



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Furness & the South Lakes

April 16-23 2027

*Arnside Bay looking towards the Central Lakes
(Image: Lancaster District Magazine)*

A word from your leaders...

The Lake District is one of those areas where you can never cover it all in one visit or indeed based in any one place. Over the years we've had trips based in Whitehaven, Workington and even in Shap on the eastern side.

With the recent publication of a Geologists' Association guide to the South Lakes and the area known as Furness, it's now possible to base a whole week down in that area, with a hotel in the small seaside town of Grange over Sands. Our hotel for the week is the well known and respected Cumbria Grand which is well placed in the town, not far from the railway station.

Geologically, we'll cover a wide range of rock ages from some of the Ordovician and Silurian strata of the Lakes to the Eskdale granite and the younger Carboniferous strata, along with red sandstones from the Permian and Triassic. Not forgetting of course, the effects of the most recent glaciation, carving the landscape that we see today.

As this is a completely new field trip area for us, we expect this trip to book up well, so we advise you to book early, especially if you want a single room.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Getting to Grange over Sands

The nearest railway station is Grange over Sands, a 15-minute walk from our hotel. Trains on the route from Manchester to Barrow in Furness serve Grange on a regular timetable throughout the day. For those arriving by car, the route is via the M6 motorway and then the route around the South Lakes towards Barrow in Furness.

Getting Around

We'll make use of a combination of local public transport (bus and train) and a hired small coach or minibus to get around on this trip. Dependent upon final numbers, we may also need an additional 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 the Eden Valley. 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 Furness
- A trip in the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway
- A cruise on Lake Windermere from Lakeside
- A visit to Ghyll Scour Quarry and the Millom Rock Park
- Geology on the doorstep - geology around Grange over Sands
- St. Bees Head, New Red Sandstone
- The Carboniferous limestones of Whitbarrow
- The geology of the Ulverston area - where the lakes meet the dales
- Eskdale, its granite and its railway
- Geology around Broughton in Furness including Donkey Rock
- Folding and faulting around Arnside and Silverdale

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 Cumbria Grand in Grange over Sands is the town's premier hotel with a long and distinguished reputation for service and value. All the rooms are en-suite and are available as singles or doubles/twins. Superior rooms may be available for couples - please ask us and we'll tell you what the extra cost will be.

A maximum of 6 single rooms are available for a modest supplement.

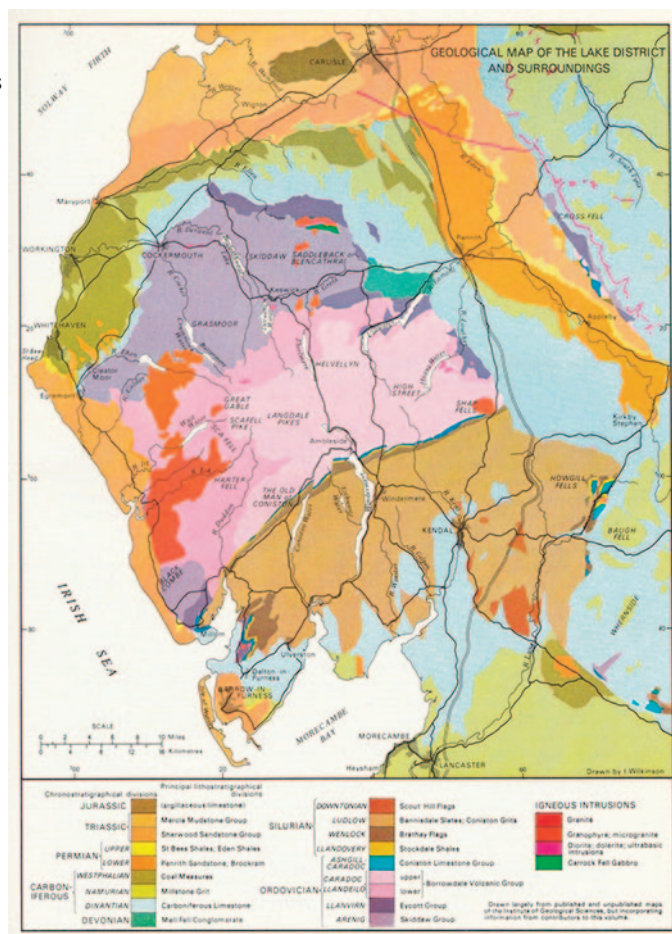
Packed lunches for each field day will also be provided, either from the hotel or purchased daily from a local bakery.

Cost

For 2 people sharing a room, the cost of the 7-night tour will be £1295.00 per person; for single rooms, the cost will be £1495.00 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 Grange over Sands 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 January 31st 2027.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 15 people have booked by December 31st 2026.

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 2026/7" 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**