

Friday 11th to Sunday 13th or Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th July 2014

**INTRODUCTION TO GEOLOGY AND ECOLOGY FIELDWORK TECHNIQUES
BASED AT ALNWICK YOUTH HOSTEL, NORTHUMBERLAND**

The course will be of particular interest to current or previous students of S104 or S141.

After running a successful pilot weekend in August 2013, John MacGillivray and Heather Kelly are presenting an informal two day field course on two dates this year to give some practical experience in field ecology and geology. Both John and Heather are Associate Lecturers on S104, with many years of experience teaching on the now-defunct first level 'Practising Science' residential course.

The trip will provide an excellent chance to experience a range of field techniques. We will meet on the evening prior to the first field day (Friday or Monday) for an introduction and briefing and will spend the first day in the field (Saturday/Tuesday) learning how the plants on coastal dunes and grassland can be surveyed and the data analysed. On the second field day (Sunday/Wednesday) we will visit Howick Bay, to learn how to observe and identify rocks in the field and to deduce something of the environment in which they were laid down. This will be followed by an evening debriefing but anyone who needs to leave before this can do so.

You will need to make your own travel arrangements, book accommodation and provide your own food, although we have provisionally reserved beds at Alnwick Youth Hostel for anyone who wants to stay there. The hostel can also provide breakfast, packed lunches and evening meals at reasonable cost – see below.

Terrain and length of walks:

Most localities involve a walk of less than 1 km but, because much of the terrain involves rough and rocky ground, this trip is not suitable for wheelchair users or those of limited mobility. The itinerary may have to be revised in bad weather if the risks (eg. of slipping) become too great.

Field/Safety Equipment required:

You will need to bring a hard hat, hand lens, notebook, pen/pencil, waterproof and windproof clothing, walking boots or stout non-slip footwear, sunhat, sun cream, walking poles (if normally used).

The fee is £70, to cover tuition and leaders' expenses.

Places are limited and will be allocated on "first come - first served" basis, on receipt of payment in full.

Accommodation:

This will need to be booked and paid for independently but ***please do not do this until you have received confirmation of your booking from us, in case we are over-subscribed.***

With your confirmation, we will send details of how to book the accommodation reserved at Alnwick Youth Hostel, if you want to use this. Costs will be as below.

YHA costs: £18.50 per night, bed only
£24.50 bed and breakfast
£33.50 half board
£38.00 full board (with a packed lunch to take out in the field)

To book a place

Please fill in the attached booking form and send with a cheque for **£70 payable to Bowburn Consultancy** to:

Heather Kelly, 11 Montaigne Drive, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5QB
Telephone: 0191 377 2077

Please also send an e-mail copy of the form to h.a.kelly@open.ac.uk