



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

The Hastings Area October 22-27 2019



High cliffs of the Hastings Beds

A word from your leaders...

Why has it taken us so long to visit to the fabulous Sussex Coast with its fabulous chalk cliffs? Chris made a visit to Hastings last year and fell in love with the place. Unlike many other places in the area, which date back to the early years of the nineteenth century, Hastings is an ancient town with a very long history. There is a charming town centre and the cliffs aren't made of chalk! Instead they are Lower Cretaceous rocks with some interesting sedimentary structures - right there in the town.

We'll take a look at the coastline both east and west and will take in some fine fossil collecting localities, including Fairlight Cove, Rock-a-Nore, Severn Sisters, Beachy Head, and Seaford. We'll also visit some inland locations in the Weald of Kent. Taken together, they'll cover a wide range of different Cretaceous rocks and landscapes. There are also some interesting faults to be discovered along the way.

Choosing our accommodation base wasn't easy. In a town where some of the so-called best hotels can only manage 3 out of 5 from TripAdvisor, we've gone for Alexander's Hotel which scores a very respectable 4.3. We're confident that they will look after us with good standards of comfort and hospitality. As this is a new area for us, we expect a good level of interest, so early booking is advised, especially if you are looking for a single room.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to and from Hastings

There are good train services from London and across the Southeast of England. If you are travelling from elsewhere in the country you will probably be routed across London. For those arriving by car, there are good roads that will take you directly to Hastings.

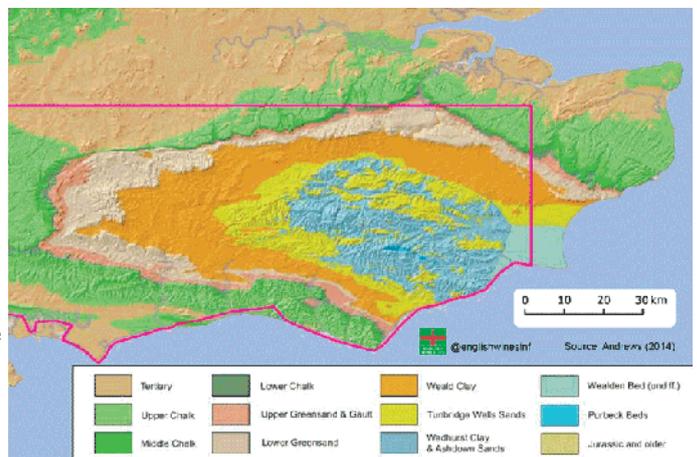
On the final day we'll finish not later than 12.00 allowing plenty of time for you to get home.

Getting around on the trip

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.

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. There will be some short sections of steep cliff 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.



Why the Hastings area?

This is an area of the country that is covered by a geological map at a scale of 1:25 000. These only cover areas that are deemed to be 'Classical areas of British geology', so what more can we say? This comes from "Classic Landforms of The Weald":

"Magnificent cliffs have developed where the Hastings Beds of the High Weald meet the sea between Hastings and Pett Level. Because the sea is cutting back into high ground, which reaches 145m above sea level, adjacent to Fairlight Coastguard Station, the cliffs are impressively tall with some vertical faces in excess of 60m in height. The form of the cliffs along this 8km stretch of coast depends upon lithological variations within the Hastings Beds and their degree of exposure to wave attack. None of the rocks is particularly hard and the average rate of cliff retreat is in excess of 1m per year. It is this rapid erosion which maintains the impressive cliffs, not the strength of the geological materials."

With the encouragement of your leaders, Chris and Colin, we'll help you to interpret the rocks, fossils, structures and landscape for yourself.

Accommodation & Food



Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our trips and so we always try to use small, family run, hotels and guesthouses that offer en-suite or private facilities. For this trip we will be staying at the 4-star, recently refurbished, Alexander's Hotel close to the seafront in a good part of town. It offers comfortable accommodation, a warm welcome and excellent breakfasts. All rooms are en suite. 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.

Evening dinners will be taken at a variety of nearby restaurants on each night. Packed lunches, will be taken for each full field day.

Itinerary

The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we hope to cover during this trip:-

- **Pett Level to Fairlight Cove** - fabulous coastal landscape and fossil collecting from the Lower Cretaceous.
- **Rye** - changes to the shingle beach - a prized example
- **Rock-a-Nore** - rocks, fossils, an unconformity and a fault
- **The Weald** - inland exposures of the High Weald, including the Tunbridge Wells sandstones
- **Geology of the Dorking area** - with a short visit to the Denbies Estate
- **The Chalk of Beachy Head and the Severn Sisters** - amazing landscape features and excellent chalk cliffs
- **Seaford Head** - chalk cliffs, faults and landslips.

We will finish no later than 12.00 on the final day, close to the railway station in Hastings, allowing everyone time to get home.

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 5-night trip will be £650.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £795.00 per person and is limited to a maximum of 3.

If you are willing to share, but don't have a companion, just indicate on the form and we will try to help you.

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified here
- The cost of all transport used during the trip
- Admission to any museums, exhibitions etc. as visited by the group

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Hastings
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenditure

Booking

Please fill in and return a completed booking form.. Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £300.00 per person or the full payment. The balance of the brochure price will be due by July 31st. 2019.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 12 people have booked by May 31st. 2019.

Your money...

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these trips 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.

Recommended reading...

The Jurassic Coast of Dorset has a number of publications, some of which are difficult to access, others are readable and also up to date. We recommend the following that will cover our needs:

Geology and Fossils of the Hastings area - £8.00

1:25 000 Geological Map of the Hastings-Rye area (BGS) - £12.00

These are available via our website www.geosupplies.co.uk and the prices quoted include UK postage.

What happens next?

As soon as we are in a position of confirming that the trip will run - pretty soon judging by the number of people who have shown an interest already - we will let you know. You will then be free to start making your own travel plans and to take advantage of early deals.

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

Please also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2019'

