



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

English Riviera Global Geopark South Devon October 9-16 2021

Long Quarry Point (Photo: English Riviera Global Geopark)

A word from your leaders...

My association with the South Devon goes right back to the early 1970s and my undergraduate days at the University of Hull. I well remember the late Prof. Michael House and his laid back approach to fieldwork, not to mention his field dress code, plus fours, jacket, shirt and tie! I won't be copying him or expecting you to as we enjoy the splendid rocks and scenery of what is now the English Riviera Global Geopark. We last visited this area back in 2016 and it will be my colleague Colin's first visit.

Despite the fact that we are visiting in April, the weather should be pleasantly warm to enable us to get out and about to see some of the amazing coastal and inland scenery of the area. In terms of periods of geological time, this area doesn't offer the kind of range that many other areas do, but what it lacks in periods, it makes up for in rock variety! There's a wide range of Devonian sediments, including fossiliferous limestones, sandstones and shales, which are now slate. Add in some volcanics and also dolerite intrusions. The famous Permo-Triassic red cliffs of Teignmouth will also be seen. To add to the variety, there's also the most westerly outcrop of the Cretaceous Greensand in the Haldon Hills near Exeter. Finally, the area is noted for its folds and faults, the results of the Variscan orogeny - making fabulous coastal scenery!

Our base for this trip will be the Clifton Hotel in Paignton which offers friendly and comfortable accommodation and excellent food, serving us with both our breakfasts and evening meals. The transport will be in Colin's capable hands as he once again takes the wheel of our minibus.

We welcome anyone who will have been fully vaccinated in good time for this trip.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to Paignton

Paignton station at the end of the Great Western Railway from Paddington is within 5 minutes of our hotel. The town is also served by local trains from Newton Abbot that connect into regular cross country trains from the Midlands and north of England. If you book tickets around 12-weeks in advance, you should be able to take advantage of the best priced advance fares.

Getting Around

We'll be making use of our own 17-seater minibus which will be driven by Colin. We may also take a trip on the steam train to Kingswear and combine that with a river boat trip up the River Dart. You can also expect a boat trip in Torbay, weather permitting. In a bid to reduce our carbon footprint, we may also use the local bus services on at least one day. You are advised to bring along your English National Bus Pass if you have one to take advantage of the free travel offered. You are also welcome to use your own car. At times when social distancing isn't possible you will be required to wear a mask.

Walking

We won't be tackling difficult terrain, although there will be places where we will make modest ascents and descents to access some shore sections, in many cases this will involve steps. We'll get you as close as possible to the relevant sites and will, in almost every case, involve minimal walking distances. Everything therefore should be within the capabilities of all of the party. 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 may be walking over rough ground.

Why South Devon Geopark?

The primary rocks of the Geopark belong to the Devonian period and they provide us with some of the classic localities that Murchison used when he named the Devonian period back in 1839. Many of the sub-divisions of the period are also defined here. Our main talk will be to deduce the geological story that the rocks tell, including periods of shallow marine coral seas, deep seas and even local volcanism. We'll also tell the later story of flash floods and deserts, volcanic lavas and even the curious tale of the Cretaceous Greensand.

We'll also include the story of how the rocks became crumpled in the Variscan orogeny and are, even today, being subjected to weathering and erosion along this dramatic coastline.

Itinerary

At this stage, this is meant to be indicative of the course content. Final details will be worked out in accordance with the wishes of the group and the prevailing weather. Changes may be required due to Covid restrictions.

- Devonian sediments of Torquay, folding & faulting
- Kent's Cavern visit
- Rocks of Paignton & Brixham
- Limestones of the Ashburton & Buckfastleigh areas
- The New Red Sandstones of Teignmouth & Dawlish
- Cretaceous rocks of the Haldon Hills - the Greensand
- Kingswear and the valley of the River Dart



Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our tours and we have worked hard to bring you good value in local accommodation. After much searching, we've chosen the Clifton Hotel for our base, which has excellent ratings on Trip Advisor and is family owned and run. We are assured of good home cooked food, that makes use of fresh local produce.

We potentially have the hotel to ourselves as it has only got 13 rooms. Single rooms are limited and subject to a modest extra charge. We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room – simply indicate on the booking form.

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 7-night tour will be £995.00 per person; for single rooms (max. 2) the cost is £1050.00 and for single occupancy of a double room, the cost will be £1125.00 per person.

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 in the brochure
- The cost of any transport used during the trip
- Admissions to museums, caves etc. as visited by the whole group

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Paignton and return
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses
- Lunchtime food on the final day

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 July 31st 2021,**

This trip will run provided a minimum of 12 people have booked by May 31st 2021.

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 - pretty soon if previous trips are anything to go by - 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'

