



sustainable development support for teachers

spring term 2005

This issue is about....

Discovering Learning Outdoors

In the last issue of Greenscene, we took a global perspective. In this issue, we focus on Outdoor Learning and introduce readers to the diverse, high quality support available.

Many opportunities exist for teachers in Norfolk to link with local providers in order to offer young people stimulating, safe and enjoyable activities. In addition to this, there is a wonderful array of biodiverse habitats on our doorstep. The Broads, coastal margins, Breckland, farmland and woodland all make up the very special character of our county. But are teachers able to make the most of these natural assets?

These environments can offer rich 'Outdoor Learning' contexts for engaging young people in different ways. Some young people are motivated by adventure, some by nature and field studies, some by sport, others may prefer gardening, conservation work or the arts.

The challenge for educators in Norfolk is to explore how we can develop and integrate varied outdoor learning experiences that will both support pupils' learning and help to fulfill school improvement plan agendas.

If young people have the time and space to explore and discover their local environments, and opportunities to appreciate their interdependence, they may be more likely to act in a way that does not harm their environment. Some may even discover contentment with a healthier, low impact lifestyle! If we can open up the 'outdoor' perspective to young people, its influence, in time, could affect the well-being of us all.

'It is better to have fewer wants than to have larger resources.' St Augustine, *'Confessions'*

For back issues of **'greenscene'** that focus on:

- raising achievement through the environment (issue 13)
 - growing minds and bodies (issue 14)
 - taking local action for 'global citizenship' (issue 15)
- go to www.norfolkesinet/envedu and follow front page links.

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Guest note

Tom Hanrahan
Educational Visits Adviser



Norfolk County Council is committed to enabling offsite visits, and Tom's role is to give guidance to schools undertaking any kind of educational visit in order to ensure high safety standards.

He supports colleagues within schools and the County Council, approves Category B visits (which include, visits abroad, residential visits, adventurous activities and visits to more hazardous environments). His main role is Health and Safety, but as practice is embedded he will be working with schools and providers to monitor 'Quality'.

For guidance on visits please contact Tom on 01603 433276.

To access online support regarding educational visits, go to: www.norfolkesinet.org.uk/envedu



Grants

REEP

(Religious Education and Environmental Programme)

Garden Awards 2004 - 2005

This is a competition for schools to design a garden reflecting spiritual and community values, and to present the design using ICT. Awards of at least £500 are available.

Closing date for entries - Friday 8 April 2005.

How to enter, entry criteria, registration, the schedule, INSET days and answers to frequently asked questions, are all on the website: www.reep.org.uk

Otherwise **tel: 0207 404 6859** or email: gardenawards@reep.org.uk

Grants from the Broads Authority Sustainable Development Fund - *for schools in the Broads area*

The Broads Authority has £200,000 to distribute to local communities and organisations; Education for Sustainability is a key area they are keen to promote.

Contact Nigel Dark, Fund Administrator to discuss project ideas, suitability for funding, and ask for an application pack. **Tel: 01379 668750.** The application form and guidance notes are also downloadable from the web:

www.broads-authority.gov.uk

Take 10 - fit for success.

A resource pack for integrating physical activity into the school day. Cost £59.50 + VAT + p&p.

Orders to: vera.anderson@devon.gov.uk

Or go to www.devon.gov.uk/online_shop

or Telephone 01392 384839.

INSET

For Primary, Middle and Special schools

22 February @ Holt Hall

Investigating Coasts, for KS2 years 5&6 teachers. A practical course dealing with all aspects of fieldwork required to complete this coastal study unit.

8 March @ Green Quay, King's Lynn
Geography, Settlement and the Environment.
Making the most of your local resources.

22 March @ Gressenhall

Science in the environment for KS2 teachers. Micro-organisms, soil and sustainability - an investigative approach.

18 May @ Sidestrand Hall

Designing and Utilising your grounds: we bring all the support together in this most inspiring location.

30 Sept @ Wells Field Study Centre

ICT - Getting Close to Nature! Develop the use of ICT in Science, Geography and Environmental Education.

To book INSET call Joy Lambert on 01553 774023 or book on-line through 'esinet'.

"Active Classrooms"

All primary schools in Norfolk have received this free pack, which provides purposeful and practical ideas for teaching PE – even if the hall is out of use! The cards link to Brain Gym activities and support the daily physical activity programme.

Call Martin Radmore (PE Adviser) on 01603 433276 or e-mail martin.radmore@norfolk.gov.uk

Go to www.suschool.org.uk for the Alternative Technology Centre's tips for making schools more sustainable.



News from Norfolk County Council

Norfolk Schools Environment Awards 2005-06

A prestigious biennial awards scheme open to all County Council-maintained schools. It aims to recognise projects that harness the creative energies of young people to bring about environmental benefits

Prizes: overall winner £1000, category winners £500

There are six categories:

**Energy/Water Food/Health Transport
Global/community citizenship
Waste* Grounds***

* 2 prizes of £500 each, one for a secondary school winner, one for a primary school winner.

Deadline for entry is 31 July 2005. Look out for a leaflet in your school. Contact Joy Lambert on 01553 774023 for an entry form or go to www.norfolkesinet.org.uk/envedu to download it.

Judging takes place in Autumn 2005.

Eco Schools Congratulations

Drayton Middle School, Norwich
Harford Manor Special School
Harleston Primary School
Sprowston Middle School, Norwich
on receiving bronze status

Mousehold First & Nursery School, Norwich
Ellingham Primary School
on receiving silver status

Special congratulations to
Ethel Tipple School
on receiving green flag status

Step Outside!

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT), Norwich 21 and Norfolk Education Advisory Services have produced a new kit for schools called "Step Outside!".

It offers teachers ideas for utilising their outdoor space for cross-curricular learning in a way that will promote biodiversity. The kit draws on 4 themes: plants, animals, habitats and people and nature to support Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 activities. It also includes a reference section on enhancing and maintaining school grounds.

The pack itself is available on-line.

Go to www.norfolkesinet.org.uk/envedu

Hard copies are available from NWT £10 + p&p, tel 01603 625540.

An opportunity not to be wasted

Schools can now visit Europe's most technologically advanced recycling centre in Costessey, Norwich, with the Schools' Waste Action Club (SWAC). The visit is FREE to schools as part of the SWAC programme, but schools will need to meet the cost of transport to and from Costessey.

To book, phone or email Martina Glason on 01603 223835, martina.glason@norfolk.gov.uk or call Jenny Craven on 01603 223829 or email jenny.craven@norfolk.gov.uk

Excellence, Innovation and Creativity days @ the Forum 15-19 March 2005

When Primary Schools show off their work to the public.

Join us on Thursday 17 March to see work themed on Biodiversity/the environment (with Sue Falch-Lovesey), from 10.00am - 3.00pm

Is your school a 'Healthy School'? For details contact Gill Seaton on 01603 433276



Resources

The new Countryside Code

Respect - Protect - Enjoy



The Countryside Code was re-launched in July 2004.

Related educational materials have been specially developed for teachers, and are available from this January 2005. They feature cartoon characters by Aardman (Wallis and Gromit) animators.

A3 and A4 colour posters, bookmarks and the new information leaflet are already available. For copies, call 0870 120 1273 (Countryside Code) or check out the website:

www.countryside.gov.uk

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eLSEE - e-Learning in Science and Environmental Education



eLSEE is a set of e-learning activities for interactive learning on the Web, based on the GLOBE Program database and website.

The activities support Geography, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and ICT in and out of school. This educational resource is free to download.

Go to www.globe-europe.org

The new Growing Schools

website is designed to support teachers in using the 'outdoor classroom' as a resource for pupils of all ages.



Intention? ... to reconnect young people with their environment - urban or rural - through the National Curriculum.

You can find information on health and safety, funding sources, published research, training, resource materials and places to visit (plus a key to services offered), news and events; also case studies on outdoor learning and school grounds development.

Teachers can search by subject or key stage, and the site will soon feature a 'schools' network' for teachers to access and contribute to local community expertise and knowledge.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools/

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Nature detectives book: environmental science for primary school children

Key stages 1&2 science

Practical initiatives for children to learn about the natural environment **by exploring outdoors** or by undertaking practical work indoors.

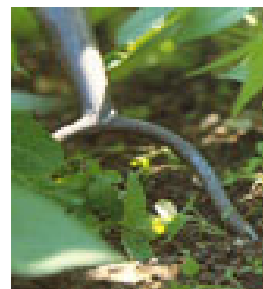
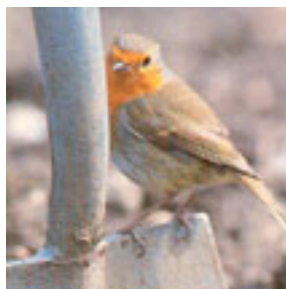
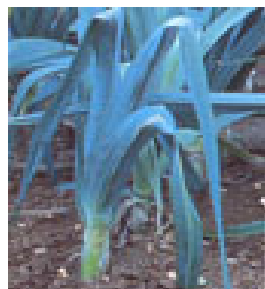
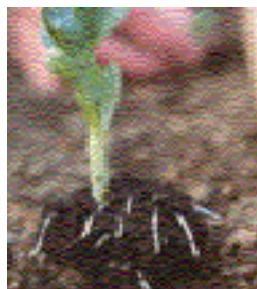
By Max de Boo, Woodland Trust/The Association for Science Education (ASE), 2004. ISBN: 0 86357 340 1, cost £12

From: ASE, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AA.

Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6LL

Web address: www.ase.org.uk

For support with school grounds development and use - visit Learning through Landscapes - www.ltl.org.uk, the national school grounds organisation.



Research on Outdoor Learning Benefits of Outdoor learning

A Review

The National Foundation for Educational Research and Kings College London produced a critical report on outdoor learning. The document 'A Review of Research on Outdoor Learning' summarises the key findings. Visit <http://www.field-studies-council.org/reports/nfer/index.aspx> to download or read the executive summary.

The main areas of focus were - 'Fieldwork and Outdoor Visits', 'Outdoor Adventure Education', and 'School Grounds and Community Projects'.

The report acknowledges the value of properly conceived, adequately planned and well taught fieldwork, including the importance of effective follow up. These are the key elements needed to allow learners to develop their knowledge and skills, and have an impact on their everyday experiences in the classroom.

Fieldwork is highlighted for the positive impact it has due to the memorable nature of fieldwork settings. If it is residential, it also promotes the development of social skills. The study also notes that fieldwork is *in decline* despite its *huge potential* for learning and raising standards.

For further information on the Research, visit: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/reports/nfer/index.aspx>

A full version of the report is available from FSC Publications for £8 plus £2 P&P. To obtain the report, please contact FSC Publications on 0845 3454072 or 01743 852140, or by emailing publications@field-studies-council.org

A Norfolk school - case study 1

Lisa Kiernan, Eco-School Co-ordinator, Arden Grove First & Nursery School.

In recent years, Arden Grove has begun to focus more on Green Issues and has become a **Silver Award Eco-School**.

"We carry out regular environment weeks, compost, and hold walk to school weeks. **The greenest of classrooms are those where simple things - which have made a big difference to our environment - have become a habit!** Such as turning off lights and computers when not in use, having waste-free lunches and recycling our paper. **Being green is not something we think about every now and then, it's something we do all the time.** We hope children take these habits home and use them in the future.

'Wormzz!'

Green issues are so important to our year threes that the green theme was central to the leaving show in July with the common worm in the starring/title role: 'WORMZZ!'

The play gave children and parents a fascinating insight into the dark, damp, subterranean world of the worm - from acting out the wonders they do for our soil, to the important part they've played in world history - safeguarding Boudicca's torque, and helping the war effort during WW2.

Art and the environment

Using dance and live music we learnt more about this miraculous little creature - in catchy songs and rhymes. The performance wove together the wide range of topics pupils had explored during the year, each worked into the show with a little imagination to make a fascinating (if not entirely factual) story! Parents were encouraged to think twice before saying 'yuk!' next time!"



How partner organisations can help your school

Norfolk school case study 2 - Ludham First School

The school had high aspirations for their grounds. Headteacher Sue Wright: "the outdoor environment provides a very stimulating learning space and we want to make ours really exciting. The space gives us opportunities for hands-on cross-curricular learning, which the pupils love."

She first consulted **Susan Falch-Lovesey**, Head of Norfolk Environmental Education Service, who showed them how they could use support available from outside organisations *and* involve the pupils and the whole school community to plan and achieve their aims.

They approached the **Broad Futures Project** and the **Norfolk Wildlife Trust** who designed consultation activities for pupils, involving them from the start by harnessing their ideas and imagination about what they wanted to see in their school grounds. Older pupils visited How Hill for ideas and inspiration.

Together, these activities produced a wealth of ideas, which were presented to **David Yates**, Landscape Architect in the Environment Section at Norfolk County Council, whose role is to work pupils' ideas into a design for the grounds, and produce a plan to work from.

Pupils' ideas included an earthwork to be used as an area for storytelling, a covered outdoor learning space with seating, a wildlife corridor to link different wild areas and a Broads themed boat to play in. To involve the whole school, the plans were also shared with enthusiastic parents and governors, who are currently investigating funding in order to realise their vision.

The How Hill Broads Futures Project

is really keen to work with more Primary Schools exploring ESD in the Broads.

For details, call Nell Seal on 01603 438975 or email nellseal.howhill@ukonline.co.uk or log onto the website. www.norfolkesinet.org.uk/envedu and take the Broads Futures link to find out more.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Activities and Fieldwork booklet 2005 – 06 is now available.

It has full details of education programmes available at Norfolk Wildlife Trust's National Nature Reserves.

Programmes include activities for KS 1 to 3. Younger children can enjoy environmental games, minibeast hunts and pond-dipping safely led by trained education staff.

A separate leaflet is available for GCSE and A level groups.

Most activities include aspects of the PSHE and citizenship curriculum. Elements of the national curriculum include freshwater ecology, habitats, food chains, and human impact on the environment including tourism and pollution studies.

To obtain a personal copy of the booklet please contact: Norfolk Wildlife Trust
education on: 01603 625540 or email: katherinew@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk
For details of education programmes and resources visit www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk



Wells and Holt Hall Field Study Centres

Calling all Schools

Are your students getting the fieldwork they are entitled to? YES? NO?

If the answer is YES, these are the benefits:

Most syllabuses for Geography, Biology and Environmental Science **require** fieldwork and all recommend it! As does the National Curriculum.

Nothing replaces first hand experience of studying real places, plants and animals in the outdoor environment (would a PE teacher suggest virtual football or teach netball from a book?)

Research shows that students enjoy and are motivated by fieldwork, learn through doing it, and remember what they have learned compared with classroom methods.

There is evidence that students score more highly on coursework based on fieldwork investigations and questions involving firsthand fieldwork experience.

The residential experience strengthens group morale and benefits teacher/student learning relationships, creating a shared experience.

Students learn about working in depth; working hard to complete projects and meet deadlines. Older students can 'try out for size' possible university course choices.

Wells and Holt Hall Field Study Centres support schools by providing high quality, tailor made programmes, with safety and sustainability at the heart, staffed by experienced, well qualified teachers, using appropriate equipment.

If the answer is NO, this is what you're missing:

Have you given up or just never got started? Please think carefully about how your students will experience, understand and enjoy the natural and built environment if you don't provide them with regular and progressive learning experiences out of doors.

Nationally, Biology fieldwork has become an endangered species at a time when the need for ecologists, field biologists and conservationists has never been greater. This is creating a real skills gap in the teaching of field biology/ecology.

Norfolk LEA can help you provide fieldwork

If you are concerned about your ability to lead fieldwork, or worry about safety, then Wells and Holt Hall Field Study Centres can support you with residential and day visits and INSET (subject to availability). Collectively they have nearly 65 years of experience. **They exist to help you to help students learn effectively out of doors from Primary through to 'A' Level. Contact Christine Marshall, Wells Field Study Centre 01328 710525 or email:**

www.wellsfieldcentre.norfolkedunet.gov.uk

or **George Carrick, Holt Hall Field Studies Centre 01263 713117 or email:**

www.holthall@norfolkedunet.gov.uk

Green Quay, King's Lynn
has a new Education Programme 2005
and a 'Field Study Programme: the outdoor classroom'.

Contact Stuart Hall, Education Officer, on 01553 818500, or email

stuart@thegreenquay.co.uk

Web address: <http://www.thegreenquay.co.uk>

National Association of Field Study Offices (NAFSO) www.nafso.org.uk



Brancaster Millennium Activity Centre (BMAC)

In the 21st century, there are constant reminders of the damage inflicted by humans on their world. Overuse of natural resources, waste on an ever increasing scale and pollution of land, air and water, gives adults cause to bemoan the state of the nation. At Brancaster, we feel that if things are to improve, it is important that our young people adopt a positive and pro-active attitude to environmental issues.

The National Trust education team offer a programme of outdoor pursuits, field studies and sustainability activities as a way of learning about the environment.

The building itself incorporates renewable energy technologies. It has solar panels, a wind turbine and a heating system that gathers energy from the mudflats, energy efficient lighting, water saving devices, compost bins and a recycling zone for paper, card and cans.

A pupil's stay is totally participatory. As "Eco-Rangers" they take charge of the recycling and waste reduction schemes themselves, using waste and environmental games and computer challenges.

Sailing, kayaking, orienteering, cycling, and outdoor environmental activities are also part of the programme.

Pupils sail in the harbour, kayak through the tranquil creeks and ramble across the exposed seabed exploring the saltmarsh, dunes and beach on foot. While cycling to the orienteering course the children can place the harbour area they explored in the morning in a wider coastal landscape/context – they experience the same spot from a different perspective. A change of viewpoint and context helps enrich children's appreciation and understanding of the natural world around them.

This is real, practical learning, giving children the chance to make positive differences and explore practical solutions to environmental problems. They develop their independence, improve their fitness and on a deeper level, experience their surroundings in a variety of ways - understanding what sustainability really means, grows through these experiences.

If you would like more information about BMAC, please contact the Centre Manager or Secretary on 01485 210719 or email brancaster@nationaltrust.org.uk

Whitlingham Broad 'Outdoor Learning in the City'

A new NCC run outdoor education centre is to open this spring and provide fantastic new purpose-built facilities for water-based activities. Young people will be able to sail, kayak, canoe and windsurf on the beautiful Whitlingham Broad and they could even make use of the river bus to get there!

This is a Big Lottery Fund, Sport England and NCC funded project which aims to improve access to outdoor and adventurous activities by individuals and groups currently unable to access such provision easily.

For more information and a programme contact 01493 368129 or log on to:
www.nccoutdoorededucation.co.uk

'greenscene' is supported by the Department of Planning & Transportation (Environmental Co-ordination Team) and produced by NEAS's Environmental Education Service.

Contact Sue Falch-Lovesey 01553 774023, or email susan.falch-lovesey@norfolk.gov.uk