



## WOOLHOPE NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Registered Charity No. 521000

President: Professor R. Jenkins

### FIELD MEETINGS 2023

Dates for these meetings are as follows:

- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** Downton Gorge led by Tom Wall
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** Purlieu, West Malvern led by John Payne
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May** Blackfriars Rose Garden and St. John Museum
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May** Five Silurian Anticlinal Inliers on the Hereford – Gloucester Border led by Dave Green
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June** Offas Dyke, Knighton led by Prof. Keith Ray
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June** President's Weobley Day
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July** Black Mountains led by Alan Bowring
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August** Kilpeck led by David Whitehead

The meetings are described on the following pages with an outline or detailed timetable. A list of return booking slips is enclosed separately. Please use the correct slip for each booking.

#### CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

All trips are open to members and friends and other societies (there will be a small charge for guests and visitors to cover GA insurance). Please be aware that Woolhope Club insurance does not cover personal accidents.

Own transport will be used on all trips- some trips will be car sharing because of restricting numbers of cars. If you offer lifts to others, please ensure that your insurance covers you for this.

Bring refreshments. Wear suitable footwear and clothing – walking sticks/poles.

Entrance fees and parking fees will be covered by participants on the day.

Meeting times and booking update (e.g. if full) to be announced on the website. A minimum number for a field meeting to go ahead is 15 and numbers are restricted to a maximum of 30.

#### TO BOOK

Send booking slip to the Field Secretary by email at [geology@woolhopeclub.org.uk](mailto:geology@woolhopeclub.org.uk)  
OR by post to Mrs Susan M. Olver, Buttridge, Wellington Lane, Canon Pyon, Hereford HR4 8NL

Please send field trip charges to Treasurer, Mr. I. Porter Greening's Acre, Little Birch, Hereford, HR2 8BD

Separate payments for each meeting by cheque payable to Woolhope Club or online to the Club account at the NatWest Bank Account number 01037749

Sort code 53-50-41.

Please make sure payment refers to the correct field trip.

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#### FIRST FIELD MEETING

**SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 2023**

Downton Gorge is situated in the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve which is managed by Natural England and our leader Tom Wall in his capacity as a Voluntary Warden can show us the flora and geological features of Downton Gorge.

The walk will be a one way and will be about 2.5 miles along narrow paths above the river. There are some steep and uneven parts so walking poles would be needed.

#### TIMETABLE

10.30 am leave in Minibus from Hereford Merton Meadow Car Park (all day car park)  
Lunch stop at Ludlow Farm shop for refreshments (there are no facilities at Downton Gorge)

12.00 noon Depart to meet up with Tom Wall at our meeting point.

Meet our minibus at Downton Bridge after walk and arrive back in Hereford approx. 6.00 pm.

#### COST

Members £32.00 Non-Members £34.00 Lunch is not included

Numbers restricted 15 participants No Cars

Long Term Car Parking – Merton Meadow Hereford.

#### TO BOOK

Send booking slip to the Field Secretary and charges to Treasurer to arrive not later than Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

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#### SECOND FIELD MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2023**

Our leader John Payne will take a quick look at some of the Malvernian rocks and view east from the Wyche over the Severn valley, explaining the origin of the main features in the scene. Then we shall walk downhill on the Purlieu track to Brockhill, studying the various rock types on the way. We will cross the entire range of local rocks from the Silurian period of geology, deposited originally on the bed of a tropical sea about 450 million years ago. A diversion into Park Wood shows an old quarry in the Wenlock limestone, an ancient coral reef and a possibility for fossil collecting.

Exposures of weaker shale rocks appear in the stream banks. We finish at Brockhill Quarry, seeing sandstone which was deposited at the change from marine to terrestrial deposition locally. We return uphill to the car park, with some observations on the geomorphology of the Purlieu stream.

The outward walk is almost entirely downhill. The ascent on the return is mostly a good track and about 3 metres are steeper, the total ascent on the return is 110 metres.

After lunch at the Wyche Inn, we will visit local quarries to see some results of the deformation and metamorphism of the Malvernian rocks.

#### **TIMETABLE**

10.00 am Meet at the lower car park on Beacon Road, The Wyche, Malvern (SO 76864380)

1.00 pm Lunch at Wyche Inn – menu details will be ordered at the start of our meeting point by telephone call to Wyche Inn.

5.00 pm Return to car park

For those that need transport – members should meet at Merton Meadow Hereford Car Park to share cars at 9.00 am.

**COST** Members £0 Non-Members £2 payable on the day

**TO BOOK** Send booking slip to the Field Secretary to arrive not later than Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

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#### **THIRD FIELD MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023**

Anne Harbour will lead an afternoon visit to the Blackfriars Rose Gardens on Widemarsh Street, Hereford. There we will tour revived rose gardens set in the ruins of a Dominican friary founded by the Dominican Order of Blackfriars sometime before 1246 on land granted by John Daniel, Bishop Orelton and Edward II. Sir Thomas Coningsby later used part of the friary as his town house and in 1614 built almshouses from the remains of the friary church and small hospital of the Knights of St. John. The almshouses are still occupied, and the former hospital now houses the St. John Medieval Museum.

#### **TIMETABLE**

2.00 pm Meet at the gate of Blackfriars Garden (Hereford HR4 0XH)

3.00 pm Visit to Coningsby Medieval Museum

4.00 pm Tea in gardens

**COST** Members £5.00 Non-members £ 7.00

*This donation will be given as a cheque to the Coningsby Medieval Museum*

**TO BOOK** Send booking slip to the Field Secretary and charges to Treasurer to arrive not later than Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May

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#### **FOURTH FIELD MEETING**

**SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023**

Our leader Dave Green will be explaining the complexity of the geological structure in this area. It is due to the nearby confluence of two major crustal fractures – the North-South trending Malvern Fault system and the North West-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. Where useful, particularly 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, extensively used as a building stone) these rocks have 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, 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 this area.

#### **ARRANGEMENTS**

Meet at 10.00 am at the open laneside at "The Green" on top of Stallion Hill on the minor road west from Anthony's Cross on B4216 to Cliffords Mesne (SO 714237) where there is plenty 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 we are in a very rural area. We may have time for refreshment and facilities in the afternoon at Gorsley Cafe (open till 4.00pm).

For those that need transport – members should meet at Merton Meadow Hereford long term car park to share cars at 8.30 am

**COST** Members £10.00 Non-members £12.00

**TO BOOK** Send booking slip to the Field Secretary and charges to Treasurer to arrive not later than Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May

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## FIFTH FIELD MEETING

THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023

Our leader Prof. Keith Ray has organised an excursion to Offa's Dyke and the details and arrangements are as follows.

9.00 am Meet at St. Peter's Square, Hereford for minibus  
Visit earthwork at Devereux Wooton (Norton Canon)  
11.30 am Pen Offa via Burfa Bank (Radnor) -20 minute stop to view possible entranceway through the Dyke  
12.00 noon Yew Tree Farm, Discoed (near Pen Offa) overlooking River Lugg floodplain – 20 minute stop to view scale and construction of the Dyke earthwork  
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm Lunch at Offa's Dyke Centre cafe  
2.00 pm view Offa's Dyke exhibition and an illustrated presentation by Dave McGlade, Chairman Offa's Dyke Association followed by a 15 minute walk in adjacent park to view the Dyke earthwork above the River Teme  
3.30 pm Return to minibus for return to Hereford  
5.30 pm St. Peter's Square, Hereford.

**COST** Members £30.00 Non-members £32.00

Included in the cost is a donation to Offa's Dyke Voluntary Warden Appeal and the minibus transport. Bring a picnic otherwise pre-book lunch at Offa's Dyke Centre. Limited to 29 participants for the two minibus. No Cars.

**TO BOOK** Send booking slip to the Field Secretary and charges to Treasurer to arrive not later than Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May

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## SIXTH FIELD MEETING

THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023

This will be an all day event in Weobley, we meet at Throne Farm, Weobley (SO 410524) where farmer Simon Ware will spend two hours with us discussing and demonstrating the following topics.

1. On farm practices to alleviate groundwater phosphorus leaching to our rivers
2. Regenerative farming practices to sequester carbon
3. Establishing the link between soil and human health.

After lunch we will visit Weobley Castle where David Whitehead will explain its history  
Later in the afternoon Duncan James will take the party on a tour of the Weobley old houses.

### ARRANGEMENTS

9.00 am Meet at Hereford Merton Meadow Car Park to share cars  
9.45 am Meet at Thone Farm (SO 410524) Weobley  
Approx. 12.00 -1.00 Lunch picnic or cafe in Weobley

2.00 pm David Whitehead Weobley Castle  
3.30 pm Duncan James tour of Weobley old houses  
Approx. 6.00 pm Return to Hereford.

Directions from Hereford

Take A438 towards Brecon/Rhayader  
Turn RIGHT onto A480 look for Norton Canyon sign for Bulmer's Orchards  
Turn RIGHT onto B4320 Turn first RIGHT after entering Weobley village follow road up bank past Unicorn Pub on left, then fork LEFT as road turns sharply right pass Village Hall on right Throne Farm is down a tarmac driveway by cider press 1/4 mile on the LEFT

Directions from Leominster

A49 South into Leominster  
Turn RIGHT at traffic Lights onto A44 then continue on road A4112  
Turn LEFT B4230 Weobley and in Weobley take 2<sup>nd</sup> LEFT at new houses (formerly D.G. Grove yard) continue past Unicorn Pub then fork LEFT as road turns sharply right pass Village Hall on right Throne Farm is down a tarmac driveway by cider press 1/4 mile on the LEFT

**COST** Members £0 Non-Members £2 payable on the day

**TO BOOK** Send booking slip to the Field Secretary to arrive not later than Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

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## SEVENTH FIELD MEETING

SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023

Alan Bowring, a National Park Warden will lead this field meeting in the Black Mountains.

The Vale of Ewyas is the grandest of the valleys which pierce the Black Mountains, its landscapes etched into the Old Red Sandstone and into the imaginations of those who have found this near-fastness a source of inspiration for poetry, prose and other of the arts. The circa 4 mile excursion from Capel-y-ffin will examine the role of ice and water in the evolution of the valley, in the context of the wider border area. The relevant geology map is BGS sheet 214 (Talgarth); it admirably shows the St Maughans and Senni formation-based layer-cake together with some of the finer bedrock and Quaternary detail we hope to see.

### ARRANGEMENTS

10.00 am Meeting at Capel y Ffin car park  
Lunch picnic in the field  
3.30 pm Return back to Car Park at Capel y Ffin

**COST** Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

For those that need transport – members should meet at Merton Meadow Hereford

Car Park to share cars at 8.45 am. Bring suitable footwear/clothing/walking poles and refreshments and picnic.

**TO BOOK** Send booking slip to the Field Secretary and charges to Treasurer to arrive not later than Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

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## **EIGHTH FIELD MEETING**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023**

Vice-President, David Whitehead will lead a visit to Kilpeck. The object of the afternoon will be to explore the early history of Kilpeck via its church, castle and setting. Kilpeck Church was rediscovered as a Romanesque jewel in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century by the President of the Woolhope Club, Thomas Blashill (1830-95) who began to piece-together the scattered examples of the Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture. Since his time there has been a growing appreciation that the church is part of a well-preserved package of medieval remains, which taken in conjunction with other earlier documentary evidence, throw some new light on the pre-conquest territory of Archenfield and its wider relationship with the origins of Herefordshire in the Dark Ages. The Vice-President will unravel some of the evidence on the spot and discuss its wider implications.

### **TIMETABLE**

2.00 pm Meet in car-park next to Kilpeck Church  
4.30 pm Tea will be arranged

**COST** Members £5.00 Non-members £7.00

### **ARRANGEMENTS**

There will be a lot of standing, but if dry opportunities for sitting down. If you have no transport, we can probably arrange for some people to be picked up at the Swimming Pool Car Park in St. Martin's Street, Hereford, but give us plenty of notice.

**TO BOOK** Send booking slip to the Field Secretary and charges to Treasurer to arrive not later than Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

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