

**School of Earth Sciences**  
**Welcome Week Field Day**  
**Tuesday 16 September 2025**

Dear Students,

Welcome to Year 1 of your studies. We are a small and friendly School where everybody experiences a sense of belonging from the start because we spend much time together, in lecture theatres, labs, the field and around the building between teaching sessions.

We are starting this year for you with a great day out, experiencing the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension to your studies; time. We will be doing this with an earth walk taking us from the birth of the planet to the present day. In the process, you will make friends with your peers so that you recognise people later in the week and when you go to your first lectures and practical classes, meet the staff who will be teaching you, get a feel for the layout of the city, test out your field boots and rucksack and get lungful of fresher air than in the city centre.

Attendance is compulsory and we will be taking a register.

The schedule for the day will be:

- 9:00 Register with the School of Earth Sciences in the Wills Memorial Building
- 9:30 Welcome to Earth Sciences and introduction to what will happen today
- 10:00 Organise food and groups for the day out
- 10:30 Coaches leave for Ashton Court Country Park (journey time around 20 minutes)
- 11:00 Group activity: The first steps of the Deep Time Walk
- 11:15 First group continues on the Deep Time Walk (about 3 hours; longer if stopping for lunch along the route)
- Other groups will follow, one group at a time. While waiting to start, there will be activities to do in the Ashton Court mansion Music Room or outside if the weather is great.
- A packed lunch is provided – let us know your dietary requirements on your Student Declaration Form. Depending on the weather and when your group starts the walk you may stop for a lunch break during the walk or you might eat in the shelter of the mansion.
- 12:30 Last group leaves for the walk
- 14:30 Groups start to arrive back at the Aston Court mansion (Music Room) with drinks and snacks available. Final group back around 15:30.
- After a discussion in your group back at the mansion, you are free to leave – see options below:
  - Option 1: **Walk** back over Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge to Wills Memorial Building (some staff will do this and can guide you).
  - Option 2: Take **public transport** home (we can provide some guidance).
  - Option 3: Stay until 16:00 and return to Wills Memorial Building by **coach** provided.

We will have a base in the Music Room of the Ashton Court mansion and will retreat to it for lunch, the discussion at the end of the day and more if the weather is especially awful. You are now earth scientists and will be learning to operate in all kinds of weather conditions.

Come wearing walking boots\* and have a full set of waterproofs\* (jacket and trousers), water bottle (you can fill with tap water at the University or at the mansion), sunhat, sunscreen, any medication and sanitary supplies you may need for the day, notebook and pencils in a small rucksack\*.

There are toilets at the mansion. The terrain includes flat meadows, steep grassy slopes, woods with rocky areas, metalled and gravel paths and pavements. It may be muddy so don't wear clothes that you will regret getting dirty.

\*If you are a bursary student and will be buying these things, get a receipt for your purchases and we will refund you. Sources such as Mountain Warehouse, Alpkit and Milletts sell waterproof hiking boots and outer layers at reasonable prices. Go for boots rather than hiking shoes to protect your ankles and to keep the most water and grit out.

Members of BUGGS (Bristol University Geology, Geoscience, Geophysics Society) are currently able to get discounts from Alpkit (Whiteladies Road, Bristol) and Mountain Warehouse (Queens Road, Bristol). You will be able to sign up to BUGGS once you have started at the university.