

Geography Fieldwork

Our programmes are designed to deliver mandatory content from National 4, National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher Geography units as appropriate. We are always happy to tailor our programmes or design something new, please get in touch to discuss your requirements.

One programme can be completed in a day including introduction and follow up sessions, or components of two to three programmes can be combined.

Programme	Outline
Data Gathering and Sampling	Offering a hands-on approach to data gathering, students test and evaluate techniques for sampling biotic and abiotic factors from a variety of environments. They are encouraged to identify other applications for each technique, investigations which they could be used for and improvements they would make.
Investigating Soils	Students will compare the properties and characteristics of a brown earth and podzol. After constructing hypotheses, primary data on soil depth, texture, pH and moisture content, as well as vegetation cover and gradient will be collected from soil pits and the areas directly surrounding them. Students will test the pH and measure soil moisture content of the samples and collate data into a group spreadsheet.
Stream Analysis	Students will investigate how the physical properties of a river and its channel vary along its course. They will use OS maps to gather information about the river, then construct hypotheses and collect primary data on cross channel variables including river depth, width, wetted perimeter, flow rate and bedload characteristics.
Hydrosphere	Exploring hydrology in our landscape, students will conduct storm simulation experiments then investigate infiltration rates in forests and open fields. Using land use maps, we will make predictions about how different parts of our landscape will respond to storms.
Microclimates	By collecting a variety of abiotic data, such as wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity and light intensity, students will investigate how microclimates vary in different ecosystems. This adaptable study can easily be combined with others, such as hydrosphere or land use mapping investigations.
Land Use Mapping and Glaciation	Using maps and direct observations of the landscape, students will find evidence of glacial activity and identify erosional and depositional features, while land use mapping will demonstrate how our landscapes continue to change.
Urban Geography	We will build a profile of an urban area and assess the impact of tourism there. Data collection techniques can include urban land use mapping, environmental quality assessments, an impact of tourism index, retail diversity survey, questionnaire, non-participant observations and product surveys.
River Ness Flood Defences	Using cost-benefit analysis, bipolar scores and land use mapping, students will assess the effectiveness of a recent multi-million pound flood defence scheme on the River Ness as it flows through Inverness and out into the River Beaully.
Data Analysis and Presentation	Students will be guided through a variety of data presentation, interpretation and analysis techniques using data they have collected or secondary data provided by us. Appropriate statistical tests can be identified and explained, and this session can be tailored to meet the needs of students who have already made plans for their geographical study.