

## **Rotunda Museum Geological Collections**

**Theme 3** Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity

**Objective 5** To audit and document our geodiversity including sites, archives and collections.

An important aspect of gathering information about local geodiversity is achieved through the collections and cataloguing of local fossils and minerals. The Rotunda Museum, a partner of the Scarborough Museums Trust, has one of the foremost collections of Jurassic geology on the Yorkshire Coast. With over 5500 fossils and 3000 minerals, the strengths of the collection include numerous type specimens, which were the first of their kind ever to be described and one of the finest collections of Middle Jurassic fossil plants in the country. The collection also includes a large selection of Cretaceous fossils from the Speeton Clay (including the remains of the 'Speeton Plesiosaur') and Chalk, a wide variety of Upper and Lower Jurassic specimens, specimens from the Ice Age such as mammoth teeth and fossils from the Kirkdale Cave, and a pristine Carboniferous plant collection.



The Rotunda Museum, Scarborough.

A key focus area of the Rotunda Museum is about encouraging the public to gather their own geodiversity information, through the responsible collecting of geological materials and specimens in the local area. The Museum is not only an exhibit of historical finds and information, but somewhere that local communities are actively encouraged to bring rocks and fossils as they are discovered, to be identified by experts and used to continue building the understanding of Yorkshire's geo-heritage and its international geological significance.