



NORTH EASTERN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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23rd May 2011

Dear Member,

Following the Field Meeting on May 8th, below is an update for the rest of the Summer programme. I hope you are able to attend some, if not all, of them.

June 19th: Visit to Whitby - Saltwick Bay, led by Dr. Martin Whyte of Sheffield University. The purpose of the visit will be to study the succession and depositional features of the Lower and Middle Jurassic Formations exposed there as well as possibly identifying Dinosaur tracks and other fossils. Meet at 10.30 am in the Whitby Abbey Car Park NZ 905110 (pay and display). Finish about 3.30pm. Members of the Natural History Society of Northumbria have been invited to this field trip.

The following July 2nd trip has been RECENTLY ADDED

July 2nd: Upper Tees Drumlins: Members of N.E.G.S. are cordially invited to this event organised by the Natural History Society of Northumbria.

Time: 1030am. Meeting place: Cow Green Reservoir Car Park NY811308. Length of visit: 4-5 hours

This trip will examine the drumlins that can be observed within the upper Tees valley, particularly around Cow Green Reservoir. These drumlins indicate the former existence of an ice centre over Cross Fell and adjacent parts of the Pennine escarpment. From the presence of a number of superimposed drumlins, this ice divide can be demonstrated to have migrated from a more northerly restricted location over westwards towards Cross Fell and Dufton Fell. Understanding the ice dynamics of such centres has been important in developing more accurate reconstructions of the last ice sheet to cover the British Isles. Type of terrain: Rough –be prepared for Pennine weather. Distance to be walked: 12 km. Food- bring your own packed lunch. Leader: Wishart Mitchell, Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Geography, Durham University.

July 16th: Glaciation and geomorphology around Kisdon, Upper Swaledale.
Leader: Jon Barber, Ph.D., University of Leeds.

By kind invitation we are joining Craven and Pendle Geological Society for this field trip.

Updated details are as follows, all of which have been communicated to me by Paul Kabrna, C.P.G.S.

Guide: Jon Barber Ph.D., University of Leeds

Joint meeting with the North Eastern Geological Society

Time and Date: **10:00 am**, (NB change of time) Saturday, 16 July 2011

Meeting at: the Resource and Heritage Centre in Keld, 10:00 am. Parking is available at the nearby farm at a cost of £2 per vehicle. Carry packed lunch but there is a pub with access to sandwiches. There is a section of approximately 50 metres where it could be fairly boggy so the usual stout footwear should be worn and be prepared for the vagaries of inclement summer weather.

Purpose: To examine landforms and sediments in the valleys and on the valley-side slopes around Kisdon, upper Swaledale, noting the effects of glaciation and glacier wastage, and how the landscape was later modified by fluvial and slope-forming processes. The effects of 19th century mining activity will be noted also. The area is a SSSI and is located in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Background

The name Keld is taken from the Norse word kelda - meaning bog or mire. We will take the route to the east, out of the village and up Birk Hill where we will see to the north, the steeply incised valley carrying the River Swale, and to the south evidence of quarrying the Friarfold ore vein and the local rock for building stone. Evidence of lead mining is readily apparent and there are also several lime kilns in the area. At Birk Hill we follow a steep track upslope to the south to cross from the divide into the valley of the Skeb Skeugh. Here, although equally dramatic, the geomorphology is very different from that of the Swale. Shallow borehole data across the valley of the Skeb Skeugh show 2 m of peat overlying silty clay and gravel indicating a very different mode of development to that of the Swale valley less than 1 km to the north east. Landforms in this valley are reminiscent of those found in the glacially choked section of Wharfedale around Bolton Abbey and include glacial and interglacial features on the valley sides and a valley floor suggestive of Holocene wetland. We continue our walk along the high path on the western side of the Skeb Skeugh valley, noting some of the geomorphological features (including kames, eskers and rotational landslip before crossing back over the divide to the north west of Doctor Wood, to pick up the path alongside the engorged Swale back to Keld. This is a circular route of around 6 km. There are some short, steep sections to the path which some members may find challenging. Jim Rose really covered this area well in his paper 'Landform Development Around Kisdon, Upper Swaledale, Yorkshire.

O.S. Maps: 1:50 000 Sheet 98 Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale

Outdoor Leisure Sheet 30 Yorkshire Dales, North and Central Areas

References

Raistrick, A. (1926): The glaciation of Wensleydale, Swaledale, and the adjoining parts of the Pennines. PYGS Vol. 20 pp. 366 - 410

Rose, J. (1980): Landform development around Kisdon, Upper Swaledale, Yorkshire. PYGS Vol. 43 , pp. 201-219

Aug. 6th. The Ferryhill Gap. Leader: Derek Teasdale, Consultant Geologist. The Ferryhill Gap is a huge incised valley cutting through the Magnesian Limestone escarpment south of Durham. It is the largest glacial meltwater channel in North East England. Extensive sands, gravels and lake deposits occur to the south. This visit will examine questions surrounding the gap's formation, whilst exploring this spectacular landscape feature. More details later.

Sep. 17th. (Provisional) "Geology South of the Wear." Leader Andy Lane, . More details to follow.

Other news

Formation of a Durham RIGS Group:

Communication from Derek Teasdale:

There are moves afoot to try and revive an active RIGS /Geoconservation Group within County Durham by:

Lesley Dunlop - Northumbria Uni and Berkshire Geoconservation Group

Brian Young - Honary Research Fellow, Durham Uni, ex-BGS email:

brian.young@hotmail.co.uk

Eric Johnson - Independent Consultant, ex-BGS

eric_w.johnson@btinternet.com

Derek Teasdale - Independent Consultant.

d.a.teasdale@gmail.com

We recognise that the geology of Durham is a subject of interest to N.E.G.S.

members and we would welcome any input members may wish to put into the proposed Geoconservation Group. The group is planning an initial meeting in June (date and venue to be confirmed) and details of this will be announced in due course.

If any members have any ideas that they would like to give the group then please feel free to contact anyone of us, (email addresses above). One of our initial thoughts was to do something for the 50th anniversary of the Rookhope borehole.

If any NEGS members know of anyone who would be interested, please contact them.

Best Wishes,

John Waring (Field Trip Co-ordinator)

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