

# *Geology and Landscape*

*of Gloucestershire and surroundings*

*A weekly field-based introductory course.*

*No previous knowledge of geology is assumed*

**Tuesday evenings 5<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Gloucestershire is one of the most geologically diverse counties in Britain.

*The aim of this field-based course is to take you towards an understanding of local scenery. We will look at the components - the highly diverse rocks and their structure; and processes - weathering, slope forming and erosion - which have combined to produce this equally varied landscape - the materials from which the scenery has been sculpted and the processes that have acted upon them since the area emerged from the sea 65 million years ago (about the same time that the dinosaurs became extinct)*

*No special equipment is necessary, apart from stout footwear and possibly waterproofs - although we will hopefully have six balmy summer evenings! Meetings are held on Tuesdays each week, (apart from a break on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June), meeting at 7.00 pm and finishing at 9.00 pm or later (whenever the party feels in need of refreshment !!) at the following meeting points (see over)*

**Cost: £50 for 6 week course  
or £10 per session**

*For further details see over or telephone*

*Dave Green on 01594 860858*

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*Website [Geostudies.co.uk](http://Geostudies.co.uk)*

## *Geology and Landscape 2018*

### 5<sup>th</sup> June **Frocester Hill**

*A famous local viewpoint, beauty spot, and picnic site. The escarpment of the mid Cotswolds is formed from the Middle Jurassic limestones, which overlies weaker sands and mudstones forming the lower slopes and Severn Vale. Relatively recent conservation work has reopened a lot of old quarries so that we can see the materials from which the hill has been formed, their structure and their fossils!*

Meet at the car park for the picnic site at Coaley Peak GR SO 794 014

**NOTE BREAK OF ONE WEEK HERE – no meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June**

### 19<sup>th</sup> June **Malmesbury to the Marlborough Downs**

*Much younger rocks, gently tilted from the horizontal, producing the “scarp-vale” scenery so typical of southern England. A traverse across a number of these features looking at the variations in scenery and rock types, starting on the Cotswold limestone dip slope and ending up on the Upper Chalk at a superb viewpoint.*

Meet at the car park of the pub The Somerford Arms, in Little Somerford GR ST 969 845 (just off the B 4042 from Malmesbury to Wootton Bassett). If the car park is full, there is plenty of on-street parking nearby.

### 26<sup>th</sup> June **English Bicknor, Rosemary Topping and the River Wye**

*Lying on the south facing slopes eroded into the Forest of Dean plateau by the River Wye and its tributaries, English Bicknor displays a microcosm of the geology of the western side of the Forest downfold, from Devonian Old Red Sandstone up to the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures, each unit producing different topography, land use (mining, quarrying, forestry, agriculture) and character. The river, however, ignores these divisions, having been superimposed from the plateau surface 0.5 million years ago?*

Meet in the car park behind the village hall GR SO 579 151, from where we will walk a roughly circular route of about 4km, with some short but steep hills.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> July **Purton**

*Where the great Malvern Fault crosses the Severn, it has shifted rocks together of very different age. Like other places along its length, this has produced contrasting scenery. A highly atmospheric spot on a summer's evening, with rocks containing fossils from very different eras (Lower Jurassic and Upper Silurian.)*

Park along the lane side leading from the canal to the Berkeley Arms on the shore at Purton, GR SO 692 044

NB You will find WELLINGTONS useful on the Severn shore, which tends towards muddiness!!

### 10<sup>th</sup> July **Tidenham Chase, Limestone Pavement and the Devil's Pulpit**

*Lying in the southern part of the Forest of Dean, where it narrows between the Wye and Severn, this area is one of the best in Gloucestershire to illustrate the relationships between rock type, soils and vegetation; underlain by almost horizontally bedded lower Carboniferous sandstones and limestones. We will attempt a circular walk around the area, taking in the conservation area of The Park, the limestone pavements in East Wood and the famous viewpoint on the edge of the Wye Valley above Tintern.*

Meet at the car park for Offas Dyke Path on the B4228 (St Briavels to Chepstow) GR ST 559 993

### 17<sup>th</sup> July **Haugh Wood to Fownhope, Woolhope**

*In the Woolhope Dome, an eroded anticline in Silurian sediments, there is a very close relationship between rock type, geological structure and the position of hills and valleys. This is a particularly beautiful part of Herefordshire.*

Meet at the car park of the New Inn, Fownhope SO 578345, from where we shall take a small number of cars to Haugh Wood and walk back from the centre to the southern margin of the Woolhope Dome, crossing the Silurian rock types in order of age. The linear walk is on paths, tracks and minor roads, and will be 3-4km long, including some relatively small/gentle hills