



# Key Stage 2 Environmental Studies at the Cranedale Centre

## HIGH QUALITY FLEXIBLE FIELDWORK AT THE CRANEDALE CENTRE

The principle aim behind these residential courses is to provide the children with the opportunity of exploring the natural world directly. During the course they will visit a wide variety of places, discover many different plants and animals, experience novel situations and develop their understanding and knowledge of the environment.

Through a number of different activities we try to stimulate the pupils' awareness, provide an effective vehicle for acquiring academic and practical skills, increase their confidence out of doors and encourage enjoyment whilst learning.

Many of the topics are designed to include studies of ecosystems and landscapes so that the children can appreciate some of the complexities of the interactions between organisms, their environment and the physical processes of weathering and erosion that shape our countryside. As an eco-centre we have a variety of sustainable and environmentally friendly systems which are an integral part of residential courses, and can be further explored with a set of specially designed activities.

Many aspects of our Environmental Studies course are designed to specifically meet the requirements of the National Curriculum particularly in the subjects of Geography, Science and History. The residential component of the course also helps fulfil other educational objectives such as enhancement of personal and social skills.

The courses are structured on a day unit basis and school staff can select the topics they wish, then we will endeavour to tailor your course to your specific needs and course duration. Inevitably the key decision will not be what to include but what to leave out!!

If you wish to discuss your requirements further, please contact us using the details below.

*For further information on courses and availability please visit [www.cranedale.com](http://www.cranedale.com)*



## CRANEDALE CENTRE

Kirby Grindalythe · Malton · North Yorkshire · YO17 8DB

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## LOW ROPES & LIVEWIRE

A range of teamwork problem solving exercises such as big feet, gutter ball and detonator can be intermixed with our low ropes course out in the Cranedale grounds. These activities are designed to get the children working together as a group as well as developing individual skills such as balance, co-ordination, communication and puzzle solving. Regular reviewing enables the children to reflect upon their skills and performance to then improve on the next challenge. Please ask for a full description of team building activities offered.

## ORIENTEERING

An 'outdoor and adventurous activity, which challenges students both individually and within a team' (KS2 PE curriculum). This sport is both very enjoyable for children and develops a number of personal skills. Two options are available

Based on a specially prepared orienteering map of the Cranedale Centre's grounds and adjacent areas, children first learn skills and play games to improve their map reading. Team events are then organised to try out these new skills. Good for beginners and younger children.

Based in the forests of North York Moors. Children receive detailed instructions on map reading prior to taking part, in groups, in a competitive event. A more challenging activity suitable for older children or those with some experience of map reading.

## MOORLAND EXPLORER

Based on the North York Moors, children will have the opportunity of both sampling the aquatic environment of an upland stream and gaining an understanding of the processes of erosion, deposition and transportation within the stream. Invertebrates will be collected and children will be encouraged to make their own identifications using specially designed keys. The children also make measurements of river characteristics such as width, depth and velocity. The day continues with an exploration of the open moorland, reaching high vantage points with panoramic views. The route may cross streams, heather slopes and visit ancient archaeological sites.

Follow up work back at the centre may include microscopy.

## WOODLAND WARRIORS

An opportunity for children to become 'woodland warriors'. Children will explore the woodland habitat by identifying trees and plant species, hunting for minibeasts, investigating life cycles of plants and animals and exploring the importance of sustainability within woodland ecosystems. This will be delivered through child led activities and fun games with the aim to encourage students to produce creative film trailers (on iPads) about the threat of losing a crucial habitat. If iPads are not available or not used, then students will design and evaluate their own sustainable forest.

## SEASHORE EXPLORER

Visited at low tide, the rock pools of Flamborough Head provide a fascinating insight into the wide variety of seaweeds and animals to be found in a seashore ecosystem. This day is designed to encourage children to find out as much as possible for themselves about seashore life and about how these organisms are adapted to their environment. All the information is finally tied together into food chains and food webs.

This spectacular eroding coastline also facilitates the study of local rocks as well as a chance to see evidence of the processes of weathering and erosion.

The children are also introduced to the skill of annotated field sketching. This study is usually combined with a visit to the exciting RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs (April to August only). Binoculars and telescopes will be used here to view the large colonies of seabirds which include Gannets and Puffins.

## FIELD TO FORK

Where does our food come from and what effect does food production have on our landscape? Students will visit a working livestock farm to consider the balance between productivity and sustainability. Practical exercises will include study of soils along with beating and sweeping for invertebrates. As always fun activities will enable children to learn about farming and the environment while playing enjoyable games.



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## **ECOBOOKS**

A series of activities encourage participants to discover the different eco-friendly and sustainable practices and projects around the centre. This involves investigating how the centre promotes wildlife, uses eco-products, deals with its recycling, and sources local suppliers for its food. Ecobooks contain a reflective diary in which students are encouraged to record their experiences throughout the course. The activities finish with an 'eco-pledge' which encourages participants to continue reducing their impact on the environment in the future.

## **WEATHER STATION**

Children are instructed in taking readings from the Centre's weather station and a rota of recorders is established. The children, in small groups, make their own observations and this data is recorded. It can then be used to analyse weather patterns.

## **FIRE CIRCLE**

The session is suitable as a half day option and focuses primarily on using flint and steel to create their own fire. Children will look at the fundamentals of starting a fire and have options to make charcoal linking with reversible and irreversible change, sustainability and historic use of flint tools.

## **LOCAL WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES**

Explore the wildlife on our doorstep. We offer a number of activities enabling children to enjoy the fascination of nature in the world immediately around us. We may set small mammal traps in the local woodlands and centre grounds, go pond dipping in our specially created pond or hunt for minibeasts. The investigation will incorporate games and experiential activities ensuring a memorable and enjoyable half day.

## **MINIBEAST SAFARI**

Where does your minibeast live? What does it eat? What special feature does it have? Who is its closest relative? Answer these, and many more questions, by hunting out minibeasts in the local environment. Children might use pooters, beating trays, sweep nets and traps to capture their invertebrates. They will record their findings and explore the animals' adaptations through games and discussion with tutors.

## **SENSORY PERCEPTION**

By persuading children to use their senses of touch and smell more fully, they are encouraged to consider the ways in which other animals have very different sensory systems to our own. This forms a short enjoyable evening activity.

## **NIGHTWALK**

In the darker months, awareness walks in the local environment give children the opportunity to experience the magical quality of rural darkness – away from the city lights! During the short walk, activities will highlight our use of different senses and dependence on sight.

## **SURVIVAL IN THE WILD**

This is a half-day unit aimed at promoting children's understanding of the predator-prey relationships and balance of life within a woodland community. The pupils take part in an enjoyable outdoor role-play exercise in which they represent the various components of the woodland community. The herbivores must visit food stations and the carnivores must hunt for 'lives'. The elements, disease and man, all play their part in determining the final balance. The exercise provokes much discussion of the difficulties animals face and the strategies they have acquired to overcome them.

## **VILLAGE DETECTIVES**

The tiny village of Kirby Grindalythe is the picturesque backdrop as students go back in time, in role play, to explore how the village has changed in the last century. With the use of old photos, village records and an old school log book students can get a feel for village life in the early 20th century, and how it has changed over time.

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