



Home Counties North Regional Group

Travellers, Bathers and Walkers: the Origins of British Geological Fieldwork

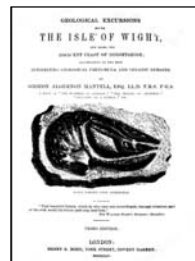
Dr Tom Hose

Field trips and field-guides are such an accepted and popular aspect of modern geological education and geotourism provision that few practitioners question the socio-economic and scholarly shifts that underpinned their emergence in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The growth and acceptance of geological fieldwork among the social elite, as a vehicle for scientific study and publication in the 19th century, required a fundamental shift in mindset. This had partly developed from early antiquarian studies that began in the late 17th century.

Such fieldwork often meant venturing into wild landscapes and social settings previously avoided, together with the development and employment of new technologies (especially in transport and publishing). Many of these changes can also be linked to the development of inland and seaside spas and resorts and the beginnings of modern health, cultural, and heritage tourism. Likewise, the development of pedestrian tours from the 16th century onwards and landscape travel (including the Grand Tour) from the 18th century onwards, especially with the various developing aesthetic movements, cannot be understated as forces underpinning and supporting this shift.

A significant force, especially in southern England, in the popularisation and publication of field excursions was their organisation by the Geologists' Association after its inauguration in 1858. Many local and regional natural history societies also organised occasional geology field excursions during the 19th century and up until the Great War.

These themes and providers will be explored and elaborated through a summary account of field excursions and associated publications in a selected region of England. Some consideration of Continental influences will also be given and a summary time-line will be presented.



Tom Hose is a consultant on geotourism and geo-interpretation. Initially trained as an Earth scientist, with a BSc(Hons) in geology and geography, Tom has a PGCE in secondary geography and science education, an MA in Museum and Gallery Administration and a PhD in geotourism. He has worked in museums, schools and universities and is an Honorary Research Associate in the School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol. He has written extensively on museum collections and management, geotourism, geo-interpretation and geoconservation, has edited 3 sets of international conference proceedings and is editor of the *GCUK Newsletter*. He convened the Geological Society conference (October 2012) *Appreciating Physical Landscapes: Geotourism 1670-1970* and is currently editing the GSL Special Publication arising from it.

Date: Thursday 27 November 2014

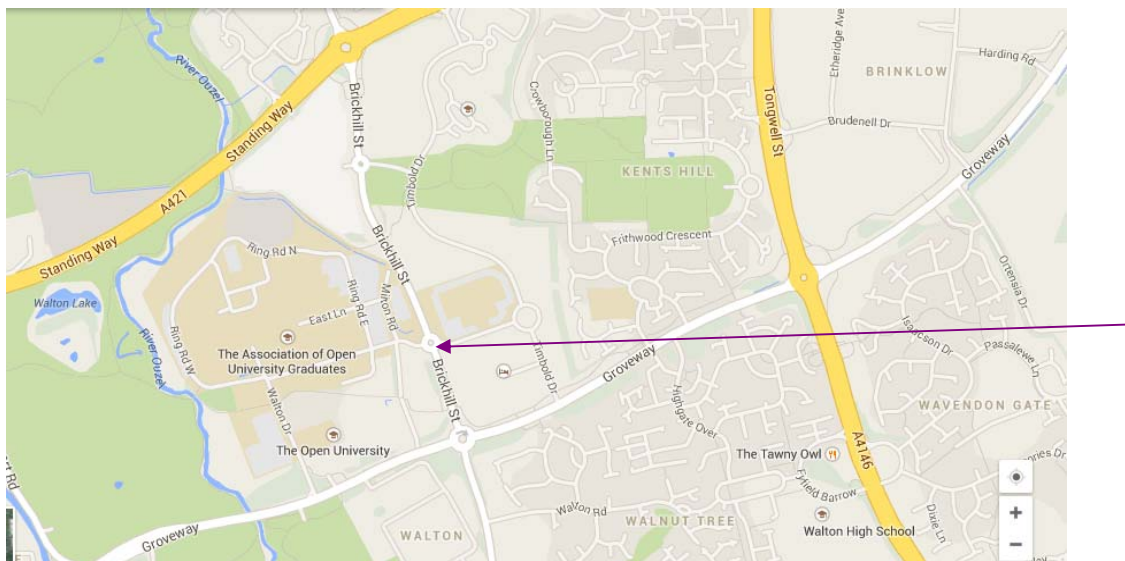
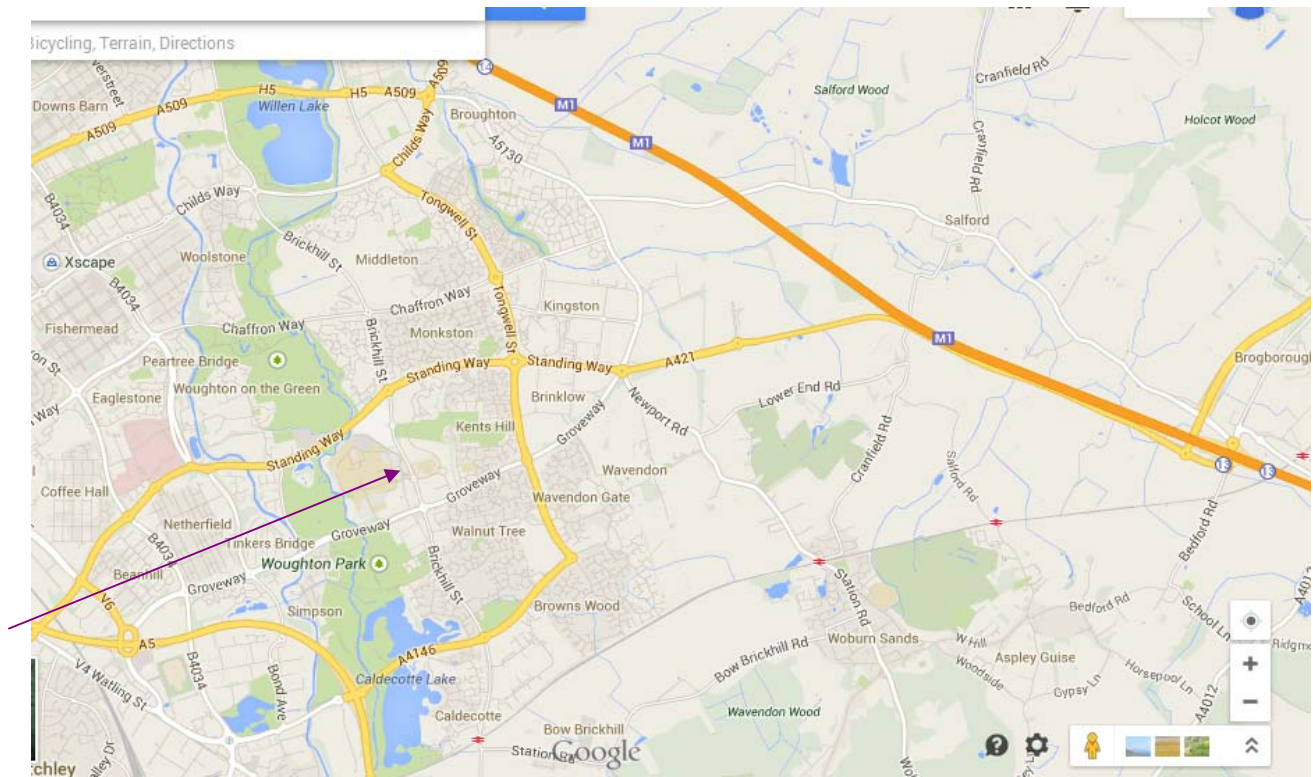
Venue: Gass Lecture Theatre, Open University, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire

Refreshments 18.30

Meeting starts 19.00

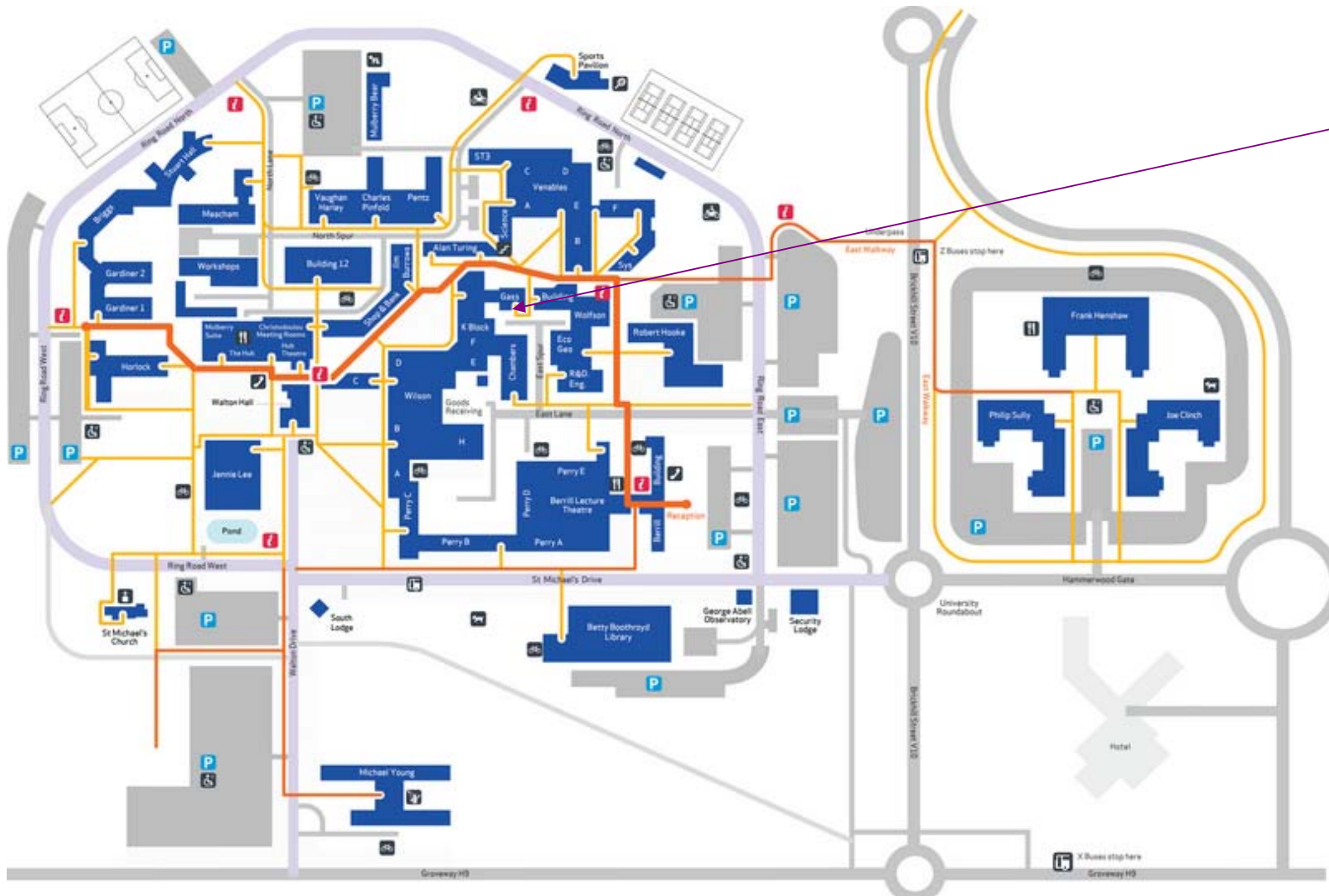
For more information on the Home Counties North Regional Group visit the website at

<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/hcnrg>



From M1 Junction 14 – Follow signs for Milton Keynes, taking A509 to 3rd (Pagoda) roundabout. Turn left on Brickhill Street and continue along this across several roundabouts for about 2 miles. At the University roundabout the main entrance to the campus is on your right.

From M1 Junction 13 – Follow signs for Milton Keynes taking A421 for 3.5 miles to Kingston roundabout. Take 2nd exit onto Groveway (H9) signposted A5/Aylesbury/Dunstable/Walnut Tree/Universities. Go straight over next roundabout (Walnut Tree). At the following roundabout (Walton), turn right then first left for main entrance to campus. Visitor reception is located in the Berrill Building.



Key to Symbols

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|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Car Parking | Bicycle Parking | Childrens Centre | Dog Run | Public Telephones | Sports Pavilion | Stairs |
| Car Parking for Disabled | Bus Stop | Church | Information Points | Refectory | Shop & Bank | Motorcycle Parking |

Key to Walkways

- | |
|-----------------|
| Footpath |
| Central Walkway |