

**62<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy  
23<sup>rd</sup> Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation  
with the Geological Curators' Group**

**York: 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**First Circular**

The annual SVPCA and SPPC meetings in 2014 will be hosted by the Centre for Anatomical and Human Sciences, Hull York Medical School in the historic city of York. The city has a long association with palaeontology and geology – the Yorkshire Museum was opened here in 1830 making it one of the longest established museums in the country. It was founded to house the collections of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, which include many local fossils such as the Kirkdale Cavern Quaternary Mammals and the Jurassic reptiles from the Yorkshire coast, as well as an enormous quantity of archaeological material, especially from Roman, Viking and Mediaeval York.



**Venue**

The SVPCA talks will take place in The King's Manor. This Elizabethan building is part of the University of York and is currently occupied by the Department of Archaeology. The King's Manor is located in the centre of York on Exhibition Square in close proximity to the Yorkshire Museum and the city walls. Owing to the age of the building, wheelchair access to the lecture theatre is difficult. Please could anyone with access concerns contact the conference organisers ([philip.cox@hyms.ac.uk](mailto:philip.cox@hyms.ac.uk)).

The SPPC talks and posters, and the SVPCA auction will take place in the York Medical Rooms on Stonegate in the city centre. The symposium banquet will be in the Merchant Taylors' Hall on Aldwark.

**Booking and Abstracts**

Registration and abstract submission will take place through the SVPCA website as usual. Online payment will be possible this year via the University of York website. An email will be sent out when registration and abstract submission opens (estimated to be April). Abstracts should be not more than 250 words, and will be evaluated by an academic committee.

We are aiming to have a dedicated poster session this year and would particularly like to encourage poster submissions.

## Field Trips

No trip to Yorkshire would be complete without a fossil hunting trip to the coast around Whitby. Unfortunately, high tide on the Saturday following the symposium is mid-afternoon. So, instead we are proposing to run two field trips:



The first trip will be on the Monday preceding the symposium (1<sup>st</sup> Sept). This will be to Saltwick Bay and will be run by Dean Lomax, author of *Fossils of the Whitby Coast* and assistant curator of palaeontology at the Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery.

The second trip will be in the more traditional slot on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. This will be to see a disused Alum Quarries, the Whitby Museum and the Rotunda Museum in Scarborough, and is being organised by Will Watts, formerly of Scarborough Museums Trust. Delegates may also be interested to know that the Scarborough Museums Trust will be holding a fossil festival on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September.



## Museum visits

The SPPC will include a tour around the stores of the Yorkshire Museum. If anyone would like to arrange a research visit to the Yorkshire Museum during the SVPCA, please can you contact Sarah King ([Sarah.King@ymt.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.King@ymt.org.uk)) with as much advance notice as possible.

## Preliminary Programme

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Field trip	Saltwick Bay
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	SPPC registration SPPC/GCG talks and posters SVPCA registration and ice-breaker	York Medical Rooms York Medical Rooms Yorkshire Museum
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	SVPCA talks and posters Evening event	The King's Manor TBA
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	SVPCA talks and posters Auction	The King's Manor York Medical Rooms
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	SVPCA talks and posters Symposium banquet	The King's Manor Merchant Taylors' Hall
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Field Trip	Alum Quarry Whitby Museum Rotunda Museum

## Accommodation

Delegates will need to make their own arrangements for accommodation. If you wish to stay in university accommodation, this can be booked via York Conferences at the link below. However, please note that all university accommodation is on campus, which is two miles from the conference venue. There is a regular bus service between the university and the city centre (£1.50 for a single).

[http://www.yorkconferences.com/Bed\\_and\\_Breakfast\\_York\\_BB\\_in\\_North\\_Yorkshire\\_.aspx](http://www.yorkconferences.com/Bed_and_Breakfast_York_BB_in_North_Yorkshire_.aspx)

Alternatively, there are many hotels, guesthouses and self-catering apartments in the centre of York just a few minutes' walk from the conference venue. Availability and prices can be found at the Visit York website.

<http://www.visitork.org/book/>



## Getting There

York is extremely well connected by rail. There are direct services from London (2 hours), Edinburgh (2.5 hours), Manchester (1.5 hours), Oxford (3 hours) and Bristol (4 hours). The nearest airport is Leeds-Bradford, and there is also a direct rail connection to Manchester airport.

## Host Committee

*Centre for Anatomical  
and Human Sciences*

Phil Cox

Sam Cobb

Laura Fitton

Paul O'Higgins

Karen Swan

Andrew McIntosh

Phil Morris



If you have any questions about SVPCA 2014, please contact Phil Cox ([philip.cox@hyms.ac.uk](mailto:philip.cox@hyms.ac.uk))