



# Down to Earth *Extra*

Issue 154 October 2025

## NEWS FLASH...

### 2026 Trips...

- All trips available to book now!

### Autumn Zoom sessions

- The Wednesday Club
- Sedimentary rocks course
- Simply minerals! a course for beginners

*What are you waiting for?*

*A fine view of steeply inclined limestones on the coast just to the south of Dubrovnik in Croatia. In places they are folded and faulted.*

*Dubrovnik's geology is characterized by limestone bedrock from the Dinaric Alps, which are part of the Adria microplate's collision with the Eurasian Plate, a process that continues to cause seismic activity and is creating new islands. (Image: Chris Darmon)*



## From the Editorial team...

From time to time we've used this column to highlight the state of geological outcrops across the UK. In almost every case it's been about the ways in which vegetation has encroached onto the rocks, in some cases obliterating the very reason for making it a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

From time to time there have been cases where fossil sites have been badly damaged, the Salthill crinoid site at Clitheroe in Lancashire and a trilobite site near Llandrindod Wells spring to mind, but this has seemingly died down. In a couple of cases this was blamed on 'foreign collectors' and involved the use of heavy power tools. So it's particularly alarming to see a serious case in the Southwest of Scotland that has resulted in significant damage at two SSSI's and a rare prosecution for the perpetrator.

In this case it was rare minerals that were being targeted. Worryingly, the criminal involved in this case appears to have had financial gain as their primary objective. Dagmara Lesiow Lasczewski was found guilty at Paisley Sheriff's Court of causing reckless damage to SSSI's in Scotland with the specimens thus obtained being sold online and via her shop in Glasgow.

This was the first such conviction brought in Scotland by the Government body NatureScot, and it should send a warning shot to others intent on causing similar damage to SSSI's both in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Let us be clear, every right thinking palaeontologist and mineral collector should condemn such action in the strongest of terms.

There's a place for responsible collecting and responsible dealing in minerals and fossils, but not for reckless behaviour at our finest sites.

*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

### The North Atlantic and plate tectonics - the debate that will not go away...

*Over the last year it seems that the tectonics of the North Atlantic have hardly been out of the news. We've reported the findings of researchers from Uppsala and Derby Universities. Now comes more news from a team based at Cambridge University.*

*This comes from the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge:*

"What do the rumblings of Iceland's volcanoes have in common with the now peaceful volcanic islands off Scotland's western coast and the spectacular basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland?

About sixty million years ago, the Icelandic mantle plume—a fountain of hot rock that rises from Earth's core-mantle boundary—unleashed volcanic activity across a vast area of the North Atlantic, extending from Scotland to Greenland.

For decades, scientists have puzzled over why this burst of volcanism was so extensive. Now, research led by the University of Cambridge has found that differences in the thickness of tectonic plates around the North Atlantic might explain the widespread volcanism.

The researchers compiled seismic and temperature maps of Earth's interior, finding that patches of thinner tectonic plate acted like conduits, funnelling the plume's hot rock over a wide area.

Iceland, which is one of the most volcanically active places on Earth,



*The Giant's Causeway in North Ireland - just one of the products of the volcanism of 60 million years ago.*

*(Image: Courtesy of Cambridge University)*

owes its origins largely to the mantle plume. Beyond volcanism, the Iceland Plume's influence even extends to shaping the seafloor and ocean circulation in the North Atlantic and, in turn, climate through time. Despite its global significance, many aspects of the plume's

Down to Earth extra is designed & published by Geo Supplies Ltd.,  
49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE

Editor: Chris Darmon  
Assistant Editor: Colin Schofield

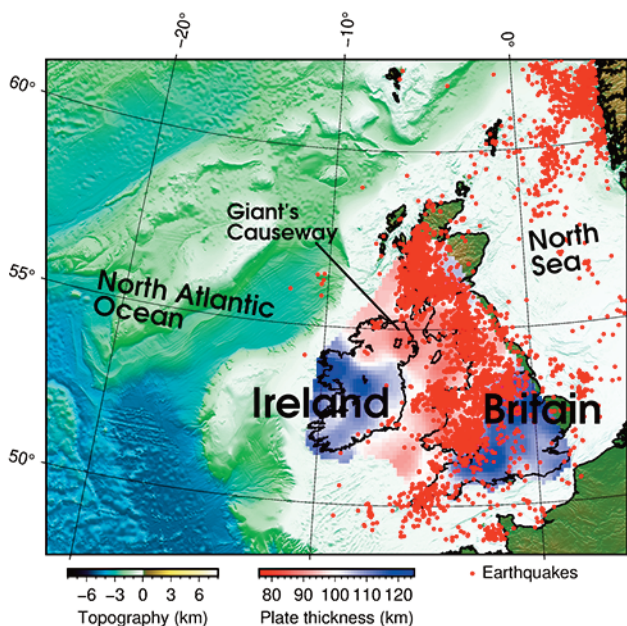
Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405  
Subscribe for FREE: [downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk)

Material is © Geo Supplies Ltd. 2025  
You are welcome to share DtoE extra with others in your group and reproduce items contained here, provided you acknowledge the source.

behaviour and history remain elusive.

“Scientists have a lot of unanswered questions about the Iceland plume,” said Raffaele Bonadio, a geophysicist at Cambridge’s Department of Earth Sciences and lead author of the study.

Bonadio set out to explain why the plume’s volcanic imprint was much more widespread sixty million years ago—before the Atlantic opened—forming volcanoes and lava outpourings stretching over thousands of kilometres. The pattern could be explained by the mantle plume spreading outward in a branched, flowing formation, Bonadio explained, “but evidence for such flow has been scarce.”



*An overview of plate thickness - the setting for the Tertiary volcanic event in the North Atlantic.*

*(Image: Courtesy of Cambridge University)*

In search of answers, Bonadio focussed on a segment of the North Atlantic Igneous Province to better understand the complex distribution of volcanoes in Scotland and Ireland. He wanted to know if the structure of Earth’s tectonic plates played a role in the surface expression of volcanism.

Using seismic data extracted from earthquakes, Bonadio created a computer-generated image of Earth’s interior beneath Britain and Ireland. This method, known as seismic tomography, works similarly to a medical CT scan, revealing hidden structures deep within the planet. Bonadio coupled this with seismic thermography measurements - a new method developed by the team—which reveal variations in the temperature and thickness of the tectonic plate.

He found that northwest Scotland and Ireland’s volcanoes formed in areas where the lithosphere (Earth’s rigid outer layer that makes up the tectonic plates) is thinner and weaker.

“We see ancient volcanoes concentrated within this corridor of thin lithosphere beneath the Irish Sea and surrounding areas,” said Bonadio. He thinks the hot plume material was preferentially funnelled along this corridor, ponding in the thin plate areas due to its buoyancy.

Previously, some scientists had put forward alternative, non-mantle

plume origins for the volcanic activity, said Bonadio. But his new research shows the scattering could be explained by the magma being diverted and re-routed to areas of thinner lithosphere.

Sergei Lebedev, from the University of Cambridge said, “This striking correlation suggests that hot plume material eroded the lithosphere in this region. This resulting combination of thin lithosphere, hot asthenosphere and decompression melting likely caused the uplift and volcanic activity.”

In a previous study, the authors have found a close link between the uneven distribution of earthquakes in Britain and Ireland and the thickness of the lithosphere, showing how the scars left by the mantle plume influence seismic hazards today.

Bonadio and Lebedev are also using their methods to map geothermal energy resource potential. “In Britain and Ireland, the greatest supply of heat from the Earth’s mantle is in the same places where volcanoes erupted sixty million years ago, and where the lithosphere is thinner,” said Lebedev. He and Bonadio are working with international colleagues to apply their new seismic thermography methods to global geothermal assessment.

**The Editor comments:** Yet another study looking at the tectonics of the North Atlantic and yet more for us to try and digest. Each piece of research takes us closer to what happened, but for the moment at least both pro and anti mantle plumers, have at least a foot in the door.

What it says for me, is that any idea that the North Atlantic has been a simple, and classic plate margin over the past 60 million years is ‘dead in the water’.

*If you want to hear more about the North Atlantic story, why not join in our Zoom session on November 26th. “The evolution of the North Atlantic”.*

## Mineral collector found guilty of damaging three Scottish SSSI’s...

*A mineral collector has been convicted of damaging sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by using a hammer to break rocks to collect rare minerals to sell, in the first conviction of its kind in Scotland.*



*Damage caused at Fountainhall SSSI in the illegal quest for mimeral specimens. (Image: NatureScot)*

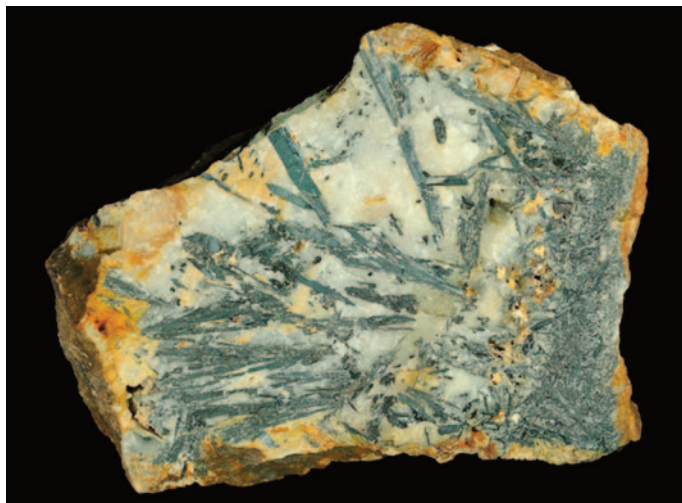
*This comes from NatureScot:*

“Dagmara Lesiow Lasczewski was found guilty of three charges of causing reckless damage to SSSI’s at Paisley Sheriff Court on 28 July.



The offences involved the damage and removal of mineralised rock. Two of the sites targeted, Fountainhead SSSI, near New Cumnock, East Ayrshire and Talnotry Mine SSSI, near Newton Stewart, Dumfries and Galloway, are historic mining locations containing limited amounts of mineral-bearing spoil.

Minerals removed from the Fountainhead site included rare stibnite. The stibnite, which is a spectacular silvery-grey blade-shaped mineral, contains antimony, a type of semi-metal of exquisite quality not found elsewhere in Scotland. Fountainhead is nationally important for understanding the geological processes that concentrated antimony in this area of Scotland.



*Stibite from Fountainhall, collected legally and in the collections of the National Museum of Scotland.  
(Image: Courtesy of NatureScot and The National Museum)*

Specimens extracted from these vulnerable sites had been broken and advertised for sale online and at Ms Lasczewski's shop, the Caledonian Rock Shop, in Glasgow. The Court was shown evidence of social media posts which placed Ms Lasczewski at the sites showing her intent to break rocks and extract minerals using hammers. Efforts are now being made to return minerals, removed illegally from the SSSI's, to their rightful owners.

Separate to this case, NatureScot believes up to 20 other protected mineral sites in Scotland may also be affected by damaging and exploitative mineral collecting by unknown individuals. The nature agency is working to find out the extent of this, and how these nationally important sites can be safeguarded while supporting sustainable and responsible amateur mineral collecting.

NatureScot is considering working with the amateur mineral collecting community on the development of a mineral specimen collecting code, akin to the Scottish Fossil Code. The Code would provide enthusiasts with best practice guidance on how to collect minerals legally and responsibly.

**Colin MacFadyen, Geological Advisor, with NatureScot said:**

"Scotland's internationally important mineral heritage is an irreplaceable aspect of our nature with the best and most representative locations protected as SSSIs. We support mineral collecting for research, education and recreation, provided it is done responsibly, legally and in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

"However, exploitative collecting from vulnerable sites is

unsustainable especially if it is commercially driven. Rare and important minerals can become lost to science and put beyond public sight. In this case, we have seen some of Scotland's most vulnerable and important protected mineral sites being targeted and damaged.

"We therefore welcome the verdict in this case and expect that it will serve as a deterrent against further damaging and illegal mineral collecting activity. We want to make sure that everyone can benefit from Scotland's world-class mineral heritage both now and in the future".

**Iain Batho, who leads on wildlife and environmental crime for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), said:**

"It is highly important to preserve Scotland's natural heritage, including the geology that forms part of it. As such, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are given strict protection by our law.

"COPFS takes offences in relation to damaging SSSIs seriously and action will be taken against those who commit such offences, where there is sufficient evidence of a crime and where it is in the overall public interest to do so."

*See also the Editorial in this issue of DtoE extra.*

### **Visitors will be able to see excavations at Brymbo former steelworks free of charge...**

A former steelworks at Brymbo, near Wrexham in North Wales is home to a 314 million year-old fossil forest that was first discovered, by accident, in 2003. There have been several times over the past 20 years when its future looked to be in jeopardy.

Now, with funding for a full excavation and conservation and eventual display now in place, the public are being invited to come and witness the extraordinary work that's going on and it will be free of charge!



**Just one of the many fossil trees that will finally be excavated and put on permanent display at Brymbo. (Image: Stori Brymbo)**

The forest at Brymbo during the late Carboniferous contained no flowering plants. In fact, it would be quite difficult to find many living representatives of the ancient flora preserved at the site. Instead of deciduous and pine trees the forests contained giant relatives of horsetails and club-mosses along with many groups of primitive plants that bore no ancestors that survive today. In-between the layers of coal at the Brymbo are layers of mudstone and sandstone that represent devastating flash flooding events that buried much of the river-delta in the area in sediment. The exposed rock section at Brymbo represents

discrete flooding events that have preserved a variety of environments that are uniquely preserved at Brymbo.

To date the volunteers at Brymbo have helped ensure that the site attained 'Site of Specific Scientific Interest' status in 2015, and to then secure funding for the site to be fully fenced. They worked with Natural Resources Wales, the National Galleries and Museums of Wales and Wrexham County Borough Council to conserve and enhance a number of the fossils excavated in 2003-2008, and to mount Brymbo-specific exhibitions in Wrexham and Cardiff. In 2018 the same partners helped to recruit a full-time palaeontologist to oversee future work. Since then we have provided a number of free 'crash courses' in earth science subjects to attract interested individuals and built a large volunteer base to help curate fossil material and protect the fossil forest.



*The current building in which the fossil forest is displayed.  
(Image: Stori Brymbo)*

The planned excavation of the site and erection of a building to protect and display the fossil forest is the first step in beginning to unlock the potential of this important scientific resource for the public, education and the scientific community. Excavating, preserving and displaying this geologic marvel is of the upmost importance not only in relation to local history but for global natural history.

Such a potential educational resource needs to be protected and utilised to foster a greater appreciation of the earth's diverse history, the evolution of ecosystems and, perhaps most importantly, how climate change can impact global environments. The fossil forest at Brymbo represents a truly exciting prospect, an in-situ palaeontological window into a 300 million year old environment, an environment that is intrinsically tied to the local heritage in that it was

responsible for producing the coal that allowed the community to thrive during the industrial revolution.

**Entry will be free as part of CADW's Heritage Month. To find out more go to: <https://stori.brymbo.co.uk/?for=opening-times-etc>.**

### Bizarre new armoured dinosaur discovered...

A dinosaur tagged with the nickname 'punk' has been worked on by researchers from the University of Birmingham.



*This comes from the University's website:*

The world's most unusual dinosaur is even stranger than first realised, as new research published in Nature reports that *Spicomellus* had a tail weapon more than 30 million years before any other ankylosaur, as well as a unique bony collar ringed with metre-long spikes sticking out from either side of its neck.

*Spicomellus* is the world's oldest ankylosaur, having lived more than 165 million years ago in the Middle Jurassic near what is now the Moroccan town of Boulemane. It was the first ankylosaur to be found on the African continent.

New remains of *Spicomellus* found by a team of palaeontologists have helped to build upon the original description of the unusual animal. The initial description of the species was published in 2021 and was based on one rib bone. The team now know that the animal had bony spikes fused onto and projecting from all of its ribs, a feature not seen in any other vertebrate species living or extinct. It had long spikes, measuring 87 centimetres, which authors believe would have been even longer during the animal's life, that emerged from a bony collar that sat around its neck.



## Get Down to Earth - by e-mail...

**If you've enjoyed reading this Down to Earth extra, you'll love our quarterly Down to Earth! It's a 32-page quality magazine in full colour that's packed with up to the minute geological news and articles. You can get your hands on this either in print or electronic formats. Why not request a FREE sample electronic copy of the current issue?**

**For 2025/6 why not treat yourself or a loved one to a gift subscription? Go to: [www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk) and enter the online shop or ring us on 0114 245 5746.**

**Down to Earth** is published quarterly and is available as a PDF e-subscription for just £10.00 for 1 year or £25.00 for 3 years. If you prefer a paper copy that is available for £17.00 for 1 year with back issues for 2024 included as well.

**HOW TO SUBSCRIBE** - Go online at: [www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk) • Tel. 0114 245 5746 and quote any major card • or send a cheque (payable to Geo Supplies Ltd.) to: 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE

*Extra October 2025*



# Great geo-adventures in 2026 begin here...



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

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

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

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

To view a brochure, go to our website at:  
[www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk) or Tel: 0114 245 5746  
Remember that booking forms are only available direct from us:  
Email: [downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto: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, 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](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk) or ring us on 0114 245 5746  
Geo Supplies Ltd 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE





**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*



*A group visited the Heart of Wales in July 2025. Here they are seen taking a close look at greywackes at Llyn Brianne. (Image: Chris Darmon)*

### 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.



*We also provide special trips for American geologists. This was the scene at Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum in May 2025. (Image: Chris Darmon)*

***But, above all, our trips are educational informative and FUN! We don't take ourselves or our geology too seriously.***

***After all you are on holiday - and you are paying for it! We look forward to welcoming you on a trip sometime soon.***

# 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.

*This trip is now fully booked.*

### **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!*



## NEW!

### Minehead & North Somerset, June 7-12 £995

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!*

### 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.*

### 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 Eystrí 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](http://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!

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

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.  
**Fully booked, but you can join our waiting list!**

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

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

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



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

Our base for the trip is the comfortable Waverley Castle Hotel which sits in beautiful grounds on the outskirts of the small town. Unusually, we have been offered a number of single rooms, at a very modest supplement - but get in quickly to secure your place!  
**Bookings have been coming in for this trip.**

**To make a booking email us at:**  
[downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](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.

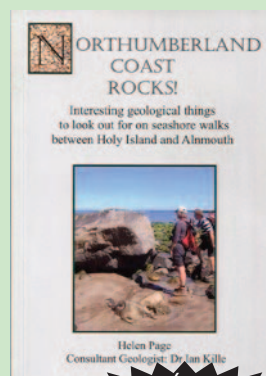
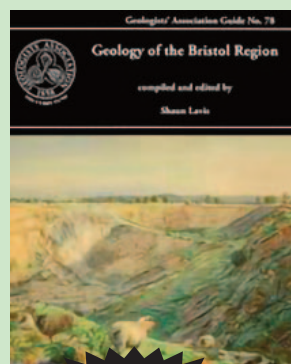
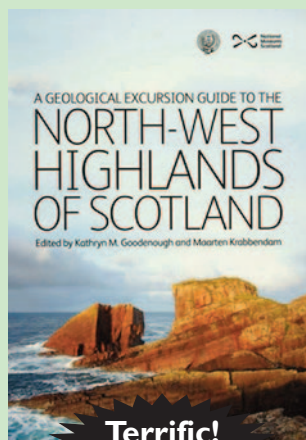
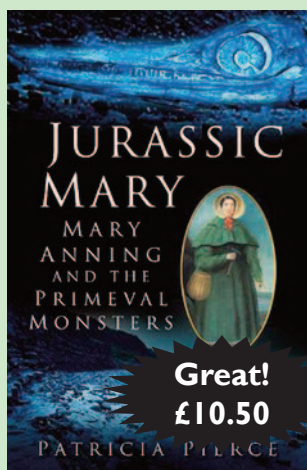
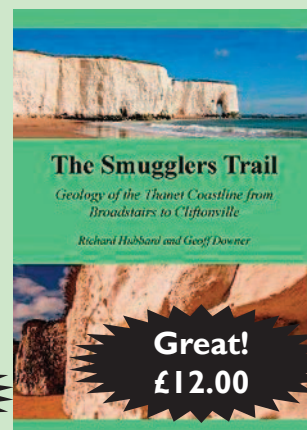
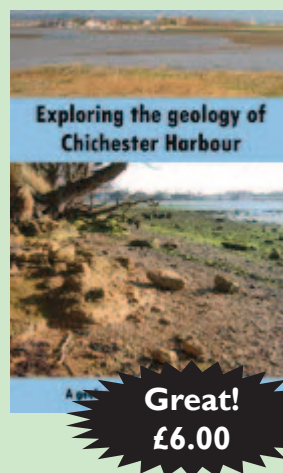
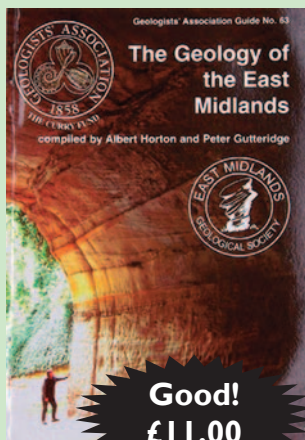
**To find out more or to enrol, email us at:**

[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 October 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 October 2025 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature a variety of different books. Please note, all prices include UK postage.



Order online at [www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk) or ring us on 0114 245 5746  
Geo Supplies Ltd 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE