Down to Earth extra

Issue 163 July 2026

NEWS FLASH...

2026 Trips..
- **Shropshire Summer School**
- **Melrose 2 vacancies due to cancellation**

2027 Trips
- **All eight trips can now be booked!**

First Autumn Zoom sessions!
- **The geology of Oman**
- **Venezuela tectonics**

Book for all trips now!

What are you waiting for?

The Arenal volcano in Costa Rica, captured in the morning sun from the eastern side. The volcano was in a state of continuous eruption from 1964 to 2012, producing explosive strombolian bursts of lava bombs every few minutes. You could visit this location in January 2027 with Volcanic Experiences!

(Image: Alan Clewlow)

From the Editorial team...

What a difference a (little) money would make to our 'geological estate'! We have just returned from another successful trip to see the exceptional geology at the 'top of the UK' in the Shetland Isles. For the first time in around a decade we've taken a look at some of our most iconic rocks on North Mainland and the islands of Yell, Fetlar and Unst. All of this falls within the Shetland Geopark and is taken care of by a small band of volunteers and a tiny paid staff.

It was great to see that features like the geowalls at Mavis Grind and on Fetlar were still in place, looking immaculate. So too were the accompanying information panels. Nobody had spray painted any graffiti here and nobody had stubbed out a cigarette on the surface of the panels. Considering some of the extremes of climate that the panels are exposed to, they look as fresh as the day they were installed.

So why is it that Shetland looks after its infrastructure like this so well, especially when compared to elsewhere in the UK? A lot has to do with the sense of community that there is everywhere in Shetland. People actually care about their environment, they pick up litter and cut the grass in their communal spaces. Even their road network is practically pothole free! Now wouldn't that be something here?

So what's Shetland's secret? Well, some of it comes down to money. Way back in the 1960s Shetland Island Council struck a financial deal with the UK's Harold Wilson whereby the island would receive a revenue payment from each barrel of oil, and later gas, that passed through the Sullom Voe terminal and more than 60 years later it is still flowing.

The Shetland Geopark is mainly funded through the Shetland Amenity Trust an umbrella local charity that funds many bodies. It uses the interest from oil funds that have been invested. The sums it requires for day to day expenses are not enormous, but it's enough to enable it to carry out its work. They have produced some excellent publications and also have a good online presence.

At a time when we look to be facing a change of Prime Minister perhaps it's time for Mr Burnham to consider funding a way for grassroots projects like geoparks to be funded. Yes, we can make a little money go a long way!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
The Down to Earth Editorial Team

news update

Massive twin earthquakes strike northern Venezuela in a minute, thousands feared dead...

June 24th 2026 will forever be etched into the history of the South American country of Venezuela as they day when tens of thousands of their citizens lost their lives in a twin earthquake disaster.

So important was this event in terms of its tectonics and human impact that we're devoting much of this issue of DtoE extra to an in depth analysis of it. We hope that you find it helpful in coming to terms with such an enormous disaster. It may also be that some of you might be moved to donate to one of the charity appeals.

The timeline

24 June 2026, 18:04 VET (The First Shock): A shallow, magnitude 7.2 earthquake ruptured at a depth of 20.3 km, centred near Veroes, Yaracuy.

24 June 2026, 18:04 VET (39 Seconds Later): A second, even larger magnitude 7.5 mainshock struck the exact same fault system at a depth of just 10 km. The back-to-back sequence is classified by geologists as a rare "seismic doublet".

25 June 2026: Interim President Delcy Rodríguez declared a state of emergency. Initial reports confirmed 235 deaths as massive collapse zones were identified in the coastal state of La Guaira and the capital city of Caracas.

27 June 2026: The region registered more than 430 aftershocks,

Devastation in the aftermath of the earthquakes (Image: World Vision)

including a distinct magnitude 4.8 offshore tremor that sent panicked residents back into the streets.

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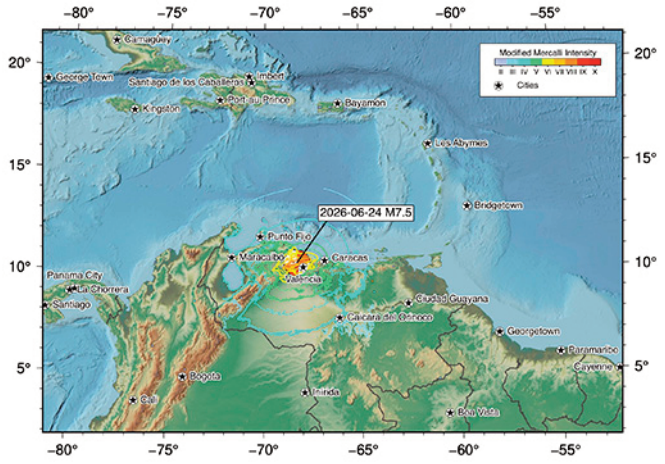
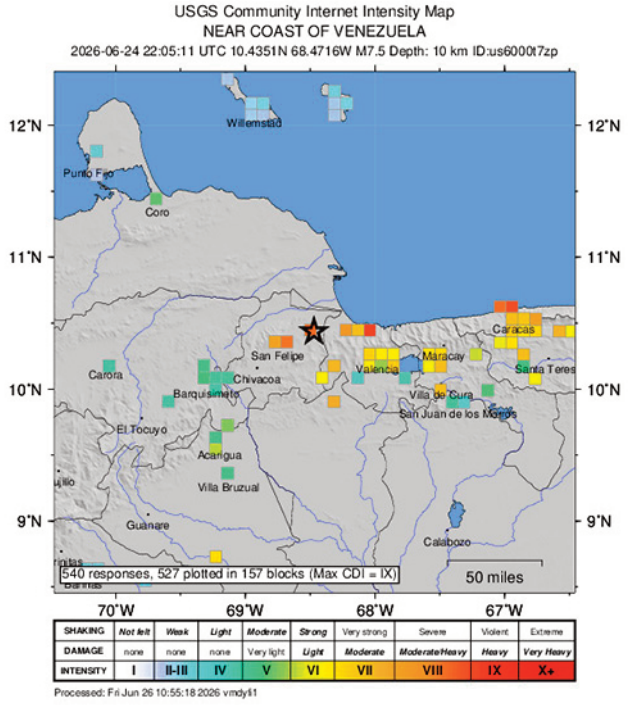


A map of the main M7.5 earthquake event (Image: Courtesy of USGS)



Another USGS image of the main M7.5 event

The background

There's a long history of earthquakes striking the northern part of Venezuela, going back in time.

• 26 March 1812 (Caracas): A catastrophic magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck on Maundy Thursday along the Boconó fault system. It leveled Caracas and killed an estimated 30,000 people.

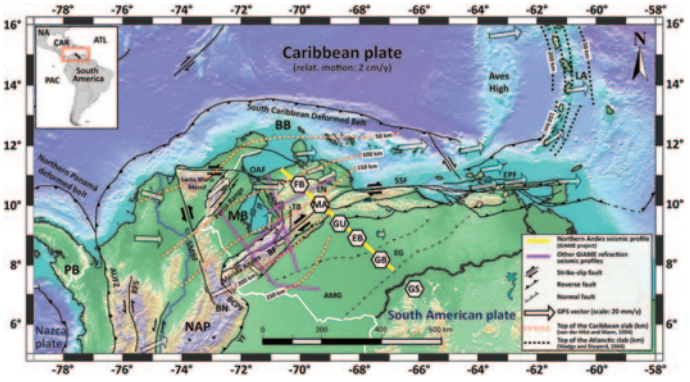
• 29 October 1900 (Miranda): Known as the San Narciso earthquake, this magnitude 7.7 tremor caused severe destruction in Caracas and northern coastal towns.

• 29 July 1967 (Caracas): A magnitude 6.6 earthquake hit the capital city. It collapsed several high-rise apartment buildings and claimed over 200 lives.

• 21 August 2018 (Sucre): A strong magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck the coastal region. Because its hypocenter was deep (123 km), it caused minimal casualties and minor structural damage.

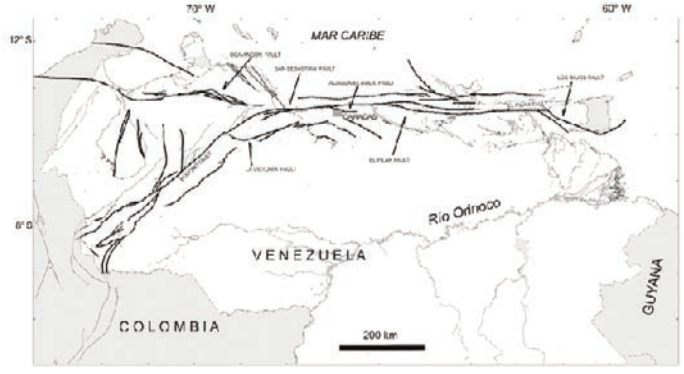
As climate change continues to reshape glaciated landscapes, such tools will be essential for understanding and mitigating the cascading hazards that follow."

The local and regional tectonics



The regional tectonic picture. To the west the Nazca plate subducts beneath Central America and to the east the Atlantic plate subducts with the Caribbean plate moving to the east along a strike slip fault system that runs through Venezuela. (Image: Courtesy of JGR Solid Earth)

To understand why this area has so many earthquakes we need to look at both the local fault systems and also take in the regional picture. Essentially Venezuela sits between to major subduction zones, to the west the Pacific ocean floor is being subducted beneath Central America and to the east the Atlantic ocean floor subducts in the Caribbean.

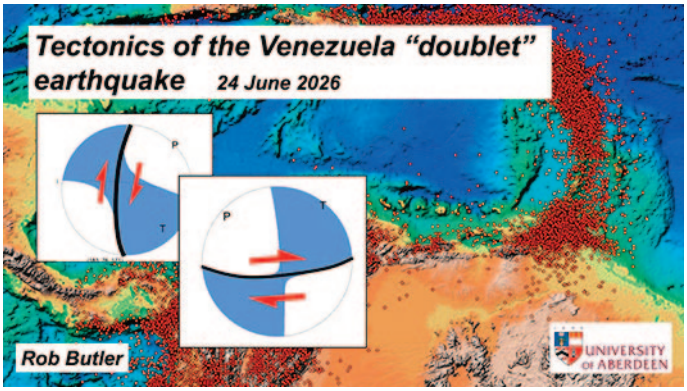


Quaternary fault pattern in Northern Venezuela. Note the E-W strike slip faults, and also the more northern faults which cross the area. Both of which Rob Butler suggests were responsible for the recent events. (Image: Courtesy of Researchgate/USGS)

Between the two sits Venezuela and Colombia on an E-W right laterial strike-slip (or wrench) fault system, known as the San Sebastian fault system. This accommodates the fact that the smaller Caribbean plate is moving eastwards at a rate of 16 or 17 mm per year. The second of the two recent earthquakes is entirely consistent with movement on that right lateral strike-slip fault giving us a M7.5 event. But the first M7.2 event, may well have been rather different in its origin. Remember that a M7.5 event is nearly three times more powerful in energy release terms than a M7.2.

Rob Butler of the University of Aberdeen thinks that the two earthquakes occurred on different faults. He bases this on the USGS detailed seismology, analysis of which reveals that they have different

fault plain solutions. Butler believes that the M7.2 foreshock may have been caused by movement on a second fault that runs in a general N-S direction. In complex areas such as this its quite possible for movement on one fault to then trigger movement on another due to loading of stress in the region.



The two different fault plain solutions for the two earthquake events. (Image: Courtesy of Rob Butler/University of Aberdeen)

Ground conditions

One of the key factors to consider when a massive earthquake occurs are the ground conditions to be found in the area. Listed below are some of the conditions that may be encountered in the aftermath of this event.

• **Widespread Landslides:** The US Geological Survey (USGS) model indicated widespread slope failures across the mountainous regions west of Caracas and along the coastal range. Significant landslides have blocked transport corridors and isolated remote communities.

• **Soil Liquefaction:** Saturated, loose sediments along the northern coastal plains and river valleys suffered liquefaction. This causes the ground to behave like a liquid, shifting foundations and accelerating the collapse of coastal structures.

• **Sediment Amplification:** In Caracas, particularly in areas like Altamira, Los Palos Grandes, and San Bernardino, deep alluvial soil and thick soft sediments amplified the incoming seismic waves. This "site response" concentrated and extended the duration of the shaking, worsening surface impacts.

Hazards & structural conditions

The Venezuelan earthquakes demonstrate all to clearly the folly of poor quality construction. This has undoubtedly been a major contributor to what everyone agrees is going to be very high casualties. The sheer number of high-rise blocks that have collapsed is both frightening, but also predictable.

Even in downtown Reykjavik, where medium rise blocks abound, one wonders whether they would survive an earth M7.5, but they should not pancake like the ones in La Guaria.

Here's some of the hazards:

• **Unstable Rubble & Aftershocks:** Rescue and recovery teams are operating in a high-risk environment. Over 500 aftershocks have shaken the region since the initial main shocks, triggering minor secondary collapses of already weakened structures.

• **Street-Level Debris:** Cities like Caracas and La Guaira are dealing with immense blockages from shattered high-rise complexes and informal housing. Over 2,500 structures are completely collapsed or severely damaged, rendering surrounding roads unsafe.

• **Weather Complications:** A passing tropical wave is bringing heavy rainfall to the affected zones. This rain threatens to oversaturate loosened hillside soils, significantly increasing the immediate risk of secondary mudslides and flash landslides over search areas.

The relief efforts in the aftermath

In the immediate aftermath of these events of June 24th. there was initial shock for the people as they realised the enormity of the search and rescue task that awaited them. Venezuela was already a county in crisis, with an interim president in Delcy Rodríguez, effectively installed by Donald Trump. She was not prepared for such a disaster and neither was her country.

Over the following 72 hours rescuers managed to pull many people from the ruins of their former homes, but now the search and rescue operation has morphed into one of the recovery of the many bodies that lie within the ruins. Officials and the country's armed force faced severe criticism from their own people as well as foreign observers, but could anybody have done enough to satisfy people desperate for news of loved ones?

Teams from many countries, including more than 70 firefighters from Northwest England, are working tirelessly pulling the dead and injured from the ground. We are also seeing aid in the form of tents and food coming in, some of it by air, from around the world.

Devastation near Caracas. No wonder then that Venezuela needs foreign aid.
(Image: Courtesy of MSF)

What can we do?

A number of world charities with operations in the UK have launched emergency appeals for funds and supplies.

Amongst the Charities are:

- World Vision
- The Red Cross
- MSF - medical aid charity
- UNICEF - helping children
- UNHCR - helping the thousands if displaced people

The Editor comments: Even researching this article has, a times been harrowing. I can only imagine how much worse it is for the people involved on the ground. A feeling of hopelessness mush pervade the whole operation.

Imagine if around 200 high rise buildings completely collapsed in your town or city. Natural disasters have been around for all of human history but they are no less shocking every time. They are a reminder that we may be able to send people to the moon, but we cannot stop earthquakes and the destruction that they bring.

Shetland Islands Council votes on tunnel plan...

Your Editors Chris and Colin. have just returned from the Shetland Islands where they took a group of ***Down to Earth*** readers on a geology trip. They made use of several of the 40+ year old inter-island ferries. In the last issue of ***DtoE extra*** we told you about the £402 million cost of replacing those ferries with fixed link tunnels.

Councillors meeting today, June 30th, are expected to back a programme that will see a network of tunnels operating by 2034. The total cost could be in the region of £1.5 billion, far more than the previously quoted figure. But this estimate includes two additional tunnels, one of which will bring in the fishing island of Whalsay. If councillors vote for the plan it will make a significant change for the island communities.

The Scottish Daily Record says:
"Plans for a system of undersea tunnels connecting the Shetland Islands are expected to be approved by councillors on Tuesday. Shetland Islands Council will discuss a draft strategy on the inter-island transport connectivity programme - which proposes a tunnel between Shetland's mainland to the island of Yell and another to the northerly island of Unst.

Two more tunnels could potentially connect the islands of Whalsay and Bressay. The total cost for the four tunnels, which would replace inter-island ferries, has been estimated at around £1.5 billion.

Shetland's ferry service has been described as "the social and economic backbone" of the islands, with a fleet of 12 vessels sailing about 70,000 times a year to nine islands, carrying approximately 750,000 passengers. However, there are fears about the age of the ferry fleet which links the islands.

Under an indicative timeline published by the council, the tunnels would open in 2034. Councillor Moraig Lyall is chairwoman of the council's environment and transport committee.

She said earlier: "It's fair to say that this project is now of great significance nationally, as well as locally. Tunnels were on the list of priorities for all the main political parties in the run-up to the Holyrood elections, evidence of the great strides we have made in getting this issue onto the agenda at a national level.

We continue to engage with both the UK and Scottish Governments as we look towards taking forward the recommendations of this in-depth study."

Bells ring out for James Hutton's tercentenary...

There have been many activities taking place this summer in Lothian to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of James Hutton (1726-1797), the man who is widely regarded as the founder of modern geology. One such example was a specially arranged peal on the bells at Haddington church that involved eight bell ringers with varied interests in agricultural reform, medicine and geology, topics that would have resonated strongly with Hutton.

The peal required nearly three hours of non-stop ringing and as it was the first performance of its type, the ringers had the honour of naming it Siccar Point Surprise Major, after the world-famous locality a few miles away.

Three geologists ringing handbells at Siccar Point for James Hutton's birthday; (l-r), Richard Tibbetts, Stephen Jones and Martin Whiteley.

After the Haddington peal was over, the band retired for lunch and was joined by some members of the committee responsible for coordinating the tercentenary celebrations. We were thanked for ringing the peal and presented with facsimiles of field sketches made at Siccar Point in 1788 by Sir John Hall, one of Hutton's scientific colleagues.

Then we drove south to Cockburnspath and walked out to the cliff edge to admire the recently constructed stone edifice that serves as a viewing platform and information point for Siccar Point itself, which is tucked away on the rocky foreshore some 60 metres below. Having scrambled down the grassy cliff we produced a set of six handbells and rang them whilst standing on the unconformity itself. It's fair to say that the small audience of wheeling seagulls and onlookers seemed rather baffled by this activity, but it felt very appropriate for bell ringing geologists to honour Hutton's birthday in this way.

Martin Whiteley

The Editor comments: Thanks for this Martin, I'm sure that James Hutton himself would have approved!

After 300 years in private hands, the iconic Bass Rock has been purchased by the RSPB...

Bass Rock is one of those iconic places that can be viewed from a wide area. It sits just off the coast out in the Firth of Forth. It's a mass of igneous rock, mainly basalt, but its natural colour is largely masked by bird guano, as it is home to a massive colony of northern gannets. So it's a basalt 'white island!

The island has been owned by the Hamilton-Dalrymple family for 320 years. Now, thanks to a grant of £568.000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund it, along with the adjacent island of Craigleith, are now in the hands of RSPB Scotland.

The scottish Geology Trust says:
"The plug of an ancient volcano, its shape makes an ideal breeding ground for the Northern Gannet (Morus bassanus). The Bass Rock looms steeply out of the Firth of Forth, the last remnants of an ancient volcano that erupted around 330 million years ago. Magma trapped deeply beneath the volcano's crater cooled slowly making a really tough igneous rock called phonolite. Over millions of years the overlying and surrounding less-resistant rock has gradually eroded, leaving today's upstanding plug with vertical cliffs and a flat top.

The shape of the Bass Rock creates a range of suitable habitats for nesting seabirds. The flat top, protected from predators by its steep surrounding cliffs, is an ideal nesting site for gannets. And the surrounding sea means there's a fishy buffet right on their doorstep."

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 had a couple of cancellations for our trip to Melrose in the Scottish Borders this October - please contact us if you are interested.

All of our programme of eight trips for 2027 are now available for you to book. We begin with a visit to Furness in the South Lakes of Cumbria and then the Magma Geopark in Norway. In the Spring and Summer we go to Strathpeffer, Eastbourne and Great Malvern with our Summer School in Warwick. Moving to the Autumn we've got a week based in Oban followed by a visit to Whitby. Bookings are already coming in thick and fast!

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
- Summer School, Shropshire, August 8-15
- Melrose, the Scottish Borders, October 18-24

2027
- Furness & South Lakes, April 16-23
- Magma Geopark, Norway, May 4-13
- Strathpeffer & Cromarty, May 21-29
- Sussex Coast & South Downs, June 20-26
- Abberley & Malvern Hills, July 18-23
- Summer School Warwick July 31-August 7
- Oban & the Hebridean Isles, Scotland, September 30-October 8
- Whitby, Yorkshire Coast, October 17-23

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
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 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 hotels in the Leisureplex and Strathmore 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...

For 2026 we can still accommodate a couple more on our Summer School in Shropshire and also the trip to Melrose in the Scottish Borders, in October.

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.

Welcome to our exciting world!

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.

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.

Book now for 2027...

Considering the fact that we've been running these trips for more than ten years, it's pretty amazing that we have managed to put together so many new places, but we have! This is the full list of eight trips for 2027. We are accepting bookings NOW for all of 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 Ravenglass, St Bees, Arnside, Lake Windermere from Lakeside and quarries around Millom.

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!
Sorry, single rooms for this trip have now sold out!

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 their 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!

Trollpikken near Egersund is a phenomenon created by the ice during the last ice age. (Image: Visit Fjord Norway)

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 22 bookings for this trip so you are advised to book as soon as possible.

Strathpeffer & Cromarty, May 21-29 (8-nights) £1595
Allow us to introduce this area to you. It's 20 miles north of Inverness and is based at Strathpeffer, a historic spa resort that allows us access to some great geology. There's the local Moinian metamorphics, the amazing Devonian sediments of Cromarty home to the Scottish

The Ben Wyvis Hotel our base for the week

The Abbey Hotel in Great Malvern, our base for the trip.

pioneer geologist Hugh Miller and the younger rocks of the Lossiemouth area. We'll even take the Kyle of Lochalsh railway for a memorable day out to the Isle of Skye.
We still have single rooms as well as twins and doubles for this trip.

Sussex Coast & South Downs, June 20-26 (6-nights) £1095
Based at the Queen's Hotel in the resort of Eastbourne this is a trip that will take in some of the classic chalk cliffs in places like Beachy Head and also some of the Lower Cretaceous rocks in places like Hastings, not forgetting the beautiful landscape of the South Downs National Park.

The Queens Hotel on Eastbourne's seafront

If you've never sampled some of our finest Chalk landscape then do so now! you won't regret it we can assure you. This is English landscape at its very best.
Single, double and twin rooms are available.

The Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark, July 18-23 (5-nights) £1195
This trip takes in the fabulous geology of the Malvern Hills with its ancient Precambrian igneous rocks along with some of the younger rocks in the surrounding Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark. Chris is the Honorary President of the geopark and is proud to show you its geology and landscapes. We'll visit the village of Martley where rocks of many different ages can be seen and take a trip on the Severn Valley Railway to see rocks from the Carboniferous and Permian. The trip is based at the 4-star Abbey Hotel in Great Malvern.

You are sure of a great welcome in the Abberley and Malvern hills Geopark. This trip is suitable for anyone, including those with little previous geological knowledge.
Single, double and twin rooms are currently available.

Summer School at the University of Warwick £1795
July 31-August 7 (7-nights)
We've managed to secure accommodation on the campus of the University of Warwick which is situated between Coventry and Kenilworth. Not only is this a new venue for us, it will also allow us to access places that we've never been to before.

Warwick University residential conference centre.

We will be taking in parts of the East Midlands, such as Charnwood Forest and Nuneaton, the local geology of Warwickshire, along with the Black Country Geopark and the glorious Cotswold Hills.
Most of the accommodation is in single ensuite rooms. Ask us about twins or doubles.

The booking form and brochure for this trip will be available soon.

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.
Sorry, single rooms for this trip have now sold out!

Whitby on the Yorkshire Coast, October 17-23 (6-nights) £1195
Whitby is the jewel in the crown of the Yorkshire Coast and is truly an all year round resort. We are lucky to have secured a slot in the prestigious Royal Hotel that sits atop the nineteenth century splendour of the West Cliff.

With so much geology right on the doorstep we won't be spending hours getting to our field locations. Almost all of the solid geology was formed during the Jurassic period and much of it is very fossiliferous containing everything from humble brachiopods and bivalves through to ammonites and the remains of giant sea reptiles.

During this trip we will take in the geology of Whitby and local places including Robin Hood's Bay, Staithes, Grosmont and Sandsend. We'll use the local buses and also the train to get inland.

The Royal Hotel sits atop the West Cliff.

As it has been some time since we last visited Whitby, we expect this trip to fill up rapidly, so you are strongly advised to make your booking soon.
Currently we still have single as well as twin and double rooms available.

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

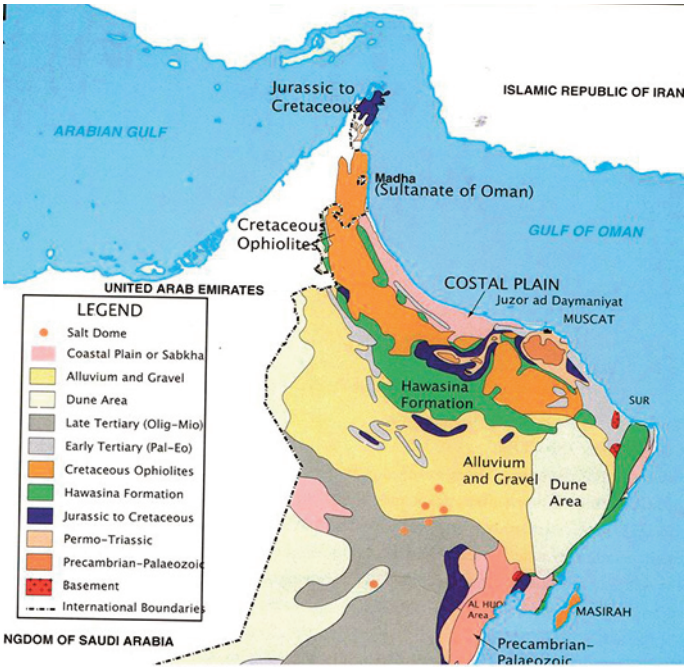
You can view brochures for all the trips featured here (apart from the 2027 Summer School) on our website at:
www.geosupplies.co.uk

What's on offer this Autumn and Winter? Zoom sessions...

This Autumn and Winter we will be presenting several series of mainly live, hour long Zoom sessions. Some are available as single sessions whilst others are courses consisting of 6 or 10 sessions. Most begin in the middle of November with some continuing after a break for Christmas and New Year. All our Zoom classes and courses are available to all and are informal and designed to be both educational and enjoyable. We have a great and varied online community. You would be most welcome to join us!

We will present the full programme in our August Down to Earth extra, but for now we bring you two special sessions as 'curtain raisers'. They are open for booking NOW!

The Geology of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz
Special Session, Monday November 2 £15.00
The country of Oman and Strait of Hormuz have hardly been out of the news for the past months, ever since the start of hostilities between the US and Iran. But aside from oil and gas, what else is in the geological story?



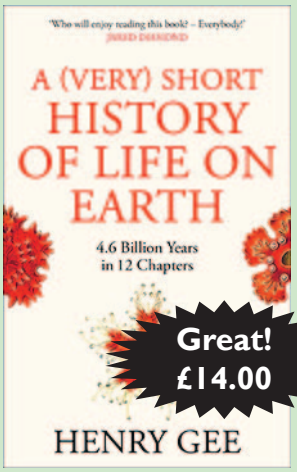
Explore with us in this extended Zoom session all about the geology of the region. You'll learn why this is such an important and interesting area - prepare for some surprises!

The Tectonics of Northern Venezuela
Special Session, Monday November 9 £15.00
The tragic twin earthquakes of June 24th 2026 will probably go down as one of the worst natural disasters of modern times. In this specially extended Zoom session we will explain why this happened by looking at the regional and more local tectonics. We'll also examine what could have been done to minimize the number of casualties, by way of design for buildings and infrastructure, especially bridges and roads.
If two people share the same computer screen the cost is £22.00 for these sessions.

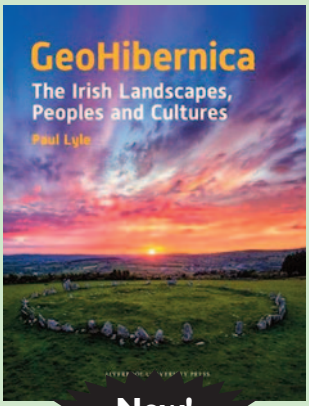
To enrol, go to: www.geosupplies.co.uk. enter our online shop FIRST and THEN find the course.
Or ring us on 0114 2455746.

Featured books for July 2026

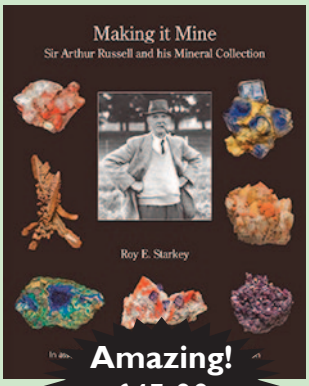
In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of July 2026 provided that stocks are available. This month we feature a variety of different books. Please note, all prices include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



Great! £14.00

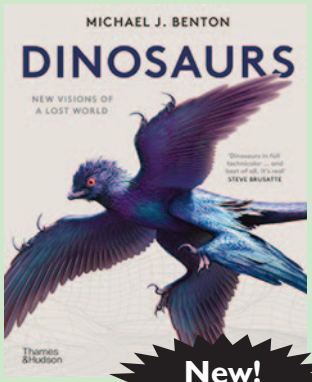


New! £50.00



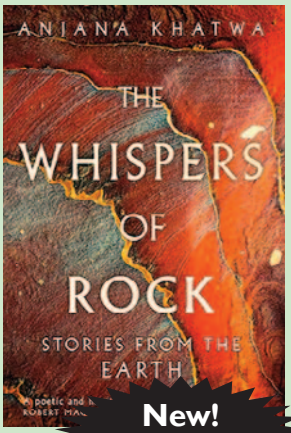
Amazing! £45.00

New! £20.00



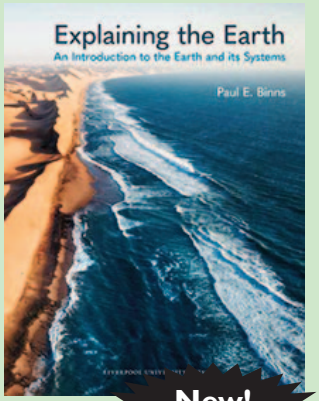
New! £22.00

New! £7.00

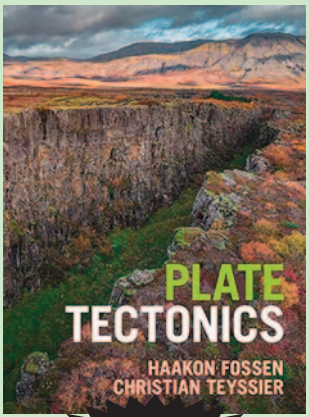


New! £25.00

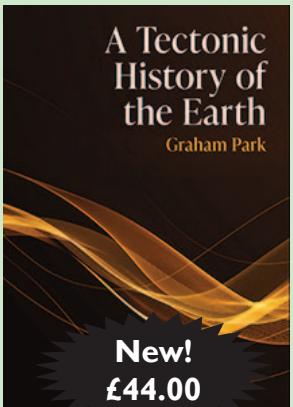
New! £14.00



New! £38.00

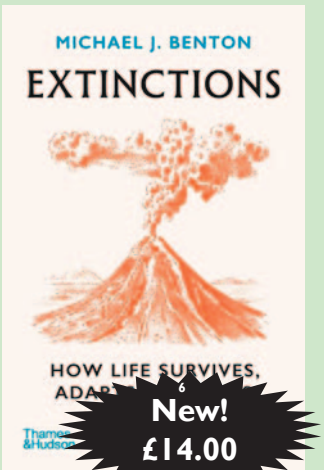


Terrific! £50.00



New! £44.00

Ask about new guides to Islay & Jura!



New! £14.00

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