

Down to Earth
"Earth science learning for all"

Backyard Geology - and a little beyond!



Backyard Geology - and a little beyond! An 8-week Distance Learning course for adults

KEY INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE:	Backyard geology - and a little beyond! Your toolkit to unlock the geology of your local or favourite area of the UK
LEVEL:	The course is designed for anyone interested in learning more about how to study Earth materials and landscape. A little geology would be helpful, though not essential.
COURSE FEES:	£60.00 by email/Moodle, £75.00 with printed materials mailed to you.
DATES:	The course runs for 8-weeks from mid-January 2020
DELIVERY:	The course will be delivered via a series of online or mailed tutorials, plus unlimited access to Moodle, our online learning site for 6 months
COURSE TUTORS:	Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
CONTACT:	email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or tel. 0114 245 5746

OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Our aim is to provide a relaxed learning environment in which we can all learn, both from the tutor and each other. In short, exactly the original WEA learning model. We hope that everyone will want to complete the tasks we set you, though nobody will be insisting that you do. Feedback and positive encouragement will always be given - we want you to gain knowledge and confidence from everything you do! We encourage you to share ideas and experiences - if you are happy to do this, it can be facilitated on Moodle quite easily in a forum. Once again, this is down to your choice - nobody will be insisting that you do.

To protect our materials, we must ask you to agree not to share them with anyone not enrolled on the course by any means, including email. This is a condition of you enrolling on this course.

HERE'S HOW IT WILL WORK

This course will be running concurrently with a face-to-face community of learners in Sheffield and North Derbyshire. This commences in mid-January and it would be good if you could study over the same time period, as you can share your findings, but there's no compulsion to do so. You can access the materials for a period of 6 months, or without time limit if you choose to have printed materials.

You choose the area of your choice. It doesn't have to be your local area, it can be your favourite area instead. If you want help with your choice of area, just ask.

The 'tools' of the course are the BGS geological map and the rocks, minerals and fossils of your chosen area. But you'll also need a few 'tools' that only you can provide: careful observation, curiosity, collecting and a willingness to carry out a bit of detective work (or research if you want the fancy word). There are no specific assignments and nothing to send in!

THE AIMS OF THE COURSE

- To introduce you to the rocks of your chosen area.
- To teach you how to read rocks and landscape.
- To introduce you to the treasure trove of information that's available from BGS maps.
- To appreciate the enormity of time contained within the geological column of your chosen area.
- To understand the geological journey your area has been on.
- To look at the record of life that's recorded in your local fossils.
- To appreciate the 'fruits of the Earth' in the form of the economic products that have been worked in your chosen area.

WHO IS THE COURSE AIMED AT?

Everyone can learn the basics of geology and there's no better way than to engage with your local geology or your favourite area. This course would be suitable for anyone with a curiosity about rocks and landscape. You certainly don't need to know much about geology, so this would be suitable for a beginner as well as someone with a little more knowledge.

Your course materials allow you to engage at a level that suits you and with which you are happy. You can do it alone or with a friend or even a small group.

If you are looking to do the course in a group, perhaps through your local U3A, just ask us about a group rate.

WHAT DO WE PROVIDE?

The course fee includes the following:

- The most appropriate BGS map for your chosen area (additional maps are available at £12.00 each).
- Weekly materials that can be accessed by email, the Moodle learning platform, or as printed sheets. These are your 'toolkit' that will give you guidance, helpful hints and encouragement to learn more about different aspects of your chosen area.
- Access by email to our tutors who are available to offer advice and help.
- Access to Moodle, the free to use learning platform, and the opportunity to share with others on the course who will be studying very different areas to you. You'll be able to share in a discussion forum, view YouTube footage and add your own photographs.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

By email or Moodle the cost is £60.00

By post with printed materials the cost is £75.00

(All prices include one free BGS map of your choice.)

You can save £5.00 on these prices if you have Club Class for 2020. This also gives discount on a range of items including: day trips, day schools and BGS products – all for £10.00 for the year!

THE STUDY TOPICS

Unit 1 <i>Geology in our own backyard</i>	Where, to look, what to expect! Learn to expect the unexpected!
Unit 2 <i>Geology is everywhere</i>	The geology of the British Isles in four pages
Unit 3 <i>Rocks from your patch</i>	Earth materials from a 50 km radius of your home, or your favourite area.
Unit 4 <i>Reading your geological map</i>	Unlocking the treasure trove of information contained on one sheet of paper!
Unit 5 <i>Your geological time machine</i>	The geological history of your chosen area, from beginning to end.
Unit 6 <i>Reading rocks and landscape</i>	Every picture tells a geological story!
Unit 7 <i>The record of life</i>	Local fossils and the stories they tell about the palaeoenvironment and climate.
Unit 8 <i>Fruits of the Earth</i>	The economic geology of your area, and what it tells you about the area today.

WHAT TO DO NEXT...

You can enrol on the course by going to our website: www.geosupplies.co.uk then entering the online shop. Once there, choose 'distance learning courses'.

You can also enrol using any credit or debit card by ringing us on: 0114 245 5746

For more information Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk