

Study Visits for Education Specialists & Decision Makers

Programme

Organisation	Field Studies Council
Visit Dates	25 – 31 January 2009
Visit Location	Preston Montford Field Centre, Shrewsbury, SY4 1DX, UK
Title	In Darwin's Footsteps Effective biodiversity education through the outdoor classroom
Theme	
Visit Type	Education/VET/Mixed (delete as appropriate)

DAY & DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY and LOCATION
Sunday 25 January		Arrival of participants.
	19.30	Welcome dinner.
Monday 26 January Day 1	09.30-12.30	An overview of Biodiversity education - the outdoor classroom – why is it so important? Tony Thomas will make the case for biodiversity education out of the classroom. <i>Rob Lucas – FSC Director of Operations</i>
	14.30-17.30	Policy and practise in Biodiversity Education – we will review the Biodiversity education policy in England and explore how it is delivered. <i>Andy Simpson – Education Manager, RSPB.</i>
	18.00	Discussion of the day and report writing
	19.30	Presentations on Biodiversity Education Policy and practise from participants - sessions will take place each evening.
Tuesday 27 January Day 2	09.30-12.30	Biodiversity education out of the classroom education – does it do any good? Justin managed a large project looking at research evidence for the impact of out of classroom work. <i>Justin Dillon – Kings College London</i>
	14.00	Darwin's Shrewsbury - a guided walk through Shrewsbury. Charles Darwin was born and educated in Shrewsbury and this walk will take us to the major Darwin sites in the town. Walk to start at The Mount (birth place of Charles Darwin) <i>Jon King – destination Manager for Shrewsbury County Council and a Darwin expert!</i>
	18.00	Discussion of the day and report writing

Wednesday 28 January Day 3	09.30 – 11.30	Schools and Communities – putting biodiversity to practical use The FSC manages a number of Shropshire based and national biodiversity related projects. During the afternoon we shall present these projects – not simply describing what we do but looking at the results of evaluation. <i>Pete Boardman (Project Manager) and Sue Townsend (Centre Manager Preston Montford Field Centre), and others from the FSC Team</i>
	13.30 – 17.00	Bishops Wood Environmental Education Centre – one of the first and still pioneering environmental education centres to be established in England. <i>John Rhymer – Centre Director.</i>
	18.00	Discussion of the day and report writing
Thursday 29 January Day 4	07.30	Breakfast – to leave for Worthen School
	09.00 – 11.30	Visit to Worthen Primary school to see biodiversity education in practise in a small primary school. An opportunity to observe lessons and talk to staff. We shall have lunch at the school <i>Jonathon Brough, Headteacher</i>
	12.30/ 12.45 – 16.00	Forest Schools Initiative – this is a National Initiative to get young people out into the countryside through innovative education approaches. <i>Helen Howes – Forest School Development Officer for the Small Woods Association and Co Chair of the FEI, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Forest School Cluster Group.</i>
	18.00	Discussion of the day and report writing
Friday 30 January Day 5	09.30 – 12.30	Biodiversity Education and Sustainable Futures – real ones please! Through a series of presentations and workshop activities - we will spend the morning challenging our approaches to biodiversity education arguing that our knowledge focused 'love the wonders of nature' approach will never be successful. <i>Richard Dawson – FSC Project Manager</i>
	14.00 – 16.00	Course review and report writing Richard Dawson
	19.00	Farewell Dinner
Saturday 31 January		Departure after breakfast