

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES: The National Museum of Wales in Cardiff has lots of geology, including reconstructions of life in ancient Wales from its formation. National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP. Tel: 029 2039 7951, www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/cardiff

MUSEUM OF IOW GEOLOGY (DINOSAUR ISLE): Based in Sandown Isle of Wight, this museum, now known as The Dinosaur Isle, contains many specimens relating to the geology of the island, from dinosaur bones to insects. Dinosaur Isle, Culver Parade, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8QA. Tel: 01983 404344, www.dinosaurisle.com

PETERBOROUGH MUSEUM: Peterborough Museum is rightly famous for its Jurassic marine reptiles, collected from the brick pits that surround the city. Peterborough Museum, Priestgate, Peterborough, PE1 1LF. Tel: 01733 343329, www.peterboroughheritage.org.uk

PHILPOT MUSEUM: The Philpot Museum is based in Lyme Regis, and has a wonderful collection of fossils from the World Heritage 'Jurassic Coast'. Lyme Regis Philpot Museum, Lyme Regis, DT7 3QA. Tel: 01297 443370, www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk

SEDGWICK MUSEUM AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM: The Sedgwick Museum is the geological museum of the University of Cambridge, the equivalent of the Oxford University Museum in Oxford. Both are well worth a visit, exhibiting many rocks, minerals and fossils. The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ. Tel: 01223 333456, www.sedgewickmuseum.org

OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW. Tel: 01865 272 950, www.oum.ox.ac.uk

ULSTER MUSEUM: The Ulster Museum has exhibits that tell the story of the geology of Northern Ireland, including The Giant's Causeway. The Museum is currently undergoing redevelopment, opening in 2009. www.ulstermuseum.org.uk

WHITBY MUSEUM AND THE ROTUNDA: Whitby and Scarborough are home to these two museums, which have internationally important collections of fossils collected on the North Yorkshire Coast. Whitby Museum, Pannett Park, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 1RE. Tel: 01947 602908, www.whitbymuseum.org.uk
The Rotunda Museum, Vernon Road, Scarborough YO11 2PW. Tel: 01723 374839, www.rotundamuseum.co.uk

Geology in museums

Museums are wonderful sources of information for anyone interested in geology. There are many museums across the United Kingdom that have amazing collections, some you might not ever have heard of. Next time you are travelling around, look out for the local town or village museum, as these will often have some great collections. The Natural History Museum in London is the most famous, but listed below are a few you may never have visited.

BUXTON MUSEUM: This contains many fossils from the Carboniferous Limestone. The Museum is famous for its collection of Blue John artefacts. Buxton Museum & Art Gallery, Terrace Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6DA. Tel: 01298 24658, www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/buxton_museum/

DUDLEY MUSEUM: Dudley Museum contains many important collections of fossils from the local Wenlock Limestone, including the famous 'Dudley Bug' (right) Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, St. James's Rd, Dudley, DY1 1HP. Tel: 01384 815575, www.dudley.gov.uk

HUNTERIAN MUSEUM: The museum houses some beautiful rocks, minerals and fossils. Hunterian Museum, University Avenue, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ. Tel: 0141 330 4221, www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk

LAPWORTH MUSEUM AND THE MANCHESTER MUSEUM: The Lapworth Museum is the geological museum of Birmingham University. Like the Manchester Museum, it contains many local fossils and minerals. Lapworth Museum of Geology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham_B15 2TT. Tel: 0121 414 7294 or 6751, www.lapworth.bham.ac.uk

MANCHESTER MUSEUM: Collection of 17,000 minerals, including meteorites. 250 Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL. Tel: 0161 275 2634, www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

LIVERPOOL MUSEUM: Liverpool Museum is a 'World Museum', and contains a rich collection of minerals, rocks and fossils. World Museum Liverpool, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN. Tel: 0151 478 4393, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND: Based in Edinburgh, this national museum is rich in Scottish geological artefacts. National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street Edinburgh, EH1 1JF. Tel: 0131 225 7534, www.nms.ac.uk



ROCKWATCH