

GCSE Field Trip to The Rocky River

Scott Milligan 12E

On Thursday 24th September 2015, the GCSE Year 12 Geography classes undertook the challenge of the Rocky River; an area famous for muddy, drenched and grumpy 15 year old Geography students. The aim of the trip was to collect various pieces of data along the river at six different sites.

We arrived at 10 o'clock on Thursday morning, kitted out with our wellies on, clipboards in hand and Miss Bryson leading the way! What could possibly go wrong? Surprisingly, Mrs Curran's class very quickly took over as leaders, practically flying up the twisted path and leaving our class stranded. Despite this, Mr Beacom and Miss Bryson were still filled with high enthusiasm and insisted we continue. When we eventually reached site 1, Mrs Curran had already employed all of her pupils to their designated spots along the river and the recording of data commenced.

At each site we decided that we would record the width and depth of the channel, the size and roundness of stones and also the velocity of the river. The results we collected were very

important to our coursework study as they would confirm or reject our initial hypotheses, overall complimenting our final write up.

Fortunately, the weather was in 'tip-top' condition during our time at the Rocky River. The sun filtered through the clouds and despite the cold wind blowing through the mountain, the dress code became T-shirts and sunglasses for many throughout the day!

Later on, after venturing amongst the deep marshy land and ending up knee-deep in mud, we arrived at the dreaded site 4! Site 4 did become quite a challenge for our (Miss Bryson's) class due to the large boulders and very deep pools of water, which meant we had to be extremely careful when collecting our data. Of course there had to be one to fall victim to the demons of site 4, which we witnessed when Caleb Schiess ended up neck deep in the river, soaked completely through. Despite the time we spent in hysterics at Caleb's rather vulnerable state lingering through the freezing water, we were never so glad to depart from site



4 and onto the final 2 sites.

Overall, we had great fun at the Rocky River. Everybody enjoyed escaping the classroom for the day. The experience of data collection and teamwork proved to be a very memorable start to our GCSE coursework!

The Giant's Causeway

Ellie Purdy 11G

On the 22nd June, the Year 11 Geographers set out on their travels to The Giant's Causeway. We were prepared for all types of weather but unfortunately the day wasn't good, with frequent showers and cloudy, windy and cold weather. Armed with our clipboards and worksheets, we

walked down the road towards the basalt columns, which were formed by volcanic activity.

Even though the weather wasn't great, we managed to find some shelter under the huge rocks and stood to eat our lunch, while the rain poured

down on top of us. On the way home, we passed the volcanic plug, Slemish Mountain, as we by-passed Ballymena. Altogether it was a great day out and I enjoyed seeing these rock formations right in front of me, which we had been learning about back in the classroom.



Geography



Trip to Newcastle

Hannah Saul 10G

We left school at 11:15am to travel to Newcastle in order to carry out research on Tourism. As soon as we arrived, we split off into our groups to begin the task. The first thing we had to do was choose 13 tourist attractions, put down the age group and evaluate it with a comment. For example, the first tourist attraction my group spotted was O'Hare's Bar. We put down the age group as 18+ and we evaluated it with a 4 out of 5, meaning very good on the scale we were using. We jotted down a comment saying, "Looks very appealing

and fancy, it has a nice view of the sea so tourists may be interested in going here."

The next thing we did was a tally chart for Hotels, B&Bs, apartments and others. The last task we completed was a field sketch of a tourist attraction in Newcastle. My group chose the white bridge leading to the promenade, as it is a very popular attraction because many people know of it and it is very recognisable. After we had completed all of the tasks, we headed to KFC for

lunch, then to Subway for cookies, and you couldn't go to Newcastle without visiting Tiptop for some sweets!

It was a brilliant trip and the weather was amazing. I learnt a lot from this trip, as it was nice to go out and record Tourism happening in real life. This has been one of my favourite trips so far as I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of it, so thank you to the Geography Department and especially Mrs Curran.

Geography Magilligan Field Trip



As part of the AS Geography course, we were required to take a field trip to the Magilligan Field Centre situated outside of Limavady. This trip is intended to put our learning into practice on the research of a psammosere succession. After a long bus journey we reached the centre and upon arrival we received a short introduction, explaining the layout and schedule of our trip. We then took a tour of the mobile classrooms before getting the correct clothing and equipment for the field. The majority of the day was spent out in the sand dune system, collecting data for research. Data had to be collected from different sites along the sand dune system, for example light intensity and samples of soil for pH. We returned to the field centre to carry out analysis and interpretation. The soil sample data taken from different sites was added to indicators and analysed to show how the pH changed with distance inland. After our evening session within the mobile classrooms and laboratory, we convened in the social room where we played table tennis and consumed snacks from the shop, relaxing after a long day of work in the research field.

On the second day we further continued our studies in the classroom, finishing our interpretation and evaluating the data. This consisted of drawing graphs and accepting or rejecting our previously made hypotheses. This allowed us to test if our collection methods were accurate and correct. Our time at the field centre was then complete and all that was left to do was to enjoy a well-deserved McDonalds on the way home.

Murlough Trip

Andrew Pollock 9G

On Thursday 8th of October, our class 9G went on a Geography field trip to Murlough beach where we carried out various tasks that were set. These tasks included calculating and observing: wave frequency, long shore drift, pebble shape and pebble size. It was a warm day and the temperature was approximately 15 degrees.

First of all my group (which included Mathew, Alex, Ryan Q, Louis, Marcus and myself) focused on wave frequency. This observation was to see whether the waves were constructive or destructive (less than 9 waves per minute being constructive and greater than 15 being destructive.) We found our waves to be destructive, with a class average of 16 waves per minute.

Next we measured twenty pebbles from the front and back of the beach. The theory of this is that the pebbles at the front should be round and small and pebbles at the back of the beach

should be large and angular. We found this to be true as the pebble size at the front of the beach was on average small and at the back of the beach the result was that the pebbles were large. The results all differed as a result of erosion. We also found that the pebble shape was angular at the back of the beach and round at the front of the beach, and again results differed because of erosion.

Finally we studied long shore drift; this was to see how far a stick would travel from one part of the beach to another part, when dropped in the water, for a fifteen-minute period. We found that the sticks travelled on average a thirteen metre distance, which justified that long shore drift was happening.

The Geography field trip overall was a very fun and interesting experience, as I learnt a lot about the beach and waves and now understand more of the different observations we did.



Geography



Barcelona 2015

In October 2015, the Geography Department took Year 11 and Year 12 on a trip to Barcelona. On this trip we took part in many exciting activities, from visiting a volcano to splashing out on the biggest names in fashion. Selfies were taken at every destination we arrived at, with the now 'famous' pencil case that belonged to a Year 12 pupil and accompanied us everywhere.

On day one we visited a volcano at the Garrotxa National Park. Our tour guide took us around Croscat volcano, inside and out, to explain the history behind it and teach us about the structure and materials it was made from. That afternoon we went to Saint Joan les

Fonts, where we looked at the basalt columns formed when lava cooled along the valley of the river Fluvià. We then enjoyed a walk that evening along the promenade, where there was an open train track.

On day two we enjoyed a tour of Barcelona. We visited La Sagrada Família, the monumental church, which is Gaudí's most famous work. Next, we visited the Cathedral of Barcelona. That afternoon was the most exciting as we went to Nou Camp (a very famous football stadium, for those of you who don't know much about football). Afterwards, we had the opportunity to go shopping and splashed our cash on some of the global

leading brands. We enjoyed a 5 star meal at McDonald's, where there was the unfortunate robbery of a bag. This was later found, by a Dubliner a few towns away, and was recovered on Mr Clarke's 'rescue mission'.

On day three we went to L'Aquarium, where we were able to walk down a long corridor surrounded in glass with fish and sea creatures swimming below, above and all around us. This made for some interesting Instagram posts. Our final trip was to a shopping centre beside the aquarium and marked our last day in Barcelona. I think I speak for everyone who attended when I say that it was the best trip ever!

