

© UKRIGS Education Project: Earth Science On-Site

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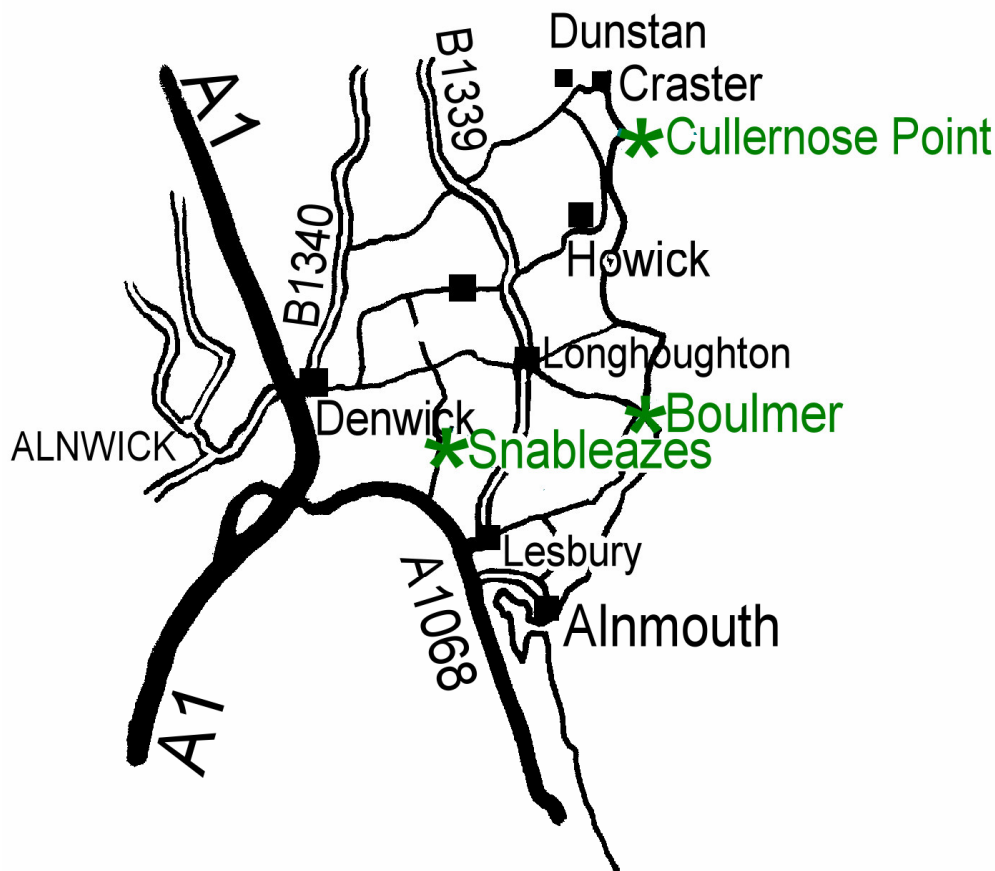


Figure 1. Location map for Snableazes Quarry & Cullernose Point, Northumberland.

SITE NAMES: **Snableazes:** privately owned quarry. Access is **only** by prior permission.
Cullernose Point: Coastal path, public footpath across land owned by Northumberland Estates.

OS MAPS: 1:50,000 Landranger Series, Sheet 81. Alnwick.
 1:25,000 Explorer Series, Sheet 331, Alnwick and Amble.

BGS MAPS: 1:50,000 BGS Solid or Drift. Sheet 6, Alnwick.

DIRECTIONS:

Access to these sites is along small roads with sharp bends through small villages and may be negotiated by coaches, with care. However, there is not adequate parking for coaches, which will need to return to the sites to pick up the group after completion of the exercises.

FROM THE WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH:

To Snableazes Quarry:

Take the A1 towards the north eastern outskirts of Alnwick. Leave the A1 north of Alnwick at Denwick, and turn right onto the minor road eastwards, towards RAF Boulmer, after passing through Denwick village. Continue 4.5 km on to Longhoughton. Take the left turn along the minor road signposted to Lesbury and Alnmouth. After 1 km the narrow, (and hard to spot), gated driveway to Snableazes quarry is on the left just before a slight dip in the road. It is immediately after Snableazes farm, which is on the right. Minibuses and cars may drive in and park **only by prior arrangement**. Coaches will need to drop off the group and return to pick them up after an hour. Take care: this can be a busy road.

To Cullernose Point from Snableazes:

Return northwards from Snableazes to the crossroads and turn right to Longhoughton. At the crossroads at Longhoughton turn left onto the B1339 to Embleton. After 1.25 km, on a sharp left bend, take the right turn onto the minor road to Howick. The low bridge at Howick has a clearance of 3.75M (12ft 3 inches). After 2km the road bends sharply left, and after a further 1km begins to diverge left, away from the cliff top. Roadside parking is possible here, but coaches should drop off their party and return after an hour and a half.

PLANNING THE VISIT:

Well in advance of the visit, organisers should discover the low tide times for Boulmer. If the tide is low in the morning, then complete the route as suggested. If it is dropping to an afternoon low tide, then follow the route in reverse. **The best time to arrive with a group at the beach is an hour or two before low tide. NOTE: The beach is still active and the depth of sand and level of erosion can vary considerably so it is advisable to make a reconnaissance visit shortly before the field trip to confirm what is visible.**

All groups **must** have prior permission in order to use Snableazes quarry and gain access through the locked gate. Well in advance of the visit organisers should telephone **Mr Turnbull** on **0788 / 9925460** to agree arrival time and access to this privately owned site.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: Wheel chair access is either very difficult, or not possible, for most of these sites.

INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT:

All group leaders should meet with their parties prior to the *On-Site* visit and impress upon participants the educational nature of the event, and the need for extra consideration for the safety of themselves and others. Each group should be properly insured and have a member of staff proficient in First Aid. A mobile telephone should be carried for emergencies.

There is no substitute for group leaders viewing the site before the field visit and making their own risk assessment, according to the requirements of their own Local Authority. The following assessment is only a guide.

RISK	ACTION
Weather and tides.	Wear suitable warm and waterproof clothing. Get weather reports for the day of the visit. Check low tide times. At Cullernose Point do not allow the party to descend to the beach, and do not approach too closely to the sea on the point itself.
Cobbles, wet rock and sea weed covered rocks on Boulmer foreshore.	Much of the route is on sand, but at the dyke it is necessary to walk on the rock platform. Use the large areas of the dyke which are free of seaweed for this exercise. Make sure the group have stout footwear and take extra care when walking on wet rock and uneven cobbles on the beach.
Rock faces over 3m in height.	Wear hard hats. Do not climb the cliff faces.
Steep footpaths and slopes.	The cliff top paths can be slippery when wet. Caution all party members, and insist on suitable footwear and sensible behaviour.
At Snableazes Quarry DO NOT allow any member of the group to venture past the earth bank at the end of the car park area into the eastern side of the quarry.	
Narrow country roads with high walls and restricted parking space.	Drive carefully and with consideration. Use only the parking sites suggested in the On-Site guides.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Faulted and tilted Carboniferous sedimentary rocks are exposed in quarry and foreshore sites, where contacts with basic dyke and sill intrusions can be seen. Present day processes of erosion, transport and deposition can be observed along the beach section at Boulmer and Cullernose Point.