YORKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD TRIP TO HOLDERNESS AND SPURN HEAD

Sunday 30th September 2018

Ords are distinctive low sections of beach associated with the highest erosion rates along the Holderness coast. There are usually 8 to 10 ords between Barmston and the tip of Spurn Head, moving on average at about 0.5km per year. The image was captured at the south end of the till cliffs at Kilnsea Warren, and shows the following ord features displayed from left to right: lower beach sandbar; wide bare till shore platform; and an up to 2m high wave-cut sand cliff in the upper beach. *Photo: Ada Pringle*

Excursion title	**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LAMPLUGH AND CATT - HOLDERNESS AND SPURN HEAD** **The trip comprises a morning and afternoon itinerary with a drive of about one hour in between. Each itinerary is standalone so participants can choose to attend either in the morning, afternoon or both.**

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Date & time	**Sunday 30 September Morning**, meet at **9.30 am** at Mr Moo's, Skipsea, Humberside	**Sunday 30 September 2018 Afternoon**, meet at **1.00pm** at Spurn Discovery Centre, Kilnsea, Humberside
Leaders	**Rodger Connell**, University of Hull **Dr Ada Pringle**, University of Lancaster	
Excursion aims and description	**Morning (Rodger Connell).** After arriving at Mr Moo's we will walk ~1 km down a grassy path to the beach at Withow Gap. At this site we will be able to examine the Skipsea Till and its contained erratic rocks. The irregular topography left by the retreating ice sheet was locally inundated by water during and after deglaciation (the Holderness meres). As these lakes gradually filled with sediment they left a record of climate change which we will be able to examine. **Afternoon (Ada Pringle).** The evolution of the sand and shingle spit of Spurn Head, built up from the coarser sediment from the eroding Holderness till cliffs, will be examined. Theories of its long term possibly cyclic development will be considered, before focussing on its more recent evolution since World War II. There will be the opportunity to examine the effects of its breaching in a major North Sea storm surge on 5-6 December 2013 and the subsequent development of a washover, now about 750m long. The effect of an ord, a low section of beach moving south, coupled with the severe easterly storms of last winter have caused marked recent erosion which will be examined.	
Registration	**Pre-registration is required by email** to fieldtrips@yorksgeolsoc.org.uk **Please state if you intend to come on the morning or afternoon trips, or both**	
Meeting points	**Morning:** Meet at **9.30am** at the Mr Moo's ice cream parlour and café, Southfield House, off the B1242 Hornsea Road road southeast of Skipsea village, (grid reference TA 176 546). http://www.mrmoos.co.uk/ . Click here for OS Map online. **Afternoon:** Meet at **1.00pm** at the car park at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's new Spurn Discovery Centre at Kilnsea (grid reference TA 417 154). https://www.ywt.org.uk/places-visit/flagship-sites/welcome-spurn-discovery-centre-spurn-national-nature-reserve. The Discovery Centre contains a café and toilets. There will be a specially reduced parking charge/donation of £3 per car for the party. Click here for OS Map online.	
Getting there	Both localities are best accessed by car, please share transport where possible. Allow at least one hour for the drive between the morning and afternoon localities.	

Terrain, walking distance, height gain	The Skipsea Withow Gap site in the morning will require a return walk of 2km to the beach along a grass path. Whilst generally good footing it can be slippery if it has rained. The afternoon will involve a walk from the Discovery Centre along the road to Kilnsea Warren, before crossing the sand and shingle washover, and continuing along the road to the higher dunes to the south. Total return walking distance 4-5 km.
Safety and Insurance	Registrants will be sent a Health and Safety risk assessment and fieldwork Code of Conduct by email in advance of the trip. You are requested to read both these documents carefully before the trip and take account of risks and recommended safety measures and clothing when planning your attendance. You will be given a safety briefing by the leaders at the start of trip, and will be asked to sign an attendance register to declare that you have read these documents and understood the briefing. **The Yorkshire Geological Society has insurance arranged by the Geologists' Association which covers the Society and field trip leaders for public liability. Personal accident insurance is a matter for individual members and participants to arrange as they consider necessary.**
Recommended clothing	Stout footwear (walking boots) recommended, waterproof overclothing, sun hat and sun block. Consult weather forecast. **Hard hats are required** in the morning, they are not necessary in the afternoon.
Lunch and refreshments	There are cafés at both Mr Moos's and the Spurn Discovery Centre. Alternatively, participants may wish to bring a packed lunch.
Toilets	Public toilets are available at both Mr Moo's (morning) and Spurn Discovery Centre (afternoon).
Geological mapsheet for reference	Morning: BGS 1:50,000 series Flamborough and Bridlington Sheets 55 and 65 (combined), Solid and Drift Provisional Edition, published 1985. Click here to view online. Afternoon: BGS 1:50,000 series Patrington Sheet 81, Solid and Drift Geology published 1991. Click here to view online.
OS mapsheet for reference	1:50,000 Landranger Sheet 107 Kingston upon Hull 1:25,000 Explorer Sheet 295 (Bridlington, Driffield and Hornsea) (morning); Sheet 292 (Withernsea and Spurn Head) (afternoon)

Recommended reading	Pringle, A.W. 1985, Holderness coast erosion and the significance of ords. Earth Surface Processes and Landforms, 10, 107-124. Pringle, A.W. 2003. Classic Landforms of the Coast of the East Riding of Yorkshire. Series. Editors: Green, C., Naish, M. and Naish, S. Pub: Geographical Association with British Geomorphological Research Group. 64pp.

On 15 December 2013, a major 1.6m North Sea storm surge on High Water of a spring tide breached the sand and shingle spit at Spurn. Waves up to 6m followed the surge. The temporary road, water and electricity supplies were destroyed by the storm surge and high energy waves as they stripped away dunes and beaches. The image shows a washover that has since built up and lengthened in the breach during more recent storms. Only high spring tides and storms overtop it. *Photo: Ada Pringle*