

## Pre:QFL-6 The Quaternary Fluvial Archives of the Major English Rivers

QRA/INQUA PRE-CONGRESS FIELD TRIP

Duration: 20th – 24th July 2019

**Leaders: Dr Becky Briant, Professor David Bridgland, Dr Tom White, Dr Eleanor Brown**

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Minimum number of participants: 10; Maximum number of participants: 14

N.B. once the trip is full at 14 participants, we will operate a waiting list and may be able to add additional spaces if enough further people want to join the trip.

Price: **£670** not shared accommodation; **£510** shared accommodation. Price includes all accommodation, transport and meals.

We urge you to finalise your travel arrangements only after the field trip has been confirmed at the end of March 2019. The QRA is not responsible for any costs incurred by participants due to cancellation of non-viable field trips.

### **1. DESCRIPTION**

The Quaternary fluvial record of England is remarkably rich in fossils and artefacts, providing a record of environmental change and human occupation over multiple glacial-interglacial cycles. This excursion will visit key fluvial sedimentary sequences, with biostratigraphical and Palaeolithic components emphasized. Section visits will be reinforced by displays of fossils and artefacts. Many of the localities are geoheritage sites, so there will be discussion of future management issues. Tourism is also woven into the trip, with stops in central London and Salisbury, a boat trip in Oxford and overnight stays in Stratford upon Avon.



### **2. JOINING INSTRUCTIONS**

Please note that you will need to buy your own travel insurance to cover you for any accidents, delayed flights, costs of missing the departure rendezvous etc.

#### **Arrival**

The trip starts at noon on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at Birkbeck, University of London, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HX, with lunch and an introductory lecture.

Participants should aim to arrive in London the day before (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July) to avoid any problems due to missed or delayed flights, but if you can only arrive on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, then the overnight stop is a short train ride from central London if you are delayed.

### ***Departure to INQUA Congress in Dublin***

There is a pub gathering from 19.00 in Dublin on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July and the main Congress starts on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

The flight from Birmingham International to Dublin takes c.1h15. You will need to buy your own flight, but we will ensure that you are dropped off in time to catch it.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018, Ryanair (<https://www.ryanair.com/gb/en/booking/home>) fly to Dublin from Birmingham at the following times (c.£15-40 depending on when the ticket is booked): 08:00, 12:05, 15:00, 19:10, 20:25 and 21:30

As at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018, Aer Lingus (<https://www.aerlingus.com/html/en-GB/home.html>) fly to Dublin from Birmingham at the following times (c.£25-80 depending on when the ticket is booked): 08:10, 12:15, 15:10, 20:45

### ***3. ITINERARY***

#### **Day 1 – central London (Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July)**

Introductory lecture and lunch, walking tour of Thames terraces. *Overnight in Purfleet.*

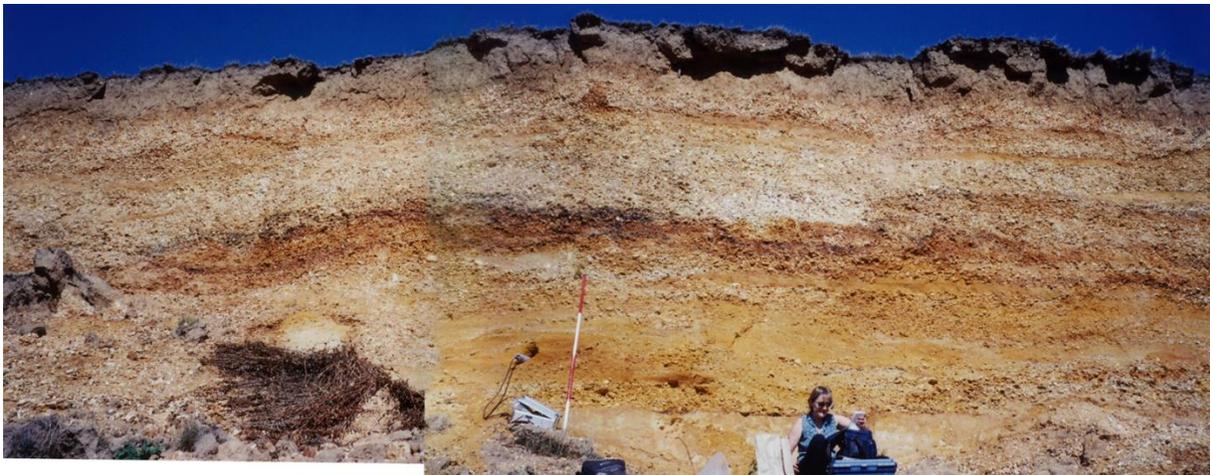
#### **Day 2 - Lower Thames (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July)**

Theme: palaeoenvironments and archaeology on the edge of the southern North Sea over the last 500,000 years

Stops to include: Wansunt Pit (MIS 11 archaeology and environments), Swanscombe (MIS 11 faunas, hominin fossils and geoconservation imperatives), Purfleet (MIS 9 faunas, archaeology and environments), West Thurrock (MIS 8–7 archaeology and environments), Ebbsfleet (MIS 7 archaeology and environments). *Overnight in Farnham.*

#### **Day 3 – Solent (Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July)**

Theme: Life on the banks of the Channel River: archaeology, terrace stratigraphy, geochronology



Stops to include: Warsash (archaeology, terrace stratigraphy and OSL dating), Hengistbury Head (sequence from last climate cycle and Upper Palaeolithic settlement), Avon terrace deposits at Ashley Pit and Wood Green and artefacts and afternoon tea at Salisbury Museum

### **Evening stop in Oxford for a river cruise with buffet**

*Overnight in Stratford upon Avon*

### **Day 4 – Severn–Avon and Bytham–Trent (Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July)**

Theme: Diverse fluvial environments and deposits in the Avon and Trent catchments

Stops to include: Cropthorne (Avon terraces with fossils and valley evolution); Castle Bytham (pre-Trent Bytham River; origins of the Trent system and valley evolution), Wilford Hill and the Trent Trench (origin and age of the Trent through Nottingham), Norton Bottoms (MIS 7 faunas and floras, palaeoenvironments and terrace stratigraphy), Show cave (tbc) in Derwent/Dove tributary (incision history of the Bytham–Trent)

*Overnight in Stratford upon Avon – opportunity to explore town*

### **Day 5 – Waverley Wood SSSI (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July)**

Theme: Geoconservation

Participants to fly to Dublin from Birmingham International (multiple flight choices – participants to buy their own flights, we will arrange drop off).

For those with afternoon flights, a short site visit to the Waverley Wood SSSI (pre-glacial Bytham replaced by post-glacial Avon) will be offered with onsite discussion of geoconservation priorities at this Site of Special Scientific Interest.