

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Tyrannosaurus rex* comes to the Sedgwick Museum**

The skull of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, one of the most fearsome and well known of the dinosaurs, is now on permanent display.

T. rex was a formidable predator having a metre-and-a-half long skull, strong, dagger-like teeth and powerful jaws that would have been strong enough to splinter bone. It was one of the largest carnivores to have walked the Earth and lived more than 65 million year ago during the Cretaceous period.

T. rex fossils are extremely rare, so the new skull is a high-fidelity cast obtained from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, which carried out the excavation in South Dakota, USA. This animal has been nicknamed 'STAN' after Stan Sacrison, the amateur palaeontologist who originally discovered the skeleton.

Dr Leslie Noè, Major Projects Officer in the Sedgwick Museum, was quoted as saying:

"*Tyrannosaurus* is iconic of the giant, land living dinosaurs, and represents a fantastic addition to the Sedgwick Museum. I hope this *T. rex* specimen will enthral, educate and entertain our visitors and students for generations to come."

Dr David Norman, director of the Sedgwick Museum, said:

"*T. rex* is the most evocative of all dinosaurs. I am extremely pleased with our new acquisition and look forward to many people coming to enjoy the beauty of our new beast. Eventually, the skull will stand in pride of place, face to face with the plant-eating dinosaur *Iguanodon* already in the entrance of the Museum."

Dr Liz Hide, Joint Museums Officer for the Cambridge Museums, said:

"A grant from the Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) Council allowed the Sedgwick Museum to obtain this amazing specimen."

Notes for editors:

1. *Tyrannosaurus rex*, which means 'tyrant lizard king', is also known as *T. rex*.
2. *T. rex* was a large meat-eating theropod dinosaur, with a body almost 14 metres in length.
3. The original fossil of the Sedgwick Museum *T. rex* was found in 1987 in the Late Cretaceous 'Hell Creek Formation' of South Dakota, USA.
4. The *rex* is just over 65 million years old, and lived at the very end of the Mesozoic Era or 'age of the dinosaurs'.
5. Black Hills Institute of Geological Research has a world-class reputation for professionally prepared fossils, fossil casts, and mineral specimens for research, teaching, and display. More details about their work on STAN can be found on their website at <http://www.bhigr.com/>
6. The Sedgwick Museum is the oldest of the Museums in the University of Cambridge, and has a collection of more than 1 million rocks, fossils and minerals. The Museum can be found on Downing Street, and is open 10am -1pm and 2 – 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am – 4pm on Saturdays and is closed on Bank Holidays. Entrance to the Museum is free.
7. 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

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