



# Down to Earth<sup>Extra</sup>

Issue 152 August 2025

## NEWS FLASH...

Final call for this year...

- Autumn trips to Cornwall and Devon

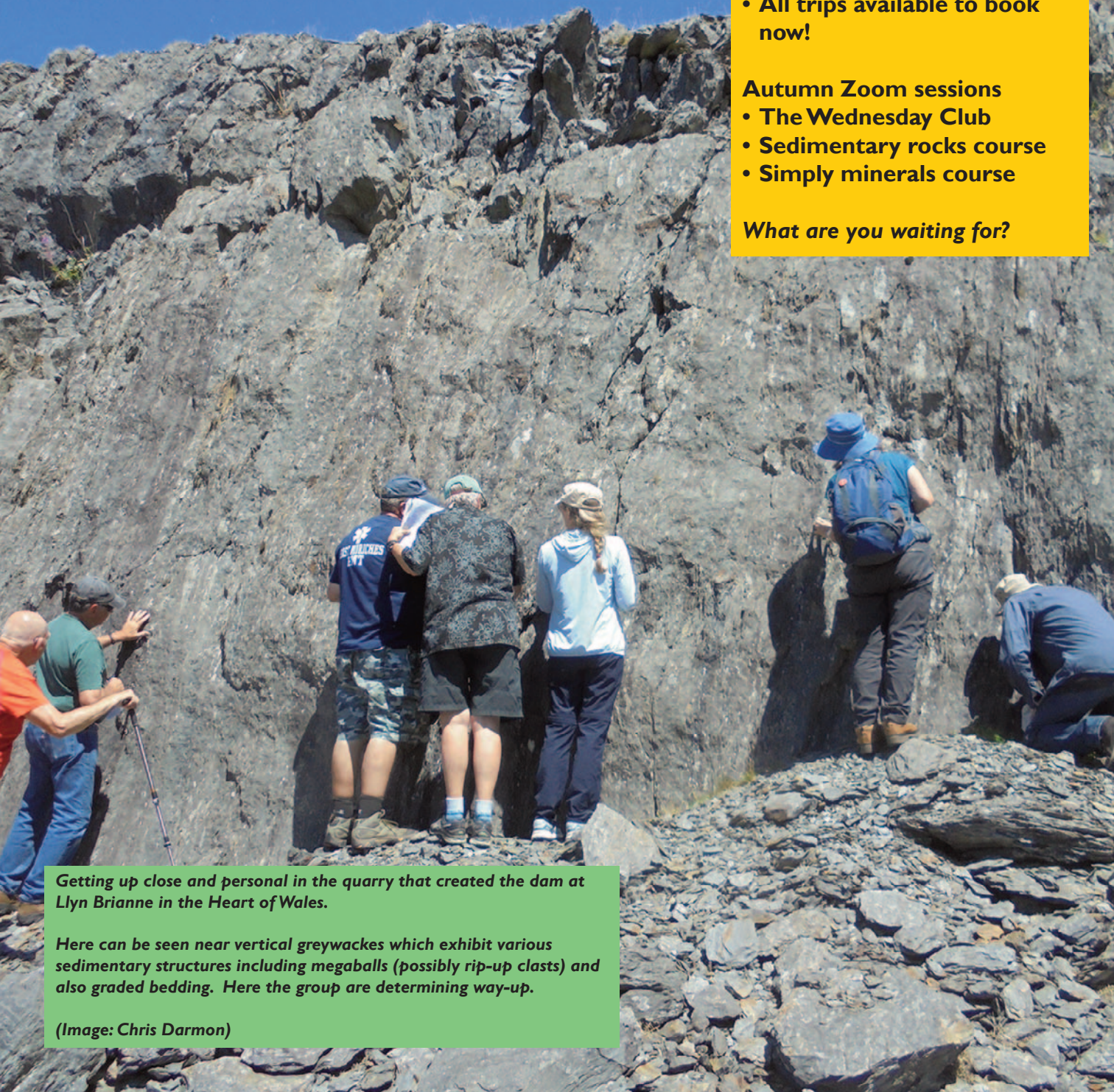
2026 Trips...

- All trips available to book now!

Autumn Zoom sessions

- The Wednesday Club
- Sedimentary rocks course
- Simply minerals course

*What are you waiting for?*



Getting up close and personal in the quarry that created the dam at Llyn Brianne in the Heart of Wales.

Here can be seen near vertical greywackes which exhibit various sedimentary structures including megaballs (possibly rip-up clasts) and also graded bedding. Here the group are determining way-up.

(Image: Chris Darmon)



## From the Editorial team...

Since we last penned an editorial we've been on a highly successful field trip to the Heart of Wales. Where is the 'heart of Wales' you ask? It's one of those hard to describe and hard to get to places that can also be described as 'secret Wales' or even forgotten Wales'. It's a tract of land that spreads westwards from the English borders around Ludlow or Leominster and extends through the beautiful scenery of Powys to the coast around Aberystwyth.

It's an area of varied geology, from the oldest rocks in England and Wales at Old Radnor, coming in at 701 Ma, through rocks of Ordovician and Silurian age, including both fossiliferous sediments and the amazingly varied igneous rocks of Builth and Llandrindod Wells. Just outside the area to the south lie the Devonian and Carboniferous rocks of Bannau Brycheiniog, better known to the English as the Brecon Beacons. This is both a geopark and a designated National Park. Up at Llandrindod Wells, enthusiastic local geologists are working on the creation of a Heart of Wales Geopark to celebrate their unique local geology including an amazing new lagerstätte at Castle Bank which is slowly yielding up its fossil treasures. There's even the minerals of the Central Wales orefield best seen at Cwmystwyth on the mountain road.

For such an under used and under valued area, you'd probably expect that there would be little by way of local services and to a certain extent you'd be right. We stayed in tiny Llanwrtyd Wells which boasts a couple of shops, a cash point, a petrol station, but also crucially an excellent hotel that really know how to look after a hungry party of geologists and a railway station. The latter may only have four trains a day in each direction, but it provides a vital link to the outside world. But what we liked most about the area was it's people. They want to help visitors like us and have a can do attitude which we really appreciated.

There are many things that more well known and more frequently visited areas could learn from. As for Wales - bring it on!

*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 8-12 for details.**



## news update

### Iceland issues rare 'do not travel' instruction as the latest volcanic unrest continues...

Iceland values its tourism very highly, so when the tourist board issues a 'do not travel alert' it obviously means business. On July 22nd it issued the following statement: "Conditions due to air pollution near Fagradalsfjall and the Sundhnúkar crater area are currently very dangerous. All emergency responders in the area are now required to wear masks."

The agency went on to say that as long as these conditions persist, trips to the eruption sites should not be organized under any circumstances. It is noted that it may be possible to view the area from Arnarsæturnáma, but travel closer to the eruption sites themselves is not considered safe.

The Tourist Board urged tourism operators to closely monitor air quality and gas pollution forecasts on the website of the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO).

The latest eruption began on July 16th and followed the now familiar pattern. The opening phase saw the development of a fissure with a fire curtain. At this stage, liquid lava was lifted into the air before spreading out over the surface of previous lavas. As of now (July 22nd) the initial fissure has become concentrated into a single vent and if it goes according to all previous eruptions, we can expect it to stop completely in the next few days. What's unique about this one is that noxious gases are more common and are affecting air quality in the capital Reykjavik.



*The latest eruption in the Grindavik area of Southwest Iceland is giving rise to a serious gas risk as earthquakes are felt in the capital (Image: mbl.is/Arni Sæberg)*

### *This comes from an IMO report on July 21st:*

"The eruption at the Sundhnúkur crater row has caused significant air pollution in recent days, both due to gas pollution (SO<sub>2</sub>) and volcanic

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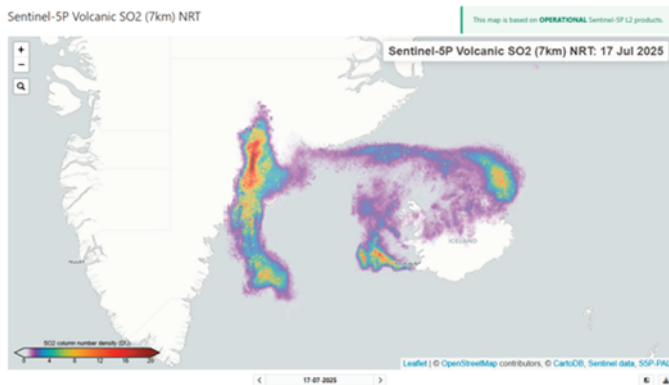
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haze (SO<sub>4</sub>). Volcanic haze has been detected widely, it forms when sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) reacts with moisture and oxygen in the atmosphere, creating fine sulfate particles that can travel long distances and linger over populated areas for extended periods. The air quality monitoring network operated by the Environment and Energy Agency shows concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter (PM1 and PM2.5).

Yesterday, most readings were in the green range, indicating low SO<sub>2</sub> levels despite the presence of haze. This is because the haze no longer registers as SO<sub>2</sub> but as fine particulate matter after transformation. Today, however, actual SO<sub>2</sub> pollution has been measured. The gas dispersion forecast from the Icelandic Meteorological Office only covers SO<sub>2</sub> and does not predict volcanic haze distribution. We therefore encourage the public to check both the forecast and the air quality measurements available on [loftgaedi.is](https://loftgaedi.is) and, above all, pay attention to symptoms that might result from prolonged exposure to polluted air.

Vulnerable individuals, such as children, pregnant women, people with asthma, COPD, cardiovascular disease, and those aged 60 and older, are particularly advised to avoid spending extended periods outdoors if they experience any discomfort. Guidance on how to protect oneself and loved ones from volcanic air pollution can be found on the website of the Directorate of Health. The Directorate also offers educational material explaining the health impacts of volcanic pollution and how best to respond.”



**Distribution of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) from the eruption at the Sundhnúkur crater row on 17th July 2025, according to data from the Copernicus Sentinel-5P Mapping Portal.**  
(Image: Courtesy of IMO)

As of July 22nd, the air quality in Reykjavik was said to be improving although experts warned against the idea that the crisis was over. Nearer to the eruption site however the situation continues to be a worry.

#### **Iceland Review reported:**

“Further out on the Reykjanes Peninsula, Visir reports that air quality remains a concern. Sensitive individuals in places like Sandgerði, Njarðvík, and Vogar, are advised to take caution as fine particulate matter continues to cause unhealthy conditions there. In Ísafjörður, the situation is reportedly even more severe. The air quality index there shows that it remains a health risk.

Reykjavik Vocational School, which suspended outdoor gardening activities on Monday, resumed normal operations today. In a social media post this morning, the school cited improved conditions following light northerly winds and rain overnight.



**The fissure stage of the current eruption on July 18th.**  
(Image. [mbl.is/Hörður Kristleifsson](https://mbl.is/Hörður_Kristleifsson))

“There was a slight northerly wind last night, then the rain and drizzle came, so it cleared up a bit. But there is still some particulate pollution over the Reykjavik Peninsula. Sulphur dioxide has decreased a lot,” meteorologist Þorsteinn V. Jónsson told the news agency.

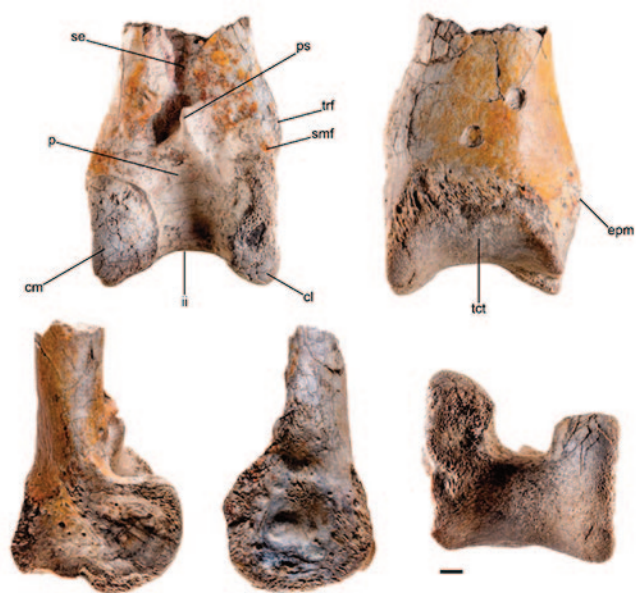
#### **South America’s 13 million year-old ‘terror bird’ discovered by scientists...**

It’s funny how obscure palaeontological stories hit the headlines isn’t it? Anything ‘dinosaur’ is guaranteed to hit the headlines, but for other fossil stories it’s down to the headline writers!

So when I saw this on the BBC website, “*Teeth marks suggest ‘terror bird’ was killed by reptile 13 million years ago*”, I just had to follow it up...

*My online research led me directly to this summary from the Royal Society, publishers of Biology Letters ...*

“Direct evidence of predation and other trophic relationships provide valuable information about trophic interactions between species in



**Clear damage to a terror bird’s leg bone in a similar attack.**  
(Image John Hopkins University/Degrang et al.)



palaeo-communities. Data on ecological interactions amongst extant apex predators open a unique opportunity to better understand how sympatric apex predators coexisted or interacted with each other in the past.

Here, we describe direct evidence of a predation or scavenging event in which we hypothesize that a medium-sized caiman (possibly *Purussaurus neivensis*) consumed (either through scavenging or through direct predation) a large terror bird. The distal part of a left tibiotarsus from a phorusrhacid had four pits inflicted on the cortical bone, and no signs of healing, suggesting it did not survive this trophic event. This record contributes to our current understanding of prey consumed by *P. neivensis* in the wetlands of the Pebas System of South America and indicates that large phorusrhacids might have had higher predation risk than previously expected.

This study provides evidence of a trophic relation between apex predators and the complexity of trophic interactions in the diverse vertebrate palaeo-community of La Venta in the Middle Miocene of Colombia, South America.”

This is just the latest paper to deal with aspects of this find with further papers from others in the team of researchers, including Dr Siobhán Cooke, of John Hopkins University who’s paper was Damage to a terror birds published in November 2024 in *Papers in Palaeontology*.



**Even a giant terror birds could have been preyed upon if they weren't careful near water, this new study reveals.**  
(Image: Julian Bayona Becerra/Biology Letters)

**This additional material comes from LiveScience:**

“Fossilized bite marks suggest there could have been a dramatic tussle between a gigantic terror bird and an even more massive crocodile around 12 million years ago.

Phorusrhacids, commonly known as "terror birds," were apex predators that terrorized prey in the ancient ecosystems of South America. While these flightless carnivores had little to fear on land, a new study, published on July 22nd. in the journal *Biology Letters*, indicates that they weren't necessarily safe around water.

Researchers analysed tooth marks on the leg bone of one of the largest terror birds ever discovered — estimated to have stood more than 2.7 metres tall — unearthed at the La Venta fossil site in Colombia. The team concluded that a 4.7 metre caiman was likely responsible for the marks.

"We have learned that terror birds could also be preyed [upon] and that even being an apex predator has risks," study lead author Andrés Link, a paleontologist and biologist at the University of the Andes in

Colombia, told Live Science in an email.

The study doesn't rule out the possibility that the terror bird simply died near a body of water and was subsequently munched on by the caiman, making it a case of scavenging rather than hunting.

## **The final phase of work that would protect the West of England mainline railway in the Dawlish area has been paused...**

Over the past couple of years we've brought you news on the work being carried out on behalf of Network Rail to make the main line that links London Paddington with Penzance more resilient, as weather events become more frequent and extreme.

Now comes news that the Department for Transport (DfT) has placed the final phase of the work on hold. This work, Phase 5, would have seen the stabilisation of the Permian sandstone cliffs with a view to preventing the landslips that are one of the primary causes of the recent issues.

In the meantime preparatory work aimed at improving drainage and also remote monitoring of the cliff stability is continuing. In addition a drainage trial is due to commence this autumn. To be fair to Network Rail this pause in the final phase may be beneficial in the longer term.

The more data on the porosity and other physical characteristics of the rock that can be gathered and assessed, the better the final solution will be. That said, Network Rail and the DfT will have their fingers firmly crossed that no adverse weather events affects the area in the meantime.

## **The strange case of the Jurassic tree fossil in a Derby park...**

Yes, you read it correctly, a Jurassic tree - not a Carboniferous one which you might expect it to be given the local geology. But the city's popular Markeaton Park has more than just a fine array of fine modern trees it has a stump which would be far more at home on Dorset's Isle of Portland.



**Two men and their tree stump - Stephen Leach (left) and Martin Whiteley (right) in Markeaton Park, Derby. How did a Dorset Jurassic tree stump get here?**  
(Image: BBC News Derby)

The story, which was picked up by BBC Radio Derby and the East Midlands regional TV station, involves local geologist, Martin Whiteley formerly of the University of Derby and a good friend of *Down to Earth*, along with archaeologist Stephen Leach.

## GEOLOGY TOURS 2026/27

### BHUTAN; THE HIMALAYAN GEM

**Tour Dates & Prices :** 8-23 Apr 2026 £5992 pp

**Tour Leader:** Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

**Where:** Bhutan

Dramatic landscapes of Bhutan, from soaring peaks to lush valleys. On this cultural tour, with its added geological dimension, we will come to understand not only what the landscapes and the rocks reveal about the geological history of the country but also how the mountains came into existence in the first place.

### THE KARAKORAM; VALLEYS OF NORTHERN PAKISTAN

**Tour Dates & Prices :** 09 - 23 Oct 2026 £4768 pp

**Tour Leader:** Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

**Where:** Pakistan

Visit the spell binding valleys of northern Pakistan with their sky high mountains, ice-cold rivers & lush green valleys. Along the way you will learn about the geological history of these mountains and the interesting features they display.



Dr Danny Clark-Lowes



Dr John Nudds

### LADAKH; LAND OF THE HIGH PASSES

**Tour Dates & Prices :** 14-30 Aug 2026 £3885pp

**Tour Leader:** Dr John Nudds

**Where:** India

Discover the dramatic geological evolution of the Himalayas. Travel through distinct geological provinces—from the Siwalik foothills and the Lesser and Greater Himalayan Series, through the ancient Tethyan rocks and the India-Asia suture zone, and into the striking Trans-Himalayan Ladakh batholith and Karakoram ranges. End the Tour with a visit to the Taj Mahal.

### LAHORE TO LADAKH; LAHORE, AMRITSAR, SHIMLA, MANALI & LADAKH

**Tour Dates & Prices :** TBC

**Tour Leader:** Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

**Where:** Pakistan & India

Trace the footsteps of Rudyard Kipling through the vibrant streets of Lahore, exploring the colonial legacy that shaped his early years. Then cross the Wagah border into Amritsar in India and journey through the majestic landscapes of Shimla, Manali, and Ladakh—uncovering the rich geological tapestry of the region, from the Himalayan foothills to mountain-building events that shaped the subcontinent.

## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS:

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*A closer view of the tree stump shows how it has withstood being exposed to Derby air these past more than 150 years. Similar fossils can be found around the Portland Heights Hotel on the Isle of Portland. (Image: BBC News Derby)*

These tree stumps, preserved as almost white siliceous casts, without their original bark, would have become available as a result of large scale quarrying of building stone on the Isle of Portland. The story of how and when they came to Derby is what has fascinated Martin and Stephen.

Speaking to the BBC Stephen Leach said: "A line of these [stumps] was created as part of a garden design. We've been trying to figure out when that occurred. We think that was in the 1830s or 1840s, because there was a fashion for putting these in gardens and parks.

"We found that the owners of Markeaton Hall in the 19th century were spending holidays in Weymouth, which is right next to Portland. Most likely they were brought up from Portland on the back of a wagon in the 1830s and 40s.

That's our theory at the moment."

**The Editor comments:** As with many similar stories, particularly involving gentry from the nineteenth century, there's often an amazing back story to unearthing. Perhaps you remember these tree stumps in Markeaton Park. It's also possible that there are other similar stumps around the country.

In the meantime it's good to see that Stephen and Martin have unearthed a real 'geological mystery' on their own doorstep. It's a

reminder, if one were ever needed, that geology begins right in your backyard. During COVID we discovered that backyard, why not do so again this summer?

*We'd love to hear from you:*

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Understanding The Earth



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*Extra August 2025*

**Down to Earth extra 152 August 2025**

# Great geo-adventures in 2025/6 begin here...



With the white buildings of Torquay in the background, this is the near vertical Devonian strata in the cliff. This location is known as London Bridge and will be seen on a boat cruise around the bay. (Image: Chris Darmon)

As we come towards the end of the 2025 field season we have just two trips left on offer. In September we can offer a combined Cornwall and Somerset trip and then in October a lovely week in Torquay.

We've now completed our line-up of trips for 2026 with additional localities in Anglesey, a Summer School in Shropshire and a brand new trip to Melrose in the Scottish Borders.

Amazingly several 2026 trips are approaching being fully booked - so get in soon to secure your places!

To view a brochure, go to our website at:  
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Remember that booking forms are only available direct from us:  
Email: [downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk)

## Residential Field trip programme 2025/6...

### 2025

- Peak District Summer School, August 9-16
- Cornwall & Somerset, September 20-28
- Torbay, South Devon, October 8-15

### 2026

- The Jurassic Coast of Dorset, March 27-April 1
- Northwest Highlands of Scotland, April 14-22
- Central Cornwall, May 1-8
- Teesdale & Northern Pennines, May 16-23
- Shetland, The Northern Isles, June 17-25
- 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](mailto: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.

#### *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.

### Autumn 2025 trips...

*We have just two trips available this Autumn and both happen to be based in the Southwest of England.*

#### **NEW! Cornwall & North Somerset, September 20-28 £1995**

A small number of vacancies have arisen on this trip because our US guests, from Washington State, have not taken all of the places. This trip is split between Central Cornwall and North Somerset with Hotels in Redruth and Minehead.

Coach transport is provided each day and this includes our transfer between Redruth and Minehead. A memorable week is in prospect with great company and excellent geology. Geological highlights include The Lizard, granite scenery, china clay, Valley of the Rocks, Watchet and Blue Anchor.

*The brochure for this trip is only available direct from us - request one today!*

#### **The South Devon Riviera, Torbay, October 8-15 £1295**

The South Devon Riviera coast has been a holiday destination for more than 150 years and we will be staying in the family run Hotel Balmoral in Torquay. From here we will be exploring the local area that lies within the UNESCO world geopark. This is an area of great



*The Hotel Balmoral, our base in Torquay*

coastal scenery, with lots of Devonian sediments, plus some volcanics. As the geology is best seen from the sea, we'll ensure that we have at least one boat trip out into Torbay to get up close and personal with the cliffs and their fabulous structures. We also hope to take a trip on the Paignton and Kingswear steam railway and combine it with another boat trip on the River Dart to Totnes.

*Come and join us in sunny Torquay!*

#### *To make a booking email us at:*

*[downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk) or ring us on: 0114 245 5746*

*Whilst the brochures are, available on our website, booking forms are only available from us. You can then arrange to pay the deposit and we'll send you the booking form.*



# Welcome to our exciting world!



## 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!*

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



*Loch Assynt is but a stone's throw from the Inchnadamph Hotel (Image: Wikimedia Commons)*

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.

*Last few places left on this trip.*

### **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.

*People are already booking up this trip!*

### **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.

*Last couple of places available on this trip!*

### 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.



*Metamorphic rocks at the northern tip of the United Kingdom on the Island of Unst.*

*(Image: Scottish Geology Trust)*

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?

*Just a few places remaining in this trip.*

### NEW! 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 already have several bookings for this trip.*

### 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.



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

*(Image: Visit Birmingham)*

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.

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 already have the first bookings for this trip!*

### Iceland - the North & East Fjords, September 13-22

£2595



*The Eastern Fjords are beautiful in any season!*

*(Image: Chris Darmon)*

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.  
**Final couple of places left!**

#### **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](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk) or ring us on: 0114 245 5746  
**Booking forms are only available from us.**



**Don't worry, we don't bite!**

**All our educational classes and courses are friendly, informal and open to all.**

**Come and join us!**

## **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.*

*We deliver courses that are enjoyable and stimulating whilst at the same time being informative and educational. No one is required to carry out any sort of assessment and there's no entry requirements or formalities. Just sign up and go!*

## **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.

**To find out more or to enrol, email us at:**

[downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk) or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

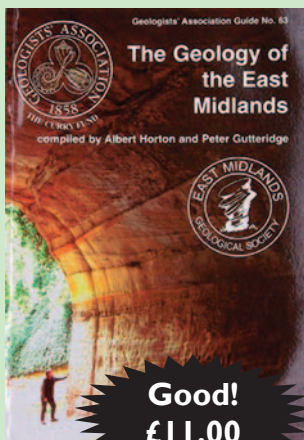
**You can enrol via our online shop at:** [www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk)

# Featured books for August 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 August 2025 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature guide books to field geology. Please note, all prices include UK postage.



**New!**  
**£32.00**



**Good!**  
**£11.00**

**Comes with a free building  
stones guide to Leicester!**



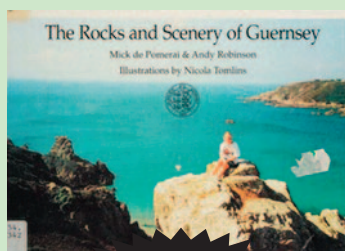
**New Ed!**  
**£17.00**



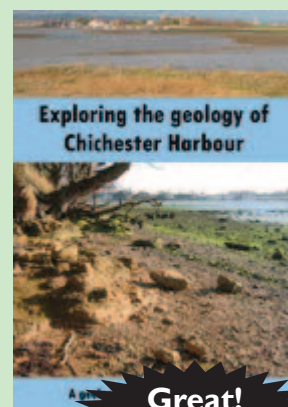
**Great value!**  
**£12.00**



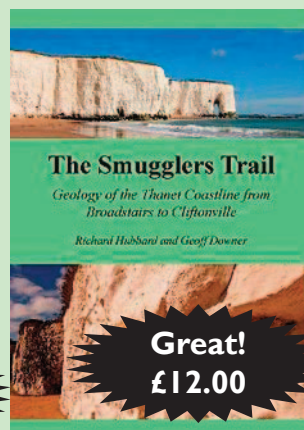
**Good!**  
**£6.00**



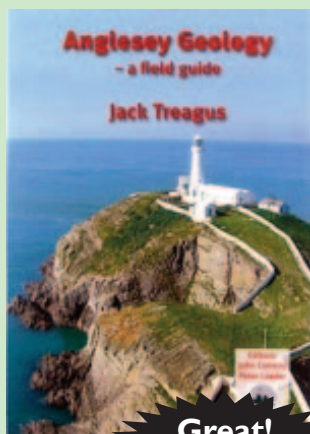
**Great!**  
**£10.00**



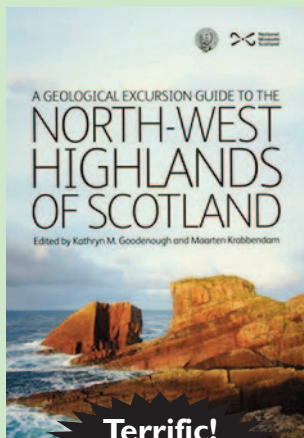
**Great!**  
**£6.00**



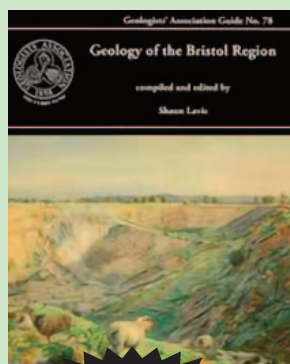
**Great!**  
**£12.00**



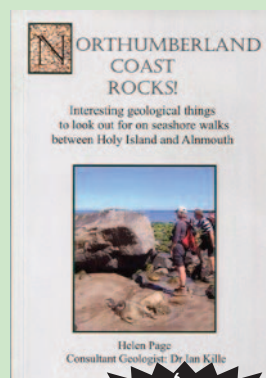
**Great!**  
**£11.95**



**Terrific!**  
**£17.00**



**New!**  
**£29.00**



**Brilliant!**  
**£11.50**

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