



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

One very wet, windy, dry, cold day...

**Sedimentary Rocks & Processes
- a distance learning course for adults**

10-weeks commencing January 2020

A word from your course tutors...

This course will examine the world of sedimentary rocks and the processes that produce them. As you may have gathered from the somewhat quirky title, it will also place these events firmly into a time frame. Whilst some processes act a bit like a dripping tap, others are more associated with the fracturing of a water main!

This course complements others that study igneous rocks - "Hot Rocks!" and metamorphic rocks "Rocks from the pressure cooker". Like all of our other courses, this course does not take itself too seriously, but it also covers all aspects of the subject in a thorough manner.

Emphasis will be placed on a practical, problem solving approach, that encourages you to think for yourself. We'll encourage you to examine rock specimens as part of the course, as well as providing you with lots of real field examples from Britain and overseas. In this way, we'll create a 'virtual practical' out of each Unit.

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 this course aims to 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.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Tutors

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

KEY INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE:	One very wet, windy, dry, cold day - sedimentary rocks and processes
LEVEL:	The course is designed for anyone interested in learning about sedimentary rocks and processes. All that is assumed is that you have a little previous knowledge and experience.
DATES:	The course runs for 10-weeks from January 9th. and ends on March 26th 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 completes our look at rocks, following courses in igneous and metamorphic rocks. The principle aims of the course are:-

- to introduce you to the vast array of sedimentary rocks and the processes that made them.
- to demonstrate the limits of the principle of uniformitarianism (the present is the key to the past)
- to show how some processes act very slowly whilst others are sudden and dramatic
- to help you to 'read' rock outcrops and specimens and thus to learn more about how they formed

COURSE CONTENT

Below is an outline of the content of each of the Units that will be presented week by week.

- **Round & round** - the rock cycle; uplift, weathering, erosion, transport and deposition
- **Sediment to sedimentary rock** - lithification and diagenesis and rates of deposition
- **Evidence from the crime scene** - sedimentary structures give away so much about what was going on
- **A world of sediment** - an overview of sedimentary environments both today and in the geological past
- **It's an ill wind** - the desert environment of dunes and flash floods
- **Piles of mud and sand** - muddy and sandy coastal environments
- **A tropical paradise** - the carbonate environment of reefs and lagoons
- **With the help of gravity** - the deep marine environment of turbidites and oozes
- **From the Nile to the Thames** - the varied rocks and processes of the fluvial and deltaic environments
- **Earth's removal truck** - enormous power in the glacial and periglacial environments

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 & DAY TRIPS

During the Winter of 2020 we will be holding day schools and day trips in a number of different locations around the country on a variety of different topics. You are welcome to attend any of them - see below for how you can save money on the standard cost.

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 text is recommended to accompany the course:-

“Introducing Sedimentology” by Stuart Jones (Dunedin Press) £14.99

We also recommend that you consider our **Sedimentary Rock Set** (18 specimens) £27.95

All prices include UK postage.

THE COST

The online cost is £75.00 and covers the provision of all the online materials, Moodle support and the day school tuition as described. To have the materials posted, the cost is £100.00.

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 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, 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
or you can call: 0114 245 5746**

**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**