



# Cambridgeshire Geological Society

Lockdown Issue

22/4/20

## Cambridgeshire Geological Society



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### *Editorial : Reg Nicholls*

This issue comes out in the midst of a lockdown, so we have been scouring the internet and Twitter for ideas that you can keep your hand in (geologically speaking) whilst there are no Geological Society meetings. We have come up with a

number of websites where you can find geologically related videos or instruction.

Our Twitter site has been participating in the #stonesathome initiative, where folk put up pictures of rocks they have lurking about their house together

with a description—so we thought to document a few of them in this issue—trying to have a local focus.

Indeed, as we are constrained in our lives, perhaps this is the time to join twitter! Our twitter site is @CambsGeology

### *Useful internet resources*

Find more information and up to date news on

[www.cambsgeology.org](http://www.cambsgeology.org)

And for the Fen Edge Trail

<http://www.fenedgetrail.org>

Follow us on Twitter sites

@CambsGeology and @FenEdgeTrail

Look on [www.fenedgetrail.org](http://www.fenedgetrail.org) and

have a read of the details of the walks: there is a wealth of information about each section—like doing a virtual walk!

I have trawled the net and found two basic types of resource: Informational videos (at various levels) and some more light hearted things like quizzes for you to try out. All of these resources are free.

#### Informational video:

Video story of some UK volcanic episodes and the shaping of the UK narrated by Tony Robinson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBWJZBdWug0>  
Geological Society open lectures online

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/>

[gslpubliclectures19](https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gslpubliclectures19)

An American site with information by a University lecturer on various US geology sites

<http://www.nickzentner.com/>

Light hearted lecture on palaeontology. *A brief tour of the last 4 billion years (dinosaurs not included)* :

Lauren Sallan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0J10j46-qQ>  
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics/Test-Your-Knowledge/Multiple-Choice>

Open University free tuition material: just create and account and you can get access to some videos with different levels of tuition.

Once you have created an account, you have access to free resources.

[https://msds.open.ac.uk/signon/SAMSDefault/SAMS001\\_Default.aspx?URL=https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/geology/practising-science-reading-the-rocks-and-ecology/content-section-0?intro=1](https://msds.open.ac.uk/signon/SAMSDefault/SAMS001_Default.aspx?URL=https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/geology/practising-science-reading-the-rocks-and-ecology/content-section-0?intro=1)

Another website is “London Pavements”: this gives the rock types of numbers of city buildings. There is a number of posts for Cambridge which give the rock type and its origin.

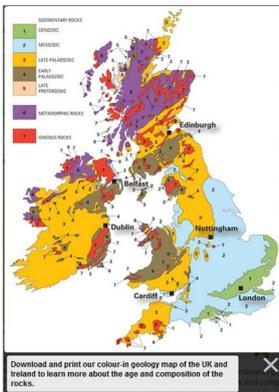
<http://londonpavementgeology.co.uk/geo-sites/>

And zoom in on the purple blob!

Just for a bit of fun, we are inviting you to send us any place names in the county that are inspired by a physical landscape (or Geology) feature. E.g. Burgh Well—the spring in the town—Burwell.

Send them to us at [info@cambsgeology.org](mailto:info@cambsgeology.org) and we can put a list onto our website .

## More internet resources



On a lighter note, there is a geological map colouring in page from BGS ( see to side)

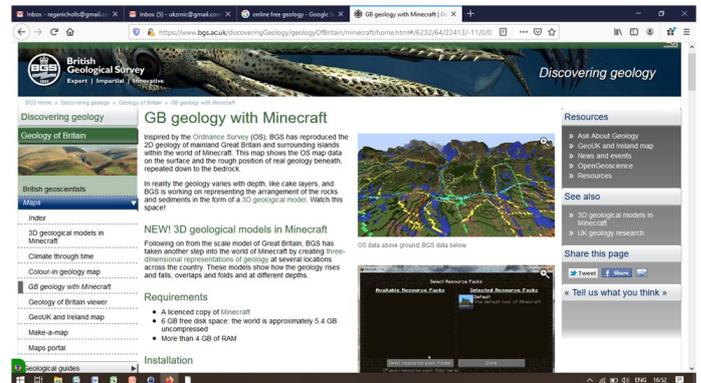
<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/colouringMap.html>

Or test your knowledge with an online quiz from the Geol Soc

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics/Test-Your-Knowledge/Multiple-Choice>  
Or try their crossword?

If you are a gaming fan, then you can download a 3D geology base map for "Minecraft" from BGS The website gives its requirements and instructions in how to load it.

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/minecraft/home.html#/6232/64/22413/-11/0/0>



For those that are partial to some Tolkein, then you can download an academic paper describing the geology of Middle Earth—together with plate tectonics!

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/113846714/Geology-of-Middle-Earth>

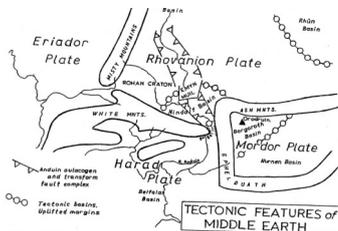
Another Geol Soc resource is the listing of the "100 Great Geosites". This is a great listing of important geosites from all over the country.

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/100geosites>

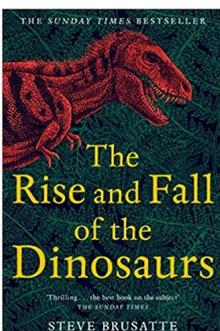
My favourite is the Buchan Zone metamorphism (but I feel the Barrovian zone is much more amazing).

And finally, the best one of the lot!

<https://www.scottishgeology.com/best-places/>



The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: The Untold Story of a Lost World: Steve Brusatte



## Book Review

Dr. Brusatte is very much the vertebrate palaeontologist of the moment: apart from this book, he has been involved with the new footprints in Skye and was recently on Melvyn Bragg's "In our time" on R4

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p089jqdm>

This book was not quite what I was expecting: it is

written in a very "easy" manner scattered with Americanisms, covering his start on the dinosaur hunting life from his school days, via all the inspirational scientist he has met along the way to his current post in Edinburgh University. It deals with the evolution of the various clades of reptiles, proto-dinosaurs, dinosaurs and birds. Clearly

his knowledge of the subject is encyclopaedic and it does impart his enthusiasm for the beasts. The photos in this paperback version are occasionally a little unclear. But a worthwhile read and a good guide to the success of the animals.

## *Stones at Home (including photos)*

Mentioned earlier, there is a Twitter group ([@pavementgeology](#)) which encourages users to post a photo of a rock they have in the house / garden and write a short description. There have been many exotic rocks so far: this area is not graced by very exotic rocks, but a few fossils might be around?

Below are a few I have come across recently and a couple I have in my garage from collecting locally.



A terebratulid Brachiopod from the Cretaceous in East Pit (found in a block beside the path)



Phonolite is a volcanic rock that can be found, among other places, in the eastern Haute-Loire and northern Ardèche in France. Here it usually appears as dome-shaped hills, known as *sucs*. Phonolite is frequently found combined with trachyte. Phonolite, so named because a sheet of it gives a melodious ringing sound when struck with a hammer, cleaves like slate and is used locally for roofing slabs



A piece of the Lower Greensand from Upware showing numbers of reworked phosphate nodules as well as fragments of bivalves etc.



Piece of Totternhoe Stone from Burwell area showing a fragment of an Inoceramid bivalve