



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Minehead North Somerset

September 14-21 2022



A word from your leaders...

Back in 2013 I led our first trip to the Minehead and Watchet area of North Somerset having failed to find reasonably priced accommodation on the Jurassic coast of Dorset. We had a great time and now we are repeating the experience, for a third time! This is a super area with very variable rocks spanning the Devonian, Triassic and Jurassic periods. The older rocks show folding and faulting from the Variscan Orogeny and the younger ones have been affected by younger movements - making for some spectacular coastline.

We tried to run this trip in the Autumn of 2020, as our first field trip post-Covid, but it didn't happen. This time we've expanded it to run for a full seven nights and have included (weather permitting) a visit to the Island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel with the Tertiary granite intrusion. No trip is complete without good food and accommodation and *The Glendower* is definitely the place to stay with comfortable rooms and great breakfasts. Evening meals are taken at a nearby restaurant.

Colin and I know this area well and, along with driving our 17-seater minibus, Colin will be telling you all about the excellent Quaternary geology and landscape both on the coast and inland. We expect this trip to be popular, so the word has to be to make your booking as soon as you can! This especially applies if you are looking for a single room.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to Minehead

The North Somerset area can be reached by road via Bridgwater or Taunton. By public transport, the railhead is Taunton from where you can get a regular bus service to Minehead. If you want to 'arrive in style' why not take the steam train from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead (the Taunton-Minehead bus will drop you off at the steam railway terminus).

Getting around on the trip

We'll be making use of our hired 17-seater minibus driven by 'our Colin'. However, you may use your own car if you wish.

Why North Somerset?

From our base in the coastal seaside town of Minehead we will explore the area from Lynton and Porlock in the west to Kilve in the east. This will entail us examining rocks from the Devonian, Triassic and Jurassic periods. We may also go inland to see some of the quality scenery of the Exmoor National Park.

The geological story begins with the Devonian sediments that we can examine at Minehead, Porlock and Lynton. The classic Old Red Sandstone sequence includes rocks of both marine and non-marine origin. We may be able to find plant remains in some of the rocks. The Devonian rocks have been folded and faulted by Variscan movements, sometimes leading to extensive shattering and folding. We will take in Carboniferous rocks in the Weston super Mare area, including volcanics.

The younger Triassic and Jurassic rocks will be examined along the coast between Watchet and Kilve. These are also folded and faulted, probably during the Alpine Orogeny. The Triassic rocks give us superb clues about the ancient environment that existed here 200 million years ago. The Jurassic rocks are confined to the Liassic and are often very fossiliferous with ammonites.

Igneous rocks are not found in the area, except at Weston super Mare and on the Island of Lundy, which comprises an outcrop of Tertiary granite which is in contact with Devonian slates. This is the most southerly outcrop of the North Atlantic Igneous Province.

This is a superb area in which to develop your field skills, or to simply enjoy good geology!

Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our tours and so we always try to use small, family run, hotels and guesthouses that offer en-suite facilities. For this course we have chosen the 4-star Glendower Hotel that offers comfortable accommodation, a warm welcome and good honest food. All rooms are en-suite. Single accommodation is available, but is limited. We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room - simply indicate on the booking form.

The hotel will provide us with breakfast and evening dinners will be taken locally. Packed lunches, will be taken for each field day.



Itinerary

The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we might want to cover during the course.

- **Lynton & the Valley of the Rocks** - fossiliferous Devonian sediments with spectacular coastal scenery.
- **Minehead** - an examination of the local Devonian rocks with faulting and folding
- **Rocks in and around Watchet** - superb folding and faulting of Triassic rocks
- **Kilve beach** - fossiliferous Lower Jurassic limestones and shales with minor faulting
- **Weston super Mare** - igneous rocks from the Carboniferous along with limestone
- **Watchet** - Triassic and Jurassic rocks with excellent faults.
- **Steam railway trip on the West Somerset Railway** - a chance to step back to a time when everything moved at a slower pace.
- **Portishead** - Devonian and Carboniferous overlain by Triassic with lots to see.
- **Isle of Lundy** - tides and weather permitting we will take the boat trip to the fabulous Isle of Lundy to see the Tertiary granite.

Cost

The cost of the tour will be £1095.00 per person, for a double or twin room, and £1295.00 for a single room. There are three designated single rooms.

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield as tutors, who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified here
- Admission to any museum, exhibition etc. as visited by the group

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Minehead
- 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 £250.00 per person or the full payment. **The balance of the brochure price will be due by July 31st. 2022.**

This trip will run provided a minimum of 6 people have booked by March 31st. 2022.

Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is strongly advised to take out holiday insurance. Make sure that your insurance will cover you, should you have to cancel due to any Coronavirus related incident. This should cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included in with your credit card or bank account.

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.

Please also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2021/2'

