

Berkshire Geoconservation Group

Programme 2023 - 2024



Sunday 10 September 2023

10:30am Building Stones walk around Ashbury led by Bill Horsfield and Lesley Dunlop

Meeting point - Outside the Rose and Crown pub in Ashbury, SN6 8NA, OS: SU 2648 8505
Lat:Long: 51.5637218, -1.6193571;

A joint walk with Oxfordshire Geology Trust which will look at building stones used in this beautiful village, situated at the base of the chalk escarpment. A locally-quarried hard chalk stone has been used in several of the older cottages, together with rough sarsen stones and brick. It features in the Diversity in Stone leaflet.

Saturday 7 October 2023

10:30am Wargrave Chalk Pit & St Mary's Church led by Lesley Dunlop

Meeting point - The car park by Wargrave Chalk Pit OS: SU 78806 78304; Lat,Long: 51.4981945, -0.8661139; **Note: Approach the car park from the northern end of Braybrooke Road. The southern end between the chalk pit access road and High Street is private.**

This event celebrates [International Geodiversity Day](#). The walk starts at the Wargrave Chalk Pit ([LGS 18](#)). The chalk in this quarry is amongst the youngest preserved in Berkshire, the topmost layer having been removed by erosion. It represents the only accessible exposure of Upper Chalk in the area and has some distinctive flint layers. Fossils such as echinoids, corals, bivalves (oysters) and crinoids have been collected from the site, although we are unlikely to find any on this walk.

After the quarry, we'll walk to St Mary's Church, which has a very interesting brick tower dating from 1635. The Church is first mentioned in a document of 1121, and the North Door is the main surviving feature of this period. Apart from the tower and north wall, most of the church was destroyed by fire in 1914 and hence most of the present building dates from its rebuilding in the 20th century.

Saturday 4 November 2023

Until Sunday 5 November 2023

10:30am Festival of Geology - UCL, Gower St, London WC1E 6BT

Entrance free, BGG Stand on the Saturday. Field events on the Sunday. See [Geologists' Association Festival](#) for details.

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Saturday 11 November 2023

10:30am Nettlebed: Puddingstones, bricks, clay and gravels led by Lesley Dunlop and Bill Horsfield

Meeting point - The Nettlebed bus shelter on the A4130, OS OS: SU 7017 8679; Lat:Long: 51.5756213, -0.9888077 Parking is available nearby.

A joint meeting with Oxfordshire Geology Trust. A walk around Nettlebed Common looking at remnants of beds overlying the chalk.

Saturday 25 November 2023

10:30am Building Stones of Slough

Meeting point - Slough Station Entrance (south side) OS: SU 9783 8016; Lat,Long: 51.5119170, -0.5916101;

A walk looking at the some of the building stones of Slough led by Terry Hackwill and Roger York.

Saturday 13 January 2024

10:30am Building Stones of Reading

Meeting point - Queen Victoria Statue in Town Hall square. OS: SU 7164 7356; Lat,Long: 51.4565595, -0.9701736;

Ross Garden will lead a walk circling Reading town centre examining the building stones.

Saturday 10 February 2024

10:30am Walk around East Ilsley

Meeting point - By the pond in East Ilsley village GR: SU 4937 8109; Lat Long: 51.5266001, -1.2896821. There is ample parking around the central triangle in Easy Ilsley bordered by Church Hill, Broad Street and High Street.

Lesley Dunlop will lead this walk of just over 3 miles which will take in the church at East Ilsley. We will walk up onto the Downs, giving a good view over the surrounding countryside. We will return into the village looking at some of the buildings on the way. The footpaths are good, although may be muddy at this time of year.

Geologically we are on Chalk all of the way but will see many features including dry valleys etc. East Ilsley itself had a whitening works which we will go past on our return to the village. On the way we will we look at St Mary's Church which has it's origins in the 13th Century with 19th Century additions. The churchyard is also very interesting. The village itself has hosted sheep and cattle fairs historically and we will see the ancient racetrack on the

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hillside.

An old rhyme about the village goes as follows:

"Ilsley remote amid the Berkshire Downs,
Claims three distinctions o'er her sister towns,
Far famed for sheep and wool, tho' not for spinners,
For sportsmen, doctors, publicans and sinners."