



Annual Conference 29th June to 1st July 2012

The 2012 NAMHO conference (<http://www.namhoconference.org.uk>) is from 29th June to 1st July at **Quarry Bank Mill, near Wilmslow, Cheshire**. Activities will continue around Cheshire, Staffordshire and neighbouring counties during the following week.

Quarry Bank Mill is the water drive cotton mill founded by Samuel Greg in 1784. The estate includes the mill itself, housing for mill workers, apprentices and the proprietors. The site is of interest in its own right with water driven machinery as well as a steam engine. On-site, there are two large lecture and display rooms together with bars and catering facilities. There is a large car park and we have been promised camping space from Friday through to Monday. There is plenty of other accommodation within easy reach including Premier Inns, bed and breakfast and all the hotels at Manchester Airport. Transport links are good with easy air, bus, road and rail access.

The conference lecture programme will run on the Saturday and Sunday with a series of surface and underground trips from the Friday lunchtime until at least the Monday of the following week for those wishing to extend their stay. Some of the field trips may be re-run later in the week to allow attendance at lectures without missing underground trips. It is intended that there will be a set of conference proceedings. A conference dinner will be held on the Saturday evening.

The theme of the conference is '**Copper, lead, cobalt, salt, coal, fireclay, limestone – Cheshire's mining history**'. Cheshire may appear as a green and fertile county with cheese and milk as the major industries up to the end of the 19th century but, beneath the county, there are still massive reserves of salt which fostered the chemical industry in the north west of England. There are also metal ores in a form not worked to a great extent anywhere else in the UK. To support these industries, the county also provided coal from its eastern margin, limestone from the southeast as well as fireclay and ganister for furnace bricks. The conference will focus on the variety of minerals found in Cheshire and neighbouring Staffordshire as well as providing an opportunity for exploration of the Alderley Edge mines in particular.



Following the welcome evening on Friday, a full programme of lectures is planned on Saturday and Sunday with two parallel sessions in the afternoons. Detailed plans for speakers and talks are available on the website but any offers to speak or lead trips would be most welcome. There will be facilities for posters, club stands and trade stands at no additional cost.

There will be an extensive programme of complementary surface and underground trips to lesser-known parts of Cheshire and North Staffordshire's mining history as well as some longer trips further afield. Underground trips will largely be at Alderley Edge and will range from simple walk-in mines to some serious through or round trips with SRT.