m.), Bridgend Ewenny Road by-pass (10.30 a.m.), Railway Station, Port Talbot (11.00 a.m.), Neath Bus Station (11.15 a.m.), Morriston Cross (11.45 a.m.). Cost of bus: 10/-

Packed lunch to be carried. 4-5 miles walking in rough country.

14-15 April, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Saturday 14th - **The Cambrian geology of the Barmouth Area**

Sunday 15th - **Lower Ordovician geology of the Arthog Area:**

Leader: Dr D.A. Bassett (National Museum of Wales)

Leave from Fitzalan Place, Cardiff (8.0 a.m. prompt), Morriston Cross (9.45 a.m.)

Accommodation can be arranged in Dolgellau if required.

Hotels - 27/6 bed and breakfast; Boarding Houses - 15/- to 17/6 per head.

Approx. bus fare: £1.7.6.

Packed- lunch required on the first day. Return from Dolgelly, leaving about 5.0 p.m.,

Sunday 15th April.

28 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Drainage Evolution and Pennant Stratigraphy in Central North Glamorgan:

Leaders: W.S. Morgan (Neath Boys Grammar-Technical School), and D.B. Norris (Dynevor Grammar School Swansea) (advertised as G. Kelling)

12 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The South Gower Coast:

Leader: T.R. Owen (University College of Swansea)

Leave from Fitzalan Place, Cardiff (10.0a.m.), Bridgend Station (11.0a.m.).

Cost of bus: 10/-. Lunch to be carried.

26 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

A Geomorphological traverse of East South Wales from Cardiff to Penylan:

Leader: Dr Eric Brown (University College, University of London)

Leave from Fitzalan Place, Cardiff (10.0 a.m.).

Cost of bus: 10/-. Lunch to be carried.

Session 4 1962-63

Field Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1963

6 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Structure and Scenery of the Ystradfellte-Penderyn Area: Structures associated with the Neath Disturbance on Foel Penderyn; waterfalls and landslides in the Hepste and Mellte valleys; subterranean course of the Mellte at Porth yr Ogof; glacial landforms on Gwaun Cefn y Garreg etc.

Leader: T.M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Cardiff)

Total walking distance 4 miles. Packed lunch. Strong boots desirable.

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff, Fitzalan Place 10.00am (price 12/6), Bridgend, Ewenny Road By-pass or Laleston roundabout 10.45am (price 12/6), Neath Bus Station 11.30am (price 10/-). Booking closing date –30th March.

4 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

A Geological traverse of West Glamorgan and East Carmarthenshire: The route will embrace the lower Swansea valley, Brynamman, Black Mountain, Llangadock, Llandovery and Llandeilo. Details of the general descending sequence from Coal Measures through Millstone Grit to Carboniferous Limestone, Old Red Sandstone, Ludlow, Wenlock, Llandovery, Bala and Llandeilo beds will be noted. The complex structures near Llandeilo and Llangadock will also be described. Ample opportunities will be provided for fossil collecting.

Leaders: Professor F.H.T Rhodes and T.R.Owen (both University College of Swansea)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff, Fitzalan Place 9.30am (price 15/-), Bridgend, Ewenny Road By-pass or Laleston roundabout 10.15am (price 15/-), Neath Bus Station 11am (price 12/6), Morriston Cross 11.15am (price 10/-), Swansea Guildhall 11.30am (price 10/-). Booking closing date –27th April.

25 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

A Geological traverse of Southeast Monmouthshire and West Gloucestershire:

Special emphasis will be made of the facies variation within the Old Red Sandstone of the Newport, Caerleon, Usk and Monmouth areas. It is hoped also to note some features of the Carboniferous succession at the western end of the Forest of Dean coal basin. Opportunities might also be provided to study the minor igneous rock occurrences to the south-east of Usk.

Leader: Dr J.C.W. Baker (University College Cardiff)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Swansea Guildhall at 9.30am (price 15/-), Neath Bus Station 10am (price 15/-), Bridgend, Laleston roundabout or Ewenny Road By-pass 10.40am (price 12/6), Cardiff, Fitzalan Road 11.15am (price 10/-), Newport, Bassaleg Road Junction 11.40am (price 7/6), Newport Cenotaph 11.50am-12.00 (price 7/6). Booking closing date – 18th May.

[Possible visit to the Weston-super-Mare – Bristol area in September does not seem to have gone ahead]

Session 5 1963-64

Field Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1964

9 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

Underground visit to Nantgarw Colliery: The mining system at this reconstructed underground colliery will be described by National Coal Board officials. The seams in this sector of the South Crop dip southwards at about 36 degrees. Drifts are now being driven down-dip between the 280 and 380 yards main horizons.

Leader: T.M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Cardiff)

Stout boots and old clothing, together with soap and towel, are recommended.

Only 30 allowed. No charge, ample car parking at the colliery, regular bus services from Cardiff Central Bus Station. Booking closing date –1st May.

16 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

Igneous rocks of the Builth Wells Area: Laccolithic rocks and structures and the varied volcanic sequence in the Builth Wells-Llandrindod Wells Ordovician inlier will be examined at some of the more important exposures.

Leader: Dr J.C.W. Baker (University College Cardiff)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) at 9.00am price 17/6; Neath (Dorothy Hotel 200 yards west of Western Welsh bus station) at 10.15am price 15/-; Lamb Hotel, Penderyn at 10.40am price 12/6d. Booking closing date –30th April.

12-13 September, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

The Stratigraphy, Structure and Scenery of the Bala Area:

Stratigraphy – examination of exposures ranging in age from Llandeilian to the Bala Series.

Structure – traverses of some of the folds and faults in the Bala Fault zone.

Scenery – the influence of structure on the physical landscape.

Leader: Dr D.A. Bassett (National Museum of Wales)

Packed lunch on the Saturday.

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) at 9.00am (Saturday) price 35/-;

Neath (Dorothy Hotel 200 yards west of Western Welsh bus station) at 10.15am price 30/-;

Possibility of booking hotel/boarding house/youth hostel accommodation.

Booking closing date –12th September.

26-27 September, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Armorican structures and the stratigraphical succession between Amroth and Freshwater East:

Saturday, 26th Sept: Coal Measure succession and structures (with slump features) at Amroth, Wiseman's Bridge and Saundersfoot. Overnight stay at Tenby.

Sunday, 27th Sept: Millstone Grit succession in the North Sands cliffs and Carboniferous Limestone succession in the South Sands cliffs. If time permits a quick visit will be made to the Silurian and Old Red Sandstone exposures at Freshwater East. Ample opportunities will be provided for fossil collecting.

Leader: T.R. Owen (University College of Swansea)

Packed lunch on the Saturday.

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) at 9.00am (Saturday) price 30/-; Neath (Dorothy Hotel 200 yards west of Western Welsh bus station) at 10.15am; Swansea (Guildhall) at 10.45am - both at 25/-. Possibility of booking hotel/boarding house/youth hostel accommodation. Booking closing date -1st September.

Session 6 1964-65

Field Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1965

3 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Coastal Sections of the Ogmore-by-Sea and Southerndown area of the Vale of Glamorgan: A traverse will be made of the cliffed coastline east of Ogmore by Sea. This displays excellent exposure of highly fossiliferous Carboniferous Limestone (Upper Caninia zone), littoral Trias (in the form of 'boulder' breccias), littoral lower Lias and normal Lias. Special attention will be given to the narrow belt of intense 'Alpine' folding, with pitching folds, steep dips and faulted contacts, occurring in the vicinity of Witches Point, Southerndown.

Leader: T.M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Cardiff).

1 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Geomorphology of the Country between Swansea and Carmarthen: Late Tertiary planation surfaces and drainage evolution; Pleistocene shorelines, marine platform surfaces and drainage evolution; glacial drainage channels; glacial lake Loughor – did it really exist?.

Leader: Dr David Q. Bowen (University College of Wales Aberystwyth)

22 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

(i) **The Hydrology and Morphology of the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu Cave System, Upper Tawe Valley:** A descent will be made of this extensive cave system near the resurgence point. A few hours will be spent underground examining the main features of interest.

Leader: R. Alan Stevens (College of Advanced Technology Cardiff)

(ii) **Structure and scenery of the Cribarth Ridge and the Upper Tawe Valley:** An ascent of the Cribarth will be made for the purpose of noting the regional setting – fine panoramic views are afforded in all directions. Exposure of Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit will be examined, especially on the flanks of the sharp folds running in a general SW-NE direction immediately west of the main ridge. After returning to the valley floor fossil fish localities in the Old Red Sandstone will be visited. If time permits and provided there is sufficient response a quick trip into the Dan yr Ogof cave might be arranged.

Leader: T.R. Owen (University College of Swansea).

2-3 October, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

North Pembrokeshire and South Cardiganshire: overnight stay at Cardigan town.

Leaders: Drs Gilbert Kelling and Wallace Bloxam (University College of Swansea)

Session 7 1965-66

Field Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1966

2 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Periglacial Landforms of the Brecon Beacons:

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff, Fitzalan Place (10.00am) price 12/6; Corn Stores, Pontypridd (10.30am) price 9/-, NW slip road opposite High Flats southern end of Merthyr Tydfil centre (11.00am) price 7/-.

Leader: Mr. Colin Lewis (Lecturer in Physical Geography, University College, Dublin / University College of Wales Aberystwyth).

23 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Succession in the Basal Coal Measures between Abercrave and Aberdare:

Leader: T.R. Owen (Senior Lecturer, Geology Department, University College of Swansea)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff, Fitzalan Place (10.00am) price 15/-; Bridgend, Ewenny Road roundabout price 12/6d; Neath, Western Welsh Bus Station (11.20am) 10/-, Swansea, Morryston Cross (11.40am) 7/6d

7 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

Geology of the Chepstow, Beachley, Severn Bridge and Monmouth Areas:

Leader: Professor J. Graham Anderson (Geology Department, University College, Cardiff)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff, Fitzalan Place (10.00am) price 15/-; Newport (Kingsway, outside main bus station on slip road) price 10/-.

8-9 October, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Geology of the Ludlow-Wenlock Edge area:

Leader: Dr Victor G. Walmsley (Senior Lecturer, Geology department, University College, Swansea)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Guildhall Place, near Brangwyn Hall, Swansea 8.30am (price 30/-); Neath, north end of Victoria Gardens main bus station 9.00am (price 25/-); Cardiff, Fitzalan Place 10.15am; Newport main bus station, Kingsway on slip road, 10.45am (price 25/-). Accommodation booked for participants in Ludlow for Saturday night.

Session 8 1966-67

Excursion Secretary : Trevor M. Thomas

1967

8 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Millstone Grit of the Rhymney Bridge Area: Detailed zonal mapping will be explained in the field and ample opportunities provided for fossil collecting.

Leader: D. Emlyn Evans (Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff, Fitzalan Place (10.00am) price 10/-; Pontypridd (Corn Stores) (10.30am) price 8/-. Booking closing date –1st April.

22 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Upper Bala and Llandoverly rocks of the Rhayader, Elan Valley and Claerwen Areas: Special attention will be given to turbidite exposures as well as slumping and channelling in the coarser sediments.

Leader: Dr Gilbert Kelling (Department of Geology, University College, Swansea)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 9.00am - price 22/6; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) 10.15am 20/-; Morriston Cross 10.25am - price 20/-. Booking closing date - 12th April.

27 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Old Red Sandstone of the Area lying north and north-west of the Forest of Dean Coalfield: Emphasis will be placed on the problems of sedimentation.

Leader: Dr John R.L. Allen (Sedimentology Research Laboratory, Department of Geology, University of Reading)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 9.00am - price 17/6; Newport, (Tredegar Park, western roundabout on new by-pass) 9.30am price - 14/-; Newport (roundabout at eastern end of new by-pass beyond Christchurch) 9.40am - (price 14/-). Booking closing date - 15th May.

10 September, Field Meeting, Sunday, Joint Excursion with Bristol Naturalists' Society -

Geology of the central section of the Vale of Glamorgan: A visit will be made to an active opencast coal site in the Heolycwm area before proceeding to the Ewenny and Ogmere by Sea - Southerndown areas to examine highly fossiliferous Carboniferous Limestone and Lower Lias exposures, Triassic pipe infillings and boulder breccias and locally intense Alpine folding.

Leader: T. M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Cardiff)

Reply slip indicates pickup at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 10.00am - price 10/-). Booking closing date - 28th August.

16-17 September, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Geology of the Mendip Hills:

Saturday, 16th Sept: Mesozoic/Carboniferous unconformities in the eastern Mendips, haemetite and manganese mineralisation, fissures in the Carboniferous Limestone, Douling Stone Quarry and andesites of Moon Hill. Overnight stay at Bristol.

Sunday, 17th Sept: Burrington Coombe sections in Carboniferous Limestone and Dolomitic conglomerate, old mining areas of Charterhouse and Priddy, Wookey Hole and Cheddar.

Leader: Mr Reg Bradshaw (Department of Geology, University of Bristol)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Swansea (Guildhall) at 8.30am - price 32/6d; Neath (Victoria Gardens) 8.50am - price 32/6d); Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 10.00am - price 27/6d); Newport (roundabout at eastern end of new by-pass) 10.30am - price 25/-). Booking closing date - 1st September.

1968

30 March, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Geology of the Fishguard and Strumble Head Area with particular reference to the Fishguard Volcanic Series: In passing, the general structure of the Preselau Mountains will be pointed out. A traverse will be made of the Pen Caer peninsula from near Goodwick to the fine coastal sections east of Strumble Head. The pillow lavas of the Fishguard Volcanic Series will be examined in detail and at Porth Sychan the relationship of these with an intraformational bedded series of sediments will be pointed out. After returning to Fishguard the attenuated representatives of the Volcanic Series will be viewed along the cliffs of the Old Harbour and, assuming that tide conditions are suitable, opportunities will be provided for collecting tuning-fork graptolites in the wedge of Llanvirn shales occurring below the old fort on the eastern side of the Harbour.

Leader: T.M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Cardiff)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 9.00am - price 25/-; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) 10.15am - price 20/-; Morriston Cross (80 yards up the hill beyond the traffic lights) at 10.25am - price 17/6d. Booking closing date - 28th March.

4 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Coastal Pleistocene deposits and landforms of Gower: The Pleistocene stratigraphy, which includes raised beaches, various facies of head (periglacial material), redeposited glacial material, ablation moraine and redeposited (eroded) interglacial soils, will be examined at several sites. From stratigraphical and geomorphological relationships the sequence of climatical and geomorphological (mainly changes in sea level) events during the Upper Pleistocene will be deduced.

Leader: Dr David Q. Bowen (University College of Wales Aberystwyth)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 10.00am - price 15/-; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) 11.15am - price 10/-; Swansea (Guildhall) 11.45am - price 7/6d.

Booking closing date - 2th May

11-12 May, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

The Geology of the Malvern Hills: After arrival at Wyche Cutting the main features of the Malvernian will be discussed. On Saturday afternoon the Malvernian of Herefordshire Beacon will be examined in detail and the tectonics of the region will be pointed out in the field. A visit will also be made to Gullet Quarry where the Llandovery/Malvernian boundary can be examined.

On Sunday the newly-exposed Cambrian/Malvernian boundary will be inspected at Hollybush Quarry. In a road cutting at Hollybush, the Hollybush Sandstone, with igneous intrusions, and the White Leaved Oak Shales of the Upper Cambrian will be seen. Wenlock and Ludlow exposures west of the Malvern Hills will be visited before returning on the Sunday evening.

Leader: Dr Michael Brooks (University College of Swansea)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Swansea (Guildhall) at 8.30am - price 35/-; Neath (Victoria Gardens) 8.50am - price 32/6d); Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 9.45am - price 30/-; Newport (just off the M4 Motorway at junction with the Risca road or at other suitable points as requested) at 10.00am - price 27/6). Booking closing date - 8th May

28-29 September, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

The Southern Cotswolds: cancelled

Session 10 1968-69

Field Secretary : Michael G. Bassett

1969

29 March, Field Meeting, Saturday

The South Pembroke Coast (Bullslaughter Bay area): The Carboniferous Limestone of the Pembroke Peninsula in the vicinity of the Green Bridge of Wales, Flimston Bay and Bullslaughter Bay will be examined in detail. Particular regard will be paid to: (i) coastal karstic features, including sea caves, blow holes and natural bridges (ii) Triassic gash-breccias and collapsed Millstone Grit and (iii) the well-defined plunging folds and associated strike faults of the Moody Nose to Bullslaughter Bay section.

Leader: T.M. Thomas (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Cardiff)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 9.00am - price 25/-; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) 10.00am – price 20/-; Morriston Cross (80 yards up the hill beyond the traffic lights) at 10.20am – price 17/6d. Booking closing date –27th March

3 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The East Glamorgan Coast (Penarth to Sully): A traverse will be made of the coastline from Penarth to Lavernock Point, St. Mary's Well Bay and Sully to examine the structure and sequences of the Keuper, Rhaetric and Liassic beds. Opportunities will be provided for collecting.

Leader: Basil Isaac (Glamorgan Technical College, Treforest)

Reply slip indicates pickup at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 10.00am - price 5/-. Booking closing date –1st May

17 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Silurian rocks of the Builth Wells-Llangammarch Wells Area: A close examination will be made of the succession and fossil content of those rocks in the exposures lying along or north of the scarp face of the Eppynt. A visit will be made to the section where Dr S. H. Straw first recorded the occurrence of slumped beds in South Wales. Features of geomorphological interest will also be pointed out and time afforded for fossil collecting.

Leader: Dr Michael G. Bassett (National Museum of Wales)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (Fitzalan Place) 9.30am - price 17/6d; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) 10.30am – price 15/-. Booking closing date –15th May

1970

11 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Geomorphology and Geology of the Upper Afon Lwyd Valley and the Western Valleys of Monmouthshire: Members joining the party are invited to bring writing materials in order to record their own observations at selected vantage points. Group discussion will be encouraged en route but the leader's suggestions will not be offered until the last stopping place, when a final discussion will take place. Maps, diagrams and bibliographies will be issued but the appropriate O.S. maps will be useful.

The route will be as follows: Cardiff, Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach, Crumlin, Hafodyrnys, Pontypool, Abersychan, Blaenavon, the Bloreng, Waunavon, Brynmawr, the Clydach Gorge, the Darren Cilau Nature Reserve overlooking Llangattock. The return route will be via Gilwern, Pontypool, and Newport to Cardiff.

Leader: D. Emlyn Evans (National Museum of Wales)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Swansea (Guildhall) at 9.00am – price 15/-; Neath (Western Welsh bus station) at 9.20am - price 15/-; Cardiff (front of National Museum) 10.30am - price 12/6). Booking closing date – 9th April

2 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

Stratigraphy, Structure, Sedimentology and Mineralisation of the Forest of Dean Area:

A number of stops will be made to examine the geology of the Carboniferous rocks of the Forest of Dean coalfield, with particular reference to stratigraphy, structure, sedimentology and mineralisation. Opportunities will be provided for collection.

Leaders: Drs John Baker, Rodney Gayer (both University College Cardiff), and John Stead (University College of Swansea)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Swansea (Guildhall) at 9.00am – price 17/6; Neath (Western Welsh bus station) at 9.20am - price 17/6; Cardiff (front of National Museum) 10.30am - price 15/-; Newport (Caerleon/Raglan roundabout on M4 at 10.50am – price 15/-). Booking closing date – 30th April

23 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Silurian rocks of Wooltack Park and Marloes Bay, Pembrokeshire: Silurian rocks and fossils will be examined in this beautiful coastal area of Pembrokeshire. Members will be provided with copies of 6inch maps and invited to carry out simple mapping exercises under guidance.

Leader: Dr Michael G. Bassett (National Museum of Wales)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (front of National Museum) 9.00am - price 25/-; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) at 10.00am – price 22/6; Swansea (Morrison Cross - 50 yards up hill beyond traffic lights) at 10.20am – price 22/6d. Booking closing date – 15th May. The high cost of the coach for this excursion must be covered by the remittance from participants. Therefore, unless a minimum of 30 people can be guaranteed, the excursion may have to be cancelled. It will be a great help if you book as early as possible.

Session 12 1970-71

Field Programme Secretary : Michael G. Bassett

1971

Difficulties caused by the postal strike made it not possible to arrange the full excursion programme for 1971.

3 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Geology and Geomorphology of the Penwyllt and Upper Nedd Fechan Areas with particular reference to Karstic Landforms: Commencing at Penwyllt at the top of the Swansea Valley, this excursion will involve a 5 to 6 mile walk across country to the Upper Nedd Fechan to study the geology and geomorphology of the karstic landforms in the area. The succession can be studied from the O.R.S. to the Middle Shales of the Millstone Grit. Leader: Trevor M. Thomas (Welsh Office Cardiff)

Members should wear stout footwear and bring full refreshments for lunch as there will be no stopping points at which lunch may be purchased.

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (front of National Museum) 9.00am - price £1; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) at 10.00am – price 75p; Swansea (Morrison Traffic Lights) at 10.15am – price 75p; Pontardawe (Traffic Lights) at 10.25am – price 75p. Booking closing date – 31st March.

24 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Mapping Techniques in Geology illustrated in the Carboniferous of the Penderyn

Area: This excursion is designed to give members a detailed insight into the mapping techniques employed by the Institute of Geological Sciences. The leader has been employed recently in mapping the Carboniferous rocks of the coalfield and will demonstrate in details the principles of classification, techniques and problems of field mapping. Leader: Dr Ken Taylor (Institute of Geological Sciences London)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (front of National Museum) 9.00am - price £1; Neath (Western Welsh Bus Station) at 10.00am – price 75p; Swansea (roundabout before Morrison Traffic Lights) at 10.15am – price 75p. Booking closing date – 17th April.

Session 13 1971-72

Field Secretary : Michael G. Bassett

1972

29 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Carboniferous Stratigraphy, Structure and Sedimentation of the Coast between

Amroth and Tenby, Pembrokeshire: The superb coastal exposures of Carboniferous rocks between Tenby and Amroth will be examined, with particular reference to structure and sedimentology. In particular the Namurian and Westphalian sequences will be explained in terms of the depositional environments.

Leader: Dr Gilbert Kelling (University College of Swansea)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Cardiff (front of National Museum) 8.30am - price £1.25; Neath (Western Welsh bus station) at 9.30am – price £1; Swansea (Morrison Cross - 50 yards uphill beyond traffic lights) at 9.45am – price £1. Booking closing date – 15th April.

20 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

Stratigraphy and Palaeontology of the Inferior Oolite (Jurassic) of the South

Cotswolds: Localities will be visited at Painswick, Selsey Common and Nibley to examine well known Jurassic sequences, and there will be ample opportunities to collect fossils.

Leader: Dr John Murray (University of Bristol)

Reply slip indicates pickups at Swansea (Guildhall) at 9.00am – price £1; Neath (Western Welsh bus station) at 9.20am - price £1; Cardiff (front of National Museum) at 10.20am - price 75p. Booking closing date – 6th May

The increasingly high costs of transport are making it impossible for the Association to run more than two economical excursions a year to embrace both the eastern and western groups of members. The committee has therefore decided to limit the full excursions this year to two, in the hope that they will be well supported and economically successful.

It is felt however that a third local excursion may be run either in the Swansea or Cardiff area. This year it has been decided to investigate the possibilities of a local Cardiff excursion mainly for members from the eastern area, although, of course, any other members from further afield who wish to join in will be most welcome, though they will have to provide their own transport. Details will be circulated to all members as soon as possible.

The experiment will be repeated next year with a local excursion for the members of the western area.

Session 14 1972-73

Field Secretary : Michael G. Bassett

1973

Because of the increasingly high costs of coach transport, it has been decided to run the excursions this year using private vehicles. It is essential that members who intend to come should arrive at the starting venue in good time so that the excursions can start promptly. Those members without their own private transport will be accommodated in other cars, provided that they let the excursion secretary know in plenty of time that they intend to come. A small charge will be made to cover the costs incurred by the lender of each excursion.

14 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Geology of the Gower Peninsula: The full day will be spent examining the stratigraphy, structure and scenery of this beautiful coastal area.

Leader: T.R. Owen (University College of Swansea)

Assembly Point Front of Natural Sciences Building, University College, Swansea at 11.00am. Fee - full members 20p, students 10p

6 May, Field meeting, Sunday afternoon (*Report for the 15th session gives 31 May*)

Minchin Hole Cave Gower: (The leaders) who are conducting excavations at Minchin Hole cave, Gower, have very kindly extended an invitation to members of the group to attend on Sunday May 6th at 14.00 (meet in car park opposite Heatherslade bay hotel, Southgate, SS550880 (approx.)). The excavations (with kind permission of the National Trust) are part of investigations into the relationships between the cave deposits and the late Pleistocene raised beach deposits. This will be a unique opportunity to view material which subsequently will be covered up

Leaders: Dr D.Q. Bowen (University College of Wales Aberystwyth and Dr A.J. Sutcliffe (British Museum NaturalHistory)

Assembly Point Car park opposite Heatherslade Bay hotel , Southgate SS550880 at 14.00.

12 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Black Mountains of Breconshire and Monmouthshire: The geomorphology and geology of the Black Mountains will be examined, with particular reference to glacial and periglacial features. From Crickhowell the route will be into the Grwyne Valleys and then along the Vale of Ewyas to Hay on Wye.

Leader: D. Emlyn Evans (National Museum of Wales)

Assembly Points 1. Front of Natural Museum, Cardiff at 9.00am, and 2. Car park near Usk River Bridge, Crickhowell at 10.30am Fee - full members 20p, students 10p

Session 15 1973-74

Field Secretaries : Michael G. Bassett
R M Owens

1973

13 October, Saturday Orierton Field Studies Council Centre

a.m. **The Geology of South Pembrokeshire**, followed by

p.m. Field Meeting **Some techniques in the field of analyzing a sedimentary rock sequence with special reference to the Old Red Sandstone rocks of South Pembrokeshire**

Leader: Dr Brian P.J. Williams (University of Bristol)

1974

Following last year's successful experiment, this year's excursions will be run using private vehicles. It is essential that intending participants should arrive at the starting venue in good time so that excursions can start promptly. Those members without their own transport will be accommodated in other cars, provided they let the excursions secretary know in good time of their intention to come. A small charge will be made to cover costs incurred by the leader of each excursion.

27 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Triassic Sedimentology in the Sully-Swanbridge Area: Fascinating, as yet unpublished, new interpretations of the conditions of deposition of the Triassic rocks of this coastal section will be demonstrated; sediments deposited in semi-arid and intertidal environments will be seen, as well as recently discovered algal limestones. On Sully Island the Triassic-Carboniferous unconformity will be visited.

Leader: Dr Maurice E. Tucker (University College Cardiff)

Assembly point at the car park opposite Sully Island (ST167675) at 2.00pm. Fee - full members 20p, students 10p

18 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Llandeilo/Llangadog Area of Carmarthenshire: The day will be devoted to an examination of the stratigraphy and palaeontology of the Ordovician and Silurian rocks exposed in the neighbourhood of Llandeilo and Llangadog, and in the Sawdde valley. There will be opportunities to collect numerous fossils.

Leaders: Drs Michael G. Bassett and Robert M. Owens (both National Museum of Wales)

Assembly point at Ffairfach level crossing (SN628213 ½ mile S of Llandeilo at 11.00am). Fee - full members 20p, students 10p

Session 16 1974-75

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1974

18-20 October, Field Meeting (at St. David's), Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting
Structural and Sedimentological Techniques in Field Geology, Pembrokeshire
Leaders: Drs Paul L. Hancock and Brian P.J. Williams (both University of Bristol).

Friday 18 Oct Assemble 20.00 (was 20.30) at The Old Cross (should be Grove) Hotel, St Davids; the leaders will give an introductory talk

Saturday 20 Oct 9.00-18.00 (originally planned for the Sunday)
Upper Palaeozoic sequences in the St Davids peninsula
localities Freshwater West Bay; West Angle Bay; Stackpole Quay

Sunday 19 Oct 9.00-17.00 (originally planned for the Saturday)
Lower Palaeozoic sequences in the St Davids peninsula
localities Whitesands Bay; Abereiddy Bay; Porthclais

Members are asked to make their own arrangements for accommodation although it is hoped that most will be able to stay at the leaders' hotel. Packed lunches are advised for both days. Transport will be by private car. This excursion will be restricted to 30 members, who must be full members of the Association. Cost £1.

1975

18 January, Saturday, Bristol
a.m. **Visit to the Department of Geology, University of Bristol**,
Professor David L. Dineley and staff
p.m. Field Meeting **Aust Cliff**, Dr Douglas Hamilton (University of Bristol)

Three excursions have been arranged for this summer: all will demonstrate new findings and interpretations by geologists currently involved with research in each area. As in recent areas, private transport will be used; those without their own transport will be accommodated in other cars, provided they let the field excursions secretary know in good time of their intention to come. A small charge (20p for full members, 10p for students/juniors) will be made to cover leaders' expenses.

8 June, Field Meeting, Sunday
The Structure and Sedimentology of the Upper Palaeozoic rocks of Portishead:
Sedimentary features and the tectonic setting of the Devonian and Carboniferous rocks of the Portishead area will be demonstrated.
Leaders: Drs Paul L. Hancock and Brian P.J. Williams (both University of Bristol)

Assembly point by the swimming pool at Portishead, at 11.00am. Please bring your own packed lunches and refreshments

21 June, Field Meeting, Saturday
The Lower Carboniferous rocks of the Forest of Dean: Details of the sedimentology and facies developments in the Lower Limestone shales and associated strata. There will be opportunities to collect fossils.
Leader: Trevor Burchette (University College, Cardiff)

Assembly point by the pub in the village centre, Mitcheldean at 11.00am. Pub sandwiches will be available at lunch time.

5 July, Field Meeting, Saturday

An approach to the upper Carboniferous Limestone of Pwll Du, Gower: A detailed examination of two erosional surfaces at Pwll Du followed by a laboratory study of the rock types (peels, sections); the emphasis to be on practical involvement.

Leaders: Dr Anthony T.S. Ramsay and Alan Thorne (both University College of Swansea)

Assembly point at College House, Univ. College, Swansea at 10.00am. Bring packed lunch.

Session 17 1975-76

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1976

Three excursions have been arranged for the spring, and one of these has been specially designed for junior members, run in conjunction with the National Museum of Wales. Further excursions will be arranged later in the year, and details will be circulated in due course.

Private transport will be used; those without their own transport will be accommodated in other cars, provided that they inform the Field Excursions Secretary in good time of their intentions to come. A small charge (20p for full members, 10p for students/juniors) will be made to cover leaders' expenses. Please make cheques /postal orders payable to: Geologists' Association, South Wales Group.

28 March, Field Meeting, Sunday

Some Sedimentary and structural aspects of the Pennant Measures in the Rhondda region

Leader: Dr G. Kelling (University College, Swansea)

Assembly point: Old road from Tongwynlais to Taffs Well, below Castell Coch (ST132824) – diagram provided, at 1.00pm

3 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Junior excursion to the Pontneddfechan district

Leader: A. J. Thomas (Museums Schools Service Officer in Geology, National Museum of Wales)

Assembly point: Outside the Angel Hotel, Pontneddfechan at 11.00am

9 May, Field Meeting, Sunday

Namurian exposures from Dowlais Top to Llangynidr Mountain, Brynmawr:

(This will be a joint excursion with the mid-Wales Geological Society)

Leader: D.E. Evans (National Museum of Wales)

Assembly point: Dowlais Top roundabout (Grid ref. SO077082 at 10.30am)

1977

Five excursions have been arranged, which include, two primarily for Junior members. Private transport will be used; those without their own transport will be accommodated in other cars, provided that they inform the Field Excursions Secretary in good time of their intentions to come. A small charge (20p for full members, 10p for students/juniors) will be made to cover leaders' expenses. Please make cheques /postal orders payable to: Geologists' Association, South Wales Group.

23 April, Field Meeting, Sunday

M4 sections in the Pyle-Stormy Down District: This excursion will afford a unique opportunity to examine sections temporarily exposed along the route of the M4, and aspects of structural and engineering geology and Rhaetic stratigraphy will be demonstrated. The contractors have kindly agreed to provide Land Rover transport along the works: Wellingtons are strongly recommended, as it is likely to be very muddy under foot. There will be an upward limit of 25 for this excursion, and places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Leader: A. Stradling (Brynteg Comprehensive School, Bridgend), S. England (University College Cardiff)

Assembly point: Car park of Cornelly Arms on South Cornelly-Pyle Road (SS822814) at 9.30am. We will return to the pub for lunch, where pub lunches can be obtained: it is regretted that people will not be permitted to bring their own lunch packets into the pub.

18 June, Field Meeting, Sunday

Junior Excursion to the Barry District: There are good sections in Carboniferous and Jurassic rocks, and it will be possible to collect fossils from each.

Leader: Alun J. Thomas (Museums Schools Service Officer in Geology, National Museum of Wales)

Assembly point: 10am at western end of main car park on Barry Island (Map reference ST110665). Itinerary – Friars' Point, Barry Old Harbour, Cold Knap Point and storm beach. Return to car park at 1pm, then to Nell's Point and Jackson's Bay; Lunch break: Meet in car park at 3.30 p.m., then by car to ST 136676 (W of Sully Hospital) to examine coast between Hayes Point and Boridrck Rock; excursion ends 5 p.m.

15 October, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Carboniferous Limestone of the Abergavenny District

Leader: William J. Barclay and Dennis I. Jackson (both Institute of Geological Sciences London).

12 November, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Geology of the Llangynog District

Leader: Dr John C.W. Cope (University College of Swansea)

Session 19 1977-78

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1978

Two excursions have been planned for the first half of the year, one of which will be primarily for Junior members. Further excursion will be arranged for the autumn. Private transport will be used; those without their own transport will be accommodated in other cars, provided that they inform the Field Excursions Secretary in good time of their intentions to come. A small charge (20p for full members, 10p for students/juniors) will be made to cover leaders' expenses. Please make cheques /postal orders payable to: Geologists' Association, South Wales Group.

22 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Malvern Hills: Rocks of Precambrian, Cambrian and Silurian age will be seen; the main emphasis of the excursion will be to examine the Precambrian/Lower Palaeozoic contact at the western boundary of the Precambrian outcrop; there will be opportunities to collect Silurian fossils in the Ledbury district.

Leaders: Professor Michael Brooks and Dr John Baker (both University College, Cardiff)

Assembly point: car park of restaurant on roundabout at western end of M50, where it meets A449 (SO614258), about 2km north-west of Ross-on-Wye at 10.15am

8 July, Field Meeting, Saturday

Junior Excursion to the Ogmore-Southerndown Coastal section: An almost continuous coastal exposure in Lower Jurassic and Upper Triassic (including littoral and continental facies) lying unconformably on Carboniferous Limestone. The area is part of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and much of it is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), but there will be opportunities for collecting specimens.

Leader: Alun J. Thomas (Museums Schools Service Officer in Geology, National Museum of Wales)

Assembly point: Roadside car park, southern end of Ogmore-by-Sea (SS869744) at 10.00am

28 October Field Meeting,

Aspects of the palaeoecology of the Carboniferous and Jurassic strata in the Ogmore-Southerndown district.

Leader, Professor DV Ager, University college of Swansea.

Session 20 1978-79

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1979

Two excursions have been arranged, the second of which is aimed primarily at Junior Members, although all are welcome. Private transport will be used, and a small charge (20p adult, 10p student/junior) will be levied for the first excursion to cover leader's expenses. Members requiring lifts should contact the Field Secretary as soon as possible.

12 May, Field Meeting, Saturday [did this go ahead? – see 1980 programme –probably cancelled]

Corsham Stone Mine and Bath area: The morning will be spent at Monks Park Stone Mine near Corsham. This is the last mine in the Corsham district, producing oolitic limestone for building purposes from the Jurassic Great Oolite. Afternoon: surface exposures of middle Jurassic in Bath area, the localities to be selected from New Hazlebury Quarry, Clift Mine, Brown's Folly, Tucking Mill, Bradford-on-Avon.

Leader Mr. J.W. Perkins (Department of Extra Mural Studies, University College Cardiff)

Assembly point: Leigh Delamere Service Station, M4 (eastbound) at 9.30 a.m. Please be prepared to sign an indemnity form – NOTE: Members under 18 must bring a letter signed by their parents giving permission for them to sign the indemnity form. Please bring a safety helmet if you have one, otherwise they will be provided on site. LUNCH: bring a packed lunch, or rely on local pub food.

2 June, Field Meeting, Saturday

Junior Excursion to Black Rocks, Barry: Carboniferous and Triassic rocks are exposed, and the excursion will concentrate on the latter, to look at environments and fossils.

Leader: A J. Thomas (MSS Officer in Geology, National Museum of Wales Cardiff)

Assembly point: First turn left after Sully Hospital (ST137677) at 2pm

Session 21 1979-80

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1980

19 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Junior Excursion to the Penarth-Lavernock Coast: At Penarth Head the Triassic sequence will be examined; Penarth Series and the Lias will be seen at Lavernock Point (ST 186682) and in St. Mary's Well Bay. If time permits the Swanbridge foreshore (ST169674) (Triassic) will be visited (but not Sully Island). Itinerary sheets will be provided.

Leader: A. J. Thomas (Schools Service Officer in Geology, National Museum of Wales)

Assembly point: Halfday excursion. Penarth pier (map ref. ST189713) at 14.00. 25 safety helmets will be available on loan. Estimated finishing time -17.15.

27 April, Field Meeting, Sunday

Great Oolite of the Bath and West Wiltshire Area and Visit to the Corsham Stone Mine: This is a full day excursion and will visit CORSHAM STONE MINE in the morning and various quarries in the afternoon; it will be run jointly with the University Extra Mural Department, but GA members will be given priority, provided they book by Saturday 15 March.

Leader: John Perkins (Department of Extra Mural Studies, University College Cardiff)

Assembly point: travel will be by coach, departing from the front of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff at 8.30am. Tickets for the excursion will be £2 per head. Safety helmets will be required for the Stone Mine. The GA will be able to provide 25 on loan for the day, but if you possess your own, please bring it along. Lamps will not be required, since the mine is well lit and airy. We will call at a pub for lunch, but please bring a packed lunch if desired.

5 July, Field Meeting, Saturday

Geology of the Swansea and Neath valleys: This is a full day excursion, and will visit a classic area under the leadership of an acknowledged expert. We will take a minibus from Swansea, and if necessary carry the overflow in the minimum number of cars possible, since many of the localities are unsuitable for large numbers of vehicles.

Leader: Professor T. Richard Owen (Department of Geology, University College of Swansea)

Assembly point: Outside the Department of Geology, University College of Swansea, at 10.30 a.m. It will be possible to leave your cars there for the day. Lunch will be taken at a convenient pub, but please bring your own packed lunch if desired.

Session 22 1980-81

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1980

22 November 1980, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Clydach Gorge Area: The South Wales Group last visited this district in 1977, but since that time Mr. Wright has been working in the area for a Ph.D. project, and has found a whole series of features previously quite unknown in the Carboniferous Limestone of South Wales. Three quarries will be visited, in which can be seen fossil soils (calcretes), karstic horizons, fluvial sediments, algal and intertidal limestones. This unique sequence shows a complex pattern of interfingering shallow marine and terrestrial deposits, formed at the edge of St. George's Land.

Leader: V. Paul Wright (Polytechnic of Wales, Pontypridd)

Assembly point: Beside caravan park on minor road to Daren-felen, just off A465 Abergavenny – Brynmawr road, one mile west of Gilwern (SO 233 137) 11.00 am.

Other information: We will call in a local pub for lunch, where food is available, but please bring your own refreshments if preferred. The excursion will finish 3.30- 4 p.m. It is strongly recommended that safety helmets are used at certain outcrops; 25 will be available on loan, but please bring one with you if you have one. A small fee (50p per adult, 15p per junior) will be levied to cover leader's expenses. If you need a lift, please contact me at the address below.

1981

No details of any summer excursions. Three autumn excursions were planned, but at least two were postponed (12 Sept, 10 Oct)

26 September 1981, Field Meeting, Saturday

Junior Excursion to Southerndown coast: Geology of Seamouth, Trwyn y witch and Cwm Mawr: Carboniferous Limestone and Lower Jurassic (littoral Lower Lias) strata and their unconformable relationship are exposed in continuous sea-cliff section; complex structures imposed by Alpine (Miocene) tectonics will be examined. The coastline is of geomorphological interest.

Leader: A. J. Thomas (National Museum of Wales)

Assembly point: Seamouth car park (SS886732) at 1.00pm. The excursion will finish at about 5.30pm. Walking distance is about 2.5km

Session 23 1981-82

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1981

The two excursions originally planned for autumn 1981, and which for various reasons had to be postponed, have now been rearranged to take place in May and June. A further series of excursions is planned for the autumn. Transport will be by private vehicles, and anyone requiring a lift should contact RM Owens etc. For all these excursions there will be a fee, for non-members only, of 50p (adults) and 25p (juniors).

1982

1 May, Field Meeting, Saturday

Ordovician rocks in the BUILT-Llandrindod Area: Ordovician sedimentary and igneous rocks will be examined, and the results of recent research on these will be demonstrated.

Leaders: Dr John Baker and Peter Sheldon (both Department of Geology, University College Cardiff)

Assemble: Layby at 045529 on left hand side of A483, 1km N of Llanelwedd (2km N of Builth), on Llandrindod road at 10.30am. The excursion will finish late afternoon. Please bring a packed lunch if required. We will call at a convenient hostelry for lunch. An upper limit of 30 will be imposed for this excursion, since many of the localities are unsuitable for large numbers.....

19 June, Field Meeting, Saturday

Dinantian rocks of the Eastern Vale of Glamorgan: Geologists from the Institute of Geological Sciences have recently remapped the Cardiff sheet, and Dr Waters, one of those involved, will demonstrate some of the new work on the Carboniferous Limestone. Leader: Dr Richard A. Waters (Wales Unit, Institute of Geological Sciences Aberystwyth)

Assemble: Main car park, Barry Island at 9.15am. please bring a packed lunch if required; we will call at a convenient hostelry for lunch. The excursion will finish late afternoon.

Session 24 1982-83

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1982

6 November, Field Meeting, Saturday

Carboniferous Sediments and Palaeoecology in the Gower Peninsula: South coast of the Gower Peninsula to examine terrestrial and intertidal deposits in the Carboniferous Limestone sequence, and will be lead by Dr ATS Ramsay who is currently engaged upon research on these deposits.

Leader: Dr Anthony T.S. Ramsay (University College of Swansea)

Rendezvous: Caswell Bay Car Park 10.00am. Transport will be by private vehicles, please bring your own packed lunches, since it will not be possible to get to a pub for lunch. The excursion will between 4pm and 5pm.

1983

26 February, Field Meeting, Saturday

The Silurian of the Usk District: The succession of Silurian rocks of the Wenlock, Ludlow and Downton Series and their faunas will be demonstrated.

Leaders: Dr M.G. Bassett and R.M. Owens (National Museum of Wales)

Meet at 11.00am in the square at Usk. Since parking at many of the exposures is limited, and the lanes narrow and twisting, members will be asked to reduce the number of vehicles to a minimum; we will return to the rendezvous point at the end of the excursion (about 4.00 – 4.30pm) to pick up vehicles. Please bring your own packed lunch if required; we will be stopping at a convenient hostelry at lunch time.

13-15 May, Field Meeting, Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

The Mesozoic Rocks of the Dorset Coast (Weymouth): Classic Jurassic and Cretaceous successions of the Dorset coast will be examined.

Dr John C.W. Cope (University College of Swansea)

Accommodation has been booked at the Hotel Rex, The Esplanade, Weymouth. Most of the rooms are twin-bedded, and only a very limited number of single rooms are available. The cost, inclusive of dinner on Friday night (available until 10pm), bed and breakfast Friday/Saturday, dinner, bed and breakfast Saturday/Sunday will be £28+VAT per person. Lunches will be taken at convenient hostelries.

Numbers will be strictly limited, and applications will be treated on a 'first come, first served' basis....

1983

22 October, Field Meeting, Saturday

Ogofau Gold Mines, Dolaucothi: The Department of Mineral Exploitation, University College Cardiff have reopened many of the old adits, and Dr Annels and his colleagues have kindly agreed to demonstrate these and the old workings above ground to members of the Association.

Leader: Dr Alwyn E. Annels (Department of Mineral Exploitation, University College Cardiff)

Meet at 11.00am prompt in the Car Park at Dolaucothi. The excursion will finish at 3.30pm-4.00pm. Lunches will be available at the nearby Dolaucothi Arms. If you wish to take lunch there, please tick your preference in the box on the booking form. This is to give the landlord a rough estimate of numbers.

Numbers will be limited to 20, and applications will be treated on a 'first come, first served' basis. A charge of £2.00 will be levied for the excursion, 50p towards leader's expenses and £1.50 to cover insurance, lamps etc. It is ESSENTIAL that you bring Wellingtons and waterproofs; hard hats will be provided, but please bring one if you have one.

1984

31 March, Field Meeting, Saturday

Big Pit Mining Museum, Blaenavon: This trip had to be deferred from the previously advertised date in February. It will involve one hour underground and 1-1½ hours on the surface.

Leaders: Mining Museum Staff

Assemble: 2.00pm at the Museum; stout shoes and warm clothing are recommended. Charges will be £2.75 per adult, £1.75 per junior, payable on the day.

18-20 May, Field Meeting, Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Recent work on the Lower Palaeozoic of North Pembrokeshire: It is hoped, weather permitting, to visit Ramsey Island on Saturday, 19th May, to examine Ordovician volcanic and sedimentary rocks which are excellently displayed, and to demonstrate some recent work on them. The following day, further Ordovician igneous and sedimentary rocks will be examined in the Aberiddi-Strumble Head region. Should it not be possible to visit Ramsey Island, an alternative excursion will be arranged on the mainland. [It did visit Ramsey Island]

Leaders: Drs Richard E. Bevins and Robert M. Owens (both National Museum of Wales)

Accommodation has provisionally been booked at the Broad Haven Hotel, at a cost of approximately £12.50 per head per night for bed, breakfast and evening meal for Friday and Saturday nights. If you are not staying at the hotel, please assemble there at 9.30 am on the Saturday morning. Numbers will be restricted to 25. There will be a fee of £2 per head to cover leaders' expenses. Please remember to bring suitable footwear and warm and waterproof clothing.

Session 26 1984-85

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1985

10-12 May, Field Meeting, Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

South Shropshire (Affcot): The leaders have worked extensively in this classic area for Lower Palaeozoic geology, and will demonstrate the local successions, sediments and faunas.

Leaders: Dr Michael G. Bassett (Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales) and Professor William T. Dean (Department of Geology, University College Cardiff)

Numbers will be limited to 25, and applications will be strictly on a first come, first served basis. Accommodation has been booked at the Travellers Rest, Affcot, near Craven Arms: it should be noted that there are very few single rooms, and participants should be prepared to share if possible. Prices range from about £6.50 to £9.00 for bed and breakfast; the set evening meal is £4.95, and bar meals at various prices are also available. A fee of £2.50 per head will be levied to cover leaders' expenses.

Session 27 1985-86

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1985

27 October, Field Meeting, Sunday (Jointly with West of England Group, Geologists' Association)

Upper Palaeozoic and Mesozoic Structure and Sedimentology of the Clevedon and Portishead Coast

Leaders; Drs Brian P.J. Williams and Paul L. Hancock (both Department of Geology University of Bristol);

Afterwards, in the Department of Geology, University of Bristol, Professor David L. Dineley and departmental staff.

Further details and a booking form for this and other trips will be circulated later.

Additionally, members will be welcome to join West of England Group excursions to Central Wales (28th April) and Gower (19th May).....

Joint Field Excursion and Social Gathering. Meet at 10.00am at Portishead seafront swimming pool (grid ref ST465765). Transport will be by private vehicles. Participants should bring their own lunch packets, since we might not be in the vicinity of a convenient hostelry at lunch time. The field trip will finish about 4.00pm, and will be followed by a informal social gathering in the new Geology Department, Wills Building, by courtesy of Professor D.L. Dineley. We hope you will support this excursion. Please complete the reply slip and forward to the Field Secretary as early as possible.

1986

2-5 May, Field Meeting, Friday-Monday Weekend Meeting

Field Excursion to Anglesey: This field trip will examine the interesting and varied geology of NE Anglesey, visiting exposures of metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks ranging from Precambrian to Carboniferous in age. It will include examination of sillimanite gneisses and Ordovician sediments in the remote NE corner of Anglesey, the spectacular open-cast mine at Parys Mountain, the NE outcrop of the Carmel Head thrust system, and the Devonian and Carboniferous sedimentary successions on the east coast. The excursion will involve beach and cliff-walking and members must come equipped with boots or stout shoes, and waterproofs.

Leaders: Wes Gibbons (University College Cardiff) and Jana Horák (National Museum of Wales)

Accommodation: Bryn Tirion Hotel, Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey. Cost for 3 nights is £52.50 per person (twin-bedded rooms) for bed, full English breakfast and evening meal. Single rooms are available at extra cost. If you prefer a cheaper alternative, you can use the St. David's Estate Caravan Park, Red Wharf Bay, Anglesey LL75 8RJ (Tel. (0248) 852334). Members interested in this alternative are asked to make their own arrangements with the caravan park.

Transport: We hope to be able to arrange some minibus transport; details will be circulated to participants later.

[L Garfield note 2011 – I think this visit was cancelled due to lack of support]

Session 28 1986-87

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1987

26 April, Field Meeting, Sunday Joint Meeting with West of England Group, Geologists' Association

Field Excursion to the Llandovery District: Sites to be visited include the Roman Gold Mines at Ogafau, and the Sawdde Gorge section near Llandovery.

Leader: Dr Brian P.J. Williams (Department of Geology, University of Bristol)

Meet: 10.30am at the Roman Gold Mines, Ogafau (Grid. Ref. SN665404), c 8 miles NW of Llandovery. Finish about 5.00pm. We will be stopping at a pub at lunch time for a drink, but food may not be available, so please bring your own packed lunch.

[A weekend field meeting to the Malverns was postponed].

Session 29 1987-88

Field Secretary : R M Owens

1988

23 April, Field Meeting, Saturday

Sedimentary Sequences in the upper Palaeozoic at Llanstephan and Amroth: A day excursion to examine the Old Red Sandstone at Llanstephan, and the Upper Carboniferous at Amroth.

Leader: Dr H. Geraint Owen (Department of Geology University College of Swansea)

Meet 10.30 am at the car park under the castle at Llanstephan. We propose to spend the morning at Llanstephan. and will stop at a pub at lunch time; food may not be available, so please bring your own packed lunch. For the afternoon session we will travel to Amroth, and disperse at about 4.30 pm.

20-22 May, Field Meeting, Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Field Excursion to the Malvern Hills (Great Malvern): We will be examining the classic Permian and Lower Palaeozoic geology of the Malverns, which includes sediments, fossils, and structures - indeed something for all interests.

Leader: Dr Michael G. Bassett (Department of Geology, National Museum of Wales)

We unfortunately had to postpone this trip last year, and have rearranged it for the above dates, and hope that it will be better supported on this occasion.

Accommodation: Thornbury Hotel, Great Malvern. Cost for 2 nights bed, breakfast and evening meal inclusive is from £43 or £50 for single rooms (higher prices refer to rooms with en suite bathrooms). Please indicate on your booking forms the type of accommodation preferred, and we will do our best to fulfil individual requirements. The proprietor has kindly offered an extra night (Sunday) at £10 per head for bed, breakfast and evening meal for anyone wishing to stay over.

[Request for interest in attending BGS open days at Bryn Eithin Aberystwyth 14, 15, 16 July]

Session 30 1988-89

Field Secretary : Geraint Owen

1989

For next year we are planning two day trips and two weekend trips. Since support has tended to be rather poor in recent years, we need to know if sufficient numbers are interested in participating in the latter before we start booking hotels etc
Isle of Wight with leader Dr J.C.W.Cope, April-May; Mid Wales with leader D R Cave, Oct

Session 31 1989-90

**Field Secretaries : Geraint Owen
John Cope**

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION SOUTH WALES GROUP Field Excursions. Session 1989/90

Three one-day excursions and one weekend trip are planned for this session. The topics for the one-day excursions are post-glacial sediments of the Severn Estuary, Carboniferous sedimentation in the Swansea and Neath Valleys, and Ordovician faunas of the Builth-Llandrindod inlier. The weekend excursion will visit the Isle of Wight to study the Cretaceous and Tertiary development of the Hampshire Basin.

The last couple of years have experienced a drop-off in attendance on field excursions, culminating in several cancellations last session. It is hoped that members will make a special effort this session to attend one or more of the excursions to ensure that this most vital means of studying geology is able to continue within our Group.

As an aid to planning excursions you are asked to complete and return a registration slip by the relevant deadline listed below. A fee of £1.00 for day excursions will contribute to leaders' expenses and field guides. School pupils and students are exempt from this fee. Registration slips can be returned to the Field Secretary by post or at one of the Saturday lecture meetings. The prompt return of registration slips is essential for –the Builth inlier day trip, for which numbers are limited to 20, and for the weekend in May - please note the relevant deadlines. Pre-registration is not essential for the other two day trips and members are welcome to turn up on the morning.

Finally, thanks are due to the retiring Field Excursion Secretary, Dr. Bob Owens, for his hard work over the last 15 years.

Geraint Owen

September 1989

1989

14 October, Field Meeting, Saturday

Post-Glacial Geology of the Severn Estuary: The estuarine muds, sands and swamp-forest peats which have accumulated in the large and severely macrotidal Severn Estuary in the post-glacial (Flandrian) period are well displayed on the Gwent coast. At Goldcliff (park ST374822), green estuarine muds and forest peats of the early and mid Flandrian overlie soil-mantled bedrock (Trias); the peats yield stone tool-making debris. Dune-covered tidal sand flats of the modern environment are seen in an erosional relationship with the older muds and peats. The green muds and swamp-forest peats are exposed again at Rumney Great Wharf (park ST267801) on the Wentlooge Level between Newport and Cardiff. Here an extensive area of salt marsh embanked and ditched during Roman times was subjected during the Little Ice Age (late medieval and early modern periods) to extensive marine erosion, causing sea defences to be repositioned inland. The resulting embayed coast was later buried beneath a blanket of tidal mud, from which it is now emerging following the onset of the latest episode of coastal erosion.

Leader: Professor John R.L. Allen (University of Reading)

Professor John Allen gave an interesting and stimulating lecture on the changing shoreline of the Severn estuary in the 1987/88 session. This excursion gives members an opportunity to see the evidence for themselves, catch up on more recent developments in Professor Allen's work and experience one of the more unusual approaches to field geology.

Rendezvous: assemble and park at Gold Cliff (ST374822) east of Newport at 10.00am.

Bring a packed lunch and come equipped for work in a muddy environment: depending on the weather, either wellington boots or canvas shoes and shorts are suitable. Border spades or builder's trowels are more appropriate than geological hammers in a postglacial environment.

25 November, Field Meeting, Saturday

Upper Palaeozoic Sedimentation on the North Crop of the South Wales Coalfield (Penwyllt): This excursion will visit exposures of Old Red Sandstone, Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit and consider the depositional environments represented. The extent of lateral variation in those environments will be considered by studying laterally equivalent sections from west to east on the North Crop of the coalfield, starting in the west at the head of the Swansea Valley and working eastwards across the Neath Valley to Penderyn.. Important points to be considered include the nature of the change represented by the Carboniferous Limestone to Millstone Grit transition and the effects of the Neath Valley Disturbance. This trip will give members an opportunity to see the evidence for some of Dr. Ramsay's recent environmental interpretations of Lower Carboniferous rocks in South Wales, which he discussed in his Presidential address in the 1987/88 session.

Leaders: Dr Tony Ramsay (University of Wales College Cardiff) and Dr H. Geraint Owen (University College of Swansea)

Meet at the Caving and Mountain Rescue Post (SN856155), where parking is available, beyond Penwyllt Quarries above Pen y Cae in the Swansea Valley at 10.30am. We hope to visit a local pub for lunch.

1990

17 March, Field Meeting, Saturday

Fossils of the Builth Inlier, Central Wales: This excursion provides an opportunity to study the Ordovician fauna of the Builth Inlier, and to consider aspects of evolution and Palaeoecology. The fauna includes well preserved trilobites, graptolites and other fossils. Dr. Sheldon's work on patterns and processes of evolution in Ordovician trilobites was featured recently in *New Scientist* and *Nature* and he contributed to the SWGA symposium on palaeontology in Wales in March 1989. This excursion gives a chance to discuss Dr. Sheldon's ideas in the field.

Leader: Dr. P. Sheldon (University of Wales College Cardiff)

Registration: Numbers are limited to 20 on this excursion. Please return the registration slip to the Field Excursions Secretary by Thursday 1st March 1990. If demand is sufficient the excursion may be repeated at a later date.

Meet at the long lay-by on the straight section of the A483 road running NNE c1.5 miles north of Builth Wells – see map below. It is hoped that we can condense the party into a small number of vehicles in order to be able to facilitate parking at some sites.

Time: 10.15am.....We will probably stop for lunch at Pencerrig Hotel, where a variety of reasonably-priced bar meals will be available; as a less likely alternative, we may stop in the village of Howey, where bar meals will also be available.

Bring with you: normal field gear, including a hard hat.....

4-7 May, Field Meeting, Friday-Monday Weekend Meeting [cancelled - lack of interest]

Geology of the Isle of Wight: The Isle of Wight exposes a fine succession of Cretaceous, Palaeocene, Eocene and Oligocene rocks, many of which are exceptionally fossiliferous. There is a wide variety of sedimentary depositional environments ranging from non-marine through littoral and brackish to shallow shelf seas. Fossils which may be found include vertebrates (including dinosaurs and mammals), fossil plants, insects, crabs, lobsters and a wide range of molluscs, brachiopods and other fossils.

Leader: Dr JCW Cope (University College Cardiff)

In order to catch the Friday evening ferry, it will be necessary to leave Swansea after lunch on Friday 4 May. Saturday, Sunday and part of Monday will be spent on the Isle of Wight, returning to Swansea on Monday evening, 7 May. Travelling as a group by minibus from Swansea will greatly reduce the expense of the ferry crossing and will facilitate travel on the island. The final cost...expected to be under £80 including 3 nights hotel accommodation and transport.

9 June, Field Meeting, Saturday

Upper Palaeozoic Sedimentation on the North Crop of the South Wales Coalfield II: This excursion is a continuation of the November 1989 excursion to the Penwyllt area. We will start at the head of the Neath Valley, studying exposures of Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit adjacent to the Vale of Neath disturbance and features will be compared and contrasted with those in the Swansea Valley. If time permits, laterally equivalent sections further to the east will be visited.

Leaders: Dr Tony Ramsay (University of Wales College Cardiff) and Dr Geraint Owen (University College of Swansea)

Meet at the Craig-y-Dinas car park, Pontneddfechan SN911078 at 10.40am. We will visit a local pub for lunch. [Apparently only three people turned up]

20 August, Field meeting, Monday

British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) Science 90 19-24 August
Section C – Geology, Excursions V6 and V11

Palaeozoic Geology of the Black Mountain, Swansea and Neath Valleys

Leaders: Dr Lesley Cherns (University of Wales College of Cardiff, Dept of Geology); Dr Geraint Owen (University College Swansea Dept of Geography); Dr Michael Bassett (National Museum of Wales, Dept of Geology); Dr Tony Ramsay (University of Wales College of Cardiff, Dept of Geology)

19, 20, and following week, August

British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) Science 90 19-24 August
Section C – Geology

The Group organised several field trips at the start of the week. Despite some cancellations from the original programme, trips were held on Sunday to the **Gower**, the **Pembroke peninsula and Carmarthen Bay**, and on Monday to **Fishguard**, and to the **Swansea and Neath Valleys**. During the week Eric Robinson led 2 most successful tours, to a **local cemetery** and to the **city centre**.

Session 32 1990-91

Field Secretary : John Cope

1990

3 November, Field Meeting, Saturday

Geology of Barry and Barry Island: The Carboniferous Limestone (Tournaisian Series, mainly the Courcayan Black Rock Limestone Group, 450m+) is a carbonate sequence with fossiliferous horizons of crinoids and corals. The Triassic rocks (mainly the Mercia Mudstone Group – formerly the Red Marls) lie unconformably on the Limestone and both a marginal facies and an exhumed erosion surface are exposed. The rocks can be seen in three-dimensional coastal exposures.

A tour has also been arranged of the Natural Environment Research Council's research ship, the RSS Charles Darwin, which will be in the dock.

Leader: Alun J Thomas

Meet: S end of the main car park on Barry Island on the S side of the causeway (ST110665). Time: 11am. Total walking distance 5km, ending at 17.00 hrs. Bring own packed lunch (café and toilets near-by). Student members will particularly find the area to be geologically interesting.

1991

3 or 23 February, Field meeting, Saturday

Precambrian Rocks of the Llangynog Inlier: This area can claim to show the most recently discovered Precambrian rocks in the British Isles. The area of volcanic rocks south of Carmarthen was given an early Ordovician age (Arenig) age in its description by the Geological Survey in the early years of this century. The discovery of Tremadoc rocks in the vicinity by John Cope in 1977 led him to re-investigate the succession of rhyolites and other volcanic rocks, culminating in the discovery of an Ediacaran (late Precambrian) fauna of medusoids and trace fossils. Recently a large series of tracks has been driven through the densely forested area, providing an opportunity to examine the volcanic sequences in greater detail. The leaders are currently working on these rocks, which include a variety of rhyolites together with basalts erupted into a shallow sea and a suite of doleritic intrusions. Associated with these are volcanoclastic sediments which contain the faunas.

Leaders: Dr John Cope (University of Wales College Cardiff) and Dr Richard Bevins (National Museum of Wales)

Meet at 11.00am at the lay-by on the left-hand side of the road immediately north of Llangynog War Memorial (SN33851557). Turn S off the A40 dual carriageway S of Bancyfelin onto a road sign-posted Llangynog-Llanybri-Coomb Cheshire Home and follow this road to the southern end of Llangynog village. We will visit a pub for lunch

14 April, Field Meeting, Sunday

Upper Carboniferous Geology of Carmarthen Bay:

Joint meeting with the Open University Geological Society

Coastal sections along the shore of Carmarthen Bay from Pendine to Tenby expose a virtually continuous section through the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit and Coal Measures across the Pembrokeshire Coalfield – the westward extension of the main South Wales Coalfield syncline. The itinerary for this field day will depend on the weather.

A. If the weather is fair the cliffs between Pendine and Amroth will be studied. These display a complete section from Carboniferous Limestone through the Basal Grit, Shale Group and Upper Sandstone Group (Farewell Rock) of the Millstone Grit, to the Coal Measures. The rocks are superbly exposed, dipping gently to the south. They represent deltaic and nearshore depositional environments and include marine bands, seat earths, planty shales and a range of sedimentary structures and sequences. The route crosses Marros Sands, which display interesting glacial and post-glacial features. The complete section from Pendine to Amroth is about 5km long and the traverse will last all day.

B. If the weather is less favourable we will visit localities along the coast from Amroth to Tenby, to study Namurian (Millstone Grit) and Westphalian (Coal Measures) sequences with marine bands, coals, seat earths, sedimentary structures and Variscan deformation structures.

Leader: Dr Geraint Owen (University College of Swansea) *32 members attended*

Meet: 10.30am at Amroth Castle (SN17200720). Where the road leaves the sea front, just W of the New Inn, there is parking by the road side. In places the foreshore is rocky and slippery, so you will need stout, waterproof footwear. Also bring a packed lunch.

26-28 April, Field Meeting, Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Mesozoic Geology of West Dorset and South-east Devon The aim of this weekend is to study fine coastal exposures of late Triassic, early and mid Jurassic and late Cretaceous rocks. The area is famous for the splendid preservation and variety of the fossils it contains, particularly ammonites and other molluscs. Vertebrate remains are also quite common. We will see a wide range of sedimentary rock types, representing non-marine and various shallow marine environments. Some of the formations to be seen act as important hydrocarbon reservoirs further east in the Wych Farm oil-field.

Leader: Dr JCW Cope (University College Cardiff)

Accommodation will be in Bridport and it is planned to organise a group booking, likely to be around £55 for 2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast. It is hoped to arrange an economical car sharing scheme. Members should aim to arrive at the hotel some time on the Friday evening. Dinner will be available until quite late. We should leave Dorset around 4pm on the Sunday, The journey is approx. 150 miles from Swansea, 110 from Cardiff, on motorway most of the way.

1 June, Saturday, Cardiff

The Stones of Cardiff, Dr J. Eric Robinson (University College University of London)
followed by a walk around **Cathays Cemetery**

4-14 July **First Welsh Geology Week**

SWGA organised and ran several walks

Session 33 1991-92

Field Secretary : John Cope

1991

30 November, Field meeting, Saturday

Joint Meeting with National Museum of Wales Museum Schools Service

Old Red Sandstone of the Talgarth Area: This excursion will examine Old Red Sandstone sequences in the Red Marls Group, including the Psammosteus Limestone, and the overlying Senni Beds. Meandering river sequences and fossil soils will be studied and there is a good chance of finding fossil fish and plant remains.

The morning will be spent on the geology trail which has been developed by the Geology Group of the Brecknock Wildlife Trust at their Pwll-y-Wrach nature reserve. An informative leaflet is also available and will be provided free of charge to those who attend this excursion. Experiencing this trail may give members ideas for how we can raise the profile of geology in the South Wales region by developing trails and display boards, perhaps in co-operation with the Wildlife Trusts.

The afternoon will be spent at a quarry near Talgarth.

Leader: Duncan Hawley

Meet at 10.30 at Pwll-y-Wrach reserve, south of Talgarth. To get to the start of the trail take the A479 from the Square in Talgarth (first left over the bridge) and fork left almost immediately into Bell Street. Continue over the river and up the hill past the entrance to Mid-Wales Hospital and follow the narrow lane for a further 250 metres where you will see the entrance to the Reserve and the start of the Trail on your right. [Map overleaf]
Map grid reference: SO 162 328. It is intended to visit a pub for lunch, but it may be an idea to bring a packed lunch as well.

The Pwll-y-Wrach Geological Trail is a 1.75 km. walk that explores and explains the rock exposures found in the beautiful wooded valley of the River Enig. It reveals the evidence of events that took place in this area about 400 million years ago, which resulted in the rocks that provide the foundations to the local landscape.

1992

2 February, Field meeting, Sunday

Earlwood M4 Cutting East of Swansea: Work is currently under way linking the M4 motorway between Baglan and Lon Las. A deep cutting has been excavated west of the River Neath at Earlwood, which will carry the motorway west of a new bridge to be built across the river. The cutting is next to the classic section in the Rhondda Beds of the Pennant Measures, described by Prof Gilbert Kelling in *Geological Excursions in South Wales and the Forest of Dean* in 1971. The walls of the new cutting reach a maximum height of about 30m and expose mainly sandstones, dipping moderately to the north. Sedimentary features to be seen include abundant cross-bedding, erosional channel bases and upward-fining channel sequences. A coal seam is exposed and plant material is common in some of the channel bases in the form of transported logs and stems.

The cutting is also interesting in terms of the engineering problems it presents and their solutions. The sandstones are well jointed, with several regular sets of joints, some of which

have caused stability problems in the steep western face, which is now being stabilised by rock-bolting. Coal seams are weak layers which have had to be stabilised.

This will be an afternoon visit, involving a walk of not more than 1 mile in total. Safety helmets will be provided. We will be shown around by someone from the Consulting Engineers Sir Owen Williams and Partners, to whom we are very grateful for permission to visit the site. The afternoon should be of great interest from all sorts of aspects, not least the chance to have a look at what is going on there!

Meet at 2.00pm at the Site Offices at Llandarcy. These are just before the British Gas (Wales) site, sign-posted off the B4290 between Jersey Marine and Llandarcy. For those coming from east of the River Neath, leave the A48(T) at the Llandarcy interchange. Take the B4290 towards Jersey Marine. Turn left after about 1/2 mile into British Gas. Turn right after a sharp bend to the right, into the compound after the laboratory. The grid reference of the Site Offices is SS726951. There is no charge for this visit.

15 February, Field meeting, Saturday

Cwm Graig Ddu - Silurian fossils and Slumps: This afternoon excursion will re-trace the short geological walk offered during Welsh Geology Week in July 1991. Copies of the walk leaflet will be provided to those who attend.

Cwm Craig Ddu is on the north side of Mynydd Eppynt, south of Garth, between Llanwrtyd Wells and Builth Wells. The section was originally mentioned by Murchison and exposes shales and slumped beds of the Ludlow Series. The slump sheets were probably triggered by seismic activity along the Church Stretton fault zone during mid-Ludlow times. There is a rich fauna, dominated by brachiopods, and including also bryozoa, bivalves, ostracodes, trilobites, corals, crinoids, nautiloids, graptolites and plants.

Leader: Dr Bob Owens, National Museum of Wales

Meet at 2.00 pm at the cattle grid (SN 9634 4790), where cars can be left. This is on the B4519 road from Garth to Brecon, about 2 km south of Garth. The locality is on Ordnance Survey Landranger sheet 147. The charge for this excursion will be 50p (no charge to students).

7 March, Field meeting, Saturday

Jurassic of the Western Vale of Glamorgan: The aim of this day is to study the entire section between Ogmere-by-Sea and Dunraven Bay at Southerndown. The north-western and south-eastern ends of this traverse are known to many people, but the central section is rarely visited.

The section comprises Carboniferous Limestone unconformably overlain by Triassic desert breccias and shallow marine Lower Jurassic deposits. The Carboniferous Limestone includes abundant large corals and bryozoans and trace fossils. The Triassic breccias were deposited in desert streams flowing off hills of Carboniferous Limestone to the north. The Lower Jurassic includes both littoral (near-shore) and offshore facies, deposited as the hills of Carboniferous Limestone were flooded by the sea. Fossils include bivalves and ammonites, and some forms which are unusual for the Lower Jurassic.

Most of the day will be spent on the coastal section, so come prepared for rough and possibly wet ground conditions. Safety helmets will be provided.

Leader: Dr John Cope, University of Wales College of Cardiff

Meet at 10.00 am at the northern end of the lower car park at Ogmere-by-Sea (SS861758). It is intended to arrange return transport from the far end of the section. Bring a packed lunch. If the weather is poor, arrangements will be altered and a pub will be visited for lunch.

[Spring field weekend to Lleyn Peninsula 26-28 June cancelled - lack of interest]

21 June, Field meeting, Sunday

Castlemartin Cliffs - Stack Rocks - Linney Head - Freshwater West: The cliffs between Bullslaughter Bay and Freshwater West on the Castlemartin peninsula lie within a Ministry of Defence firing range, and permission is not normally given to visit the area. This part of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park contains some of the finest coastal scenery and includes 3 geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest, identified by the Geological Conservation Review as being of National importance. The geology will include Devonian and Lower Carboniferous rocks on the southern limb of the Orierton anticline and Variscan folding and faulting.

Leader: Sid Howells, Countryside Council for Wales

The day will involve 10km of walking with no opportunity for shelter or refreshment. Return transport will be arranged. Because the area lies within the MOD firing range certain conditions and special arrangements must be followed.

Meet at 9.30 am at the car park at Stack Rocks (SR926946). From Pembroke follow the B4319 for about 5 miles. The road to Stack Rocks is 500m beyond the Castlemartin camp entrance, on the left.

MOD INDEMNITY FORMS: have to be distributed, signed and returned to the camp, so please do not arrive late. These forms, which must be signed by everyone, indemnify the MOD against any claim for injuries, including those caused by unexploded shells, which are a potential hazard of the area. We will be accompanied by a member of the range staff. It is regretted that the excursion is only open to persons under the age of 18 if their indemnity form is signed by a parent or guardian, and the minimum age is 14. Indemnity forms can be obtained in advance from the Field Secretary.

If weather conditions are good, the walk is unlikely to end before 6.00 pm, so bring adequate refreshments. You are advised to bring a camera and at least 2 films!

24 October, Field meeting,

Usk with Drs MG Bassett and RM Owens

Session 34 1992-93

Field Secretary : John Cope

1993

6 February, Field meeting, Saturday morning

Derlwyn Opencast Coal Site: Courtesy of British Coal.

Derlwyn is an opencast coal site working several seams above the New seam in the Lower Coal Measures. It is situated between the Dulais and Neath valleys, overlooking Glyn-neath. British Coal have offered to show us around the site, giving us an opportunity to examine the geology of this part of the Coal Measures and to see the methods of opencast coal working.

Safety helmets will be provided but the site is liable to be muddy, so please bring wellington boots. The South Wales Group has public liability insurance cover. If you want insurance cover against personal accident or injury you should provide your own.

Meet: 10.30 am at the British Coal site offices at Derlwyn. Access to the site is off the A4109 between Dyffryn Cellwen and Glyn-neath, about 3 km north of Glyn-neath.

21 March, Field meeting, Sunday

Forest of Dean Area: The Forest of Dean is a tight syncline in Devonian and Carboniferous rocks. Unlike the better known South Wales Coalfield Syncline, the fold axis trends N-S; there is also a major unconformity between the Carboniferous Limestone and the overlying Coal Measures. At the top of the former is the Drybrook Sandstone - a formation peculiar to the Forest of Dean.

Various exposures in these Carboniferous rocks will be examined. The afternoon will be spent largely on the shores of the Severn, examining the Upper Triassic at Westbury on Severn (with well-exposed Rhaetic Bone-Bed) and sections in the Lydney area (with fossil fish and plants).

The shore exposures will be muddy: wellingtons are recommended.

Members should be aware of the general safety advice for geological fieldwork, as outlined on the Group's membership leaflet. The South Wales Group has public liability insurance cover. If you want insurance cover against personal accident, injury or theft you should provide your own.

Leaders: Dr JCW Cope and Dr RA Gayer (University of Wales College Cardiff)

Meet at 10.00 am in the car park in central Lydney (approx. Grid Ref: 635 034). Follow the A48 into Lydney, down the hill, over the level crossing and a major junction, and then through a narrower part of the main street. As the road starts to rise (c100m past the Co-op on your left) turn left and left again into the large car park. Some cars will be left there so that we can restrict the number of vehicles we have to find parking room for elsewhere. We hope to find a hostelry at lunch time, but you may prefer to play safe and bring some sustenance.

23 May, Field meeting, Sunday

Glaciation of the Brecon Beacons: Following the interest stimulated in this topic at the lecture meeting in January, this all-day walk will examine some of the upland landforms resulting from glaciation. The leader will be Dr Richard Shakesby from the Department of Geography at University College of Swansea.

The day will begin at Storey Arms and will involve a circular walk of about 5 miles onto the upland plateau at Pen y Fan and Corn Du. The sites to be examined are described in the Geographical Association's Classic Landform Guide to the Brecon Beacons, written by Dr Shakesby.

Leader: Dr Richard Shakesby, University College of Swansea

Members should come prepared for a strenuous walk and the possibility of poor weather conditions. Bring a packed lunch. An alternative itinerary will be followed in the event of bad weather.

Members should be aware of the general safety advice for geological fieldwork, as outlined on the Group's membership leaflet. You should be aware that, even in May, conditions can turn cold and wet on the hill tops. Sensible, strong footwear should be worn. The South Wales Group has public liability insurance cover. If you want insurance cover against personal accident, injury or theft you should provide your own.

Meet at 10.00 am at the car park 500 m south of Storey Arms off the east side of the A470 Merthyr to Brecon road (Grid Ref: SN987199).

19-20 June, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Field Weekend to South-West Dyfed: Two days will be spent examining classic exposures in SW Dyfed. Saturday will be spent at Marloes Sands and the Dale Peninsula, looking at Silurian and Old Red Sandstone rocks and Variscan structures. Sunday will be spent in the St David's area, examining Precambrian and Lower Palaeozoic rocks.

Arrangements have been made so members can attend one or both days from home, or stay overnight in the area. The meeting places are:

Saturday 19 June: car park at the end of the metalled road 1.5 km west of Marloes village (SM780082) at 10.00 am. Bring packed lunch.

Sunday 20 June: large car park at Whitesands Bay (SM734272) at 10.00 am. We hope to find a pub for lunch, but you may prefer to bring a packed lunch.

There will be a fee of £1 per day. There is no charge for students.

Members should be aware of the general safety advice for geological fieldwork, as outlined on the Group's membership leaflet. The South Wales Group has public liability insurance cover. If you want insurance cover against personal accident, injury or theft you should provide your own.

Copies can still be obtained of the Group's guide to 'Geological Excursions in Dyfed', price £5 to members.

Session 35 1993-94

Field Secretary : John Cope

1993

22-24 October, Field Meeting, Saturday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Black Mountains and Eastern Brecon Beacons National Park: (joint meeting with Brecknock Wildlife Trust Geology Group.) The Black Mountains form the eastern massif of the Brecon Beacons, separated from them by the Usk Valley. Straddling the border between Wales (Gwent and Powys) and England (Herefordshire) they form a bleak upland plateau, rising to 811m, (2660 ft), with a steep escarpment facing NE and a southern dip-slope cut by secluded valleys draining to the SSE.

The geology comprises southward-dipping Old Red Sandstone, underlain by marine Lower Palaeozoic sequences to the north and overlain in the south by Carboniferous sequences on the northern edge of the South Wales Coalfield.

This field weekend will examine the Old Red Sandstone and the underlying and overlying sequences, and the typical scenery of the area. It will include a visit to Pwll y Wrach, where the Brecknock Wildlife Trust Geology Group has developed a geology trail with help from the GA Curry Fund.

Leaders: Duncan Hawley (John Cabot CTC, Bristol) and Geraint Owen (University College Swansea)

The base will be the historic border town of Hay-on-Wye. There will be time on Saturday evening to visit the town's famous bookshops.

Duncan Hawley lives in Powys and is Chair of the Geology Group of the Brecknock Wildlife Trust (affiliated to the GA). Geraint Owen is a sedimentologist at University College of Swansea and is Secretary of the GA South Wales Group.

Accommodation and Meeting Arrangements: Accommodation has been provisionally arranged at a guest-house in Hay-on-Wye, at a cost of about £20 per person per night bed-and-breakfast. The guest-house is a no-smoking establishment. If you want accommodation please indicate this on the booking form. You will be expected to settle the hotel bill yourself, but must send a non-returnable deposit of £5 per person with your booking form.

We will leave from the market square in the centre of Hay-on-Wye - the Butter Market - at 9.30 am each morning. If you do not want accommodation, you can meet at the departure

time. You will have to make your own way to Hay-on-Wye, but we will try to organise car-sharing for the excursions.

Equipment: You should bring warm, waterproof clothing and stout waterproof footwear. You may wish to bring your own hand-lens, hammer, safety glasses and helmet, although helmets will be provided where needed. We will visit towns or pubs for lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

7 November, Field meeting, Saturday

Silurian of the Builth Area: This excursion will examine Silurian rocks exposed around Builth Wells. Exposures will include basinal sediments with slumps, graptolites and shelly fossils, and the deposits of storm-influenced shelf environments with early plant fossils. The focus for the excursion will be 2 chapters in the recently published guide to Geological Excursions in Powys, Central Wales, which is available to members of the Geologists' Association South Wales Group for the special members' price of £11.00.

Leaders: Dr L Cherns (University of Wales College Cardiff) and Dr M G Bassett (National Museum of Wales)

Members should be aware of the general safety advice for geological fieldwork, as outlined on the Group's membership leaflet. The South Wales Group has public liability insurance cover. If you want insurance cover against personal accident, injury or theft you should provide your own.

Meet at 10.30 am by the hotel in Llangammarch Wells. It is hoped to visit a pub for lunch.

1994

13 March, Field meeting, Sunday

Mesozoic Rocks of the Chepstow Area: This excursion will examine the Triassic and lowermost Jurassic rocks exposed over a length of almost a mile at Sedbury Cliff. The Triassic here contains a number of palaeosol horizons and thin rippled sandstones within the monotonous red mudstones. The Penarth Group (= Rhaetic) is slightly thinner than at Aust but the Cotham Marble is sometimes well developed. The junction with the Lower Lias above is marked by an interesting conglomerate containing pebbles from the beds beneath. Several metres of alternating limestones and shales of the Lower Lias have yielded fish and insect remains. The cliff is capped by terrace gravels containing some large erratics.

Members should be aware of the general safety advice for geological fieldwork, as outlined on the Group's membership leaflet. The South Wales Group has public liability insurance cover. If you want insurance cover against personal accident, injury or theft you should provide your own.

Leader: Dr Michael J Simms (Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education)

Meet at 10.30 am towards the southern end of Loop Road, off the left-hand side of the B4228 Sedbury-Beachley road (Grid Ref: ST 550 923). Please bring a packed lunch.

Wellies are recommended but stout boots would be adequate. Wet weather gear is advisable.

23 April Saturday, Cardiff

Conservation Forum; short talks and field visit in afternoon to **Lavernock Point**

22 May, Field meeting, Sunday

Ramsey Island Excursion: Ordovician igneous rocks dominate Ramsey Island, standing above the plateau surface in the craggy hill masses of Carn Llundain (Llanvinn volcanic) and Carn Ysgubor (microtonalite intrusion). Abermawr Bay on the west side has been eroded in slates and tuffs between headlands of harder igneous rocks. Weather permitting, it should be possible to view the spectacular coastline from the boat before landing near the rocky reef known as the Bitches.

The lavas of Ramsey Island are rhyolitic, in contrast to basic lavas of the same age exposed in the Strumble area. Volcanic activity was explosive: clouds of ash welled up into the sea then sank back to the sea bed, forming unstable piles covering domes of solidified lava. Later eruptions caused sliding and slumping of this material, which at times flowed downslope as turbidity currents.

At the NE corner of the island fossiliferous Arenig rocks rest unconformably on the Upper Cambrian Lingula Flags. The unconformity is much clearer here than on the mainland at Whitesands Bay.

After landing on the island there will be a brief introductory talk on the natural history of the RSPB reserve, followed by a walk of 4 miles taking in the features described above.

Leader: Sid Howells, Countryside Council for Wales

Please Book for this Visit as Numbers are Strictly Limited. There will be a charge of £9 for the boat journey and a £3 landing fee. A £3 deposit is required.

Meet in the St Justinians car park (SM723251) before 9.30. Parking is limited, so please share transport (at least from St David's) if you can. We should be back by 5.30. Bring a packed lunch.

If the crossing to Ramsey Island is not possible there will be an alternative walk along the coast path from St Justinians to Caerfai Bay to examine Precambrian and Lower Cambrian rocks.

17-19 June, Field Meeting, Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Field Weekend to Central Wales: This field weekend to central Wales will examine the geology of areas mapped by the Geological Survey in recent years and featured in the guide to Geological Excursions in Powys, central Wales.

Final arrangements have yet to be made. As last year, it is hoped to be able to arrange a meeting time and place for the Saturday and Sunday mornings, so people can come for one or other of the days, or else stay in the area.

Field Weekend to Rhayader and the Elan Valley: Full details of this field weekend are enclosed - apologies for their late arrival.

Leaders: Dr Jeremy Davies, Dr Richard Waters (British Geological Survey, Aberystwyth office)

Meeting places and times are given for Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Accommodation has been provisionally reserved at the Elan Hotel in Rhayader for those who asked for it to be arranged. Please would you telephone the hotel to confirm your own requirements. You will then settle your own bill. If you did not ask for accommodation to be arranged but now would like accommodation, ring the hotel anyway - they will probably have room. No firm bookings have been made and no deposits have been paid: if you asked for accommodation and now no longer require it, you need do nothing. The hotel will not hold rooms beyond Tuesday if it has not heard from you.

The Elan Hotel is in West Street in the centre of Rhayader. The telephone number is (0597) 810373. They have double rooms at £42 per night per room for bed-and-breakfast. Single rooms are £29.50 per night. All rooms are ensuite. They do evening meals.

You will be able to buy copies of Geological Excursions in Powys during the weekend, at a price of £11.00.

1994

13 November, Field meeting, Sunday

Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo: Practical geological conservation of internationally famous Llandeilo sections (bring a garden trowel!). This will involve partly the examination of the famous Llandeilo sections and partly a “hands-on” conservation exercise. The day will give everyone the chance to see why geological conservation is needed and what we can all do to help.

Leader: Dr MG Bassett

1995

11 February, Field meeting, Saturday

Lavas, Breadcrusts and Cowpats - Geology and scenery of the Treffgarne area: The excursion will include a walk of approx. 2 miles with frequent stops to see Precambrian-Ordovician volcanic and sedimentary rocks, mineralisation and Quaternary landforms. If there is time, nearby sites will be visited by car, to end about 5pm. This area is not as frequently visited as some coastal localities, and there is always a chance of discovering something new.

Leader: Sid Howells

Meet: 10.00am in the lay-by alongside the A40 Haverfordwest-Fishguard Road at Nant-y-Coy (SN958252). You are advised to bring walking boots, warm clothing (including hat and gloves), waterproofs, packed lunch/drink, hammer and chisel, goggles, handlens, and binoculars.

17 March on: Field meetings, 2nd National Science Week

23 April, Field meeting, Sunday

Vale of Glamorgan – Chairman’s field day: Peter will guide us round fossiliferous Jurassic localities in the Ogmere-Southerndown area, including several less commonly visited inland localities.

Leader: Peter Hodges

Meet: 11.00am at flagpole in the main car park by the river mouth at Ogmere-by-Sea (SS86157529).

20 August, Field meeting, Sunday

Carboniferous Limestone and landforms of the Llangattock area: the day will involve a circular walk of about 4 miles over moderately rugged ground.

Leader: Dr Mike Simms (National Museum of Wales)

Meet: 10.30am main car park at Crickhowell [bring a packed lunch and sensible footwear]

16 September, Conservation day, Saturday

Geological Site Clearance at Pen-y-Lan Quarry, Cardiff (ST198788): As part of EUROPEAN NATURE CONSERVATION YEAR in 1995 GEOTRIP is happening on Saturday 16 September. ProGEO - the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage - is promoting geological activities all over Europe on that day. You can join in.

We have been invited by Bill Wimbledon of the Countryside Council for Wales to contribute to Geotrip with a Clearance dig at Pen-y-Lan Quarry, Cardiff. Pen-y-Lan Quarry

is well known for its Silurian rocks and rich fossils, but is now sadly overgrown and practically useless for geological study. The aim of this dig is to clear and restore the quarry.

Meet from 10.00 am at the northern end of Waterloo Road, which is the only point from which to gain access to the quarry. A location map is attached.

There will be light or heavy work to suit people's abilities. Every little bit counts! Bring whatever tools you are happy working with - pruners, trowels, picks, shovels, slashers, etc!

If you need more information, please contact Bill Wimbleton at the Countryside Council for Wales, South Area Office, 43 The Parade, Roath, Cardiff CF2 3UH (tel: 01222-485111).

[Weekend visit to Isle of Wight was cancelled]

Session 37 1995-96

Field/Programme Secretaries : John Cope
Lesley Cherns

1995

12 November, Field meeting, Sunday

Fossil Plants of the Forest of Dean

Leader: J Hilton (University of Wales Cardiff)

1996

24 February, Field meeting, Saturday

The geology and scenery of the coastline between Broad Haven and Newgale:

examination of Ordovician and Carboniferous rocks and fossils, spectacular folding and faulting, glacial features, economic geology and impressive coastal geomorphology – something for everyone! There will be several miles of rough walking on rocky foreshores and cliffs.

Leaders: Sid Howells and John Cope

Meet: 10.00am outside the National Park Information Centre at Broad Haven car park (SM8631400). Bring a packed lunch, or have a bar meal at the Druidston Hotel.

15 – 25 March Guided geological walks

Landscapes Rocks and Fossils of South Wales: *Guided geological walks during set96 - The National Week of Science, Engineering and Technology - from 15th to 25th March 1996.*

Discover a wealth of exotic environments you never dreamed existed in South Wales! And find out how this beautiful landscape has been sculpted by geological processes. These short, easy guided walks will show how rocks and fossils tell the story of the evolving landscape and reveal the past existence of very different landscapes and seascapes. Each walk lasts half a day and is suitable for complete novices.

Bring : warm clothing and stout, waterproof footwear. EVERYONE WELCOME!

[195 people attended the walks]

Saturday 16 March 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Ogmore-by-Sea - Carboniferous sea floor and Triassic desert

With Stephen Howe (National Museum of Wales)

Meet at the northern end of the main car park (SS861755)

Sunday 17 March 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Llansteffan - arid river plains of the Old Red Sandstone

With Geraint Owen (University of Wales Swansea)

Meet at the car park beneath the castle (SN353104)

Saturday 23 March 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Barry Island - Barry's Great Little Breaks

With Alun J Thomas

Meet at the south end of the main car park on Barry Island (ST110665)

Saturday 23 March 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Porth yr Ogof and Sgwd Clun-gwyn - the geology of caves and waterfalls

With Tom Sharpe (National Museum of Wales)

Meet at the Porth yr Ogof car park (SN929124)

Sunday 24 March 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Penarth to Lavernock - Jurassic (marine) Park

With Stephen Howe (National Museum of Wales)

Meet at the car park at Cliff Parade, Penarth (ST186704)

Sunday 24 March 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Craig y Nos - geology and scenery of the upper Swansea Valley

With Geraint Owen (University of Wales Swansea)

Meet at Craig y Nos Country Park car park (SN840155)

30 March, Field meeting, Saturday

Big Pit, Blaenafon, Gwent Geology and Underground Tour: Big Pit closed as a working colliery in 1980. It is now a major tourist attraction as a coal-mining museum, providing underground tours and preserved surface buildings. Dr Chris Lee, from the University of Glamorgan, will present the geology of Big Pit, pointing out features to see on the underground tour. This will add an extra dimension to the standard underground tours.

Meet at the entrance to Big Pit at 10.00 am. Big Pit is at Blaenafon (grid reference SO238087). Booking is essential. We will enter the site as a group, although admission charges will be paid individually. The visit will last about half a day, beginning with a talk on the geology of the site, to be held in the canteen. This will highlight geological features to be seen on the underground tour, which will last about one hour. You should bring stout footwear and warm clothing. Helmets and lamps will be provided. After the underground tour, you can try out an exercise relating underground features to surface geology. The on-site licensed cafeteria serves snacks and cooked meals.

Admission charges will be: Adults - £4.50; Senior Citizens - £4.25; Students (over 18) - £3.75; Children (5-18) - £3.25. The underground tour is not suitable for children under 5 years of age. These prices represent a reduction of about 15% on the standard rates, so we must enter the site as a group, although everyone will pay their own admission charges. Numbers must be confirmed in advance.

The surface part of the site includes preserved colliery buildings, an exhibition, cafeteria and gift shop. Admission to the surface only is available at standard rates (Adults £1.75; Senior Citizens £1.50), so anyone who wants to come but not go underground can do so. Please do not include surface-only visitors on your booking slip.

18-19 May, Field Meeting, Friday-Sunday Weekend Meeting

Field Trip To South Dorset: The purpose of this trip is to examine some of the very fossiliferous Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks of Dorset. Several coastal localities and some inland exposures will be examined. Because of possible danger from the cliffs, safety helmets will be required and any member not possessing one should indicate whether they wish to purchase (at special price) or borrow one for the weekend.

Leader: Dr JCW Cope (Department of Earth Sciences, Cardiff University of Wales)

Accommodation has been arranged at the Bull Hotel, Bridport at the special party rate of £64 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast for the nights of Friday 17 May and Saturday 18 May. This rate is for a twin or double room. There is a limited number of single rooms available at a supplement of £5 for the two nights. Members should arrive on the Friday evening and dinner will be available until a reasonably late hour (anyone likely to arrive after 8.30 should let me know). Lunches will be taken at local hostelrys on the Saturday and Sunday and we aim to finish in the field around 4.00pm on the Sunday, allowing plenty of daylight for the trip back to Wales.

Session 38 1996-97

Programme Secretary : Lesley Cherns

1996

7 September, Saturday, Swansea

Introductory day: displays and afternoon geological walk: Gower

23 November, Field meeting, Saturday

Slope apron facies and sedimentary processes in the Welsh Basin: This field trip will examine some of the early Silurian (Llandovery) sedimentary rocks in the area around Rhayader, mid Wales. The exposures include part of the eastern, fault controlled basin fill and reveal contrasting sedimentary environments and processes.

Outline plan: 1. Examine Caban Conglomerate Formation in detail next to Caban Coch Reservoir and walk to the other side of the reservoir to look at the large scale outcrop shape. 2. Lunch in Rhayader (or packed lunch in Elan Valley). 3. Drive to Claerwen Reservoir to examine the Derwenlas Formation. If weather permits walk to other side of the dam.

Leader: Stephen A. Morris (Department of Earth Sciences, Cardiff University of Wales)

Meet: In the car park next to the Caban Coch dam. From Rhayader, take the road (west) into the Elan Valley. Drive past Elan Village in the bottom of the valley, the road then goes up to the dam. OS GR: (sheet 147) SN 924646. Time: 11 am

Lunch arrangements: There are a few pubs and shops in Rhayader where it will be possible to buy lunch. Public lavatories are available in Elan Village and in Rhayader.

Accessibility: All outcrops are accessible by car, with plenty of off-road parking. There will not be more than 15 minutes walk away from any of the localities.

Clothing: Hard hats are essential. Please bring one if you have one, else we can supply them on the day. Walking boots or wellies would be advisable for walking to the other side of Caban Coch reservoir. Warm waterproof clothing is highly advisable too.

Most sites are protected, so please do not use hammers.

1997

22 February, Field meeting, Saturday

Coal Measures Plant Fossils from Tondy: This afternoon will be spent at Parc Slip Opencast Coal Site near Cefn Cribwr, between Kenfig Hill and Tondy. This is a working opencast site, and is rich in Upper Carboniferous plant fossils. The aim of the visit will be to examine and collect plant fossils.

Leaders: Chris Cleal and Stephen Howe (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff)

The site is likely to be very muddy - you are advised to bring wellington boots. Please bring a safety helmet if you have one. As this is a working opencast site, participants will need to take extreme care, and obey instructions given to them.

Numbers are restricted.

Meet at 1.00 pm at the Site Offices for Parc Slip Qpenicast Coal Site near Cefn Cribwr, between Kenfig Hill and Tondu (SS850837). 1.00 - 4.00 pm

[might have been cancelled owing to prolonged rainfall]

15 – 23 March Guided geological walks

Geological Walks in South Wales: 4th National Week of Science Engineering and Technology *set97* organised by the Geologists' Association - South Wales Group and the National Museum of Wales.

Saturday 15 March 2.00 pm

Penarth – Lavernock

With Stephen Howe (National Museum of Wales)

Meet on the Promenade at the bottom of Cliff Hill, Penarth, opposite the new lifeboat station (ST156780). Walking distance approx. 6 km.

Saturday 15 March 10.00am - 1.00pm

Cribath –geology and scenery in the upper Swansea Valley

With Geraint Owen (University of Wales Swansea)

Meet at Craig y Nos Country Park car park (SN840155).

Sunday 16 March 2.00 pm

Craig yr Allt, Taffs Well

With Tom Sharpe (National Museum of Wales)

Meet in Cemetery Road, Taffs Well (ST127839).

Sunday 16 March 10.00 – 4.30 pm

The Antique Rock Show: geology and scenery of the St David's area

With Sid Howells

Meet at the car park near Marine Life Centre (SM756252).

The walk will be up to 12 km long, mainly on the coast path: bring a packed lurch.

Sunday 16 March 2.00 pm

Dunraven, Southerndown

with Stephen Howe and Kenneth Brassil (National Museum of Wales)

Meet in the car park at Dunraven Bay, Southerndown (SS885732). Walking distance approx. 11/2 km.

Saturday 22 March 2.00 pm

Llandaff Graveyard, Cardiff

With Stephen Howe, Alan Orange and John Kenyon (National Museum of Wales)

Meet at the Preaching Cross on the Cathedral Green, Llandaff (ST156780).

Sunday 23 March 2.00 pm

The Bendricks, near Barry

With Stephen Howe and Tom Sbarpe (National Museum of Wales)

Meet on the approach road to the Atlantic Trading Estate, just beyond the turning to HMS Cambria(ST136676): from the B4267 (Barry to Penarth) follow the signs for Sully Hospital and the Atlantic Trading Estate, Walking distance approx. 2 km.

Sunday 23 March 10.00am - 1.00pm

Caswell Bay - geology and scenery of Gower

With Geraint Owen (University of Wales Swansea)

Meet by conveniences at Caswell Bay car park (SS594877).

[about 815 people attended the walks, including 450 at the Bendricks]

26 April, Field meeting, Saturday

Mesozoic and Tertiary Fossils of Cotswold Gravel Pits: A field excursion to examine the very fossiliferous Mesozoic and the Tertiary in gravel pits around the Cotswold Water Park area. Ammonites, bivalves (including lots of *Gryphaea!*), gastropods, brachiopods, mammal bones, and much more, in easily accessible outcrops of younger rocks than we see exposed in Wales.

Leaders: Dr. Neville Hollingworth (NERC) and Dr. Jason Hilton (Cardiff)

Meet at Rixon Gate carpark (SU060934), Waterhay Bridge at 11.00. Lunch will be taken at a local pub that does food. We will visit two or three gravel pits. Weather and conditions permitting, we may be able to visit the curious, active mud volcanoes at Wootton Bassett that produce spectacular fossils (which would require wellies) [Wootton Bassett was not visited]. Bring stout footwear or wellies, normal wet weather clothes in case hammers, lenses, collecting bags. 11.00am-17.00pm. Numbers limited due to parking.

31 May, Field meeting, Saturday

Lower Palaeozoic Fossils from the Towy Valley: A day will be spent examining fossils from Arenig and Wenlock exposures in the Towy Valley, east of Carmarthen. Graptolites and trilobites are common within certain horizons of the Arenig, whilst a brachiopod and molluscan fauna dominate the Wenlock Shales. The fieldtrip should provide an understanding of the palaeontology and geological setting in the Towy Valley during the Lower Palaeozoic.

Leader: Viv Ratter (University of Wales Cardiff)

Meet at 10.30am at the Golden Grove Inn (near the church) in Llanarthney, 8km west of Llandeilo (SN53312028). We will be taking lunch at a local pub. Stout footwear is recommended, although most localities are near to roads. No working quarries are on the itinerary, but bring a safety helmet if you have one. 10.30 - 5.00pm

Session 39 1997-98

Programme Secretary : Lesley Cherns

1997

13 December, A visit to the **Earth Galleries** at the Natural History Museum in London, on Saturday 13th December was cancelled due to lack of support.

1998

7 March, Field meeting, Saturday

Opencast coal site, courtesy of Celtic Energy. We hope to concentrate on tectonic structures as well as palaeobotany, and of course there will be plenty of opportunity to collect specimens. Numbers will have to be limited

[Unfortunately the opencast site visit on 7 March was called off by the site operators after 2 inches of rain fall on the day before the visit. We hope to rearrange a visit for the autumn.]

13-22 March

Guided geological walks. National Science Week - set98 - the 5th National Science Week. As in previous years we have arranged a programme of A flier giving venues and times is enclosed. Please come along, and encourage friends, neighbours and people you meet in the street to join you! This is a chance to introduce new people to the joys of field geology, so we hope to see a mix of new and familiar faces.

Geological Walks in South Wales: set98 organised by the Geologists' Association.

Sunday 15 March 2.00 pm

Porthcawl – *rocks, fossils and landscape*

With Stephen Howe

Meet at the harbour breakwater, opposite the Lifeboat Station (SS819763).

Sunday 15 March 1.30 pm

Amroth to Wiseman's Bridge – *tree ferns and swamps*

With Sid Howells

Meet at the main car park in Amroth, behind the sea front (SN162071).

Saturday 21 March 2.00 pm

Lavernock to St Mary's Well Bay – *from deserts to tropical sea*

With Stephen Howe (National Museum of Wales)

Meet at Lavernock Church (ST187683).

Saturday 21 March 2.00 pm

Bishopston Valley, Gower – *disappearing streams and holes in the ground*

With Mike Bridges

Meet at the lay-by off the B4436 east of Kittle and Barland Quarry (SS57838961).

Sunday 22 March 2.00 pm

Craig y Ddinas, Pontneddfechan – *cliffs and gorges in the Neath Valley*

With Tom Sharpe

Meet at Craig y Ddinas car park (SN911179).

Sunday 22 March 2.00 pm

Rhossili, Gower – *hills and cliffs of Gower*

With Tom Sharpe

Meet outside the National Trust centre near the car park at Rhossili (SS414880).

Penarth, Amroth, Lavernock, Bishopston, Pontneddfechan, Rhossili

[Whilst there were one or two new faces, the vast majority of people on the walks were GA members. That being so, we feel that we are not providing the best possible service to GA members by concentrating so many walks into such a short space of time, with the inevitable result that some events clash. So for 1999, we propose to continue to offer a programme of Geological Walks in Wales, but to hold these once or twice a month from March to September, including a couple of walks to coincide with Science Week, so that we continue to contribute to that event. Geological Walks in Wales will run alongside our usual programme of field meetings, and so we hope that this will enable even more members to come on even more of the walks, as well as bringing along a few new faces each year. If you have any opinions on this plan, or ideas for places to visit, or wish to volunteer to take a geological walk, please get in touch.]

26 April, Field meeting, Sunday

Coast between Pendine and Amroth These cliffs provide a continuous succession from the Carboniferous Limestone, through the Basal Grit, Shale Group and Farewell Rock of the local Millstone Grit, into the base of the Coal Measures, and there are interesting exposures of the Holocene submerged forest. These really are superb sections, and we will see sedimentary features and fossils, and consider some of the new sequence stratigraphy ideas that have recently been applied to the Farewell Rock.

Leader: Dr Geraint Owen (University of Wales Swansea)

MEET at 10.30 am in Pendine, where the road joins/leaves the sea front (i.e. the western end of Pendine Sands - grid ref: SN 234 079) There is parking in Pendine. Please bring a packed lunch. We will arrange transport so that we walk one-way only, but the section is about 4 miles long. It should be an excellent day.

[The field day at Pendine on 26 April was attended by 15 people. Despite heavy showers, treacherous rocks underfoot, and a race against the tide, we saw some spectacular coastline and geology covering the Basal Grit, Shale Group, Coal Measures and the submerged forest. We didn't manage to make it round Telpyn Point, however, to examine the Upper Sandstone Group (Farewell Rock) of the Millstone Grit.]

16 May, Field meeting, Saturday

Vallis Vale area of Somerset To examine Triassic plant fossils and marginal marine successions.

Leader: Dr Alan Hemsley (University of Cardiff, Earth Sciences Department)

This will be an all-day trip, meeting at **11 am**, with a pub lunch.

10 October, Field meeting, Saturday afternoon

Pendine to Amroth 2 - the Amroth end! The cliffs of Telpyn Point provide superb exposures through the Shale Group and Upper Sandstone Group (Farewell Rock) of the Millstone Grit, into the Lower Coal Measures. We should see the characteristic upward-coarsening delta sequences of the Upper Carboniferous, several marine bands, and have a chance to consider a new interpretation of the Farewell Rock published last year in the Journal of the Geological Society. Depending on the tide there may be a small section of clambering over rocks, and the boulders on the foreshore will be slippery. Total walking distance there and back is about 3 miles.

Leader: Dr Geraint Owen (University of Wales Swansea)

Meet at the east end of Amroth beach at 2 pm. (SN17230722)

Session 40 1998-99

Programme Secretary : Lesley Cherns

1998

5 December, Saturday, Cardiff

The Local Character of Building Stones, Dr Eric Robinson
followed by a **building stones walk from the NMW**

1999

14 March, walk, set99 Science Week

Langland Bay, Gower: past environments of Gower 5km 10.00am – 1.00pm
Leader: Geraint Owen
Meet: 10.00pm at Langland Bay car park (SS605873)

20 March, afternoon walk, set99 Science Week 4km 1.30 – 4.30pm

Ogmore-by-Sea: deserts and tropical seas, looking at Carboniferous Limestone with stunning fossils, and unconformably overlying Triassic rocks.
Leader: Steve Howe
Meet: 1.30pm at the rear of the lifeguard station at the north end of the main Ogmore-by-Sea car park (SS861755)

17 April, summer walk, 6km along foreshore and coast path 1.00 – 6.00pm

Saundersfoot to Monkstone Bay: Coal Measures with spectacular folds and faults
Leader: Sid Howells
Meet: 1.00pm in the public car park at Saundersfoot (SN135047), turn left after passing Booths Amusement Arcade (not the obvious sea front car park)

8 May, Field meeting, Saturday morning (rearranged from 7 March 1998)
Parc Slip opencast

5 June, Field meeting, Saturday
Cotswold fossil hunt

9 June, summer walk (for Cardiff City Council) Wednesday evening 7.00 – 9.00pm
Building Stones of Llandaff 2km
Leader: Steve Howe
Meet: 7.00pm at the preaching cross, Llandaff Cathedral Green, Cardiff

20 June, Field meeting, Sunday 9km 11.00am – 5.30pm
Preseli Hills: 9km walk to examine the tors and consider the origins of the Stonehenge Bluestones (strenuous walk over rough moorland 9km)
Leader: Sid Howells
Meet: 11.00am at Waldo's Monument (SN137304 - Rhosfach) near Mynachlog ddu.
Bring packed lunch.

5 August, summer walk, Thursday evening (for Porthcawl Festival of the Sea) 6.00 – 9.00pm
Porthcawl, walk along the sea front 3km
Leader: Steve Howe
Meet: 6.00pm at the harbour breakwater opposite the lifeboat station (SS819763)

18 September, summer walk, Saturday afternoon 5km 2.00-5.00pm
Penwyllt, rocks, fossils and landscape
Leader: Geraint Owen
Meet: 2.00pm on the open grassy area near the Cave Rescue Post (SN856156)

23 October, Field meeting, Saturday

Quaternary of the Cardigan area: evidence for glacial Lake Teifi. This is the trip that was postponed from the spring, and will be led by Dick Waters and Jerry Davies from the British Geological Survey. Many people will remember the fascinating talk last session about the St Dogmaels landslip. This field meeting will visit the landslip, and other nearby sites to consider new evidence that sheds light on an old idea.

Leaders: Dick Waters & Jerry Davies (BGS)

Full details, including meeting place and time, are on the enclosed flier.

Session 41 1999-2000

Programme Secretary : Lesley Cherns

1999

27 November, Field Meeting, Saturday

Nant Helen opencast site The venue is the Nant Helen site, near Coelbren in the Swansea Valley. As well as looking for plant fossils and mineral specimens, Rod Gayer from Cardiff will be leading the trip and will explain some of the deformation structures at the site. These are relevant to new ideas in understanding the tectonic development of the South Wales Coalfield. Numbers are strictly limited for this visit.

Leader: Dr Rod Gayer (Cardiff University)

2000

17 June, Field meeting, Saturday.

Strumble Head. A walk along the north-east side of the beautiful and geologically fascinating Strumble Head.

Leader: Sid Howells

21 June, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Llandaff, Cardiff

Leader: Steve Howe

5 July, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff

Leader: Steve Howe

1 July, Field meeting, Saturday

The enigmatic Quaternary deposits of south Gower

Leader: Dr Rick Shakesby

25 July, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Porthcawl

Leader: Steve Howe

30 July, Field meeting, Sunday

Iron ore deposits of Glamorgan. Tim Young will follow up his fascinating talk on medieval iron-making at St Fagans in February with a field trip.

Leader: Tim Young

23 September, Field meeting, Saturday

Portishead. A look at the exposures around Portishead

Leader: Geraint Owen

City of Cardiff Nature Conservation Strategy: Geological Survey

In November 1997 Cardiff County Council initiated a geological survey of the county as part of their nature conservation strategy. The three-month survey, primarily based on a search through the relevant literature, identified a total of **285 geological sites**. The time has now come to take this initial survey one step further and your Committee, with the knowledge of your inherent enthusiasm, has **volunteered** the Group's help with the next stage of the process - **assessing the sites in the field**.

Looking through the survey results, the task isn't as daunting as it might seem. Many of the sites identified no longer exist and many others have multiple entries. It is likely, therefore, that the actual number of sites to be checked on the ground is closer to 130 than 285.

So what is planned? Well, each site identified in the report will have to be visited and its geology recorded. Then we will try and assess what potential the site may have for things like education/demonstration purposes, what access/safety problems there might be, and what work would be required to make the site useable. We will tackle these tasks on a group basis and will cover a different areas within the county on each of **several field days**. As this is a 'first' for us, we have no idea how long it will take or how difficult it will be - **this is your chance for a step into the unknown!**

The first 2 survey days have been arranged for Saturday 15 April and Saturday 20 May. If these are successful, more will be arranged. **Meet at 10 am** at the car park of the Asda Superstore at the Coryton interchange, Cardiff (M4 junction 32) on either or both days. Bring a **packed lunch**, although it may be possible to find a pub. Bring your normal **field gear** - warm clothes, stout footwear, waterproofs, and a hammer and goggles if you have them.

Leader: Steve Howe

Conservation days: The first 2 **conservation days** reviewing the status of geological sites in the Cardiff area, organised by Steve Howe, were very successful, despite some rather poor weather! A small but enthusiastic group succeeded in discovering some new places of interest within the city. Two further days have now been arranged, for **Saturday 15 July** and **Saturday 30 September**: a flier is enclosed with full details. Everyone is welcome to come along - many hands make light work!

[As is typical of our fickle weather, both days have produced their fair share of precipitation but also a number of geological surprises. In two full days field-work we have managed to visit and assess 18 sites, some of which were not identified in the original survey, in the Garth Hill and Castle Coch/Fforest Fawr areas. This leads us to believe that the exercise is going to take longer than first anticipated!

For those of you yet to try out this latest addition to our outdoor programme what have you been missing? Well, certainly something very different, probably aptly summed up as a cross between orienteering and jungle survival! Locating some of the sites on the ground has proved interesting to say the least and without the help of some of the participants GPS systems we would still be looking for some of them! Mind you, the fact that no two GPS systems give the same reading has led to a certain amount of interesting 'discussion' as to whose is right! Despite the terrain we have been able to confirm the existence of some fascinating geological sites and, alternatively, confirm that others have long since disappeared.]

2000

11 November, Field meeting, Saturday morning

Darell Opencast Site, Nant-y-Cafn, Seven Sisters, Dulais Valley. Nant-y-Cafn is a working opencast coal site. This morning visit will be an opportunity to see the site in operation, and to collect some superb plant fossils.

Leader: Allan Cuthbertson, Neath Port Talbot Council

MEET at 10.00 am at the junction on the A4109 shown on the map overleaf. Parking at the site is very limited. Please bring a safety helmet and high-visibility jacket if you have them. Numbers are limited

2001

2001 : FOOT AND MOUTH Five of the planned nine field meetings were cancelled. Cardiff conservation days were also cancelled.

28 April, Field meeting, Saturday (this did go ahead)

Jurassic geology of the north Somerset coast

Leader: Kevin Page (English Nature)

Meet at 10.30am in the car park at Kilve, Somerset, bring packed lunch

11 July, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Geology of Rhossili

Leader: Geraint Owen (University Wales Swansea)

Meet at 7 pm in Rhossili car park (SS41458805)

15 August, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Geology of Penarth

Leader: Steve Howe (NMW)

Meet at 6.30 opposite the Lifeboat Station at the bottom of Cliff Hill (ST 188 711)

Friday 15 - Sunday 17 September

Shropshire Field Weekend with the Shropshire Geological Society

Saturday - Geology and Landscape of North-west Shropshire: This day will be spent examining geology, geomorphology and archaeology around Oswestry, including Ordovician mudstones, Carboniferous limestones, sandstones and coal-mining relics, and Triassic sandstones at Nesscliffe Quarry.

Sunday - Geology of Caer Caradoc, Church Stretton: This day will be spent examining the Precambrian volcanics of Caer Caradoc, Ordovician sediments, and the development of the Church Stretton fault system.

Leaders: Sat Gordon Hillier, Sun Peter Toghill

This field weekend to examine the geology of Shropshire is being **Shropshire Geological Society**, who will provide leaders for 2 days in the field and whose members will join the field days. The weekend will be an opportunity to examine the geology of parts of this geologically rich and varied county. Gordon Hillier, Field Secretary of the Shropshire Geological Society, will give an introductory briefing on the Friday evening. The Saturday evening will be free to relax or look around Shrewsbury.

Saturday - Geology and Landscape of North-west Shropshire (Gordon Hillier): This day will be spent examining geology, geomorphology and archaeology around Oswestry, including Ordovician mudstones, Carboniferous limestones, sandstones and coal-mining relics, and Triassic sandstones at Nesscliffe Quarry.

Sunday - Geology of Caer Caradoc, Church Stretton (*Peter Toghill*): This day will be spent examining the Precambrian volcanics of Caer Caradoc, Ordovician sediments, and the development of the Church Stretton fault system.

Equipment: you will need to bring strong footwear and waterproof clothing. There will be some walking over rough ground. You will need to bring a **safety helmet** (you can arrange to borrow one - see booking form).

Accommodation has been reserved at the *Lion & Pheasant*, which is a 16th century hotel alongside the River Severn in Shrewsbury. All rooms are ensuite, and there are some single rooms. Favourable rates have been arranged of **£25 per person per night** for bed-and-breakfast. The *Lion & Pheasant* has its own restaurant. There will also be a **field meeting fee of £10 per person**. The *Lion & Pheasant* is offering a special 3-night package: Sunday night accommodation will be £20 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast.

Session 43 2001-02

Programme Secretary : Lesley Cherns

2001

11 November, Field meeting, Sunday

Darell Opencast site: spectacular fossil trees and beautiful plant fossils

Leader: Allan Cuthbertson (Neath, Port Talbot County Borough Council)

Meet: 2pm at the site

2002

20 April, Field meeting, Saturday

Llyn Llech Owain, Carmel Woods & Carreg Cennen

Leader: Gareth Davies

Meet 10.30 at Llyn Llech Owain car park N of Cross Hands [SN 567 150]

26 May, Field meeting, Sunday

Joint meeting with Open University Geological Society

Opencast site visit

Leader: Allan Cuthbertson (Neath Port Talbot CBC)

Meet 10 am at Crynant Business Park off the A4109 N & W of Crynant (SN 794 054)

15 June Saturday

Joint meeting with Shropshire Geological Society

Geology and landscape of Gower: Carboniferous and Quaternary geology and the origin of the South Gower scenery

Leader: Geraint Owen (University Wales Swansea)

Meet 10.00 am at Rhossili car park [SS 415 880]. Bring packed lunch.

16 June , Field meeting, Sunday

Joint meeting with Shropshire Geological Society

Geology of the Vale of Glamorgan: Carboniferous, Triassic and early Jurassic

Leaders: Geraint Owen & Stephen Howe

Meet 9.45 am at car park S of Ogmores-by-Sea [SS 869 745]. Bring packed lunch.

30 June, Field meeting, Sunday

Silurian to Carboniferous geology of South Pembrokeshire: the geology from the Silurian through the Old Red Sandstone to the Carboniferous Limestone, including some of the ash horizons with spectacular trace fossils.

Leader: Sid Howells

Meet 10.30 at Freshwater East main car park (SS 015 979). Bring packed lunch.

13 July, Field meeting, Saturday

Quaternary environmental change in Cardiganshire: Quaternary development of the Teifi Valley

Leader: Prof Mike Walker (Uni Wales Lampeter)

Meet 10.30 am at University of Wales, Lampeter [SN 579 482]

24 July, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Building stones of Cardiff Bay

Leaders: Lynda Garfield & Dave Wellings

Meet 6.30 pm, junction of Bute Street and James Street, Cardiff

21 August, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Geology of Pontneddfechan waterfalls

Leader: Mike Lees

Meet 6.30 pm at car park near Angel Inn [SN 900 076]

14-15 September, Field meeting, Saturday - Sunday

Geology of North Wales field weekend With N Wales Geology Assoc.

This **field weekend** to examine the geology of North Wales is hosted by the **North Wales Geology Association**, who will provide leaders for 2 days in the field and whose members will join the field days. The weekend will be based in Llandudno and (subject to confirmation) it is hoped to visit localities such as:

- **Anglesey** with its varied geology from Precambrian to Carboniferous; and
- **Llandudno** area, including the Great Orme, with mineralised Carboniferous Limestone, and prehistoric copper mines.

Accommodation: Bed-and-breakfast accommodation will be arranged at a reasonably priced hotel in **Llandudno**. Our target price will be £25 per person per night for bed-and-breakfast, and we hope that some single rooms will be available; these will be allocated strictly in order of booking. The South Wales GA will pay a deposit of £10 per head to the hotel, and you will be responsible for settling your own bill with the hotel, less the £10 deposit. Alternatively, you may prefer to arrange your own accommodation.

Cost: There will be a **field meeting fee of £10 per person**, to cover administrative and leaders' costs. **Equipment:** You should bring strong footwear and waterproof clothing. Bring a hand lens, hammer, goggles and safety helmet if you have them.

Cardiff Conservation Days: finding and documenting sites in the Cardiff area

13 April, 18 May, 22 June, 20 July, 7 September, 12 October

Meet: 10.00 am in the Asda coffee shop, Coryton Interchange (M4/A470)

2003

9 March, Field meeting, Sunday, Science week

The Late Triassic of the Aust area: opportunities to collect gypsum and pyrite, and vertebrate bones and teeth in blocks of the famous Rhaetic bone beds, in which a thin layer of meteoric dust and tektites has recently been found, and linked to an impact in Canada, 212 million years ago. The afternoon will be spent at **Manor Farm**, which is a conserved site so hammering of the exposed section is not allowed.

Leader: Peter Hodges

Meet: 11.00 south west of Aust village and park on the west side of the road just south of Passage House (ST563886). Lunch will be at the Aust motorway services.

13 April, Field meeting, Sunday

Dinosaur and other fossils of the Middle Jurassic of Oxfordshire. The Middle Jurassic Great Oolite Group of Oxfordshire has long been famous for its fossils, most notably the first dinosaur to be described, Megalosaurus. We will spend the morning at Ardley Quarry, which exposes beds of the White Limestone Formation - shallow marine sediments containing bivalves, gastropods, echinoids, and shark and crocodile teeth as well as about 40 spectacular trackways of large theropod and sauropod dinosaurs, some extending for 200m.

Leaders: Phil Powell (Oxford University Museum of Natural History) and Tom Sharpe (National Museum of Wales)

We will take lunch in a local pub, and in the afternoon we will visit either Woodeaton Quarry, where part of a stegosaurus was excavated last year, or Cassington Quarry, where the lower Oxford Clay with ammonites in pyrite nodules is overlain by Pleistocene Thames gravels containing bones of Devensian mammals, including mammoth. Both sites are close to Oxford.

MEET at 11.00 am at the site office at the entrance to Ardley Quarry (SP 540 263, Ordnance Survey Landranger 164). Ardley Quarry is located about 15 miles NNE of Oxford. You will need a hard hat and a high visibility vest to visit these sites, and appropriate equipment if you wish to collect specimens.

31 May, Field meeting, Saturday

Precambrian and Lower Palaeozoic of the Old Radnor area. Also Dolyhir Quarry, Old Radnor

Leader: Lesley Cherns (Cardiff University)

Meet 11.00 am at Strinds Quarry (SO 247 580)

11 June, Evening geological walk, Wednesday

Llansteffan

Leader: Geraint Owen (UW Swansea)

Meet 7 pm at car park below castle [SN 352 104]

22 June, Field meeting, Sunday

Forest of Dean: eastern flank – section through from the Old Red Sandstone to the Coal Measures

Leader: Dave Green

Meet 10.30 am by the B4227 at Upper Soudley [SO 654 104]

25 June, Evening geological walk (with Cardiff Parks), Wednesday

Building stones of Llandaff

Leader: Steve Howe (NMW, Cardiff)

Meet 6.30 pm at the preaching cross on the Cathedral Green, Llandaff, Cardiff

6 July, Field meeting, Sunday

Checking out Murchison: fossils and structures in the Builth-Llandrindod area

Leader: John Davies (CCW)

Meet 10.30 am near Upper House on minor road E of A470 at Crossway (SO 076 571).

Several miles walk; bring packed lunch.

16 July, Evening geological walk (with Cardiff Parks), Wednesday

Building stones of Cardiff Bay

Leaders: Lynda Garfield & Dave Wellings

Meet 6.30 pm at junction of Bute Street and James Street [ST 192 746]

16 August, Field meeting, Saturday

Sellar opencast site visit

Leader: Allan Cuthbertson (Neath Port Talbot CB Council)

Meet: 10am at site access junction on the A4061 heading south towards Treherbert (SN935053)

12-14 September, Field Weekend to East Anglia [Cancelled]

27 September, Field meeting, Saturday

Old Red Sandstone of Marloes Sands, South Pembrokeshire

Leaders: Sid Howells and Lance Morrissey

Meet 10.30 am at car park W of Marloes village [SM 779 083]; bring packed lunch.

Cardiff Conservation Days: finding and documenting sites in the Cardiff area

26 April, 17 May, 14 June, 19 July, 30 August, 20 September, 11 October, 8 November

Meet 10.00 am in the Asda coffee shop, Coryton Interchange (M4/A470)

Session 45 2003-04

Programme Secretaries :Lesley Cherns
Steve Howe

2003

11 October, field meeting
Joint meeting with North Wales Geologists' Association
Swansea valley
Leaders: Geraint Owen and Allan Cuthbertson

12 October, field meeting
Joint meeting with North Wales Geologists' Association
Penarth to Lavernock
Leader: Steve Howe

2004

19 May, evening meeting, Wednesday
Geoconservation in Llandaff
Meet: 7pm Cathedral Green, Llandaff

23 May, field meeting, Sunday
Geo-engineering and Geology of the Amroth-Tenby coast: the spectacular Upper Carboniferous geology of this part of the Pembrokeshire coast leads to problems of coastal protection relating to cliff erosion and instability, flooding and beach erosion. Sid will give an outline of the geology and explain some of the measures that have been taken recently to protect the coastline.
Leader: Sid Howells

Meet 10 am at Amroth main car park behind the sea front [SN 163 071]
Packed lunch suggested although there will be various facilities along the route. We will be driving and parking at a number of sites along the section.

16 June, evening geological walk, Wednesday
Ogmore-by-Sea, Vale of Glamorgan: Carboniferous Limestone fossils and Triassic desert torrent deposits.
Leader: Stephen Howe (NMW, Cardiff)
Meet 7 pm at Surf Life Clubhouse in the car park, Ogmore-by-Sea car park [SS 862 754]

20 June, field meeting, Sunday
Geology of the Malvern Hills: amazing variety in a small area and, with Precambrian as well as Lower Palaeozoic rocks, the area is important for understanding the geology of southern Britain.
Leader: Dr Lesley Cherns (Cardiff University)
Meet 11 am at Herefordshire Beacon car park [SO 763 403]. Lunch will be taken at a pub.

14 July, evening geological walk, Wednesday
Threecliff Bay, Gower: Carboniferous Limestone
Leader: Geraint Owen (Swansea University)
Meet 7 pm at National Trust car park at the foot of Cefn Bryn in Penmaen [SS 531 888]

24 July, field meeting, Sunday,

Geology of the Usk Inlier: another important area of Lower Palaeozoic rocks in south-east Wales.

Leader: Dr Robert Owens (NMW, Cardiff)

Meet 10 am main car park, Maryport St, Usk [SO 376 007]. A lunch stop at a local hostelry will try to be incorporated but members may wish to bring a packed lunch.

11 August, evening geological walk, Wednesday

Building stones of Cardiff Bay: varied and beautiful stones, apparently there are thousands of garnets out there waiting to be found, and this promises to be a fascinating evening.

Leaders: Lynda Garfield & Dave Wellings

Meet 6.30 pm at old post office on junction of James St & Bute St

25 - 26 September, field weekend, Saturday, Sunday

Geology of Central Wales: this field weekend, based in Aberdyfi, will examine the Ordovician volcanism of southern Snowdonia, Cambrian and Silurian rocks of the Welsh basin with their fossils and mineralisation, and the evolution of the area's landscape. Saturday will be a circuit of Cadair Idris, examining Cambrian sedimentary rocks, Ordovician volcanic successions, and glacial landforms. Sunday will comprise a transect of the Central Wales Synclinorium from the coast north of Aberystwyth to the Rhayader area, looking at Silurian fossiliferous mudstones and turbidite sandstones, mineralisation, and landscape development. The aim will be to finish in the Rhayader area mid to late Sunday afternoon.

Leader: Geraint Owen (Swansea University)

Accommodation: Provisional arrangements have been made at a guest-house in Aberdyfi. -

Equipment: Bring strong footwear and waterproof clothing. Bring a hand lens, hammer, goggles, high-visibility jacket and safety helmet if you have them.

17 October, field meeting, Sunday

Mesozoic Geology of Lilstock, Somerset: type area for the Lilstock Formation, the upper unit of the Penarth Group (Rhaetian) and there are exposures of Triassic and Lower Jurassic (Lias) rocks; plenty of interesting geology and fossils to be found.

Leader: Dr Peter Hodges

Meet 11 am at beach car park, Lilstock [ST 172 452]

Cardiff Conservation Days:

Having completed most of the initial survey of the sites identified within the Cardiff Conservation Survey document the bulk of our efforts this year will be directed at revisiting some of the major localities that we found to undertake more detailed surveys and try out site assessment evaluations.

For all of the meetings, bar the May Wednesday evening, meet at 10.00am in the car park at the ASDA store off the Coryton roundabout, alongside the M4 in Cardiff. For the excursion on the evening of Wednesday 19th May meet at 7.00pm on the Cathedral Green, Llandaff.

For all the day excursions a local hostelry will be found for lunch but packed lunches can be brought if preferred. This year's geoconservation days will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday 19th May, Saturday 12th June, Saturday 10th July, Saturday 21st August
Saturday 2nd October

2004

Geofest

7 November, Field trips, Sunday

Coaches depart from outside NMW at 9.30 am. South Wales Group members can arrange their own transport, but **MUST** pre-book.

Building Stones of Cardiff Bay A walking tour examining the building stones of the Bay area. Return to NMW by 1.30 pm.

Leaders: Lynda Garfield and Dave Wellings.

Penarth, Lavernock and the Bendricks. Superb coastal exposures from upper Triassic to Lower Lias, with folding, faulting, fossils and dinosaur footprints. Return to NMW by 4 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Coach cost £5.

Leader: Stephen Howe

Ogmore-by-Sea Carboniferous Limestone, Triassic wadi-fills and marginal marine Lower Lias. Return to NMW by 4 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Coach cost £5.

Leader: Geraint Owen.

Big Pit: National Mining Museum of Wales Underground tour (surface alternative available) and local geology in the Blaenafon World Heritage Site. Return to NMW by 4 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Coach cost £5.

Leader: Tom Sharpe

2005

5 March, Field meeting, Sunday

Building Stones of Newport

Leader: Dr Eric Robinson

7 May, Field meeting, Saturday

Jurassic of Leckhampton and Crickley Hill, Gloucestershire Leckhampton Hill shows the thickest inland section of the Middle Jurassic Inferior Oolite rocks in the country. Beds from the Whitby Mudstone Formation at the top of the Lias to the Upper Trigonina Grit are exposed in a series of old quarries around the hill and escarpment edge, while at the classic section on Crickley Hill the thickest sequence of Pea Grit in the Cotswolds can be seen. The Gloucestershire Geoconservation Trust has recently carried out site clearance on the many SSSIs that make up the sequence and our leader is a member of the team involved in this work.. The morning will be spent at Leckhampton and then we will move on to Crickley Hill in the afternoon where we will also have our picnic lunch.

Leader: David Owen (Gloucestershire Geoconservation Trust)

Meet at 10.00 am at the Brownstone Car Park on the top of Leckhampton Hill (SO 950 179). Bring a packed lunch.

15 June, evening walk, Wednesday

Oxwich, Gower

Leader: Geraint Owen (SWGA)

Meet at the Oxwich Bay Car Park (SS 501 865) at 7.00pm

25 June, Field meeting, Saturday

Geology of the Cribarth, Upper Swansea Valley, and the proposed Brecon Beacons

Geopark Beginning with an introduction to the Brecon Beacons Geopark application at Craig-y-nos this excursion will then proceed to examine some of the superb geology of the proposed Geopark around and over the Cribarth area.

Leader: Dr Tony Ramsay

Meet 10.30 am at the Craig-y-Nos Visitor Centre (SN 840 155). Bring packed lunch

29 June, evening geological walk, Wednesday

Nash Point, Vale of Glamorgan

Leader: Tom Sharpe

Meet 7.00 pm at the cliff-top car park at the end of the road from Marcross (SS 916 683).

Cardiff Science Festival

These two walks form part of the Cardiff Science Festival weekend and will examine the wide variety of building stones that can be seen within these two distinct areas of Wales' capital city. Both are afternoon excursions of about 2 hours length and easy walking, although any previous participants on one of Eric's walks will know that 2 hours is likely to be an underestimate!

9 July, geological walk, Saturday afternoon

Building Stones of Cardiff City Centre

Leader: Eric Robinson (GA)

Meet 2.00 pm on the front steps of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

10 July, geological walk, Sunday afternoon

Building Stones of Cardiff Bay

Leaders: Lynda Garfield & Dave Wellings (SWGA)

Meet 2.00 pm in front of the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay.

23 July, Field meeting, Saturday

Lower Old Red Sandstone of Carmarthenshire The aim of this excursion is to examine the nature of the oldest Old Red Sandstone in Carmarthenshire. We will commence at Cwar Glas to examine exposures in the Sawdde Valley and Cennen Gorge and progress south-westwards along the strike of the basal Old Red Sandstone to Cwm Ffrwd. Here we will examine changes within the sequence and the relationship between the Old Red Sandstone (Silurian Red Beds) and the underlying Silurian and Ordovician.

Leader: John Davies (CCW)

Meet 11.00 am at Cwar Glas, Pont-ar-llechau in the Sawdde Gorge, S of Llangadog (SN 727 248). Bring packed lunch. We will drive between sites and there will be some short walks.

18 September, Field meeting, Sunday

Geology from Newgale to Solva, Pembrokeshire The view along the south coast of the St David's Peninsula from the hillside above Newgale is one of the finest in Pembrokeshire. The aim of this excursion is to walk the coast path to Solva (5 miles rugged walking) and return to Newgale by public transport about 6.00pm. Amongst the features to be seen are the barrier beach at Newgale, Precambrian volcanics, Cambrian sediments and Ordovician intrusions, the St Elvis lead mine (surface only), minor folding and the meltwater channels and rias at Solva. The beautiful secluded bay at Porthmynawyd offers an excellent swimming spot so come prepared!

Leader: Sid Howells (CCW)

Meet 10.30 am in Newgale at the first large car park off the main road from Haverfordwest (SM 850 218). Bring packed lunch. Return by public transport.

8 October, Field meeting, Saturday

Lower Old Red Sandstone of the Black Mountains On this excursion we will follow the eastern fringe of the Black Mountains and visit sites that are providing new findings, ideas and interpretations about Lower Old Red Sandstone environments.

Leader: Duncan Hawley

Meet 10.00 am at Talgarth car park (SO 153 337). Packed lunch essential and hard hats are suggested if possible.

GEOCONSERVATION DAYS 2005

Having now completed most of the initial site analysis for the Cardiff Geological Conservation site survey we will be turning our attention this year to a more detailed site assessment of each site that we now know to be extant. This will involve plotting the extent of the site on a map and producing a detailed description of what there is to see. Hopefully, if we progress well with this aspect then we will later begin to look at ranking some of the sites in order of merit.

Virtually the only sites still that we have not visited so far are the larger working quarries and it is hoped to try and rectify this during the year as well as finding time to visit the few sites not yet 'ticked-off' in the initial survey.

The meetings are open to anybody and as in previous years we will meet at 10.00 am in Asda's car park at the Coryton interchange, Cardiff. We will also try to be in reach of a convenient pub at lunchtime but people are quite welcome to bring a packed lunch if they prefer. This year's Geoconservation days will take place on the following Saturdays:

16 April, 14 May, 11 June, 16 July, 13 August, 10 September, 29 October

2006

18 February, Saturday, Swansea,

Joint meeting with Russell Society Wales and West branch

Petrography of the building stones of South Wales followed by a walk along the Swansea seafront

Leader: Dr Graham Lott (British Geological Survey)

2006

18 June, Field meeting, Sunday

Geology of Flatholm The excursion to Flatholm is limited to a maximum of 35 people. The normal cost of the boat fare is £15 but if we can fill the boat then a reduction may be possible. The boat departs at 9.15am prompt (with or without you) and will return to Barry by about 1.35pm. If participants are interested in extending the excursion in the afternoon then there are a number of sites that we can visit around Barry Island. To reserve a place please complete this form and return it with a £10 deposit.

Leader: Dr Chris Lee

Meet 9.00 am at the Flatholm Project Office, Barry Island. **PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

5 July, evening geological walk, Wednesday

Bracelet Bay, Gower

Leader: Geraint Owen

Meet 7.00 pm at Bracelet Bay car park, Gower (SS 628 873).

15 July, Field meeting, Saturday

Lower Old Red Sandstone of the Black Mountains 2: the eastern sections

Leader: Duncan Hawley

Meet 10.00 am at Abergavenny railway station car park (SO 305 136). Bring packed lunch.

19 July, evening geological walk, Wednesday

Penarth

Leader: Tom Sharpe

Meet 7.00 pm at the cliff-top car park at the end of Cliff Parade, Penarth (ST 186 704).

19 August, Field meeting, Saturday

Burrington Combe and Cheddar

Leader: Tom Sharpe

Meet 11.00 am at the car park nr Aveline's Hole on the B3134 in Burrington Combe (ST 476 587). Bring packed lunch.

7 October, Field meeting, Saturday

The building stones of some Gower churches Joint meeting with Welsh Stone Forum

Leader: Dr John Davies (CCW)

Meet 11.00 am at The Green, Llangennith, Gower (SS 428 914). Bring packed lunch.

2006

21-22 October, Rockwatch field weekend, Saturday-Sunday

Rockwatch weekend to S Wales

Leaders: Steve Howe, Tom Sharpe, Allan Cuthbertson

2007

21 April, Field meeting, Saturday

Clearwell and Tintern Quarries, Forest of Dean Clearwell Quarry is working the Lower Limestone Shale for aggregate, building and walling stone. Clear divisions between limestone and shale can be seen and the limestones are often cross-bedded, occasionally fossiliferous and contain traces of red ochre. This part of the day is on relatively flat ground. After a picnic lunch at Offa's Dyke Car Park (ST 558 994) we will move on to Tintern Quarry (ST 551 983) for the afternoon. This huge disused quarry exposes the rest of the Carboniferous Limestone, from the Lower Dolomite, through the Crease Limestone, Whitehead Limestone, Drybrook Sandstone to the Drybrook Limestone. The quarry itself gives an excellent overview of the sequence and each rock unit is accessible in a forestry track circling the main quarry where features such as ripples, palaeosols and masses of trace fossils can be seen. The area also overlooks the Wye Gorge and shows the incised meanders of the River Wye. This part of the day involves some steep hills and uneven ground.
Leader: David Owen (Gloucestershire Geological Conservation Trust)

Meet at 10.00 at Clearwell Quarry (SO 566 067) or 2.00pm at Tintern Quarry (ST 551 983). Please pre-book for the Clearwell Quarry part of this excursion. Clearwell Quarry is a working site and high visibility vests and hard hats are required.

12 May, Field meeting, Saturday

Vulcanicity in the Tywi lineament A line of volcanic islands was associated with the Tywi Lineament during the Lower and Upper Llanvirn and Caradoc times. The aim of this excursion is to examine the volcanic sequences exposed from Llandeilo in the southwest to the Builth /Llandrindod area in the northeast. In particular we will be examining how these sequences relate to each other in time and what their environments of deposition were.
Leader: Dr John Davies (CCW)

Meet at 11.00am at the car park at Tregeyb School, Ffairfach, Llandeilo [SN 632215]. There will be a fair amount of driving between outcrops and a little walking.

2 June, Field meeting, Saturday morning, afternoon or all day

Nant Helen Opencast and Pontneddfechan The morning will be spent looking at the Coal Measures sequence within the Nant Helen Opencast site as well as aspects of how the site is worked. There should be a chance to collect fossils and minerals.
After lunch at Pontneddfechan, the afternoon will be spent walking up the Pyrddin Valley from the Angel Inn to Scwd Gladys a return distance of about 4 kms. Much of the walk is along a well made, gently inclined track although there are some steeper and muddier sections. The rocks outcropping along the valley range from the Farewell Rock at the base of the Coal Measures down through the Millstone Grit succession to the Basal Grits, including fossiliferous Marine Band horizons. The glacial and post glacial history of the area will also be examined.

Leaders: Allan Cuthbertson and Stephen Howe

Meet at 10.30am at Nant Helen Opencast site office [signposted as Celtic Energy off the A4221], 1km west of Colebren (SN 82/10) or 2.00pm at the Angel Inn, Pontneddfechan (SN 910 079). Numbers limited to Nant Helen so pre-booking essential. Depending upon the weather the site can be very wet, muddy and rough underfoot. There is little walking involved. Nant Helen is a working site and high visibility vests and hard hats are required. Some may be available from Celtic Energy whom operate the site if we let them know in advance. Would anybody booking please state at the time whether or not they require these items.

1 July, Field meeting, Sunday

All features great and small – revealing the glacial landforms and history of the middle Usk valley This excursion will examine the legacy of the last ice age by exploring landscape features that might ordinarily go unnoticed. However, these provide evidence for the advance and retreat of the Usk glacier and reveal the glacial history of the area. This excursion will involve driving between sites and then short walks on level and moderate ground to reach each from the parking points.

Leader: Duncan Hawley

Meet at 10.30am at the Ffrwdgrech Industrial Estate just north of Brecon on the A470 (SO 031 280). Some sites may be wet underfoot so stout footwear or wellington boots is advisable.

28 July, Field meeting, Saturday

Westbury, Wiltshire

Leader: Simon Carpenter (Bristol Naturalists' Society)

Meet at 10.30am at the LaFarge Cement Works, Westbury, Wiltshire (ST 880 527)

1 September, Field meeting, Saturday morning, afternoon or all day

Ogmore-by-Sea and Nash Point In the morning we will walk to Pant y Slade to examine the Jurassic unconformity and coastal section. If the tide has dropped enough the foreshore section will be examined before we walk back over the cliff to the other end of the section in Seamount Bay. The afternoon will be spent at Nash Point where we will examine the omission-surface faunas and diagenetic history of the Liassic sediments.

Leader: Huw Sheppard (BGS)

Meet at 10.00 am at the cliff top car park above Dunraven Bay (SS 882 734) or 2.00pm at Nash Point car park (SS 916 683) There will be a fair amount of walking, especially in the morning between Pant y Slade and Seamount Bay. There will be some steep gradients and rough and slippery rock sections of the foreshore. There will be car parking charges at both the morning and afternoon locations.

27 October, Field meeting, Saturday

The geology and scenery of the Carboniferous rocks of the Tenby area: This excursion gives us the opportunity to study various aspects of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit sequences at Tenby. Aspects of structural and engineering geology (coastal protection) will also be covered.

Leader: Sid Howells (CCW)

Meet at 10.30am at the Butts Field car park, Tenby (SN 132 032). This is an excursion by foot and will involve a walk of several miles with some moderate gradients on beach, rocky shore and coast path.

Geoconservation days are running again, final stages of the study; contact Steve Howe including 7 July, 4 August, 9 September, 6 October

2008

8-9 March, weekend field meeting, Saturday-Sunday

The Gash Breccias of Pembrokeshire: following from Peter Walsh's talk last October. It is hoped to make these excursions more like undergraduate field tutorials than Cooks tours – we will point out various puzzling features and ask you to explain them. No two gashes are alike, so it is not necessary to attend both days. The only feature common to both will be a short introductory chat to explain the fundamental problems associated with the Gashes, - no one knows how old they are and there are 101 hypotheses to explain their origins – and what the Gash Breccia Research Group is trying to do to solve them.

8 March, Field meeting, Saturday

Bullslaughter Bay Syncline: We will be concentrating on the Gashes at Trevalen, Bullslaughter Bay and Flimston, with incidental references to other aspects of the local geology

Leaders: Peter Walsh and Sid Howells

Meet: 10.00am at the National Trust Broadhaven Beach car park (SR976938)

9 March, Field meeting, Sunday

The Gash Breccias of the Pembroke Synclines: we will be concentrating on the Lydstep Point, Whitesheet Rock and Draught Outliers, with passing reference to other aspects of local geology.

Leader: Peter Walsh

Meet: 10.00am at the National Trust car park at Lydstep (SS088977)

5 April, Field meeting, Sunday

Fishguard

Leader: Huw Sheppard

Meet: 10am Harp Inn, Letterston, Haverfordwest SA62 5UA (194800229200). Walking will be moderate, but it is more likely that we will stick to driveable sites. We will try and incorporate a pub lunch at either Newport or Rosebush, people can of course bring a lunch as well!

18 May, Field meeting, Sunday

Aust and Portishead

Leaders: Peter Hodges and Geraint Owen

Meet: 10.30am old Severn Ferry pier, Aust (ST563886) or 2.00pm in the car park Windmill Inn about 1km west of Portishead (ST458766)

7 June, Field meeting, Saturday

The Quaternary of Gower

Leader: John Hiemstra

Meet: 10.30am King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldstone, Gower

21-22 June, **Rockwatch** weekend field meeting, Saturday-Sunday

Saturday, **Big Pit National Coal Museum and old opencast pits at Blaenafon**

Sunday, **Lavernock and the Bendricks**

19 July, Field meeting, Saturday

Geology and Conservation of the Clydach Gorge The field trip will re-examine the classical north-eastern coalfield succession from the Devonian up to the Westphalian at Clydach Gorge National Nature Reserve.

Leader: John Davies

Meet 10:45 at the Clydach car park - Sheet 161 SO233136, located on the south side of the A465 just north of Clydach and approximately 1 mile south west of Gilwern. The trip will be on foot, moderately strenuous in places, bring a packed lunch.

31 August, Field meeting, Sunday

Waterwynch to Saundersfoot Features: Coal Measure sequence, complex folding & faulting, coastal scenery of western Carmarthen Bay.

Leader: Sid Howells

Meet: 10.30 (latest please) at Regency Hall car park, Saundersfoot (situated behind amusement arcade - **not the seafront car park**). Refreshments and toilets before start and at finish of walk. We will then reorganise to take minimum number of cars to start of walk near Monkstone Bay (limited parking). Walk distance approximately 3 miles, returning to Saundersfoot by about 17.00. Mostly firm sand, but some short stretches of foreshore rock and boulders which cannot be avoided. Optional scrambling over intertidal rock to try to reach the extreme SW of the section at Waterwynch – plenty to see and do if you decide not to do this

27 September, Field meeting, Sunday

The Woolhope Inlier

Leader: Bob Owens

Meet: 11.00am at the Haugh Wood car park, on the north side of the Mordiford to Woolhope road (SO592036550)

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2008

11 October, conservation day, Saturday

Wern Ddu SSSI, Caerphilly: here is your chance to get ‘hands-on’ with geological conservation. This day’s activity will be to assist with site clearance at this important Coalfield SSSI under the guidance of the South Wales Coalfield Geo Heritage Network Project Manager. Important exposures of Westphalian deposits occur at Wern Ddu clay pit, which over time has become overgrown and difficult to access. The Countryside Council for Wales has initiated a big clear up of the site and this is our chance to get involved. Their work will be walk, talk and hands-on clearance work during the day so bring gloves, sturdy shoes and your favourite tools although specialist tools will be provided. You can come for the whole day or for as long as you like, Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided but bring a packed lunch if staying all day.

Leader: Ben Evans (BIGC)

25-26 October, weekend field meeting, Saturday, Sunday

Variscan stratigraphy and tectonics of North Devon and Cornwall

It has not proved possible to organise a long weekend excursion to Cork this year but instead we are proposing to visit North Cornwall and Devon. The plan is to travel down on the Friday afternoon/evening and have all day Saturday and most of Sunday in the field, aiming to leave by about 4.00pm on the Sunday for the return to Cardiff. Ted suggests that we stay in or near Bude. Ted has put together a very interesting set of localities to be visited over the weekend.

Leaders: Ted Freshney and Richard Scrivener (ex BGS).

15 November, Saturday

Geofest **Building stones walk around Cathays Park**, Dr Eric Robinson

2009

26 April, Field meeting, Sunday

Rudry, near Caerphilly A full day excursion that will entail a circular walk of about 6 miles to examine the Upper Old Red Sandstone – Carboniferous sequence of the area and its effect on the topography. The route includes a few steep sections,
Leader: Tom Sharpe (NMW)

Meet at 10.30am at the public car park on Rudry Common (ST 183 865), which is located just below Mynydd Rudry, near Caerphilly. Lunch can be taken at the Maenllwyd public house for those who wish, although it will probably be busy, otherwise bring a packed lunch.

30 May, Field meeting, Saturday

North-west Carmarthenshire This full day excursion will follow the Ordovician-Silurian boundary across Carmarthenshire, towards Llangranog, looking specifically at the submarine channel deposits. The excursion will also examine the use of these various sandstones as building stones.

Leader: John Davies (CCW)

Meet at 10.30am at the Focus car park in Carmarthen (SN 412 193). Bring a packed lunch.

20 June, Field meeting, Saturday

Chedworth, Gloucestershire The excursion will visit the Chedworth Railway cutting, which exposes a condensed section through the Inferior Oolite, and then Foss Cross Quarry to examine the Great Oolite (White Limestone). Then a short drive to the Stony Furlong cutting and Chedworth Valley to look at further sections in the White Limestone, local building stones and how Quaternary erosion and deposition has affected the landscape. If time permits it may be possible to visit the Chedworth Roman Villa (entrance charge applies).

Leader: David Owen (Gloucestershire Geology Trust)

Meet at 10.30am at Chedworth Roman Villa car park (SP 053 135), three miles north-west of Fossebridge off the A429 Cirencester to Northleach road. Bring a packed lunch.

11-12 July, **Rockwatch weekend field meeting**

25 July, Field meeting, Saturday

Exploring the landforms and deglaciation of the Middle Usk Valley in the Abergavenny area This excursion will examine the glacial limits of the Usk glacier and some of the recessional features associated with a retreating ice margin. Evidence associated with the timing of the deglaciation of the area will be considered and some of the problems of tributary glaciers and how they decoupled from the main ice mass. The deposits and evidence of climatic amelioration and Holocene landscape change will also be examined.
Leader: Adrian Humpage (BGS)

Meet at 10.00am outside the Abergavenny Tourist Information Centre in the main car park opposite the bus station (SO 302 140). Bring a packed lunch

22 August, Field meeting, Saturday

Burrington Combe, Mendip The excursion will be by foot around Burrington Combe and the East and West Twin Valleys examining the Carboniferous Limestone succession, the overlying Triassic and plenty of caves and karstic features. An idea of what we will see can be found in the BGS publication The Walkers Guide to the Geology and Landscape of Western Mendip by Andy Farrant.

Leader: Andy Farrant (BGS)

Meet at 10.30am at the Burrington Coombe Café car park, just below the 'Rock of Ages' (ST 476 587). Bring a packed lunch.

26 September, Field meeting, Saturday

St Davids, Pembrokeshire The excursion will begin with an examination of the building stones of the Cathedral and then proceed to Pont y Penyd Quarry, Porth Clais, and if time permits, St Non's Bay. The day will be spent looking at the rocks of the Peibidian Volcanic Complex, the Cambrian Caerfai and Solva Groups and the late Pleistocene.

Leader: Dyfed Elis Gruffydd

Meet at 11.00am at the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park car park near the Bishop's Palace in St Davids (SM 749 254). Bring a packed lunch. [Not 19 Sept as originally listed]

South Wales RIGS Project Workshop Days

The South Wales RIGS project is now underway and we are looking for volunteers to help. Our literature searches have revealed a large number of potentially interesting sites across the region and we need help to see if they still exist. We have put together a short workshop to help us to get started. The workshop is intended as informal day to go through the forms and H&S in insurance paper work, taking no more than an hour or so depending on questions that arise. I also intend to offer people the opportunity to go through describing samples and sites and using a compass on the same day if they would like to although I realise that not everyone will want to do this. We can also talk about the areas that people are interested in working in arrange to get the site visit forms and maps printed out so you can visit some sites. The workshop will be held in the BGS offices in Tongwynlais, near Cardiff with field work in the Taff Gorge if you'd like to do that, later the same day. In the first instance, we have arranged two dates for people to choose from these being 17 and 18 April.

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2009

7 November, Field meeting, Saturday

Cwm Gwrelech and Selar Opencast, Neath Valley The morning will be spent examining the Coal Measures sequence in Cwm Gwrelech and the afternoon that in the Selar Opencast mine. The underfoot conditions may be slippery and muddy especially after heavy rain.

Leader: Ben Evans (BIGC)

Meet at 10.30am at Cwm Gwrelech, near Pont Walby, Pontneddfechan (SN 891 065). Bring a packed lunch. [Not 24 October as originally listed]

South Wales RIGS Project Workshop Days

24 October, 28 November, 19 December, 30 January, 27 February

Meet 10am at the BGS office, Tongwynlais, check first with Rhian Kendall