



## Home Counties North Regional Group

### FULL-DAY GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Saturday 2 August 2014 10.30 – 15.30 approx

### Geology, sedimentology and archaeology of Harrold-Odell Country Park and guided walk in Harrold village, Bedfordshire

Led by John Wong

This field trip is in two parts, in the morning the Park Ranger of Harrold-Odell Country Park will give a 1½ hour guided tour to see the glacial landforms, river terraces, and post-glacial river features. The river meadows of the floodplain within the Country Park flood twice each year; the Park Ranger's database has computer records of the water level. John will explain the local geology and the palaeogeography during the formation of the Middle Jurassic Great Oolite.



In the afternoon, John will lead a guided walk of Harrold village and outskirts to see, among other things, the ancient bridge at the boundaries of three parishes, a lock-up and a buttermarket. We will also have a drink at the locally famous public house – The Oakley Arms, where Paul McCartney wrote the song ‘Hey Jude’ for Julian Lennon, John’s son, and performed it live for the first time on 30 June 1968 (more than a month before it was recorded and two months before it was released).

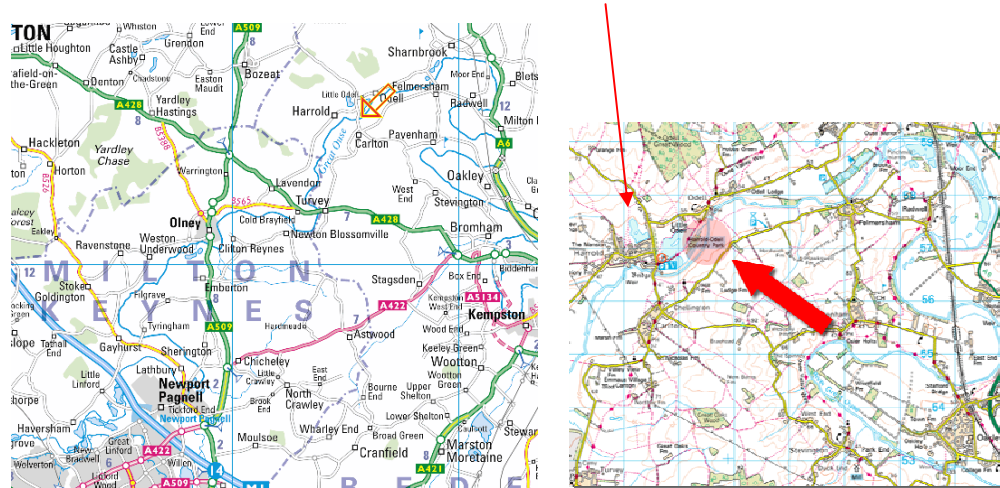
We will also see the geomorphology and sedimentology of the Great Ouse in more details.

The surface geology of Harrold-Odell Country Park is mainly Quaternary fluvio-glacial gravels overlying Middle Jurassic Great Oolite. The superficial deposits of sand and gravel were reworked by the River Great Ouse after the last ice age, these deposits were quarried from the area now covered by Harrold-Odell Country Park between 1948 and 1980.

The free-draining gravels of the River Ouse valley in the area have been favoured for human settlement and activity since at least 3,000 B.C. Despite large-scale excavation in advance of gravel extraction, quarrying within what is now the Country Park removed Iron Age and Roman settlement

archaeology. John will talk you through the pre-history, the Neolithic, the Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon settlements, and medieval villages in Harrold, thought to be among the earliest so far known in Bedfordshire.

**Meet:** Meet in the public car park inside the entrance of Harrold-Odell Country Park, Carlton Road, Harrold, Bedfordshire, MK43 7DS (Grid reference SP567957). Car parking is free, but Park Management requests a voluntary donation of £1 per car.



**Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start.**

You can bring a packed lunch or have lunch in the café near the car park in the Country Park.

There is a maximum of 25 participants for this field trip with priority given to Fellows, Candidate Fellows and Juniors of the Geological Society who are members of the Home Counties North Regional Group.

The meeting is free to attend but please book your places on a first-come-first-served basis by e-mail to [homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com)

The B.G.S. geology map sheet 186 is a useful reference.

Attendees will be asked to sign the usual indemnity form for field trip insurance purposes before the start of the walk.

For more information on the Home Counties North Regional Group visit the website <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hcnrg>