



Down to Earth^{Extra}

Issue 153 September 2025

NEWS FLASH...

Final call for this year...

- Fancy a trip to Torbay?

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?

This is the quarry at Stanner Rocks on the north side of the A44 road, a couple of hundred metres inside the county of Powys, Wales.

These Neoproterozoic rocks have come up along the Church Stretton fault complex in the area around Old Radnor. At 701 Ma they are the oldest rocks so far identified in England and Wales. They comprise gabbroic and basaltic rocks along with some contact metamorphics.

(Image: Chris Darmon)

From the Editorial team...

The next time you hear mention of a 'sink hole' on the media, stop and ask yourself the question "could this happen in my street or in my local neighbourhood?" Nowadays the term 'sink hole' seems to be applied to any kind of hole that appears with little or no warning, but that wasn't the case in the past.

The term was reserved to places where water entered the underground realm in a limestone area. So there are sink holes above Malham Cove in North Yorkshire, or in parts of the White Peak of Derbyshire. Sink holes, in their original meaning, would be just one of the vast arrays of what are now termed 'geo hazards'. During our recent Summer School which was held in the Derbyshire Peak District we had an evening talk from Dr Vanessa Banks from BGS on the subject of geo hazards within the local area.

Vanessa is BGS's team leader on shallow geo hazards and risks team leader, an area that she has studied for many years, and one that she both researched and written upon. When most people think of geo hazards they don't get much beyond landslips and earthquakes yet there are many many more, often associated with groundwater movements.

During our talk we discovered that there are potential geo hazards around almost every corner. Some are natural and others associated directly with human activity, be it cultivation or mining and quarrying. Recent climate changes and weather anomalies are only increasing the risks. Within the Peak District there have been historical and more recent, high focus road closures, around earth movements at the boundary between the limestones and the overlying shales. What we learned is that whilst potential geo hazards may be all around us, careful monitoring and early intervention are the key to avoiding a disaster. Who says geologists aren't a vital component of our society>

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

Another new dinosaur from the Isle of Wight...

A few years ago, the Isle of Wight was christened as our 'dinosaur isle'. At the time, I remember thinking that such a tag was a bit over the top, but since then there has been a steady stream of new discoveries which, taken together, certainly make it a worthy holder of such a title.

The latest discovery, announced to the world's media in August, has been identified by a retired GP, Jeremy Lockwood as part of his PhD studies at the University of Portsmouth and The Natural History Museum. It's an iguanodontian dinosaur with a very distinctive 'sail' along its back and tail. The bones were being held in the collection of the Dinosaur Isle Museum on the island. Until now, it had been assumed that the 125 million year old bones belonged to one of the two known iguanodontian dinosaur species from the Isle of Wight. But after careful examination, Jeremy Lockwood noticed something wasn't quite right.

"While the skeleton wasn't as complete as some of the others that have been found, no one had really taken a close look at these bones before", Lockwood said. "It was thought to be just another specimen of one of the existing species, but this one had particularly long neural spines, which was very unusual."

Despite only having part of the animal's backbone, Lockwood was able to come up with the proposition that it had a pronounced sail-like structure along its back. This would have set it apart from other dinosaurs that populated the island in this part of the Cretaceous. His findings are published in the scientific journal *Papers in Palaeontology* (DOI: 10.1002/spp2.70034).



A reconstruction of the very distinctive Istiorachis macarthurae. (Image: James Brown, University of Portsmouth)

This comes from a press release issued by The Natural History Museum:

Jeremy has named the new dinosaur *Istiorachis macarthurae* after a famous Isle of Wight resident. The name *Istiorachis* means 'sail spine', while *macarthurae* honours Dame Ellen MacArthur, the

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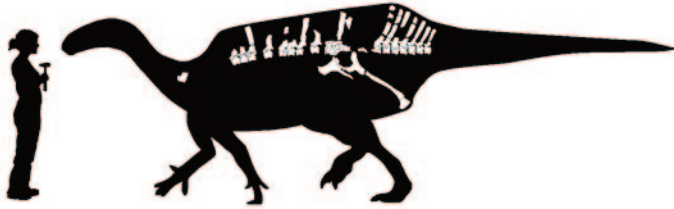
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English sailor who in 2005 set a world record for the fastest solo non-stop voyage around the world on her first attempt and who comes from the Isle of Wight.



Istiorachis macarthurae stood around two metres tall and weighed as much as 1000 kilogrammes.

(Image courtesy of Jeremy Lockwood)

Lockwood explained, “Evolution sometimes seems to favour the extravagant over the practical. While the exact purpose of such features has long been debated – with theories ranging from body heat regulation to fat storage – researchers believe that the most likely explanation in this case is visual signalling, possibly as part of a sexual display and this usually is because of sexual selection”.

The team studying the fossils included the Natural History Museum’s Prof. Susannah Maidment. Susannah commented, “Jeremy’s careful study of fossils that have been in museum collections for several years has brought to life the iguanodontian dinosaurs of the Isle of Wight. His work highlights the importance of collections like those at Dinosaur Isle, where fossil specimens are preserved in perpetuity and can be studied and revised in the light of new data and new ideas about evolution.

“Over the past five years, Jeremy has single-handedly quadrupled the known diversity of the smaller iguanodontians on the Isle of Wight, and *Istiorachis* demonstrates we still have much to learn about Early Cretaceous ecosystems in the UK.”



Dr. Jeremy Lockwood with the spinal column of *Istiorachis macarthurae*.

(Image: James Brown, University of Portsmouth)

Importantly, *Istiorachis* appears to highlight a broader evolutionary trend. Research shows that elongation of neural spines in iguanodontians began in the Late Jurassic, before becoming a relatively common feature during the Early Cretaceous. However, true hyper-elongation, where spines stretch to more than four times the height of the vertebral body, remains rare.

This comes from the University of Portsmouth’s website:

Lockwood explained: “In modern reptiles, sail structures often show up more prominently in males, suggesting that these attributes evolved to impress mates or intimidate rivals. We think *Istiorachis* may have been doing much the same.”

To work out what the sail might have been for, researchers carried out a close examination of the fossilised bones. They then created a large database of similar dinosaur back bones from direct observations, photos, scientific illustrations and reconstructions, and used it to trace the evolutionary history of the heights of back bones on a new family tree of iguanodontian dinosaurs. This allowed them to spot broader trends in how these sails evolved.

Lockwood went on: “These methods let us move beyond simply describing the fossil and actually test hypotheses about its function”, adding “We showed that *Istiorachis*’s spines weren’t just tall - they were more exaggerated than is usual in Iguanodon-like dinosaurs, which is exactly the kind of trait you’d expect to evolve through sexual selection.”

You can read more from the University of Portsmouth by going to: <https://www.port.ac.uk/news-events-and-blogs/news/striking-sail-may-have-helped-dinosaurs-find-mates-new-fossil-suggests>

How a cow’s tooth contributes to the solving of the Stonehenge mystery...



Who would have thought that a Neolithic cow’s tooth would shed new light on the construction of Stonehenge.

(Image: LiveScience)

Cutting-edge analysis of a Neolithic cow tooth dating back to the construction of the famous landmark provides evidence of Welsh origins. Whilst the story has been widely covered in the media, few have covered the scientific aspects of it.

This comes from BGS:

The mysteries of Stonehenge have baffled scientists for centuries. In the 2010s, archaeologists and geologists identified two quarries in Wales as the sources of Stonehenge’s legendary standing bluestones. Now, new evidence published by scientists in August 2025 consolidates this connection.

A century ago, in 1924, archaeologists discovered a cow’s jawbone that had been carefully placed beside Stonehenge’s south entrance and dated it to the monument’s very beginning in 2995 to 2900 BCE. The

discovery has intrigued historians ever since. Why had it been placed there? Why was this animal considered special? Researchers from BGS, Cardiff University and University College London have used isotope analysis to bring this artifact to life, helping to reveal further tantalising glimpses into the origins of the historic landmark.

The scientists sliced the cow's third molar tooth, which records chemical signals from the animal's second year of life, into nine horizontal sections. They were then able to measure carbon, oxygen, strontium and lead isotopes, which each offer clues about the cow's diet, environment and movement.



A cattle third molar tooth (Image: BGS)

The oxygen isotopes revealed that the tooth captured roughly six months of growth, from winter to summer, whilst the carbon isotopes showed the animal's diet changed with the seasons: woodland fodder in winter and open pasture in summer. Additionally, the strontium isotopes indicated the seasonal food sources came from different geological areas, suggesting that the cow either moved seasonally or that winter fodder was imported.

The lead isotopes revealed composition spikes during the late winter to spring, pointing to a lead source that was older than the lead in the rest of the tooth. The composition suggests the cow originated from an area with Palaeozoic rocks, such as the bluestones found in Wales, before moving to Stonehenge.

This is the first time that scientists have seen evidence linking cattle remains from Stonehenge to Wales, adding further weight to theories that cows were used in the transportation of the enormous rocks across the country. That's our theory at the moment."

In addition to this discovery, researchers also concluded that the unusual lead signal could not be explained by local contamination or movement alone. Instead, there was another explanation: that lead stored in the cow's bones had been remobilised during the stresses of pregnancy. If true, this would mean the cow was female and pregnant or nursing during the tooth's formation. To test the hypothesis, the team applied a peptide-based sex determination technique at the

University of Manchester, which showed there was a high probability that the animal was female.

Stonehenge has many secrets left to be uncovered. However, this latest research helps fill in just a few more of those gaps as we learn more about this legendary landmark.

The research paper, "Sequential multi-isotope sampling through a Bos taurus tooth from Stonehenge, to assess comparative sources and incorporation times of strontium and lead", is now available to read.

Meanwhile an old Stonehenge mystery is resolved...

In recent issues of both Down to Earth and Down to Earth extra we've engaged with the debate about how some of the igneous rocks got to the site of Stonehenge. This followed suggestions that some of the Old Red Sandstone blocks came from Caithness in the far north of Scotland.

Had they been carried by glaciers or were they transported by the hand of man? Now in an article published in the *Journal for Archaeological Research*, Prof Richard Bevins concludes there is "no evidence for ice extending as far south as Salisbury Plain", where the monument is located.

"New evidence allows us to reiterate our earlier interpretation that the boulder is not a glacial erratic but rather is derived from a fragmented monolith at Stonehenge [...] transported from Craig Rhos-y-Felin to Stonehenge by Neolithic people," the article says.



Hampshire



Mineral & Fossil Show

Saturday 20th September 2025
Oasis Academy, Southampton, SO16 8FA
10am to 4pm

MINERALS ~ FOSSILS ~ GEMS ~ METEORITES ~ DINOSAURS
ACCESSORIES ~ JEWELLERY ~ BOOKS ~ EQUIPMENT
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Admission £1 (accompanied children under 14 free)
Hot and cold refreshments available on site

Show organised by **Southampton Mineral & Fossil Society**
 For further information, visit our website www.sotonminfoss.org.uk or email contact@sotonminfoss.org.uk

Carbon capture project across the East Midlands could create ‘thousands of jobs’...

The Peak district is home to some of the largest cement manufacturing sites in the UK with the Carboniferous limestone being the principal rock used. The UK Government’s Chancellor Rachel Reeves recently commented on the Peak cluster carbon capture project claiming that it could create ‘thousands of jobs’.



Breedon Quarry is one of the sites in the Peak Cluster involved in carbon capture.

She was responding to The National Wealth Fund’s (NWF) backing for the East Midlands as a leader in the green industrial revolution by announcing £28.6m for the Peak Cluster carbon capture project. The investment into Peak Cluster marks the NWF’s first carbon capture investment since the Chancellor highlighted it as a priority sector in March.

The £28.6m investment will unlock more than £30m of private sector investment from the project’s flagship joint venture partnership between Summit Energy Evolution Ltd and Progressive Energy Peak Ltd, as well as cement and lime producers: Tarmac, Breedon, Holcim, and SigmaRoc.

Peak Cluster will help to secure a long-term supply of low carbon cement and lime products. These materials are the foundation for many UK industries including construction and manufacturing. The cement and lime sectors are difficult to decarbonise due to the high levels of emissions generated in the manufacturing process that cannot be reduced by transitioning to low carbon energy sources. As Derbyshire and Staffordshire account for 40% of the country’s production of cement and lime, the Peak Cluster project is critical in

decarbonising both the sectors and the region.

The Mayor of the East Midlands Combined Authority, Clair Ward declared: “This is the first carbon capture project that the National Wealth Fund has invested into – showing that the Peak Cluster – a collaboration led by industry – is trusted to get to this right.”

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Understanding The Earth



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Extra September 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)

As we come towards the end of the 2025 field season we have just one trips left on offer. In October we are offering a lovely week based at the Hotel Balmoral in Torquay, where we offer great geology and a comfortable setting.

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:
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 2025/6...

2025

- 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.

Search online at www.geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on 0114 245 5746
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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.

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.

Our final trip of 2025 and it's to the Devon riviera coast...

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 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!



The Hotel Balmoral, our base in Torquay



Steeply inclined strata forming London Bridge at Torquay (Image: Chris Darmon)

To make a booking email us at:

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

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

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.

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!

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.

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 £85.00

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 Lagerstatte

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

Watch out for additional sessions and courses starting in the New Year!

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 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 or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

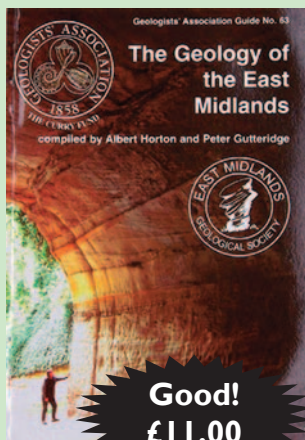
You can enrol via our online shop at: www.geosupplies.co.uk

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



New!
£32.00



Good!
£11.00

Comes with a free building stones guide to Leicester!



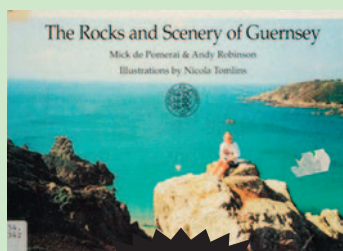
New Ed!
£17.00



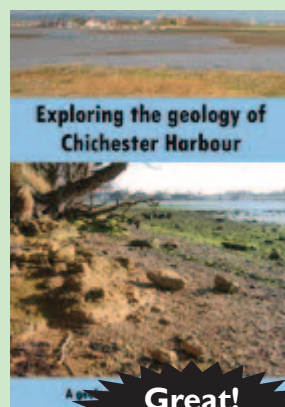
Great value!
£12.00



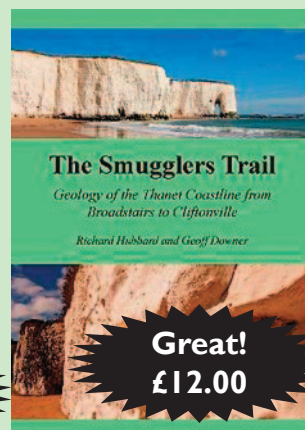
Good!
£6.00



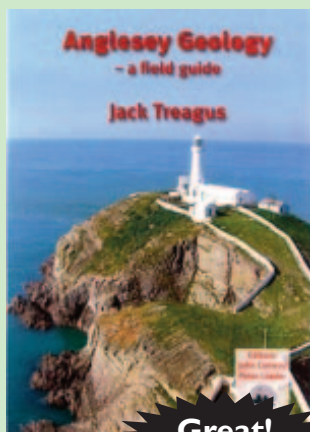
Great!
£10.00



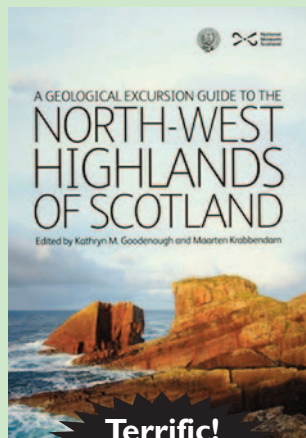
Great!
£6.00



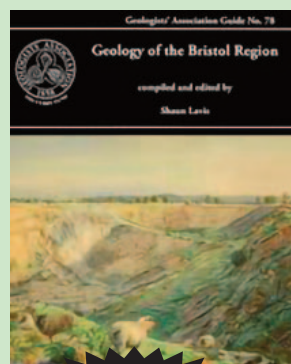
Great!
£12.00



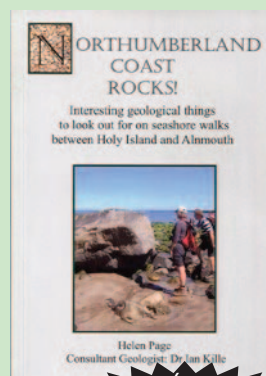
Great!
£11.95



Terrific!
£17.00



New!
£29.00



Brilliant!
£11.50

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