

Responding to the Covid pandemic

The pandemic stopped FSC's core business. No residential courses were possible for more than a year. Face to face training was severely limited. Our beneficiaries risked missing out.

We didn't want merely to wait out the storm. Instead, we increased our reach and charitable impact by immediately finding new ways to support learning, teaching and help all ages connect to nature during lockdowns.

Visitors couldn't come to us, so we found new ways to connect them with us and even with each other, including adults forced to shield at home and feeling isolated.

How we helped

Keeping learning alive online

We developed a completely new suite of free live online school lessons as #FieldworkLive. Our adult learning courses also moved online to share biodiversity skills through Biolinks. Combined, FSC engaged more people than would ever pass through our centres in a year. Digital has helped enthuse learners and whet their appetite for more hands-on learning. Hard pressed teachers, learners and parents found the activities inspiring during lockdowns and are now booking more blended experiences.



Going local during lockdowns

Our publications team distributed tens of thousands of wildlife identification guides. They have universal appeal. Mindful of lockdown restrictions, FSC guides opened up nature that could still be discovered right under the nose of individuals and families, even in the smallest habitats, garden or local greenspace.

Stay with Us

When guidelines allowed, we opened FSC centres and their beautiful grounds for Covid Secure holidays. Our low cost, clean and simple accommodation offered a chance for lockdown weary visitors to connect to nature, relax in stunning locations and enjoy the space, peace and freedom.



£13m of lost charitable income

150,000 people unable to visit

Over 450,000 people engaged with FSC during the pandemic

“ We found ways to continue bringing outdoor learning to life when our centres were closed, our beneficiaries were in lockdown and access to nature was severely restricted. **CEO** ”



#FieldworkLive went global with learners from 32 countries

377,096 learners engaged with #FieldworkLive during 2020

20,000 engaged with #PrimaryNatureLive

“ I’m home schooling because of the pandemic. We’ve loved joining the lectures, and it’s been an absolute highlight of this time... fun, unique and exciting inspiration. **Parent**

#FieldworkLive engages school learners online during pandemic

FSC’s #FieldworkLive series was broadcast live on YouTube for primary, secondary and A-level students. The 12 sessions were delivered from scratch in just seven weeks in partnership with Encounter Edu.



FSC’s teaching staff quickly developed the ability to deliver live online, build rapport through a camera, and adapt from teaching a usual class size to one of several thousand. They even created ‘Blue Peter style’ models of rural landscapes. Pet tortoises were also an instant hit with participants!

Behind the scenes, moderators organised shout-outs to enthusiastic schools and pupils and responded to 16,000 live chat comments. Our experts also provided a complete support package of high-quality resources.

In time for the third lockdown, FSC also broadcast #PrimaryNatureLive sessions to cater for the needs of our primary learners. These sessions were gratefully received by our learners, teachers and parents in need of inspiration and fun ways to engage with study and nature.

