



**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**



## **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. We first presented these materials in 2015 and since then, more than 100 people have enjoyed them, but this is the first time that we've done it in a series of live zoom sessions - we are going to have fun together!

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](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk)

## KEY INFORMATION

<b>COURSE TITLE:</b>	<b>The Geology of the British Isles</b>
<b>LEVEL:</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>DATES:</b>	<b>The course runs for 13-weeks from January 3 and ends on April 11 with two breaks, 10/1 and 4/4.</b>
<b>DELIVERY:</b>	<b>The course will be delivered via a series of live Zoom meetings at 2pm and 7pm on Mondays (your choice of time). plus unlimited access to Moodle our online learning site</b>
<b>COURSE TUTORS:</b>	<b>Chris Darmon &amp; Colin Schofield</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>email: <a href="mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk">downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk</a> or tel. 0114 2455746</b>

### WELCOME TO THE LEARNING ZONE

We welcome everyone to our **Down to Earth learning zone**, whether this is your first time, or you are a regular! You'll be joining a community of learners across the UK who will come together on a weekly basis in Autumn and Winter to discover more about our fascinating subject. We provide a relaxed learning environment in which we can all learn both from the tutor and each other. We'll be providing weekly materials that will lead you to find out more, doing your own bit of research on the internet, or even searching your own memory and sharing what you find with others. Weekly live Zoom meeting on Mondays at 2 or 7pm are the heart of this learning experience.

Chris Darmon has had extensive field experience in the UK and abroad over a 45-year career and has taught adults in Sheffield for more than 30 years; for the LEA, the University of Sheffield and the Workers' Education Association. For the past nine years he has had experience of delivering distance learning courses to learners around the country. Colin Schofield has worked with Chris during all of the time he's been delivering distance learning. Colin not only handles the technical side of Zoom and the administration, he's also an integral part of the learning experience. He adds in much of the learning materials to the Zoom sessions as well as being your first point of contact.

**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 THIS 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

*Please note that these dates are those of the live Zoom sessions, at 2pm and 7pm. It's your choice, which session you attend. You can change as you wish.*

<b>Jan 3</b>	<b>All the time in the world</b> - before we begin the journey, you need the rules of the time game! <b>(Repeated on January 10)</b>
<b>Jan 17</b>	<b>Glorious landscapes, amazing rocks</b> - a quick overview of British geology
<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>Our Genesis and Exodus rocks</b> - our two oldest rock formations, the Lewisian and Torridonian of Scotland.
<b>Jan 31</b>	<b>Down in the basement</b> - the foundations of England and Wales
<b>Feb 7</b>	<b>Calm seas, violent volcanoes</b> - the Cambrian and Ordovician rocks of Britain
<b>Feb 14</b>	<b>Re-arranging the continents</b> - an up-to-date assessment of the Caledonian Orogeny and the Silurian period
<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>United kingdom to coal forest</b> - the rivers, lakes and seas of the Devonian and Carboniferous
<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>An orogeny by any name</b> - the Variscan orogeny and its affects on our rocks and landscape
<b>Mar 7</b>	<b>Alluvial fans, wadis and dunes</b> - the rocks and processes of the Permian and Triassic and the landscapes they have produced
<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>Dinosaurs to coccoliths</b> - strange environments, rocks and processes of the Jurassic and Cretaceous
<b>Mar 21</b>	<b>Palm trees, orogeny and volcanoes</b> - the British Tertiary volcanics and sediments
<b>Mar 28</b>	<b>The ice man cometh</b> - the complexities of the last 2 million years, every bit as complex as the beginning of the story!
<b>Apr 11</b>	<b>Where do we go from here?</b> - our current tectonic setting and where we might be heading in the future

## PRACTICAL POINTS

- To take part in this course, you'll need a computer, iphone or tablet with access to the internet. You'll also need a valid email address - please supply this at the time of enrolment.
- Additional background material will be available as pdf files, or can be supplied in printed form by mail. A broadband connection would be very helpful, but is not essential.
- To access Moodle, Colin will give you some simple instructions and a password.
- To take part in the live Zoom presentations, you'll obviously need a camera and microphone.
- Shortly before the course begins you'll be sent the Zoom login and password which will be constant throughout the course.

## THE COST

The cost of this course is £60.00 per person (or £85.00 for two people studying together). If you would like to have the background materials printed and mailed to you, this is an extra £25.00.

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

The following materials are recommended to accompany the course:-

BGS map "Bedrock Geology of the United Kingdom & Ireland" (1:1 250 000) folded £7.95

"The Geology of Britain, an introduction" by Peter Toghil, Crowood Press £16.99 (**Recommended title for course**)

"British Phanerozoic Palaeogeography maps" £4.00

*All prices include UK postage.*

## ENROLLING

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

**[www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://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, Chapeltown,  
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](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk)**

**or you can call: 0114 245 5746**

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

**Email: [downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk) • Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405**