



TY'R MORWYDD
MULBERRY HOUSE
ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDY CENTRE

Key Stage Three Geography Fieldwork

River Study (Unit 7)

An investigation into river channel processes and characteristics and of the Afon Caerfanell, a tributary of the River Usk. This river flows through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Brecon Beacons.

The fieldwork involves the following measurements at a number of sites from near to the river's source to its mouth at Talybont Reservoir: width, depth, wetted perimeter, velocity, gradient, bedload size and shape. At each site, valley shape, landscape and river features (including waterfalls- site 1 and meanders – site 3) are identified, discussed and recorded with the aid of annotated field sketches.

Brecon Flood Study (Unit 7)

This involves the same fieldwork as the river study above, allowing students to investigate characteristics, landforms and processes of the Afon Caerfanell. However by reducing the number of sites studied we are able to combine this fieldwork with a visit to Brecon Flood Alleviation Scheme. The fieldwork here involves production of an annotated field sketch which provides a good case study of flooding and flood management in the UK.

Coastal Erosion and Management: Glamorgan Heritage Coast (Unit 8)

Students are given the opportunity to study a number of coastal landforms, including rapidly eroding limestone cliffs, a wave cut platform and notch, a cave and a storm beach. The physical processes affecting the coastline are identified. Students are also introduced to the management problems associated with this area and are encouraged to evaluate the success and suitability of past and current management policies.

Fieldwork includes an assessment of the geological characteristics of the Liassic limestone cliffs and the processes which are contributing to their erosion. Annotated field sketches, landscape assessments and questionnaire surveys are used to evaluate management. At Tresilian Cove fieldwork is carried out to record the profile of the storm beach.

Abergavenny Town Study (Unit 9)

Abergavenny is a rural market town with a wide sphere of influence. As such it forms an ideal case study for 'key ideas' in human geography. The town provides a good example of changes to shopping facilities due to the competition to the town centre from an out of town supermarket. Future changes are likely due to the planned closure of the cattle market and redevelopment of the site as a supermarket.

Work in the CBD study involves: Goad mapwork, shopping area surveys, environmental quality surveys, pedestrian counts, traffic counts, car park and public transport surveys and questionnaires.

Limestone Scenery (Unit 13)

Using the Ystadfellte area to the West of the Brecon Beacons National Park, students are provided with first hand experience of the limestone environment. The day includes visits to a sink hole, resurgence, waterfalls, limestone pavement and area of erratics, and is a fantastic opportunity to explore a beautiful part of the National Park.

Moorland Ecology (Unit 14)

This study provides a clear example of how plant distribution is effected by soil conditions, climatic factors and human activity. Students work along a transect from the dry moorland to the wet mire recording the plants present and collecting soil samples for soil moisture analysis. The study site is close to the summit of the Bloreng Mountain so, time permitting, the study can also be combined with a short walk to the trig point for some excellent views.

Orienteering

Providing students with the opportunity to practice their navigation skills and to improve their knowledge of compass work and map symbols.

Industrial Change in Blaenavon (History Unit 11 + Geography Unit 22 (Yr 9))

Follow the fortunes of the town from its iron making and coal mining past, through decline to its modern status as a World Heritage Site, attracting visitors through heritage tourism. This day also includes visits to Blarenavon Iron works and the award winning Big Pit National Mining Museum.