



Home Counties North Regional Group

FULL-DAY GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Friday 18 March 2016, 10.00 – 17.30 approx

**Geology, geomorphology, geoarchaeology and prehistoric history
of north-west St Albans, Sandridge and Coleman Green, Hertfordshire.**

Led by John Wong FGS

Meet at 10.00 at the furthest public car park on the left hand side (TL142066) after passing Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre (AL1 2DJ); car park entrance is via Holywell Hill A5183 (first 2 hours parking free, please obtain parking tickets from the machine). If you require a lift or pick up, or you can offer a lift, please let us know when you book your places for this field trip.

The field trip party will spend the morning mainly in Verulamium Park to discuss the geology of the flood plain and the profile of the river valley; the hydrology of the chalk stream River Ver in St Albans; flooding in 2014; how the underlying geology and physical geography have dictated human settlement and land use from the Iron Age to the present day; and the diversion of the Proto-Thames tributary.

The itinerary will include:

- the remains of the Verulamium Roman wall, its defensive function, design and the building materials;
- the Iron Age Belgae defensive ditches where geology and archaeology interact;
- the nostalgic St Michael's bridge over the River Ver;
- a leisure stroll in Watercress Nature Reserve in St Albans;
- building stones of the remains of Sopwell House on the site of a Benedictine Nunnery;
- the oldest public house in Hertfordshire, which also claims to be the oldest in England;
- watermills in St Albans;
- building stones on churches and museum including Puddingstone and andesite;
- Chalk outcrops and Head deposits with boulder clay occasionally yielding Mesozoic erratic fossils such as echinoids;
- St Leonard's Church in Sandridge;

- John Bunyan's Chimney the only remaining part of a cottage in Coleman Green village where the author of *Pilgrims Progress* is said to have stayed and preached.

If there is time, we shall also see the site of the oldest battle in Hertfordshire located on a boulder clay hill.

Lunch can be had at the John Bunyan public house in Coleman Green village, and refreshments are available in the café in Verulamium Park. Participants can bring packed lunches if they prefer.

British Geological Survey geology map sheet number 239 Hertford is a useful reference.

There is a maximum of 15 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. This field trip may be repeated on a Sunday later in the year if sufficient members who cannot make a weekday field trip express an interest in doing so. Please indicate this in responding to this flyer.

Please book your places on a first-come-first-served basis by e-mail to homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com

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>

