Geomorphology: Ice, Sea & Air

ENVS252

Glaciers and ice sheets - how did they work when they covered large part of the British Isles? How does freezing and thawing shape the nonvegetated ground? How do estuary form? How is wind moving sand?

We engage with these questions by learning about fundamental processes operating in glacial, coastal and aeolian environments and by learning how modern landscapes are described, analysed and interpreted. Fundamental concepts are presented with the emphasis on magnitude and frequency of processes and the scale of time and space in which they operate in order to produce the resulting landform.

The learning about concepts and processes is supported by two laboratory practicals and one field day. In the field students learn how to collect landscape related data. In the lab practicals experiments are carried out that simulate sedimentological and hydrological processes occurring in nature and data generated in field and laboratory are implemented in a GIS to enable landscape interpretation.

Students are assessed by a 2 hour examination, by a field class report and by a short report on each practical.

