

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sedgwick Museum gains national quality standard

The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences has been officially 'Accredited' by the Museums, Libraries and Archive Council (MLA).

The **Museum Accreditation Scheme** sets nationally agreed standards for all museums in the UK. The Sedgwick Museum's award proves that it measures up, meeting the guidelines on how it is run, how it looks after its collections and the services it provides to its visitors.

Dr David Norman (Museum Director) commented: "It is reassuring to know that this Museum is exceeding such exacting national standards of stewardship. Let's hope that such recognition will generate opportunities that will allow us to improve the conditions under which my staff have to work and continue to develop as a research and educational resource for everyone in the future."

Mark Wood (Chair of MLA) said: "Being awarded Full Accreditation is an impressive achievement. It recognises the high standard and service that the Sedgwick Museum provides and acknowledges the hard work of the staff. Many congratulations!"

Notes for editors:

1. The Sedgwick Museum is open 10am - 5pm weekdays and 10am – 4pm Saturdays with the exception of public holidays and selected dates over the Christmas and New Year period (see announcements on website: <http://www.sedgwickmuseum.org> for details).
2. A 'Hidden Treasure', the Sedgwick Museum is packed with over 1 million rocks, minerals and fossils. The Museum's displays include fossils that range from the earliest forms of life over 3000 million years old, to the wildlife that roamed the Fens less than 150,000 years ago.
3. The Sedgwick Museum was originally founded on the collection that Dr John Woodward that was bequeathed to the University in 1728 (still intact and on display in its original cabinets), the present museum opened in 1904 as a memorial to Adam Sedgwick who held the Woodwardian Professorship from 1818 until his death in 1873.
4. As well as being open to the public, the Sedgwick Museum provides a variety of services to research workers, undergraduate students, amateur and professional fossil collectors, architects and building engineers, schools and colleges.
5. The Museums, Libraries and Archive Council (MLA) is the national development agency for museums, libraries and archives, advising the government on policy and priorities for the sector. MLA's roles are to provide strategic leadership, to act as a powerful advocate, to develop capacity and to promote innovation and change. For further information contact Emma Poole, Media and Events Manager on 020 7273 1459 or email emma.poole@mmla.gov.uk, or visit the MLA website at <http://www.mla.gov.uk>

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