

SWGA SUMMER FIELD MEETING PROGRAMME 2018

Saturday 21st April: The Two Ridges, Cefn Onn, Cardiff: a geological ramble

Leader: Stephen Howe

Meet at 10.00am in the car park at Cefn Onn Country Park, Cardiff (ST 179 837 / CF14 0EP), which is located just north of the Lisvane/Thornhill railway station in north Cardiff. There are toilets in the car park but none afterwards until our return.

On this ramble we will walk up the southern rim of the South Wales Coalfield, along the two ridges and back down to Cefn Onn along paths that are a combination of tarmac, gravel, and earth. The ascent to the top of the ridges, which will be at a gentle pace, involves a vertical climb of 170 m (550 feet) and, on the return leg, the path is quite steep at first and, depending upon the time and weather, may involve negotiating a long flight of steps.

We will be looking at the structure and stratigraphy of the southern rim of the coalfield where the rocks range in age from the St. Maughan's Group of the Old Red Sandstone up to the top of the Carboniferous Limestone, which here is heavily dolomitised. We will also look at the remains of the industrial history of the area. There are extensive 360-degree views from the ridge top that allow the geology of the surrounding area and coalfield to be appreciated - weather permitting! The total walking distance is approximately 5 kms

Sunday 20th May: The Tortworth Inlier, Gloucestershire

Leader: Dave Green

Meet at 10.00am at the small car park next to the Gloucester Sharpness canal (use the lane side if full) opposite the chapel in Purton, Gloucestershire (SO 692 042).

This trip will aim to examine the nature of the Lower Palaeozoic, Tremadoc to Ludlow sequence that here is brought up along the line of the Malvern fault system. This is of interest because the succession is more akin to that in the Cardiff area (mainly siliclastic) than the classic Welsh Borderland stratigraphy, as seen at nearby May Hill. There are also two basaltic lavas, of Llandovery age, that are the feather edge representatives of a thick igneous sequence that lies beneath the Jurassic of the Cotswolds

The first location will be the Severn estuary, where wellington boots may be advantageous. After lunch at the widely respected Salutation Inn, in Ham, the rest of the day will be spent visiting small disused quarries along narrow lanes for which car sharing is going to be essential if we are a big group. We will be no more than 10 miles from our starting point at any stage during the day.

Saturday 16th June: Penderyn: disturbed ground.

Leader: Alan Bowring

Meet at 10.00am at the car park beside the Red Lion pub at the top of the hill in Penderyn (SN 946 087 / CF44 9JR).

From here we will walk around and over Moel Penderyn looking at aspects of the Neath Disturbance and the legacies of the limestone and silica rock quarrying that fed the Hirwaun Ironworks. If there is time we will also visit Sgwd yr Eira waterfall, which is nearby. There will be some rough walking in parts. Finish about 4.00pm

Saturday 21st July: *Flat Holm* ** ADVANCED BOOKING AND PAYMENT ESSENTIAL

Leader: Chris Lee

Meet at 11.15 prompt. Location and booking details will be given on booking. We will board the boats (RIBs) and catch the 1200 lock out of the Bay to sail across to Flat Holm for a 2 - 2.5 hour visit. Our return journey will entail a circuit of the island after which we will sail north to look at Sully Island from the seaward side and then cruise along the Jurassic / Triassic Coast to catch the 15.45 lock back into Cardiff Bay. We will be back in Penarth for 1600.

As the most southerly pub in Wales (the Gull and Leek) may or may not be open on the day you will need a packed lunch with a hot/cold drink. As the trip can be 'bumpy' (nautical term!) H&S precludes all those with back problems or who are pregnant. Otherwise just normal fitness levels are required. There is a steepish, stepped incline up from the island jetty but once on top it is pretty flat (the clue is in the name), with otherwise just the usual scrambles.

Bay Island Voyages will take a decision on whether the trip will go based on meteorological considerations some 48 hours before hand so there should be no last minute cancellations.

The cost is £30 for the boat plus a £5 landing fee giving a total price of £35. With the boats available we can take a maximum of 32 people. You need to book a place and pay in advance on a first come basis. If for any reason the boat cannot sail then you will get a full refund. To book please contact: Rhian Kendall: rhian@carreg.org.uk Payment can be made by cheque or bank transfer.

Saturday 11th August: *Family Geology Day, Penarth*

Leaders. tbc

This is a public geological event aimed at encouraging families to come along and, hopefully, get interested in geology. We will be looking for fossils, minerals and rocks along the beach and pointing out other things of geological interest. This is an open-ended event where people can come for as long or short as they wish and we would be grateful for support from as many of you as is possible. If you are willing to attend and help out please let the Programme Secretary know in advance.

Saturday 15th September: *Three Cliffs Bay and Ilston Gower*

Leader: Paul Wright

Details to follow

Safety Policy

Although full Risk Assessments are undertaken prior to each field meeting members are reminded that they attend field excursions at their own risk. They are expected to take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of themselves and other participants and to behave in a responsible manner at all times. The Group has a Safety Policy and Safety Fieldwork Code that all participants should have read prior to attending a meeting. Copies can be found on the Group's web site.