



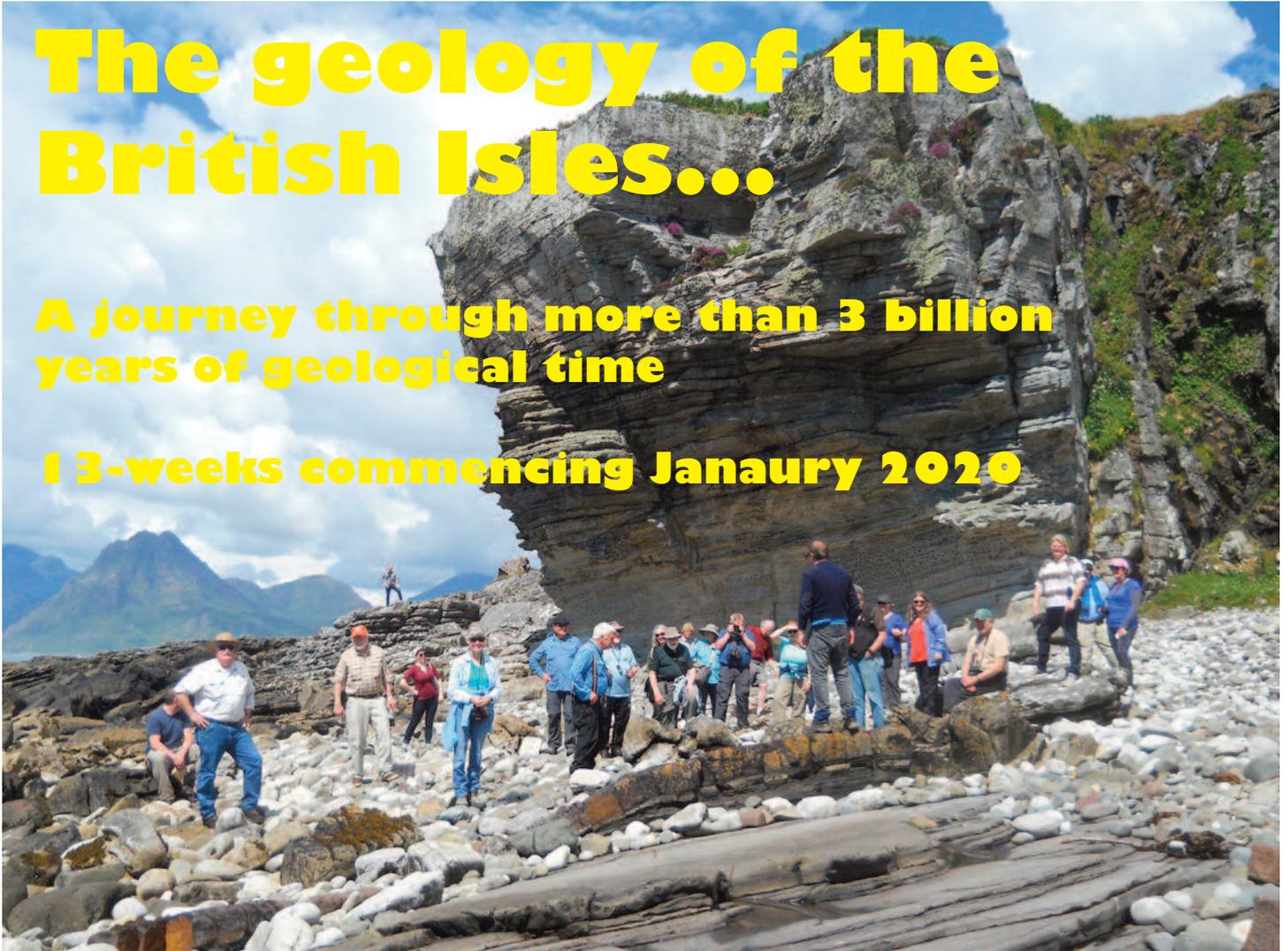
Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

The geology of the British Isles...

A journey through more than 3 billion years of geological time

13-weeks commencing January 2020



A word from your course tutors...

This course tells one of the most exciting stories that you will ever hear. It's one that's so complicated it is unlikely that it will ever be told via your TV screen. It begins more than 3 billion years ago at a time when the Earth's surface was vastly different to that of today.

Over the course of 13-weeks you'll be taken step-by-step through the record of geological time that's preserved in our numerous rock outcrops. They record ancient mountain building, glaciations and periods of intense volcanicity. The land that we call the British Isles has been flung together from fragments of ancient continents that have been at the poles and also the equator.

Through the geological periods we have experienced every different kind of environment imaginable, from desert to glacier, mighty river to tranquil lake, equatorial forest to deep sea canyon. In essence, there's nowhere else on the planet that has geology as varied as that of the British Isles. This course gives you the lot!

We'll present you with lots of lively material that should be your 'starter for ten' as we encourage you first of all to think and secondly to find out more about each of the topics. With more than 40 years of field geology under his belt, much of it in the British Isles, Chris Darmon knows these islands well and takes you to some amazing places via the fruits of his camera. Where ever you live, there will be a part of the story that's recorded in your local rocks!

Whilst field work is not an integral part of this course, we do encourage you to go out in the field and examine rocks for yourself. Helping you to 'read rocks' and understand more is at the heart of what we do. The Units and their associated Tasks are just the start for anyone enrolling onto this course. We encourage you to engage further with your fellow learners by logging on to Moodle. Here you can share pictures and comments in a forum.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Tutors

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

KEY INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE:	The Geology of the British Isles
LEVEL:	The course is designed for anyone interested in learning about the geology of the British Isles. All that is assumed is that you have a little previous knowledge and experience.
DATES:	The course runs for 13-weeks from January 9 and ends on April 9 with half term 20/2. However, you can access the Units when you want to!
DELIVERY:	The course will be delivered via a series of online or mailed tutorials, plus unlimited access to Moodle our online learning site
COURSE TUTORS:	Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
CONTACT:	email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or tel. 0114 2455746

BACKGROUND

The tutors have extensive experience of delivering distance learning courses to adults. Chris has worked with adults face-to-face over a period spanning more than 30 years. He has worked as a tutor for the Sheffield LEA, the WEA and the University of Sheffield. Colin meanwhile has worked on all of our distance learning courses from the outset. Both tutors are well qualified in geology and have extensive field experience in all parts of Britain.

The hallmark of a **Down to Earth** course is its informality and 'hands on' approach, something that will be very evident in this course. The course will be sent by email or can be found on the free to use learning platform Moodle, with access by password. The benefit of Moodle is that you can be involved with your fellow learners via discussion forums etc. We strongly urge you to get involved on Moodle - Colin will tell you how!

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.

WELCOME TO THE COURSE

This course provides a complete overview of the geology of the British Isles, from the earliest recorded event through to the last glaciation and beyond into historical time. The principle aims of the course are:-

- to introduce you to the enormity of geological time.
- to show how processes such as plate tectonics have acted upon the British Isles over time.
- to demonstrate that Britain has experienced different environments through geological time that have produced a huge variety of rocks.
- to help you to 'read' rock outcrops and landscapes and thus to learn more about how they formed

COURSE CONTENT

Whilst this is intended to be an outline of the course subject matter, it may be subject to minor change as the course unfolds.

- **All the time in the world** - before we begin the journey, you need the rules of the time game!
- **Glorious landscapes, amazing rocks** - a quick overview of British geology
- **Our Genesis and Exodus rocks** - our two oldest rock formations, the Lewisian and Torridonian of Scotland.
- **Down in the basement** - the foundations of England and Wales
- **Calm seas, violent volcanoes** - the Cambrian and Ordovician rocks of Britain
- **Re-arranging the continents** - an up-to-date assessment of the Caledonian Orogeny and the Silurian period
- **United kingdom to coal forest** - the rivers, lakes and seas of the Devonian and Carboniferous
- **An orogeny by any name** - the Variscan orogeny and its effects on our rocks and landscape
- **Alluvial fans, wadis and dunes** - the rocks and processes of the Permian and Triassic and the landscapes they have produced
- **Dinosaurs to coccoliths** - strange environments, rocks and processes of the Jurassic and Cretaceous
- **Palm trees, orogeny and volcanoes** - the British Tertiary volcanics and sediments
- **The ice man cometh** - the complexities of the last 2 million years, every bit as complex as the beginning of the story!
- **Where do we go from here?** - our current tectonic setting and where we might be heading in the future

Everyone enrolling will receive a course timetable and further information by way of an introduction to the course and our manner of presentation. There will also be an introductory Prologue for you to try as soon as you enrol.

DAY SCHOOLS

During the Winter of 2020 we will be holding day schools in a number of different locations around the country on a variety of different topics. At present, two of these day schools, to be held at Devizes and Sheffield will cover the “Geology of the British Isles” from start to finish!

“Geology of the British Isles in a day” :

Devizes, Wiltshire, Wednesday February 26th.
Chapelton, Sheffield, Saturday February 29th.

You can attend either of these courses for the discounted prices of £30.00 per person. Prices includes a buffet meal and hot drinks during the day.

PRACTICAL POINTS

- To do this course electronically you'll need a computer with access to the internet. You'll also need a valid email address - please supply it at the time of enrolment. Units will be sent as pdf files. A broadband connection would be very helpful, but is not essential.
- To access Moodle we'll give you the simple instructions and a password

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

The following items are recommended to accompany the course:-

BGS map “Bedrock Geology of the United Kingdom & Ireland” (1:1 250 000) folded £7.00
BGS bicentennial geological map of the British Isles (2015) - a modern map to celebrate the map of William Smith £12.95
“The Geology of the Britain, an introduction” by Peter Toghil, Crowood Press £16.99 (**Recommended title for course**)

All prices include UK postage.

THE COST

The online cost is £75.00 and covers the provision of all the online materials, Moodle support. To have the materials posted, the cost is £100.00. If you opt for Units to be sent by post, they will come in two batches, separated by the half term break.

SAVE MONEY WITH ‘ CLUB CLASS’

For an outlay of just £10.00 (£15.00 for two people) you can obtain ‘Club Class’ our own discount scheme. You can get £5.00 off the cost of this course and other distance learning courses, plus a variety of other benefits that include a £3.00 discount on all day trips and £5.00 off day schools, and 10% off the cost of BGS books and maps.

All benefits are valid until December 31st 2020.

ENROLLING

To enrol on this course you can do so via our website:-

www.geosupplies.co.uk
or you can ring us on 0114 2455746

You can also send a cheque to the following address
(made payable to “Geo Supplies Ltd”):-

**Geo Supplies Ltd., 49 Station Road, Chapelton,
Sheffield, S35 2XE**



Chalk cliffs on the Isle of Wight

LOOKING FOR HELP?

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the tutor, Chris Darmon by email:-

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

If you have any questions or queries - contact Chris Darmon as follows:-

Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk • Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405