



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Northeast Scotland, Moray & Nairn

July 20-27 2022



Superb faulting near Hopeman, Moray.

A word from your leaders...

We last visited the Moray Coast of Northeast Scotland in 2018, so it's high time that we returned! The reputation of the Station Hotel in Portsoy, coupled with the superb and varied geology, should ensure that we have a successful and well patronised trip. We are both looking forward to returning to what is one of our favourite places in the whole of the UK.

This exciting trip takes in the varied geology of the coast between Burghead in the west and Macduff in the east, as well as allowing us a look at some of the varied geology inland. There really is something for everyone, with sedimentary rocks from the Triassic, with excellent structures and reptilian footprints, Old Red Sandstones with exotic conglomerate, to classic Buchan type regional metamorphic rocks, to peridotite and granites. There's even beautiful marble and serpentine for good measure. The coastal scenery is excellent with a fair amount of Quaternary sediments and raised beach features.

We'll have the use of a minibus, with additional cars, as required for this trip. It's an area that Chris and Colin know well, but also one where they look forward to seeing new things.

Kind regards

Chris Darton & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to Northeast Scotland

For those coming by public transport, the best railway station is Elgin, on the Inverness to Aberdeen line. There's then a fairly good bus service to Portsoy. Train travellers, can of course make use of the sleeper service from London to Inverness or Aberdeen and then travel forward to Elgin. For those coming by road, the best advice is to come up the A9 towards Inverness before branching off through the Spey Valley. We may be able to offer a limited number of places in the minibus from Elgin, please enquire nearer to the date.

Getting Around

As usual, we'll have the use of a 17-seater minibus, driven by 'our Colin'. However, if you'd rather use your own car, that would be fine. We anticipate that some days will involve some fairly long journeys as we seek to take in as much of this coast as possible.

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 Northeast Scotland

The Moray Coast of Scotland has a wide range of geology from the Triassic of Burghead to the Devonian, Old Red Sandstone to the basement of varied Dalradian metamorphics. This is where much of the pioneering work on metamorphic rocks was carried out in the early years of the 20th century, by George Barrow. Here, it's possible to see a sequence of rocks that were previously fine sediments that have been progressively altered and which exhibit the characteristic zone minerals.

You will be able to see minerals such as garnet, sillimanite and andalusite in abundance in the rocks. Away from the coast, you'll see a range of igneous rocks from peridotite, through gabbro to granite. Find out more about the area by going to the SNH website and viewing their publications. The printed volume is also available from us at £8.95 including postage.

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.

- Triassic sedimentary rocks of the Hopeman/Burghead area, including reptilian footprints
- The Old Red Sandstone of Gardenstown
- Serpentinite and marble - the geology of the Portsoy area
- Classic metamorphic rocks around Banff and Macduff
- Igneous intrusions - the granites of Kenmay, and the ultrabasics of Huntly
- The Dalradian of the Portknockie and Cullen area • Quaternary features of the coastline

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.

For this trip, we are once again returning to the Station Hotel in Portsoy, a comfortable, family owned and run hotel, that we enjoyed back in 2014 on our last visit. All food is home cooked and All rooms are en suite and the food on offer is excellent. They will be providing us with breakfasts and evening meals. Portsoy is an attractive seaside village, in the centre of our field area.

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 £1150.00 per person. For a single room, the price will be £1350.00.

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 historical sites as visited by all of the group

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Portsoy
- 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 April 30th 2022. The trip will run subject to a minimum of 12 people signing up by January 31st 2022.

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 2021/2'



The village of Gardenstown on the narrow coastal strip.