



GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION, SOUTH WALES GROUP

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2010

Saturday 17th/Sunday 18th April
South Pembrokeshire Weekend
Leader: Brian Williams

For those staying the full weekend the excursion is based at the Fourcroft Hotel, Tenby.

Saturday 17th. Meet at 10.00am at the main car park at Marloes (SM 778 083). The sites to be visited will be Albion Sands, Marloes; St. Brides Haven; Little Castle Head and Llanstadwell. The day will finish in time to return to the hotel about 6.30 pm for a 7.30 pm dinner. There will be drinks while perusing the displays after dinner! The display material will be on display from the Friday evening.
Sunday 18th. Meet at the main car park at Freshwater West at 10.00am (SM 885 005). The sites to be visited will be Freshwater West; Freshwater East and the Manorbier - Old Castle Head traverse and the excursion will end at Manorbier about 6.00 pm.

Saturday 15th May
Llanstephan-Erwood, Powys; 'The first True Silurian : in the footsteps of Murchison'
Leader: Duncan Hawley

Meet at 10.00am at the lay-by next to Trericket Mill on the A470 between Llyswen and Erwood (SO 113 414).

This excursion retraces Murchison's 'discovery' of the Silurian in the Wye Valley in 1831. Using Murchison's original sites and original notes the excursion will look at the transition from the ORS down into the Upper Silurian and will include visits to a site with fossils (which played an important part). Stout footwear and a packed lunch is advised although it is intended to stop for lunch at Erwood Railway Station picnic site - where light refreshments are usually available. The anticipated finish time is about 4.30pm.

Saturday 19th June
The Quest for Gower's Devensian ice limits.
Leader: John Hiemstra

Meet at 10.00am at the King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston (SS 483 899). The excursion will visit a few of the Gower's classic Quaternary sections and will discuss some recent research results and work in progress. Bring a packed lunch.

Saturday 3rd/Sunday 4th July
Rockwatch Weekend – Llandrindod Wells

Once again we are hosting a Rockwatch weekend, this time based at Llandrindod Wells. The Saturday will be spent at fossiliferous localities around Llandrindod Wells and the Sunday on similar localities around Builth Wells. Although aimed at Rockwatch members anybody is welcome to attend. Full meeting details will appear later.

Saturday 17th July

Climate change clues in the landscape

Leader: Sid Howells

Meet at 10.30am at the National Trust car park at Broadhaven Bay [Bosherston], Pembrokeshire (SR 976 937). Bring a picnic lunch. The excursion will focus on the limestone plateau & 'raised' beaches at Broadhaven and Freshwater West (north side) and also frost-shattered scree, solifluction flows, glacial erratics and, hopefully the submerged forest.

Saturday 21st August

The geology of the Forest of Dean coal and iron ore field

Leader: Tom Cotterell

Meet at 10.00am at the large lay-by opposite the Cannop Ponds Stone Works (SO 606 099). Bring a packed lunch. Particular emphasis of this excursion will be to look at the source of the mineralisation which, like the south Wales iron mines occurs predominantly within dolomitised carboniferous Limestone surrounding the Coal Measures. There will be some steep uphill walking in places and in others some uneven ground. Please note that iron minerals stain so don't wear white trousers!

Saturday 18th September

The Old Red Sandstone in Gower - some interesting questions

Leader: John Davies

Meet at 10.30am at the car park at Lilland west of Llanegwath Gower (SS 415 007). Bring a packed lunch and come to the process of re-evaluation. **CHANGE TO PROGRAMME** John is in the excursion will bring us up to date on his current research and re-interpretation of the Rhossili Down outcrop.

Due to unforeseen circumstances John Davies will not be able to lead the excursion to view the Old Red Sandstone of Gower on Saturday 18th September. Instead we will be meeting up with the Welsh Stone Forum on **the same date** to have a joint meeting looking at the building stones and geology in the Caerwent and Sudbrook area of south east Wales. Full details will be furnished later but the details to date are:

Saturday 18th September:

The Romans in Wales; Caerwent and Sudbrook.

Leader: Jana Horak.

Meet at 11.00am in the car park at Caerwent Roman Fort.

Saturday 16th October

Life on the edge in South Wales: The Black Mountain tufas

Leaders: Lesley Cherns and Louis Emery

Meet at 10.30am at the car park and information point (SN731193) on the east side of the A4069 Brynaman - Llangadog road north of the summit and old limestone quarries. Bring lunch. Wear field boots and warm clothing - the site is mostly out of the sun so it is typically cold.

An extensive tufa system with unusually high pH is precipitating from waters seeping through lime slag burnt in kilns from the Carboniferous Limestone quarries of the Black Mountain. The system is anthropogenic, and although quarrying finished in the early C20th the processes are still active. The system shows a variety of tufa deposits, including laminar crusts, rim pools, oncoids, aprons and stream crusts. These deposits have textural features more similar to hot spring travertines than to other freshwater tufas. As in hot springs, the hostile environments exclude many organisms. Such extremophile environments are widely used as analogues for the development of life on the early Earth and other planets.