



Down to Earth *Extra*

Issue 160 April 2026

NEWS FLASH...

2026 Trips..

- Shropshire Summer School
- Minehead discount!

Ask about late vacancies!

2027 Trips

- Magma Geopark Norway
May 4-13 Book now!
Zoom

What are you waiting for?

This is a historic slate quarry, still being actively worked, at Delabole in North Cornwall. The Devonian slate was first extracted from here on a large scale when the London and South Western Railway (LSWR), opened in the 1880s giving a through route to Waterloo. Before this time Cornish slate had been transported by sea and served a more local customer base.

*Today the quarry is famous for its bespoke kitchen work tops and memorials.
(Image: Chris Darmon)*

From the Editorial team...

Never let it be said that those of us in the Earth science community ever miss an opportunity to 'bang the drum' for our cause. Surely the opening of the world's longest coastal paths represents just such an opportunity for us. But will we grab it?

At 2,689 miles the 'King Charles III England Coastal Path' is far more than just a stroll in the park. It knocks both the Pennine Way and South West Coastal Way into a cocked hat. At this length, there won't even be many charity sponsored walkers attempting the path in its entirety either. That said, I can see a few high profile attempts in the near future.

What's much more likely is that people will dip in and out of it, doing a short local stretch. My advice - to get the most out of such a walk - always do it in both directions you'll be amazed at what you will see! And here's the opportunity - what will you see of the geology and landscape?

No doubt people like the RSPB will be in there, rising to the challenge of presenting the birdlife to all of the walkers. So too, the botanists, informing us of the flowering plants we'll see at every season of the year. But what about the rocks and the coastal scenery? I fear that it will be rather like the BBC's 'Coast' series of programmes where geology was either an afterthought, a footnote, or omitted altogether.

Geology and landscape are fundamental aspects of our coasts and should be up there at the top of the page. I suspect that in the coming months information boards and apps will start to appear with all the corporate logos of the 'King Charles III England Coastal Path'. We need to ensure that we are a part of that rollout.

This is a great opportunity to place geology and landscape before the general public and it should not be missed.

*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 9-11 for details.



news update

The Natural History Museum demonstrates that dinosaurs (and other fossils) do still have pulling power...

Amid the sort of hype that you'd expect when a track gets to the number one spot in the pop music charts, London's Natural History Museum wins! Yes the capital's Natural History Museum has taken over from The British Museum to once again become the number one tourist attraction.

In 2025, it recorded more than 7.1 million visitors and taking it to the number one spot for the very first time. More than that, the figure represents a record an all time record for any UK museum or gallery and an increase of 13.1% over the 2024 figure.

Through a press release, The Natural History Museum Director Dr Doug Gurr said: "We are thrilled to be the UK's most popular visitor attraction, smashing all previous records for the sector! These exceptional results reflect our unwavering focus on delivering a fantastic day out for every visitor, as well as the dedication of our colleagues who work tirelessly to create unforgettable experiences and world-class exhibitions.

"We should all take heart from these figures. Welcoming 7.1 million visitors demonstrates the enormous public appetite to engage with the wonders of the natural world and UK cultural attractions. That's why we are committed to creating more space to welcome visitors through our NHM150 campaign - opening a brand-new or revitalised permanent gallery every year until our 150th anniversary in 2031."



*'Fern in the sun' - outside the South Kensington attraction
(Image: Trustees of The Natural History Museum)*

As well as being a world-famous visitor attraction, the Museum is a leading research centre with over 400 scientists working to solve some of the planet's biggest challenges. With over 80 million specimens, spanning 4.5 billion years, the breadth and depth of the

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49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE

Editor: Chris Darmon
Assistant Editor: Colin Schofield

Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405

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Museum's collection make it the most important of its kind in the world.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland CEO Patricia Yates says: "Our wonderful museums are powerful motivators for travel for both domestic and international visitors and we congratulate the Natural History Museum for taking the top spot in ALVA's survey (The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions) and reaching a record high in its visitor numbers.

"Every year millions of people come to Britain drawn by our first-class heritage and cultural attractions including the world-renowned Natural History Museum, inspired by the mix of history, storytelling, the brilliant exhibitions and experiences. Those visitors then go on to explore other destinations across Britain, supporting our restaurants, high streets, shops, pubs and hotels, and boosting the wider economy."

Looking forwards



Tickets are now on sale for the Museum's new blockbuster exhibition Jurassic Oceans: Monsters of the Deep which makes its European debut on Friday 22 May 2026. Visitors will be able to come face to face with some of the fiercest predators to ever live and embark on an electrifying adventure through ancient waters teeming with real-life sea monsters such as Ichthyosaurs, Plesiosaurs and Mosasaurs.

The Editor comments: Yes, the public love to interact with the natural world through specimens, especially when they are of such superb quality. Our Natural History Museum fully deserves this accolade bestowed upon it by us, its customers.

The NHM continues to innovate and improve the ways it communicates, especially by the ways it engages with young people. Long may it continue to do so!

Siccar Point - a positive update...

Down to Earth 133 (last November) contained an article and an appeal for funds to improve access to the world famous Siccar Point section to mark the tercentenary of the birth of James Hutton next year, 2027.

The Scottish Geology Trust, the lead body behind the appeal has now

issued an update, containing the exciting announcement that construction has begun!



Atop a lonely cliff top at Siccar Point a digger begins the work to create a viewing platform and interpretation site. (Image: Scottish Geology Trust)

"We are blown away with your continued support; the donations continue to roll in, demonstrating that this really is a project that people care deeply about. Thanks to the 594 of you who have donated via the Crowdfunder site, our total is now at £62,815, excluding direct donations.

At Siccar Point, it is full steam ahead! Planning permission was granted in January, with the conditions that an archaeological survey is carried out at the view point. That survey is being carried out in the next week, and construction work has started on the trail, gates and fences (see attached photo).

The final design of the interpretation panels is being reviewed, and we can't wait to see them in place.

The trail will formally launch on Saturday and Sunday 30-31 May with open days at Siccar Point, and an exhibition at Cockburnspath Village Hall.

You can read more about these events, and other events marking Hutton's Tercentenary at <https://james-hutton.org/events/>

'King Charles III England Coast Path ' is opened by Charles himself...

King Charles III in suitable walking gear, opened the new coastal, path named after himself, when he walked a short section of the route close to the Seven Sisters chalk cliffs in East Sussex.

The occasion marked the opening of the 2,689 mile long coastal walk that takes in the entirety of England. Admittedly it's not all beautiful with a fair percentage dominated by an industrial landscape, or, worse still urban decay.

Currently around 80% of the route is open with work on the remaining parts due to be completed by the end of the year.

Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England, said:

"Following 16 years of hard work from the Natural England team we are delighted to reach this landmark point for the King Charles III England Coast Path. It is testament to how public enjoyment, conservation, heritage, history and community can come together, helping make life better for millions of people. It also presents a

fitting tribute to His Majesty's lifelong contribution to the natural world.



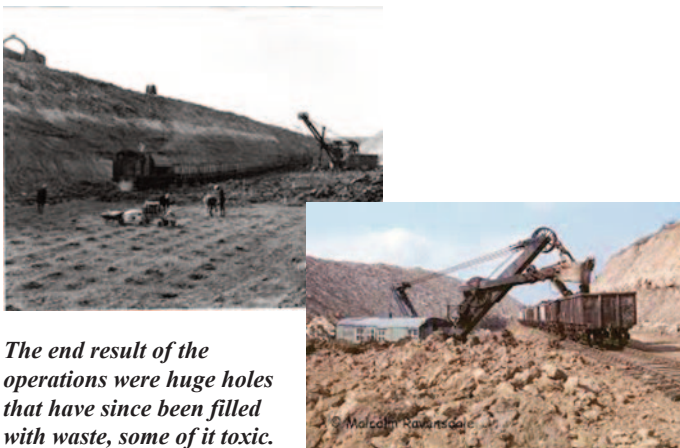
His Majesty King Charles III accompanied by the Chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper and the Environment Secretary, Emma Reynolds
(Image: Natural England)

Through this incredible national trail people from around the country and around the world will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the English Coast and the feelings of wellbeing that this brings. It will reconnect people with the outdoors, support nature recovery, provide economic benefits and create a more inclusive, sustainable future."

A major former waste site in Northamptonshire could be leaking polluted water...

The town of Corby in Northamptonshire was, for more than a century, home to a major steel making works. Like the plant in Scunthorpe, in North Lincolnshire that still operates, it was based around using local sedimentary iron ore from the Lower Jurassic (Lias) strata. This iron ore, which was around 20% iron content was obtained from huge opencast sites.

One of these was at Gretton near Corby, a site known as Deene Quarry. This produced millions of tonnes of ore and kept the Corby furnaces running until closure in the 1980s. Like other pits it was served by a network of railway lines and other infrastructure that took the ore to Corby.



The end result of the operations were huge holes that have since been filled with waste, some of it toxic.

Your Editor well remembers some of the massive draglines that were still in sue in similar pits in East Leicestershire in the late 1960s and into the 1970s. After mining stopped they became huge holes.



Part of the Deene Quarry at Gretton, (Image: Patrick Foster.Flickr)

Local online publication NN Journal says:

"For several decades former iron ore site Deene Quarry site was the dumping ground for by-product from Corby's steel industry, with millions of gallons of toxic slurry, slag and industrial chemicals

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discarded at the former quarry site, creating huge toxic lagoons often littered with empty chemical drums.

The site was cleaned up in the 1980s and 1990s, after the former Corby District Council decided to try and turn around the fortunes of the town after steel making stopped, and transform the huge area (now known as Willowbrook North) into a new industrial complex.

But the clean up operation, which was the biggest in Europe and funded by millions of UK government and European funding was mismanaged, with a landmark legal case about birth defects in 2009 finding that there was a 'dig and dump' policy, that safety regulations were not followed and toxic pollutants that were being transported on open trucks escaped into the atmosphere and were ingested by the pregnant mothers.



This is the former speedway track that occupies the northeast corner of the site and is where toxic chemicals were dumped. (Image: Ian Bateman)

Now, thirty years after Deene Quarry was capped off, there are fears it is leaking. The landfill site is the responsibility of the local authority (now North Northamptonshire Council) and is regulated by the Environment Agency (EA). Over the past few years there have been suspicions the site has been leaking onto nearby Gretton Brook Road and into the brook that runs alongside it (which gives the road its name) with reports of the brook turning different colours on occasions.

Documents from a meeting convened by Gretton Parish Council in

January last year, which have been unearthed by a campaigner, show the concerns about the landfills at Deene Quarry are well founded."

Roger Braithwaite, who was the contaminated land expert witness during the High Court case in 2009, said disturbing the contaminated land would be "high-risk", adding "I was very concerned that the amount of waste that had gone to Deene Quarry was far beyond its capacity. Instead of it being a landfill it was a mountain. I did presume that the speedway would stay there... but that's not the case," he said. Meanwhile the Environment Agency (EA) are engaging with the local North Northamptonshire Council to "assess any potential link between activities regulated under their environment permit at Deene Quarry and possible contamination".

End of an era as the last Cornish tin ore is smelted...

The last tin ore from the former Tolgus Tin Mine in Cornwall has been smelted and with it a proud industry that has gone on for hundreds of years, has effectively ended.

Local online publication Voice says:

Cornwall's tin-mining heritage saw a historic moment this morning (Monday, February 23) when a smelting shed fired up for the final time to produce one last kilo of Cornish tin. Tin-rich concentrate from Tolgus Tin was smelted at Wheal Jane Laboratory. The pure tin produced was poured into ingot moulds and will be used in the creation of Cornwall Gold's Tolgus jewellery range.

Mike Taylor, managing director of Cornwall Gold and Tolgus Tin, described the moment as "a great example of how Cornish mining business are still working together". He added: "Our machines are not currently running. It will take a lot of refurbishment to get them back in use, and then we'll have to find tin ore to run through the mill. So



this could be the last tin smelted by us, at least for some time."

The lab where the smelting took place.

(Image: Yahoo UK)



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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?

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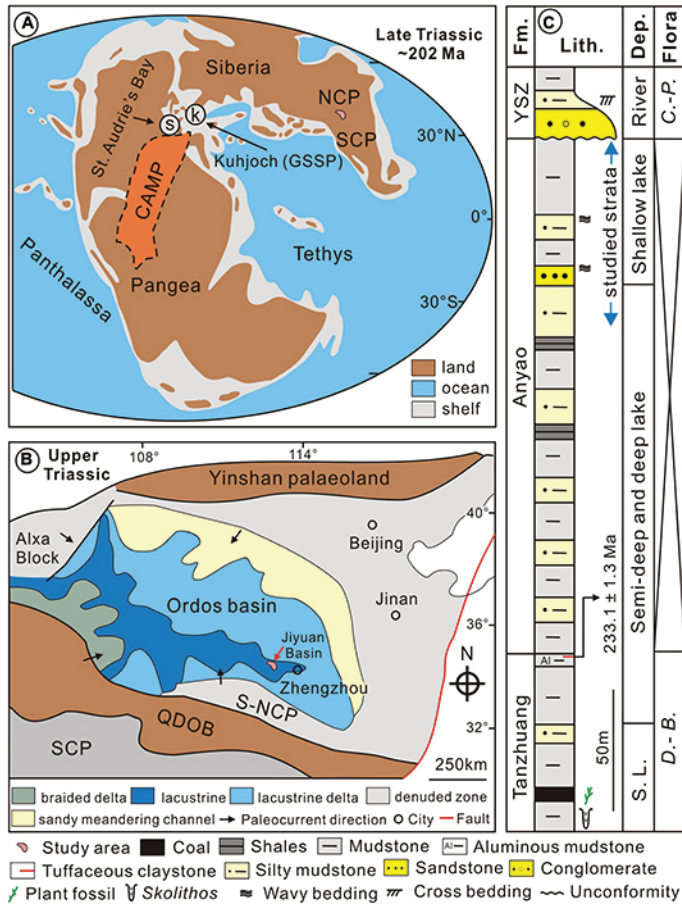
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Extra April 2026

Were massive undersea volcanic eruptions the cause of Triassic extinctions?

Volcanism has been seen as a contributing factor to the end Triassic extinction event, for some time. Now a team of scientists from China and Australia have come to the conclusion that such volcanic activity may have been the cause of some lower order and more frequent extinction events during the Triassic.



The Central Atlantic Marine Province (CAMP) is thought to be primary driver for the end-Triassic extinction event - but were other LIPs responsible for lesser extinctions?

Online publication Sci-News reports:

“Mass extinctions are extremely catastrophic events on Earth,” said Dr. Jian-Jun Fan and colleague from Jilin University and Curtin University. “Throughout Earth’s evolutionary history, numerous mass extinctions have occurred, with five major mass extinctions being particularly representative.”

“These extinctions have reshaped the course of life’s evolution on Earth. In addition to the five major mass extinctions, many frequent, lower-order extinctions have also taken place on Earth, such as the Norian-Rhaetian extinction during the Triassic period.”

“Regarding the triggering mechanisms of extinctions, the five major events have been relatively well studied. However, the triggering mechanisms of the frequent lower-order extinctions remain unclear.”

In the new study, the authors analysed oceanic island, seamount, and plateau remnants in the Tibetan Plateau that trace the evolution of Meso- and Neo-Tethys oceans.

During the Triassic, three major episodes of marine large igneous provinces (LIPs) formed at 250-248, 233-231, and 210-208 million years ago. By integrating geological records of these LIP episodes with Triassic geological datasets, the researchers demonstrated a correlation between marine LIPs and at least four extinctions in marine biota, driven by the resultant anoxic-euxinic events.

“Marine LIPs account for half of the extinctions with an identifiable geological trigger during the Triassic,” the scientists said. “This indicates that marine LIPs are a key driver of Triassic extinctions. Marine LIP eruptions on Earth are frequent; however, evidence of ancient marine LIPs is likely significantly reduced by subduction during ocean basin closure. This destruction renders such records difficult to identify and, even when identified, challenging to interpret and date precisely.”

“Orogenic belts (i.e., remnants of vanished ancient ocean basins) contain many unidentified ‘ghost’ marine LIPs, and these marine LIP eruptions likely constitute a key driver of other Phanerozoic extinctions that were previously under-recognized in Earth system models.”

The team’s paper appears in the journal Geology.

Cornwall’s Redmoor Tungsten Project gets an investment boost...

Mineral exploration and production company Strategic Minerals has raised gross proceeds of £4.7m through a subscription. The net proceeds of the subscription will significantly accelerate the company’s Redmoor Tungsten-Tin-Copper Project in Cornwall, at an opportune time for the development of critical minerals. Charles Manners, executive chair of Strategic Minerals, said: “Having been approached by a prominent international investor, the board decided to take the opportunity to fast-track the already accelerated development of the Redmoor Tungsten-Tin-Copper Project.”

“Underpinned by favourable pricing for all our minerals, this investment represents a clear endorsement of the company’s high-quality asset base, and its objective to develop Redmoor and the surrounding area into a leading source of strategic and critical minerals here in the UK to provide resilience to western world supply chains. We are delighted to welcome the investor to our register and are grateful for their support and confidence in the company.”



Core sample from Redmoor, showing an amazing 18.9% WO₃



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- Geology of the Clent & Lickey Hills
- Triassic geology of Grinshill
- Rocks of the Onny Valley
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Great geo-adventures in 2026/7 begin here...



How's this for stunning fjord scenery at its very best? This is a view in the Magma Geopark in Southern Norway which we will be visiting in May of 2027.
(Image: Courtesy of Fjord Norway)

We've launched our 2027 programme with a visit to The Magma Geopark in Norway, May 4-13.
Bookings are already coming!

We can still accommodate couples on each of the following trips: Central Cornwall, Minehead - see special offer, Anglesey and Melrose.

Remember that there are plenty of single rooms on our Summer School to Shropshire (August 8-15).

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Residential Field trip programme 2026/7...

2026

- Central Cornwall, April 30-May 7
- Teesdale & North Pennines, May 16-23 FULL
- 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 - ask us
- Melrose, the Scottish Borders, October 18-24

2027

- Magma Geopark, Norway, May 4-13

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 some trips especially for couples or people willing to share a twin or double 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.

Central Cornwall, April 30-May 1-7

£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 a couple of double and twin rooms available!

Welcome to our exciting world!



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.

Minehead & North Somerset, June 7-12 **Now only £895**



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 can still accommodate a few more people in twin or double rooms. Why not take advantage of £100 pp discount 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 serpentine 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 its 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 may have double and twin rooms available for this trip - ask us!

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.

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 Akueyri 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.

Two places in shared twin rooms available - one male & one female

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 a few more people in double or twin 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!

Planning ahead for 2027...

We've been working on our offering for 2027 and we already have two trips that are being put on for some of our American guests, one in April to the Isle of Arran another in September to Mid-Wales.

This will limit the number of trips that we can offer you, our readers. That said, we think that there will be something to tempt you. We are planning a trip in May to the Magma Geopark in Southern Norway (see below), as well as possible trips to the Isle of Bute, the Lake District, Pembrokeshire, Berwick upon Tweed, North Wales and North Cornwall. There will also be our annual Summer School and we are hoping for a new location!

Norway - Magma Geopark, May 413 (9-nights) £2595

We have been to Norway on two previous occasions to the Gea Norvegica Geopark where we saw great geology and landscape. This time we are staying in the south of the country but venturing to the Stavanger area which is the location of the fabulous Magma Geopark.



Trollpikken near Egersund is a phenomenon created by the ice during the last ice age. You too can explore the hike to the peculiar Trollpikken in Magma UNESCO Global Geopark. (Image: Visit Fjord Norway)

The tour commences with the first night in Oslo where we will be staying in an historic hotel which is actually within the main railway station. From there, we'll take a 7-hour train journey direct to the small town of Egersund, our base for the entire week.

Each day we'll venture out into the geopark with the geopark's own geologist. You'll see some amazing ancient rocks including anorthosite, that's much more common on the surface of the moon! There will be visits to former metal mines, a guided tour of a local quarry, as well as walks in the fjord landscape, a boat trip to a local island and much more!

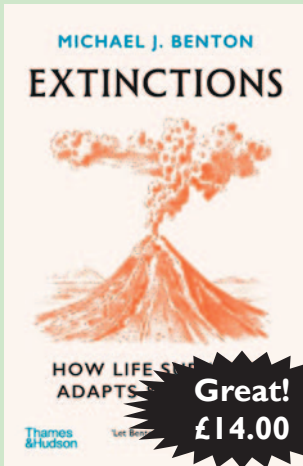
Our base is the historic Grand Hotel in Egersund for the whole week and our hosts at the geopark have even found us some great evenings out - including a visit to a highly rated seafood restaurant and a whiskey distillery!

We already have 15 bookings and the brochure is on our website at www.geosupplies.co.uk

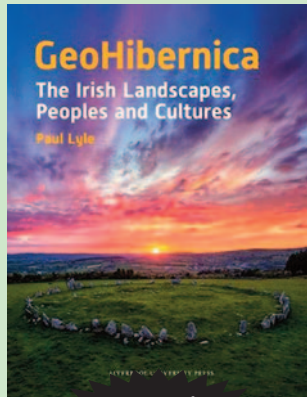
Why not contact us now for a booking form: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

Featured books for April 2026

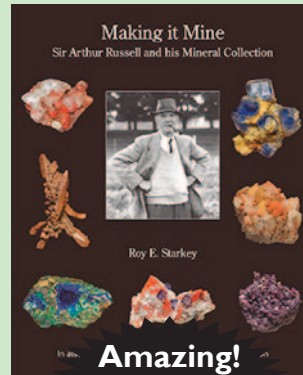
In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of April 2026 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature a variety of different books. Please note, all prices include UK postage.



Great!
£14.00



New!
£50.00



Amazing!
£45.00



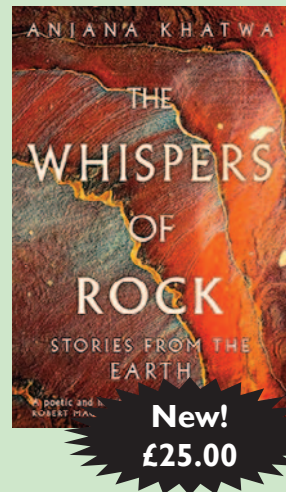
New!
£20.00



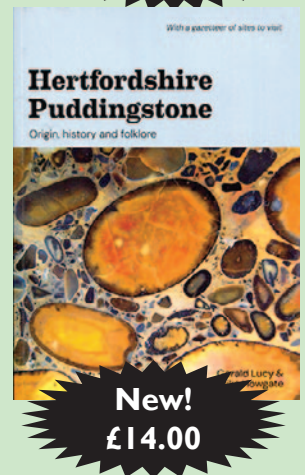
New!
£22.00



New!
£15.00



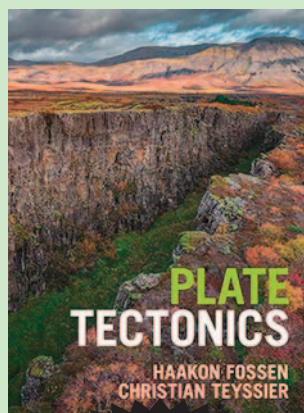
New!
£25.00



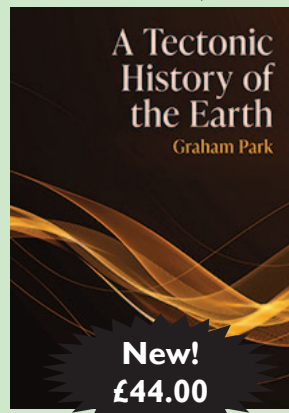
New!
£14.00



New!
£38.00

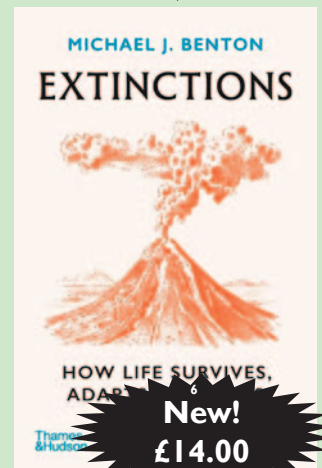


Terrific!
£50.00



New!
£44.00

Ask about new guides to
Islay & Jura!



New!
£14.00