

Sunday March 13th – Kirkdale Cave area field day

A geological field day for a smaller group, which will include an energetic walk around the Kirkdale area, including a quarry visit. In the afternoon there will be a reading of Buckland's original Kirkdale Cave paper in St Gregory's Minster. Details of the programme for this day will be available shortly – please email ypsgeology@gmail.com or tick the box on the booking form for the 12th and details will be sent to you.

YPS, The Lodge, Museum Gardens
York YO1 7DR
Tel 01904 656713
Email: info@ypsyork.org
Website: www.ypsyork.org
Charity registration no. 52970



“Kirkdale Cave 200: Lost Beasts of the North”

Saturday March 12th, 2022

9.30am to 4.15pm

Ryedale School, Nawton, YO62 7SL

A Yorkshire Philosophical Society Bicentenary Event with Yorkshire Geological Society and Yorkshire Fossil Festival supported by “The Curry Fund” (GA).



“Kirkdale Cave” © James McKay, palaeo-artist

Kirkdale Cave 200

Following the discovery of unusual animal bones at Kirkdale Cave, near Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire, in the summer of 1821, Professor William Buckland of Oxford University visited the cave in December 1821. His account of the Kirkdale Cave fossil assemblage, which he interpreted as the remains of an ancient hyaena den, was read to the Royal Society on February 21st 1822:

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/pdf/10.1098/rstl.1822.0017>

“Lost Beasts of the North” celebrates the bicentenary of Kirkdale Cave, and of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, which was founded in December 1822 to preserve and promote Kirkdale’s remarkable fossils. Our symposium speakers will explain the origins of Kirkdale Cave, the fossils that were found there, and what they tell us about the creatures that inhabited Yorkshire more than 120,000 years ago. “Lost Beasts of the North” will also explore the enormous influence Buckland’s hyaena den hypothesis had on 19th Century thinking, and the scientific legacy of Kirkdale Cave, 200 years on.

Symposium Programme: Booking form enclosed separately

9.30am Welcome & Introduction

Catherine Brophy (Yorkshire Philosophical Society) – Kirkdale & the YPS
Dr Sarah King (Yorkshire Museum) – Kirkdale & the Yorkshire Museum

10am-11am: Opening session – “The Position of the Cave”

Dr Laura Eddey – Quaternary landscapes of the Vale of Pickering
Dr Jed Atkinson & Dr Rebecca Bennion – Jurassic geology of Kirkdale Cave
Jim Middleton (Scarborough Museums) – Discovery of Kirkdale Cave

Refreshments (11-11.30am)

11.30am-12.30pm: Pre-lunch session – “Twenty-two Species of Animals”

Professor Patrick Boylan (Yorkshire Geological Society) – the fauna of Kirkdale Cave

Dr Angharad Jones (Creswell Crags) – cave hyaenas

Dr Ross Barnett (The Missing Lynx) – cave lions (& other felids)

Lunch (12.30–1.30pm)

1.30–2.30: post-lunch session – “Apparently Gnawed to Pieces”

Professor Hannah O’Regan (Nottingham) – cave bears

Professor Terry O’Connor (York) – frog earths & herbivores

Susan Newell (Leeds/Oxford University Museum) – Mary Morland: naturalist and artist

Break (2.30–3pm)

3–4: Final session – “Most Complete and Satisfactory”

DISCUSSION – (all panel members invited)

What is the importance of Kirkdale Cave?

Why does Kirkdale still matter, 200 years on?