



Porcupine Marine Natural History Society Field Meeting, 6th to 10th September 2017

Announcement

The next Porcupine Marine Natural History Society field trip will take place in North East England, based at Newcastle University's Dove Marine Laboratory in Cullercoats, just north of the River Tyne. It is five minutes' walk from Cullercoats metro station and there is free parking nearby. Basic lab equipment and microscopes are available, or participants may bring their own.

There will be visits to rocky and sediment shores every day from the 6th-10th September. The Durham Heritage Coast, Coquet to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC are all within easy driving distance of the Dove Lab, and we will tailor the programme to the interests of participants. The tides are ideal for combining fieldwork in the morning with lab work in the afternoon. Tidal predictions for River Tyne North Shields are:

- Wednesday 6th September 0.68m at 10:30
- Thursday 7th September 0.52m at 11:10
- Friday 8th September 0.46m at 11:45
- Saturday 9th September 0.49m at 12:20
- Sunday 10th September 0.64m at 13:00

In addition to shore visits, we are offering the following activities:

Fish Identification Course

Taught by Frances Dipper on Sunday 3rd September at the Dove Marine Lab and Blue Reef Aquarium. £40 per person includes course pack and entry to the aquarium.

Seabed Sampling

Offered by the Northumberland IFCA from their new survey and patrol vessel the *St Aidan*. No charge for taking part, but places are limited to 12 and booking is essential.

Diving:

Seasearch dives from the hard boat *Spellbinder II*. Durham Heritage Coast on Sunday (£20) and Coquet to St Mary's MCZ on Friday evening (£40). Diving at the Farne Islands could also be arranged subject to interest and boat availability – please contact Paula Lightfoot.

Cetaceans and Seabirds Pelagic Trip to the Farne Deeps

10 hour pelagic cruise to the Farne Deeps led by Martin Kitching, Northern Experience Wildlife Tours. £70 per person, places are limited to 12 people so early booking is advised.

Everyone is welcome for any or all the days but participants should ensure they are members of Porcupine before the event. A booking form is available on the Porcupine website (<http://pnmhs.co.uk>). For further information, please contact Paula Lightfoot on p.lightfoot@btinternet.com or Frances Dipper on frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk
