It’s been almost a year now since finishing the Marine Environmental Management course, and reflecting back, I really only have nice positive thoughts. Sure, I remember it being very hard work – something that should be expected on a course of this level… But if you were to choose this, you’ll get to meet a fantastic group of people, all with a similar mindset to yourself, in a small department situation where the lectures care and look after you (even after you’ve graduated: the contacts you make at York will be a valuable asset for the future).

Highlights of the course have to be the field trips as these were always great fun, good for team building (yes, you’ll all get coated in mud, but you’ll be in it together!), and a valuable experience for getting the much needed hands-on experience that is all too often missing in other MSc courses. Of course the very best outing of all was the reef management trip to Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt. More on this, along with the story of my summer placement (again an important process in the course for making links and deciding your future job), can be found at: http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/eeem/gsp/mem/blogs_2007/working%20for%20Dorset%20wildlife%20trust.pdf

Finally, a note on Callum and Julie who are the co-ordinators for the course: they’re both very friendly and helpful. I suspect the department is quite unique in its small, almost family outlook where each student is highly valued. Callum and Julie really took this stance to heart when we were all invited to their house, fed marvellous food freshly prepared by Julie, and shown mystical treasures of the hidden marine world by Callum. Everyone on the course was overwhelmed by the generosity the department as a whole, but particularly Callum and Julie, has shown us: the fact that we all came out the other end with an MSc was simply a bonus after a most enjoyable year.