

On Sunday Mummy and I and some of the Farnham Geological Society went to the Mendips near Wales. On the journey we past Stonehenge. It was very like a stone circle. We also past the Lions of Longleat but we could not see anything. It was about 2 hours there. We all met at Priddy Green and set off for Priddy hole. The hole was about 300 feet deep. It looked like a cave. After that we walked to Brockletown Wildlife Researve, it was very hard walking up stream and there was awful swarms of knats(sic). We then went back to Priddy Green to have lunch. We visited Blackdown cave which we went into quite deeply. We then began to walk upstreem and in it I found a lot of shells and a fossilised fern. Then we went into Wells City and visited the Cathedral which was about twelve times the size of Guildford Cathedral. Then we went to Wooky Hole by the River Avon. A guide took us through 3 chamers(sic) the third be 700 feet deep. Inside there was a lot of stalagtites growing from the ground, a lot of stalagtites growing from the ceiling. The River Avon was 7 feet deep. (the following is not at all true but when asked why he put it said it made it more interesting)- We then saw a lot of valuable minerals in Blackdown Museum. At the top of Blackdown hill we could see the Brecon Beacons. After that we found a skull of of a fox. There was a lot of led(sic) sawed there and we watched some people make some. We also saw some Roman remains. On the hills were a lot of bushes and trees with young birds in. At about seven o'clock we stopped at the New Inn at Priddy Green on the way back we past the White Horse.....

Ralph Hewins Aged 8.

The trip started from the village green at Priddy under the able leadership of Maurice Hewins on a pleasantly warm Sunday morning. Eastwater Swallet, an example of one of the classic features of Mendip limestone scenery was the first stop. Here, one of the surface streams draining off the Old Red Sandstone centre of the eroded anticline that forms this part of the Mendips, meets the porous limestone and abruptly disappears underground. The water works its way down the bedding plane to the watertable, to emerge some time later at risings all along the base line of the Mendips.

Blackmoor Swallet, the next stop was widened and dug to a depth of 30 feet in an attempt to find a cave underneath. It is understood that it is situated in an area mined for lead in Roman times. Good examples of massive Calcite and water deposited calcite on limestone kept the mineralogists of the party happy. There was also the chance of Roman pottery for the sharp eyed archaeologists.

Before lunch, a stroll over rolling cornfields took us to the woods of Longwood Nature Reserve. Pausing to get a glimpse of a shy woodpecker, we made our way to Rhino Rift, a recently discovered cave about 18 inches wide by twelve feet high at the surface. This unusual cave derived its name from the discovery of the bones of a woolly rhinoceros inside during its excavation. Unfortunately no bones, woolly or otherwise were found on this trip, though layered limestones samples were taken as consolation.

Farrington Combe, a short drive away produced some impressive scenery and a cave formed along the almost vertical bedding plane by the action of frost weathering. We then went up a not too wet stream section to look for the junction of the Old Red Sandstone and the Carboniferous Shales and limestone. The area was very fossiliferous and crinoid stems, corals, and lamellibranchs plus one or two pieces " to be identified later" were hammered out by avid fossil hunters.

The next port of call was the cave system of Wooky Hole. On the western side of the Mendip Hills the limestone is overlain by lias conglomerate. Wooky Hole is a rising in this conglomerate at the base of the hills. Of the twenty known chambers the outer three are accessible. They are splendid examples of erosion along and across bedding planes. The third chamber is almost a perfect dome 12 feet high at the centre by 136 feet across formed along the horizontal bedding plane. Another limestone feature seen in Wooky Hole were the stalagmites and stalagtites including some translucent curtain shaped stalagtites and rim stalagmites. The trip was concluded in Wells where there was an opportunity to explore the Cathedral and grounds - there was no hammering allowed in that cave.

contributed by Roger Ashcroft.

I realise I have to write a 100 times - archaeologists and Wookey!! so sorry, my personal thanks th the members who came and especially to Maurice who was very very informative and patient with all the numerous questions.

- sincerely,

Norsewood, Yatesbury Close, Farnham.

Audrey Hewins.