

PRE-SESSIONAL FIELD EXCURSION: SOMERSET COAST

Each year the School runs a pre-registration residential field excursion in an area relatively close to Bristol for first year students. This is **not** a compulsory part of your overall degree programme, but has in the past been attended and enjoyed by nearly all our new cohort of students. There is no charge to you for the trip and its timing is designed to dovetail with the timetables for the opening of Halls of Residence and the subsequent Introductory Week.

The aim of the field excursion is threefold:

1. *Social* - for first year students to meet each other and some academic staff in a relaxed environment away from Bristol.
2. *Administrative* - to familiarise new students with the way the University and School is organised, by some introductory talks. This will be covered further on the departmental Induction Day (Thursday 6th October).
3. *Educational* - for students to learn something of the geology and environmental issues on the Somerset Coast and more generally to recharge academic batteries for the course ahead, through a mixture of talks, visits and guided walks/discussion

Outline Programme:

Friday 30th September

3 pm depart from Department of Earth Sciences, Wills Memorial Building (**please arrive, with your luggage for the weekend, by 2:30**)

Evening: Arrive at Kilve Court field centre (<http://www.kilvecourt.org>) in time for dinner, after which there will be activities and a chance for a drink together. Members of BUGGS (student society) will be with us.

Saturday 1st October

Breakfast and depart from Kilve Court.

Morning: field excursion to Watchet and Blue Anchor Bay (Triassic/Jurassic paleoenvironments, fossils, faulting)

Afternoon: field excursion to Steart Peninsula near Bridgwater (potentially UK's largest coastal managed realignment project)

Evening: Group activities based on the afternoon's observations; social activities

Sunday 2nd October

Breakfast and leave Kilve Court.

Morning: Field excursion in the Mendip Hills.

Afternoon: delivery to Clifton and Stoke Bishop Halls between 2 and 2:30 pm.

(continued overleaf)

Practicalities:

- If you live in Somerset, Devon or Cornwall, you may prefer to go directly to Kilve Court rather than travel past it and then back down again. If this is the case, please complete the form accordingly and arrive by 5.30pm.
- The return time on the 2nd allows you to meet up with any parents or carers bringing luggage and helping to settle you into your accommodation (the Halls of Residence all open on Sunday).
- Alternatively, contact your Hall to see whether your possessions may be left at the Hall on Friday 30th. Please ensure you have adequate insurance cover (this goes for the rest of your time in Bristol too, of course).
- For the field excursion itself you'll only need clothing for two days, to include walking boots, a set of waterproofs and cash for incidentals. You are warned that it may be muddy underfoot, so please do not wear anything that you care about too much.
- Bedding is provided, but towels and toiletries are not.
- The hostel is equipped for large field parties, with accommodation in shared rooms. We can cater for vegetarians and some special diets, and there is space on the booking form for you to advise us on this.
- All University fieldwork requires students to have an up-to-date tetanus inoculation, which lasts for about 10 years. Whether you're coming to the pre-sessional field excursion or not please check on this with your GP.
- The roads around the University are metered, and University car parks are for permit holders only, so if you intend bringing a car you'll have to make arrangements to leave it with your Hall of Residence, and allow time to make the departure from the School (about 30 minutes walk from the furthest Halls).

We look forward to meeting you at the start of term.

Dr Mary Benton

**SOMERSET
PRE-SESSIONAL FIELD EXCURSION 2011**

NAME

Home Address

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Hall/student house (if known)

Home/Mobile Phone

E-mail

Please tick all relevant boxes below and indicate where you will be joining the programme if appropriate:

- Single Honours Geology (F600, F603 or F609)
- Single Honours Environmental Geoscience (F640, F641 or F644)
- Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences (VL4P or VL4Q)
- Joint Honours Geology & Biology / Palaeontology and Evolution (FC61 or CF16)
- I confirm that I will be attending the excursion from Friday 1st October to Sunday 3rd October and will be at the School of Earth Sciences for departure by **2:30 pm** on Friday 1st / will arrive at Kilve Court by **5.30 pm** on Friday 1st (*delete as appropriate*).
- I regret that I will be unable to attend the excursion
- I have no special dietary requirements
- I request vegetarian meals

Any other dietary requirements

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Any other comment, request or information you would like to share with us:

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Signed:

Please return **by Friday 9th September**, together with your **Fieldwork Equipment form** to:

Ann Morgan-Davies
School of Earth Sciences
Wills Memorial Building
Queens Road
Bristol, BS8 1RJ

Please mark your envelope 'New Student'

Or fax to: 0117 925 3385 marked for the attention of Ann-Morgan-Davies