

Mid-conference Field trips: Field Trip 4



Field Trip 4

(Sept. 9, 2010)

Hambach Open-Cast Mine – The Neogene and Pleistocene of the Lower Rhine Basin

Field Trip Leader: Dr. Georg Heumann

One of the largest and deepest open-cast lignite mines in Germany is located in the Cologne-Bonn region. The entire sequence of sediments in the Lower Rhine Basin, from the mid-Miocene lignites and Pliocene fluvio-lacustrine clastics to the Quaternary sands and gravels of the River Rhine and periglacial Loess, is nicely exposed throughout this gigantic pit. These horizons have yielded a wealth of palaeobotanical and palaeozoological remains in the last three decades. We will spend the day touring various parts of the open-cast mine using field vehicles provided by RWE Power, which mines the lignites for electricity for the state of North Rhine-Westfalia. There will be opportunities to collect wood from the lignites or to sieve three-dimensional preserved fruits and seed from the Neogene sands.

Costs:

20 Euros

Programme: Travel to Hambach from Bonn by bus (the bus will leave Bonn at 8:30 am and will return to Bonn by 15:30).

