

Learning Outside the Classroom: effective learning through the natural world

EU Transversal Study Visit
31 March 2014 – 4 April 2014

Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 7PG
Scotland

**What can nature teach us about sustainability?
How can learning outside the classroom motivate and improve learning?**



Young people of all ages benefit from real life ‘hands on’ experiences. Seeing, hearing, touching and exploring the world help young people connect what they learn in school to their life outside it and to the world around them. Learning outside the classroom (LOtC) has the aim of improving students’ knowledge of a subject and to develop skills, values and personal development which are vital elements of students learning and achievement.

There is a strong connection between LOtC and performance in the classroom. It supports several curriculum areas including geography, biology, citizenship, ICT and sustainable development. Scotland’s curriculum for excellence offers opportunities for all children and young people to enjoy first-hand experiences outdoors.

The Study Visit is suitable for teachers and educators with a passion for learning about the natural world and is taking place at Kindrogan Field Centre which is set in wooded grounds on the banks of the River Ardle in the picturesque Scottish Highlands. It lies within easy reach of some of the remotest areas of the UK with inspiring landforms and a rich range of wildlife habitats.

The Study Visit is organised by the Field Studies Council, one of Europe’s oldest and leading organisations promoting learning through the outdoor classroom having been established in 1943 and providing learning experiences to over 100,000 young people each year through its network of 17 education centres.

How to Apply

Funding is available from the EU to cover the full costs of your participation. The cost of the course is €800 (*if you wish to pay by credit card the fee will be charged in GB pounds at the exchange rate calculated on the day payment is taken*). This fee includes your food, accommodation and travel during the Study visit; it **does not** include travel to and from the Field Centre. Please contact your National Agency for information on the amount of grant available for the visit and your travel.

The contact person at your country national agency is available from the CEDEFOP website (<http://studyvisits.cedefop.europa.eu>) – you will also find some useful information on the right hand side of their website.

The deadline to apply for a Study Visit is 15 October 2013. Here are a few important points:

-  A Catalogue of Visits is now available on the link above. You will be able to search under Field Studies Council or the name of the visit to find details – the Group Number is 213. (Also attached)
-  To apply complete a straightforward application form using the online system. You then need to print out the form, sign it, get it endorsed by your employer and posted to the address on the website before the deadline.
-  **The online application system is open from 22 July to 15 October 2013**

Please inform the Field Studies Council (global@field-studies-council.org) if you require support in applying for funding or have any questions.

Travel information – our centre is easily accessible via Edinburgh airport. The nearest railway station to the centre is Pitlochry and Kindrogan Field Centre is a 10 mile drive from the railway station. Taxis are available from the railway station.

About the Field Studies Council and our centre.

To find out more about the FSC please visit www.field-studies-council.org .

To find out more about our centre in Scotland and the course venue please visit www.field-studies-council.org/kindrogan.

If you need to get in touch with us please contact:

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Draft Programme

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY and LOCATION
Sunday 30th March	19.30	<p>Arrival of participants</p> <p>Welcome dinner and study visit briefing</p>
Monday 31st March	0930 – 1230	<p>Learning Outside the Classroom An overview of the development of LOtC and its benefits for learning, and why some schools do and some do not engage. <i>Delivered by Prof Peter Higgins, Chair of Outdoor and Environmental Education, The Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh</i></p>
	1400 - 1700	<p>Field Work Approaches to LOtC (1) A practical session exploring how the local environment can be used for learning, focusing on streams and rivers. <i>Delivered by FSC Kindrogan Senior Tutor</i></p>
	1800	<p>Discussion of the day and report writing</p>
	1930	<p>Presentations by participants – these will take place each evening as required.</p>
Tuesday 1st April	0930 – 1230	<p>Visit to Local Primary School We shall visit Kirkmichael school which has been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag. We shall meet with teachers and students to see how they use their outdoor spaces for learning</p>
	1400 – 1700	<p>John Muir Trust The leading wild land conservation organisation in the UK, we shall explore the John Muir environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. <i>Delivered by Alan Smith Education Manager</i></p>
	1800	<p>Discussion of the day and report writing</p>

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY and LOCATION
Wednesday 2nd March	0930 – 1230	Field Work Approaches to LOtC (2) A practical session exploring how the local environment can be used for learning, focusing on woodlands. <i>Delivered by FSC Senior Tutor</i>
	1400 – 1700	Natural Connections Natural Connections is an outdoor learning programme developed by the Countryside section of Community Services, Fife Council. It is designed to promote learning and achievement in the outdoors. <i>Delivered by Tony Credland (Natural Connections Project Officer)</i>
	1800	Discussion of the day and report writing
Thursday 3rd March	0930 – 1230	Eco Schools The Eco-Schools programme engages children and young people in key issues including the environment, sustainability, global citizenship and the value of a low carbon future. <i>Delivered by Kate Campbell, Manager</i>
	1400 – 1700	Forest Schools Initiative This is a national initiative to get young people out into the countryside through innovative education approaches. <i>Delivered by Bonnie Maggio Forest Schools Initiative Coordinator Scotland</i>
	1800	Discussion of the day and report writing
Friday 4th March	0930 – 1230	Lessons from Nature What can nature teach us about redesigning human social and economic systems? In this session we will explore how learning from nature provides a model and inspiration for sustainability <i>Delivered by FSC Project Manager</i>
	1400 - 1600	Course review and report writing.
Saturday 5th April		Departure after breakfast.