

SOUTH WESTERN FEDERATION OF MUSEUMS & ART GALLERIES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTH WEST IMPLEMENT PETROLOGY COMMITTEE 2006-2007

The Committee has agreed to be commonly known as the South West Implement Petrology Group.

The Group met on 4th July 2006 and 30th January 2007.

The Group looks forward to an exciting future in further collaboration with the Federation. The partnership agreement with the Federation and revised rules for the Group have been discussed and their adoption in 2007-2008 is looked forward to. The webpages, under the section devoted to specialist groups on the Federation website, will explain what the Group does and how it goes about its business. It is intended that reports on our investigations will be posted regularly to form a growing archive of value to anyone interested in this aspect of archaeology and petrology.

The Group completed four identifications; an axe and an axe fragment from Cornwall (both of Cornish greenstone of Group I), an axe fragment from Somerset (of a hornfels granulite whose source has yet to be identified) and a battleaxe fragment from Wiltshire (an ungrouped tuff). The petrological slides have been added to the reference collection as numbers 1959, 1960, 1958 and 1955 respectively.

The Group has received reports from Dr Colin Shell on what he has shown to be metal-working tools from barrow Upton Lovell (maybe the worker who produced some of the Wessex gold) and interim reports the group involving many of our members, both museums and individuals, participating in the Leverhume Early Bronze Age project examining, recording and reassessing artefacts of that period.

The Group contributed to the South West Archaeological Research Strategy, an English Heritage sponsored project, which concluded in March 2007. Publication of the assessment and strategy is eagerly awaited.

The Group plans two research programmes: one, working with the Camborne School of Mines to better identify and describe source materials and the other, retrospective publication and republication of our previous research.

The Group brings together people from many walks of life: volunteers, university staff, museum professionals. It is conscious that our knowledge and understanding of the prehistoric past of society in the South West is developing rapidly. Our role is both to add to that knowledge base and to ensure that the public and the museum staff who interpret our past to the public have access to the most recent information available. Our meetings for 2007-2008 are scheduled for 26th June 2007 and 29th January 2008. All are welcome.

David Dawson,
Hon.Secretary