



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

The Malvern Hills

October 23-28 2020



A word from your leaders...

Amazingly, the last time we held a residential trip to the Malvern Hills was in 2012. It coincided with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and we had to endure awful weather! Naturally, this time we hope for blue sky and sunshine all the way!

The Malvern Hills comprise an area of outstanding natural beauty, with the rocks all within the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark, of which Chris Darmon is the Honorary President. We'll be exploring the general area within a range of about 30 miles. This will enable us to examine rocks of all ages from the Triassic through to the Precambrian. There are sediments, some with fossils and many different igneous rocks. Add in some excellent structures and we have the makings of an amazing trip.

For this trip we are based at the Great Malvern Hotel, which is set in the centre of Great Malvern. It's an establishment that we have used before, and it's still managed by the same person it was in 2012. As well as taking evening meals in the Hotel Restaurant, we'll also be sampling other local eateries.

This trip will be led by Chris and Colin and will make use of a minibus driven by Colin. This will allow us to get close to most of our field sites so that we can make the most of the daylight hours.

Given the length of time that's elapsed since our last visit to this area, we expect demand for this trip to be good, so you are advised to book early to ensure your places. This is especially the case if you want a single room as they are limited in number.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Trip Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to Great Malvern

If you are coming by train, Great Malvern is well served by trains from different parts of the country, including direct trains from London Paddington. There are also regular services from Birmingham and Hereford, from where it's possible to connect to everywhere else. The Great Malvern Hotel is about half a mile from the railway station.

If you are coming by car, Great Malvern is quite close to the M5 and M42 motorways. Parking at the hotel is very limited.

Getting Around

We will have our own 17-seater minibus, in the capable hands of my friend and colleague Colin Schofield, with additional cars as required should our numbers exceed 15 participants.

Walking

Everything should be within the capabilities of all of the party. We will always try to get as close as possible to the sites, but this will still mean that there are some walks of a couple of miles, to see the best exposures. There will be some short sections of steep ascents and descents. However, if at any time you wish to 'opt out' that will be fully acceptable and understood. In view of the uncertainties of the weather you are strongly advised to bring all waterproofs and walking boots – particularly as you will be walking over rough ground.

Why the Malvern Hills area?

The Malvern Hills comprise a thick succession of late Precambrian rocks known as the Malvernian. They accumulated in an ancient island arc environment and are mainly igneous rock types. They were later subjected to great tectonic forces and are now greatly sheared and faulted. Recent works suggest that many of the faults are large scale strike-slip types.

Against these ancient uplifted rocks the Cambrian and Silurian seas lapped, in what were shoreline conditions. They provide us with excellent sections in fossiliferous rocks, especially in the Abberley Hills, just to the north. To the Northwest lies Titterstone Clee, which comprises Devonian and Carboniferous sediments and is topped by a thick dolerite sill. Away to the east lie the Triassic rocks of the Midland plain and beyond it the Jurassic of the Cotswolds.

Accommodation & Food



Good food and a good night's rest are important elements of our trips and we work hard to bring you the best local accommodation. For this trip we have chosen to return to The Great Malvern Hotel, an historic building in the centre of the town. This offers us comfortable rooms and home cooked food.

Some of the evening meals will be taken in the Hotel Restaurant, with others in local eateries. Packed lunches will be sourced from a local bakery or supermarket for each full field day.

Limited single accommodation is available, albeit at a fairly large supplement. This is because they are normally let as double rooms.

We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room – simply indicate on the booking form.

Itinerary

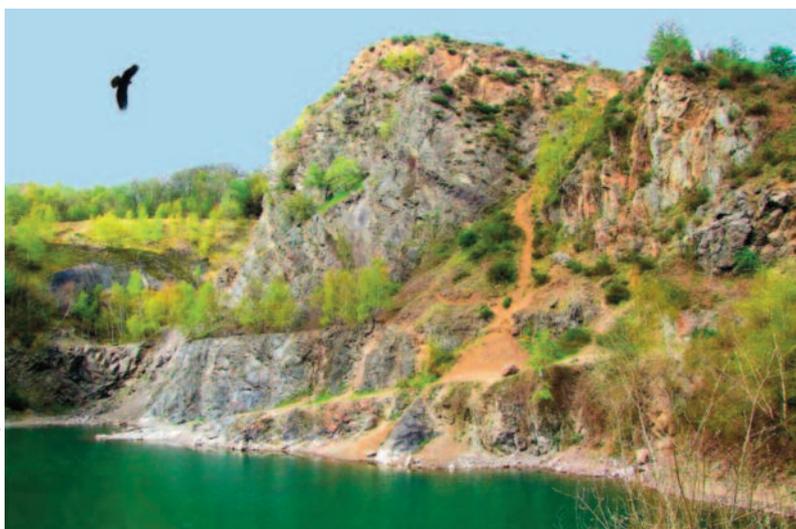
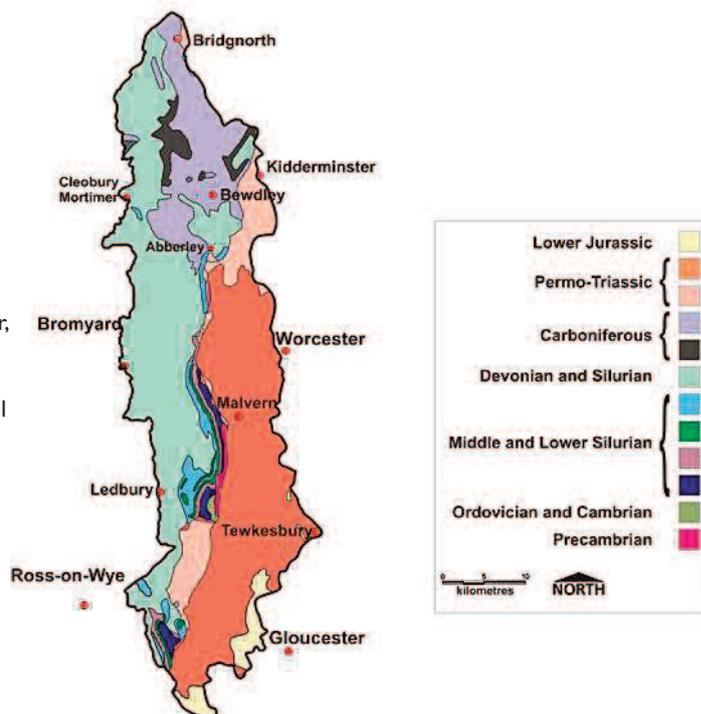
The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we hope to cover during this trip:-

- Precambrian rocks of North Malvern
- The Silurian unconformity at Gullet Quarry
- Rocks of the Purlieu and Tollgate
- The Silurian rocks of the Abberley Hills
- Rocks and landscape of the village of Martley
- Devonian and Carboniferous rocks of Titterstone Clee
- Permian and Triassic rocks of the Bewdley and Kidderminster area

On the final day, we will finish no later than 13.00 in Great Malvern, in good time for people to get home.

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 5-night tour will be £750.00 per person; a maximum of 4 rooms may be used as single occupancy for £850.00.



What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as tutors who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified in the brochure
- Admissions to all museums or other attractions as visited by the group
- The cost of all transport used

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Great Malvern and return
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses
- Lunchtime food on the final day

Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is strongly advised to take out holiday insurance. This can cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included in with your credit card or bank account.

Booking

Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £250.00 per person or the full payment and a completed booking form. The balance will be payable not later than July 31st 2020.

The trip will run subject to a minimum of 15 people signing up by June 30th 2020.

Your money...

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these trips are placed in a specific 'client trust account' where it cannot be drawn by us until after completion of the tour. This is in accordance with EU Directives and ensures that your money is safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.



What happens next?

As soon as we are in a position of confirming that the trip will run - pretty soon judging by the number of people who have shown an interest - we will let you know. This will allow you to make your own travel plans and to take advantage of any advance fares on the train. Please don't make any such arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

Please also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2020' which can be viewed on our website: www.geosupplies.co.uk

