



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Come and join our fourth Summer School...

Worcester Summer School August 13-20 2022

The Devil's Chimney, Leckhampton Hill, Cotswolds.



St John's Campus, University of Worcester

Worcestershire is at the very heart of England - and perfect for geology...

Our Summer School journey has so far taken us to the Lake District, Shropshire and then last year to the Peak District of Derbyshire. Each venue has allowed us to study some very varied geology and to put on an exciting programme with mix of field trips, indoor talks and social activities. So for 2022 we are heading for the City of Worcester, specifically we're based at the St Johns Campus of the University of Worcester. Covid prevented us from running this in 2020 and 2021, so it's third time lucky!

It's the perfect base from which to explore the amazingly varied geology within a 50 mile radius of the city. This can encompass the Precambrian rocks of the Malvern Hills, the amazing sites in the Worcestershire village of Martley, the Devonian and Carboniferous rocks of the Forest of Dean, the Triassic and Jurassic rocks of Aust Cliff and splendid scenery of the Cotswolds. For those looking for something a little more gentle we can offer geology in the historic city centre of Worcester, including its magnificent cathedral and even a visit to the Lapworth Museum in Birmingham. If you are looking for something a little more unusual we can offer a day trip on the Severn Valley railway with a geo-walk along the way.

We'll be offering single en-suite rooms (there may be a couple of double rooms) on the St. John's Campus which is around a 15 minute walk from the city centre. Here, we'll be taking breakfast and evening meals and have our Summer School talks. As is usual on our Summer School, there will be a full programme of evening talks and activities with some outside speakers. It promises to be enjoyable, educational and fun! We welcome bookings from people who will be fully vaccinated by then.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Joint leaders & organisers

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Getting to the University of Worcester

Worcester has two mainline railway stations, Shrub Hill and Foregate Street, giving it good connections to a wide variety of different places. There are direct trains from London Paddington, Reading, Oxford, Hereford and Birmingham.

By road, the M5 is close by giving access to the North, Bristol and South Wales. There's parking available on the campus so bringing your own car isn't a problem.

Getting Around

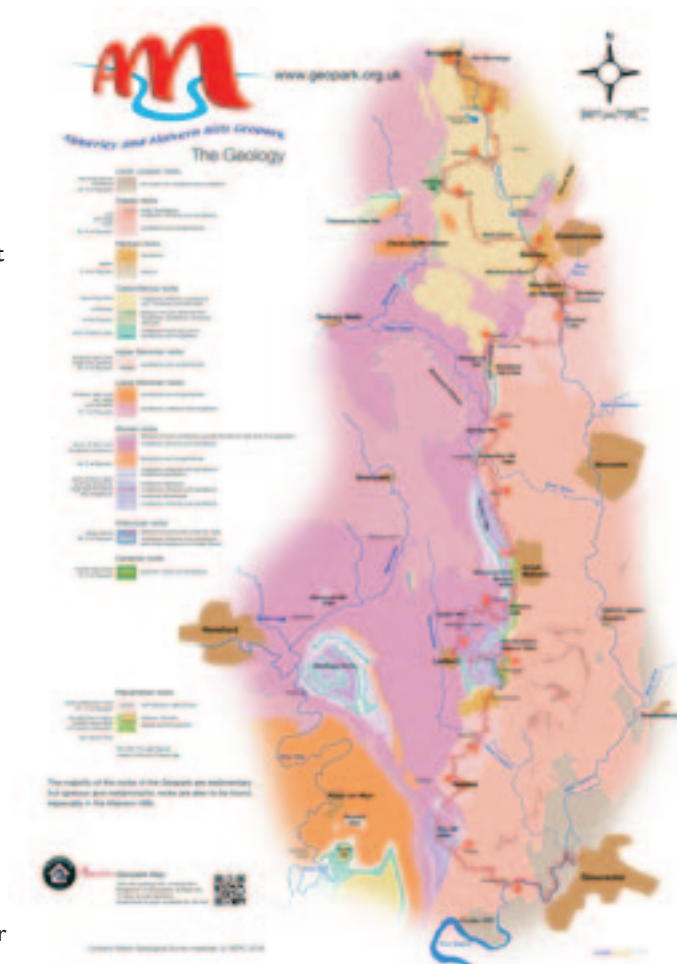
We'll be using a mix of local bus/train and also hired transport, so that we can be as Covid secure as possible. If you wish, you may use your own car. You may be required to wear your mask whenever social distancing is not possible.

Walking

On each field day there will be a choice of venues from those that require modest walking through to others where there be little or no walking involved. Everyone should be able to find something that is within their own capabilities. 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.

The Geology & landscape

Much, though not all, of the areas to be visited lie within the boundary of the Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark. Geopark volunteers will host some of our activities and are giving us their support. This map gives some idea of the remarkable range of geology that can be found within a relatively short distance from Worcester. Put simply it ranges from the Precambrian to the Quaternary with only the Cretaceous and Tertiary missing from the list of periods represented!



The Summer School programme

At this stage, this is meant to be indicative of the course content. Final details will be published not later than June when you will be asked to make your choices. There may be some restrictions placed upon us due to Covid-19.

Field excursions...

- Precambrian igneous rocks of the Malvern Complex.
- Silurian sediments of Purlieu and faulting in the Wyche cutting, Malvern.
- Devonian and Carboniferous sediments of the Forest of Dean with a visit to a coal mine, or Clearwell Caves.*
- Martley geo-village - the remarkable story of one parish's geology.
- The rocks and structures of Huntley Quarry, Gloucestershire.
- Triassic and Jurassic rocks of Aust Cliff.
- The geology of Worcester Cathedral and city centre.
- A visit to the Lapworth Museum, University of Birmingham.*
- The geology of the Severn Valley Railway around Bewdley.*
- Jurassic rocks and scenery of the Cotswolds, including Leckhampton Hill.

Excursions marked with an * will be subject to a modest additional charge.

Indoor sessions so far being considered include...

- The Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark - delivering geology to the general public.
- Conserving Hereford and Worcester's geology and landscape for today and tomorrow.
- Plate tectonics - how the Earth Works.
- "Set in Stone" - a video that challenges our thinking.
- An overview of the local geology - short talk and presentation.
- Minerals for the non-mineralogist - practical workshop

Social programme...

The last evening will feature a special summer school dinner with an after dinner speaker. We'll also hold one of famous quizzes one evening. With an on campus bar, there will be time to socialise and relax each evening, after we've completed our daily programme. We may also arrange an evening out in Worcester dependent upon your wishes.



Aust Cliff, Gloucestershire

Accommodation & Food

The University of Worcester is well known for its conference facilities and are pleased to welcome us to their St John's Campus. All of the rooms are en-suite, singles. Whilst there are no twin or double rooms, we can arrange for couples to be allocated adjacent rooms.

As can be seen from the photograph, the rooms are clean and simple. All meals will be taken on campus in a nearby building. Packed lunches will be available for each field day. A bar will be available each evening for our use.

Cost

As you will appreciate, there's a lot that goes into the organisation of a trip like this, including the arrangement of hired transport. However, we have tried hard to keep the costs as low as possible. It is for this reason that some excursions will carry a modest additional charge to cover admission charges or other costs.

The cost for each person, is £1095.00, per person.

If you would like to join us for the week without accommodation, please see the final page of this brochure for details of our non-resident packages.



Geomap, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as tutor/organisers, who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified in the brochure
- Excursions and admissions, except those marked with an * (see above)

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and the University of Worcester and return
- 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 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 May 31st. 2022.

This trip already has sufficient people who have booked to ensure that it will run.

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.



The Malvern Hills (Image: Wikipedia)

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 travel arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

Non-resident packages

At this stage, we are able to offer two packages for people not wanting to be resident at the University. Both are strictly limited in number.

The Gold Package £495.00 per person

- Access to all of the field programme with no extra charges to pay
- Access to our transport with pick up and drop off at St John's Campus
- Access to the evening and indoor programme (subject to the consent of the University).
- An invitation to join us for the Summer School dinner on Friday night

The Silver Package £295.00 per person

- As Gold Package, but does not include access to our transport, we meet you at the field locations each day.

Please note: Neither package includes the provision of any food, including packed lunches, apart from the Friday night dinner, these are for you to provide. We advise that you bring something to eat and drink, as many of the trips will not stop at a suitable location for lunch.