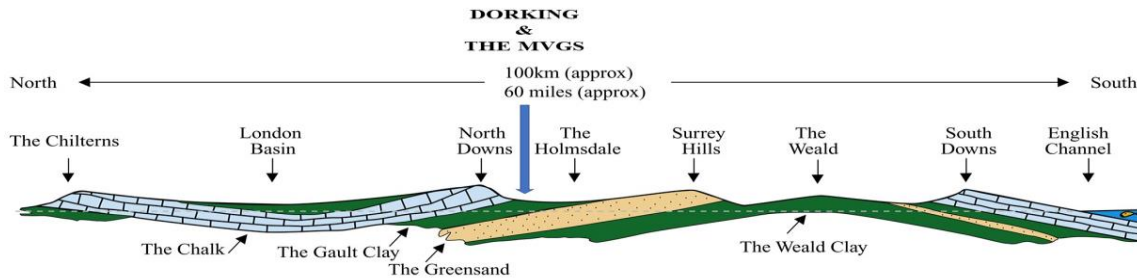


MOLE VALLEY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTION TO THE GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL OF GEOLOGY. NOVEMBER 2020 ROCKY THINGS TO SEE IN DORKING & ENVIRONS



NOTE: These items are in no particular order. Do check opening times where appropriate. Some sites are open 24/7, but some have 'normal' and 'covid-restricted' opening times.

DORKING MUSEUM <https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/>

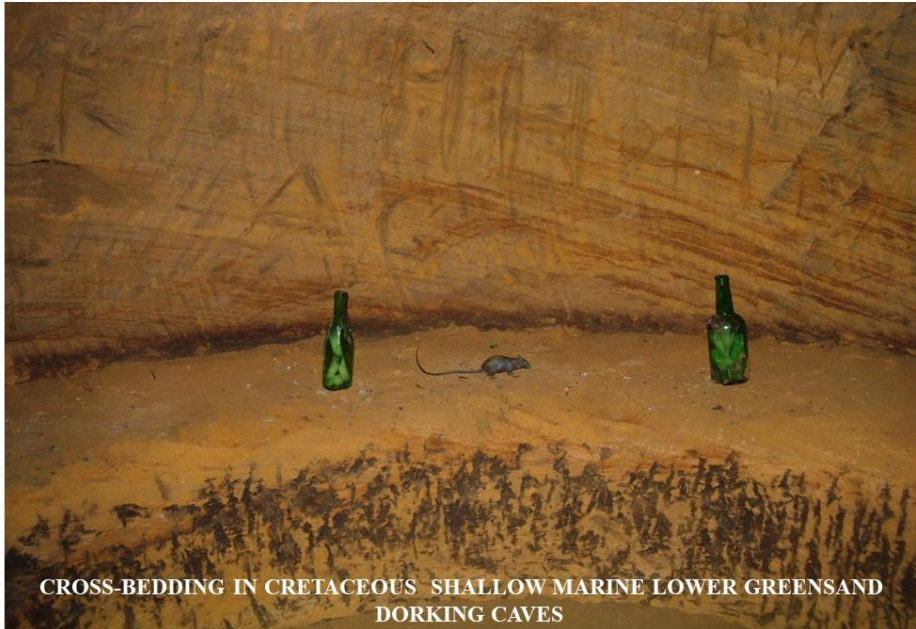
Home of the spectacular Cubitt Fossil Collection recently redisplayed with a donation from the GA Curry Fund. Excellent Cretaceous and Pleistocene material. Iguanodon tail, pliosaur skeleton etc. Chalk fossils include seldom fossilised crustaceans. Ice Age bones, teeth etc. Children's petting zone of fossils donated by the Mole Valley Geological Society (Adult supervision essential).



DORKING'S FAMOUS SOUTH STREET CAVES

<https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/>

Unique opportunity to walk around inside an Early Cretaceous shallow marine sand body and admire tidal cross-bedding etc.. <https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves-geology/>

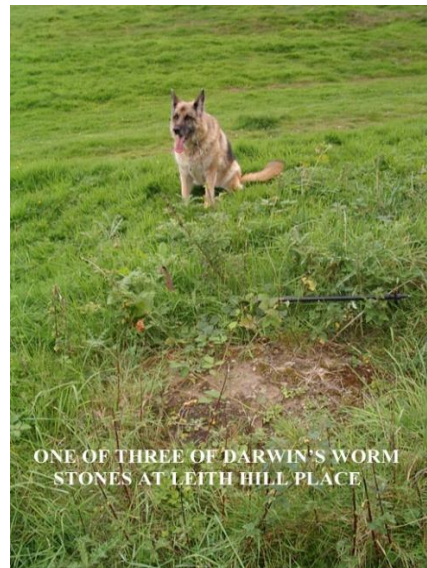


CROSS-BEDDING IN CRETACEOUS SHALLOW MARINE LOWER GREENSAND
DORKING CAVES

Places on guided cave tours can only be booked at Dorking Museum

LEITH HILL PLACE RH5 6LY National Trust <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place>

Home of Darwin's wife's family, the Wedgwoods. Used by Darwin as a research centre employing his nieces as Research Assistants. Three of Darwin's 'worm stones' still visible, just, in an adjacent field.



ONE OF THREE OF DARWIN'S WORM
STONES AT LEITH HILL PLACE

LEITH HILL TQ139432 National Trust. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-tower-and-countryside>

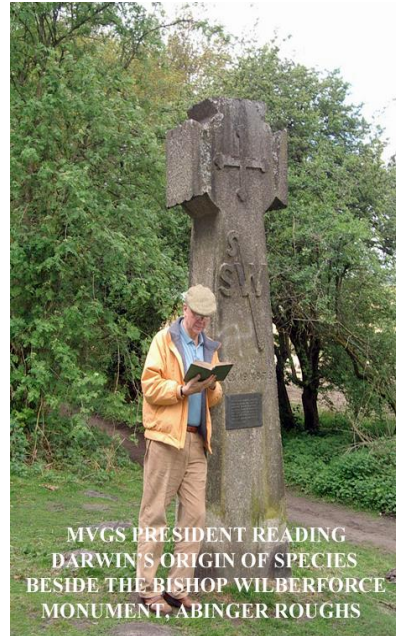
Spectacular views, especially from Leith Hill Tower when it is open. View south across the ridges and valleys of Wealden sands and clays to the chalk of the South Downs. View north across the gault clay valley of the Holmesdale to the North Downs.

BISHOP SAMUEL WILBERFORCE MONUMENT

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/abinger-roughs-and-netley-park>

100m north of the National Trust Abinger Roughs car park RH5 6QS

Bishop Wilberforce famously debated Charles Darwin's theory of evolution with T H Huxley at the British Association Oxford meeting in 1860. On 19th July 1873 while riding on Abinger Roughs, having just remarked to his companion what a great horseman he was, his horse threw him. He landed on his head and died instantly.



DENBIES VINEYARD & WINERY (Near Dorking RH5 6AA) www.denbies.co.uk

Winery tour includes a film that in which a notorious local geologist pontificates on the importance of chalk to vineyards in general and to Denbies in particular. The film includes a polychromatic geophantasmogram showing the deposition, burial, uplift and erosion of the Weald.

BOX HILL TQ177523

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/box-hill>

High on the Chalk of the North Downs with spectacular views south across the Weald and west across the Mole Valley gap to Denbies vineyard.



THE HOME OF RUSSELL WALLACE

Russell Wallace lived in No. 12 Rose Hill, Dorking RH4 2ED (Formally No. 2.) from July 1876 – March 1878. He tried but failed to meet up with Charles Darwin when he was staying in Leith Hill Place. A story that they met in the snug bar of Dorking's White Hart coaching inn and were ejected for overindulging in the local cherry wine is apocryphal. Not open to the public.



BACKGROUND READING

1. Atherton, K. 2013. *The Museum Guide to Dorking*. Cockerel Press. Dorking. 89pp. ISBN 978-1-909871-00-7
2. Gallois, R.W. 1965. *The Wealden District*. HMSO British Regional Geology 101pp. ISBN 0-11-884078-9
3. Selley, R.C. 2006. *The Box Hill & Mole Valley Book of Geology*. Friends of Box Hill. Dorking. 35pp. ISBN 0-9534430-6-2
4. Selley, R.C. 2008. *The Winelands of Britain: Past, present & prospective*. 2nd. Edn. Petravin Press. Dorking 123pp. ISBN 0-9547419-2-7
5. Selley, R.C. 2015. *Dorking Caves: History, mystery & geology*. Dorking Museum. 12pp. ISBN 978-1-909871-04-5
6. Sumbler, M.G. 1996. *London and the Thames Valley*. HMSO British Regional Geology. 173pp. ISBN 0-11-884552-5

(1 and 5 can be bought at Dorking Museum. 3 can be bought at Dorking Museum and the NT Shop on Box Hill. 4 can be bought at Denbies Winery)

GEOLOGICALMAP

British Geological Survey Reigate Sheet No. 286 Order online at www.bgs.ac.uk/shop

And the accompanying sheet Memoir:

Dines, H.G. & Edmunds, F.H. 1933. *The Geology of the Country around Reigate & Dorking*. HMSO London. 204pp.