



Down to Earth *Extra*

Issue 156 December 2025

NEWS FLASH...

2026 Trips..

- Shropshire Summer School
- Make your bookings for 2026 trips **NOW!**

Winter Zoom sessions **BOOK NOW!**

- British Isles in 100+ minutes
- The Wednesday Club
- Simply rocks!
- Time Travellers Coastal

What are you waiting for?

*This is Langstone Rock, just to the north of Dawlish, on the South Devon coast. The impressive arch is cut in the Permian Exe Breccias which can clearly be seen in the photograph. They were laid down by flash floods in a desert basin, with the clasts being mainly locally sourced Carboniferous sandstones and occasional Devonian limestones.
(Image: Chris Darmon)*

From the Editorial team...

We are now in the throes of delivering our live online learning sessions via Zoom on a regular basis, with a total of six sessions each week. It seems an age since we took our first tentative steps to these online sessions in the midst of the Covid pandemic, but it really is only four years. Back then it was with some fear and trepidation that we took our first Zoom steps. Now it seems like 'just another day in the classroom'. Not that it was any different for our learners, many of whom are retired people. We are still getting people taking their first Zoom steps, and even now getting used to pressing the right keys on their laptop or mobile device. Once settled, it's not taken them long to fully engage with the lesson and with their fellow participants. The same is true of our learning platform, Moodle where Colin puts up the recording of the lesson and additional resources for people to access in their own time in the days and weeks after the live session.

Not that we are alone in using Zoom, or other group presentation platforms such as Teams for these kind of sessions. Indeed, for many local geological groups this has been a new way of engaging with an often aging membership, many of whom may be extremely reluctant to venture out on a cold, dark night. Yet more societies are engaging in 'hybrid' lectures where there is still a physical meeting alongside which the proceedings are broadcast via Zoom to others in the comfort of their own homes.

Getting back to our Zoom experiences, four years on, what changes are we seeing? The most obvious is that we are now developing something of an online community, especially with our Wednesday Club. Each weekly session covers a very different aspect of geology, so we can go from the Evolution of the North Atlantic one week to Extreme Metamorphism the next. This means that people who sign up to the whole course get exposure to many different subjects. But the main positive development is the way people engage with each other especially at the beginning of the session, before the talk starts. This shows the friendliness of people in the geological world, they love to chat!

The message has to be it's great to carry on learning, however you do it! Have a lovely Christmas and New Year!

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

HM Government pins its hopes on minerals in the Southwest of England, especially Cornwall...

The day before the UK Chancellor, Rachel Reeves unveiled her budget in the House of Commons, a Government Minister was at Camborne School of Mines, launching the Critical Minerals Strategy.

On November 25th. Chris McDonald MP, Minister for Industry in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and the Department for Business and Trade, unveiled the strategy during a breakfast speech on the University of Exeter's Penryn campus.

The announcement followed the unveiling of the Critical Minerals Strategy by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer at the G20 meeting in South Africa, earlier in the week. It comes with a £50m fund to boost domestic production and processing. With research and development and initiatives to help industry commercialise and scale-up both production and production and processing.

This comes from the University of Exeter's website:

Leading members of Camborne School of Mines (CSM), including Frances Wall, Professor of Applied Mineralogy, have contributed to the strategy.

"We need critical minerals for everything – from the phones we use to the cars we drive – and for too long we've been dependent on a select few sources for our supplies of them, putting our national security at risk," said Chris McDonald. "Now, we're taking the bold action



UK Government Minister, Chris McDonald MP at Camborne School of Mines. (Image: University of Exeter)

needed to shore up our supply chains, ramp up domestic production and back businesses with the investment they need to create new jobs and drive growth, as part of our Plan for Change."

Critical minerals and rare earths are essential for the production of a wide array of technologies, including smartphones, electric vehicles, electronics and turbines. Currently, the UK imports 94% of these from

Down to Earth extra is designed & published by Geo Supplies Ltd.,
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overseas, but the new government strategy is aiming to reduce that reliance by increasing domestic production and the amount obtained through recycling to a minimum of 40%. It has set a target of producing 50,000 tonnes of lithium by 2035.

During the tour, the Minister was shown some of the state-of-the-art equipment in the Critical Minerals Equipment Hub (CMEH), which opened in February, this year, with more than £3.5m in government funding.



The Minister shown during his tour of the Critical Minerals Equipment Hub. (Image: University of Exeter)

This award enabled mineralogy experts at CSM and key Duchy-based companies, Bluecap Resources, Paterson & Cooke, and Petrolab, to jointly procure and host hardware and software across their premises, and make that equipment commercially available. This includes microscopes, analytical X-ray spectrometers, and automated ore sorting and sophisticated sample preparation apparatus.

The delegation also met members of the UKRI-funded Critical Minerals Challenge Centre, which brings together researchers with industry partners to work on four specific projects related to innovation in the sector. Last week, it published a briefing calling for the strategy to recognise critical minerals as an opportunity to reindustrialise the UK, address Net Zero aims, and deliver tangible socioeconomic benefits.

The tour was led by Professor Wall, who said: “This visit was an excellent opportunity to introduce our students and researchers to the Minister and his Team. Our Critical Minerals Challenge Centre researchers have expertise in ecology, social sciences, circular economy and finance, as well as mining, minerals and geology. Bringing this knowledge together is essential for the sustainable production of critical minerals in Cornwall and around the world.”



The Minister and senior staff from CSM outside against the iconic granite blocks (Image: University of Exeter)

Cornwall is home to strategically critical minerals, including tin, lithium and tungsten, and has been hailed as central to the government’s ‘securonomics’ agenda.

Professor Martin Siegert, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Cornwall) at the University, said: “At this key juncture for the UK’s critical minerals sector, it is great that we can showcase what Cornwall has to offer, and the work already underway to create an innovative, sustainable future both here and across the country. We had some very productive discussions with the Minister and look forward to working with all of our stakeholders to promote skills, innovation and economic growth.”

Professor Patrick Foster, Head of CSM, added: “We are delighted that the Minister has chosen the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall to officially launch the strategy in the UK. From its historic roots in training generations of world-class mining engineers and geoscientists to its current innovative role in critical-metals research, Camborne School of Mines remains central to the UK’s ability to responsibly harness and develop these vital resources.”

Postscript...

The day after the Minister’s visit to Cornwall, the Chancellor Rachel Reeves, announced a further £30m over the next two years to the Kernow Industrial Growth Fund. This budget announcement will see additional funding for Cornwall to invest in areas such as critical minerals, renewable energy and marine innovation.

Meanwhile in neighbouring Devon the talk is all about Tungsten...

The recent history of the massive disused open pit at Hemerdon, just outside Plymouth seems to have been a series of promises that have ultimately come to nothing. Now Tungsten West, the current operators of the Tungsten prospect are at an exciting moment as they seek to move the project forward towards full production.



Tungsten West team at the Hemerdon Mineral Processing Facility with trial tungsten concentrate. (Image: Tungsten West)

On November 7th, Tungsten West announced that they had produced its first tungsten concentrate from the ongoing mineral processing trial towards restarting the Hemerdon mine in Devon. This is seen as a critical milestone along the road towards full production which is planned for later in 2026.

Mining.com reported:

The trial is being undertaken as part of a program focused on testing and optimizing the performance of key sections of the mine’s processing facility. The programme is part of Tungsten West’s approach to de-risking operations and gathering technical data essential for the planned restart of full-scale production.

Tungsten is a smaller market, with an estimated value of around £4 billion in 2023. But the industries that depend on it are getting bigger, and it is the material of choice for a key defence application – what the military calls penetrators – high-density, armour-piercing projectiles.

Hemerdon, formerly known as Drakelands mine, or the Hemerdon Ball or Hemerdon Bal mine, has a history of mining activity. Operations date back to 1918, with production during both World Wars, according to the company's website.

Further exploration and feasibility work were carried out in the 1980s. The site was later developed into a modern operation and produced tungsten and tin between August 2015 and October 2018 under previous operators. The mine is located 7 miles northeast of Plymouth, and is one of the largest tungsten resources in the world, the Plympton-headquartered miner said.



*The massive Hemerdon Mine site, at Plympton, Devon
(Image: Tungsten West)*

Tungsten West said the first concentrate production marks an important milestone in restarting operations at Hemerdon, a strategically important project to the UK and Europe that could provide a secure supply of tungsten outside of China, with restart of operations anticipated by late 2026.

“The progress we are making in this processing trial is an important milestone in restarting operations at Hemerdon and provides confidence to our neighbours, the environment agency, our investors and off-takers that we are moving towards production,” Tungsten West CEO Jeff Court said in a news release.

“We have ensured that all activities throughout this trial have been conducted to high environmental and operational standards,” Court continued. “As the need for a diversified source of tungsten intensifies, Hemerdon becomes an even more important strategic asset.”

In recent days, Tungsten West has signed a Heads of Terms with Duo Group for the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) works package for the new build crushing, screening and ore sorter facility at Hemerdon. The agreement is contingent upon the completion of a final formal construction contract and the conclusion of project financing, which is being advanced.

The requirement for ongoing finance was addressed by the Company in August, when it posted that it had received a non-binding letter of

interest from the Export-Import Bank of the United States outlining potential financing support of up to \$95m for its Hemerdon tungsten and tin project in Devon.

This US interest comes as the defence industry there seeks to secure forward supplies of Tungsten outside of the control of China. When Hemerdon comes on stream and production rises, as Tungsten West hope it will, it will become overnight the world's third largest Tungsten mine.

Scientists discover a hidden deep sea hotspot bursting with life...

This comes from the website ScienceDaily:

Scientists from the Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel (GEOMAR) have reported the existence of an extraordinary deep-sea environment beneath the waters off Papua New Guinea, where scorching hydrothermal vents and cool methane seeps coexist side by side - a pairing never before seen.

This unusual chemistry fuels a vibrant oasis teeming with mussels, tube worms, shrimp, and even purple sea cucumbers, many of which may be unknown to science. The rocks themselves shimmer with traces of gold, silver, and other metals deposited by past volcanic activity.

Off the coast of Papua New Guinea, scientists have identified a previously unknown type of hydrothermal field where two different processes occur at the same time: hot hydrothermal fluids rise from below the seafloor while unusually large quantities of methane and other hydrocarbons escape from the sediments. This combination has not been documented anywhere else. The site is located about 1,300

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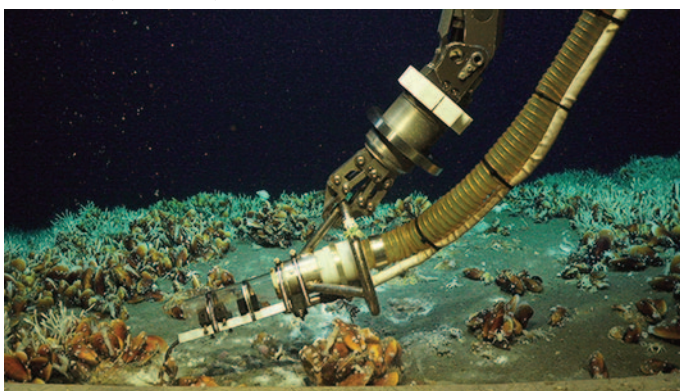
£15.00 or £22.00 for two people together.



The ROV used in the mission to reach this deep seafloor site. (Image: GEOMAR)

meters deep on the slope of Conical Seamount in the western Pacific, near the island of Lihir in Papua New Guinea.

"We essentially have a hot vent bubbling right next to a cool gas seep -- a combination that has never been described before," says Dr. Philipp Brandl, marine geologist at the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. He was chief scientist on the SONNE expedition SO299 DYNAMET, which surveyed the Tabar-Lihir-Tanga-Feni island chain in 2023 to investigate the region's underwater volcanoes (seamounts).



Measuring the temperature on the seafloor: In the newly discovered hydrothermal field, hot liquid and cold gas bubble up from the sediment just a few centimeters apart. (Image: GEOMAR)

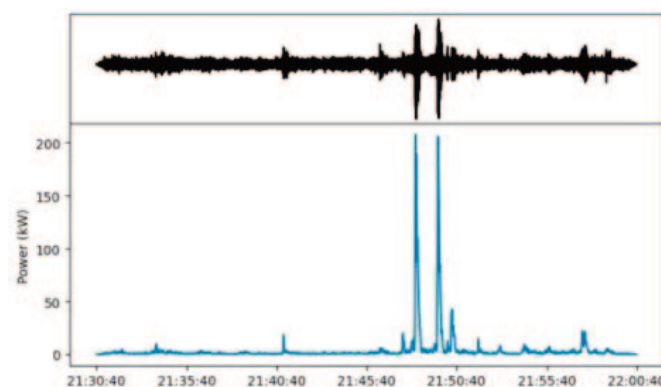
Brandl adds: "No one really expected to find a hydrothermal field here, let alone one that is so exceptional." Earlier missions had shown hints of limited hydrothermal activity, yet this field went unnoticed during several previous research cruises. Only when the team deployed the ROV Kiel 6000 did the unusual features of the site become clear. "It was a real surprise," Brandl says, "especially for those of us who had worked in this area multiple times."

You can read the full article :

"Coupled hydrothermal venting and hydrocarbon seepage discovered at Conical Seamount, Papua New Guinea". Scientific Reports, 2025; 15 (1) DOI: 10.1038/s41598-025-1719The ROVE 2-x

And finally - Scotland's football triumphs produce a seismic event...

Hot on the heels of Taylor Swift fans causing a minor seismic event comes news of another, this time triggered by Scottish football fans celebrating the nation team's qualification for the football world cup as they beat Denmark.



The seismic events as recorded by BGS in Glasgow (Image: BGS)

The BBC reported:

The British Geological Survey (BGS) recorded the equivalent to an "extremely small earthquake" after Kenny McLean lobbed Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel to secure a 4-2 win. A second significant amount of seismic activity came moments later when the final whistle sounded on Wednesday night. Readings were recorded at the BGS station at Glasgow Geothermal Observatory in Dalmarnock – about 2km (1.2 miles) from Hampden Park.



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Extra December 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 to secure your places.

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:
Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

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, September 13-22 WAITING LIST
- 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.

Come and join 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!

We can still accommodate people in double rooms.

To make a booking email us at:

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

BOOKING FORMS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING US!

Welcome to our Zoom world!



This 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!

Winter events

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

A 10-week course (a continuing course), Mondays commencing November 10th - February 16th . Price from £80.00

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 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

The Wednesday Club

Join us as we meet to enjoy an eclectic mix of very different subjects on a Wednesday. A new series commences January 21st. either in the afternoon or evening - it's your choice!

December 3	Beyond conventional metamorphism
December 10	Rare earth elements - where and what are they?
December 17	Castle Bank - a new Welsh Lagerstatte
January 21	The geology of the North Sea
January 28	The Ultramafic rocks
February 4	Rocks 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 of Aberdeenshire

Take the eight 2026 talks for £65.00 (£95.00 for 2 people) or book them individually for £11.00 each.

We look forward to seeing you on one of our Zoom sessions - soon!

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.

IMPORTANT:

We are getting concerned at the number of people who leave it to the very last minute to book onto a Zoom session. We urge everyone to book at least 24 hours before a session and be aware that late bookers may not be accepted.

What's on offer this Winter?

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.

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).*



Don't worry, we don't bite!

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



*Blue Anchor fault on the North Somerset coast
(Image: Chris Darmon)*

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 Thursday January 22nd - March 12th
Cost: Eight 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)*

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.

December 3	Beyond conventional metamorphism
December 10	Rare earth elements where and what are they?
December 17	Castle Bank - a new Welsh Lagerstatte

Cost: Individual talks £11.00 or £16.00 for 2 people.

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.*

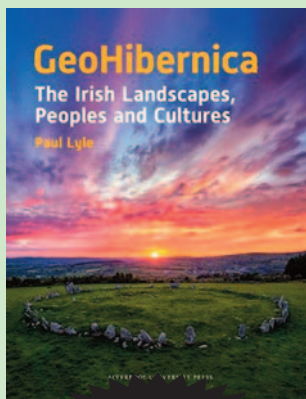
*To find out more or to enrol, email us at:
downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746
You can enrol via our online shop at: www.geosupplies.co.uk
by entering our online shop and then choosing courses.*

Featured books for December 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 December 2025 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature a variety of different books. Please note, all prices include UK



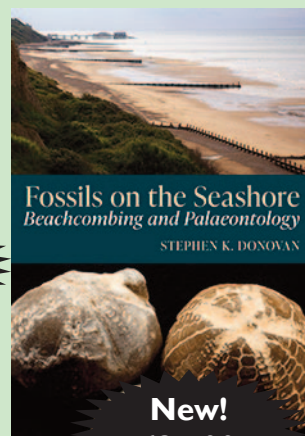
New!
£33.00



New!
£50.00



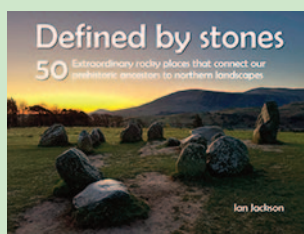
New Ed!
£17.00



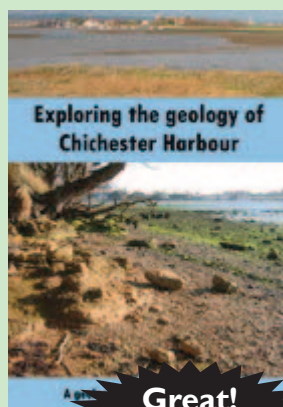
New!
£35.00



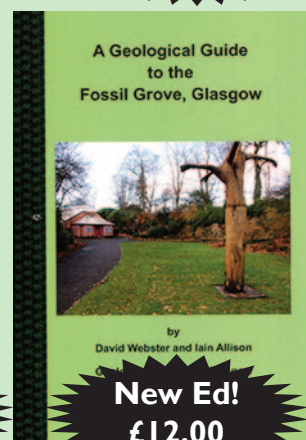
New!
£22.00



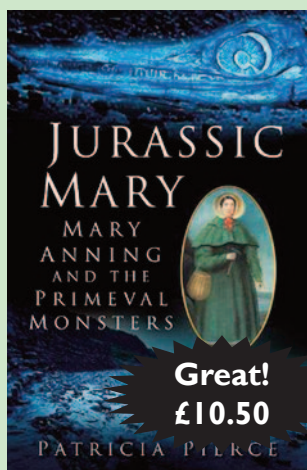
New!
£15.00



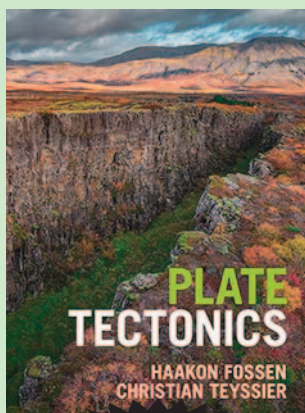
Great!
£6.00



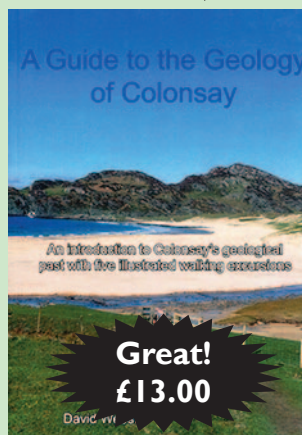
New Ed!
£12.00



Great!
£10.50

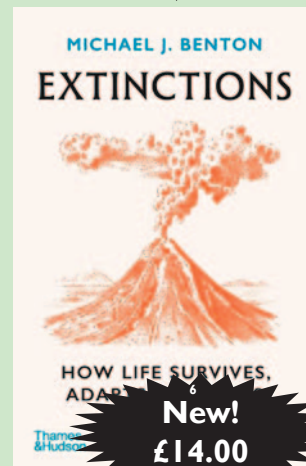


Terrific!
£50.00



Great!
£13.00

*Ask about new guides to
Islay & Jura!*



New!
£14.00

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