

Smokejacks 2020

Two further visits are planned to Smokejacks in Surrey. The trips are being run as part of the **Kent Geologists' Group** field programme for 2020. This Weald Clay brickpit has yielded a number of important finds over the past four decades. In 1983 Bill Walker, an amateur collector, found a new theropod dinosaur, *Baryonyx walkeri*, which proved to be crucial to the understanding of the spinosaurs, and on the Geologists' Association fieldtrip to the site in 2001 a well-preserved partial skeleton of a juvenile iguanodont (*Mantellisaurus atherfieldensis*) was discovered by Geoff Toye, and subsequently excavated by the Natural History Museum. Two *Baryonyx* teeth were also recovered from the *Mantellisaurus* excavation, suggesting that it may have been scavenged by a *Baryonyx*. The site is also known for the early flowering plant *Bevhalstia pebja* (published in 1996), remains of which can still be found. The concretions of sideritic mudstone and siltstone have also yielded numerous insect remains (13 orders) including many new species. Other finds include dinosaur footcasts, remains of pterosaur, fish, crocodile, crustaceans, molluscs and non-angiospermous plants (ferns and cycads, and a *Sequoia*-type cone). A death-bed assemblage of teleost fish has also been found, which included the first articulated pycnodont fish from the Wealden. More recently, finds have included several new groups of beetle (rove beetles, ground beetles, water beetles, pill beetles), three orders of insects new to the Wealden (including an archaic earwig, mayfly larvae and a stick insect), the first Wealden weevil, and a new spinicaudatan (clam shrimp), belonging to a group normally found in the Southern Hemisphere. During 2016 a small claw, possibly *Baryonyx*, was recovered and during 2017, a tooth of a large theropod, similar to *Neovenator*.

N.B. It is likely that parts of the pit will be flooded – please take care.

Dates: Sunday 5th April 2020
Sunday 6th September 2020

Meet: Meet at 10.30 a.m. in the car park at Smokejacks Brickworks (**Wienerberger Limited – Ewhurst Works**).

Smokejacks is just south of Walliswood (4 km southwest of Ockley), Surrey.

O.S. map 187 – 1:50,000 series – Grid reference TQ 116 373

Postcode RH5 5QH for SatNav. Cars must be reverse parked.

The site is now fully fenced and will close at 4.30 p.m.

Equipment: **Hard hats, reflective jackets and protective goggles are compulsory.**

Eye protection, hammer, chisels, wrapping material for specimens, handlens and boots suitable for claypit. Packed lunch. Sun protection is advisable if it is a hot day, plus sufficient drink.

The mandatory wearing of eye protection came into effect on all Wienerberger sites, including Smokejacks, on 1st March 2018. Ordinary glasses will not be sufficient, you must have proper protective goggles. These can be purchased from most DIY stores or online for as little as £2. **You will not be allowed on site without them!**

Risk

Assessment: All attendees must familiarise themselves with the **Risk Assessment** for the site, circulated with these details. If you have not seen a copy please contact Peter Austen (details below). Copies will be available on site.

Minimum age: 12 years, and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Cost: There will be a small charge of £2 per person to cover administration for non-Kent Geologists' Group members.

Contact: Please contact Peter Austen at least 10 days before the event with details of numbers attending.

Tel: 01323 899237

e-mail: p.austen26@btinternet.com

RISK ASSESSMENT

FOR FIELD TRIPS TO SMOKEJACKS BRICKWORKS, OCKLEY, SURREY

on Sunday 5th APRIL 2020 & Sunday 6th SEPTEMBER 2020.

By kind permission of Wienerberger Limited

Leader

Peter Austen – Kent Geologists’ Group.

Personal protective equipment required

Hard hats, high visibility jackets and protective goggles are **compulsory**, together with strong footwear.

HAZARD	TYPE OF RISK	RISK LEVEL	PRECAUTIONS to reduce the risk level
Chips of rock from hammering	Eye injuries	High	Wear eye protection. Other people to remain at safe distance.
Soft mud	Trapped in mud	High	Avoid soft mud – not always obvious If trapped call for help LOUDLY. Do not struggle.
Sun / heat	Sunstroke / Sunburn / Dehydration	High	Keep well covered. Use sunblock on exposed skin. Take sufficient drink.
Moving vehicles and machinery	Hit by vehicle or machinery	Medium	Wear high visibility jacket. Remain aware of vehicles and vehicle noise. Call warning to others.
Water in base of quarry	Drowning	Medium	Keep away from waters edge.
Danger from overhangs	Head injury / crush injury	Medium	Avoid overhangs, do not undermine the face when digging on a slope, wear a hard hat.
Uneven surfaces – deep furrows and slopes	Twisted ankles, trips and associated injuries	Medium	Wear strong footwear.
Adverse weather conditions – rain / cold	Hypothermia	Low	Wear warm, weatherproof clothing if adverse weather is forecast.
Brickworks site	Accident whilst walking through works to quarry	Low	Keep clear of all machinery and brick stacks.
Stockpile and Clay Preparation Area	Hit by vehicle or machinery	High	Keep away. Area is strictly off-limits.
Works car park	Damage in car park or during parking	Low	Drive carefully and keep a look out. Cars must be reverse parked.

The leader will take all measures reasonably possible to prevent accidents and to ensure the safety of all members of the party. Members of the party must follow any instructions given by the leader or an official of Wienerberger Limited. Members must themselves behave in a responsible manner and ensure that none of their actions endanger either themselves or any other person.

**Peter Austen
January 2020.**