



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Western Lake District

June 25-30 2025

Beautiful Wasdale Head (Photo: Chris Darmon)

A word from your leaders...

Think of the Lake District and almost the last place you would think to base yourself is Workington, but there's a well appointed Travelodge, and it provides an excellent, reasonably priced access point to the Western Lakes. It can also be reached on the national rail network and has local transport hire facilities.

All this enables us to offer you a week packed full of some of the best geology that the Lake District has to offer, at a fraction of what it would be were we to be based in the heart of the Lakes! At this stage we can offer single and double rooms, but book early to secure the singles. We'll take our breakfasts onsite, but sample different local restaurants for our evening meals.

We last visited this area in 2021, so Colin and I are looking forward to visiting again and sharing the Lake District Geology with you. If this isn't an area that you have visited before, we can thoroughly recommend that you do!

We expect this trip to book up well, so we advise you to book early.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Joint leaders & organisers

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Getting to Workington

The nearest railway station is Workington, a 10-minute walk from our hotel. For some, the best rail route is via Carlisle and for others via Lancaster and Barrow in Furness. For those of you coming by car, there's the excellent A66 road that connects the area with Penrith and the M6.

Getting Around

We'll make use of a combination of local public transport and a hired small coach or minibus to get around on this trip. Dependent upon final numbers, we may also need a car. If you are willing to offer seats in your car, we'd be grateful and naturally we'd pay for any fuel used. Please indicate your willingness on the booking form.

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 may mean that there are some walks of a mile or so, 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.

The Geology & landscape

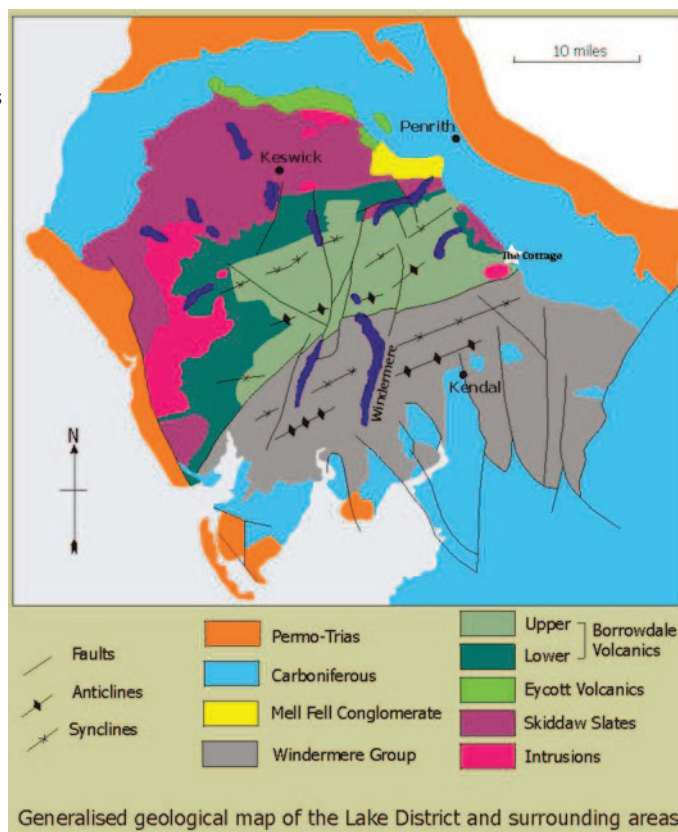
What do I say in a few words about the enormous variety that constitutes the geology of the Lake District and it's western fringes? The core comprises rocks from the Ordovician and Silurian with rocks predominantly at the 'grey end' of the colour spectrum. Expect to see slates, tuffs and greywackes. To add colour and variety, add in the odd Devonian granite, some Carboniferous limestone and the bright red Triassic sandstone of St. Bees. All of this variety comes with a rich and diverse geological heritage, indeed it's a veritable 'feast of rocks'! We'll also see reminders of the former iron mines.

To finish things off, the whole area has been subjected to enormous erosion during the Ice Ages of the last 2 million years, leaving us with scenery to die for! You can overdose on U-shaped valleys, corries and the like.

The itinerary

At this stage, this is meant to be indicative of the course content. Some of what we do will depend on the weather and your preferences.

- The Carboniferous rocks and hematite mines around Whitehaven
- Rocks and glacial landscapes of Keswick
- Wastwater and England's highest peak
- Underground visit to Honister Slate Mine
- A cruise on Ullswater
- St. Bees Head, Triassic sediments
- Carrock Fell gabbro and metal mines
- The Skiddaw granite around Threlkeld
- Rocks & glacial landscapes of Wasdale Head
- Eskdale, it's granite and its railway
- Rocks and landscapes of Ennerdale



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. The Travelodge is very modern and is centrally located in Workington. It offers a choice of continental or cooked breakfast onsite. The latest reviews give it 4.5 and a rating of excellent.

All the rooms are en-suite and are available as singles or doubles/twins. The doubles are provided with comfortable king size beds. Evening meals will be taken in a variety of different local restaurants.

Cost

For 2 people sharing a room, the cost of the 5-night tour will be £895.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £1050.00 per person.

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
- All transport used during the trip
- Accommodation and meals as specified in the brochure
- Excursions and admissions to all museums and attractions as visited by the group

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Whitehaven 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 April 30th 2025.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 15 people have booked by March 31st 2025.

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 - 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.

Any Questions?

Please ring Chris Darmon on 0114 2455746 or email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

if you have any questions or queries. I'll do my best to help you.

Further information can be found in "Residential Field Trips 2024/5" which can be found on our website: www.geosupplies.co.uk



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