

Shropshire Field Trip

Sunday 23 August to Friday 28 August 2026



Some initial background information from David Cronshaw

Introduction

The county is one of the most geologically varied pieces of real estate (for its size!) on the planet. Every geological period is represented with the exception of the Cretaceous. It also sits astride the Premier League fault in England (The Church Stretton Fault) which has been active for (I would argue) 750 million years. Shropshire also represents the area where much of the pioneering geological work by scientists such as Murchison was carried out. As if this wasn't enough Shropshire has some of the most delightful scenery in England which reflects its incredibly varied geology.

Provisional itinerary

Monday. A brief introduction to the field centre followed by a trip to Nesscliffe Hill Nature Reserve, excellent exposures of New Red Sandstone.

Tuesday - The Ercall, Maddocks Hill and the Hatch. Pre-Cambrian rocks and look at the overlying Cambrian and Carboniferous rocks.

Wednesday - Ordovician of North West Shropshire in the vicinity of the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve. Ordovician transgressive sequence and the onset of Ordovician volcanic activity. Extensive mineralisation in the Stiperstones/Shelve area and good structural geology. The views are spectacular with Liverpool, Snowdon and Cadair Idris being visible on a clear day.

Thursday - The Mortimer Forest west of Ludlow. A Geological trail through the Silurian looking at the classic Wenlock and Ludlow limestones and shales. With luck we should be able to find brachiopods, corals, graptolites and trilobites. Ludlow Bone bed marking the transition from marine Silurian to non-marine Old Red Sandstone. Afternoon, the Clee platform to examine Old Red Sandstone and Carboniferous exposures. The views encompass the Malverns, Cotswolds, Black mountains and Sugarloaf on a clear day.

Friday - (3pm finish) New Red Sandstones of Grinshill north of Shrewsbury with panoramic views and a "surprise" view as well. Possibly also a look at some intriguing volcanic rocks in the hills just to the west of the field centre.