

Blencathra Field Studies Centre

Lake District



OCR B GCSE Geography Programme Options



- Quality teaching
- Stunning locations
- Dedication to health and safety

“The programme was perfect. The students fully enjoyed their learning and experiences. Great use of ICT and fieldwork equipment.”

Teacher, St Cuthbert Mayne School
(March 2011)

“A wonderful centre. I always look forward to bringing the students and they always enjoy their visit”

Teacher, King Edwards VI Aston
(Jan 2011)



“The quality of care and guidance offered to students is outstanding as are the arrangements to ensure their safety and well-being” (PEF, 2011)

OCR B GCSE Geography Programme Options

The following programme options are designed to meet the aims of the OCR B GCSE specification, including the Controlled Assessment elements of the course. If your requirements are not covered by the outlines suggested below, then please contact the centre to discuss the possible alternatives. All groups booking a course at the Blencathra Course will be contacted by a member of the education team to discuss the specific details of their course.

First taught session:	Number of students:
Last taught session:	Number of school staff:
Tutor(s):	
Specific educational/physical needs:	

The Controlled Assessment – We offer three core modules which allow students to undertake an enquiry which they can then write up for the Controlled Assessment. These will be adapted each year to match the titles OCR set.

Sessions	Topic	
Estimated Arrival Time:		
Welcome and introduction to the centre	Students are kitted out with the equipment that they will need for their course and settle into their rooms ready for dinner. The first session will start at ____.	
Coasts	Outline	 <p>Students investigate the economic, social and environmental value of the land in St Bees and research the rate of erosion and coastal flooding along the coastline. Students will use a variety of fieldwork techniques such as land use mapping and beach profile recording.</p> <p>2012 focus: Is there a need to protect the coast in your chosen area?</p> <p>2013 focus: How do geomorphic processes affect your chosen coastal study area?</p>
Rivers	Outline	<p>In relation to the 2012 title, students investigate meanders along the length of Keskadale Beck, measuring the stream's width, gradient and sinuosity at regular intervals. For the 2013 title, students will study characteristics of Keskadale or Glenderaterra Beck to see if and how they are affected by human influence.</p> <p>2012 focus: How and why do natural features vary along a stretch of your chosen stream?</p> <p>2013 focus: How natural is the stretch of your chosen stream/river?</p> 
Economic development	Outline	<p>Students investigate different indicators of quality of life such as housing quality, service provision and environmental quality in a rural settlement.</p> <p>2012 focus: How and why does the quality of life vary within your chosen settlement or within your study area in a settlement?</p>

Other Fieldwork Options		
Sessions	Topic	
Coasts (Coastline Management)	Outline	Students investigate the human and physical factors influencing management along the St Bees coastline and consider the cost-benefit analysis and sustainability of different strategies. Location: St Bees Head
Coasts	Outline	Students assess different coastal defences and consider how effective they are at protecting coastlines from coastal processes. This builds upon an investigation into the impact of longshore drift on beach profiles. Students will develop fieldwork and analysis skills as well as collect data and information to allow them to complete their controlled assessment. Location: St Bees Head
Rivers (Landforms)	Outline	Students survey Keskadale Beck from its source to its confluence with Newlands Beck investigating landforms resulting from erosion (such as waterfalls and V-shape valleys), landforms resulting from erosion and deposition (meanders) and landforms resulting from deposition (such as levees and flood plains). Location: Keskadale Beck
Rivers – ½ Day (Flooding)	Outline	Students investigate Keswick as an example of a local case study of flooding. During the session students are encouraged to think through the causes of flooding, the impact of flooding and management strategies. Location: River Greta, Keswick
Population Change (Urban Change)	Outline	Students investigate the changing land use patterns in the centre of Carlisle and consider the different approaches to regeneration in the city. Students will use a variety of data collection techniques such as service tallies, pedestrian counts, and environmental quality assessments. Location: Carlisle
Population Change (Service Provision)	Outline	Students investigate the relationship between retail provision and population of rural settlements in the Eden area of Cumbria, considering how the service provision may have changed and be changing in different kinds of settlement. Location: A variety of villages in the Eden area
Economic Development (Upland Sheep Farming)	Outline	Students investigate how sheep farming affects the physical environment and consider the conflict between farming as an economic activity with the urge to farm intensively and the responsibility to manage the land in a sustainable and environmentally conscious fashion. Location: Middle Row Farm (Threlkeld)

Additional Notes

- Please feel free to request further details on the content, learning objectives and outcomes for each topic we teach.
- The order of days and location of study sites may be varied due to the weather, and to avoid equipment/transport clashes.
- Students are requested to bring a pen, pencil and paper. They may also find a camera, USB pen, calculator, protractor, folder in which to keep their work, colouring pencils and graph paper useful.
- It is advised that you bring a USB pen or portable hard drive onto which resources and students' work can be saved.



- Students will undertake activities outdoors for extended periods of time and should therefore be dressed appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions. **They will need walking boots, a waterproof jacket with hood and waterproof trousers.** All the above items can be hired from centre for £2 each.

Transport *[select bullet points as appropriate]*

- Transport to the fieldwork sites will be provided by Blencathra Field Studies Centre. This will incur an additional cost of [**£cost**] per student. For a detailed breakdown of the cost, please see the details of each day. An invoice will be made out to the school and sent out to the organiser immediately after the course.
- Transport to the fieldwork sites will provided by the school.
- If you have been asked to drive during the course, please complete a driving form and provide us with a copy of your full driving licence in advance.
- You are booked to be picked up at Penrith Station at [**time**] on [**date**] and dropped off at [**time**] on [**date**]. This incurs an additional charge of [**£cost**] per student.
- You have not currently booked any transfers between the centre and Penrith Station. If you wish to take advantage of this option, please enquire.

A Typical Day

We make the most of your time whilst at the centre. A typical day normally consists of a classroom session starting at 9.30am, followed by fieldwork from 10.30am to 4pm in the afternoon. On return, the students enjoy a break and then follow-up their learning in the classroom until 6pm. The after dinner session typically lasts one hour.

Health & Safety

All tutored sessions are risk assessed and led by experienced teaching staff with specialist knowledge and fieldwork expertise. They all hold first aid qualifications and are trained in H&S and group management. We hold the Quality Badge by The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, which is awarded to organisations which have demonstrated that they consistently deliver high quality teaching and learning experiences and manage risk effectively. This means that you will have to complete less paperwork when visiting our centre.



Adventurous Activities

We are fully accredited to offer a range of more adventurous activities such as gill scrambling and mountain walking. These offer the students a marvellous opportunity to develop their personal and leadership skills in a less academic environment and may also help you to sell the fieldwork to the young people and parents and governors.

Who are we?

Blencathra Field Studies Centre is one of 17 centres in the UK run by the Field Studies Council, an independent education charity committed to bringing environmental understanding to all. We offer tailor-made packages for school and youth groups as well as providing outreach education and adult training. Leading the field in innovative, effective and enjoyable approaches to learning outside the classroom, we are confident of providing a safe, secure and caring atmosphere in which your students will widen their geographical understanding, improve their motivation and develop their personal and social skills. We can accommodate up to 110 people full-board, including a self-contained, self-catering unit for up to 22 people and offer a choice of ½ or full day taught sessions.

