

## HARROW & HILLINGDON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD TRIPS 2023 (Updated 16 March)

29 March (Wed). **Newlands Corner – Albury Geology Trail, Surrey** (car park, café, toilets). The trail is illustrated in a booklet by the [Mole Valley Geological Society](#). It is a traverse of the geology from the Chalk of the North Downs to the Lower Greensand around Albury. A 5 km walk, downhill and then undulating, will finish at the Silent Pool from where volunteers will provide a lift back to Newlands Corner, a few minutes away along the A25. This will cut 3 km off the full walk and the stiff climb up the North Downs escarpment. This field meeting was one that took place early in the HHGS's existence. After the Chalk, the walk crosses the Upper Greensand and Gault Clay, and various formations within the Lower Greensand. You will also see buildings featuring stones from the Lower Greensand. The Netley Heath Gravels (of possible similar age to the Stanmore Gravels – late Pliocene or early Pleistocene) can be seen at the start, in woodland. They rest on the Chalk on the crest of the escarpment hereabouts.



View from Newlands Corner

All photos: Allan Wheeler

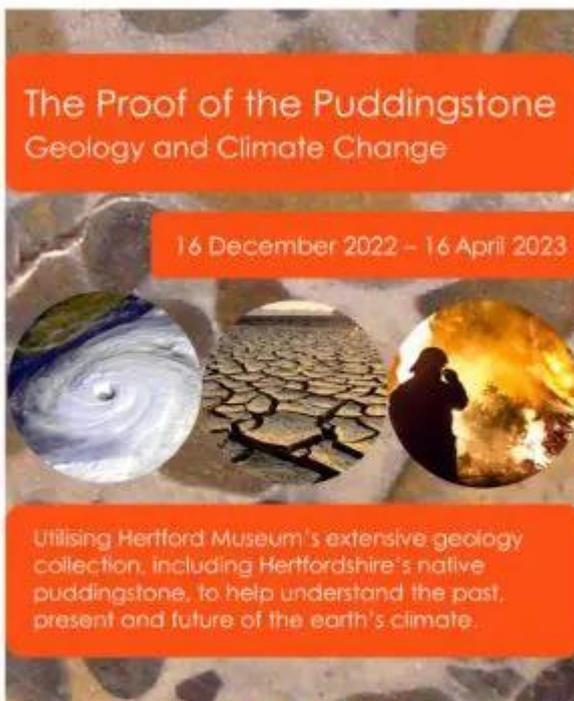


Sunken lane in Bargate Stone



The Silent Pool (chalk spring fed)

### 14 April (Fri). Hertford Museum & Nearby Localities.



Announced at our March meeting, the main reason for visiting Hertford Museum is to see the 'Hertfordshire Puddingstone' and geology & climate change exhibition (poster left). As you will see it closes on 16 April – it was recommended by Haydon Bailey at the February meeting. The museum has permanent displays including geology, archaeology, local, industrial, and military history, ethnography, arts and natural history.

We will also have a stroll around Hertford to look to visit puddingstone localities, the oldest surviving domestic building in the town, the Castle and other points of interest.

Meet in the St Andrew Mews car park. We shall visit the museum first and do the walk after lunch. Meeting time to be confirmed.

26 April (Wed). **Northmoor Hill Nature Reserve (Denham) and Black Park.** Northmoor Hill lies on the western side of the Colne Valley and features a long-disused chalk quarry. It lies roughly opposite those at Harefield and features the same unconformity between the Chalk and the Palaeogene Lambeth Group sediments as at the Harefield Great Pit SSSI. The area also features an active swallow hole where a minor stream sinks into the ground where it meets the chalk. The adjacent flat area on

which lies Denham Aerodrome is underlain by the Winter Hill Gravel, laid down by the pre-diversion Thames\* during the Anglian cold stage of the middle Pleistocene about 450,000 years ago. We then move on to **Black Park**, the type locality of the Black Park Gravel, the oldest post-diversion Thames gravel. It is

exposed around the lake. Both localities involve a walk of 1.5 to 2 km. Steps down to the swallow hole at Northmoor Hill and steps up to the unconformity. The Black Park walk is flat. Parking at Black Park costs £3.80 for 2 hours, £4.60 for 4 hours and £5.60 over 4 hours. There is a café near the car park and a larger one overlooking the lake, the latter with toilets.

\*The Thames below Marlow flowed north of London along the Vale of St Albans into East Anglia before ice of the Anglian Glaciation (the most extensive on the British mainland) blocked its route. Ice lobes reached north London in the Finchley and Hornchurch areas.

### Northmoor Hill



Swallow hole (at base of bank)

All photos: Allan Wheeler



Chalk pit



Seaford Chalk Formation



Black Park Lake

Photo by [UKgeofan](#) via Wikimedia Commons

21-24 May (Sun-Wed). **Suffolk.** This trip will include visits to sites in the shallow marine Crag deposits of Pliocene and early Pleistocene age which outcrop in eastern Suffolk and Norfolk. These fossiliferous sandy deposits were laid down in the southern North Sea between c. 4 and 1.5 Ma, during fluctuating climatic conditions. Our February talk on Plio-Pleistocene climatic and environmental change in Eurasia will be relevant. It is hoped to include visits to Eocene sections and Pleistocene glacial and interglacial deposits; the exact itinerary is being researched. We will probably be based in the Ipswich or Felixstowe areas. Further details of potential sites [here](#) and [here](#).



Coralline Crag, Sudbourne

Photo from [Deposits Magazine](#)



Red Crag, Bawdsey Cliff

Photo by [Tall-Timothy](#) via Wikimedia Commons



Norwich Crag, Covehithe

Photo by [Tall-Timothy](#) via Wikimedia Commons

## Dates to be confirmed

**Coldfall Wood** (nearest station East Finchley, Northern Line, 1.3 km). [This locality](#) lies adjacent to an [outcrop](#) of glacial deposits from the Anglian Glaciation, the most extensive known on the present British mainland, reaching north London about 450,000 years ago. Underlying that is the Dollis Hill Gravel, age c. 800 ka, deposited by the Wey-Mole combined river, then a south bank tributary of the pre-diversion Thames. Both these deposits rest on London Clay. If time and energy permits, we could also visit **Queens Wood, Highgate** which is close to Highgate station.



Coldfall Wood

Photo by [Diamond Geezer](#) via [Creative Commons](#)

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary field trip.** Since the publication of the January 2023 newsletter, we have decided to postpone a 3-night trip to the **Black Country** until the spring of 2024 in favour of the already proposed **Re-enactment of the Society's first field trip in 1973** – thought to be to the **Mendip Hills and Weston-Super-Mare**, so this has been fixed as the destination. This will involve a 3-night stay (Sun-Wed or Mon-Thu) avoiding the summer school holidays. Possible dates are 28-31 June or 29 June-1 July.

**HS2 site visit.** The first visit will be to the **Chiltern Tunnel East Portals / Colne Valley viaduct** sometime from May onwards (awaiting date owing to waiting list). Number in group limited to 12/15 (TBC).

We hope to run another visit, joint with the London Geodiversity Partnership, which could be to West Ruislip (Northolt Tunnels West Portals), Old Oak Common / Northolt Tunnel East Portals or Euston.

The main construction company joint ventures involved with these projects are: [Align JV](#) (the Colne Valley Viaduct and the Chiltern Tunnels) and Skanska Costain Strabag JV - [SCS JV](#) (Northolt Tunnels, Old Oak Common and Euston). Full PPE will be supplied.

**Visit to Hampshire/Dorset.** This trip is being researched. This will probably be for one or two nights depending on distance.

Updates will be issued from time to time.

### *Please Note:*

*Members attending field trips are reminded that they accept full personal responsibility for their own safety, and that of their personal possessions, whilst on the field trip; also, that they are fit to undertake the trip. (If you have a mobility problem, cardiovascular disease, or other serious infirmity you must declare it before joining the field trip; however as most of our field trips are taken at a gentle pace, this is unlikely to stop you participating. Please consult a committee member if you are at all concerned.)*

*A small attendance fee (to cover administration costs/leaders' expenses) is charged. It is normally £1 per person if a member and £3 for visitors. Joining instructions and further information will be issued nearer the date, usually 7-10 days in advance.*