

Geography Department Year 9 field trip to Murlough Beach

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Last October, Year 9 went on a Geography Field trip to Murlough Beach, Newcastle. In class we had been learning about how our coasts are being changed through waves energy and coastal processes.

When we arrived at Murlough we were given three tasks: record wave frequency to determine the types of waves, find out if longshore drift was occurring and lastly record the size and shape of the pebbles at the front and back of the beach. Our group started by recording wave frequency. We stood at the shore and timed how many waves broke during

that period. We carried this out on 3 occasions and then took an average. We discovered that the waves at Murlough were destructive.

Our second task was to record longshore drift. We timed how far a piece of driftwood could travel within 5-minutes. It was during this time that most of us got wet, as we were watching the piece of driftwood and not the waves. It also travelled further than most of us were expecting, therefore we discovered that longshore drift was very strong at Murlough.

Lastly, we measured the size and

shape of the pebbles at the front and back of the beach. We collected 20 random pebbles from the front and back of the beach and then measured their longest axis. We used a series of diagrams to decide if they were round, sub-angular or angular. We discovered pebbles at the back of the beach were bigger and less rounded, as the waves don't always reach that far to erode them.

Everyone had a great day out at Murlough discovering what we had learnt in the classroom in reality and we all came home happy but a little bit wet!!



Geography Department

Newcastle Tourism Report

Katie Bambrick



On the morning of the 23rd of September 2021, all Year 10 pupils began to board the buses ready for the day ahead. After the scramble to get the seats at the back of the bus (which I succeeded in) the excitement kicked in. The bus journey seemed to fly by as we conversed with our friendship groups and enjoyed some karaoke. Before we knew it, we had arrived in Newcastle.

We were given worksheets to complete, in which we had to evaluate tourist attractions as we walked up and down the main street, rating them on a scale of 1 to 5 while counting the number of hotels, B&Bs and other accommodation

the town has to offer. We worked really well with our friends to complete these tasks, so we completed them quite quickly. Our final piece of work to complete on this trip was to draw a field sketch of a tourist attraction. While the wind proved this a struggle, we completed our sketches.

As Newcastle is catered towards tourism, there was a lot to see and do. In our free time many of us rushed to do different things. One thing many of us could agree on is that we wanted to find somewhere to eat. Then a rather tricky decision emerged as we could not decide where we should buy our

food. There were so many options that it was difficult to choose. While some opted for food from places such as KFC, the most popular place was Mauds (rightfully so), where many of the teachers enjoyed something to eat as well. Towards the end of the day, we met at the Slieve Donard Car Park and joined the rest of the groups, revealing what we had bought, and boarded the bus for the journey back.

Unfortunately my friends and I did not get the back seats of the bus on the way back, but we did not let it dampen our spirits as overall it was a very enjoyable trip.



Geography Department

Rocky River Trip

Eve Kelly



On Tuesday 14th June 2022 our Geography class, as well as pupils from another class, went on a field trip to the Rocky River in the Mourne Mountains to collect data in preparation for our upcoming Unit Three GCSE Geography exam. For the duration of the trip, we were accompanied by the wonderful Mrs Dreading, Miss McCullough, Mr Leslie and Mr Reaney.

On Tuesday morning, we piled into the bus and set off with the intention

of collecting data to show river characteristics change downstream. After arriving at our destination, we discussed our plan, gathered the necessary equipment and put on our very fashionable high-vis jackets, hard-hat helmets and wellington boots. At each site we measured the width of the river, depth, pebble size and river velocity. Some people spent the day wondering when we'd be stopping for lunch, while others were wondering how they were going to get all of the water out of their boots.

A few frog sightings and tumbles from Rebekah Kirkpatrick later, we had completed collecting all of our data and were ready to stop for lunch - soggy sandwiches and lukewarm water. Hooray! But the shenanigans didn't stop there. There were phones dropped, phones lost (and relocated) and helmets misplaced. Overall, the trip to the Rocky River was a success and allowed us to see just exactly what we had been studying in class. Of course, it was nice to get out of normal classes too!





Year 13 Trip to Magilligan

Ruby Wilson

After completing most of our AS Geography in the classroom, the last thing we had to do was venture to the Magilligan Centre in Limavady to complete our fieldwork, which we would have needed if we were doing the Unit 3 exam (...perks of COVID). We had amazing help from Mrs Dreaning and Mrs Curran, as they arranged the trip and our transport as well as keeping us safe and helping us learn.

The aim of our residential to Magilligan was to collect relevant data about the topic of sand dune succession. Upon our arrival we discussed our agenda, collected our equipment, were presented with fashionable attire (which consisted of wellies and blue overalls) and we quickly squeezed onto the mini bus to begin our journey. Once we arrived at our destination, we

had to begin the work. At each crest and trough of every site we measured the sand pH, the number of different plant species, the gradient of the dune and the light intensity. Although our trip consisted of plenty of work, it also contained lots of fun and laughter.

Once we arrived back at the centre it was time for lunch. The canteen was spacious and it catered to all our needs, supplying us with tasty sandwiches for lunch and brilliant options for dinner and even dessert!

There were mobiles on the site of the centre, where we did actually have to do written work in (I know it wasn't exactly a holiday!) but due to the fabulous teaching of Mrs Dreaning we worked hard for a couple of hours and it flew past. We learnt lots and had a



great time away. We were even allowed to stop at the Apple Green on the way home!

Thank you to Mrs Dreaning and Mrs Curran, as well as everyone at the Magilligan centre in Limavady for a wonderful educational experience; we were able to get a better understanding of our fieldwork and get an exciting day away from school!

