



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Abberley & Malvern Hills Geopark

July 18-23 2027



A word from your leaders...

Amazingly, the last time we held a residential trip to the Malvern Hills was in 2022 in the period immediately after Covid. This curtailed the numbers and also what we were able to do. With no anticipated problems this time, we'll be able to take in the true beauty of this area with its fabulous, and highly varied geology.,

The Malvern Hills comprise an area of outstanding natural beauty, with the rocks all within the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark, of which Chris Darmon is the Honorary President. We'll be exploring the general area within a range of about 30 miles. This will enable us to examine rocks of all ages from the Precambrian through to the Triassic. There are sediments, some with fossils and many different igneous rocks. Add in some excellent structures and we have the makings of an amazing trip.

For this trip we are based at the Abbey Hotel, which is set in the centre of Great Malvern. It's a well established 4-star hotel that has an excellent reputation. We'll be taking all our main meals in the hotel restaurant.

In order to get the most out of this trip we'll spend two full days exploring the local Malvern geology in the hills that sit above the town. On the other days we'll venture a little further out to enjoy the rich variety of the geology.

Given the length of time that's elapsed since our last visit to this area, we expect demand for this trip to be good, so you are advised to book early to ensure your places. This is especially the case if you want a single room as they are limited in number.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Trip Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to Great Malvern

If you are coming by train, Great Malvern is well served by trains from different parts of the country, including direct ones from London Paddington. There are also regular services from Birmingham and Hereford, from where it's possible to connect to everywhere else. The Abbey Hotel is about half a mile from the railway station.

If you are coming by car, Great Malvern is quite close to the M5 and M42 motorways. Parking at the hotel is very limited.

Getting Around

For this trip we will make use of a variety of different ways of getting about from walking to using the local buses and trains. We'll also hope to take a trip by steam train on the Severn Valley Railway.

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 Malvern Hills area?

The Malvern Hills comprise a thick succession of late Precambrian rocks known as the Malvernian. They accumulated in an ancient island arc environment and are mainly igneous rock types. They were later subjected to great tectonic forces and are now greatly sheared and faulted. Recent works suggest that many of the faults are large scale strike-slip types.

Against these ancient uplifted rocks the Cambrian and Silurian seas lapped, in what were shoreline conditions. They provide us with excellent sections in fossiliferous rocks, especially in the Abberley Hills, just to the north. Younger rocks, including the Carboniferous and Permo-Triassic outcrop in the valley of the River Severn, where we will see them at Highley and Bridgnorth.

But for sheer variety, we cannot top the parish of Martley where we can see rocks ranging from Precambrian to Triassic in one village - fingers crossed that we can include this!

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 use the historic Abbey Hotel, a 4-star hotel in the centre of the town. This offers us comfortable rooms and good food.

All of our main meals will be taken in the hotel restaurant. Packed lunches will be sourced from a local bakery or supermarket for each full field day.

Limited single accommodation is available, albeit at a fairly large supplement. This is because they are normally let as double rooms.

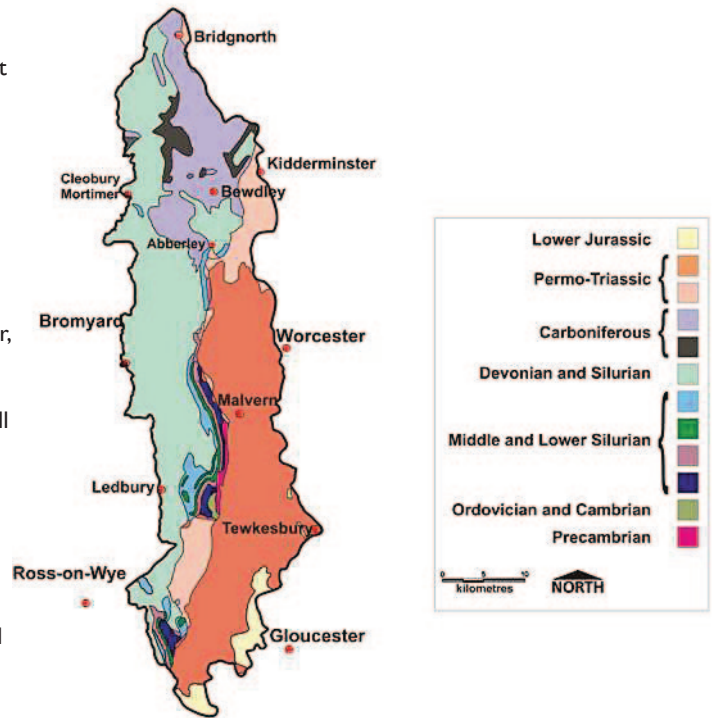
We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room – simply indicate on the booking form.

Itinerary

The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we hope to cover during this trip:-

- Precambrian rocks of North Malvern
- The Silurian unconformity at Gullet Quarry
- Rocks of the Purlieu and Tollgate
- Rocks and landscape of the village of Martley
- Permian and Triassic rocks of the Bewdley and Bridgnorth area
- Carboniferous rocks of Highley
- Silurian rocks of the Ledbury area
- The building stones of Great Malvern

On the final day, we will finish no later than 13.00 in Great Malvern, in good time for people to get home.



Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 4-night tour will be £1195.00 per person; a maximum of 5 rooms may be used as single occupancy for £1495.00.

If you are looking to share a twin room, just say and we will see if we can help you.

At Martley geological exposures have been created by trenching in a farmer's field!



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 during the trip

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Great Malvern 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 cancellation 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 May 30th 2027.

The trip will run subject to a minimum of 15 people signing up by March 31st 2027.

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 judging by the number of people who have shown an interest - 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 206/27', that can be viewed 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**