Quaternary field mapping: Lowland Britain

Intended audience

Student and professional geologists, environmental scientists and geoengineers who need to gain an understanding of Quaternary mapping techniques.

Course objectives

The aims of this course are to:

- Provide a hands-on opportunity to gain confidence in field mapping Quaternary deposits (including landslips).
- Familiarise individuals with some basic techniques to use when mapping the range of Quaternary and man-made deposits commonly encountered in parts of lowland southern Britain.
- Enable participants to acquire an understanding of Quaternary depositional processes and landforms—essentially to develop 'landscape literacy' skills.
- Demonstrate how to undertake mapping to BGS corporate standards
- Emphasise relevant health and safety issues, particularly in the use of augers

Course description

The course is set up as four discrete modules:

- Module 1 Great Yarmouth (5 days): Pre-Anglian, Anglian and Holocene sequences.
- Module 2 Vale of York (2 days): Devensian and Holocene sequences.
- Module 3 Southern Pennines (1 day): Periglacially affected ground, landslipped ground.
- Module 4 Midlands, Vale of Belvoir (2 days): Anglian and Holocene sequences, floodplain alluvium and river terrace deposits, landslipped ground, artificial ground.

A manual is provided which includes detailed information relating to the four modules comprising the course as well as essential fieldwork information not specific to the mapping of Quaternary superficial deposits such as office-based methods including 'pre-fieldwork' assessment of literature, assessment of borehole data; aerial photo interpretation etc. The various techniques and practices that may be implemented for Quaternary field-mapping are additionally tagged with a 'priority ranking', giving a proportionate estimate of their usefulness to the mapper and their appropriateness.

Course duration

10 days (including one weekend)

Delivery mode

Field-based course

Course fee

Overall fee £3600; individual modules between £500–£1000. Includes field accommodation and meals

Date(s)

Spring and Autumn

Location

This course is delivered in four field-based modules located in Great Yarmouth, the Vale of York, southern Pennines and Vale of Belvoir respectively