



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Heart of Wales July 3-10 2021



A word from your leaders...

We last visited this part of Wales in 2016,. For Colin this will be his first time in this part of Wales. This trip takes in the Brecon Beacons, and the Black Mountains, as well as the coast around Aberystwyth. We always like to stay in family run small hotels, but this one is a first, it's also a real ale brewery! We're sure that you are going to enjoy your stay at the Neuadd Arms Hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Mid-Wales is one of the those regions where time seems to have stood still. There are still small towns and villages and lots of green agricultural land and the scenery is pleasant, without being spectacular. The geology belongs firmly to people like Murchison with his Silurian system, but also includes, Ordovician volcanics and fossiliferous sediments. The Devonian and Carboniferous rocks can be seen in the Brecon Beacons and there are some ancient lead and zinc mines with good specimens to be collected. Come and enjoy Mid-Wales with us!

For this trip, Chris will be concentrating on the bedrock whilst Colin will focus on the bigger picture of the landscape, the glacial features and the Quaternary processes and sediments. Colin will also be at the wheel of our 17-seater minibus

We invite anyone who will have received two Covid vaccinations to join us on this trip. Our hotel have assured us that they will not be taking any risks and that rooms will be fully sanitised prior to your arrival.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Getting to Llanwrtyd Wells

For an area that is far from any large town, you'll be surprised to know that you can get directly to Llanwrtyd by train, from either Shrewsbury or Llanelli. This gives reasonable connections to London Paddington and the Midlands and North. There's also a decent road to the tiny town.

Getting around on the trip

For this trip we will have our own 17-seater minibus that will be in the capable hands of my friend and colleague Colin Schofield. You are also welcome to use your own car, if you prefer. Masks should be worn when using the minibus, or when social distancing isn't possible.

Why Mid-Wales?

Dependent upon exactly where we go on this trip, we can see a great variety of rocks that range across a number of geological periods. In the area around Old Radnor, lie the oldest rocks in Wales, dated at around 700 million years old. These, and other late Precambrian rocks are trapped in a major fault zone. Around Llandrindod Wells, we will examine fossiliferous Ordovician sediments and see some unique dolerite bun laccoliths. At Builth Wells we will be able to see an Ordovician shoreline complete with ancient sea stacks!

The succeeding Silurian sediments include both shallow and deep water shales and turbidites which we may be able to examine in shoreline cliffs near to Aberystwyth. These sediments have been invaded by hot mineral bearing waters and we will take a look at the Cwmystwyth Mines, near Devil's Bridge. No trip to the area would be complete without taking in some of the classic locations that give their name to the geological column, such as the Llandoveryian and the Llandeiloian. In the Brecon Beacons National Park we will examine rocks of the Devonian, the Old Red Sandstone and the overlying limestones of the Carboniferous which make some magnificent scenery.

Accommodation & Food

The entire trip is based at the respected Neuadd Arms Hotel & Brewery in Llanwrtyd Wells that offers comfortable accommodation, a warm welcome and good hearty meals. All rooms are en suite. We will be taking all meals at the hotel including a packed lunch for each 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:-

- The ancient rocks around Old Radnor
- The Llandrindod Wells Ordovician inlier, rocks and fossils
- An ancient shoreline at Builth Wells
- Rocks, mines and minerals of the Devil's Bridge
- Rocks and scenery of the Brecon Beacons National Park
- Classic localities in the Llandovery & Llandeilo areas

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 7-night trip will be £895.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £950.00 per person and is limited to a maximum of 4. We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room - see booking form.

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as tutors, 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
- The cost of any admission to caves, mines and museums visited by the whole group

What's excluded from the cost?

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

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 your credit card or bank account.

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 March 31st, 2021.**

This trip will run provided a minimum of 12 people have booked by December 31st, 2020.

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.

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 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 2021'



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