



PRESS RELEASE

26 October 2008

BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE 26 OCTOBER 2008 18:06 UTC 3.6 ML

The following preliminary information is available for this earthquake:

DATE	:	26 October 2008
ORIGIN TIME	:	18:06 26.1s UTC
LAT/LONG	:	52.234° North / 2.509° West
GRID REF	:	365.2 kmE / 259.7 kmN
DEPTH	:	3.2 km
MAGNITUDE	:	3.6 ML
LOCALITY	:	Bromyard, Herefordshire
INTENSITY	:	4 EMS
COMMENTS	:	Felt Herefordshire

BGS have received a number of reports of an earthquake from residents in the Herefordshire area on 26 October. The earthquake had a magnitude of 3.6 and the epicentre was close to the town of Bromyard, about 20 km west of Worcester. There is around one earthquake of this size in the UK every year. Reports described "a thump as if someone had jumped off the bed upstairs" and "loud boom noise as though something extremely heavy had fallen on the wood floor above my head". The strength of the shaking has been described as moderate, enough to make furniture shake and windows or crockery rattle. Some reports indicate that people were woken from sleep and a few were frightened. However, an earthquake of this size is unlikely to cause any structural damage.

This is the largest earthquake to strike this area since a magnitude 4.7 earthquake struck Dudley, West Midlands on 22 September 2002, which was widely felt across England and Wales. Other notable earthquakes in Herefordshire include a magnitude 5.2 earthquake near Hereford in 1896, which caused considerable damage to masonry and chimneys in the area.

Seismograms and a map showing seismicity within a 25 km radius of today's earthquake can be seen at:

http://www.earthquakes.bgs.ac.uk/recent_events/uk_special/bromyard_26_oct_2008.pdf

A macroseismic enquiry asking members of the public to report what they experienced during this event has been launched on the BGS website at <http://www.earthquakes.bgs.ac.uk/questionnaire/EqQuestIntroA.html>

Ends

For further details or to arrange media interviews please contact:

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Notes for Editors

The British Geological Survey

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