



BCRA



**2<sup>nd</sup> Circular**  
**British Cave Research Association**  
**William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust**  
**Cave Science Field Meeting**  
**Friday 23 May to Monday 26 May 2014**  
**Buckfastleigh, Devon**

The **British Cave Research Association** ([www.bcra.org.uk](http://www.bcra.org.uk)) and the **William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust** ([www.pengellytrust.org](http://www.pengellytrust.org)) are pleased to invite you and your friends to attend their joint Cave Science Field Meeting that will be held over the long weekend 23–26 May 2014. The meeting venue will be **The Pengelly Centre** within the SSSI in Buckfastleigh, Devon, where cars and camper vans may be parked. The meeting will include cave science and archaeology talks, walks in the South Devon area to discuss the local Devonian limestone karst geomorphology, and visits to local caves, mines and show caves. Participants will have use of the Centre during the weekend, including its Museum and Library, and will be provided with a copy of a new Pengelly booklet on Devon Cave Walks. This can be used for self-guided walks over the weekend for those not choosing underground options. The detailed programme will be sent to registrants by email. The outline schedule is:

Friday evening 23 May: arrive in Buckfastleigh

Saturday am 24 May: Three talks

*A review of 200 years of cave excavation in South Devon*  
*The formation and structure of Devonian limestones and their caves*  
*Bat populations in South Devon caves*

**Patrick Boylan**  
**Calum Beeson**  
**Colin Morris**

Saturday pm 24 May: guided or unguided visits to local caves and walks, including **Reeds Cave** and **Bakers Pit Cave**

Saturday evening 24 May: A private extended tour of **Kent's Cavern** in Torquay, led by **Nick Powe** and **Chris Proctor**. This will be followed by a dinner for participants and friends at Kent's Cavern. The charge for the visit and dinner will be £20 per head. A minibus will transport up to 15 people to and from Torquay for £5 each. Free parking will also be provided at Kent's Cavern that afternoon and evening for participants.

Sunday am 25 May:

- a) guided walk over Buckfastleigh Hill and into **Joint Minor Cave**
- b) **Reeds Cave** and **Bakers Pit Cave** or possibly **Pridhamsleigh Cave**

Sunday pm 25 May:

- a) guided walk over Buckfastleigh Hill and into **Joint Minor Cave**
- b) underground trip to **Kelly Mine**, which has been rebuilt since mining for micaceous haematite in the 1950s and / or visit to **Great Rock Mine**, the last worked metal mine in Devon.

Monday am 26 May: self-guided visit to **Beer Quarry Caves** near Seaton. Limestone from here was used to build Exeter Cathedral. This is a one-hour drive east from Buckfastleigh, and convenient if travelling home in that direction.

Use will be made of private cars for travel to the various sites. Bunk-style accommodation, some suitable for family use, has been reserved in the Centre for this meeting. It must be booked individually via **Charlie Bird**: [charlie\[-at-\]datsite.co.uk](mailto:charlie[-at-]datsite.co.uk). *[Note change from the first circular]*. Please mention this event when booking. The discounted charge will be £5 per person per night. Alternatively, participants may wish to book sites and camp at Church Hill Farm ([www.churchhillfarmcampsite.com](http://www.churchhillfarmcampsite.com)), which is adjacent to the Centre. There are also many other local places to stay: see [www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk](http://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk). Light refreshments will be provided when in the Centre. Attendees should provide lunch packs for Saturday and Sunday, and make suitable arrangements for other meals. Self-catered meals can be prepared in the Centre kitchen. Participants will need BCA insurance and personal caving equipment for all underground visits, except Kent's Cavern. Information on local attractions will be available for those who may prefer not to follow the programme schedule.

Pre-registration for the Field Meeting is essential and should be made to the **meeting secretary, Dr. Trevor Faulkner**: [t.faulkner\[-at-\]bcra.org.uk](mailto:t.faulkner[-at-]bcra.org.uk) as soon as possible and by **Friday 2 May 2014** at the latest, so that individual options can be planned ahead. The latest information can be discussed by phone at 01625 531558 or with the Pengelly coordinator, **Alan Finch**, at 01837 840259. There will be a small charge for the meeting, with discounts for members of BCRA and WPCST. All payments for the meeting, Pengelly accommodation and the Kent's Cavern visit should be made at the weekend. Detailed timetables, venues, and further 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.

14 April 2014

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