



WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Registered Charity No. 521000

President: Dr. H. Tomlinson

FIELD MEETINGS 2024

Field meeting numbers, dates and locations are as follows.

1.	Saturday 4 May	Five Silurian Anticlinal Inliers on the Hereford / Gloucester border, led by Dave Green
2.	Saturday 8 June	Presidential Day: Historic Buildings of Hereford Cathedral School, led by Howard Tomlinson and Duncan James
3.	Saturday 29 June	Croft Castle: Landscape, Art and 'The Ghost Tree Walk', led by David Lovelace, Richard Gilbert and Paul Ligas
4.	Saturday 20 July	Clydach Gorge: industrial heritage, National Nature Reserve, and geology, led by Alan Bowring
5.	Thursday 25 July	Current excavations at Arthur's Stone, led by Prof. Keith Ray
6.	Wed. 14 August	Lapworth Museum, Birmingham (led by Jon Clatworthy) and Winterborne House and Garden (led by Anne Harbour)
7.	Wed. 18 September	Landscape and geological aspects of the Hantar Hill area, led by Geoff Steele

In addition, members are invited to visit the Sydney Nolan Trust exhibition at the Rodd, Presteigne, for a guided tour on Saturday 21 September. Please see details below.

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.

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 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 You can scan this hard copy or download one to complete at: <https://www.woolhopeclub.org.uk/meetings> under Field Meetings 2024. 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.

FIELD MEETING No.1

SATURDAY 4 MAY 2024

Our leader Dave Green will be explaining the complexity of the geological structure in the area visited, due to the nearby confluence of two major crustal fractures—the North-South trending Malvern Fault system and the North-West to South-East trending Woolhope Fault system, here represented by the Glasshouse and Aston Ingham Faults. Movement on these faults during the late

Carboniferous Variscan Orogeny created the five anticlines (from SE to NW: Black House, Clifford's Mesne, Aston Ingham, Gorsley and Woolhope) and intervening synclines, as well as the major May Hill anticline to the south. Marine Silurian rocks are brought up in the cores of these folds, through the overlying Raglan Mudstone division of the Old Red Sandstone. The Wenlock Limestone (for lime), the Ludlow calcareous siltstones (for building) and the Cliffords Mesne Sandstone/Gorsley Stone/Rushall Formation (local names for the Ludlow/Pridoli age Downton Castle Sandstone, much used as a building stone) have all been quarried. Being generally more resistant to weathering and erosion than the overlying mudstone, the rocks in the cores of the anticlines tend to form higher ground. It is probable that the faults which constituted the locus for the folds were active before they were reactivated by the Variscan continental collision that created Pangea. The Silurian rocks show great variations in thickness through this pivotal area, particularly during the Ludlow period of time when only 3.5 metres of sediment was laid down/preserved at Gorsley, compared with 75 metres to the north in the Woolhope inlier and to the south at May Hill. We will examine the rocks exposed in these inliers and their fossils, deducing the changing ancient environments. We will also examine the evidence for the structure of the area, and its effect on the landscape. The quarrying and use of local rocks is a particular feature of the district.

Arrangements

Meet at 10.00 am at the open lane side at "The Green" on top of Stallion Hill on the minor road west from Anthony's Cross on the B4216 to Cliffords Mesne (SO 714237) where there is plenty of parking on the northern verge alongside fruit bushes.

Lunch will be at a local hostelry (or packed lunch if you wish) where there will be facilities. Otherwise, this is a very rural area. We may have time for refreshment and facilities in the afternoon at Gorsley Cafe (open till 4.00pm). There is uneven ground with some steep areas, so please bring walking poles.

COST	Members £10.00	Non-members £12.00
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TO BOOK	Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make your payment as indicated above by Saturday 27 April.
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FIELD MEETING No. 2

SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2024

By kind permission of the Headmaster, Dr Michael Gray, the President, Howard Tomlinson, and Duncan James will lead a tour of the older buildings

of Hereford Cathedral School in and around Castle Street. The tour will mostly be at ground-floor level but will involve some climbing up and down staircases. Notable other buildings will be visited, including: the Old Deanery; Nos. 28 and 29 (Old College), formerly the dwelling of the vicars choral before their move to the cathedral cloisters; No 31, a late 17th-century town house with Victorian additions; School House, formerly the Headmaster's house and the oldest part of the school, in continuous use since the 17th century; and the Gilbert Memorial Library, where Howard Tomlinson will give a brief talk about some of the headmasters who occupied these buildings. The tour will end with tea.

Arrangements

Meet at 2.00 pm at 5 Harley Court, Hereford, situated at the end of the passage leading from the Elgar Statue; to find the statue from the main entrance to Hereford Cathedral, walk diagonally across the cathedral close towards the far left-hand side. Car parking is available in Hereford at Merton Meadow car park, the Swimming Baths, St Martins car park, Gaol Street car park, or West Street car park; allow at least 4 hours. Tea will be at No. 1 Castle Street around 4.00 pm. Donations would be appreciated.

COST Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

TO BOOK Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make your payment as indicated above by Saturday 1 June.

FIELD MEETING NO. 3

SATURDAY 29 JUNE 2024

A curated walk to view the ancient trees at Croft Castle which constitute "The Ghost Tree Walk", a collaborative art project, made in 2024, to create artwork in the landscape featuring seven "ghost trees". David Lovelace will also talk about the natural history of the trees and park, whilst Richard Gilbert and the photographer, Paul Ligas, will discuss the project genesis and the artistic response, with Sara-Jane's poems for each tree. Four trees will be viewed in the morning, with a break for lunch at the cafe (cost not included) and to see the Exhibition. The other three trees will be visited in the afternoon along with a walk to Croft Ambrey if time allows.

Arrangements

Meet at 10.00 am at Croft Castle National Tust Car Park (SO 450656), Sat Nav HR6 OBL. Directions: turn north from the B4362 at Cock Gate as signposted. There are signs to Croft Castle from the A49 Ludlow to Leominster road. and from the A4110 at Mortimer Cross.

Entry to Croft Castle is free for National Trust members carrying their membership card. Otherwise the National Trust entrance fee (not included in the cost of the trip) is £15.00 per adult which includes entry to the house and grounds. The ground is uneven and there are some steep areas.

The cafe closes at 4.30 pm and park closes by 5.00 pm.

COST Members 7.00 Non-members 9.00

TO BOOK Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Saturday 22 June.

FIELD MEETING NO.4

SATURDAY 20 JULY 2024

Alan Bowring, a Brecon Beacons National Park Warden, will lead a circular walk in Clydach Gorge. The spectacular wooded gorge of the River Clydach features important industrial heritage sites, including the 18th-century ironworks and former tramroads, a National Nature Reserve, waterfalls, and geological interest, with Brownstones, the Quartz Conglomerate Group and much of the Carboniferous Limestone.

Arrangements

Meet at 10.00 am at the picnic area car park down from the Clydach Ironworks—the lower section of Station Road (SO 2302 1339) or "what3words" intricate.midwinter.winning. A circuit of 3.25 miles is expected with 650 ft of ascent in total. Please bring a picnic lunch. The meeting will end at approximately 3.00 pm.

COST Members 7.00 Non-members 9.00

TO BOOK Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Saturday 13 July.

FIELD MEETING NO.5

THURSDAY 25 JULY 2024

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 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 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 Thursday 18 July.

FIELD MEETING No. 6

WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST 2024

Jon Clatworthy, Director of the famous Lapworth Museum of Geology, with its rock wall and remarkable displays, will lead members around the Gallery and then behind the scenes. At the time of our visit an exhibition to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first dinosaur exhibits will also be taking place. The cost of the trip covers the visit to the Lapworth.

Afterwards Anne Harbour will lead members to Winterbourne House and University Botanic Gardens, (entrance fee payable) on the University of Birmingham campus. Winterbourne House, one of the finest Arts & Crafts houses in the country, was built by John and Margaret Nettlefold in 1904. Margaret designed the seven-acre garden (Grade II listed), influenced by Gertrude Jekyll. John was an early town planner who worked to improve workers' housing in Birmingham; his family firm, Guest, Keen & Nettlefold made screws, bolts and more, and a separate room displays the firm's history. Members can have lunch there or picnic in the grounds.

Arrangements

By 10.15 am, make your way to the Lapworth Museum, Aston Webb Building, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT, and assemble outside. Our guided tour will begin from there. The tour will end at 12.45 pm. Tea and coffee will be available.

Travel by car: suggested parking is at the University's North-East car park, Pritchatts Road, B15 2SA. The cost is £6.20 for 8 hours. The walk of 0.7 miles from the car park takes about 20 mins: walk south towards Pritchatts Road, turn

right onto Pritchatts Road, then left and continue along to Ring Road South and the Aston Webb Building. The Lapworth Museum will then be on the left.

Travel by rail: there is an hourly service from Hereford to University station. It takes about 20 minutes to walk to the Lapworth Museum as follows: turn left out of the station towards the main road through to the campus, with the clock tower ahead on the right. Before the clock tower, turn right at the Music College onto the path winding to the left. The Lapworth Museum is on the left in the Aston Webb Building.

12.45 pm: Walk with Sue Olver and Anne Harbour across towards the East Gate of the University along Edgbaston Road to Winterbourne House & University Botanic Gardens, where we can enjoy a picnic or lunch in the café (cost not included).

Afternoon: Depart Winterbourne before it closes at 5.00pm and walk to your car or to University Station as appropriate. Currently trains to Hereford depart at 3.50 pm and hourly thereafter but this may change so please check.

COST: Lapworth only Members: £10.00 Non-members: £12.00

At Winterbourne, the entrance fee payable (by card only) by participants on the day is £8.00 for adults, £6.90 for concessions.

The entrance fee buys a self-guided tour of the house and grounds. The shop has a good selection of garden items and donated books.

TO BOOK Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Wednesday 7August.

FIELD MEETING No. 7

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

Landscape and geological aspects of The Hanter Hill area, with splendid views from the top led by Geoff Steel. Maximum number of 20 participants as the area for parking is limited.

Arrangements

Meet at 2.00 pm at the layby on B4594 adjacent to Burlingjobb Farm—parking is limited (Map ref: SO 250582). Car sharing is needed.

Directions from Hereford: take A438, then the A4111 to the edge of Kington; at the roundabout take the A44. Turn left onto the B4594. The layby is on the right-hand side.

Bring suitable clothing, footwear and walking poles as there are some steep sections, plus refreshments. The field trip should take about 3.5 hours.

COST Members £3.00 Non-members £5.00

TO BOOK Please send your booking to the Field Secretary and make payment as indicated above by Wednesday 11 September.

FURTHER VISIT

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Members are invited to visit an exhibition entitled 'The Hogsback Hills', at the Sydney Nolan Trust, The Rodd, Presteigne, Herefordshire LD8 2LL. The exhibition begins on 18 July and ends on 28 September 2024 and will be open from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. The Woolhope Club will be contributing material about geology, ecology, and historical matters.

Further details of the exhibition and the Woolhope Club's role will be available later and further communications will be made to members via the news email. Club members will assemble at 11.00 am in the main Gallery for a guided tour at 11.30 am, led by Richard Gilbert and Richard Bavin.

In the meantime, please put this in your diary and please write or send an email to the Field Secretary to indicate your interest.

The entrance fee, payable at the Rodd, is £6.00 for adults and £5.00 for concessions. There is plenty of parking including disabled spaces near the main building.

For information about the Trust, please see:

info@sidneynolantrust.org

www.sidneynolantrust.org