



Introducing soil forming factors with mini campus field trips

John Quinton and Phil Haygarth

Lancaster University, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster, United Kingdom (j.quinton@lancaster.ac.uk)

Students like field work, yet the proportion of time spent in the field during many soil science courses is small. Here we describe an introductory lecture on the soil forming factors based around a mini field trip in which we spend 45 minutes exploring these factors on the Lancaster University campus. In the 'trip' we visit some woodland to consider the effects of organic matter, vegetation and time on soil development and then take in a football pitch to examine the effects of landscape position, parent material and climate. Student responses are overwhelmingly positive and we suggest that more use can be made of our often mundane surroundings to explore soil formation. Soil functions and soil processes.