

# ESTA NEWS

Volume 3 Issue 1

June 2011

Earth Science Teachers' Association

[www.esta-uk.net](http://www.esta-uk.net)

Registered Charity No. 1005331

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## Welcome to ESTA News 2011

This is our first issue of ESTA News for 2011 and we are still working to keep you in touch with ESTA's activities and up to date with items of news and information about events, conferences, training courses and field work activities.

In this edition the photographs showing views and details of monuments in Egypt were kindly provided by Hazel Clark. Places featured include: Abu Simbil, Aswan, Giza, Luxor and Dier el-Bahari

Do send photographs for the next newsletter to the Editor at [hiatus@liv.ac.uk](mailto:hiatus@liv.ac.uk)



Giza: Pyramid of Khufu



Giza: Pyramid of Khafre capped by Tura Limestone

## What's new in the field



### **Geologists' Association Field Guide No. 68: The Geology of London**

This guide follows the usual GA format and gives an introduction to the geology of the London area followed by a series of field excursions within the M25. (ISBN: 9780900717901) Price £19.

### **Earth Heritage Suffolk: Action for Suffolk's Geodiversity-A Handbook**

Published in 2010 by Tuddenham Press, this handbook includes a list of publicly available geological sites. Available from [info@geosuffolk.co.uk](mailto:info@geosuffolk.co.uk) or from Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3QH £6 (inc. P&P)

### **Northern England**

This is a new, fully revised, 5th edition of the Northern England 'Regional Geology' guide. Published in 2010, it includes a 1: 625,000 bedrock geology map. (ISBN: 9780852726525) Price £18.

### **Granite and Grit: A Walker's Guide to the Geology of British Mountains**

A handy book that was published in 2011 by Frances Lincoln. (ISBN: 9780711231801) Price £16.99

### **The Official Guide to the English Riviera Global Geopark**

Published in 2010 by Coastal Publishing, this guidebook is the essential companion for anyone exploring the seaside towns of Babbacombe, Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. (ISBN: 01929 552 233). Price £4.95.

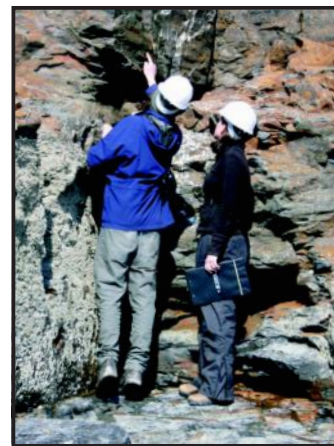
**Quaternary Research Association Field Guides.** Produced to accompany QRA field Meetings, the guides provide brief descriptions of locations and a summary of the latest research on that site. Field guides currently cover a wide range of locations. Available at: [http://qra.org.uk/publications/field\\_guides](http://qra.org.uk/publications/field_guides)

# Applicants to geoscience degrees

Results of UCAS research into the percentage of applicants to geoscience degrees in 2010 that had A-level geology or SQA Higher qualifications show:

- \* 45% of applicants for F600 geology courses had A-level geology or SQA Higher geology
- \* 31% of applicants to all geoscience-related courses (geology, applied geology, industrial geology, mining geology, geotechnology, marine geotechnology, Earth science, palaeontology, geoscience, geological oceanography and geophysics) had A-level geology or SQA Higher geology.

This research was funded by the Earth Science Education Unit.



## Do you know?

- There is now a fifth Welsh 'super-mountain'. A group of amateur surveyors climbed Glyder Fawr and used a GPS antenna to receive satellite signals to make accurate measurements of the height of the peak. The mountain is 1000.8 metres high making it the fifth peak in Snowdonia greater than 1000 metres in height.
- Secondary school Science teaching with a specialism in Earth Science/Geology teaching - by taking a one-year PGCE in Secondary science education. This specialist course is currently provided by only one institution in the UK, Keele University. The course covers the teaching of Geology at GCSE and AS/ A2 levels as well as broad balanced Science teaching. The course requires two Science subjects at 'A' level or their equivalent. The £6000 Training Bursary (tax-free) is available and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) has allocated six training places for science/geology teachers to Keele University for the coming year.

Bas relief at entrance to the temple at Abu Simbel

Giza: Head of the Sphinx showing cross-bedding

Granite obelisk at Temple of Amun, Karnak at Luxor



## Useful websites

<http://www.northwest-highlands-geopark.org.uk/>

This website gives details of Scotland's first Geopark.

<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/education/askageologist>

This is a useful service. Send in your own question or read answers to queries the service has received so far.

<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/factsheets>

The Geological Society has produced a new two-page fact sheet on earthquakes in their series: 'The Earth in our hands'.

<http://www.zionnational-park.com/images/album2/index59.htm>

This site shows stunning photographs of the sandstone in the Coyote Buttes in Paria Canyon, Zion National Park:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/bgschanel>

Even if only to see 'Aftershocks animation, Japan, 2011', it is worth looking at this site (The BGS YouTube channel).

[http://www.open.ac.uk/earth-research/tindle/AGT/AGT\\_Home\\_2010/Virtual\\_Microscope.html](http://www.open.ac.uk/earth-research/tindle/AGT/AGT_Home_2010/Virtual_Microscope.html)

On this site you can see the Virtual Microscope developed by Andy Tindle at the Open University.

[http://www.geo.mtu.edu/FIELD\\_TRIPS/Utah\\_Parks/movies.htm](http://www.geo.mtu.edu/FIELD_TRIPS/Utah_Parks/movies.htm)

This shows movies and sites visited during a field course developed by Michigan Technological University.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/04/pictures/110422-earth-day-2011-earth-day-google-doodle-satellite-from-space-pictures-nasa-astronauts/>

This site shows 'Earth Day Pictures': 20 Stunning Shots of Earth From Space.

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>

New items on this site: **NORA**-Free pdf report downloads of BGS research and

**Borehole scans**-Access the National Geoscience Data Centre collection of scanned boreholes.

## Earth Heritage goes digital

This geological and landscape conservation magazine is published twice-yearly. The last paper version was published in Winter 2010-11 and future issues will be downloadable as pdf files.

Register free for your future issues of this geological and landscape conservation magazine: [www.earthheritage.org.uk](http://www.earthheritage.org.uk)



Temple of Hapshepsut, Dier el-Bahari



# Diary dates

## 15<sup>th</sup> June

Shell London Lecture: Returning Carbon to Nature: The Geology of Carbon capture and storage  
The Geological Society,  
Burlington House. Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG  
Contact: : [www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11)

## 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June

Mineralogical Society Annual Conference: Frontiers in Environmental Geoscience  
Aberystwyth  
Contact: [kevin@minersoc.org](mailto:kevin@minersoc.org)

## 1<sup>st</sup> July

Geologists' Association Lecture: Searching for the cause and effect of the World's greatest mass extinction in the Permo-Triassic of Russia  
Geological Society  
Burlington House. Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG  
Contact: [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/)

## 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> July

ESTA Annual Course & Conference: Energy  
Durham University  
Contact: [linmarshall@btinternet.com](mailto:linmarshall@btinternet.com)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Shropshire Geological Society Field Trip: Wrens Nest  
Contact: [info@shropshiregeology.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshiregeology.org.uk)

## 10<sup>th</sup> July

Geologists' Association field meeting:  
Pleistocene Interglacial Sediments of Stutton, Suffolk  
Contact: [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/)

## 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> August

Kempton Park Rock n Gem Show  
Kempton Park Racecourse, London  
Contact: [www.rockngem.co.uk](http://www.rockngem.co.uk)

## 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> August

Welsh RocknGem Show,  
Builth Wells, Mid Wales  
Contact: [www.rockngem.co.uk](http://www.rockngem.co.uk)

## 10<sup>th</sup> September

Geologists' Association field meeting: Pre-Glacial and Glacial Deposits of North Norfolk - Part 2  
Contact: [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/)

## 17<sup>th</sup> September

Shropshire Geological Society Field Trip:  
Wenlock Edge (Lea Quarry): a fossil ecosystem  
Contact: [info@shropshiregeology.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshiregeology.org.uk)

## 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September

Newton Abbot RocknGem Show,  
Newton Abbot Racecourse, Devon  
Contact: [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/)

## 21<sup>st</sup> September

Shell London Lecture: Fossil detectives: Salami-slicing Soft-bodied Animals  
The Geological Society,  
Burlington House. Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG  
Contact: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11)

## 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September

Kempton Park Rock n Gem Show  
Kempton Park Racecourse, London,  
Contact: [www.rockngem.co.uk](http://www.rockngem.co.uk)

## 1<sup>st</sup> October

Geologists' Association field meeting: The Geology of Early Middlesex Churches  
Contact: [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/)

## 1<sup>st</sup> October

Shropshire Geological Society Field Trip: The Ercall  
Contact: [info@shropshiregeology.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshiregeology.org.uk)

## 7<sup>th</sup> October

Geologists' Association Lecture: Galician Rías - Their Quaternary History and the Imprint of Man  
Lecture Theatre of the Geological Society  
Burlington House. Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG  
Contact: [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/)

## 15<sup>th</sup> October

Geologists' Association field meeting: A Chalk Walk on the Caburn Block, Lewes  
Contact: [www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/)

## 19<sup>th</sup> October

Shell London Lecture: Mineral Deposits and Their Global Strategic Supply  
The Geological Society,  
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG  
Contact: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11)

## 16<sup>th</sup> November

Shell London Lecture: New Hydrocarbon Development Challenges and The Impact on Geoscience  
The Geological Society,  
Burlington House. Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG  
Contact: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11)

## 1<sup>st</sup> December

Oxford Fossil and Mineral Show  
Exeter Hall, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1AB  
Contact: [www.lowestone.com](http://www.lowestone.com)

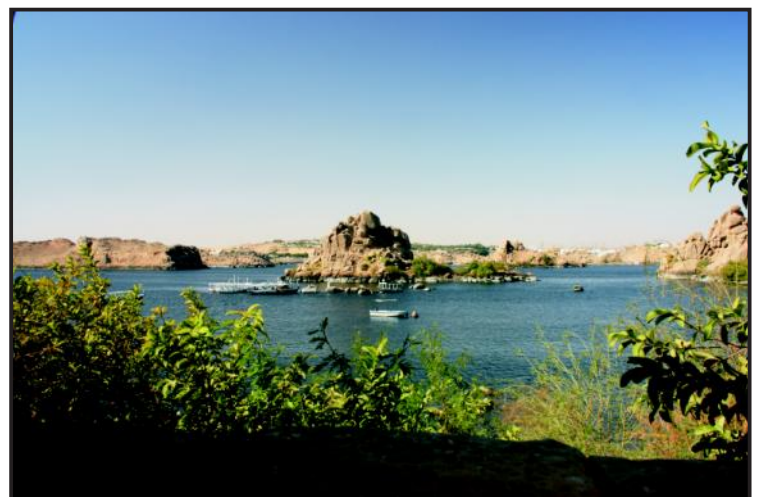
## 14<sup>th</sup> December

Shell London Lecture: Earth's Atmosphere Trapped in Ice: 800,000 Years of Climate Change  
The Geological Society,  
Burlington House. Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG  
Contact: [www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/shelllondonlectures11)



Spheroidal weathering of granite

Philae,  
Aswan



Weathered granite landscape

## What's new on the ESTA website

### In GEOTREX - Google Earth Extras and streetview

This section includes over 40 Google Earth overlays showing a range of different geological features and a useful Powerpoint: 'Virtual Geology with Google Streetview'. (Please remember that you'll need Google Earth installed to open these overlays!)

### ?In GEOTREX - Geological Resources

Here there are two new video clips: 'Aberduna quarry visit' and 'Quarry blast'.

### In Stego - Geological Resources for KS3 and KS4

Thanks to the efforts of Joanie Marion there are many new resources here.

### ?ESTA Forum

Members asked for this discussion site to be added, but we have very few people using it. Why not have a look at it and post your own comment or send a reply to folk asking for help or advice?

You can support the GEOTREX project by contributing your ideas, worksheets, schemes of work, other teaching resources or more KMZ files to supplement Google Earth Extras and streetview. Please submit items by email to: [webmaster@esta-uk.net](mailto:webmaster@esta-uk.net) with the subject GEOTREX

Aswan: Lion statue made of crystalline rock



## INSET/ Professional Development

30th June-1st July, Birmingham: GEES Subject Centre Conference - Teaching and Learning for GEES Students

This event includes presentations on teaching and learning for GEES students. It will also feature presentations and workshops to help the GEES communities' transition to the new Higher Education Academy structure.

Download a registration form from: <http://www.gees.ac.uk/events/2011/ac2010/ac2011.htm>

"It strikes me that all our knowledge about the structures of our Earth are very much like what an old hen would know of the hundred-acre field in a corner of which she is scratching."  
Charles Darwin

"The world is the geologist's great puzzle-box."  
Louis Agassi

"Pyrites of the Caribbean"  
(Seen on a T-shirt)

"No Geologist worth anything is permanently bound to a desk or laboratory."  
Stephen Jay Gould

### Quotes of the day

"Saudi Arabia appears devoid of all prospects for oil."  
Director of Anglo Persian Oil Company, 1926

"We cannot take one step in geology without drawing upon the fathomless stores of by-gone time."  
Adam Sedgwick

"For the first half of geological time our ancestors were bacteria. Most creatures still are bacteria, and each one of our trillions of cells is a colony of bacteria."  
Richard Dawkins

Dier el-Bahiri: Statue of Horus in granite



## Volunteers needed

Can you spare a couple of hours to look after the ESTA stand at one of these conferences:

- \* ASE 2012, Liverpool
- \* Geographical Association 2012, Manchester
- \* ESTA 2011, Durham?

If you can help, email: [webmaster@esta-uk](mailto:webmaster@esta-uk) with the subject BOARDS.  
(ESTA will pay your travel expenses)



Luxor: inscription cut in granite

## Items available for collection

- \* Our school's geography department has a great variety of **geological specimens**, but it is so long since they were used that their identification and provenance are uncertain. If anyone would like to take them off our hands, we would be grateful for the storage space. The total collection includes some larger rocks - too heavy to post. Anyone interested would have to collect from Torquay. Contact Paul Evans, Head of Geography: [PEVANS@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:PEVANS@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk)
- \* **Run of Palaeontology:** March 1993 (Vol.36 Part 1) to Jan 2002 (Vol 45 Part 1) inclusive. Free to collector. Collect at Conference in Durham or any time from Cumbria. Contact Susan Beale: [susanbeale@f2s.com](mailto:susanbeale@f2s.com) Tel: 01697478353
- \* **Minerals, rocks and fossils.** Free - if you collect from Liverpool University. Contact Maggie Williams: [hiatus@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:hiatus@liverpool.ac.uk)

ESTA NEWS is published biannually.  
The next copy deadline is 15th November 2011.