"Access Anglesey": Delivering and Evaluating an Accessible and Inclusive Field Class

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Access Anglesey Field Class

2nd – 9th September, 2018

Field trip aims:

- Explore which methods assist inclusion and accessibility in the field
- Develop and share good practice

Who was it for:

- Any UG student studying a Geology (or related) degree at a UK university, including those for whom fieldwork is a challenge due to mental health, learning, sensory or mobility conditions.
- Faculty from other institutions / organisations

Island of Anglesey

Cemlyn Bay

Parys Mountain

Lligwy Bay

Rhoscolyn

Llanddwyn Island

Red Wharf Bay

LlanfairPG

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Participants

- Six students who identify as having a disability

- One carer/companion

- Seven students who did not identify as having a disability

- Three faculty from other institutions

- Eight staff

Set Up

- Hostel accommodation
- Quiet room
- Several vans inc 4x4 vehicle
- One or half days at each locality
- Evening work for context

Schedules and Instructions

- Detailed plan for each day
- Set of instructions for each location (that can actually be used in the field!)

Day 2:
Tuesday

4th September, 2018

Red Wharf Bay

Cliff and foreshore outcrops of Carboniferous limestone, sandstone and shales and a Miocene(?) aged beach deposit.

LlanfairPG

In the woods, beneath the Marquess of Anglesey's statue, are a series of Neoproterozoic blueschist outcrops.

9am: Depart *(40 minute drive)*

10.15am: At Red Wharf Bay

1pm: Lunch

2pm: Depart for LlanfairPG *(15 minute drive)*

2.30pm: At LlanfairPG

3.30pm: Leave for hostel

4.00pm: Back at hostel

Communications in the field

- Tour guide system
- Walkie talkies
- Live feed system
- Skype/FaceTime
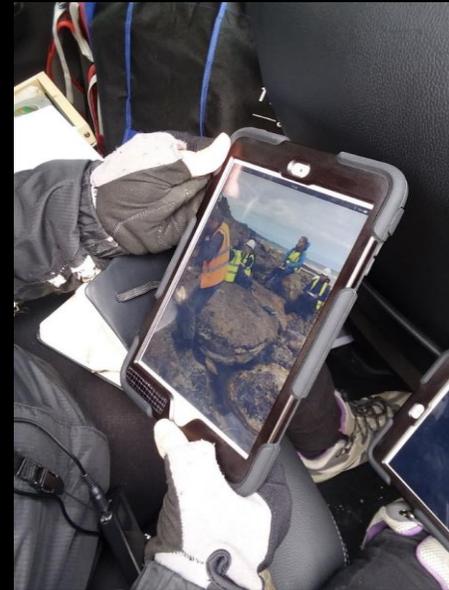
Tablets

- Two ipads and two android tablets.
- Pre-loaded with apps for note-taking and geological mapping.

- Helped with lack of co-ordination.
- Gave confidence as easy to delete if it went wrong.
- Less distracting as "nothing flapping".

- Preferred notebook and pencils.
- Something else to carry.
- Concern about breaking them.

- Need to be familiar with tablets before going in the field.
- Different apps worked for different people.

Alternative exercises in the field

- Photographs, photomicrographs and hand specimens.
- Exercises designed for those unable to get to the outcrops.
- Included additional data unavailable to those in the field.
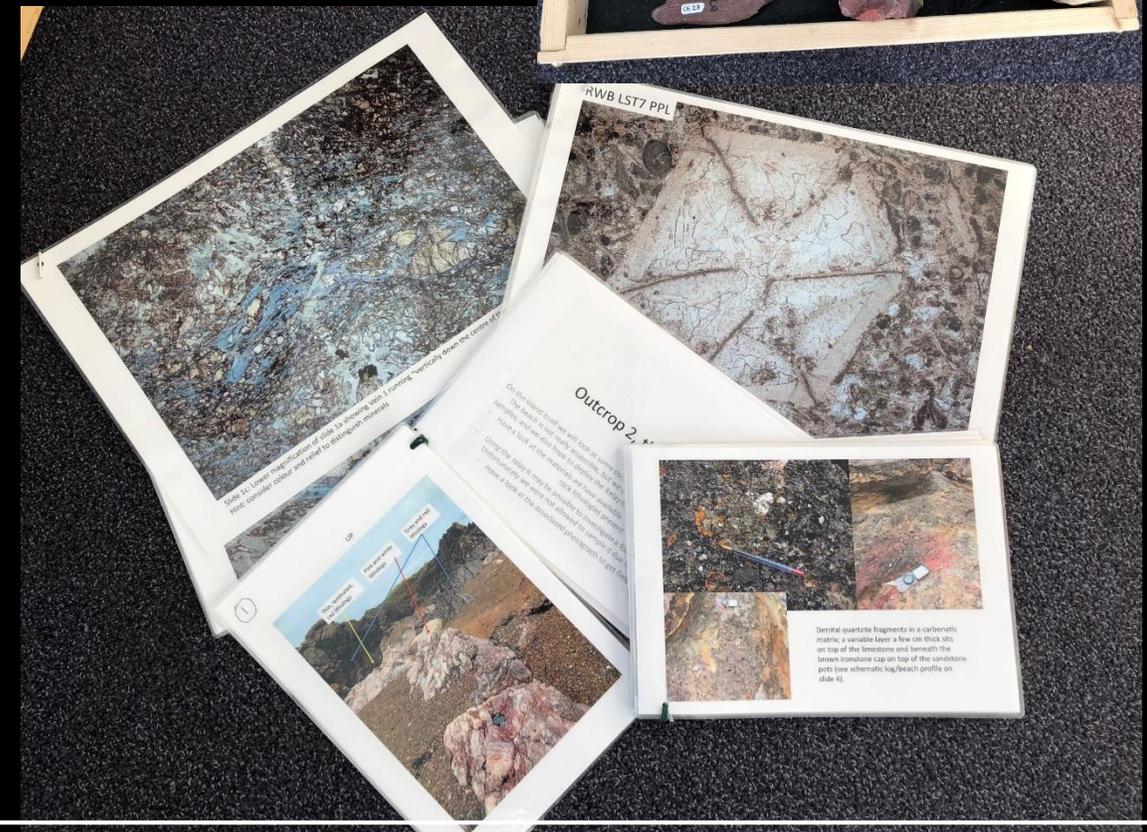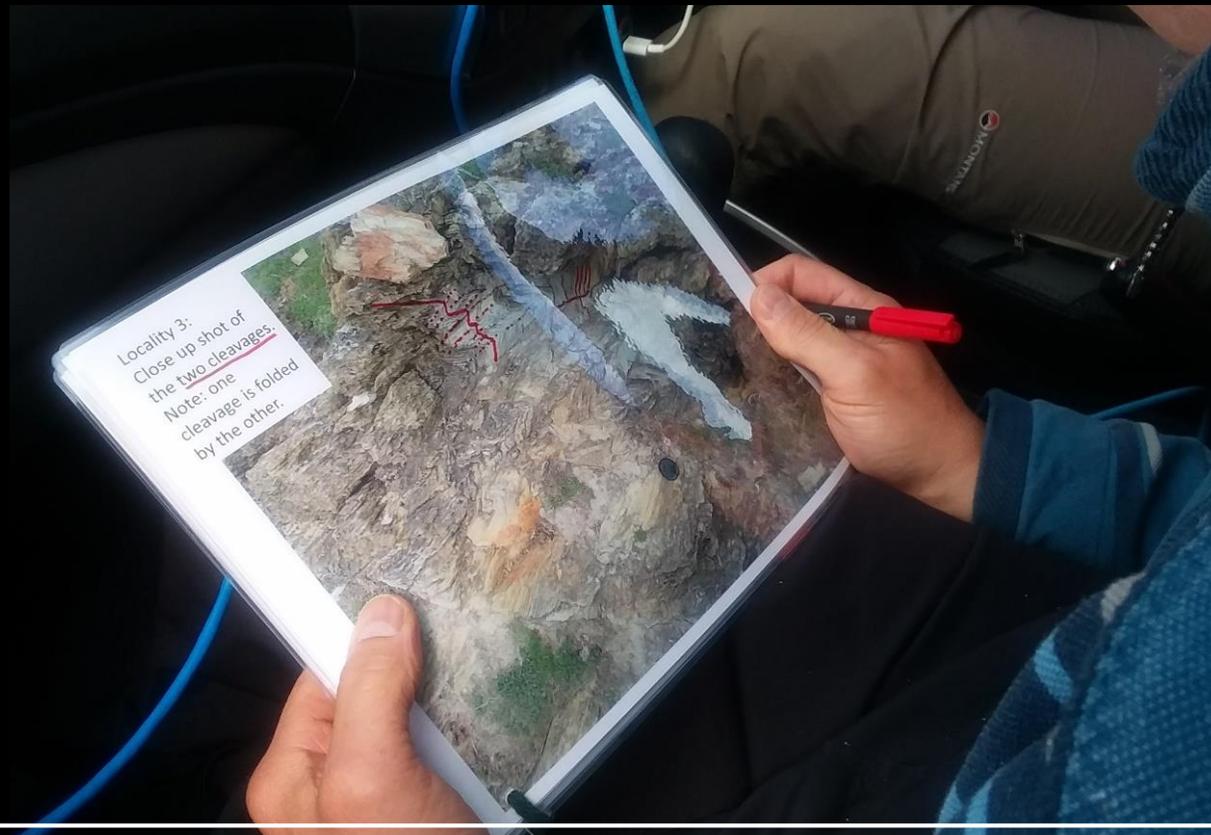
Mapping and Virtual Mapping

- Screen-based virtual reality environments.

- Recreated the Rhoscolyn headland, Anglesey.

- Alternative mapping exercise for those unable to map in the field
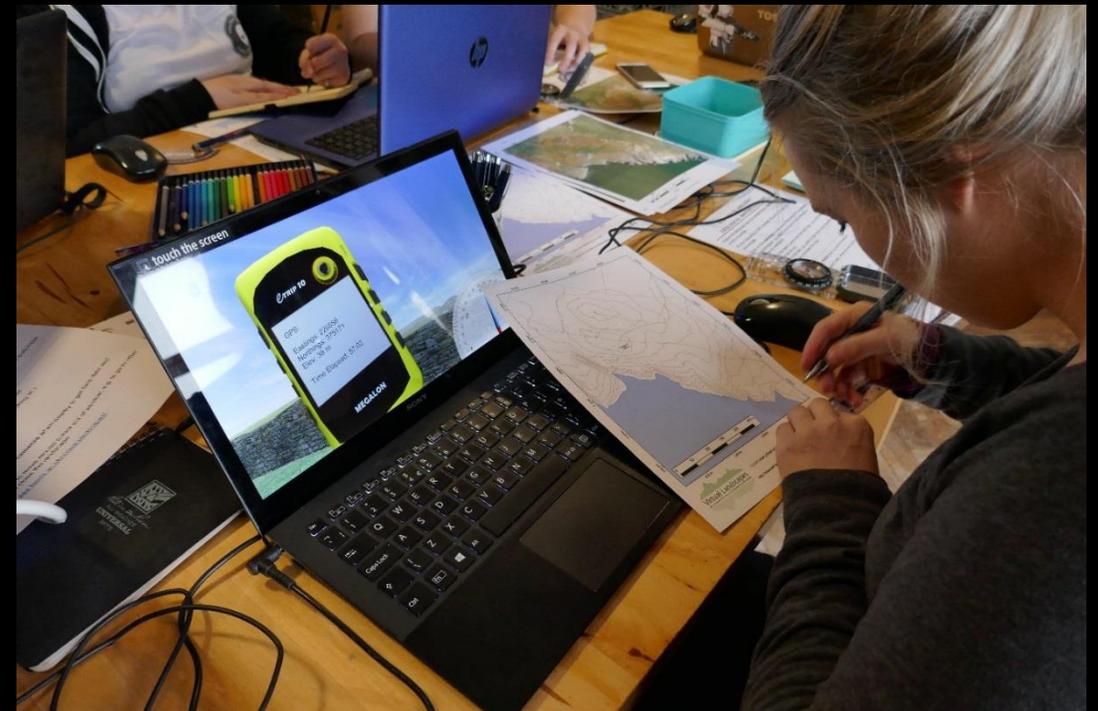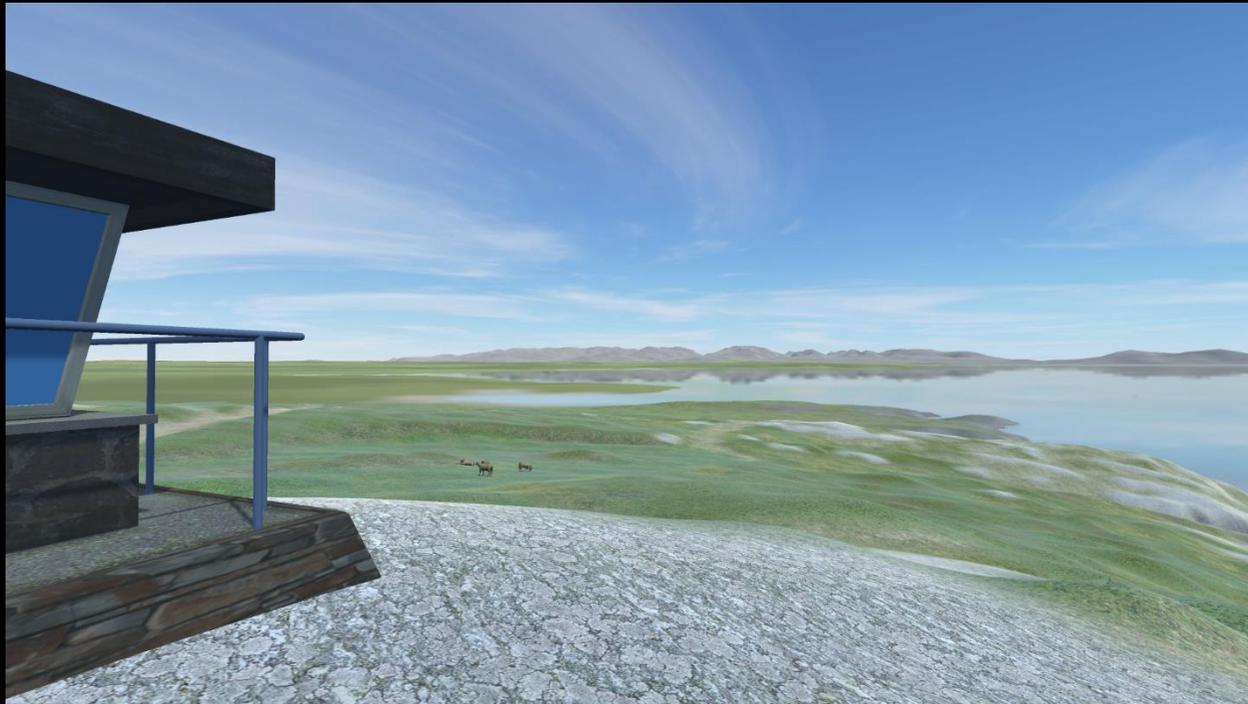
Feedback

- Not being rushed and no assessment meant less pressure:
  - Gave more freedom to think and come up with own ideas rather than the "right answer"
- Having a schedule that allowed participants to plan their time and control their energy levels.
- Safe environment.
- Strong group bond:
  - Particularly helped by the in-joke of "Chinchilla Radio"!

Feedback

- "The tour guide system's been really good ... now I don't miss anything, because I can't deal with being in a crowd or…getting too close, or having to sort of, back off and go somewhere to the side on my own. I can now do all those things, but I don't miss anything".

- "Perhaps it's just the fact that because I'm more relaxed it's easier for me to process and understand the instructions, rather than there being anything different about them."

Any questions?

Thanks

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