



**Field Studies  
Council**

**Our Impact:**

**How the charity makes a difference**

**Look a  
little closer  
at wildlife**



**Discover  
adventure in  
learning**

# Contents

3	Introduction
5	Primary Residential
6	Secondary Residential
7	University Fieldwork
9	Day Trips
11	Digital Resources
13	Biodiversity
15	Youth Council
16	Young Darwin Scholarship
17	Publications
19	Leisure
20	Advocacy
22	Financial Support

Projects:	
25	BioLinks
26	Generation Green
27	The Green Influencer
28	Forgotten Places
30	Our Bright Future
32	Nature Friendly Schools
34	Cumbria Holiday Programme
35	Our Staff
37	Our Future Staff
38	Our Environment
40	Our Legacy





# New learners. New impacts.

In the first academic year without Covid restrictions, we engaged with 121,000 people for both learning and leisure courses with Field Studies Council.

Thousands more people discovered nature for the first time using our wildlife guides where they live and work.

This report showcases how the Field Studies Council works with our learners and partners to deliver large scale impact for people most in need. From beginners to professionals.

This includes our rapidly expanding online communities who accessed our new training courses and digital resources.

I'm proud of how our talented staff have adapted so quickly to new challenges. Together, we've worked with funders, partners, and donors to create and try new ways of reaching people from across the UK.

Independent evaluation and powerful stories tell us, again and again, how valuable and valued the experiences we offer are for learning and improved health and wellbeing.

Mark Castle OBE, FRSA, Chief Executive

From September 2021 to August 2022, over **103,000 learners** from schools, colleges and universities joined us for outdoor learning at our day and residential field centres.

In 2022:

Over **13,000 adults** trained in applied biodiversity skills online and in person at our centres and at 22 partner locations.

Over **142,000 wildlife guides** used by volunteer recorders, families and professionals.

# Explore, discover and learn

We welcome people of all ages and abilities to stay and study at our network of centres across England, Wales and Scotland.

They tell us there's no substitute for first-hand experiences in nature. Our charity gives learners a special opportunity to see and explore natural landscapes for themselves.

We see time and time again how hands-on practical activities in the outdoors bring a subject to life and create vivid memories which last. There is nothing like seeing it for yourself.

*"The focused time over 4 days is hugely important for us. We tried delivery at school in the past but on a residential there is no daily absence and sessions run seamlessly between each other – minds are 'on the job' hour by hour with little distraction or need to recap between sessions." Teacher*



# The big impact of a residential: independence, confidence and self-esteem

For our younger visitors, residential can be a first time away from home. After the isolation of the pandemic, a stay at our centres offers both time and space in which to reconnect with peers and teachers.

Significant contact time also allows teachers get to know their students better too, with the impact seen in learners being less worried about making mistakes or asking for help.

Being away from the usual classroom environment can help those learners who struggle indoors re-engage with the learning process outdoors.

Sharing new experiences, space, mealtimes and overcoming challenges together on our Eco Adventure courses all build personal and social skills.

Teachers and parents report improvements in independence, self-confidence and self-esteem, qualities that suffered during the pandemic.

We saw the true impact of our residential on overall health and wellbeing when Covid restrictions finally lifted and we were able to welcome a group from a deprived urban primary school to the Lake District.

Their teacher reported, "It had opened their eyes to a world outside to explore and enjoy. The opportunity to see a way of living without TV and the internet, to let their brains breathe. It was a new experience for most pupils."

*"The students live in inner-city areas and for the vast majority this was the first time they had set foot in the countryside. One asked me what 'wellies' were."*

*Teacher*

*"I have never been so far away from home but I enjoyed it and I love the fresh air".*

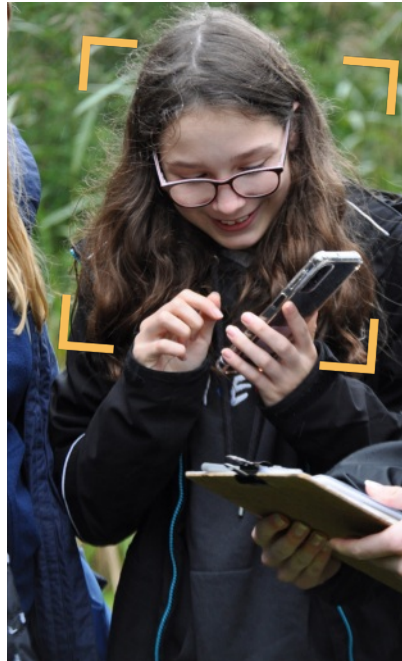
*Student*

# Developing knowledge, skills and great memories

Residential experiences provide time and opportunity to study in greater breadth, integrating classroom and real world knowledge across a number of curriculum subjects.

There is not a subject on the curriculum that can't be enhanced by outdoor learning.

The impact of an exciting residential where learners can see and experience nature for themselves can help fix it in the memory and recall it in exams. There's no substitute for experiencing the scale of a glaciated landscape, or watching wildlife first hand.



*"Many aspects of the visit are alien to our students at first and seem a little daunting to them, but as the week progressed, they became more self-sufficient, and this is incredibly rewarding to witness."*

*Teacher*

*"When we were on the field trip, we did maths, English and science, but it was like we didn't realise we were doing it."*

*Learner on a residential*

*"Our students often fail to understand the terms "woodland" or "hay" during lessons, due to lack of exposure to countryside environments. The cultural capital we gain from field trips is immense."*

*Teacher*

# First hand STEM in the real, unpredictable, natural world

For our older learners on curriculum subject courses, a residential provides time for uninterrupted in-depth study.

Our residential provide the time needed to develop practical and technical abilities, outdoor ecology and geographical skills. There is thinking time to design and redesign experiments. An outdoor learning residential offers the opportunity for learners to get to grips with all sorts of new equipment and learn how to use it in an outdoor setting rather than in a laboratory.

Learners experience and learn to adapt to the real, unpredictable world and the complexities of dealing with the messy data that results.

For those looking at careers in conservation, ecology, and bioengineering solutions, what better way to integrate learning in the laboratory and natural world conditions?

From fully reopening in Sept 2021 to Aug 2022, we welcomed 1,382 residential education bookings for 44,599 learners from primary schools pupils to post graduates.









# Short of time? We're here for you.

We delivered over 1,500 day and outreach courses to over 58,000 learners from pre-school to post graduate level between September 2021 and August 2022.

The charity offers lower cost, local day courses making a big range of subjects more accessible to a wider audience.

From early years bug hunts to undergraduate studies or from entry level courses for the mildly curious to professional specialist qualifications, we can pack a lot into one day.

We run these courses at our specialist centres or interesting locations near where learners live.

## **EYS Primary**

Day visits can be ideal for younger learners who come

to enjoy a busy day of outdoor activity and eco adventures.

The day can be the start of a progression of outdoor learning experiences that can be built upon throughout their time in education. It's also a useful introduction to using outdoor learning across the curriculum for teachers too.

## **Secondary**

Residentials are not always possible or practical, but our day courses still allow for study in a range of natural environments. There is time to develop fieldwork and geographical skills, experience

nature first hand, and enjoy a day out of the classroom.

GCSE Rivers and A level Biology and Geography are very popular day courses. For those undertaking independent investigations, a gap between visits can embed learning between developing fieldskills and data collection but also give time to think about developing their research question.

We lead courses in fast changing urban areas too where learners explore and interpret London or Birmingham's regeneration areas.



## London and The Royal Parks

Our close partnership with The Royal Parks in London extends our ability to offer a range of courses in exciting built up and natural habitats, but within easy reach of tube and train stations.

Field Studies Council is the learning partner for the Royal Parks £8m Greenwich Park Revealed Project. Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery Community Fund, the project will reveal, restore, protect, and share the historic landscape, biodiversity and stories of Greenwich Park

A new partnership with the London Borough of Lewisham delivers outdoor learning in Beckenham Place Park. It was one of our first places to resume lessons in the park after lockdown.

## Birmingham

Our urban fieldwork days explore some inspiring well known textbook locations in the Second City including Perry Barr – location of the Commonwealth Games 2022 - and The Bullring.

We offer courses tailored to enhance students' fieldwork skills in fully accessible teaching sites.

# Digital Resources: Enhancing learner experiences

Digital enhances the hands-on experiences of fieldwork and outdoor learning. We offer both free and subscription options.

The impact of digital resources helps learners make the most of their time in the field. Resources for preparation beforehand can

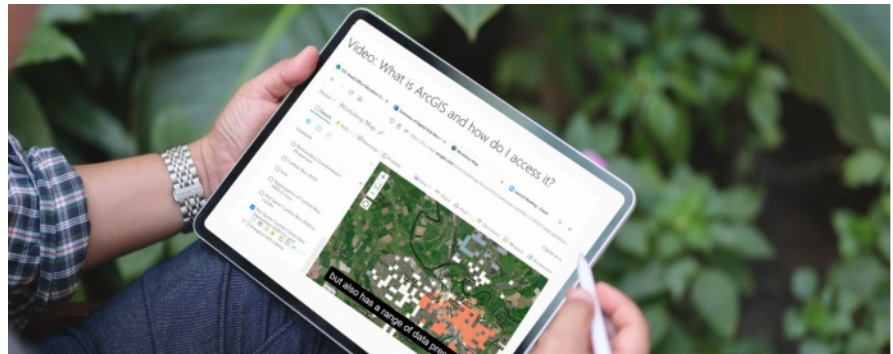
help explain what to expect, or explore fieldwork skills.

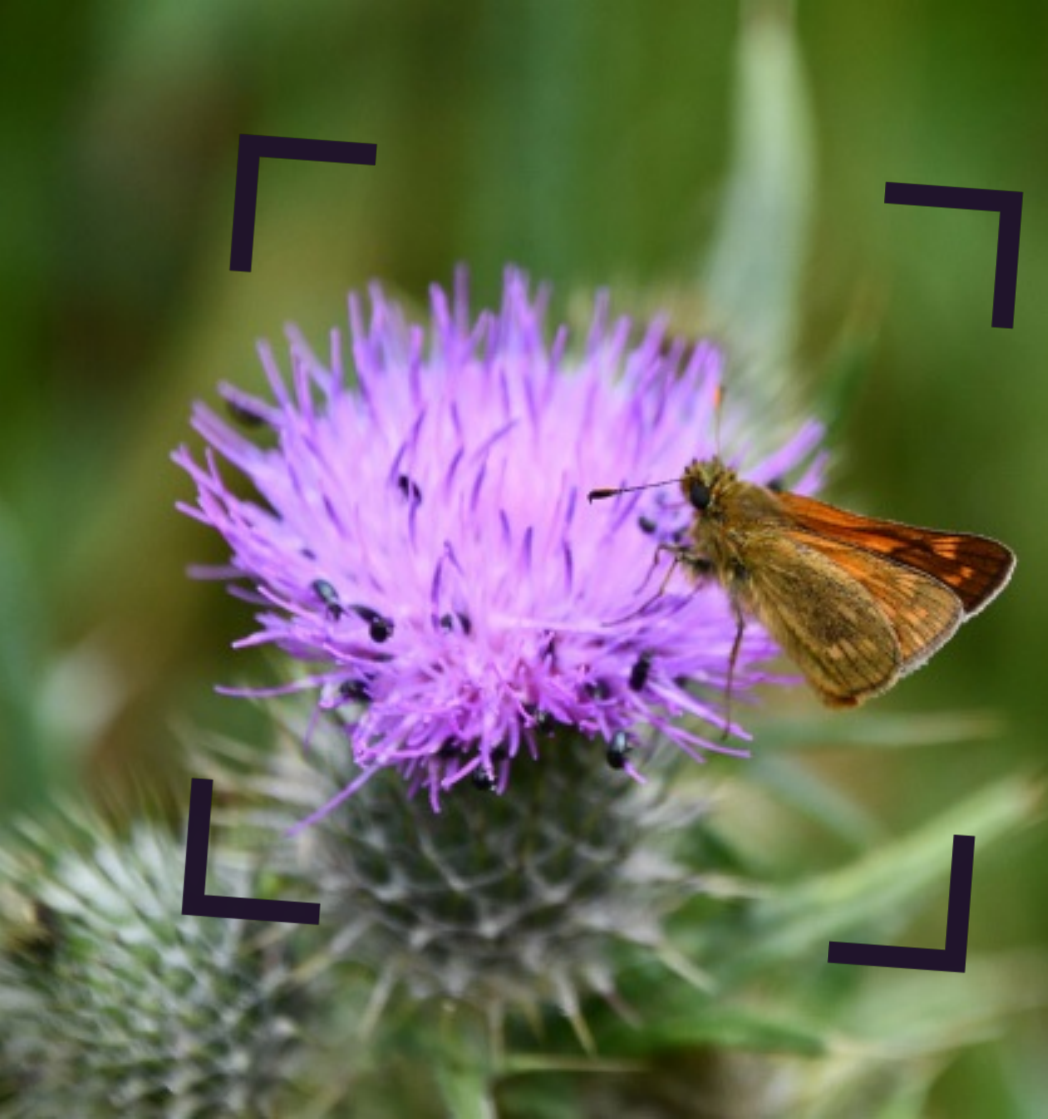
Resources for follow up and reflection after the fieldtrip can further consolidate what has been learned.

*"This saved me time and helped my students progress with their understanding of fieldwork skills." Teacher*

Our Digital Hub offers teachers accessible and student-friendly resources for all fieldwork topics required for the main exam boards in 14-18 geography and 16-18 biology. It also includes knowledge enhancement and fieldwork skills courses.

The free resources pages for students and teachers on our website were visited over **500,000 times** in 2022.





From over 1,000 reviews, our Biodiversity Courses received an average rating of 4.5/5 for usefulness.

In 2022:

- Our biodiversity team ran courses which trained **2,704 people online** and **1,950 in person.**
- We delivered courses at the charity's centres and 22 partner locations.
- We have 60 learning frameworks available to engage and progress learners.



## Adult biodiversity training takes off



Thousands of adults have learnt practical biodiversity skills through our training courses.

We've launched learning pathways to help wildlife enthusiasts, gardeners, professionals, and young people seeking green careers.

Our charity is unique in its role to unite different learners who survey and care for biodiversity upon which we all depend. Natural environments are therefore being protected and enhanced by a network of Field Studies Council trained people.

This year, we've doubled investment in our national networks of tutors, learners, and partners to deliver 300 accessible training courses over 25 subjects and habitats.

*"Good combination of very accessible, knowledgeable tutor providing supportive classroom and field work"*  
Identifying Lichens Attendee Feb 2022

*"I really enjoyed learning so many new things with each section - I really was impressed with the amount of information given."*  
Discovering UK Seals Attendee July 2022



*"I wouldn't have chosen to study biology at university or have the job I do today without the Field Studies Council. Joining the Youth Council is now a fantastic opportunity to ensure that other young people can have access to the same positive experiences that I have."  
Youth Council Member*



# How we embed youth voices

Young people's voices are now integral to environmental issues, as are their demands for more outdoor learning.

Many are keen to pursue their passion for the planet and turn it into a full time career, using their skills to combat climate change and biodiversity loss.

Field Studies Council ensures all young people can increase their environmental knowledge and connect more with nature.

We help broaden horizons and show what they could do with their knowledge and passion for the natural world.

We have heard their calls and have set up training pathways and experiences not easily gained elsewhere.

Our popular courses for young people focus on areas which help inform future study and career choices such as marine science, geology, conservation, and sustainability. Many courses are also eligible for Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

## Youth Council

In 2021 we set up our Youth Council to hear directly from young people. It changes them from just being consumers of our products to being co-creators.

They currently meet monthly where they act as a sounding board to ensure that what we offer is relevant for their age group, study plans and career aspirations.

Our council members benefit from shaping a national charity, learning career skills and making contacts. Our charity benefits from the insight of 12 young people.



# Calling passionate young people...

"I thought I was alone" is a common statement we hear from young people awarded a Young Darwin Scholarship from the Field Studies Council.

Our charity has brought together people with a passion for a natural history, but who need support and friends to follow their dream.

Our impact is shown from the majority of scholars who go on to study biodiversity and have related careers because of the training and mentoring they receive from the Field Studies Council.

This year, we have increased and diversified our Young Darwin community by focusing on new locations, neuro-diversity, ethnicity and taxonomic interests .

We are grateful to the Youth Council and past scholars who have shaped and helped deliver our charity's unique approach.

→ 75 new scholars in 2022.

150 scholars supported through continued training, mentors, and introductions .

\* 100% of scholars left with a greater understanding of what environmental pathways they could follow.

Over 30% of the scholars could not have afforded the experience without a subsidy from our charity.

*"It was great to just be my whole self and interact with young people with similar interests and passions to me and learn new things together"*  
Scholar

*"I came not knowing much about practical field studies and left feeling like there was a future in this industry for me"*  
Scholar





142,000 guides used by volunteer recorders, families and professionals in 2022.

200 shops spark nature curiosity by selling our WildID guides.

Our guides are rated 4.5/5.0 by thousands of reviewers.

12 bespoke partnership projects to create and distribute guides.

Five new guides launched in 2022, including: AIDGAP Guide to adult caddis, park and garden birds, jellyfish and allies, harvestmen and marine gastropods.



## We're expanding

It's fun to be able to identify the plants, wildlife and fungi living in our gardens, local parks and on our favourite walks. It's another way to increase our wellbeing through connection to nature.

We also need people who can identify wildlife to monitor and then protect our country's biodiversity.

That's why the Field Studies Council has expanded our role as a leading publisher of accessible wildlife identification guides.

We collaborate with volunteer recorders, families and professionals to ensure that we provide what they need.

This year, we've run national campaigns to connect thousands of people to nature in a meaningful way where they haven't before.

We've also published advanced 'AIDGAP' guides to enable professionals to contribute to conservation projects across the country.

*"They are certainly lovely! I buy an FSC guide for a family member every Christmas"*  
Wildlife enthusiast

*"We've used your wildlife fold-out guides for many years at the zoo and at the wildlife park, and we absolutely love them!"*  
Trade customer

**Please help spread the word**  
If your favourite high street shop isn't yet stocking WildID guides from the Field Studies Council, please let us know. Email [publications@field-studies-council.org](mailto:publications@field-studies-council.org) and we'll send them a free starter pack.

## And relax...

Our leisure courses allow people to connect with nature through a varied range of activities including arts, crafts and walking.

During the pandemic it was fantastic to be able to offer low cost UK holidays at our centres.

We have continued to use our centres for wildlife-themed, active family holidays, and group bookings.

Our centres offer a great base for discovering the outdoors together with plenty of space to explore and enjoy the natural world.

From bushcraft to basket weaving, photography to painting you can visit us and find new ways to connect to nature.

*"I attended a family weekend. Everything from the activities to the food was excellent and amazing value for money. We made dens, set humane mammal traps, made natural art, had a campfire, went for a night-time walk, learned how to read maps and went river-dipping. I'd book another weekend break like this in a heartbeat!"*  
Leisure guest



55 families enjoyed our unique and beautiful locations.

Our leisure programme had **over 130 courses** in 2022. They encompassed creative courses, walking and nature experiences, and family holidays.



## Influencing decision makers

Through our UK wide advocacy we make a case for the positive impact of access to nature, outdoor learning and fieldwork residentials.

We campaign and work with likeminded organisations to engage stakeholders and policy makers, showing just what a valuable multipurpose tool outdoor learning can be in tackling a range of pressing policy concerns: education attainment and engagement across the curriculum, improving mental and physical health and wellbeing, developing much needed technical and scientific knowledge and skills.

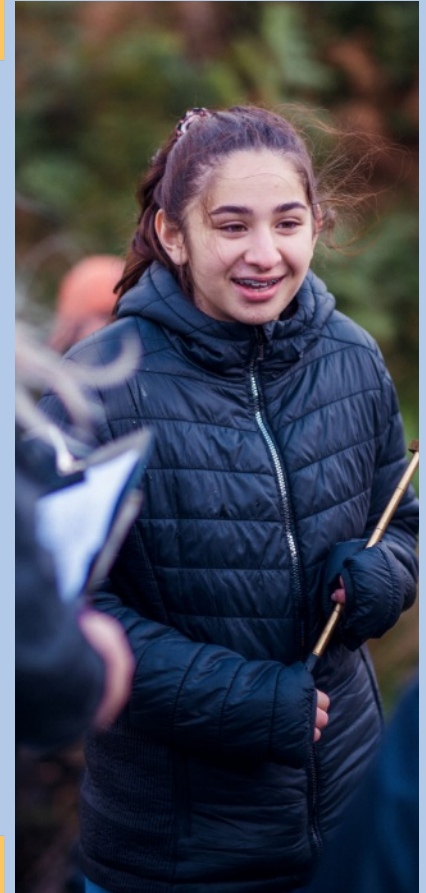
After being involved with the campaign for a GCSE in Natural History for many years, it's now been approved. But there is always more to do. High quality outdoor learning is not guaranteed for everyone and some will miss out due to the cost of living crisis. We are working to change that through both our advocacy and charitable work.

*"We continue to champion high quality outdoor learning for everyone, not just those who can afford it." Mark Castle, CEO*

37 Members of the Westminster, Scottish and Welsh Parliaments have a Field Studies Council Centre in their constituency.

Recently we have focused on:

- The co-construction process for the new Curriculum for Wales
  - Supporting the proposal for every Scottish and Welsh schoolchild to experience an outdoor residential
  - Engaging with the Department for Education and ministers over the Nature Park and Climate Leaders Award
- Improving access to nature for everyone, from their own doorsteps to exploring our national landscapes
  - Making access and connection to nature a central part of England's national Health and Wellbeing Plan.
  - Working to secure funding streams whether through the Heritage Lottery Fund or the Dormant Assets Fund.
  - Scotland's Let's Talk Education - Our National Discussion





# Widening access, increasing opportunities

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The benefits of environmental education in the outdoors should be experienced by everyone. So it's upsetting that many people face barriers to taking part in Field Studies Council's activities or even accessing digital learning opportunities or wildlife guides.

Often these barriers are financial and sometimes people need additional support. Every year, the requests for support we receive far exceed our charitable funds. Even more so since the cost of living crisis has come close on the heels of the pandemic.

**Discounts:** We give money off selected training courses and bundles of our famous wildlife ID guides. Look out for codes and offers online.

**Subsidies:** Like a discount, but larger and tailored to help specific audiences, especially younger adults, and to help access for specific taxa. Look out for codes and offers online.

**Grants:** We give grants to help school groups visit Field Studies Council centres for inspiring experiences. This is an application process and reduces the cost of a visit.

**Scholarships:** We enrol Young Darwinians on long term training and mentoring to follow their dreams to understand and protect the natural environment. This is an application process.

**Placements:** We fund interns to learn skills on the job across our teams, especially education skills. This is an application process organised as paid vacancies.



During 2022 we responded to increased demand by introducing a simplified Grants for School application process and offering help for three years, not one. This is to allow schools to embed outdoor learning more fully. Our new Grants for Schools offer increases access for more people, but it was still **oversubscribed by four-fold.**

*"These young people have high aspirations but have little experience of the countryside, and language of the countryside. These children often face disadvantages when trying to answer questions which require understanding of the language of ecology, finding find it hard to differentiate between hedgerows and hedgehogs."*  
Grants for School Applicant

*"The cultural capital we gain from field trips is immense ...but with the cost of living crisis...we are unable to fund this residential anymore."*  
Grants for School Applicant

# Please help disadvantaged people study the natural environment

Most grants and scholarships from the Field Studies Council rely on donations from generous individuals and families.

Our charity is oversubscribed four-fold when we offer support for disadvantaged children and young adults struggling to find their way. This is increasing as cost of living increases.

We urgently need donations to meet demand for support from children and adults in need. If you're able, please donate to Field Studies Council.



CELEBRATING  
80 years  
OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

Recent donations  
have funded:  
33 grants to schools  
75 scholarships

Donate £10 to create memories by giving a family in need a wildlife ID guide.

Donate £30 to give a child their first visit to the countryside.

Donate £50 to help save nature by educating young people about threatened habitat.

[www.field-studies-council.org/donate](http://www.field-studies-council.org/donate)



# Transforming understanding and practice

The Field Studies Council has made invertebrate training accessible and relevant to new audiences through our Biolinks project.

Biolinks is playing a nationally important role by filling both a data and a skills gap.

For five years, we've shone a spotlight on spiders, millipedes, slugs, and 20 other taxa where the UK is skill and data deficient.

By transforming biological records, wider society and government has the data to understand biodiversity, how it is changing and what can be done to protect and restore it.

Biolinks provided learning pathways from the introductory level to those for a career in biodiversity or regularly volunteering in biological recording. New tutors have also been developed.

We did it by offering both online and in person courses, thus broadening access.

The Field Studies Council is now committed to continuing Biolinks courses after their current funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund ends in January 2023. If you would like to support future Biolinks courses, please contact our charity.

*"The Biolinks project has been, in our view, extremely successful and highly beneficial...It has certainly motivated us to submit records which we would not have had the confidence to do without the training the project has provided." BioLinks Learner*



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**

Biolinks has delivered in-person training for over 6,200 adults and online training for more than 16,800.

Course **rated 4.8/5** for usefulness.

**99% would recommend** Field Studies Council training.

# We believe in environmental understanding for all

That's why we were so excited to co-deliver the Generation Green programme to engage young people with little experience of green issues or skills.

As part of this £2.5million DEFRA funded programme, the Field Studies Council offered opportunities to invite young people to get started in green study and careers.

We co-delivered Generation Green as part of our charity's role with the Access Unlimited coalition with the Youth Hostel Association, Outward Bound

Trust, Girl Guides, Scouts and National Parks.

The programme exceeded expectations by reaching 115,000 young people in just 16 months.



Green Recovery Challenge Fund



## Our role in Generation Green

**1,000** young people given biodiversity career training through course subsidies.

**955** school children learnt fieldwork skills through school visits not possible without subsidies.

**5,000** young people took their first step into natural history using a special bundle of our WildID guides.

**Over 5,000** children and young people attended virtual field trips to build their confidence to access nature.

1 paid intern taught how to create and curate biodiversity courses and publications.

# The Green Influencer Project, Birmingham



We helped young people become influencers and take action in their community and education setting. Our project, led by one of our senior tutors, worked with 11-14 year olds in Birmingham.

A lively secondary school raised awareness of plastic pollution and then how to reduce it. The green influencers created art for an exhibition on plastic waste on their school's Earth Day, hosted a litter pick and persuaded their school leaders to change their waste collection company to offer more recycling options.



The Green Influencers Scheme is funded by the Ernest Cook Trust.

We are one of 37 organisations working with 40 green mentors across the UK.

*"At a community special school, year 7 and 8 students created a pollinator garden and green wall out of old pallets. They used a laser cutter to create signage explaining the importance of pollinators."  
Pip Wilson, Senior Tutor*

## Working in Forgotten Places

We've transformed how 13,000 people engage with trees in seven coastal towns with low tree canopy cover, including Portsmouth, Brighton and Hull.

The Field Studies Council worked with communities with little knowledge of trees to co-design and distribute identification guides and deliver bespoke training online and in-person.

Evaluation shows huge increases in knowledge in trees for the people involved, plus related actions to protect new and existing trees.

We focused on tree identification, tree care, pest and disease, and tree-related volunteer and career roles.

We focused on towns and cities where the Field Studies Council doesn't currently operate, so our charity has helped reach new audiences.

The Field Studies Council worked with the tree planting charity, Trees for Cities, who led the Forgotten Places project. Trees for Cities also delivered popular volunteer planting days to transform community skills and tree populations where needed most.

The project is expanding to Glasgow and Bradford and we're looking for other locations.

*"I have always enjoyed going for walks with my dog, but now I study the trees on my walks and try to identify them. I look for buds and flowers and fruit, I look for disease and I try to estimate how old the tree is by looking at the bark."  
New tree enthusiast*

*"Sometimes you don't know what you don't know. This course was a real eye-opener."  
New tree enthusiast*



**3 new tree guides** co-designed and tested with new audiences.

**510 youth and community groups** using tree guides from Field Studies Council.

**13,065 people** using our tree guides; 93% couldn't identify 10 tree species before our help.

**545 people trained** in 21 new training courses in new locations and online.

# A brighter future for young people

The Field Studies Council was a partner in a national project, Our Bright Futures, which engaged 128,000 young people across a portfolio of projects.

Young people were able to lead change and improve their environment. They were empowered to shape and influence change in their local environment and gain new skills. The projects provided employment, volunteering and training opportunities.

Field Studies Council delivered three projects in partnership with others.

- 1. Vision England project** supporting 700 young people with visual impairment and sight loss to use residentials in the natural environment to build independent living skills and self-confidence.
- 2. The Growing Confidence project** in Shropshire built environmental career skills and confidence in young people through exploring wildlife and wild places.
- 3. Green Futures** in Yorkshire developed young people's wellbeing and life skills, particularly the annual

Youth Environment Summit, organised and delivered by young people.

Our Bright Future has been a six year programme funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

*"I will definitely say that I will be giving everything a go because I pushed myself... and I persevered."*  
Project participant





*"Our Bright Future has demonstrated that engaging young people in the environment and conservation has created benefits ...participants were consistently found to be more confident, skilled, happier and able to find work through their participation in the programme."*  
Our Bright Future programme (National Lottery Community Fund) final evaluation report.



In 2022, we launched a new project with Our Bright Futures to increase the diversity of those taking part in our charity's Young Darwin's Scholarship.

We changed the language, imagery, marketing materials and the application process. The results were immediate. We had a 20% increase in scholars from underrepresented groups: those from an ethnic minority, low socio-economic backgrounds, and those who identify as being neurodiverse.

# Helping disadvantaged schools

The Field Studies Council pioneered and ran activities to transform how disadvantaged schools can use high quality activities in natural environments to improve mental health, wellbeing, and a learner's engagement with school.

We were part of Nature Friendly Schools, and after all the learning lost during pandemic, this work was particularly timely.

Between Summer 2019 and March 2022, more than 20 Field Studies Council staff worked with 188 primary, secondary, special schools, and alternative

provision institutions across England, many located in disadvantaged areas. We hosted fully funded residentials, developed and delivered training materials, gave tailored support, and shared wildlife guides with all participants.

Led by The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and supported by YoungMinds, Groundwork UK and the Sensory Trust, the Nature Friendly Schools project was funded by DEFRA and the Department of Education and supported by Natural England. Building on what we learned, we are developing a teacher training legacy project.





Hosted **33 fully funded residentials** across 6 locations for over 1,000 children and young people.

Developed training resources to introduce over **1,000 teachers** to outdoor learning.

Delivered **28 live webinars** to over 400 school staff, boosting their confidence to deliver outdoor learning.

Posted over **8,500** Field Studies Council fold-out wildlife guides to school taking part in the project.

Provided tailored support to 45 schools identified as needing additional support and project resources.

*"I benefitted from experienced staff who demonstrated that an outdoor learning experience could be generated from anything and anywhere. This definitely gave me more confidence to do the same."*  
Teacher

*"I found out how courageous I could be."*  
School child

*"I liked that we can be away together after such a long time not being allowed to do that."*  
School child

*"I learnt that there are many creatures living in the stream."*  
School child

*"As a shared experience the residential has had a really positive impact on individuals' behaviour and relationships."*  
Teacher

*"My office now resembles an outdoor store rather than a traditional headteachers office!"*  
Teacher

*"I discovered how to listen to people."*  
School child

*"Pupils have become significantly more risk adverse since the pandemic... a residential had a positive impact on the pupil's resilience."* Teacher



# Cumbria Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Over 16 days of the 2022 summer holidays, local children aged 8-16 visited the Field Studies Council for outdoor adventure, environmental and craft activities. Plus a hot, healthy lunch.

Staff at our Blencathra centre filled days with physical activities including ghyll scrambling, mountain walks, orienteering, climbing, geocaching, investigating rivers, bushcraft, team games, BioBlitz, practical conservation, berry picking, outdoor cooking, and the big nature art display. It was busy!

Most children who came were eligible for free school meals, some had special needs, and others had never had the chance to explore the countryside on their doorstep.

The children themselves reported the impact: being more active, learning new skills, they felt more positive about themselves and felt less isolated.

The Government's Holiday Activity and Food Programme was delivered with Cumbria County Council.

*"The children learnt a great number of new things ...we put an emphasis on our courses of outdoor, environmental and cross curricular studies. Sampling in St John's Beck to find freshwater invertebrates, as well as learning about river velocity by having mini raft races downstream."*

*Pippa Cowley, Field Studies Council Tutor*

410 daily places were filled with 132 individual children over the over the course of the programme.

**93%** of the children felt **positive** and **happy** after the week with Field Studies Council.

100% of parents reported that their child had enjoyed the healthy food at our centre.

# Our talented people

Delivering the charitable mission of the Field Studies Council relies on a team of talented staff working across the UK, at our centres, in head office and from home.

Our charity blends front of house teams to welcome guests online and in-person: center managers, tutors, administrators, hospitality, caterers and maintenance technicians.

They are joined by other specialists: course curators, publishers, marketers, accountants, people experts, property managers and a customer focused sales team.



*Staff at Millport*

We pride ourselves on having highly trained staff to make sure our learners have the best possible experience with us and we continue our excellent health and safety record.

Our staff attended 900 training courses in 12 months to help our visitors engage with nature safely during their time with us.



We train staff in safety, first aid, risk management and safeguarding. Plus specialist courses such as water safety or being a mountain leader.

We're reaching new and more diverse staff after we simplified our application process and broadened our advertisers. Equality, diversity and inclusion training for staff and trustees has also been a focus.

We've signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant. This brings benefits to military veterans and our charity as the veterans apply to use their skills in a new context.

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**<sup>®</sup>  
We invest in people Standard

## Training the next generation

Young people have found structured career pathways into environmental or education work thanks to Field Studies Council.

We like to grow our own talent, too, and many of those we train find full time work with us. For example:

- We offer one year long higher education placements for those studying disciplines such as Geography, Biology, Ecology, Environmental Science or Education. They learn first-hand what it's like to work in an outdoor residential centre.
- Our Trainee Tutors scheme includes a Level 3 Outdoor Instructor Apprenticeship. 21 people have been recruited and many now work for us as tutors.
- We coach and support biodiversity tutors delivering courses online and in person for young and adults.
- We offer apprenticeships in other essential professions, including marketing, hospitality and catering.

*"Apprenticeship with Field Studies Council was a big turning point in my career path. After graduating university, and over a year of fruitlessly applying for jobs in the environmental sector, I finally had my foot in the door."  
Apprentice*

### **52 higher education**

**placement** students in three years – each co-teaching groups, conducting scientific investigations, running community events, developing grant applications, and taking biodiversity surveys.

**21 apprentices** in two years - each trained in outdoor learning, from first aid to being a mountain leader.

**190 associate tutors** create and deliver biodiversity courses online and in-person, young people and adults.

Help us  
protect our  
planet



## Working for the environment

Over the last decade we have pioneered significant carbon reduction and improved biodiversity across the charity's complex estate and operations.

We have since declared a climate emergency and set ourselves a new challenge of net zero emissions by 2030. We will be sharing this journey with our learners, our partners, our funders, and our staff.

Our ambitious plan involves:

- A new and detailed carbon management system.
- Investing in reducing carbon emissions across the charity, prioritising actions with the most impact.
- Developing Nature Recovery Plans for our centres so that they can maximise their biodiversity and ability to store carbon.
- LED lighting upgrade programme at centres.
- Streamlined food purchasing to improve traceability and sustainability.
- Champion and showcase sustainability with our visitors, aiming to practice what we teach.
- Embedding the new role of Sustainability Coordinators to enable increased staff engagement.

### At our centres

Our Location Based Reporting showed that we achieved a **carbon reduction of 65%** between 2011 and 2020.

We manage around 300 hectares and also look after:

- The National Nature Reserve at Slapton.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- Veteran and ancient trees.
- Habitats for favourite mammals including hedgehogs otters and red squirrels.
- Eight species of bat, rare invertebrates, plants and birds including Spotted Flycatchers and the Ring Ouzel.



*"Species in our care include many identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. We take this responsibility seriously"*  
*Philip Turvil, Eco-Business Director, Field Studies Council*

# Leaving a legacy

In our 80th anniversary year, we reflect on the pioneering work of our founders. We celebrate the ongoing legacy of our early members of staff – some of whom are pictured on the right.

We continue to receive bequests from those who want others to experience the profound and sometimes life changing impact of a field trip and connecting with nature. We are very grateful for the support of our charity.

Would you too consider leaving a legacy to the Field Studies Council?



*The six wardens with Geoffrey Hutchings - a group taken at a stop on the coach trip round The Weald, during the Staff Conference held at Juniper Hall, November 1961.  
Left to right: John Sankey, Charles Sinker, Ian Mercer, Jim Bingley, John Barrett, Paul Holmes, Geoffrey Hutchings.*





# Field Studies Council

## Explore Discover Learn

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Our centres

