

Scope of study: Edge roundness of clasts and boulders on moraines of a Younger Dryas period in Strath Dionard , Sutherland, NW Scotland.

By Ebony Acheampong



Project information:

Travelling to Scotland in the summer of 2015 allowed me to carry out important fieldwork analysis for my Independent Geographic Research. After research on clast shape analysis, I based my study on Lukas et al (2013) Clast shape analysis and clast transport paths in glacial environments: A critical review of methods and the role of lithology. I had three locations/moraine ridges along the valley which I'd selected to collect the samples from. Using a systematic approach to clast shape analysis meant that I could fill a research gap in this field of study and allowed me to test out the past research methods. This location had previously been glaciated in a geological history known as Younger Dryas , which has interested researchers due to rapid change in the climate during this period. Through analysing the stones on moraines, this allows a clearer picture of past climate to be build and past glacier activity.



Activity log:

Monday 29th June to Wednesday 8th July 2015:

The expedition fund provided helped greatly in transport and accommodation, including staying at the remote Ard-na Bruthaich B&B which I arrived at around 7pm after a long journey 12 hr Journey.. Each day started early with at 8am for a lovely cooked breakfast for the days' work ahead. The local Durness visitors centre had a lot of useful information about walking along the Strath Dionard valley and the mountains Cranstackie and Foinaven, beautiful Lochs (small lake) were amongst some local and nearby attractions, which added to that from the B&B owner. We set off walking down the tracks to the entrance of Strath Dionard walking towards my first set of coordinates I had recorded showing where moraines with boulders were located, samples for this moraine were collected using clast shape analysis in a systematic approach to collection. This was repeated for control samples also needed. Before leaving Durness, Scotland we enjoyed the view of mountains and outdoors one more time and said our goodbyes to the lovely people we had met to set of back home.



I am grateful for the help provided by Queen Mary's expedition fund all this was possible and helped me in completion for the necessary research and go on to learn more.