



Key Stage 2 Courses at the Cranedale Centre

Situated in a peaceful village in the heart of the Yorkshire Wolds, the Cranedale Centre is the perfect base to allow children to explore and develop their relationship with the natural world. Listed below are some of the courses and activities we have to offer, in a range of spectacular locations across the Wolds, the North York Moors National Park, and the dramatic Yorkshire coast.

Many aspects of our courses 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. In addition to this we hope to engage children with the natural world and give them a meaningful outdoor education experience.

We are happy to build a course to your specific requirements, so if you have any particular requests please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Off-site activities

Most of these will take a whole day, although some can be adapted to be completed on arrival or departure days. Please ask if there are any days that you would be interested in adapting or combining.

SEASHORE EXPLORER

From the huge caves and arches to the smallest of rockpool creatures, this day encourages children to explore all aspects of the rocky shore at Flamborough Head. At low tide, a whole new world is uncovered, and the creatures and seaweeds found in the rockpools give us an insight into life underwater.

This day is often combined with a visit to the nearby RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs to see the spectacle of half a million seabirds that make their home there (April-August only).

RIVERS FIELDWORK

Set within the North York Moors National Park, Dalby Forest offers an idyllic location to study the changes in an upland stream. As well as the classic fieldwork methods to measure width, depth and stone size there is a chance to build miniature rafts from natural materials and test how fast the water is flowing. We typically visit two stream sites during the day, giving you the chance to see how the river changes as you travel downstream, and for the geography that you have learnt in the classroom to really come to life. This can be followed by a stop in Thornton-le-Dale for an ice cream on your way back to the centre.





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ORIENTEERING (DALBY FOREST)

Here the students work in small groups (with an adult present per group) to use maps and compasses to find as many markers across an area of forest as they can in the time allowed. The accompanying adult walks with them and ensures that they stay safe, but the students are responsible for planning, navigating and decision making. This activity challenges their team working and leadership skills as much as their navigational ability.

MOORLAND EXPLORER

Can you imagine life on the North York Moors 2000 years ago? The wide heather moorland and archaeological sites of Levisham moor provide the opportunity to do so. But before heading out onto the open moor, we start by making our way down a dry river gorge. Although the water is no longer flowing, picking your way over the remains of dry waterfalls is a challenging and exciting way to think about river landforms and processes. From foraging to stream dipping, quiet contemplation to games, this day provides a whole range of experiences that are often the highlight of a trip to Cranedale.

FIELD TO FORK

Students will visit High Barns Farm and meet the farmer, Ruth, there, who will teach them about how she produces food and the efforts and challenges she faces in maintaining sustainable farming methods. Students will do some minibeast hunting in Ruth's field margins and we will discuss how she is trying to promote certain insects for pollination, to help control pests or to help nesting birds and the wider ecosystem. In the afternoon we will return to the centre and complete fire circle activities including the cooking of flatbreads on the fire, linking back to the food and farming systems seen that morning.

SURVIVAL IN THE WILD

A chance to go wild in the local woodland. In this game children take on the roles of different woodland creatures within the food chain and try to outlive each other. They must evade predators, avoid natural disasters, and hide from the humans, all whilst finding enough food to survive. At the end of the game, we'll explore the careful balance of these ecosystems, and how easily they can be disrupted. This activity can be run in the Cranedale grounds upon request.





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On-site activities

Perfect for arrival or departure days, or can be combined to fill a full day. Depending on the time of year, a shortened version of most of these sessions can be done in an evening. Please get in touch for more information

TEAM BUILDING CHALLENGES AND LOW ROPES

A test of group teamwork and problem-solving ability, but also a great way to stretch your legs and burn off some energy after a long coach ride – these puzzles and games are often done on the first day when you arrive at Cranedale. The activities challenge the group to work together and communicate effectively, as well as developing individual skills such as balance, coordination and problem solving. The low ropes course offers them a further opportunity to test these skills out, as it has been designed to require cooperation and communication to complete.

VILLAGE DETECTIVES

Roll back the clock to experience Kirby Grindalythe in the early 20th century. Explore the village, visit the churchyard and unravel the mysteries of the school that closed over 60 years ago as you investigate rural life in this quaint, secluded part of the Yorkshire countryside. With the use of old photographs, village records and an old school log book students can get a feel for village life in the past, and how it has changed over time.

LOCAL WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES

The Cranedale Grounds offer the perfect location to discover the wildlife right on our doorstep! We can offer pond dipping, minibeast hunting or even use an evening to set humane mammal and moth traps to be checked the following morning.

FIRE CIRCLE

A chance to practice your survival skills by learning to light a fire without matches. This is done in small groups before coming together and having a campfire. This session can be adapted to focus on history, science or just to be a fun session with games, songs or even cooking, depending on the group size, any curriculum needs and the time available.

ORIENTEERING (CRANEDALE)

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 groups, or just a great way to burn off some energy before or after a long coach journey! This can also be used as training for the more challenging orienteering in Dalby Forest.



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Evening sessions

These are generally completed after dinner (approximately 7:20 – 8:20pm), but this can be adapted to suit your specific needs. Some of these activities can be combined with other activities to fill an arrival or departure day on request.

FOOD CHAINS

A fun and creative evening to help children explore the food chains in the environment that they have just spent the day, whether that is woodland, moorland stream or rockpool. This can be run as a stop-motion activity, where students use modelling clay and iPads to create their food chains (think Morph, or Wallace and Gromit, but set in a rockpool!). Alternatively the group can create hanging mobiles to display their food chains, giving you something to bring back from their trip.

CRANEDALE CHALLENGE BOOKLETS

Part journal, part activity book. All pupils will receive a booklet filled with specially designed challenges for them to complete during the evening, or in their free time around the centre. The challenges are themed around the natural world and several of them are aimed at getting them to reflect on what they have done and learned so far during their trip.

NIGHTWALK

An opportunity to experience the magical quality of rural darkness – in a village with no street lights! During the short walk, a series of fun activities will highlight our use of different senses and dependence on sight. (Mid-September to early April only)

MAYFLY MICROSCOPY

An opportunity to dive into the world of an olive mayfly nymph. Students use microscopes to help understand the specialist adaptations and life cycles of these tiny creatures.

OWL PELLETS

Ever wondered what an owl had for dinner? Examining these owl pellets and finding the tiny bones within helps us to understand these night time predators and the creatures that they hunt.

Cranedale Centre

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