



FULL-DAY GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Friday 15 July 2016, 10.00 – 1600 approx

**Geological field visit to: Soil Consultants Ltd, High Wycombe,
Hellfire Caves and St Lawrence Church, West Wycombe,**

led by John Wong FGS

Meet at 10.00 at Soil Consultants Ltd, Chiltern House, Earl Howe Road, Holmer Green, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP15 6QT

This will be a short visit to the offices of a ground investigation company who undertake a large array of projects in London and the Home Counties. It will encompass a short talk on the London Basin deposits, particularly the London Clay, where we will have some samples of deposits to examine looking at the minor differences which tell us where they come from in the stratigraphic sequence and the importance these differences have from a geotechnical perspective. **LIMITED TO 8 PEOPLE PLEASE**

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

After our visit to Soil Consultants, we travel to Hellfire Caves (also known as West Wycombe Cave) at Church Lane, West Wycombe HP14 3AH for lunch break before the group visit to the Caves (Free parking at the Caves), where other people who were unable to take part in the visit to Soil Consultants may join the party up to a maximum of 15 – Please e-mail homecountiesnorthregionalgroup@gmail.com if you wish to join at this point and meet outside the café at the Caves at 13.30. Admission is £5 for adult and £4 concession. Hellfire Caves are a network of man-made chalk and flint caverns excavated in the late 18th century with passage over ¼ mile underground past 3 chambers and a large chamber called the Banqueting Hall and then further down over a pool of water called River Styx to the Inner Temple at some 300 feet beneath St. Lawrence Church at the top of the hill. The geology of the bottom 2/3 of the Hellfire Caves network is Turonian New Pit Chalk Formation (non-nodular chalk, with thin marl seams and sporadic flint) and the top 1/3 of the network is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (nodular chalk with layers of flint, thin marls and hardgrounds of condensed chalk). John will discuss the different Chalk Provinces within Britain, the periglacial deposits and glacial origin of the topography in the vicinity.

After Hellfire Caves, we have a steep climb up to the top of West Wycombe Hill to see the 18th century St Lawrence Church (also known as Summer Church) and mausoleum in the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From the highest public level on the church tower, one can see West London on a clear day. The tower is 80 feet tall, with the golden ball on top of the tower adding another 20 feet to 646 feet (197m) above sea level. We will examine the building stones and the church interior architecture of Middle East influence. If there is time, we can walk northwards ¾ miles further over the hill to see the Bradenham Puddingstone (Buckinghamshire Puddingstone).

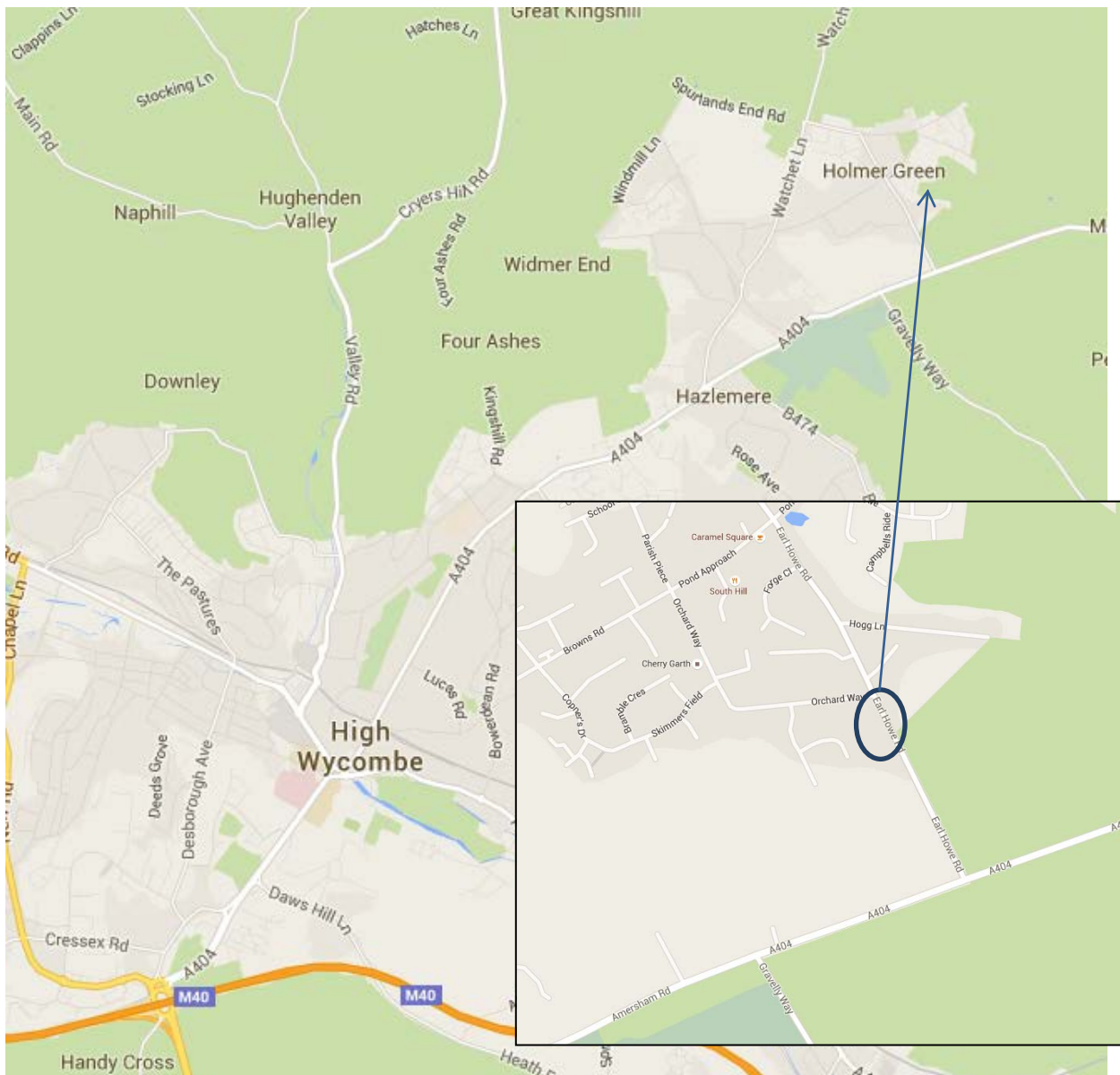
Maximum of 8 for Soil Consultants visit and 15 for Hell Fire Caves visit, priority given to Fellows, Candidate Fellows and Juniors of the Geological Society who are members of Home Counties North Regional Group. If you would like a lift or can give a lift, please let us know when you book your place.

You can bring a packed lunch or lunch at the café at Hell Fire Caves.

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

Maps:

Soil Consultants Ltd, Chiltern House, Earl Howe Road, Holmer Green, High Wycombe HP15 6QT



Hell Fire Caves, Church Lane, West Wycombe HP14 3AH

