

SEISMIC ALERT: FOLKESTONE 3 MARCH 2009 14:35 UTC 3.0 ML

The following preliminary information is available for this earthquake:

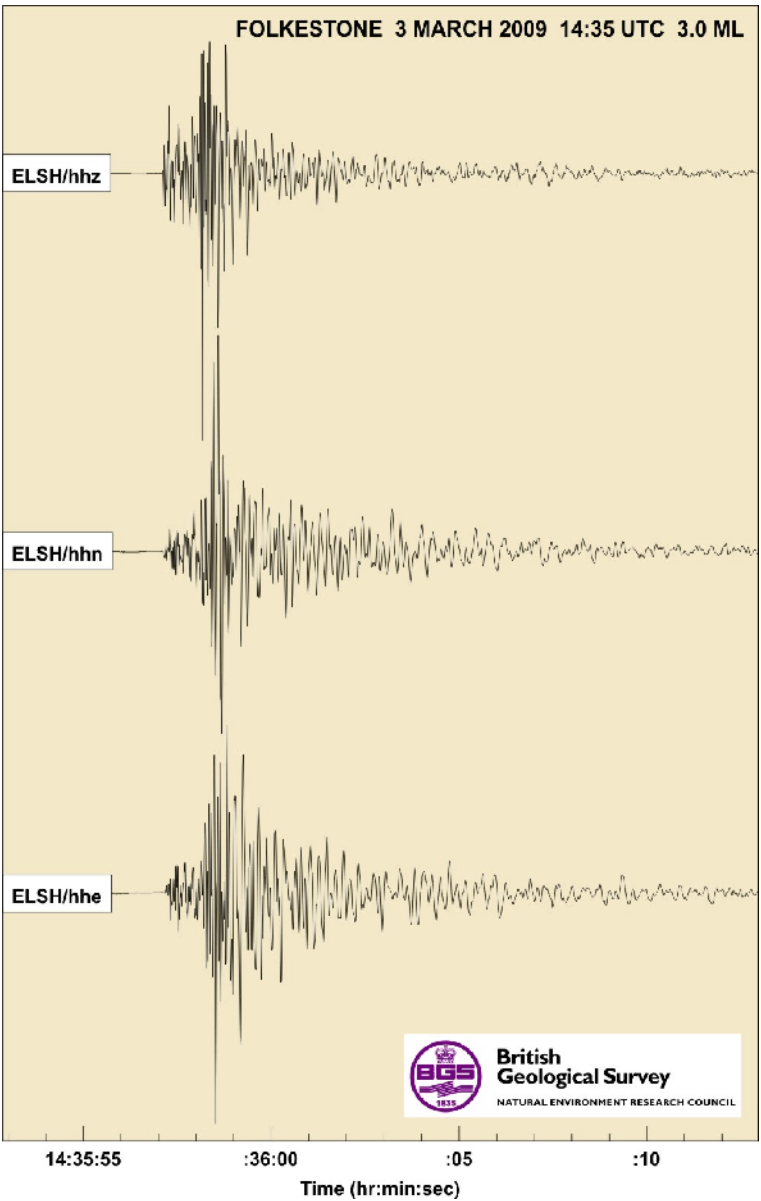
DATE: 3 March 2009
ORIGIN TIME: 14:35 57.3s UTC
LAT/LON: 51.122° North / 1.163° East
GRID REF: 621.32 kmE / 140.67 kmN
DEPTH: 5.0 km
MAGNITUDE: 3.0 ML
LOCALITY: Folkestone
INTENSITY: 4 EMS

The British Geological Survey recorded an earthquake with a magnitude of 3.0 ML directly under Folkestone at 14:35 on 3 March 2009. The earthquake was felt by many residents of Folkestone and the surrounding area. Reports described the earthquake as being "quick but very scary and noisy", "like an explosion" and with "quite strong rumbling". Some people described the event as being like "a large lorry driven by" or that it "felt like a pneumatic drill on the floor". Others reported that "crocery shook and rattled noticeably" and "the whole room rumbled and the desk shuddered". Most people reported the strength of the shaking as weak to moderate with the sound being soft.

There are around three earthquakes of this size in mainland Britain every year. Today's earthquake was around 200 times smaller than the magnitude 4.3 ML earthquake that struck Folkestone on 28 April 2007, causing some damage. "This was a small earthquake, even by British standards and we would not expect it to cause any damage" said Dr Brian Baptie from the British Geological Survey.

Significant earthquakes also struck the Dover Straits in 1776 and 1580; the latter had an approximate magnitude of 5.7 ML and reportedly caused damage in London.

Issued 3 March 2009



Seismograms recorded on the ELSH Broadband Seismometer

Historical and instrumental seismicity (all magnitudes) Folkestone since 1382

