

GEOLOGY

“It’s the pits!” exclaimed an exasperated Sylvia. We had found a mysterious hole, and members of the geology group were forensically looking into it. It is what we had come for: to find evidence of a fossilised forest strung along Grange shoreline near Guides Farm. Only, there were no trees in Carboniferous times: these were palaeokarst pits, made from tree-like ferns whose roots had left these small depressions in a line exposed between the spartina foreshore and the railway line. Seventeen of us members enjoyed the outing, hunting like excited schoolkids for the next pit, trowels in hand to excavate it. Sylvia had led our previous walk, too, in August, following a trail around the geological highlights that Lindale has to offer.

Our July outing at Humphrey Head was a real team effort. Duncan led us to a rare exposure of brockram: what looked like cemented concrete was in fact 270 million years old, laid down in the Permian period. Andrew contrasted this with the limestone cliffs of the headland, and reminded us of the legend of its last wolf. Our specially invited guests – Pat & Phil Rowland – helped us understand how the whole area had been drained in the last few hundred years. Our final outing (in October) will be to Whitbarrow Scar. A series of indoor talks has been arranged for the winter months. Further details from Susan Jones.

Andrew Musgrave