



## WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Registered Charity No. 521000

President: Dr. H. Tomlinson

### FIELD MEETINGS 2025

Field meeting numbers, dates and locations are as follows.

1.	<b>Friday 25 April</b>	Explore historical buildings and the surrounds of Presteigne, led by Duncan James
2.	<b>Saturday 17 May</b>	Cwmyoy Expedition, led by Alan Bowring
3.	<b>Saturday 24 May</b>	Medieval Brasses, Hereford Cathedral, led by Prof. Nigel Saul
4.	<b>Saturday 21 June</b>	Coningsby Museum, Blackfriars monastic remains and rose garden, Hereford, led by the President, Dr Howard Tomlinson
5.	<b>Sunday 20 July</b>	Snodhill Castle excavations, led by Tim Hoverd
6.	<b>Wednesday 23 July</b>	Arthur's Stone excavations, led by Prof. Keith Ray and Prof Julian Thomas
7.	<b>Wednesday 10 September</b>	Behind the scenes collection tour of palaeontology, led by Dr. Emma Nicholls, Oxford University Museum
8.	<b>Tuesday 7 October</b>	Geodiversity Day in the Gullet Quarry, Malvern Hills, led by Moira Jenkins

### CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

Please arrange your own transport. Car sharing will be needed when the number of cars has to be restricted; if you offer lifts to others, please ensure that your insurance covers you for this. Entrance and parking fees will be covered by participants on the day and are not included in the cost of the trip. Please bring refreshments, and please wear suitable footwear and clothing for the day, including walking poles / sticks wherever appropriate.

Field trips will go ahead with a minimum of 8 people. The maximum is 30. Any cancellation, change of times or notification that a trip is full will be made on the Club's website.

The Club holds BALH insurance for field meetings. Please note that the policy fact sheet can be viewed at [www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/meetings](http://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/meetings). There is no cover for people aged under 16 or over 75.

## TO BOOK

**By Post.** Please complete the relevant section(s) of the booking form for every trip you wish to book and send the document to Mrs Susan M. Olver, Buttridge, Wellington Lane, Canon Pyon, Hereford, HR4 8NL. If you wish to pay by cheque, please enclose a cheque covering all the trips you have booked, payable to Woolhope Naturalists Field Club. Please write your surname and the number(s) of the field trip or trips you have booked on the back of the cheque (e.g., Jones 1, 4). You can of course send an individual slip and payment for a single trip.

**Email / Online.** Please complete the relevant section(s) of the booking form included with the newsletter for every trip you wish to book and attach the document to an email, sent to Sue Olver, Field Secretary, at [geology@woolhopeclub.org.uk](mailto:geology@woolhopeclub.org.uk) You can scan the hard copy or download one to complete from the website at: <https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/meetings> under Field Meetings 2025. To pay online, please send a single payment for all the trips you have booked on the form to: Woolhope Naturalists Field Club; Account No: 01037749; Sort Code: 53-50-41, using as the reference your surname (abbreviated to the first 4 letters if essential for space reasons) and the numbers of the field trips you have booked as the reference (e.g., Jones 1 4, showing that Jones has booked trips 1 and 4). You can of course send an individual slip and payment for a single trip.

***You can find a spare form via the website - see above. If you book more than one trip, please enter the total amount due for those trips at the end of the form. Please let the Field Secretary know if you need transport.***

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## FIELD MEETING No.1

**FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025**

Our leader, Duncan James, will take us on a tour looking at the exterior and inside of historical buildings, a visit to the 'Withy Beds', a species of willow, as well as a walk round the site of the castle and surrounds of Presteigne.

## Arrangements

Meet Duncan James at 10.00am for 10.30am in the car park on Joe Deakins Road, Presteigne LD8 2DP. The day will finish at approximately 4.00pm. Lunch will be at a local hostelry, where there will be facilities, or you can bring

a packed lunch if you wish. We may have time for refreshment and facilities in the afternoon.

If you require transport, please inform the Field Secretary on your booking form.

<b>COST</b>	Members £5.00	Non-members £7.00
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<b>TO BOOK</b>	Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make your payment as indicated above by Friday 18 April.
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## **FIELD MEETING No. 2**

**SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025**

On this expedition to the Cwmyoy area, Alan Bowring will introduce members to the landscape of the southern end of the Vale of Ewyas or 'Llanthony Valley'. Though mainly active in the Palaeozoic, the Neath Disturbance continues to shape this landscape. Quaternary glaciations and landslides have re-shaped it, and our ancestors have left their mark too, not least during the Iron Age, and we will visit Gaer hillfort, St Martin's Church and the Graig at Cwmyoy.

### **Arrangements**

Cars will meet at 9.30am for 10.00 am at the forestry parking - What3Words [///vase.incensed.snips](#) or OS map ref. (SO 30762215). Directions from Hereford: take A465 south from Hereford for 15 miles. Turn right for Llanvihangel Crucorney and after 1 mile, by the Skirrid Inn, turn right for Cwmyoy. After 2 miles turn left (very near the Queen's Head pub on the right) onto a narrow lane for 2 furlongs and park at the Y junction to forest track. We will then take a few cars up a rougher road to (SO 2962220) and walk up a gentle ascent of at least 70 metres to one of the best viewpoints around. Bring your own refreshments, suitable walking boots and poles, binoculars and notebooks. We should end the trip at approximately 5.00 pm.

If you need transport, please inform the Field Secretary on your booking form.

<b>COST</b>	Members £5.00	Non-members £7.00
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<b>TO BOOK</b>	Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make your payment as indicated above by Saturday 10 May.
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## **FIELD MEETING No. 3**

**SATURDAY 24 MAY 2025**

Professor Nigel Saul will be showing us the Medieval Brasses at Hereford Cathedral.

## **Arrangements**

Meet at 10.30am for 11.00am at the main entrance to Hereford Cathedral. The tour will end at 1.00 pm.

**COST**                      Members £15.00                      Non-members £17.00  
The cost covers the Cathedral's tour fee of £5.00 per person.

**TO BOOK**                      Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Saturday 17 May.

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## **FIELD MEETING No.4**

**SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2025**

Coningsby Hospital / Museum and Blackfriars monastic remains, Hereford.

Tucked away behind a seventeenth-century doorway in Widemarsh Street lie two of Hereford's largely unseen historical gems: Coningsby Hospital and, behind it, the site of the ruins of the Blackfriars Monastery. Both lie adjacent to a beautiful rose garden. The first part of the afternoon will consist of a tour of the remains of the refectory, friar's house and preaching cross – the only such extant example in England and originally located in the friars' cemetery. This will be followed by an inspection of the courtyard of the almshouses, and a brief talk on their construction. One of the residents has kindly agreed to open her house for small-group tours of her premises. A talk will then be given in the chapel by Peter Harris, the chairman of the Coningsby trustees, to whom we are indebted. There will be an opportunity afterwards to look around the museum before afternoon tea in the courtyard (or chapel if wet).

## **Arrangements**

Meet at 1.45 pm for 2.00pm at Coningsby Museum and Blackfriars Rose Garden, where we will be met by the President, Howard Tomlinson. The visit includes tea.

**COST**                      Members £10.00                      Non-members £12.00  
The cost covers tea

**TO BOOK**                      Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Saturday 14 June

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## **FIELD MEETING No. 5**

**SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025**

Tim Hoverd will meet our minibus at Snodhill Castle, where he will lead the party to the latest excavations of this important site.

## **Arrangements**

Meet the minibus to depart at 1.30 pm from Merton Meadow Car Park for Snodhill Castle, situated off the B4348 from Hereford. Please bring refreshments and suitable footwear / clothing and poles for walking up steep places as it may be muddy. Minibus restricted to 16 seats.

### **COST**

Members £20.00

Non-members £22.00

It is not possible to come by car because there is restricted parking during excavations. A donation is optional for Snodhill Castle Preservation Trust. Please note that, if you cancel, the cost can only be refunded if another person or people can take up the place(s) reserved in the minibus.

### **TO BOOK**

Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Monday 14 July.

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## **FIELD MEETING No. 6**

**WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2025**

Professor Keith Ray will lead a visit to the current excavations of Arthur's Stone, the well-known Neolithic chambered tomb, where excavations have taken place each summer since 2022.

## **Arrangements**

Meet at 1.30 for 2.00 pm at Arthur's Stone site (Sat Nav HR3 6AX). From Hereford, take the A438, turn left towards Bredwardine and Brobury House Gardens and cross the River Wye at Bredwardine Bridge. At the crossroads opposite the Red Lion Inn turn left, onto the B4352, and soon turn right, signposted to Dorstone. Turn right near the top of the hill onto a minor road signposted for Arthur's Stone. Parking is in the designated field and off the road so as not to block the lane for farm traffic. Please bring refreshments and suitable footwear / clothing.

### **COST**

Members £5.00

Non-Members £7.00

### **TO BOOK**

Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Wednesday 16 July.

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## **FIELD MEETING No. 7**

**WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Visit to Oxford University Museum of Natural History, founded in 1860, and Pitt Rivers Museum. We will meet the Collections Manager Dr. Emma Nichols FGS, for a behind the scenes collection tour of Palaeontology.

There is a 'Breaking Ground' Exhibition and members can also visit Pitt Rivers Museum. Both museums are in the same building.  
Museums entry is free from 10.00am – 5.00pm Donations welcome.

An extra cost of £10.00 per person may be charged on the day for the tour at the Museum to see the specimens.

### **Arrangements**

Meet at 10.45 am for 11.00 am at the entrance to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, located in Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW. Train travel from Hereford or Worcester to Oxford. Members can come by car. Car parking in Oxford is restricted, so the Park and Ride is strongly recommended; if you use the Pear Tree Park and Ride, the stop opposite the old Radcliffe Infirmary is only a few minutes' walk from the Museum entrance. Refreshments are available at the Museum.

<b>COST</b>	Members £5.00	Non-members £7.00
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<b>TO BOOK</b>	Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Monday 1 September
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### **FIELD MEETING No. 8**

**TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2025**

Geodiversity day in Gullett Quarry, Malvern Hills, led by Moira Jenkins. The geology of the quarry and its surroundings will be explained. The route gives splendid views of the Malverns.

### **Arrangements**

Meet at Merton Meadow Car Park Hereford to share cars at 8.45am for 9.00am. Set off for the day to meet our leader at Swinyard Car Park at 10.00am:  
OS map ref: SO766381; postcode WR13 6BX; What3Words  
///hips.tiredness.coaster.

Directions from Hereford: towards Ledbury, then towards Malvern, turn right onto A438 to Eastnor across the line of the Malvern Hills and turn left onto minor road along the east side of the hills. Swinyard Car Park is on the right. There is a Car Park charge of £5.25 for the day.

Please bring suitable clothing, footwear and walking poles as there are steep sections where we shall have stops along the way to explain the geology. Picnic lunch on the top of the hill, if the weather is reasonable. The field trip should take approximately 3 to 4 hours.

If you need transport, please inform the Field Secretary on your booking form.

<b>COST</b>	Members £5.00	Non-members £7.00
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<b>TO BOOK</b>	Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Tuesday 30 September
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