



BCRA

British Cave Research Association

Karst Science Field Meeting

Sunday 26 October 2014

Dudley Limestone Mines and Wren's Nest NNR

The British Cave Research Association (www.bcra.org.uk) is pleased to invite you, your friends and children to attend the Karst Science Field Meeting that will be held on Sunday 26 October 2014, the day after the 25th BCRA Cave Science Symposium at the University of Birmingham, which is announced separately. The meeting will be led by **Graham Worton**, of the Dudley Museum.

The initial meeting venue will be **The Dudley Canal Trust Car Park**, off the A4123, at Birmingham New Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4SB: <http://dudleycanaltrust.org.uk/>. This meeting will reveal the extraordinary world of limestone extraction during the frantic period of development early in the industrial revolution. An atmospheric 18th Century canal tunnel system is navigated by barge from which limestone, coal, iron ore and fireclay were transported to the major navigable rivers of England. Evidence of anthropogenic speleothem formation is found in many places in the underground systems.

A visit to the Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve will follow. This has world-class sections of reefal and lagoonal facies of the Silurian Much Wenlock Limestone formation, with well-preserved Silurian coral reef fossils. Considered the most diverse and abundant fossil site in the British Isles, more than 700 types of fossil have been found there, 86 of which are unique to the location. The meeting will conclude by participants driving to the nearby Dudley Museum: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/dudley-museum-art-gallery>, which contains over 15,000 fossil, rock and mineral specimens and interactive exhibits.

The detailed programme is still in preparation, but is expected to last from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Attendees may provide their own lunch packs and light refreshments will be also be available for purchase at the venue. Pre-registration for the Field Meeting is essential and should be made to the **meeting secretary, Dr. Trevor Faulkner**, by sending an email to t.faulkner@bcra.org.uk by **Friday 10 October 2014** at the latest, although earlier indications will be appreciated. The latest information can be discussed by phone at 01625 531558. Attendances may need to be restricted, and reservations will be accepted in order of receipt. There will be no charge for the meeting itself, except for a fee of c. £6.20 per person for the barge trip, payable on the day. More detailed information will be provided by email to those who pre-register. BCRA re-launched cave science field meetings in 2008 and participants have enjoyed many successful events since then. We hope you will come and support this one so that similar activities can be staged in the future.