

Dale Fort Field Centre Student Information - School



The Centre

Dale Fort is situated at the end of the Dale Peninsula and projects into the entrance of Milford Haven. It is a well-preserved example of a Palmerston Fort, completed in 1856 as a major part of the Pembroke Dock fortification against the French. General Gordon left his mark on the Fort and since then it has had a complex and fascinating history before becoming one of the first field centres for the FSC in 1947. Since that time the Fort has been extensively modernised to accommodate up to 120 people in residence with superb views over the sea.

Accommodation & Facilities

The Centre provides a warm, comfortable base for your course. We have simple, comfortable accommodation mostly in a mixture of twin/3-bedded rooms and dormitory style rooms. Toilet and shower facilities are close by. We also have a few family ensuite rooms. There is a good drying room, but no laundry facilities. Every bed in the Centre is provided with a duvet and pillow and all bedding. Students need to bring towels with them.

There are five well-equipped classrooms with interactive whiteboards, a library and computers with Internet access. There is a student common room with pool table, TV and DVD player with an area for making hot and cold drinks. Sports equipment such as rounder's bat and ball and board games are available to use. The Centre shop sells notebooks, pencils, pens, rulers, confectionery, soft drinks, a few toiletry items, postcards and stamps. There is Wi-Fi throughout the Centre. Mobile phone networks are patchy but usually a signal is found in the turning circle at the front of the site.

Food

We provide fresh, wholesome food to keep you going whilst outdoors. Breakfast is at 8.00am and includes toast, cereals and a cooked breakfast. You make your own packed lunch each morning at breakfast time. The evening meal is usually at 6.00pm. If you have any special dietary needs, please inform us in advance, so that we can make sure we have everything you'll need.

A Typical Day

Be prepared to learn lots, have great fun, but work hard! A typical day normally consists of breakfast at 8.00am, a classroom session starting at 9.00am, followed by fieldwork from 10.00am. On return, tea and cake awaits us and then there is a classroom session until 6.00pm. After dinner, we typically have a lesson lasting one hour and then its free time until 10.45pm when everyone must be in their rooms. At 11.00pm it's lights out.

Clothing and Equipment

Warm and waterproof clothing is essential since weather is rarely allowed to interrupt fieldwork. Footwear should include wellington boots, walking boots or strong sensible shoes and training shoes for around the Centre. Waterproof jackets, trousers and wellies can be hired from the Centre at the following costs for the duration of your course;

Waterproof jacket	£2	
Waterproof trousers	£2	
Wellies	£2	Wellies in sizes 3-12. Waterproofs in sizes S-XL

What you will need to bring:

- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Wash kit
- ✓ Drinks bottle/flask and sandwich box
- ✓ Personal medications
- ✓ Torch
- ✓ Warm old clothing for outdoors (not jeans)
- ✓ Waterproof jacket and trousers (can be hired).
- ✓ Warm coat for evenings and cooler days.
- ✓ Thick socks
- ✓ Wellies (can be hired). Strong sensible shoes or boots for walking.
- ✓ Indoor shoes
- ✓ Sunscreen & sun hat for sunny days
- ✓ Day sack
- ✓ Field notebook
- ✓ pens and pencils
- ✓ Camera and USB pen (optional)
- ✓ Binoculars (for Skomer, optional)
- ✓ Enough cash for your time here, there are no cash points nearby

ALL bedding is provided

We advise that you leave expensive personal items at home as we cannot guarantee their safety. Mobile phones are welcome, but must be turned off during taught sessions.

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 health and safety 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. It is important to listen carefully to your tutor and comply with safety instructions. For your own safety, you must not leave the centre grounds on your own; there will be plenty of opportunities to explore this amazing environment with your tutor!

Do not smoke in any of the buildings and please do not bring any aerosols as they set off the detectors. Our smoke and fire detectors are very sensitive. On arrival please make sure you know where the meeting point is in the case of fire (the turning circle in front of the entrance arch) and what to do. In the event of an emergency a member of staff is available 24 hours a day and their location is found in the main entrance to St Anne's Building.

Please ensure that your teacher is aware of any special medical, physical or educational needs you may have during the course and that you have provided them with contact details of your parent or guardian.

Behaviour

We expect students will behave with consideration for others and for Centre property during their stay. All visitors are requested to co-operate with Centre staff by making their own beds, keeping bedrooms tidy and clearing tables at mealtimes. The Centre rules are here for your own protection and that of the Centre and its staff. If you do not abide by them you may be asked to leave at your own expense. Any damage or loss of equipment must be paid for by those concerned whilst at the Centre.

Environmental Responsibility

Whilst at the centre we ask that you help to minimise your impact on the environment. Please reuse and recycle your rubbish wherever possible and turn off any electrical items or heating that you're not using. It all makes a difference.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you and hope that you enjoy your stay.

Dale Fort Field Centre
Dale, Havefordwest
Pembrokeshire
SA62 3RD
Tel: 01646 636205

Head of Centre: Chris Millican
dleadmin.pb@field-studies-council.org
www.field-studies-council.org/dalefort

