



26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## LGS Newsletter 166.9

Please note that the indoor meetings for the 166<sup>th</sup> session have now finished.

### LGS Fieldwork Excursion to Anglesey, 24-26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The excursion will be led by Dr A. Graham Leslie, a recently retired (2022) British Geological Survey Senior Mapping Geologist. Details of this field excursion were published in LGS Newsletter 166.1. The excursion will focus on mainly coastal exposures in Anglesey. The plan to arrive in the evening of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 and spend Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> in the field. Most exposures should be a fairly short walk from parking spots, so the excursion should not be particularly physically demanding. Our base will be The Valley hotel which is at London Road, Valley, Anglesey, LL65 3DU <https://valleyanglesey.co.uk/>

All the places for our excursion to Anglesey from 24-26<sup>th</sup> May 2025 are now taken, but if you want to be placed on a reserve list, please contact our Excursion Secretary, at [mike.stoddart@live.co.uk](mailto:mike.stoddart@live.co.uk)

### LGS Fieldwork Excursion to Shap Granite Quarry, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 we will be visiting the famous [Shap Granite](#) quarry in Cumbria. The rock here is an attractive building stone and can be seen in many famous buildings but these days it is worked for road stone by [Armstrongs](#). Members will be able to collect specimens of the granite itself and, potentially, some interesting minerals; as [reported by the BGS](#), joints in the rock commonly bear "molybdenite, chalcopyrite and abundant pyrite sometimes with much fluorite (purple, green and colourless) or sometimes a little white barite. Traces of galena, sphalerite and bismuthinite are also found". The quarry is about two hours drive from central Liverpool and we will be there for about three hours **starting at 10:00 hours**. Given the distance (about 100 miles), we will be encouraging lift-sharing. We may have lunch at the Shap Wells hotel afterwards and walk along Wasdale Beck to see the mid-Devonian unconformity.

The location is the Shap **Pink** Quarry just off the A6. The What3Words location is <https://w3w.co/fewest.revolve.revisits> and the coordinates are 54°28'01"N 2°40'44"W. The nearest postcode is CA10 3QQ.

Directions: Exit M6 at Junction 39 then turn **left** onto the A6. The quarry entrance is approx. 3 miles along the A6 on your right hand side (there is a white and red sign post that you can see from the A6 as you approach).

**Numbers may be limited so members are encouraged to reserve a place with our Excursion Secretary, at [mike.stoddart@live.co.uk](mailto:mike.stoddart@live.co.uk).**

### LGS Fieldwork Excursion to Edinburgh, 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025



Siccar point

Credit: dave souza at Wikipedia.

For the weekend of **28-29<sup>th</sup> June 2025** we are planning an excursion to look at the geology of Edinburgh. We will travel up on the Friday ready for a full day in the field on Saturday and then further fieldwork on Sunday. This means accommodation will be required on the Friday and Saturday nights. Members can choose to attend either or both days.

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

We will be visiting Siccar Point - the location of [Hutton's Unconformity](#) - a "bucket list" location for any geologist. Our guide will be Robert Gatliff (Edinburgh Geological Society) and the title of the excursion is *Following in the footsteps of James Hutton: the evidence at Siccar Point for "deep time"*.

**Date & start time:** 10.30am at White Sands Car Park (NT725773).

**Finish time:** 4.00pm at Siccar Point car park (NT805706).

Carboniferous and Devonian sediments and volcanic rocks predominate across the Midland Valley of Scotland. However, there are clearly much harder and more tectonically deformed older Palaeozoic rocks across much of the Southern Uplands. Hutton knew about this from his experiences in farming and his studies in geology. He predicted where he would see the junction between the two series and his visit to Siccar Point was to reveal the contact with utmost clarity. To this day it remains the most historically important geological site in the world.

We will start the day a few miles north of Siccar Point in the Carboniferous and see some of the varied facies in the Carboniferous, including coals, soils, sandstones and some remarkable remains of a fossil forest and some of the best limestone exposures in Scotland. As we approach Siccar Point we will make a short stop at Cove (car park at NT780717), probably the harbour where James Hutton set sail for Siccar Point. Here we will see reddened sandstones of early Carboniferous/late Devonian age.

At Siccar Point the unconformity will be clearly visible from the top of the cliff. At the base of the steep grassy slope (a difficult descent: Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear) on the foreshore we will be able to explore the sedimentology and structure in the older rocks, review the shape of the unconformity surface, study the basal beds above the unconformity and summarise the evidence that Hutton found.

We will finish on the unconformity with a discussion about James Hutton's ideas of deep time and how geosciences have evolved since the he wrote 'We find no vestige of a beginning - no prospect of an end.'

### **Terrain, walking distance, height gain, hazards:**

White Sands/Barns Ness: 500 m walk along rocky coast; return on footpath parallel to coast.

Siccar Point: about 800 m across field to cliff top where excellent view of the unconformity. There is a 60 m steep path down and up on return to the outcrop.

The **key hazard** is walking down and up the grassy cliff to the outcrop at Siccar Point.

Control measures required to mitigate against hazards referred to above: Walking boots are recommended for this trip. (**Please note:** hard hats and Hi Vis clothing are not required)

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June

We will be visiting locations in Edinburgh which has many (Carboniferous volcanic) geological marvels including Salisbury Crags, Arthur's Seat and Hutton's Section (currently off limits, unfortunately).

**Members interested in attending this weekend excursion should reserve a place with our Excursion Secretary, at [mike.stoddart@live.co.uk](mailto:mike.stoddart@live.co.uk)**

## LGS Excursion to Fall Hill Quarry near Ashover, July 2025

This day excursion will take place during July 2025 (date to be confirmed).

*Further details will be posted on the LGS website when they are available*

## LGS Publication: *The North West Geologist*

Maggie & Peter Williams (the NWG Editors) welcome original articles (up to approximately 3,000 words in length) on topics related to geological and geomorphological topics. These should be sent to [nwg.editor@gmail.com](mailto:nwg.editor@gmail.com) with the author's full name, title and address and email address. Articles should be sent as Word files. Notes for authors are given in **NWG 22**.

The copy deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> March for October publication, but this deadline has been extended because up to 26<sup>th</sup> March, very few articles have been submitted.

## Down to Earth (DTE)



Electronic copies of this publication are available for LGS members.

If you would like a pdf copy of the most recent publications (DTE Number 130, DTE Extra numbers 147 & 148), please email Maggie Williams (Secretary) at [lgssecretary19@gmail.com](mailto:lgssecretary19@gmail.com) and copies will be emailed to you.

## Seeking a tutor for Wirral 3Ls

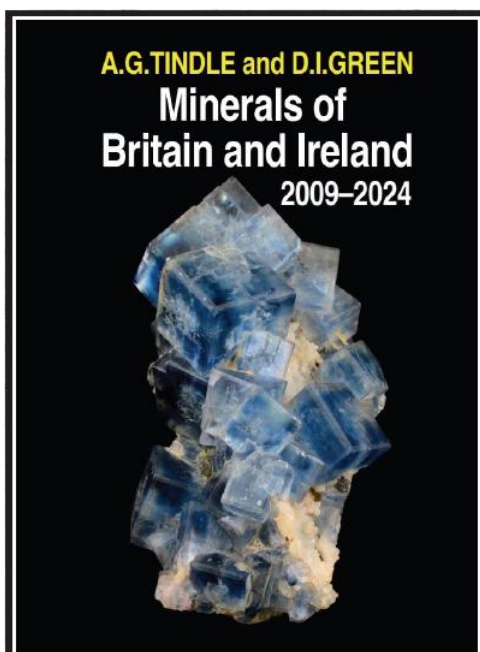
David Bickford has been in contact. He manages a local registered charity, Wirral 3Ls, which for 30 years has been providing social activities and recreational daytime classes for the older population. Wirral 3Ls is based in the Civic Centre in Bebington and has a membership of around 900.

Details at: [www.wirral3ls.co.uk](http://www.wirral3ls.co.uk)

David is considering offering a course in Autumn 2025 for Wirral 3Ls members with a general interest in 'earth sciences' (geology, climate, geography, environment, etc). This course may be offered for a single term of ten weeks, or a full three-term course so it is roughly in line with school terms.

If you are interested in being a course tutor, or wish to find out more about this proposed course, please contact David by emailing: [david@wirral3ls.co.uk](mailto:david@wirral3ls.co.uk) or by phoning: 07790 628 536.

## New book: *Minerals of Britain and Ireland 2009–2024*



A wealth of new information on the minerals of Britain and Ireland is provided and beautifully illustrated in this new 400-page book. Highlights include:

- 300 superb, high-resolution images, mostly in colour.
- 159 species new to Britain and Ireland since 2008, including 13 with British type localities.
- 500 species updated from the original book.
- 320 species identified with the involvement of Russell Society members.

This definitive work is up to date as of September 2024, consequently it is essential reading / reference material for anyone interested in the mineralogy of these Britain and Ireland. The book, sponsored by the Russell Society, can be purchased from the Books & Journals section of the Steetley Minerals website:

<https://www.steetleyminerals.com/40-books-and-journals>

The price in the UK is £75 including postage and packaging.