

WGCG Field Trip to the Mendips

21st – 23rd August 2020

Leader: Dr Martin Whiteley

This is the **formal invitation for members to register** for the WGCG field trip to the Mendips in August 2020. The trip will be led by Dr Martin Whiteley, formerly of Derby University and an independent geological consultant, working particularly with the oil industry, and a former chair of the Earth Science Teachers' Association.

Duration

The excursion will run from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd August with two nights at the hotel, a talk on Friday evening, and field days on Saturday and Sunday.

Accommodation

This has been arranged at The Grange Hotel, Bristol Road, Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 4HJ.

Check in time is between 2pm – 7pm.

Travel Arrangements

Travel to and from the hotel is members' responsibility and is not included in the cost of the trip. If you require assistance, every effort will be made to offer transport via car-sharing. If you are able to offer a lift please also note this on the registration form.

However, the field area has narrow lanes, limited parking and may cause navigation problems, so travel during the field trip will be by everyone travelling together on a minibus. This also allows for more relaxing and informative travel for you between field sites. The cost of the minibus is included in the total trip fee. The minibus is limited to 16 passengers and therefore **the group size is limited to 16 people**.

Costs

The cost of the hotel is £65 per room per night (whether used as a single or double room) and the rooms have been booked for two nights. This includes a continental breakfast.

Other meals: A cooked breakfast is available at a charge of £4 - £8. Evening meals at the hotel will be between £15 - £20 for two or three courses. These meal costs will be paid by individuals directly when at the hotel.

On Saturday, you will need to bring with you or purchase locally a packed lunch.

On the Sunday, there will be a visit to Banwell Bone Cave at which a ploughman's lunch will be provided with a vegetarian option available.

Therefore, the cost for the trip (to cover hotel, continental breakfast, minibus travel in the Mendips, printed handout, visit to the bone cave and Sunday ploughman's lunch) will be:

Single room occupant: £180 per person

Double room occupant £115 per person

PLUS each person will probably want to allow **around £50 for meals** which will be paid for during the trip.

Acceptance

Places will be allocated as far as possible on a first come first served basis, but newcomers to residential trips will be given preference subject to **booking by Friday 24th April**. If you wish to join the trip but prefer to make your own arrangements for accommodation, this can be accepted provided your accommodation is near to the hotel or that you can be at the hotel each morning to join the rest of the group for travel in the minibus.

Geology & Itinerary

Friday - Travel to the area and book in to the hotel. There will be an introductory talk in the late afternoon or early evening before dinner, outlining the geological history of the Mendips and what to expect from the trip.

If you have not brought a packed lunch for Saturday with you, you should purchase this during the afternoon on Friday, as there will not be time to do so on Saturday.

Saturday - Visit Carboniferous and Jurassic localities in eastern Mendip, including Mells and Vallis Vale.

Sunday - Visit several Devonian, Carboniferous and Triassic localities during the course of the day (which will include some walking over rough and steep ground in Burrington Combe). There will also be a visit to the fascinating Banwell Bone Cave and a ploughman's lunch.

Field guide

All participants will be provided with a brief field guide that is based on two very comprehensive publications describing the geology and natural history of the area:

Exploring the landscape of Western Mendip ISBN 9780852725764

Exploring the landscape of Eastern Mendip ISBN 9780852725757

Both are A5 in size, with full colour illustrations and accompanying 1:25 000 maps. They can be ordered from the British Geological Survey. There is also a website that explains the geology of Tedbury Camp, one of the localities to be visited during the trip. It can be found on:

www.esta-uk.net/tedbury_camp_quarry.html

Safety

As always, the intention is to make the terrain we visit as benign as reasonably possible, but there will inevitably be the usual hazards associated with an outdoor activity such as geology. Some ground will be sufficiently rough to create slipping, tripping or stumbling hazards, especially if wet. There may be steps to climb and slopes to negotiate. It is in the nature of these excursions that a basic degree of mobility and agility is necessary, and occasionally there may be the added hazard of dislodging rocks, so great care should be taken not to endanger others in this way.

Stout footwear with good gripping soles and sensible, weatherproof outdoor clothing is a minimum requirement, especially if the weather outlook is poor. You are also advised to bring hard hats for this trip.

Each member attending should be acquainted with the society's guidance on field activity (please indicate on the registration form if you need a copy of this). A health & safety form will be forwarded prior to the trip, which you will be requested to provide duly completed at the time of the excursion.

Disclaimer

Although every effort will be made by the trip leader to ensure that you have a safe weekend, every person attending this trip must accept full responsibility for any injury to themselves.

Insurance

Membership of the society is a requirement, for third party insurance purposes. **If you need to obtain membership, please do so separately from the registration process.** Members are advised to have their own suitable travel insurance to protect against losses that may arise from cancellation or loss of personal belongings, and their own personal accident insurance if they require it.

Please note that none of the information given about this trip constitutes a brochure under the Package Travel Regulations (1992).

Please send COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM and FEES of £50 per person BY POST to ARRIVE by Friday 24th April:

Julie Harrald
WGCG Admin Assistant
70 Blackbrook Road
Loughborough
Leics
LE11 4PZ

You can contact Julie on 01509 558211 or JulieHarrald@gmail.com if you have any queries.

Cheques are payable to WGCG.

In the event of oversubscription, deposits from those who cannot be accepted will be returned.

Couples sharing a room may register on a single form.

If you are single, but happy to share a twin room, and if you know with whom you wish to share, please indicate on the registration form.

Mendips field trip 21st – 23rd August 2020

Registration Form

NAME 1:	NAME 2:
WGCG member:	WGCG member:
ADDRESS:	ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE:	TELEPHONE:
EMAIL:	EMAIL:

I / We would like to register to attend the Mandips field trip.	
<i>Please select as appropriate:</i>	<i>Tick / select</i>
I / We will book my / our own accommodation OR	
I / We would like accommodation for two nights at The Grange Hotel, Brent Knoll	
I will be attending alone and would like a single room OR	
I will be attending alone and am willing to share a twin room OR	
We are attending as a couple and will share a twin / double room	TWIN / DOUBLE
In the event that the trip is oversubscribed and my registration cannot be accepted, I would like my name to be added to the waiting list	
TRAVEL	
I / We would like a lift to and from the the location OR	
I / We can offer lifts for the following number of people:	Number:
I am happy to travel as a passenger with someone else or to offer a lift to others.	
PAYMENT	
Deposit of £50 per person if staying at hotel; OR £10 if booking own accommodation. I / We enclose a deposit of:	£
Cheques to be made payable to WGCG. Balance will be due by 10 th July.	
DIETARY REQUIREMENTS	
I have the following dietary requirements: Low salt	
SIGN	
I have read the provisional trip details and have noted the information on terrain and equipment	
I will read and abide by the WGCG notes on field trip / site visit health and safety View online - Document 7 at https://www.wgcg.co.uk/safety-documents/	
I require a copy of the WGCG notes on field trip / site visit health and safety	
Signed (name 1):	Date:
Signed (name 2):	Date:

**Please return this form with your deposit by Friday 24th April to:
Julie Harrald, 70 Blackbrook Road, Loughborough, LE11 4PZ.**