

Carding Mill Valley Fieldwork

We entered the coach around 9:30 and did the register. The coach was full of people and some people went in the minibus. People in the coach had speakers and for the entire drive, music was played. We reached Carding mill Valley at around 10:30am and before we got off, a national trust member explained to everyone the dangers. The dangers were mainly cars, especially electric cars as we can't hear them until they are quite close but other than that, it was just thorns which we don't really need to worry about. We got out the bus and were put into our groups. I was in group 1. The groups were then grouped and I was in Miss Melville's group who were group 1-3. We then walked to the lunch area to deposit our stuff and get the equipment, we were going to use. Some people borrowed boots from the national trust centre. The equipment given were, 2 ranging poles, 1 quadrat per group, booklets to their specific group (1 per group) to record data, 1 metre ruler, a measuring tape, 2 corks (In case 1 was lost), a stopwatch and a 30cm ruler. We then went to the lower course of the river and group 1—3 went to site 13. We started by measuring 10 metres and placing the ranging poles for later when we measured the velocity, first we measured the valley but it was difficult as part of the valley was a road and we had to stop and put the measuring tape down low whenever a car was passing. We then measured the river bank, from where the river starts and ends (the sides), then we used the metre ruler and measured the depth. After this we measured velocity. To do this, one of us threw a cork from one ranging pole and started the stopwatch when the cork was in the water, and ended when it reached the other ranging pole. We repeated this 5 times just to get a more accurate result. After this we used a quadrat and picked random rocks picked for us by the booklet and measured them all and categorised how angular they were.

Once we were done we waited for the other groups to finish and began to walk back to the national trust centre and return the boots and equipment. We then went back to the lunch room and had our lunches. Once everyone was done we got rid of our rubbish and went on a hike up the valley. We took a look at meanders (where a river curves) and when we stopped we took a look at the waterfall. Some continued and climbed up the hill while some others began to walk back. After some people walked back, we had to wait for the others to catch up. Once we were all back at the national trust centre, we all headed back to the coach but had to clean up the areas we were sitting in as some people littered on the way there. After 5 minutes we were done and headed home which took around 2 hours and we got back at 4pm.

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