



Day Trips for everyone February to May 2012

We've got some great new locations around the country for you, arranged in two programmes of day field trips. Come and join us on a geowalk and take in some excellent geology and landscape. If you fancy trying a more 'hands-on' approach we also run a series of 'field techniques' days - then why not join one of these trips. The same informal, relaxed approach but with a little more 'doing' and 'thinking'. We will try to run these come hail or shine, but if we do have to cancel any due to the weather you will not lose out financially.

Chris Darmon BSc (Organiser/leader)

Saturday, February 11

Field Techniques at Wirksworth, Derbyshire

An opportunity to 'read the landscape' as we visit an area that straddles the Dark Peak and the White Peak. See a variety of different limestone palaeoenvironments, in and around a reef at the National Stone Centre. Carry out an exercise on a really interesting exposure alongside the High Peak Trail - an easy walking route, that will tax your brain as you seek to find a logical explanation for what you see before you!

Meeting: Car park of the National Stone Centre at 10.30

Wednesday, February 15 NEW DATE

Geowalk in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire

The valley of the Rover Nidd is an impressive gorge-like feature. Our walk will take us along the side of it, to both Carboniferous sandstone exposures and also dolomitic limestone from the overlying Permian. We'll examine the unconformity and also see something of the caves that have formed in the dolomite, though not in Mother Shipton's cave.

Meeting: Knaresborough railway station at 11.00

Sunday, March 11

Field Techniques at Alderley Edge, Cheshire

Alderley Edge is one of the most famous rock exposures in NE England and once hosted copper mines. We'll be taking a look at something of the structures to be found in the Triassic rocks hereabouts and learning to 'read the rocks' for information about the palaeoenvironments of 200 million years ago.

Meeting: National Trust car park beside The Wizard on Alderley Edge at 10.30

Wednesday, March 14

Field Techniques on the Lickey Hills, Worcestershire

We have been invited to take a close look at a very famous quarry which was first studied by Charles Lapworth. This is called the 'overfold quarry' and has recently reopened following a major clearance project by the H&WEHT. This is an opportunity for some detailed work that will involve measuring and a lot of 'blue sky' thinking!

Meeting: Lickey Country Park Visitor Centre at 10.30 N.B. Bring a safety helmet.

Wednesday, March 21

Geowalk in the City of Nottingham and a visit to Castle Museum

Whilst we will do a spot of looking at local building stones this is primarily an opportunity to look at some 'real' solid geology. The local Sherwood Sandstone from the Triassic puts in several, quite

spectacular appearances, not least below Castle Hill. In short, a variable and enjoyable day out!

Meeting: Nottingham railway station at 11.00

Sunday, March 25

Field techniques at Clitheroe & Pendle Hill, Lancashire

Come and see one of the finest Carboniferous reef complexes with super rock exposures, some of which are packed full of fossils. Discover why the Trough of Bowland is so important to our understanding of geology and finally take in the views from Pendle Hill - superb!

Meeting: Clitheroe railway station at 11.00

Easter Monday, April 9

Geowalk around Ingleton Waterfalls, North Yorkshire

This is one of the finest geological walks in England and the only one to be a commercial attraction. See the famous Thornton Force with a great unconformity, together with Silurian slates, several faults and a dyke! This makes a great introduction to geology for anyone.

Meeting: Clapham railway station at 10.30. N.B. The car park charge is expensive, so we will meet at Clapham to fill cars - leaving others at the free station car park.

Wednesday, April 25

Geowalk around Foremark, Ticknall & Swarkestone, South Derbyshire

Not many people know about the limestones of this area, but they gave rise to the nearby Calke Abbey. We'll see them in Ticknall and also at Carvers Rocks. They are unusual in that they are 'detached' from the main Peak District and display some unusual features. We'll also go in search of the mineral alabaster, which was once a big local industry.

Meeting: Foremark reservoir car park at 11.00, fee payable GR SK336241

Saturday, April 28

Field Techniques in Corrie Burn & Campsie Glen, nr. Stirling, Scotland

Yes, I know it's a bit off our usual stamping grounds, but these are places I've wanted to visit for ages! Both locations give us some super exposures of the Clyde Plateau Lavas and the lower Carboniferous sediments. You'll see mugearite, essexite and trachyte - all quite rare, along with faults and extensive views.

Meeting: 10.30 at Croy railway station

Saturday, May 5

Geowalk in the Cotswolds - Leckhampton Hill

It's hard to imagine now just how industrial this area was, when it's oolite was being used in the building of Georgian Cheltenham Spa. Now, all is tranquil and the Jurassic geology is great! Come for a walk with us through time and see the fossils and rocks as they yield up their secrets.

Meeting: Brownstone car park. Leckhampton at 10.30 (GR SO954179)

Monday, May 7

Field Techniques at Huntley Quarry, Gloucestershire

Amazingly, you'll be able to see rocks ranging in age from Ordovician to Triassic in just one complex series of exposures. Add in a major fault, a thrust and much, much more - you simply must give this a visit! I would describe it as one of the most puzzling exposures in England.

Meeting: Cafe at garden centre, about 100m east of reserve on A40 Gloucester-Ross road at 10.30

(GR SO709195)

Cost: You can join us on these trips for £12.00. Students under 19 and anyone currently studying on a Down to Earth course pays £10.00.

Booking: Book by ringing us on 0114 2455746. Please do not risk turning up without booking, in case we cancel for any reason. For late availability ring Chris's mobile 07887 565295.

Down to Earth is a division of Geo Supplies Ltd., 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield S35 2XE