

QRA short field meeting

The Quaternary of the NW Scottish Highlands

28 April to 2 May 2010

Organisers : Sven Lukas (Queen Mary, University of London), Tom Bradwell (BGS, Edinburgh)

Background

The western part of this remote area of Britain was last visited by the QRA in 1995; the area inland of Assynt (i.e. the interior of Sutherland) has received little research attention until recently. Since the last meeting, a large amount of recent research has led to considerable advances in our understanding of the chronology and dynamics of Late Quaternary ice masses and palaeoecology (see below) that have implications for other areas of the British mainland and offshore. It is thus timely to revisit this spectacular area.

Preliminary programme

The meeting will focus on the late Quaternary of the NW Highlands and adjacent (offshore) areas. Three and a half field days are planned, preceded by introductory lectures on Wednesday evening), and the programme will contain:

Day 1 (Thursday):

The influence of bedrock lithology and structure on Quaternary landform formation; subglacial sediments related to ice-streaming (Allt an Strathan); P-forms, outwash terraces and sea-level evidence (Keanchulish, Strathkanaird); megagrooves (Rhidorroch, Elphin); ice-sheet thickness (Quinag).

Day 2 (Friday):

Cosmogenic isotope dating of Late Devensian deglaciation (Loanan Valley); speleothems, ¹⁴C and U-Th dates from the Assynt Bone Caves (Allt nan Uamh); karst and post-glacial weathering (Inchdamph); Holocene peat profiles and environmental change (Inchnadamph).

Day 3 (Saturday):

Rogen moraines and pre-Younger Dryas readvance limits (Loch Shin); Geomorphological evidence of extensive Younger Dryas glaciation, glacier reconstruction and palaeoclimatic significance (Loch Shin, Loch a'Ghriama, Loch More); Younger Dryas "hummocky" moraine sedimentology and glaciodynamic significance (Bealach nam Meirleach); rock-slope failures (Bealach nam Meirleach, Ben Hee).

Day 4 (Sunday):

Younger Dryas glaciation (geomorphology; sedimentology of moraines; ice-marginal landsystems); ¹⁴C-chronology (Loch Stack).

Accommodation

The meeting will be based at the Inchnadamph Hotel and Inchnadamph Lodge, Inchnadamph. The venues are both well equipped to cater for the group in all aspects (food, well-stocked bar); a meeting room for evening presentations and a range of accommodation are also available.

Due to limited spaces, early booking is advised. Please note that this is on a first come-first served basis, and that we cannot give a guarantee unless payment has been received. We are currently attempting to secure alternative bunkhouse accommodation in Elphin, c. 15 km (15 minutes' drive) to the south of Inchnadamph, and details on availability/costs will be made public online as soon as we have them. Alternative accommodation may be booked privately in surrounding villages, but those planning to do so should note that these are at least 30 minutes' drive away from Inchnadamph and

consist mostly of small B&Bs. Inchnadamph does not have any alternative facilities, and although we will pass local shops on some days, we would encourage participants planning not to have dinner at the hotel to bring provisions for the whole meeting based on previous experience.

Access

It should be noted that, due to the widespread absence of roads and usable tracks, all days of this field meeting will involve long walks across mountainous, partly difficult and possibly water-logged ground.

Travel

Transport during the meeting will be in University minibuses, BGS and private vehicles, and we will aim at keeping the number of vehicles to a necessary minimum due to available parking space. The majority of roads in this area of the Highlands are single-track, so that larger buses for group transport are not a feasible option due to road widths.

The closest railway station to the area is Lairg, about an hour's drive south of the proposed meeting place, and pick-up from the station can be arranged if required; please let us know your arrival time if you travel by train. For everyone's convenience, we also offer to organise lifts for participants who do not travel to the venue as part of a group.

Further details on the field trip can be obtained by contacting either

Sven Lukas (email: S.Lukas@qmul.ac.uk; Tel.: 020 7882 8417) or
Tom Bradwell (email: tbrad@bgs.ac.uk; Tel.: 0131 650 0284).

Registration form

Personal Details

Name:
 Address:
 Telephone:
 E-mail:

I wish to register for the meeting: £90 (£45 for students/unwaged; or £40 per day). Please tick the appropriate spaces and fill in amounts.

£...90.....
 £...45.....
 £...40..... (please indicate which day(s) you would like to attend)

Accommodation: (cannot be guaranteed after 01/03/2010)

Option 1: Inchnadamph Hotel

Accommodation options include either single or shared double/twin rooms. Breakfast is included, but should you wish a three course dinner to be added, please add a further £ 16 per night to your payment. If you wish to share with someone specific, please note this below. If no preference is given, room partners will be allocated by the organisers.

I wish to be a resident at the Inchnadamph Hotel (includes bed, breakfast and evening meal) for the following nights:

Single room (en suite)

28 April 2010	(£39)	.....	£	.....
29 April 2010	(£39)	.....	£	.....
30 April 2010	(£39)	.....	£	.....
1 May 2010	(£39)	.....	£	.....

Single room (not en suite)

28 April 2010	(£35)	.....	£	.....
29 April 2010	(£35)	.....	£	.....
30 April 2010	(£35)	.....	£	.....
1 May 2010	(£35)	.....	£	.....

Shared Double/Twin room (not en suite)

28 April 2010	(£30)	.....	£	.....
29 April 2010	(£30)	.....	£	.....
30 April 2010	(£30)	.....	£	.....
1 May 2010	(£30)	.....	£	.....

Dinner, bed and breakfast option (additional)

28 April 2010	(£16)	.....	£	.....
29 April 2010	(£16)	.....	£	.....
30 April 2010	(£16)	.....	£	.....
1 May 2010	(£16)	.....	£	.....

I have arranged to share a room with (name):

Option 2: Inchnadamph Lodge

Self-catering accommodation next-door to the Hotel. Breakfast can be You need to bring your own towel; bedding is provided. For an additional £ 2, breakfast can be added on an ad hoc basis (payable directly at the Lodge during the meeting). If you wish to share with someone specific, please note this below. If no preference is given, room partners will be allocated by the organisers. Single occupancy of rooms in the Lodge is unfortunately not possible due to space constraints.

I wish to be a resident at Inchnadamph Lodge for the following nights:

Shared Triple room

28 April 2010	(£21)	.....	£.....
29 April 2010	(£21)	.....	£.....
30 April 2010	(£21)	.....	£.....
1 May 2010	(£21)	.....	£.....

Shared Double/Twin room

28 April 2010	(£24.50)	.....	£.....
29 April 2010	(£24.50)	.....	£.....
30 April 2010	(£24.50)	.....	£.....
1 May 2010	(£24.50)	.....	£.....

Self-catering cottage (sleeps 6)

28 April 2010	(£13.50)	.....	£.....
29 April 2010	(£13.50)	.....	£.....
30 April 2010	(£13.50)	.....	£.....
1 May 2010	(£13.50)	.....	£.....

Special dietary requirements: Vegetarian..... Vegan.....Other:.....

I have arranged to share a room with (name):

I enclose a cheque payable to **'Queen Mary, University of London'** to value £.....*

I will pay at registration £.....*

*Please delete non-applicable option.

Signature:.....

Please return this form and payment to:

Dr Sven Lukas
Department of Geography
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS
England

(Tel: 020 7882 8417; Fax: 020 7882 7479; E-mail: S.Lukas@qmul.ac.uk)
(In the event of cancellation the QRA will refund booking monies less irrecoverable costs already incurred.)