



**Down to Earth**

*"Earth science learning for all"*

# The Welsh Borderland

## July 7-12 2024 (5-nights)



### **A word from your leaders...**

Chris first started studying the geology of the Welsh Borderland as a young undergraduate way back in the 1970s and has been fascinated by the area ever since. In many ways, the geology of Shropshire is so varied, with rocks from the Precambrian through to the Permian and Triassic. As for rock variety, there are igneous intrusions of various kinds including granites and dolerites; extrusives, including basalt and rhyolite; rare hornfels and a host of sedimentary rocks. The area is well known for its fossils especially trilobites and there are even former metal mines and minerals. All this combined with lots of lovely scenery.

This trip will be jointly led by Chris and Colin, with Chris concentrating on the bedrock geology whilst Colin will be casting his eagle eye over the landscape and geomorphology. Colin will also be driving our minibus around the area.

For this trip we are based at a lovely guesthouse, The Croft in Bridgnorth, an establishment that we have used several times before. Bridgnorth is quite a 'foodie' place, so there will be plenty of opportunity to sample locally sourced ingredients at our evening dinners.

As we haven't run a trip to this area since 2017, there's bound to be good demand. We recommend you to book early to avoid disappointment, especially if you are looking for a single room.

**Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield**  
Course Organisers/Leaders

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### **Getting to Bridgnorth**

If you are coming by train, several options are open to you. You can use the national rail network to Kidderminster and then board a steam train on the Severn Valley line to Bridgnorth or you can travel to Shrewsbury or Telford and complete your journey by bus. If you are coming by car, Bridgnorth can be reached by A-class roads from the M6.

### **Getting Around**

We will have our own 17-seater minibus, in the capable hands of my friend and colleague Colin Schofield, with additional cars as required should our numbers exceed 15 participants.

## 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. There will be some short sections of 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.

## Why the Welsh Borderland?

Shropshire has some of the most varied geology in the whole of England and gives us plenty of opportunities to glean information by 'reading the rocks'. We'll be taking in the Precambrian sediments of the Longmynd and their tectonic setting beside the Church Stretton fault complex. The Uriconian volcanic rocks will be studied at the Ercall. We'll also take in the Cambrian sediments of the Stiperstones and the Wrekin. A late Ordovician intrusion will be studied in Maddocks Hill. The Silurian Wenlock Limestone with its reef complexes will be examined along with the Ludlovian around Ludlow. The overlying Carboniferous sandstones form many of the buildings in Bridgnorth. Finally, we'll take in the Permian desert rocks of the Severn River cliffs at Bridgnorth.



## Accommodation & Food



Good food and a good night's rest are important elements of our trips and we work hard to bring you the best local accommodation. For this trip we have chosen to return to The Croft, an historic building in a quiet street in the heart of Bridgnorth. This offers us comfortable rooms and hearty breakfasts.

Evening meals will be taken in a variety of local restaurants where locally sourced fresh ingredients are the order of the day. Packed lunches will be sourced from a local bakery for each full field day.

Limited single accommodation is available, and comes in two forms. There are two single rooms that share a private facility, at no extra cost and a couple with en-suite facilities that are 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.

## 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 limestones of Wenlock Edge, including fossils
- Ancient sediments on the Stiperstones and Longmynd
- Mines and minerals of the Shelve area
- Getting to grips with rocks and structures in the Ercall Quarries & Maddocks Hill
- The Church Stretton Fault Complex in its classic setting
- In the steps of Murchison around Ludlow
- Permian sandstones of Bridgnorth

*We will finish no later than 13.00 in the Bridgnorth area on the final day in good time for people to get home.*

## Cost

**For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 5-night tour will be £895.00 per person, single en-suite £995.00 per person (maximum 4).**



If you are willing to share, but don't have a companion, just indicate on the form and we will try to help you.

## 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
- Admissions to all museums or other attractions as visited by the group
- The cost of all transport used

## What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Bridgnorth 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 you having to cancel etc. Cover is often included in with your credit card or bank account.

## 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 March 31st 2024.**

**The trip will run subject to a minimum of 12 people signing up by December 31st 2023.**

## 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.

## Recommended reading...

There are a number of publications, about the area, including small local trail guides, these will be available during the trip. In advance, we recommend the following that will cover our needs:

**British Regional Geology - The Welsh Borders (BGS) - £8.00**  
**Geologists' Association Guide to South Shropshire - £13.00**

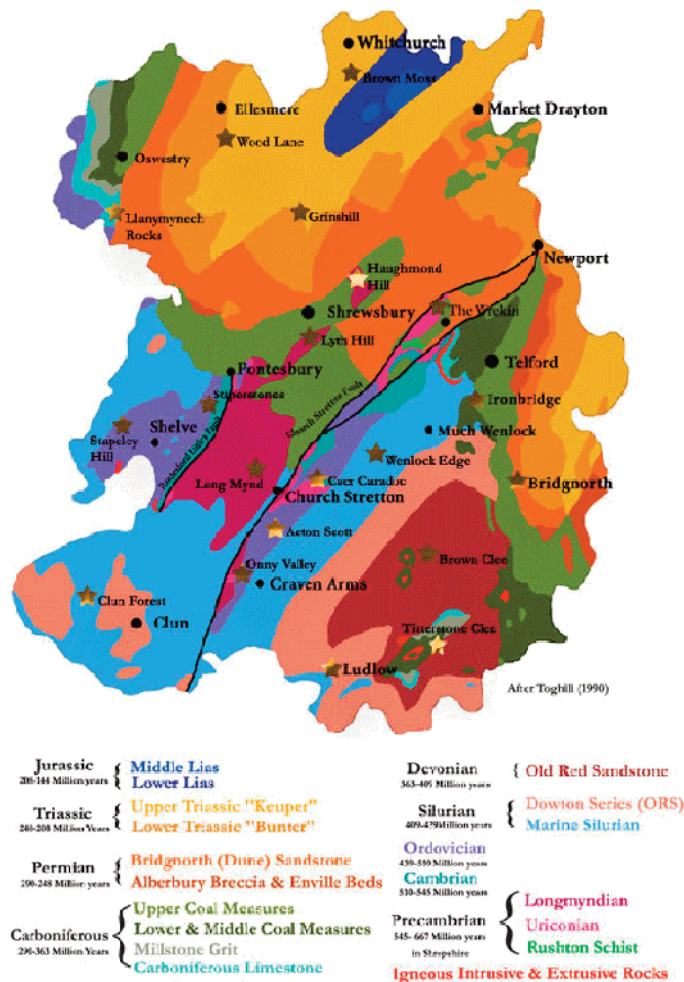
These are all available via our website [www.geosupplies.co.uk](http://www.geosupplies.co.uk) and the prices quoted include UK postage.



## 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. This will allow you to make your own travel plans and to take advantage of any advance fares on the train. 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 2024'**



**If you have any questions or queries - contact Chris Darmon as follows:-  
 Email: [downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk) • Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405**