



Geography and Fieldwork – Teacher professional learning

Friday 3rd October (evening)

To Sunday 5th October (afternoon)



FSC Scotland has a long history of fieldwork at Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae and has a wealth of resources to support professional development courses. Activity is led by knowledgeable and experienced tutors, working with well-equipped and recently modernised facilities.



Overview of the course

This weekend course is aimed at Secondary teachers of Geography who want to further develop their skills to support and lead fieldwork. FSC Scotland delivers Environmental, Biology, Adventurous Activity and Geography courses for over 5000 students a year. This course builds on this expertise and aims to introduce participants to a range of different fieldwork activities which can be used with secondary school students. The weekend will cover risk assessments, safety, and planning fieldwork and organising Outdoor learning activities.



During the course we will trial and evaluate a range of different activities which can be used to support and help structure a range of outdoor learning sessions. In particular we will consider how to structure 'traditional' observational fieldwork, geographical investigations and sensory fieldwork aiming to more effectively engage students with the places they are studying and interacting with. We will also consider how effective formative assessment and technology can be incorporated into fieldwork.

Course objectives

By the end of the course participants will have:

- Trialled different fieldwork activities for Geography teachers, in a variety of environments for outdoor learning, which can be used to support Curriculum for Excellence, and National 4/5, Highers, and Advanced Highers content.
- Considered different tasks to develop students' thinking skills, help assess learning in the field and ideas which can be used in school grounds (including OPAL activities).
- Carried out a risk assessment for an outdoor education activity, know the steps needed to carry out a risk assessment and have considered key ingredients of safe fieldwork practice.

Start and finish times

Participants are requested to arrive on the first day of the course (Friday 3rd October) at the office reception before 5.30pm. Supper will be between 6pm and 7pm. An introductory talk will follow. Breakfast will be between 7.45-8.45am. The course will end on 2pm on the last day (Sunday 5th October).

Overnight accommodation at the Centre's hostel is provided.

Course tutor information

FSC Millport staff will lead the fieldwork activities each day. Education Scotland staff from the Social Studies team will be supporting the event.

Draft timetable

Friday Evening	<p>Dinner is at 6pm</p> <p>Welcome, an introduction to the course, and then we will explore the benefits and challenges of out of the classroom learning. We will also introduce different 'types' of fieldwork to provide a framework for the course.</p>
Saturday <i>Coastal & tourism/ community fieldwork</i>	<p>The first part of the day will focus on possible coastal fieldwork techniques, including ways to engage students with physical processes and landforms, followed by investigating coastal defences and flood risk in a coastal environment.</p> <p>We will then visit the town of Millport and consider possible fieldwork options in this tourist honeypot, trialling both qualitative and quantitative fieldwork techniques which can be used with students.</p> <p>In the evening there will be a focus on Health and Safety issues and how to carry out a Risk Assessment.</p>
Sunday <i>School grounds & River fieldwork</i>	<p>We will trial a range of techniques which can be used in school grounds, including OPAL resources (which are free to schools) and activities to investigate different elements of the hydrological cycle and drainage basin flood management.</p> <p>We will then head off the island to a nearby river above Largs and go through how to undertake a traditional river fieldwork investigation focusing on downstream change (measuring variables such as water velocity, river dimensions, bedload size and shape and gradient) and go through possible ways to structure river fieldwork with students.</p>

What is included?

- Hours of expert tuition a day with fully trained staff.
- Full board accommodation including a cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, homemade cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary options are available.
- Use of resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds.
- Transport to all field sites, where required, during the course.
- Rigorous and proven health and safety procedures including 24 hour emergency cover.
- Access to risk assessments.
- Specialist equipment and exclusive access to specially developed resources.
- E-mail support before and after the course (on request).

Education Scotland will cover the cost of the course fee, accommodation and food in Millport. Travel to Millport is the responsibility of the participant.

What to Bring

- (Old) Warm clothes - we may get muddy and wet.
- Waterproof top, waterproof trousers, a comfortable day sack, gloves & hat (can be borrowed from the Centre).
- Lunch box, water bottle and flask.
- Walking boots and wellies (can be borrowed from the Centre)
- A computer memory stick to take pictures and resources away

Why Come to FSC Scotland?

Some of the most common reasons which our customers give for coming to our Field Centres are:

- Our centres stunning situations, either overlooking the Clyde at FSC Millport, or in the heart of the Highlands at FSC Kindrogan.
- FSC Millport is easily accessible for travel. Millport is 8 minutes by ferry from Largs, so can be easily reached by public transport and train from Glasgow.
- Expert tuition from our tutors who have a passion for the environment and are knowledgeable ecologists and geographers.
- A friendly, welcoming place to visit, with hearty meals and clean and comfortable rooms.
- A unique blend of local habitats and environments to visit. Both **coasts** with craggy cliffs and rocky shores



Quality Tuition

The tutor delivering the content plays a vital role in ensuring successful learning outcomes are achieved.

This is why we have taken great care in developing a qualified team of highly trained and PGV checked field teachers working full time, all year round.

Not only are they experts, they are gifted teachers with a real passion for the subject being taught. FSC field teachers are the reason why many schools return

Quality Badge awarded by



External Recognition of Quality

Our Centres have been awarded the Quality Badge by The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. The badge is awarded to organisations that have demonstrated that they consistently deliver high quality teaching and learning experiences and manage risk effectively.

Protecting Fieldwork Opportunities

Growing pressures on outdoor learning has led the FSC to take on an important role; championing the rights and opportunities for people of all ages to experience the environment at first hand.

The FSC has led in campaigns to reverse the continuing decline in fieldwork within secondary schools and to build opportunities for out-of-classroom learning. The FSC continues to work closely with the government and other partners to develop out-of-classroom learning.

As a registered charity, the FSC receives no statutory funding. It relies solely on fees charged for courses and membership. Therefore, by visiting an FSC Centre not only are you receiving a high quality educational experience for your students, you are also helping to protect fieldwork opportunities for everybody.