

A Geoscience Wales Associate is helping study an army in China ?



The downturn in the oil industry affects us all differently. Some of GWL's Associates are less dependent on the price of oil than others.

Petrographers, for instance, work in many fields, not just sedimentology. GWL's associated product PETROG (www.petrog.com), originally developed for sedimentological analysis in the oil industry, is being

used by researchers at the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/441>), to help in understanding the story of the Terracotta Army.

How, where and by whom the c. 7,000 life-size ceramic statues were made have important implications for understanding the craft technology, logistics and labour organisation behind the construction of the enormous necropolis in Shaanxi Province, China.

As part of a collaborative project between University College London and Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site, thin sections of the ceramics are being studied in both London and at the Mausoleum, using the advanced analysis features available in PETROG. Patrick Quinn of UCL will be presenting aspects of this work at the conference "Multidisciplinary Approaches to Ceramic Analyses" at the University of Cambridge, 30 June 2017.

In 2018, the Terracotta Army exhibition will be visiting Liverpool, just along the North Wales coast from GWL's Conwy headquarters. Running for almost 9 months, from February to October 2018, visitors to World Museum in Liverpool will be able to see examples of the work and legacy of Qin Shihuangdi, the First Emperor of China. This exhibition will be the first time in more than 10 years that the warriors have been brought to the UK.