



Down to Earth^{Extra}

Issue 155 November 2025

NEWS FLASH...

2026 Trips...

- New trip - Minehead & North Somerset
- Make your bookings for 2026 trips NOW!

Autumn & Winter Zoom sessions BOOK NOW!

- The Wednesday Club
- Sedimentary rocks course
- Simply minerals!
- Simply rocks!
- Time Travellers Coastal

What are you waiting for?

Looking along the coast, eastwards from Ilfracombe, towards Combe Martin. Alternating steeply dipping sandstones and slates give rise to a coast with small headlands and bays. The Devonian strata have been folded and faulted during the Variscan Orogeny.

(Image: Chris Darmon)

From the Editorial team...

Over the years we've given a lot of coverage to the Geoparks of the UK. Currently there are 10 UNESCO Global Geoparks across the four nations that make up the United Kingdom with an additional couple that are still geoparks but are outside the network. At the present time there are at least two areas, Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire and the chalk downs of Kent that are aspiring geoparks.

One of the key elements of a geopark is the communication of a geological and landscape narrative. Even across our geoparks that basic plank of knowledge is communicated in very different ways. Some geoparks make use of geological maps and a traditional stratigraphic column whilst others do it more as a story board with particular events given as stories or chapters. Whilst it's good to strip out some of the geological terms and some of the jargon that might seem to be obstacles to the enjoyment of the general public, there's still a need to for a basic geological map of the area. Sadly not all of our geoparks seem to have such a map.

That said, there are ways of communication that are out there that speak loud and clear to the general public. On a recent visit to the Devon Riviera Geopark we saw some excellent examples of outdoor display boards (most of which had not been heavily vandalised). These were couched in everyday language that were deliberately designed to grab your attention. They were very effective and seemed to be well read by the many visitors to the area.

As part of our recent trip we went on a guided tour of Kent's Cavern in Torquay, which is one of the highlights of any visit to the Geopark. Our guide was a local man called Alan, who the receptionist referred to as 'legendary Alan'. He gave us an excellent commentary about the cave and its history. Whilst some of his geological story was a bit awry his, handling of a couple of very bright young children was amazing. He had them in the palm of his hand and they will remember that visit for a long time. Surely this is the real essence of a geopark!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
The Down to Earth Editorial Team

Get a complete look at our trips for 2026 and the chance to book your place(s) now! See pages 7-11 for details.



news update

Celebrating James Hutton at Siccar Point - a crowdfunding opportunity for us all...

Down to Earth is proud to support efforts to improve the experience for visitors to the iconic Siccar Point in Scotland, as a way to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of James Hutton in 1726.

Angus Miller tells us more...

James Hutton is recognised as the “father of geology”, but his contributions to science and agriculture are not so well-known by the wider public. 2026 marks the 300th anniversary of his birth, and we are taking the opportunity to celebrate his work and highlight his achievements, with a particular focus on Siccar Point, the famous unconformity he discovered in 1788.

Who was James Hutton?

James Hutton (1726-1797) was a star of the Scottish Enlightenment and a world-class polymath, with a doctorate in medicine; a farmer who introduced tremendous agricultural improvements at a time when food was scarce in Scotland; the first to make regular measurements of temperature variations with altitude; a successful businessman with a factory in Edinburgh making sal ammoniac (used in dyes) from soot; and the writer of the two volumes of his “Theory of the Earth”.

How will we celebrate his life and work?

Hutton sought the proof for his theory of the Earth in the Scottish Borders. He mapped out the tightly folded Lower Palaeozoic rocks



Hutton's Unconformity at Siccar Point
(Image: Angus Miller / Edinburgh Geological Society)

and the much less deformed overlying Old Red Sandstone, and predicted an unconformity between the two different successions. He found this unconformity at Siccar Point, demonstrating the concept of “Deep Time” and the processes of the Earth.

Many geologists consider Siccar Point to be the most important historical geological site in the world (Figure 1). Indeed, it is the first

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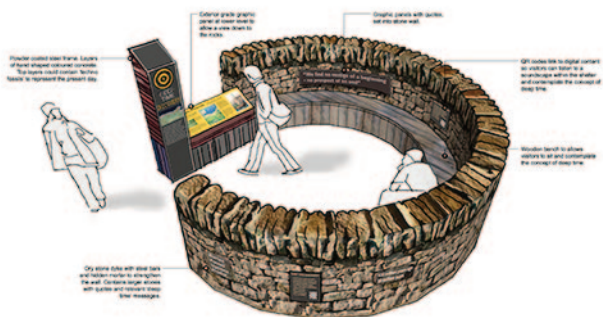
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site in the UNESCO-supported book of the 100 International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Geological Heritage Sites (IUGS, 2022).

If you have visited, perhaps you recall your first impressions of this remarkable site? It is a truly inspirational place. But not easy to get to, the route is not clear, there may have been a bull in the field. For non-geologists, does it give that sense of Deep Time and the international importance of this place?

Can we improve access? Improve information? And make it more engaging to the public? We think we can, without damaging the location physically or spiritually. There is broad support for improving access and the Edinburgh Geological Society have commissioned CMC Associates to develop a “Deep Time Trail” to Siccar Point, with new interpretation, a clearer route and a gathering structure at the viewpoint overlooking the Point. At the same time, we have asked geotechnical experts and landscape architects to consider how to develop safe access down the slope to the foreshore. We will need funds to explore options so that we can present formal plans to authorities.



Outline proposal for the new viewpoint structure
(Image: CMC Associates / Edinburgh Geological Society)

The Deep Time Trail Crowdfunder

The Scottish Geology Trust, Edinburgh Geological Society and the James Hutton Institute are launching a Crowdfunder on 15 September 2025 to raise funds to develop the new Deep Time Trail at Siccar Point. Donations will be rewarded with high-quality facsimile copies of John Clerk of Eldin’s “Lost Drawings” from Hutton’s Theory of the Earth, donated by the family of John Clerk. Other unique gifts including a “Hutton Hat” – hand-knitted showing Hutton’s three most significant outcrops.

You can find out more about the crowd-funder and how to donate, together with plans for Siccar Point and other tercentenary activities at <https://james-hutton.org/>.

Kilauea volcano has now stopped erupting - for the time being at least...

This comes from USGS Sunday, October 26:

Activity Summary:

Episode 35 of the ongoing Halema‘uma‘u eruption ended on October 18 after 7.5 hours of continuous lava fountaining. Both vents continue to exhibit incandescence. Kīlauea summit inflation continues along with seismic tremor and vent glow indicating that another lava fountaining episode is probable. Models suggest a likely forecast



A recent eruption of Mount Kilauea in. Hawaii.
(Image: USGS)

window of November 5–11 for episode 36 with November 6-9 most probable.

The north and south vents roughly alternated periods of moderate to bright glow overnight with flames frequently observed from the north vent during bright glow. Secondary lava flow movement after episode 35 is not apparent.

The summit continues to inflate. The Uēkahuna tiltmeter (UWD) has recorded just under 1.1 microradians of inflationary tilt over the past 24 hours and just over 15.5 microradians of inflationary tilt since the end of episode 35. Tremor patterns continue with defined peaks spaced 5-10 minutes apart that correlate well with the alternating periods of glow from both vents. This pattern indicates that strong gas pistoning is occurring within the vents and the alternating patterns indicate the vents are probably coupled.

Plumes of gas continue from both vents this morning and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) gas emissions remain at background levels, typically between 1,200 and 1,500 tonnes per day.

Episode 35 lava fountains began at approximately 8:05 p.m. HST on October 17 and ended at 3:32 a.m. HST on October 18. South vent fountains reached heights of nearly 1,500 feet (460 meters) and north vent fountains reached heights of about 1,100 feet (330 meters). These were the highest single fountain and highest pair of fountains seen during this eruption so far. Episode 35 fountains produced an estimated 13 million cubic yards (10 million cubic meters) of lava. The combined average eruption rate was over 500 cubic yards per second (400 cubic meters per second) from the dual fountains. Lava flows from the fountains covered about two thirds of the floor of Halema‘uma‘u crater.

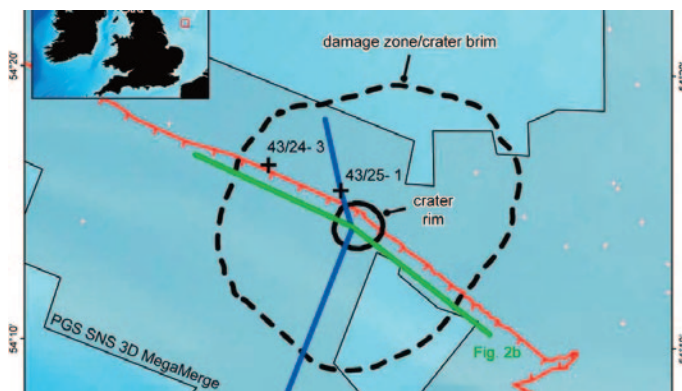
New research proves that there was a major asteroid impact in. the North Sea, over 43 million years ago...

For around a decade there has been an ongoing scientific debate about the origin of what has been termed the ‘Silverpit Crater’ in the southern North Sea. Now a team led by Dr Uisdean Nicholson from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has solved the riddle. They used seismic imaging, microscopic analysis of rock cuttings and numerical models to provide the strongest evidence yet that Silverpit is one of Earth’s rare impact craters. Their findings are published in *Nature Communications*.

This comes from the University’s website:

The Silverpit Crater sits 700 metres below the seabed in the North Sea, around 80 miles off the coast of Yorkshire.

Since its discovery in 2002, the three-kilometre-wide crater, which is surrounded by a 20 km-wide zone of circular faults, has been at the centre of a heated debate among geologists.

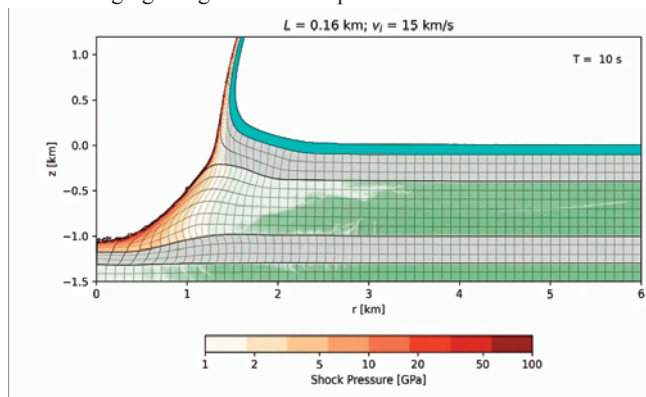


The location of the Silverpit crater in the North Sea, showing the extent of the crater rim and the damage zone.
(Image: Heriot Watt University)

Initial studies suggested it was an impact crater. The scientists who found it pointed to its central peak, circular shape and concentric faults, characteristics often associated with hypervelocity impacts. However, alternative theories argued that the crater structure was caused by salt moving deep below the crater floor or the collapse of the seabed because of volcanic activity.

In 2009, geologists put the crater's formation to a vote, as reported in that year's December issue of *Geoscientist* magazine - a majority voted against the impact crater hypothesis. New evidence has proved them wrong.

The Heriot-Watt-led team used newly available seismic imaging data and evidence from below the seabed to prove the impact theory. Dr Uisdean Nicholson, a sedimentologist in Heriot-Watt University's School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society, said: "New seismic imaging has given us an unprecedented look at the crater.



The impact would have produced a tsunami 100 metres high.
(Image: Heriot Watt University)

"Samples from an oil well in the area also revealed rare 'shocked' quartz and feldspar crystals at the same depth as the crater floor. We were exceptionally lucky to find these - a real 'needle-in-a-haystack' effort. These prove the impact crater hypothesis beyond doubt, because they have a fabric that can only be created by extreme shock pressures."

Dr Nicholson said: "Our evidence shows that a 160-metre-wide asteroid hit the seabed at a low angle from the west. Within minutes,

it created a 1.5-kilometre high curtain of rock and water that then collapsed into the sea, creating a tsunami over 100 metres high."

Professor Gareth Collins from Imperial College London was at the Silverpit Crater debate in 2009 and also provided the numerical models for the new study.

Professor Collins said: "I always thought that the impact hypothesis was the simplest explanation and most consistent with the observations. It is very rewarding to have finally found the silver bullet. We can now get on with the exciting job of using the amazing new data to learn more about how impacts shape planets below the surface, which is really hard to do on other planets."

Dr Nicholson said, "Silverpit is a rare and exceptionally preserved hypervelocity impact crater. These are rare because the Earth is such a dynamic planet - plate tectonics and erosion destroy almost all traces of most of these events. Around 200 confirmed impact craters exist on land, and only about 33 have been identified beneath the ocean. We can use these findings to understand how asteroid impacts shaped our planet throughout history, as well as predict what could happen should we have an asteroid collision in future."

The confirmation of Silverpit as an impact crater places it alongside structures such as the Chicxulub Crater in Mexico - linked to the mass extinction of the dinosaurs - and the Nadir Crater off West Africa, which was recently confirmed as an impact site.

The research was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), full project details are available online.

More information can be found on the Heriot Watt University's website.

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A new dinosaur 'mega highway' is revealed in an Oxfordshire quarry...

Back in 2024 a dinosaur trackway, the longest found anywhere in the UK was unearthed in an Oxfordshire Jurassic quarry. It was featured by the BBC at the time. Eagle eyed viewers spotted this when the same quarry made it onto the national news in recent days, some even thought it was recycled news. It wasn't, this was a new even larger find in the same quarry!

Scientists from the Universities of Oxford and Birmingham returned for a second season of work in the summer of 2025 and have been rewarded with the discovery of hundreds of dinosaur footprints that have been labelled as a huge 'dinosaur highway' the longest in the world to date.



A reconstruction of Megalosaurus and Cetiosaurus walking across what is now a quarry floor leaving behind distinct trackways for us to unearth. (Illustrated by: Mark Witton)

The dig, carried out at Dewars Farm Quarry in Oxfordshire, uncovered five extensive trackways with evidence of more in the surrounding area. BBC TV viewers were treated to the sight and sound of a quarry blast that was reputedly used to uncover the tracks!

The longest continuous trackway measured more than 150 metres in length. Four of the trackways were made by gigantic, long-necked, herbivorous dinosaurs called sauropods, most likely to be *Cetiosaurus*, an up to 18-metre-long cousin of the well-known *Diplodocus*. The fifth trackway was made by the carnivorous theropod dinosaur, *Megalosaurus* which had distinctive, large, three-toed feet with claws. One area of the site shows the carnivore and herbivore tracks crossing over, raising questions about whether and how the two were interacting.



The full extent of the dinosaur trackway is revealed in all its splendour in this image.

(Image: Richard Butler / University of Birmingham)

Following the success of the excavation last summer, which featured on BBC Two's *Digging For Britain*, a new area of Dewars Farm quarry near Bicester has been uncovered. Teams from the Universities of Oxford, Birmingham and Liverpool John Moores joined forces for a week-long dig in the hot, dry summer of 2025. Hundreds more individual prints from four trackways were identified and documented, including Europe's longest sauropod dinosaur trackway at some 220 metres from the first to the last exposed footprint.

The four new trackways found at the 2025 Dewars Farm site were each made by sauropod dinosaurs, large-bodied long-necked herbivores like *Cetiosaurus*, that made their way along an exposed mudflat on the edge of a lagoon some 166 million years ago – during the Middle Jurassic Period.

More of the footprint surface is likely to be exposed over the coming years, and a full description of the significance, new scientific discoveries and potential for future preservation of the site is expected soon.

The excavation was funded by the Geologists' Association, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Birmingham, and the University of Birmingham Alumni Fund. The excavation was made possible through the continued collaboration with the quarry operators Smiths Bletchington, Dewars Farm and Duns Tew Quarry, its manager and staff.



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Extra November 2025

Great geo-adventures in 2026 begin here...



Portreath lies on Cornwall's north coast, just a couple of miles from Redruth. It's home to some fine cliffs and fabulous rocks and structures.
(Image: Chris Darmon)

We've added one final trip to our 2026 programme, so good have been the bookings! It's a 5-night trip to North Somerset's Jurassic Coast - get in NOW for a single room!

Several 2026 trips are either full or nearly so. We cannot accept any more bookings for Shetland and the Northwest Highlands and Iceland is now operating a waiting list.

Remember that there are plenty of single rooms on our Summer School to Shropshire.

To view a brochure, go to our website at:
www.geosupplies.co.uk or Tel: 0114 245 5746
Remember that booking forms are only available direct from us:
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Residential Field trip programme 2026...

2026

- The Jurassic Coast of Dorset, March 27-April 1
- Northwest Highlands of Scotland, April 14-22 FULL
- Central Cornwall, May 1-8
- Teesdale & Northern Pennines, May 16-23
- Minehead & North Somerset, June 7-12
- Shetland, The Northern Isles, June 17-25 FULL
- Anglesey, July 5-10
- Summer School, Shropshire, August 8-15
- Iceland, North & East Fjords, September 13-22
- Melrose, the Scottish Borders, October 18-24

Early booking is advised, especially if you are looking for a single room.

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If you haven't joined one of our residential field trips before, what can you expect?

- *Our residential field trips are suitable for adults of all levels of interest and geological knowledge.*
- *Our trips are friendly and informal and usually comprise 15-20 people. Overseas trips are usually larger.*
- *We usually make use of comfortable small hotels and guest houses and all meals are included.*
- *You have the services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as field leaders. Both are highly experienced and knowledgeable field geologists.*
- *For some trips we have a hired minibus but on other trips we will use shared cars, or even public transport.*
- *Dates shown in this listing are the start and finish dates.*
- *Where prices are quoted, they are per person in a shared twin/double room.*

If you still have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to email us at: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or tel: 0114 245 5746

Before you book on one of our trips...

We are always pleased to welcome new people along on our trips. So if you are thinking about it, what do you need to know before you 'take the plunge'?

Who are the trips aimed at?

The short answer is that they are not aimed at any particular group of people. Our participants are mainly older retired people who want to keep their minds and bodies active, but younger people are welcome.

Some people have lots of geological field experience whilst others are complete beginners. As one person put it to us "I've forgotten all I once knew and need to come along to hear it again." Our UK trips are all small groups of 15 to 20 people maximum so we can make lots of what we say personal to you.

In recent years we've run several special trips for American geologists and now some of them join us on our regular trips, adding greatly to the character of our field experiences.

Will I be able to manage the walking?

We always try to keep walking to a minimum, but, almost by definition, some walking will be involved. If you can't manage a particular walk, just tell us and it will never be a problem for you not to do it. We have one person who really enjoys sketching - she's done some amazing sketches while the rest of us visit a quarry!

How do we get about on trips?

It varies a lot from trip to trip. Sometimes we hire a minibus, on other occasions we use public transport and at other times we'll make use of shared cars. Look at the details for each trip to find out.

What about accommodation?

We always try to use hotels or guest houses that have ensuite rooms as

standard. Most of our accommodation will provide breakfast and evening meals, but sometimes we eat in local restaurants. We include the cost of all food, including a packed lunch for each field day.

We prefer to use small family run hotels and guest houses but they are getting harder to find, so sometimes we use larger hotels such as Premier Inns and hotels in the Leisureplex group. Once again, see the individual trip brochures for details.

Are your bookings safe with us?

Yes indeed they are! We've been in the business of running trips a long time and ensure that all the money you pay us is safe in a client trust account until your trip is completed.

The 2026 programme...

We are delighted with how well our programme of field trips for 2026 has been received. That said, we still have vacancies on most trips especially for couples or people willing to share a twin room.

If you haven't been with us before, you are particularly welcome, but please don't leave it too long before making your booking. Over the past year we've lost count of the number of people who have left it too late and we have had to decline their booking.

The Jurassic Coast of Dorset, March 27-April 1 £995

Believe it or not, we have not visited the famous Jurassic Coast of Dorset since 2017, so it's high time that we put that right! As on the last occasion, we're basing our trip at the seaside town of Weymouth which is well connected in terms of public transport and also has suitable accommodation for us to use. We're going early in the season so that we can offer you a good value trip, but with the recent pattern of mild winters, we hope that by the end of March it will be reasonably warm.



The magnificent Durdle Door (Image: Visit Dorset)

As for the magnificent geology what can we say? We hope to take in some of the area's 'gems' including Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Swanage. It would also be good to call in on Mary Anning's favourite stomping ground of Lyme Regis. We also hope to take in the amazing fossil collection on show at Dorchester Museum.

Get in soon to secure your places on this early 2026 trip!

Welcome to our exciting world!



The Northwest Highlands of Scotland, April 14-22 £1695

Ask Colin and Chris what their favourite trip is and they will answer “the Northwest Highlands”. It combines their favourite hotel with their favourite geology and landscape! Accordingly we are once again offering this 8-night gem even though we were last there in 2024. On this trip we pay homage to Britain’s oldest rocks in the form of the 3 billion year old Lewisian Gneisses, along with the overlying Torridonian Sandstones and the Cambro-Ordovician sediments. These all came together as a result of the Caledonian Orogeny some 420 million years ago.

In much more recent times, the Ice Ages of the last 2 million years have given us the most beautiful and unspoilt landscape that we can enjoy today.

This trip is now fully booked, ask us about cancellations.

Central Cornwall, May 1-8 £1595

We discovered Tricky’s at the Tolgus Inn in Redruth in time to take two groups of Americans during 2025. Now we are offering the location to our regular clients! Redruth is centrally located on the main railway line from London Paddington and allows us to reach most of the main parts of Cornwall without long journeys.



Old mines and magnificent coasts.
(Image: Into Cornwall)

During this week we’ll be taking in the granites of Lands End, the ophiolites of the Lizard, the china clays of St Austell and the amazing folded rocks of North Cornwall around Tintagel and Boscastle. We’ll also go down a tin mine and visit Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum. We’ll have the use of a locally hired minibus or coach to get around on this trip, making it possible for everyone.

We still have some double and twin rooms available!

Teesdale and the North Pennines, May 16-23 £1395

We’ve been looking to visit this area for some time and have never quite got around to it until now! Finding the wonderful family run Teesdale Hotel was the final piece in the jigsaw and hey presto - here we have a new location! We’ll be taking in the wonderful Upper Teesdale with its Lower Palaeozoic inlier along with High Force, Lowe Force and Cauldron Snout. There’s great limestone scenery as well as the Great Whin Sill. Over in Weardale we’ll take in the lead mines around St John’s Chapel and Killhope as well as the Frosterley Marble and the fossil tree at Stanhope.

This trip is now fully booked, ask us about cancellations.

NEW! Minehead & North Somerset, June 7-12 £995



The fabulous coastal cliffs at Watchet in North Somerset.
(Image: Chris Darmon)

Everyone knows about Dorset’s ‘Jurassic Coast’, but similar fossiliferous rocks also outcrop to the east of the seaside resort of Minehead, around Watchet & Blue Anchor on Somerset’s North Coast. During this 5-night trip we’ll be taking in these rocks, as well as fabulous coastal scenery to the west around Ilfracombe and the Valley of Rocks at Lynton which are carved in Devonian strata. We will also take in some great Carboniferous limestone strata around Weston-super-Mare and Portishead that also includes rare basalt.

Private minibus transport will be provided each day allowing everyone to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Exmoor National Park. We stay at a 4-star guest house in Minehead and enjoy excellent food in local restaurants for our evening meals. All this with the added bonus of a ride on the Lynton cliff railway! ***We expect this trip to fill up fast, so get your bookings in NOW!***
At this time we have plenty of vacancies.

Shetland - the North Isles, June 17-25 £1895

Everyone should visit the Shetland Isles at least once in their lives, so says Chris, who’s been there around a dozen times over the past 40 years. The best time to visit Shetland is around mid-Summer when it never really gets dark.

We invite you to join us as we take in the North of Mainland and the Northern Isles of Unst, Fetlar and Yell, home to some of the most amazing geology in the entire UK. Visit the Moho in a small quarry in Unst and get yourself a sample of serpentinite to rival any from Cornwall. Why not begin our Shetland adventure with an overnight boat trip from Aberdeen?

This trip is now fully booked, ask us about cancellations.

Anglesey, July 5-10 £995

We love going to Ynys Mon, or as the English know it, Anglesey. As a long established geopark it’s geology is superb and also unique as the main location to see rocks of the Mona Complex. Based at the former copper port of Amlwch in the north of the island we will explore some of the best sites on the island, many of which are close to our base.



The Dinorben Arms Hotel, our base on Anglesey

Come with us to see some very rare rocks and also experience some fine coastal scenery. On this trip you get to see sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks of many types!

We have double and twin rooms available for this trip.

What is our Summer School?

Our Summer School is modelled on those that used to be run by the Open University a number of years ago. All are based on a campus of one sort or another where we can sleep in largely single, en-suite study bedrooms and enjoy on site meals. They are also more than just field trips with dedicated transport each day. There's an evening programme of talks from local experts and also social events. In short - something for everybody, including those with limited mobility!

Summer School at Harper Adams University in Shropshire August 8-15 £1495

For our ever popular Summer School week, we are returning to the campus of Harper Adams Agricultural University which sits in lovely grounds in Shropshire. We last visited in 2018 and have a packed itinerary planned including some new localities.

Shropshire is home to a wealth of geology spanning many time periods and covering many types of rocks and landscape. We'll be taking in the Precambrian rocks of the Church Stretton area, the Lower Palaeozoic sediments of Wenlock Edge and the Lickey Hills as well as later rocks in Cheshire and the Black Country.



Highly fossiliferous Silurian limestones at the Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve in Dudley.

(Image: Visit Birmingham)

Yes, there's something for everyone and that's before we add in the evening talks and activities as well as the excellent company.

We have plenty of single rooms available on this trip!

Iceland - the North & East Fjords, September 13-22 £2595

These days a lot of people go to Iceland, but they very rarely visit the north and east of country. In this trip with our usual guide and driver Ingi, we'll begin at Keflavik near the airport and then travel to Akureyri before working our way clockwise to Myvatn to the volcano Krafla before heading to the beautiful east Fjords.

We'll stop in the amazing geo-village of Borgarfjarðar Eystri to see Iceland's most colourful rhyolitic rocks. The last time we were here we did see the Northern Lights in all their glory! Iceland is an amazing place but these days much of it is over visited by tourists. This cannot be said for some of the places that we will be visiting on this trip. This is the real Iceland, where natural wonders and beauty are able to shine without the smell of hamburgers! To complete our trip we travel back from Hofn to Keflavik completing our circuit of Iceland. There's an option of an additional night at the end to have a day looking at the most recent volcanic activity on the Reykjanes peninsula and viewing the recent - and still hot - lavas.

Fully booked, but you can join our waiting list!

Melrose in the Scottish Borders, October 18-24 £995

We end the year with a good value 6-night trip to a new area of the Scottish Borders. Melrose is in the heart of an excellent area of fine geology, with sediments from the Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian along with a fine array of igneous rocks, both extrusions and intrusions that mainly date from the Carboniferous.

During this trip we'll be taking in the famous localities of Dob's Linn near Moffat where Charles Lapworth established the Ordovician and Silurian boundary and also James Hutton's famous unconformity at Jedburgh. We'll also have a day in Edinburgh exploring some of the famous sites in Holyrood Park.



The Waverley Castle Hotel on the outskirts of Melrose is our base for this 5-night trip.

Our base for the trip is the comfortable Waverley Castle Hotel which sits in beautiful grounds on the outskirts of the small town.

Unusually, we have been offered a number of single rooms, at a very modest supplement - but get in quickly to secure your place!

Bookings have been coming in for this trip.

To make a booking email us at:

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

Booking forms are only available from us.

Welcome to our Zoom world!



This Autumn & Winter why not join in one (or more) of our friendly online learning sessions? There's bound to be something that suits you...

Yes, we've been hosting live online Zoom sessions since 2020 and since then hundreds of people, from the UK and abroad have joined our online community. All of our live sessions run at 2pm or 7pm and you choose when to attend. The prices quoted here are for one person, but two people on the same computer always make big savings.

It's easy to register, just go our website www.geosupplies.co.uk and enter our shop. Then choose 'educational courses' followed by 'virtual talks' and make your choices!
Alternatively ring us on 0114 245 5746 to pay by card - we're here to help you!

Autumn events

One very wet, windy, dry and cold day... Sedimentary Rocks and Processes

A 10-week course (it continues in the New Year), Mondays commencing November 10th. Price from £80.00

Simply Minerals!

A 6-week course designed to introduce you to the world of minerals with an emphasis on the practical study of specimens. Tuesdays from November 11th. Price from £65.00 includes a basic set of specimens.

The Wednesday Club

Join us as we meet to enjoy an eclectic mix of very different subjects on a Wednesday, commencing November 12th. either in the afternoon or evening - it's your choice!

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| November 5 | Terror birds - are they the new dinosaurs? |
| November 12 | Plate tectonics - is it time for a rethink? |
| November 19 | A new look at the geology of the Southwest of England |
| November 26 | The evolution of the North Atlantic - new ideas |
| December 3 | Beyond conventional metamorphism |
| December 10 | Rare earth elements - where and what are they? |
| December 17 | Castle Bank - a new Welsh Lagerstätte |

Take all 7 talks for £60.00 or book them individually for £11.00 each.

Winter events

The geology of the British Isles in around 100-minutes!

Zoom into 2026 with a mammoth 100-minute session that will cover our entire geological journey! You can board our time machine at 2pm or 7pm on January 7th. This special Zoom session is expected to book up quickly. Price from £15.00

Simply Rocks!

A 6-week course designed to introduce you to the world of rocks with an emphasis on the practical study of specimens. Tuesdays from February 3rd. Price from £65.00 includes a basic set of specimens.

Time Travellers Coastal British Isles

An 8-week course taking in some of the finest coastal geology of the British Isles with examples from all four home nations. Thursdays from January 22nd. Price from £65.00.

The Wednesday Club

Begin the new year with eight more exciting Wednesday Club sessions! See the next page for the latest titles! Wednesdays from January 21st. Price from £65.00 or book them individually for £11.00 each.

Learning with us is FUN...

We've been offering online and distance learning since before Covid and over that time hundreds of people have taken part in our learning programmes from the UK and around the world. All our learning programmes are created and delivered by our in-house team of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield. Both are experienced teachers of distance learning over many years. No one is required to carry out any sort of assessment and there's no entry requirements or formalities. Just sign up and go!

There's still time to join an Autumn class, but hurry! See below for details of these and the new courses commencing in early 2026.

What's on offer this Autumn and Winter?

One very wet, windy, dry cold day... Sedimentary Rocks and Processes - a 10-week course beginning in November.
We've not offered this as a fully tutored course since 2020 so we guess that there will be a number of you looking forward to this examination of all things sedimentary!

Course dates: Starts Monday November 10 - December 8 and then restarts January 19 for a further 5 weeks.

Cost: Ten hour-long Zoom sessions with electronic background papers £80.00 for one person or £100.00 for 2-people studying together. Printed background papers cost an additional £25.00. Zoom sessions on Mondays at 2.00 and 7.00 pm (you choose)

Simply Minerals! - a course aimed at people wanting to know the basics of minerals. What are they and how are they formed?
This 6-week course is supported by a set of basic minerals, the cost of which is included in the course fee. You will be shown how to study minerals for yourself in a practical way.

*Course dates: Starts Tuesday November 11 - December 16,
Cost: Six hour-long Zoom sessions with electronic background papers and a set of basic minerals £65.00 for one person or £85.00 for 2-people studying together. Printed background papers cost an additional £15.00. Zoom sessions on Tuesdays at 2.00.*

The Wednesday Club

We started this eclectic mix of subjects on Wednesday afternoons and evenings last year and they've proved to be highly successful. We hope that you like this new selection - they are all designed to bring you up to speed on some of the very latest ideas.

November 5	Terror birds - are they the new dinosaurs?
November 12	Plate tectonics - is it time for a rethink?
November 19	A new look at the geology of the Southwest
November 26	The evolution of the North Atlantic - new ideas
December 3	Beyond conventional metamorphism
December 10	Rare earth elements where and what are they?
December 17	Castle Bank - a new Welsh Lagerstätte

*Cost: Individual talks £11.00 or £16.00 for 2 people.
Take all 7 sessions for £60.00, or £90.00 for 2 people.
Timings: Wednesdays at 2.00 or 7.00pm - your choice.*

NEW!

The Geology of the British Isles in around 100 minutes!
A number of years ago Chris was invited to present a lecture with this title in the Darwin Centre at The Natural History in London. It was arranged by the late Dr Richard Fortey and was attended by quite a

large audience that included Chris's late parents Eric and Norah as well as a number of *Down to Earth* readers.

With the recent passing of Richard Fortey it seems apt to recreate that lecture for the Zoom platform. Hang on to your hats, get yourselves a large glass of wine and get ready for the 'ride of a lifetime' as we take you on a journey from the oldest rocks in Northwest Scotland to the last glaciation that ended a mere 10,500 years ago!

This extended live Zoom session includes some video material as well as up to date information on the British Isles' geological journey. Wednesday, January 7th at 2pm or 7pm (you choose) £15.00 or £22.00 for 2 people studying on the same computer.

NEW!

Simply Rocks! - a course aimed at people wanting to know about the basics of rocks, sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. What are they and how are they formed?

This 6-week course is supported by a set of basic rocks, the cost of which is included in the course fee. You will be shown how to study rocks for yourself in a practical way. By the end you should be able to describe and identify many different rocks.

*Course dates: Starts Tuesday February 3rd - March 10th
Cost: Six hour-long Zoom sessions with electronic background papers and a set of basic minerals £65.00 for one person or £85.00 for 2-people studying together. Printed background papers cost an additional £15.00. Zoom sessions on Tuesdays at 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm (you choose).*

Wednesday club in the New Year

More exciting topics for you to delve into with our informative Zoom sessions.

January 21	The geology of the North Sea
January 28	The ultramafic rocks
February 4	Rocks deep beneath the pavements of London
February 11	A new look at the geology of the Peak District
February 18	The North Wales slate industry
February 25	The geology of the Scottish island of Raasay
March 4	The China Clay industry of Cornwall
March 11	Fabulous plants of the Rhynie cherts

*Cost: Individual talks £11.00 or £16.00 for 2 people.
Take all 8 sessions for £65.00, or £95.00 for 2 people.
Timings: Wednesdays at 2.00 or 7.00pm - your choice.*

Time Travellers Coastal Britain

We first presented these topics back in 2021 so it's high time that we looked at them again. The UK's geology often presents itself at our rich coastline. We'll be taking in 8 great areas, including North Cornwall, Berwickshire & Northumberland, County Antrim, North Somerset, the Orkney Isles, Suffolk, Mull & Iona and Pembrokeshire.

*Course dates: Starts Monday January 22nd - March 12th
Cost: Ten hour-long Zoom sessions with electronic background papers £65.00 for one person or £85.00 for 2-people studying together. Printed background papers cost an additional £20.00. Zoom sessions on Thursdays at 2.00 and 7.00 pm (you choose)*

*To find out more or to enrol, email us at:
downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746*

*You can enrol via our online shop at: www.geosupplies.co.uk
or ring us on: 0114 245 5746*

Featured books for November 2025

In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of November 2025 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature a variety of different books. Please note, all prices include UK



New!
£32.00



New!
£32.00



New Ed!
£17.00



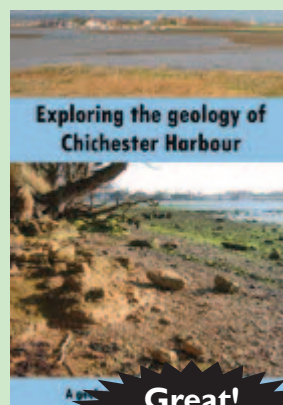
Great value!
£12.00



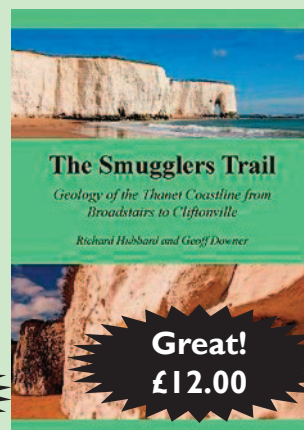
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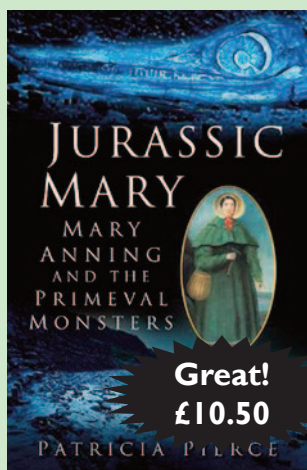
Great!
£10.95



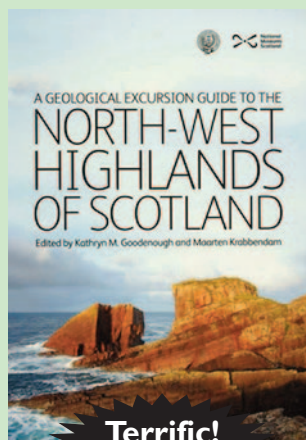
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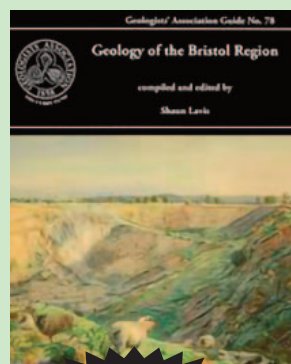
Great!
£12.00



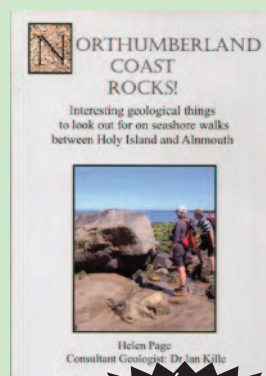
Great!
£10.50



Terrific!
£17.00



New!
£29.00



Brilliant!
£11.50

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