



**Down to Earth**

*"Earth science learning for all"*

# **Southeast Cornwall September 5-12 2019**



**Polperro Harbour (Photo: Visit Cornwall)**

## **A word from your leaders...**

Over the years we've made several forays into Cornwall, staying mainly on the North Coast at Bude, or on the Lizard Peninsula in places like Coverack or Helston. However, there's one area that we've never been to, the Southeast of the county. This trip, which is based in the small town of Liskeard, aims to put that right. In researching the trip, it rapidly became obvious that we can get to many places of great geological interest from Liskeard.

South Cornwall boasts excellent beaches and superb coastal scenery in rocks of Devonian age. Many of these rocks show excellent folding and faulting dating from the time of the Variscan Orogeny. Not that we'll be spending all of our time on the coast. Inland, there are exposures of the St Austell granite with its surrounding mineral veins and kaolinisation. We'll spend a day in china clay country, as we admire the manmade landscape that is now highly protected.

As for our accommodation, we are breaking with tradition, as we swap our usual small hotel for the modern comforts of the Premier Inn in the town of Liskeard. This is an area of small pretentious establishments that charge an arm and a leg, especially if you dare to ask for single room! So come and enjoy a great week with us in places like Looe, Fowey and up on St Austell Moor.

As this is a new area for us, we expect demand for this trip to be high. So you are advised to book early, especially if you are looking to secure one of the limited number of single rooms.

**Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield**  
**Trip Organisers/Leaders**

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

## **Getting to Southeast Cornwall**

For those coming by train, Liskeard is served by Great Western Railway services from London Paddington to Penzance and by Cross Country Trains on the Northwest and Northeast to Plymouth and Penzance services. From Plymouth, change onto local Great Western services. For those coming by road, the area is easily reached with excellent roads to Plymouth, including the M5 for much of the way and then good A class roads to Liskeard.

If you are having difficulties sorting out how to get to the area, do contact us and we'll see what we can do to help.

## Getting Around

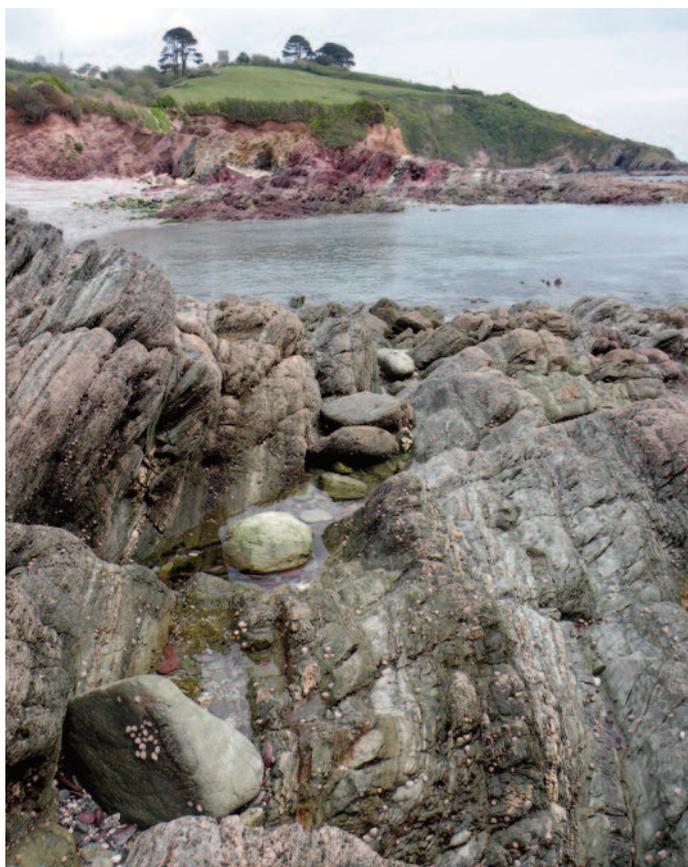
For this trip we will have the use of a hired 17-seater minibus. My friend and colleague Colin will be driving, ensuring that we are safely and comfortably transported around the area. If there are too many people for the bus, we would hope to have the use of at least one extra car. (See our booking form if you are willing to drive a car during the trip.)

## 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. Because many of the sites are coastal there will be some short, 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.

## The geology of the Southeast Cornwall



The geology of this area, like much of the rest of SW England is dominated by Devonian and Carboniferous sediments, into which have been intruded large granites. The sediments have been mildly metamorphosed, to slate grade and have been subject to severe contortion by the effects of the Variscan Orogeny. Understanding the big picture here is not easy with some very large strike slip faults aligned roughly E-W, indeed the Bristol Channel may be defined by such a fault line. The area and region have been subject to much recent geophysical research that has revealed much about the deep basement rocks that is helping us to get a much better 'handle' on the geological history.

During the course of the week we'll be taking in some of the fine coastal scenery of places like Looe, Polperro, Mevagissey and Fowey, where we'll be able to see the folded and faulted sediments.

Inland, we'll concentrate on the granites with the associated China clay and also the extensive mineralisation of places like Callington and Devon Great Consols. Wheal Martyn Museum provides an opportunity to see something of the present day China clay extraction, whilst Morwellham Quay gives an inside view of the real Poldark.

## Itinerary

*At this stage, this is meant to be indicative of the field trip content. Final details will be worked out in accordance with the wishes of the group, the state of the tides and the prevailing weather.*

- The amazing coastal landscapes of Polperro and Polruan
- St Austell granite at Luxulyan, granite tors
- China clay landscapes and Wheal Martyn Museum
- Minerals of the Callington area

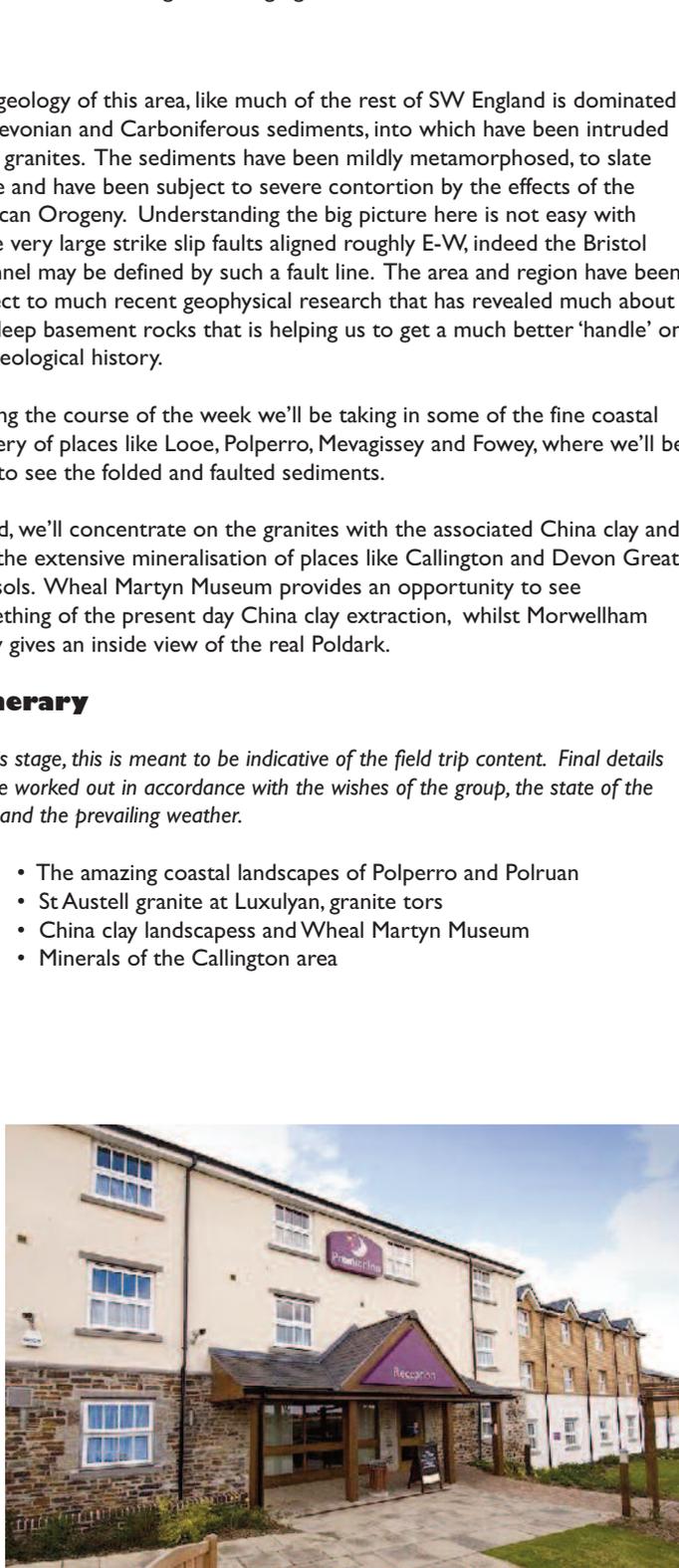
- Devon Great Consols Mine and Morwellham Quay
- The building stones of St Austell - trail
- Tourmaline of Roche Rock
- Coastal geology of Fowey and Mevagissey

## Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our trips and so we always try to find the best suitable accommodation for our base. As you know, we usually go for small family run hotels, but this has not proved possible here. So, in a break from our usual practise, we've chosen the highly rated Premier Inn in Liskeard and the adjacent Liskeard Tavern for our food.

All rooms are en suite and the hotel is air conditioned.. They will be providing us with breakfasts and evening meals. Single accommodation is available, but is limited and subject to a modest supplement.

We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room - simply indicate on the booking form. A packed lunch, sourced locally, will be provided for each field day.



## Cost

**For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 7-night tour will be £1050.00 per person. For a single room, the price will be £1195.00.**

## What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Damon & Colin Schofield as tutors who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified in the brochure
- Packed lunches for each field day
- Admissions to museums and archaeological sites as visited by all of the group

## What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Liskeard
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses.



## 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 many bank accounts and credit cards.

## Booking

Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £300.00 per person or the full payment and a completed booking form. The balance will be payable not later than June 30th 2019.

***The trip will run provided a minimum of 12 people have booked by June 30th 2019.***

## Your money...

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these tours 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 - we will let you know. You will then be free to start making your own travel plans and to take advantage of any early deals on train/air tickets.

Please don't make any such arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

***Also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2019'***

**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**