

THE USSHER SOCIETY

Geoscience in South-West England

44th Annual Conference
Tantons Hotel
Bideford, Devon (3rd - 6th January 2006)

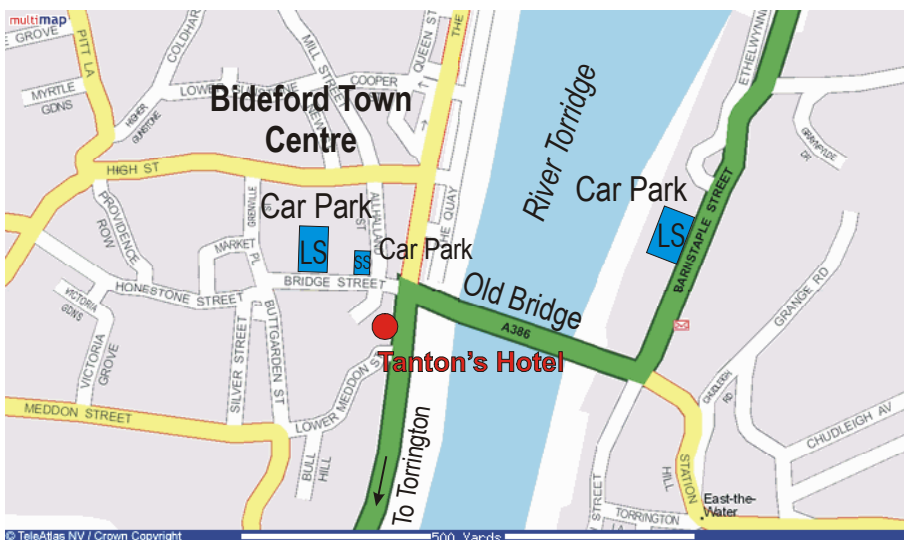


Second Circular – Programme

We look forward to seeing you at the Ussher Society 44th Annual Conference to be held at **Tantons Hotel** (Tel 01237 473317, www.tantonshotel.co.uk), **Bideford, Devon (3rd-6th January 2006)**. If you have not done so already, please book your accommodation (£20 B&B) directly with Tantons Hotel and quote Ussher.

The 4-day event will cover earth and environmental sciences in the South-West of England, and will comprise field trips (Tuesday 3rd and Friday 6th January) and two days of presentations (talks and posters). For the latest news see the Ussher website, www.ussher.org.uk.

The main presentation days will be Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th of January - oral and poster presentations cover many areas of geology, geomorphology, engineering geology and environmental geology, typically relating in some way to South West England. The Scott Simpson lecture will be given by **Prof Wolfgang Franke** on the subject of 'The Variscan – The United Plates of Europe' and the joint half-day session with the SW Regional Group of the Geological Society will take place on Thursday afternoon, based around the theme of 'Case Histories in Earth Investigations'.



Location of Tantons Hotel

Leave the M5 at junction 27 and follow the A361/A39 'Link Road' west to Bideford for 46 miles. After you have crossed the Torridge River via a high-arched concrete bridge, turn left at the next roundabout and follow the road into Bideford for about 1 mile until you find yourself driving along the quayside. At the approach to the old stone bridge, drive straight across the mini-roundabout and you will find Tantons Hotel 20 Yards ahead on your right.

Car parking

Please note there is no parking at the hotel – you can either park in the short stay car park adjacent to Tantons (directly across roundabout if coming over the old bridge) or in the long stay car park (on the other side of the river from Tantons or behind Chopes accessed from Bridge Street).

Tuesday 3rd January 2006

The field trip on Tuesday 3rd January will visit the periglacial **Quaternary deposits of Bideford Bay** from Saunton to Westward Ho! (moderate walking on wave cut platform, hard hats provided)

10.00 Meet Saunton Sands car park, Grid Ref. SS447376, High Tide 08.00 (5.97 metres)
Led by: Peter Keene and Chris Cornford

The modern beach and dunes are contrasted with the sandrock of the raised beach. This is sandwiched between the steeply dipping late Devonian/early Carboniferous Pilton beds (at an impressive angular unconformity) and the overlying periglacial 'head' deposits. Sedimentary structures within the carbonate-cemented sandrock tell of shore-face processes also operating today, while unusual cast-like features show dissolution-collapse and hydrogeological effects. Glacial/interglacial cycling, global sea-level change and glacial erratics will be discussed with reference to these spectacular south facing cliff outcrops.

Pub lunch at 'The Thatched Barn Inn' at Croyde (Tel:01271 890349)

14.00 Meet Westward Ho slipway car park, Grid Ref SS433295

Subject to winter storms the 'fossil forest' and associated glacial clays will be visited below the slipway at Westward Ho! Evidence of ice wedges (patterned ground) and frost-shattered pebbles will be related to the peat beds and possibly the Neolithic midden (Thor permitting). Some effects of long-shore drift and the high (and differential) erosion rates on this part of the coast will be observed in the context of the development of the town. And finally, the pebbly raised beaches to the west of Westward Ho! will be contrasted with those of the morning outcrops.

Please contact Chris Cornford on 01237 471749 or 0777 378 8243 if unable to attend on the day

Hard hats and visibility vests will be provided.

18.00 Committee meeting at Tantons Hotel, Bideford

18.30-20.00 Registration and Ice-breaker

Wednesday 4th January 2006		
08.30 - 09.00	Registration	
09.00 - 09.25	Kevin N. Page	Parish Geodiversity Audits in Devon: Raising awareness of local geodistinctiveness in the community
09.25 - 09.50	L.S. Basell, A.G. Brown, R. Hosfield	River Terraces of the South West and their Relevance to its Palaeolithic Archaeology
09.50 - 10.15	J A Bennett and A G Brown	Mid-Late Holocene Channel Change of the Exe River: Stability, Migration and Avulsion
10.15 - 10.45	<i>Coffee</i>	
10.45 - 11.45	Scott Simpson lecture: Prof. Wolfgang Franke	The United Plates of Europe - the Variscan explained
11.45 - 12.10	L M Hollick, B E Leveridge, R C Scrivener, R K Shail and E Burt	Fresh evidence for geological evolution during the Variscan data from the new survey of the Newquay sheet
12.10 - 12.35	Chris Cornford	Geothermic Variscan Front defined from oil drilling in Porcupine Trough, offshore West Ireland
12.35 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 - 14.25	R. C. Scrivener, J. B. Grant, L. M. Hollick and C. W. Smith	Nature and origin of the Great Perran Iron Lode, Perranporth area, Cornwall
14.25 - 14.50	Geoff Warrington	Mineralization in the Mid Triassic
14.50 - 15.15	Jodie Fisher and Sara Chambers	Minerals, mould and mining: Geological conservation at the Royal Cornwall Museum
15.15 - 15.40	<i>Tea</i>	
15.40 - 16.05	Malcolm B. Hart, Andrew S. Henderson, Clare L. Harrington & Tim Frayling	The Wootton Bassett mud springs (Wiltshire, UK): an unusual Lagerstätten for Jurassic Foraminifera.
16.05 - 16.30	R. W. Gallois	The geology of the hot springs at Bath Spa, Somerset.
16.30 - 16.55	Alan Cattell, Structural Soils Limited	Bright Bovey borehole blaze casts new light on old problem
16.55 - 17.20	J D Mather and R F Symes	Peter Orlando Hutchinson (1810-1897) and the geology of Sidmouth
17.20 - 17.30	R C Scrivener (short contribution)	Geological fieldwork at the turn of the 20th Century: the photograph album of Howard Fox
18.00 - 19.00	AGM	
19.30 - ...	Conference meal	

Thursday 5th January 2006		
08.30 - 09.00	Registration	
09.00 - 09.25	Gordon Neighbour	The Earth Science Centre - saltash.net community school
09.25 - 09.50	Hugh Prudden	Disused quarries in Somerset as a public resource
09.50 - 10.15	C.M. Bristow and P.W. Scott	The Wheal Martyn Boulder Park
10.15 - 10.40	Peter Scott, David Roche, Clive Nicholas, Robin Shail, Hugh Prudden and Peter Ealey	The GeoValue Project: Testing the Geodiversity Profile in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset
10.40 - 11.00	<i>Coffee</i>	
11.00 - 11.25	Peter Keene	A case study in coastal erosion and management - Westward Ho! and Northam Burrows
11.25 - 11.50	G.M. Havelock, A.G. Brown and J.T.Jordan	Sedimentary facies changes across the marine-fluvial boundary - a new Holocene record from the River Taw valley, Devon, England
11.50 - 12.15	Deryck Laming	The Development of Crow Point, Taw-Torridge Estuary, North Devon
12.15 - 12.40	James Coulter	The Culm seams of North Devon - history of exploitation
12.40 - 12.55	N.E. Butcher (short contribution)	Biddi Black and its geological setting
12.55 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
	Special Session of the Southwest Regional Group of the Geological Society, London.	
14.00 - 14.25	D. D. Clark Lowes	The Remaining Reserves of Libya - implications for Opec output
14.25 - 14.50	Matt England, Paul Farrimond, Andrew Hindle et al.	Hydrocarbon exploration in the Dorset area
14.50 - 15.15	Steven Rowland, Simon Belt, Guillaume Masse and Michel Poulin	Polar climate proxies: do they cut any ice?
15.15 - 15.40	<i>Tea</i>	
15.40 - 16.05	C.J. Moon	Regional radon distribution as a guide to uranium mineralisation in SW England
16.05 - 16.30	Richard Gould	Investigations of shallow mine workings at Horrabridge
16.30 - 16.55	ANO	TBA
16.55 - 17.20		
Posters, etc		
	Richard Edmonds/Chris Pamplin	Protecting and Presenting the Jurassic Coast
	Richard Edmonds/Chris Pamplin	The West Dorset fossil collecting code of conduct
	Gordon Neighbour	The Cornubian Dinosaur Project
	P.J.Ealey	Gillan Creek, South Cornwall – anatomy of a small ria
	Hugh Prudden	Some examples of small-scale folds in Somerset
	R. W. Gallois	The evolution of the River Otter catchment, east Devon
	Peter Keene	Thematic trails - booklets on place , time and landscape
	R. W. Gallois	The stratigraphy of the Dunscombe Mudstone Formation (late Triassic) of south-west England
	Richard J. Porter & Ramues W. Gallois	A sedimentological and ichnological study of the Carnian arenaceous units of the Mercia Mudstone Group of south-west England

Friday 6th January 2006

Field Trip: The Sticklepath Fault: aspects of the Petrockstow Basin (Watts, Blake, Bearn Clay Ball Clay Pit - Grid Ref SS503124) and Portledge/Peppercombe Variscan unconformity (Grid Ref SS384232)
High tide: 10.32 (5.16 metres)

Led by: Martin Milne and Chris Cornford

Meet at Tantons Hotel at 9.00

The post-conference field trip on Friday 6th January will follow the multiple phases of movement of the Sticklepath Fault and pick up on the “Variscan” theme. In the morning we plan to visit the Oligocene Ballclay pits of the wrench-related **Petrockstow Basin** and in the afternoon view the nearby **Portledge/Peppercombe section** of Permian redbeds overlying the Carboniferous Culm sandstones and shales (i.e. the Variscan unconformity) where Sticklepath-associated faults cut the coast cliff section.

The more productive clay pits of the northern Petrockstow Basin show quiet water fluvial – lacustrine clays interbedded with carbargillites and lignites (brown coals) and sands. These relatively young beds are locally folded and tilted by late stage movement on the Sticklepath fault. Periglacial ice disturbance of the near surface beds may also be seen. Historic and modern mining methods are illustrated together with quality control and processing procedures leading to the high quality product exported from Bideford Quay.

12.30 – 14.00: Pub lunch at Coach & Horses, (NGR: SS384232), Tel:01237 451214

At Peppercombe, shallowly dipping coarse red conglomeratic and marly sandstone unconformably overlie the folded Bude Formation (Culm) sandstones. You can walk on the Variscan desert floor. These ‘Permian’ redbeds are preserved in two ‘half grabens’, the controlling fault being a splay of the nearby Sticklepath fault. Excellent coastal exposure with rapid erosion allows a detailed inspection of the 800m section. A range of flash flood and playa lake deposits can be seen together with unusually well preserved soil horizons (calcretes, silcretes) and cemented rootsystems. Return is via the Coastal Path running along the top of the cliff.

Conference Secretary:

Sally Cornford, IGI Ltd., Hallsannery, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5HE

Tel: 01237 471749

Fax: 01237 421700

e-mail: sal@igilt.com

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The Czech Republic, mid-year Ussher Society field excursion, 2006

As part of the committees programme of expansion of Society activities it is intended to run a 6-day excursion (planned 13th to 18th June) to the Czech Republic and Prague (Variscan and Permian geology, including mineralisation) if there is sufficient demand from members. It would be limited to about 20 participants and led by Richard Scrivener in conjunction with the Czech Geological Survey at an approximate cost of £350.

Expressions of interest should be sent to our visit organiser Cathy Smith (cpsm@bgs.ac.uk), BGS, Forde House, Harrier Way, Exeter, EX2 7HU.