Down to Earth extra

Issue 161 May 2026

NEWS FLASH...

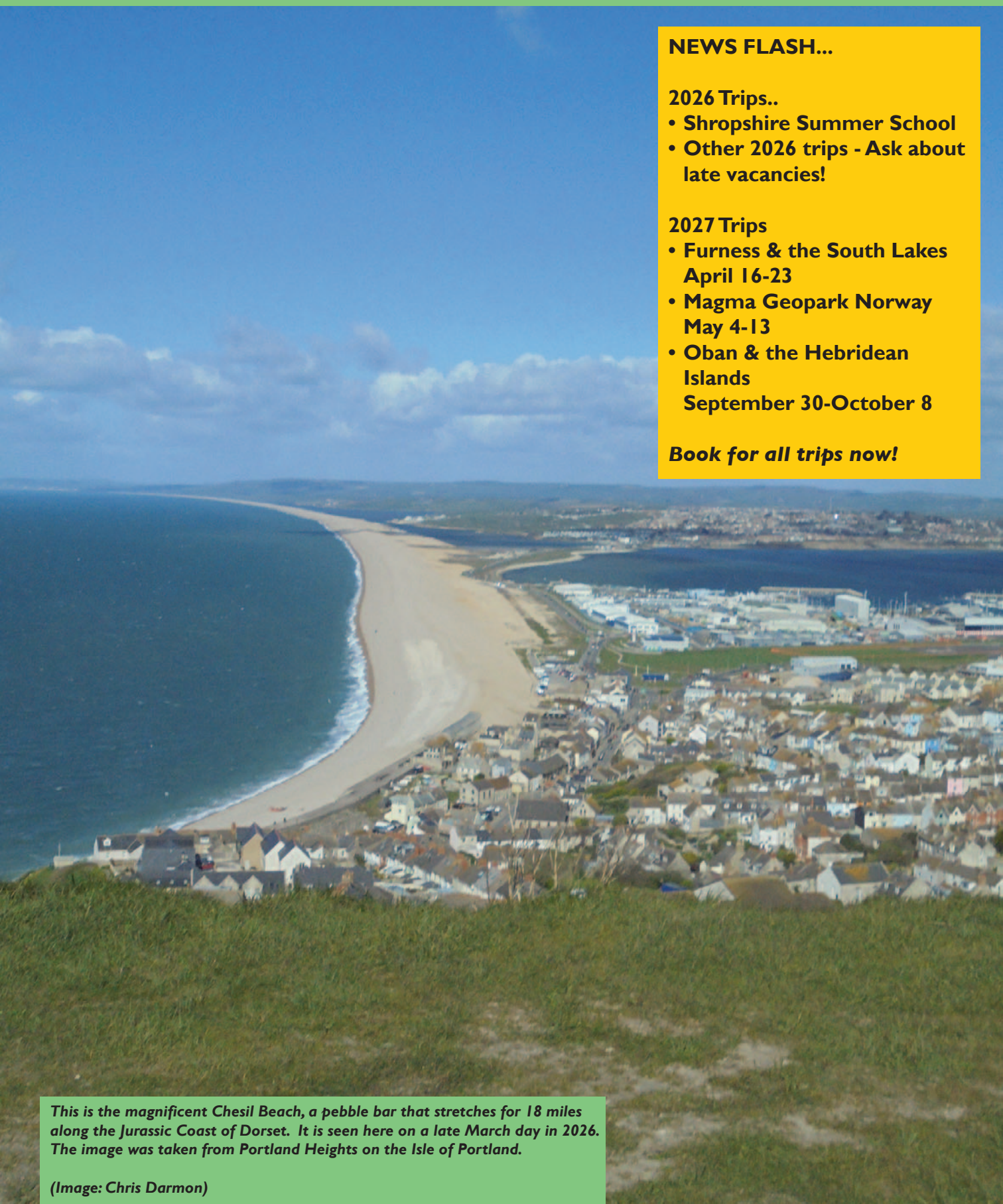
2026 Trips..

- **Shropshire Summer School**
- **Other 2026 trips - Ask about late vacancies!**

2027 Trips

- **Furness & the South Lakes April 16-23**
- **Magma Geopark Norway May 4-13**
- **Oban & the Hebridean Islands September 30-October 8**

Book for all trips now!



This is the magnificent Chesil Beach, a pebble bar that stretches for 18 miles along the Jurassic Coast of Dorset. It is seen here on a late March day in 2026. The image was taken from Portland Heights on the Isle of Portland.

(Image: Chris Darmon)

From the Editorial team
2026 is a year for a tercentenary...

Geology is a comparatively young science and we don't get to celebrate that many tercentenaries. But 2026 marks three hundred years since the birth of James Hutton, arguably the father of modern geology. It was Hutton who in 1788 discovered what we now know as 'deep tine', at the remote Scottish border spot called Siccar Point.

By comparison with the likes of significant anniversaries of characters in the arts or literature, the celebrations that are planned to mark Hutton's anniversary might seem a little low key. But, and it's an important but, they are rooted in science and the community of today's volunteers and the local community of the Edinburgh city and region that Hutton was a part of.

To understand the world of James Hutton in the late eighteenth century we need to go back to the heady days of the so called 'Edinburgh enlightenment'. It was a brilliant, concentrated burst of intellectual, scientific, and cultural activity centred in Scotland's capital, earning it the nickname "Athens of the North". Unlike their counterparts in England, centred on Oxford and Cambridge, the Edinburgh based intellectuals were not fettered by the Anglican church and its doctrines.

People like David Hume, Adam Smith and James Hutton were able to think 'outside the box' and thus revolutionized philosophy,economics, and science. Together they fostered a culture of reason and improvement that influenced the modern world. It was a world where it was possible to imagine a geological timescale that was so long that it probably stretched to millions of years.

Scientists came to accept it, and even celebrate it, even though at the time nobody had any concept of how it could even be measured. They did what scientists do best, they followed the evidence that they observed in the field and in so doing they laid down the foundations for the science of geology. More than two hundred years later, and even when we are exploring more of the Moon, we are still understanding more about the Earth. Even James Hutton would not have thought that in 2026 we'd still be getting to grips with aspects of plate tectonics and how the Earth works.

We'd like to think that Hutton would approve of what the Scottish Geology Trust is planning by way of celebrations to mark his tercentenary. There will be the unveiling of a much improved viewpoint situated at the clifftop above Siccar Point, along with guided tours to this and other Hutton sites in Edinburgh, Jedburgh and around the Central Scotland region.

It's right that the celebrations involve people in the local university community, BGS and members of grassroots organisations. These people are the heirs of James Hutton. They are the people who are advancing geology today. Hutton came from a background of some privilege, who had time to devote to science as an amateur. Yet even today we can learn from Hutton and his friends in the Edinburgh enlightenment, particularly about working collaboratively across many different disciplines and also about communicating and sharing what we are doing. In the meantime, let's celebrate and give thanks!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
The Down to Earth Editorial Team

See pages 5/6 for details of the Hutton tercentenary events. Celebrate the life and achievements of the 'father of modern geology'.

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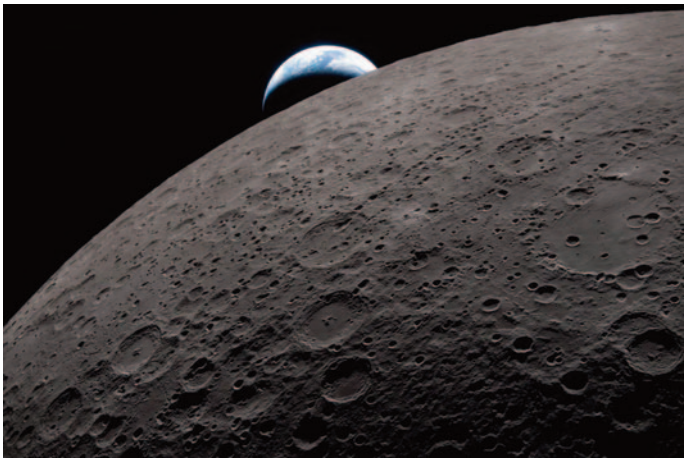
news update

Stunning images from the dark side of the moon - what has Artemis 2 taught us so far?

If you've been following the amazing journey of NASA's Artemis 2 crew you cannot have failed to be amazed by the images that have been beamed back to Earth. This is particularly the images from the so-called 'dark side of the moon' - that part hidden from our view here in Earth.



An Artemis 2 view of the dark side of the moon
(Image: Courtesy of NASA)

In the weeks and months to come lunar scientists will be pouring over those images in detail for what they tell us about the moon's surface geology and more paticularly the topography and its likely origins.

Until Artemis 2 our knowledge of the geology of the far side of the moon has been limited as this Wikipedia items shows: "The far side (or "dark side") of the Moon is characterized by a thick, rugged, and heavily cratered crust, distinct from the smoother near side. It features few maria (lava plains), dominated instead by ancient highlands composed primarily of anorthosite rock and the massive South Pole-Aitken Basin."

Clearly the images, measurements and observations by the crew of Artemis 2 will significantly add to that knowledge.

This comes from LiveScience:

"When we were on the far side of the moon, looking back at Earth, you really felt like you weren't in a capsule," said Artemis 2 mission specialist Jeremy Hansen. "You'd been transported to the far side of the moon. And it really just bent your mind. It was an extraordinary human experience. We're so grateful for it."

The flyby made Glover, Hansen, mission specialist Christina Koch and commander Reid Wiseman the first people in history to see the entire lunar far side — a feat that was impossible during the Apollo missions due to those missions' flight paths.

"Boy, I am loving the terminator," Glover called down to mission control, referring to the dividing line between day and light on the moon. There's just so much magic in the terminator — the islands of light, the valleys that look like black holes. You'd fall straight to the centre of the moon if you stepped in some of those. It's just so visually captivating."

During the flyby, the crew marveled over green and brown hues across the moon's surface, documenting the previously unseen craters and spotting new ones being made in the form of multiple impact flashes from meteors crashing into the lunar surface. All of these observations and the images they hand-captured with smartphones were fed back to NASA's lunar and planetary scientists to investigate important clues on how the moon and Earth came to be.

The flyby swung the astronauts out a maximum distance of 252,760 miles (406,777 kilometers) from Earth, breaking the previous record for the farthest humans in history by roughly 4,100 miles (6,600 km).

A 'cold case review' of fossil Octopus changes our ideas...

We are familiar with 'cold case reviews' in the area of criminal investigations, articularly where new techniques such as DNA analysis, can be applied. Now a team from the University of Reading have undertaken a similar approach, in this case to a famous fossil octopus - or so we thought...

This comes from the University of Reading's website:

A famous 300-million-year-old fossil that was thought to be the world's oldest octopus – even featuring in the ***Guinness Book of Records*** – has turned out to be something else altogether. In what amounts to a case of mistaken identity, the fossil hid its true nature through decay 300 million years ago, before being fossilised.

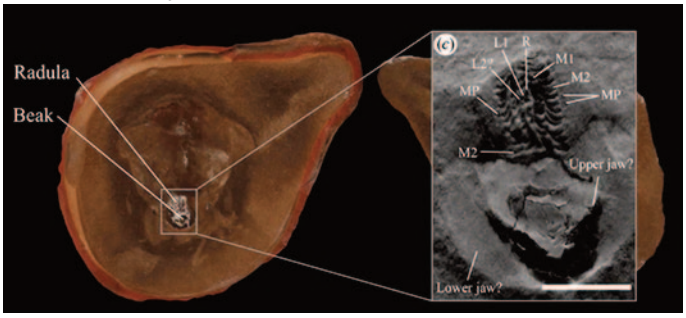
Using the latest synchrotron imaging to search inside the fossil rock, researchers discovered tiny teeth preserved inside the rock that prove that *Pohlsepia mazonensis* is not an octopus at all, but an animal related to a modern Nautilus – a multi-tentacled animal with an external shell.

A conceptual illustration depicting the reclassification of an ancient 'octopus' fossil as a relative of the modern nautilus, preserving the significant gap in the octopus evolutionary timeline.
(Image: Courtesy of Chicago Today)

This revelation, shared on Wednesday, 8 April, in the journal ***Proceedings of the Royal Society B***, solves a long-running puzzle in the understanding of octopus evolution that has confused scientists for decades. It also provides evidence of the oldest nautiloid soft tissue The final design of the interpretation panels is being reviewed, and we can't wait to see them in place.

preservation known in the fossil record and means that the

record-holding 'oldest octopus' should be quietly written out of the ***Guinness Book of Record***s.



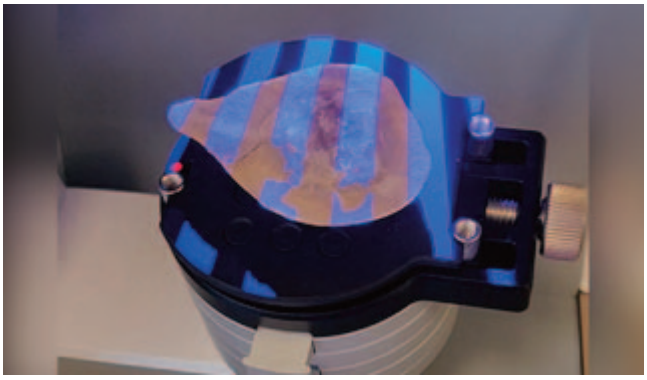
Detailed analysis of the 'octopus' revealed it to be a nautiloid. (Image: University of Reading)

Dr Thomas Clements, lead author and Lecturer in Invertebrate Zoology at the University of Reading, said: "It turns out the world's most famous octopus fossil was never an octopus at all. It was a nautilus relative that had been decomposing for weeks before it became buried and later preserved in rock, and that decomposition is what made it look so convincingly octopus-like.

Scientists identified *Pohlsepia* as an octopus 25 years ago, but using modern techniques showed us what was beneath the surface to the rock, which finally cracked the case. We now have the oldest soft tissue evidence of a nautiloid ever found, and a much clearer picture of when octopuses actually first appeared on Earth. Sometimes, reexamining controversial fossils with new techniques reveals tiny clues that lead to really exciting discoveries."

Cold case X-ray

Found in Illinois, USA, the first analysis of the fossil was published in 2000 and was later used in studies of how octopuses and their relatives evolved. Scientists thought the fossil showed eight arms, fins, and other features typical of an octopus, pushing back the known history of octopuses by around 150 million years.



Pohlsepia mazonensis undergoing X-ray analysis (Image: University of Reading)

Doubts had been raised about the identification for years, but without a clear way to test them until recently. The scientists in the new study used synchrotron imaging – a technique that uses beams of light brighter than the sun – to scan for structures invisible to the eye beneath the surface, revealing hidden details inside the rock. The scientists likened the process to giving a 300-million-year-old suspect a modern forensic examination.

What they found was a radula, a ribbon-like feeding structure with rows of teeth only found in molluscs. With at least 11 tooth-like elements per row, the shape and number ruled out an octopus entirely. Octopuses have seven or nine, while nautiloids have 13.

The teeth matched those of a fossil nautiloid called *Paleocadmus pohli*, already known from the same site where it was found, and the researchers concluded the animal had partially rotted before fossilisation, causing it to look very different from its true self.

Octopus origins pushed back

The Nautilus is a shelled sea creature still alive today, with its ancient origins leading some to describe it as a "living fossil". The *Paleocadmus* fossils found at the Mazon Creek site in Illinois now represent the oldest known nautiloid soft tissue in the fossil record – beating the previous record by around 220 million years.

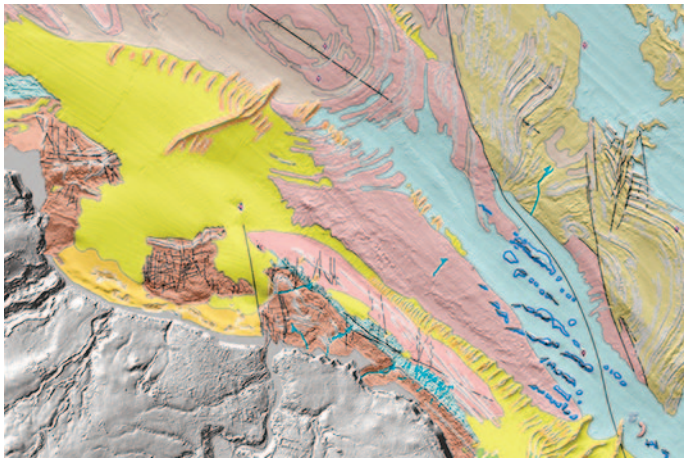
These findings change the picture of when octopuses first evolved. The data now supports octopuses appearing much later, during the Jurassic period. Scientists now believe the split between octopuses and their ten-armed relatives such as squids happened in the Mesozoic era, not hundreds of millions of years earlier as previously thought.

Dr Clements said: "It's amazing to think a row of tiny hidden teeth, hidden in the rock for 300 million years, have fundamentally changed what we know about when and how octopuses evolved."

New BGS assesment of the Southern North Sea - the first in more than 30 years...

The first regional assessment for 30 years will support offshore marine and subsurface planning for the UK's low-carbon energy infrastructure, including the 2030 target of 45 to 50 GW generated through offshore wind.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has released a new shallow subsurface geological synthesis of the southern North Sea in the first formal review of this region since the 1990s. A wealth of new subsurface data has been generated through the rapid expansion of offshore wind farm (OWF) development since the last assessment.



Seabed geology 1:10 000 map, offshore Yorkshire. (Image: BGS © UKRI 2025)

In total, the new synthesis draws on data from 22 OWFs and cable landfall sites from recent publications and open data available through The Crown Estate's Marine Data Exchange. Bringing these diverse datasets together presented a rare opportunity to enhance our geological understanding of the region, providing a detailed baseline resource to support more efficient and better-informed offshore development projects in the future.

You can read more about this material at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/

Here you will also see a wide range of geological news both from the UK and around the world, and learn moe about what BGS does.

Hutton tercentenary events...

Open Weekend at Siccar Point - May 30-31
The official opening and Open Weekend for the new Siccar Point Deep Time Trail is scheduled for May 30-31, 2026. This event celebrates the Tercentenary of James Hutton's birth and the completion of a new path and educational trail at the world-famous geological unconformity site in Berwickshire, Scotland.
Organiser: Edinburgh Geological Society

Scottish Geology Festival 1-30 June 2026
We hope that you will join us for the Scottish Geology Festival 2026, which will take place in June to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the birth of James Hutton – the father of modern geology and one of Scotland's most important enlightenment figures. The theme of the Festival is '300 years of Deep Time' and any event connected to Scotland's geology or James Hutton can be entered in the Festival: events from outwith Scotland are welcome.
Organiser: Scottish Geology Trust

James Hutton at 300: a celebration of geology - 5th June
Discover the legacy of James Hutton, the 'Father of Modern Geology'. Celebrate his Tercentenary with free, drop-in short talks, mini tours and object handling. Learn about 'deep time', Hutton's greatest contribution to science and philosophy. Dr Rachel Walcott, our Principal Curator of Earth Systems will present short talks in the Auditorium.

As part of the celebrations we have created a temporary display reflecting Hutton's own personal geology collection. Join a mini tour with Dr Bob Gooday, our Earth Systems Analyst, to find out about how Hutton used his geology specimens as evidence to prove his theories. Learn to see rocks in the way that Hutton saw them. Get hands-on with our geology collections in the Grand Gallery with Emily Brown, our Assistant Curator of Earth Systems.
Organiser: National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh

Hutton 300 Concert - June 27th
Join us for a unique evening of music, song, video and poetry inspired by James Hutton's insights regarding deep time and Earth's processes with performances from leading Scottish performers. To be held at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh at 7.30pm.

You can also see other Hutton related items in the nearby Greyfriars Kirkyard before the concert.
Organiser: Edinburgh Geological Society

Earth Matters Exhibition Until Nov 1, 2026
Held at Inverleith House Gallery (Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh), this exhibition features artists and historical works celebrating Hutton's contributions to understanding the Earth, in partnership with The James Hutton Institute and Design Exhibition Scotland.

Geopoets Tour
A guided tour to the new Deep Time Trail at Siccar Point on Sunday 28 June.
Organiser: Edinburgh Geological Society

Oldest marine crocodile fragment found on Lyme Regis Museum walk...

This comes from the Lyme Regis Museum website:

Lyme Regis Museum is delighted to share the discovery of an exceptionally rare marine crocodile maxilla (upper jaw bone) during one of its recent guided fossil walks along the Jurassic Coast. The fossil was discovered by participant Heather Salt, highlighting the remarkable potential for important finds along the beaches of Lyme Regis.

Preliminary identification suggests the specimen belongs to the same type of early Jurassic crocodile as *Turnersuchus hingleyae*, a rare marine crocodylomorph known from very few examples worldwide. In total, only around 11 specimens of this kind have ever been recorded. Of these, two are held by the Natural History Museum, one is displayed at Dinosaurland Fossil Museum and a small number are in private collections. Lyme Regis Museum itself holds several key examples, including the holotype skeleton and additional referred specimens.

Walk Guide Casey Rich said, "This is exactly why I love my role as a field palaeontologist and fossil walk guide. By teaching the basics, we give people the chance to make their own discoveries, and sometimes that leads to finds that are not only exciting, but important to science. Moments like this will remain with me forever."

This discovery reinforces the international importance of the Jurassic Coast as a site of ongoing scientific significance. More than two centuries after the pioneering discoveries of Mary Anning, the cliffs

Images of the recent crocodile find. (Images: Lyme Regis Museum)

and beaches around Lyme Regis continue to reveal fossils that contribute to our understanding of early marine reptiles and prehistoric ecosystems.

Guided fossil walks led by Lyme Regis Museum offer visitors the chance to explore this unique coastline safely, while learning how to identify and responsibly collect fossils. Finds such as this rare crocodile specimen demonstrate that important discoveries can still be made today.

Amateur fossil hunter Heather Salt found the crocodile jaw bone whilst on a Lyme Regis Museum fossil walk led by Casey Rich.

Lyme Regis Museum runs regular fossil walks throughout the year. For more information and to book, visit: www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk.

Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Last call for our eighth Summer School
Come and join us...

Harper Adams University
Shropshire
August 8-15 2026

Shropshire geology at its very best!

- 6 full days of field work with a choice on some days
- Precambrian & Cambrian rocks of the Church Stretton area
- A visit to the Abberley & Malvern Hills geopark
- A visit to the Black Country geopark
- The Lapworth geological museum at Birmingham University
- Geology of the Clent & Lickey Hills
- Triassic geology of Grinshill
- Rocks of the Onny Valley
- In the steps of Roderick Murchison at Ludlow
- Coach/minibus transport to field locations with a choice on some days
- Full board accommodation in single ensuite rooms (can also be double rooms)
- Evening talks and activities from visiting speakers and our own team
- Social events and opportunities for down time

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Summer School. The cost is £1495.00 per person whether you are in a single or shared room.

See the brochure & book online at www.geosupplies.co.uk
Email downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on 0114 245 5746
Geo Supplies Ltd 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE

Down to Earth
'Earth science learning for all'

The learning zone

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 working on our 2027 programme and currently have three trips confirmed. We begin with a visit to Furness in the South Lakes of Cumbria and then the Magma Geopark in Norway. Moving to the Autumn we've got a week based in Oban in Western Scotland. Bookings are already coming!

We can still accommodate people on our Summer School to Shropshire (August 8-15) where there are plenty of single rooms and for couples on the trip to Melrose in the Scottish Borders (October 18-24).

To view a brochure, go to our to website at: www.geosupplies.co.uk or Tel: 0114 245 5746

Remember that booking forms are only available direct from us:
Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Residential Field trip programme 2026/7...

2026
- Teesdale & North Pennines, May 16-23 FULL
- Shetland, The Northern Isles, June 17-25 FULL
- Anglesey, July 5-10 - ask us
- Summer School, Shropshire, August 8-15
- Iceland, September 13-22 - ask us
- Melrose, the Scottish Borders, October 18-24

2027
- Furness & South Lakes, April 16-23
- Magma Geopark, Norway, May 4-13
- Oban & the Hebridean Isles, Scotland, September 30-October 8

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.

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.

Still some availability this year...

We still have vacancies on some trips especially for couples or people willing to share a twin or double room. We also have singles available on our Summer School to Shropshire in August.

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.

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.

The Dinorben Arms Hotel, our base on Anglesey

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.

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!

The Harper Adams University campus is set in rolling countryside (Image: Harper Adams University

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 inconformity 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 all. Whilst we are still at the planning stage for some of the programme, we currently have three trips confirmed and they are all brand new locations for us.

We are accepting bookings NOW for the trips listed below.

Furness & the South Lakes. April 16-23 (7-nights) £1295
The Lake District is arguably our premier National Park and it's an area that many of you will have visited. But how many of you know or have ever visited the South Lakes, known as the Furness area? It's an area of scenic coastline with small coastal communities like Grange over Sands and Arnside. From our base in Grange we'll be able to explore a wide area taking in places such as Ravenglas, St Bees, Arnside, Lake Windermere from Lakeside and quarries around Millom.

The Cumbria Grand Hotel is in the tranquil resort of Grange over Sands.

All this from the comfort of the Cumbria Grand Hotel in Grange over Sands. Take advantage of this excellent value package, just as the spring flowers come out!

This trip is now available to book with spaces for singles an couples!

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.

The tour commences with the first night in Oslo where we will be staying in an historic hotel which is actually within the amin 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

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)

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

Oban & the Hebridean Isles, September 30-October 9 (8-nights) £1495
Yes, we've found a hotel base in Oban! Now that we can tick that box, we can bring you an action packed week of trips around the surrounding area. With luck we'll get you to the islands of Kerrera, Lismore, Mull, Iona, Luing and Easdale. We'll also take in some of the geology of the mainland, around the Falls of Cruachan, Crianlarich and Tyndrum. You'll see fabulous Scottish geology from the Lewisian through to the Tertiary volcanics with much in between.

The Royal Hotel is on Oban's seafront and is close to the harbour and railway station.

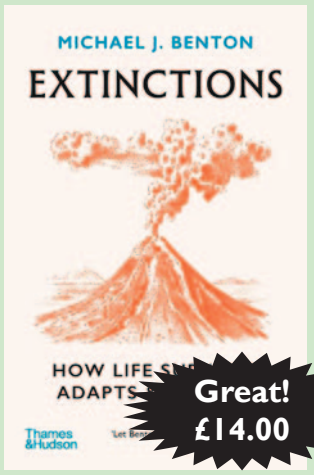
Enjoy the comforts of the 3-star Royal Hotel in Oban where we offer ensuite rooms and all main meals.

This trip is now available to book with spaces for singles and couples!

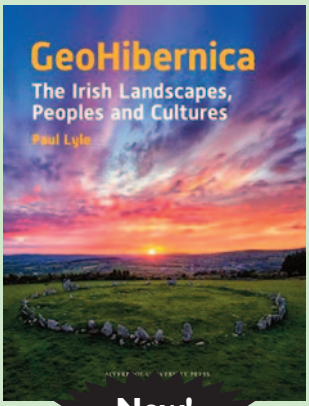
Why not contact us now for a booking form: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

Featured books for May 2026

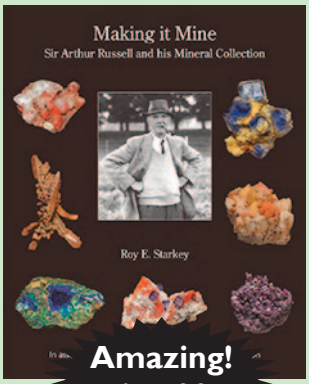
In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of May 2026 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature a variety of different books. Please note, all prices include UK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



Great!
£14.00

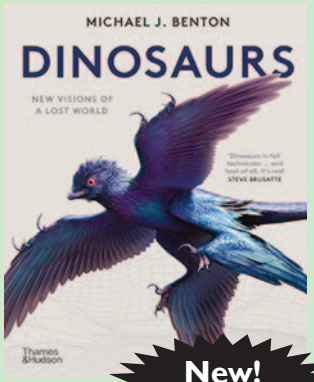


New!
£50.00



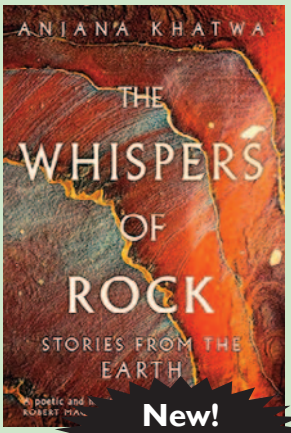
Amazing!
£45.00

New!
£20.00



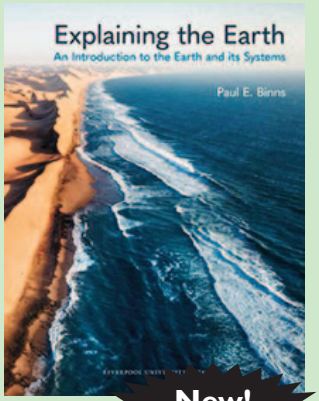
New!
£22.00

New!
£7.00

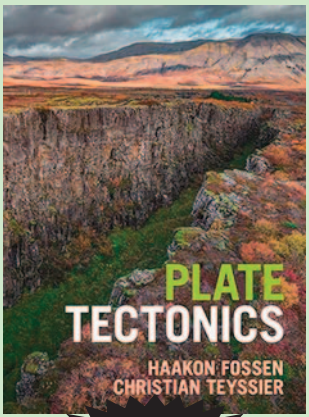


New!
£25.00

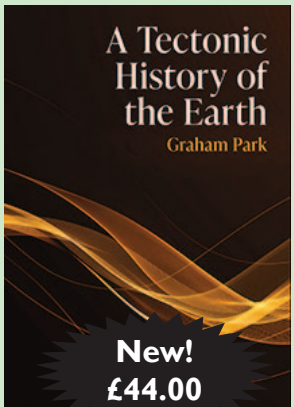
New!
£14.00



New!
£38.00

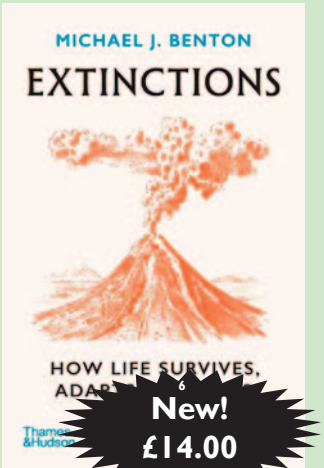


Terrific!
£50.00



New!
£44.00

Ask about new guides to Islay & Jura!



New!
£14.00

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