

February 27 Market Rasen, UK, Earthquake

A moderate earthquake struck south-east England (53.321°N, 0.314°W) just before 1 AM local time. The epicenter was approximately 4 km north of Market Rasen. The earthquake was felt across England and Wales, with the most distant reports coming from Aberdeen, Truro, and Ireland. The British Geological Survey (BGS) received reports of damage to chimneys and masonry over a widespread area. The magnitude was estimated (by the BGS) at 5.2 ML (Mw 4.7) making it the largest earthquake in the UK since a magnitude 5.4 ML event struck North Wales in 1984. Earthquakes of this size occur in the UK roughly every 30 years.

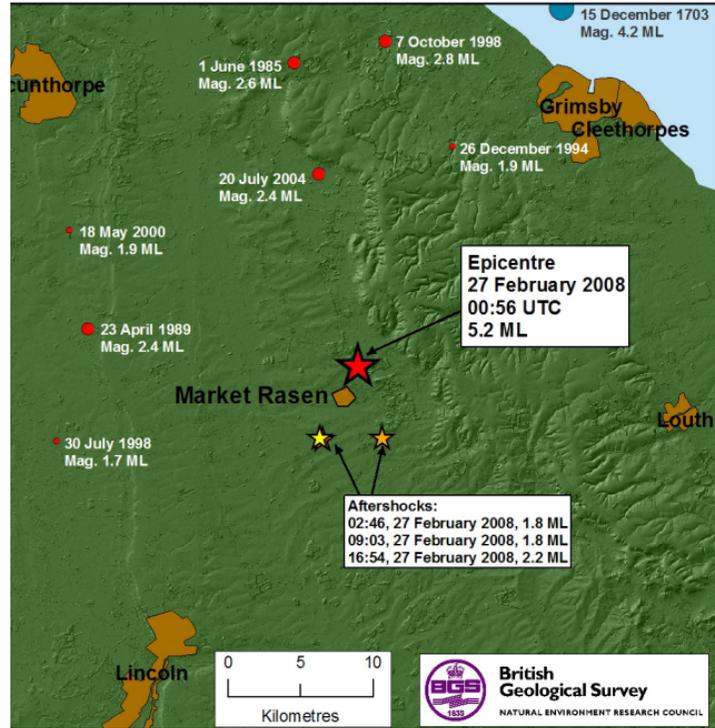
The earthquake was caused by the release of stress on a fault some 20 km below the surface. The earth's

crust under the UK has many such faults. Geologists have mapped many of them, but in this case there was no indication of a fault at the surface. These faults act as zones of weakness where stress can accumulate over very long periods of time as a result of tectonic and other processes that affect the British Isles.

Damage occurred to buildings in the Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire areas. There was one injury to a 19-year-old student, who suffered a broken pelvis when he was pinned under masonry in his attic bedroom in Wombwell, South Yorks. His father said: "There was a rumble and then we heard a bang and my son

screaming "Dad."

For more information, visit <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7266136.stm>.



Epicenter of the Market Rasen earthquake.