



## United Kingdom: Palaeozoic brachiopods of England and the Welsh Borderlands

This is a four-day-excursion to visit some key and historically-important geological sections in England and the Welsh Borderlands. It includes the spectacular *Gigantoproductus* beds of exceptionally-large brachiopods that colonized the Palaeotethys shores during the Mississippian together with reef brachiopods associated with Carboniferous mud-mounds and the abundant and diverse brachiopod faunas of the classic Upper Ordovician and Silurian successions of the Shropshire region, dominated by orthides and strophomenides, within the Anglo-Welsh province.

### DATES AND BRIEF ITINERARY

*Post-congress excursion: 15-18 September 2018*

- Day 1** *September 15<sup>th</sup>* Departure from London Stansted (to be reached from Milano by plane). Participants should book their own flight; they are free to write to [sales@eravelservice.com](mailto:sales@eravelservice.com) for quotes and booking. Drive to Derbyshire. Panoramic view of the Derbyshire Palaeozoic succession and reef-knoll. Overnight stay in Buxton.
- Day 2** *September 16<sup>th</sup>* Visit to Ricklow, Once-a-Week and Brick quarries, where the inner to middle ramp facies of the Eyam Limestone overlie the mud mounds of the Monsal Dale Limestone and contain spectacular *Gigantoproductus* assemblages. Overnight stay in Buxton.
- Day 3** *September 17<sup>th</sup>* Drive to Shropshire. Visit classic localities within the Upper Ordovician (Caradoc) and the lower Silurian (Llandovery) exposed in and adjacent to the Onny Valley, containing rich brachiopod faunas. Discussion of their historical context in the battle for the 'middle ground' between Roderick Murchison (Silurian) and Adam Sedgwick (Cambrian). Overnight stay in Much Wenlock.
- Day 4** *September 18<sup>th</sup>* Visit to Soudley Quarry (Caradoc), and The Iron Bridge (the World's first major cast-iron bridge), near Coalbrookdale, together with quarries in the Wenlock limestone on Benthall Edge (with well-preserved brachiopod faunas) and possibly Ippikins Rock (reef and talus slopes). Departure from Shropshire to London Stansted in the afternoon (scheduled arrival late afternoon).

**In most localities, collecting rocks and fossils is allowed. The detailed itinerary will be subject to local traffic and weather conditions.**





### ORGANIZERS

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Giovanna Della Porta *Università di Milano*  
Vanessa Banks *British Geological Survey*  
Michael Stephenson *British Geological Survey*

### DEPARTURE LOCATION

London Stansted, 1 p.m.

### RETURN LOCATION

London Stansted

### EXCURSION FEE AND DEADLINES

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018: deadline for pre-registration on the website.

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018: **payment of 700 euro.**

Guide book, travel from London Stansted to Derbyshire and Shropshire and return, all meals and hotel accommodation in single rooms are included in the field-trip fee. Please specify in advance if you need a double room.

Please note that, the flight from Milano to London Stansted is not included in the fee and should be organized individually. The average cost of a return flight Milano-London Stansted starts from 80 Euros. You can book it yourself online from many European airlines or ask for a quote to the travel agency ERAVEL (<http://www.eravelservice.com/>; [sales@eravelservice.com](mailto:sales@eravelservice.com)).

### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel

### TRANSPORTATION

Bus/minibus

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

15– 20 participants

### PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY

The outcrops are located along roads or paths and are easily accessible.

**Neither the organizers nor the field excursion leaders can offer insurance covering illness or injury for individuals. Participants are advised to take out their own personal health and travel insurance for their trip.**

**The Conference organizers cannot accept liability for personal accidents or loss of or damage to private property of participants, either during or indirectly arising from the field trips.**

### CONDITIONS

Derbyshire and Shropshire average temperatures in September are between 10°C to 19°C; heavy rain may occur.





## CULTURAL ASPECTS AND GASTRONOMY

The Peak District forms the southern end of the Pennine Hills in Northern England, colloquially it is subdivided between the White (Carboniferous Limestone dominated) and Dark (Carboniferous Gritstone dominated) Peaks. The Peak District became the UK's first National Park in 1951. Its market towns of Buxton, Bakewell, Matlock Bath and Matlock offer a range of shops and eateries. Buxton is an historic Spa town, towards the north western edge of the carbonate platform, where thermal water, which is allegedly therapeutic, is available to the public from a fountain at the heart of the town. Within easy reach is the Show Cave known as Poole's Cavern with the spangled roof that was described by Daniel Defoe in his tour of Great Britain in the early 1700s.

There is a wide range of local gastronomic treats associated with Derbyshire, including specialist cheeses, such as Sage Derby, Blue Stilton, Dovedale Blue and Buxton Blue. A good accompaniment to the cheese is the Derbyshire Oatcake. Derbyshire is well known for its range of cakes and puddings and in particular the Bakewell Pudding.

Shropshire is one of the most beautiful and least well known of the English counties. The county boasts some stunning scenery, dominated by the topographic features of the Long Mynd, Stiperstones, Wenlock Edge and the Wrekin and is traversed by Britain's longest river, the Severn. The Iron Bridge Gorge and the area around Coalbrookdale (to many, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in Britain) is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The wild scenery and turbulent history of the County have revived the art of storytelling and Shropshire now hosts many international gatherings. The mood of the County was invoked in the late Victorian era by the distinguished classics scholar A.E. Housman in his poetry cycle, *The Shropshire Lad*. Many notables were born in the County, including Charles Babbage (inventor), Robert Clive ('Clive of India'), Charles Darwin (author of 'Origin of Species...'), Wilfrid Owen (poet) and Thomas Telford (engineer). The County claims some wonderful culinary delights, such as Owl Soup (now made with chicken or pigeon), Fidget Pie (made with gammon steak and not with polecat as often described) and Aromatic Shropshire Pudding (similar to steamed pudding). Shropshire Blue Cheese, first made in Inverness, is a form of Stilton and has no real link with the County but nevertheless is excellent with port wine.



Mississippian Eyam Limestone and *Gigantoproductus* bed at Brick Quarry.



Polished slab of the *Gigantoproductus* bed at Once-a-week Quarry.



Acton Scott Church

