

# VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes

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## What is 'VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes'?

VR Glaciers and Glaciated Landscapes (<https://vrglaciers.wp.worc.ac.uk>) is a collection of ground-level virtual field trips to both contemporary and deglaciated environments. Launched in 2018 with funding from the BSG, the Quaternary Research Association and the University of Worcester, it now features 13 virtual field trips to locations in Switzerland, NW England, and California. These are provided without interpretation, which means they can be used at any academic level and for a range of purposes.

## Why was it developed?

The primary role of VR Glaciers is in supporting class- and lab-based teaching of glaciers and glaciation in schools, colleges, and universities. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this can be a challenging topic to introduce in the classroom because glaciers and the landscapes they produce may seem remote and unfamiliar. This can easily be solved by real fieldwork, of course, but this rarely takes place at the same time – if it takes place at all. VR Glaciers provides a solution to these issues. It is not intended to be a replacement for real fieldwork, for which there is no substitute.

## BSG Funding

The financial support of the BSG (and other funders) is gratefully acknowledged. Without the support of the BSG and QRA, the project would have been smaller and possibly restricted to University of Worcester students and staff. The BSG logo has appeared in all project outcomes (apart from the virtual field trips themselves), including printed materials and conference presentations.

## A work in progress

VR Glaciers remains a work in progress, although the current pandemic has prevented the development of any new virtual field trips this year (but it has driven a growth in the use of VR Glaciers). Details on use and feedback can be provided upon request. There are also plans for further work. These include work in the following areas: (i) making it easier for teachers to use in schools; (ii) include different types of environments; and (iii) enhanced virtual field trips.



**Figure 1** A screenshot from one of the sites in the Moiry Valley virtual field trip (<https://vrglaciers.wp.worc.ac.uk/moiry/index.html>)