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# Western Regional Group Field Trip

## WRGS Autumn Field Trip: The Geology of Charmouth, Dorset

Led by Gary Riches, RPS

10:00am-3:00pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019

We are pleased to announce that Gary Riches, Principal Geo-Environmental Consultant at RPS, member of the WRG committee and keen fossil-hunter will be taking our Autumn field trip to Charmouth.

Charmouth is situated along the Jurassic Coast and is England's only UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, and also an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The rocks at Charmouth date predominantly from the early part of the Jurassic period (around 190 million years ago), during which time this area lay beneath a warm, shallow sea, closer to the equator, approximately where North Africa resides today. The coasts and cliffs around Charmouth and Lyme Regis are world famous for their fossils, including marine reptiles, ammonites, crinoids and belemnites.

Gary will be giving us an overview of the geology of the east beach between Charmouth and Seatown, taking us on a guided fossil walk and exploring the amazing Jurassic Coastline. There will also be an opportunity to look around the Heritage Centre at some of the spectacular finds from this part of the coast and see 'Attenborough's Sea Dragon', the subject of the recent BBC documentary.

**Meeting Point:** Car Share from The Hub, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol. OR at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (parking in the nearby Beach Car Park or the Foreshore Car Park (Note both are pay and display).

**Meet at Aztec West at 07:45, or at Charmouth Heritage Centre, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth, DT6 6LL at 10:00am.**

### Important Information:

- We recommend safety boots as a minimum. Although not necessary to find fossils, if you intend to split rocks with a hammer then gloves and eye protection are also recommended. There will be no access to the base of the cliffs. A risk assessment will be sent out in advance, also including details of the West Dorset Fossil Collecting Code of Conduct.
- Please bring waterproofs, warm clothing, water, a packed lunch and snacks.
- We will also be visiting a local pub for afternoon refreshments and to compare finds.

*The cost of the trip will be **FREE**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis to a maximum of 30 places, please email [westernregionalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:westernregionalgroup@gmail.com)  
Please bring a packed lunch and water for the day. Please indicate whether you would be able to car share (provide lifts/require a lift)*



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