

# Outdoor Learning Webinar

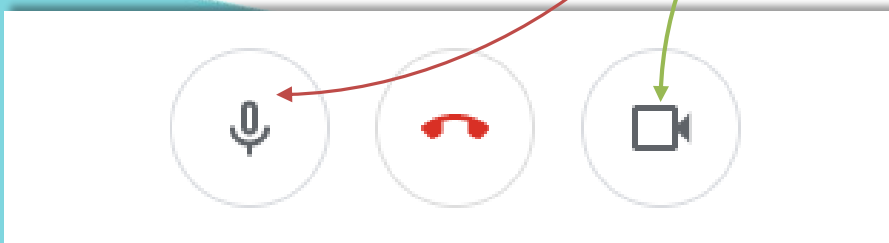
## 4 contexts for learning

### Wednesday 2 September 2020

Welcome to the second in our series of outdoor learning webinars this session 😊

Please take note of the protocols for during the session

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[@STEMedscot](#)

For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators

# Today's webinar is being brought to you by







@STEMedscot

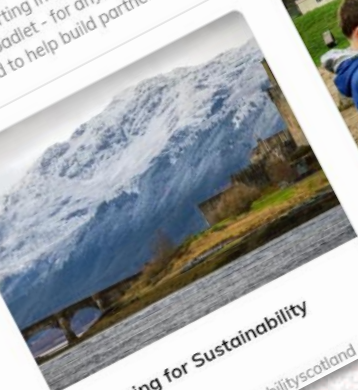
#LearnOutdoors

#STEMnation

For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators



...ces FSC  
... Muir Trust have  
...al learning  
...Toyside freely  
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...rs to follow) - along  
...ing information &  
...adlet - for anyone to  
...d help build partnerships.



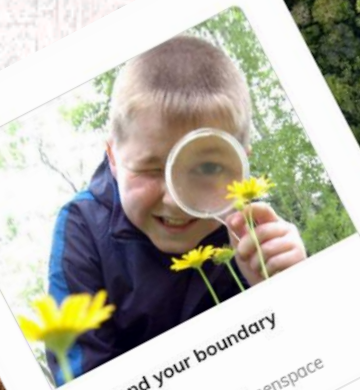
**Learning for Sustainability Scotland**  
Learningforsustainabilityscotland



**Resources | Outdoor and Woodland Learning**  
Owiscotland  
There is a wide range of outdoor learning resources here in our Resource library. Search the library using keywords, or by topic or age and stage by clicking on the blue bar above or on the home page. OR visit the relevant pages to see a selection of our top resources.



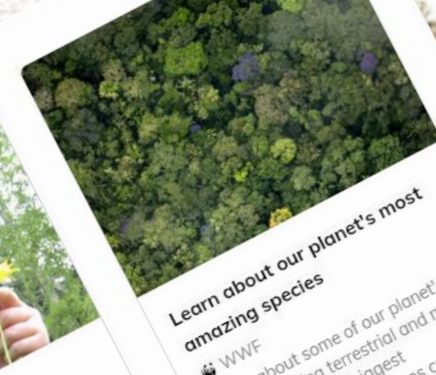
**Outdoor learning ideas | Outdoor Lesson ideas | Ltl**



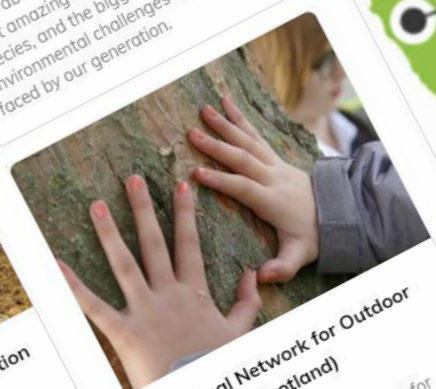
**Beyond your boundary**  
Nature  
Learning in Local Greenspace



**Outdoor learning and Education Recovery.pdf**  
Uploaded PDF  
Youthlink Scotland guidance on opportunities to collaborate with outdoor learning organisations.



**Learn about our planet's most amazing species**  
WWF  
Learn about some of our planet's most amazing terrestrial and marine species, and the biggest environmental challenges currently faced by our generation.



**National Network for Outdoor Learning (Scotland)**  
Nnolscotland  
We are the National Network for Outdoor Learning in Scotland. A



**Learning in Local Greenspace - YouTube**  
youtube  
Learning in Local Greenspace - How to find and access your space with S...



**Learning through Landscapes**  
YouTube  
Learning through Landscapes helps children to connect with nature, become more active, learn outdoors, develop social skills and have fun. We do this through...

**Thoughtprovoking**

**Creative STAR Learning | I'm a teacher, get me OUTSIDE here!**  
Creative STAR Learning | I'm a teacher... I'm a teacher, get me OUTSIDE here!



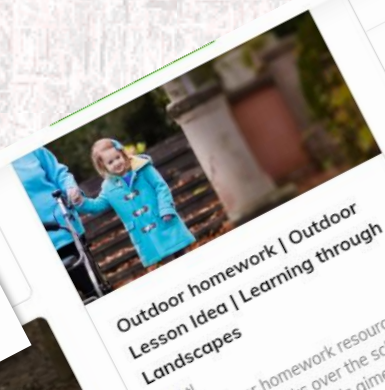
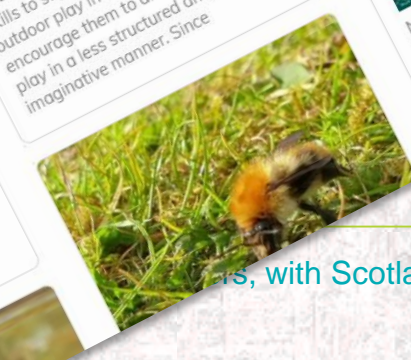
**explorers | Canal & River Trust**  
Canalrivertrust  
Free educational trips to your local canal or river. Available for schools and uniformed groups.



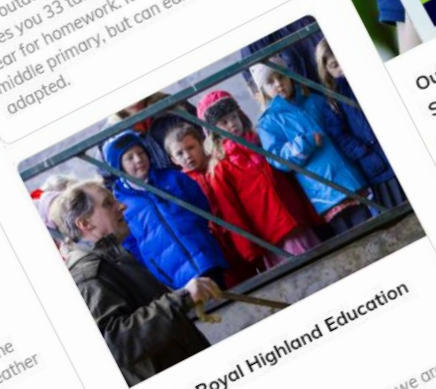
**MerPack - Marine Education Resource Pack - COAST**  
COAST  
This pack for primary school teachers includes fun and engaging activities with all the worksheets required. It is aimed at level 2 of the Curriculum for Excellence



**Loose Parts Play Toolkit 2019 edition - Inspiring Scotland**  
inspiringscotland.org.uk  
We are pleased to announce the publication of the revised edition of the Loose Parts Play Toolkit. The updated Toolkit provides a greater focus on helping adults develop the skills to support inclusive, all-weather outdoor play in Scotland and encourage them to allow children to play in a less structured and more imaginative manner. Since



**Outdoor homework | Outdoor Lesson Idea | Learning through Landscapes**  
Ltl  
This outdoor homework resource gives you 33 tasks over the school year for homework. It is aimed at middle primary, but can easily be adapted.



**The Royal Highland Education Trust**  
Rhet  
Next month 18th/19th June, we are working with partners up and down Scotland to bring online activities and videos about food and farming direct to young people. The Food & Farming Extravaganza that is Royal Highland Show goes online for 2020. There are



**Outdoor Learning**  
Outdoorlearningdirectory  
Scotland's Outdoor Learning Directory aims to provide a portal to services supporting outdoor learning which are provided by these Scottish organisations.



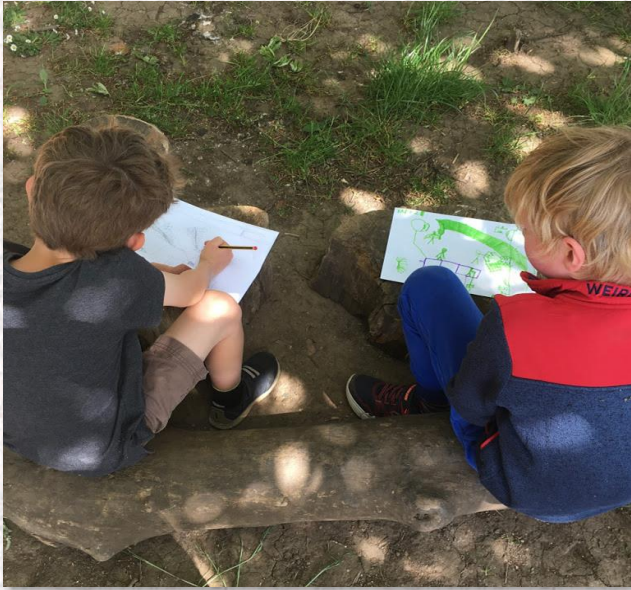
**Outdoor Learning Schools - Woodland Trust**  
Woodland Trust  
Our free, curriculum-linked resources help teachers develop outdoor learning about trees and wildlife.

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...s, with Scotland's educators





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# Outdoor Learning Webinar

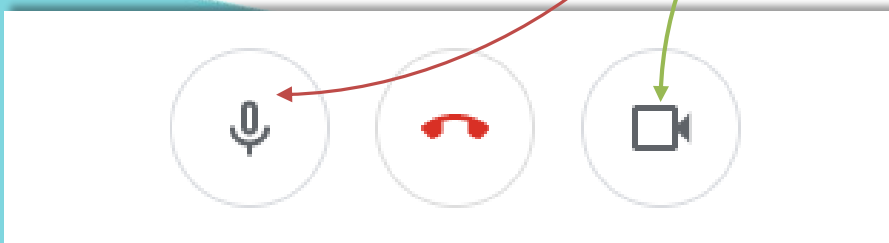
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# Refreshed Narrative on Scotland's Curriculum



**SCOTLAND'S CURRICULUM**  
FOR EXCELLENCE  
Putting learners at the heart of education

<https://scotlandscurriculum.scot>

For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators



**Opportunities for personal achievement**

**Interdisciplinary learning**

**The Curriculum**

'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

**Ethos and life of the school as a community**

**Curriculum areas and subjects**



## Opportunities for personal achievement



- Bike Crew Committee
- Learning to cycle / scoot
- Mascots for Tour Series
- Bike Maintenance
- Cycle Awards

## Interdisciplinary Learning



### Pupils creating a film

P6 and P7 Co-delivering scooter sessions and balance bike training

Bike Crew organising event

## The Big Cycle



- Community Event
- Bike Breakfasts over the year
- Tour Series
- Partners



Health and Wellbeing

Numeracy – calculating distances, speed, mapping skills

Literacy – designing posters, writing letters to residents,



# How do Scottish Government heritage and environment agencies support outdoor learning?





A one-stop shop

Home About Us Map Search Contact Us News Links Search News

# Outdoor Learning DIRECTORY

## Search Outdoor Learning Directory

Search using the content based search tool or simply insert a keyword.

What are you looking for? Search by keyword

Search

RESOURCES  
EVENTS & TRAINING  
GRANTS  
PLACES  
NEWS  
CONTACTS

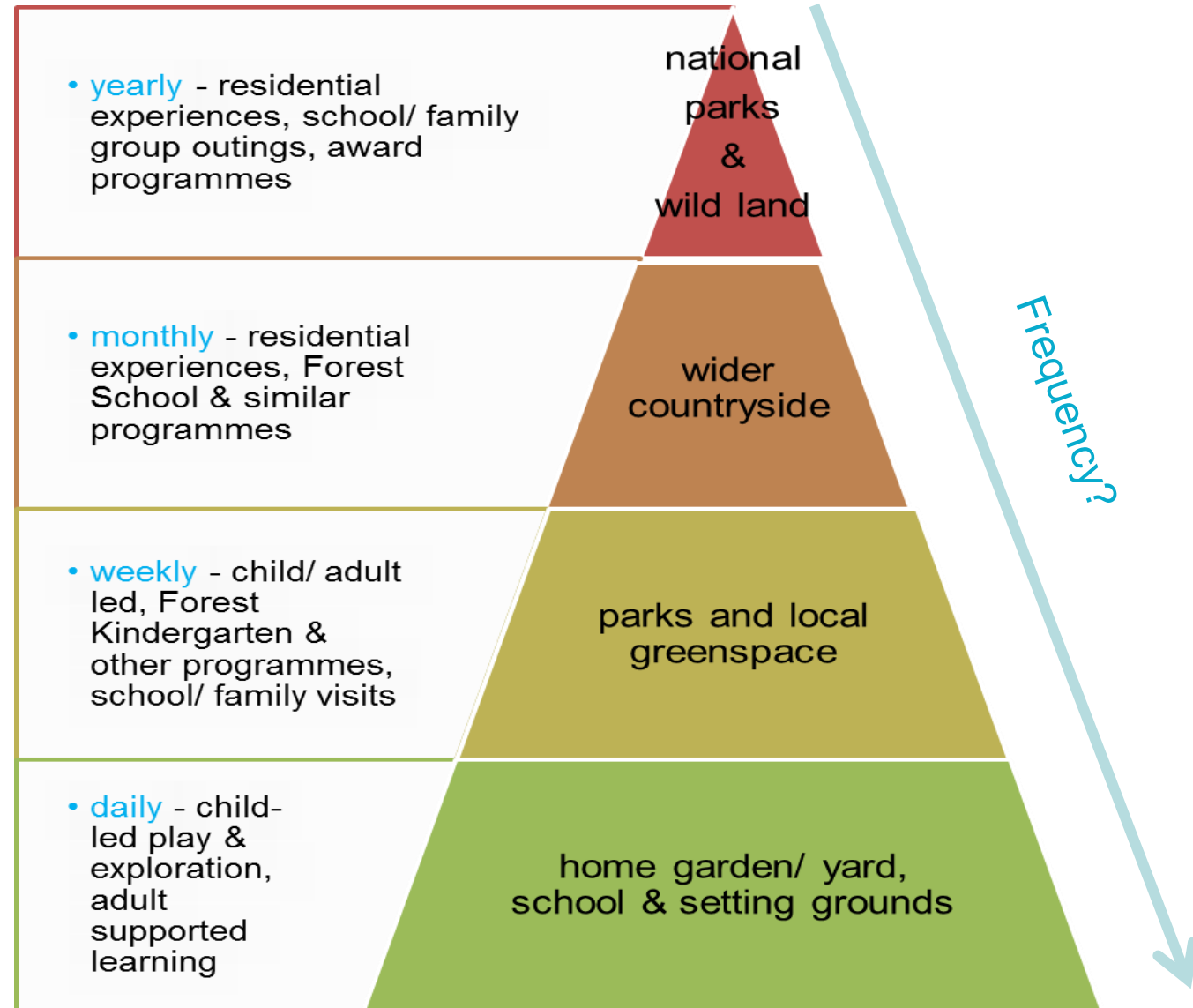
Your feedback is important to us!



Scotland's Outdoor Learning Directory aims to provide a portal to services supporting outdoor learning which are provided by these Scottish organisations.

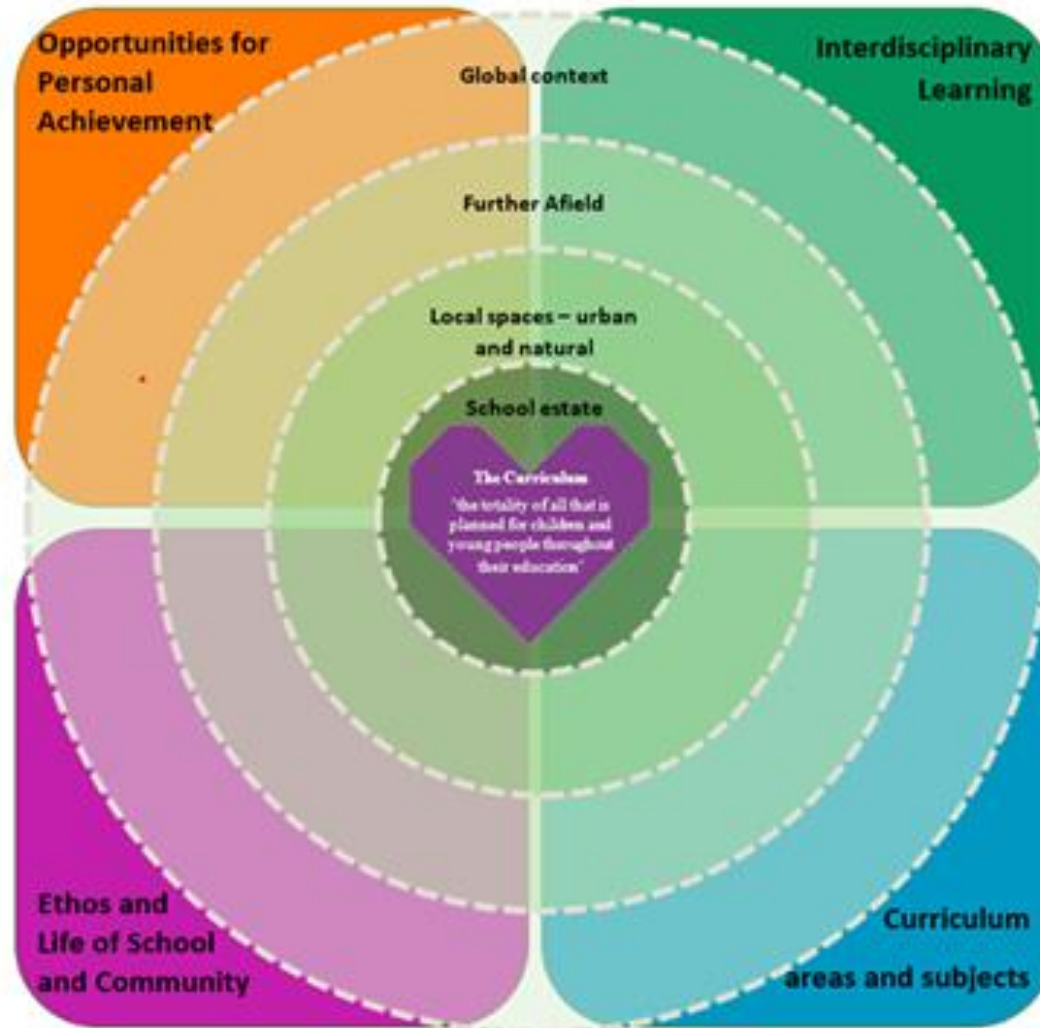


# Learning outdoors in different places – a progression





# Progression of place based learning across the 4 contexts for learning



# Why learn in local greenspace?

- ✓ It is your pupils' local environment.
- ✓ Fosters in pupils a sense of place and stewardship and encourages the wider community to engage and value their local greenspace too.
- ✓ Your local greenspace is likely to be more diverse than your school grounds.
- ✓ Connection to nature
- ✓ Our Research found that “The effect of learning and play within green or natural places of all kinds... was particularly strong in generating greater engagement and challenge and enjoyment.” (source available)
- ✓ “Repeat visits [which are more feasible when using a local greenspace] made a particular difference to the quality and depth of understanding and engagement.” (source available)
- ✓ The GTCS Standards require teachers to “Use outdoor learning opportunities, including direct experiences of nature and other learning within and **beyond the school boundary.**” and “Connect learners to their dependence on the natural world and **develop their sense of belonging to both the local** and global community.”

"These learning experiences have helped to consolidate much of the theory in the topic and the pupils found it a memorable experience."

*Biology & Geography Teacher, Stirling*

"I didn't know how close I live to nature"

*S5 pupil, Clydebank High*

"I can't believe we have existed so closely to this place and never made use of it... I felt that the curricular areas were endless."

*P1 teacher, North Lanarkshire*



[www.beyondyourboundary.scot](http://www.beyondyourboundary.scot)



Scottish Natural Heritage  
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

**nature.scot**

- 
- [↓](#) **Learning in local greenspace - Beyond your boundary - easy steps to learning in local greenspace**  
pdf, 6.72MB
  - [↓](#) **New - Professional Learning - 6 steps to using local greenspace for outdoor learning**  
pdf, 2.47MB
  - [↓](#) **Learning in local greenspace - greenspace audit**  
docx, 2.19MB
  - [↓](#) **Learning in local greenspace - Questionnaire to inform action plan**  
docx, 2.20MB
  - [↓](#) **Learning in local greenspace - Action Plan template**  
docx, 2.21MB



**NatureScot**

Scotland's Nature Agency  
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba



Why learn in local greenspace



Finding your local greenspace



Accessing your local greenspace



Using your local greenspace



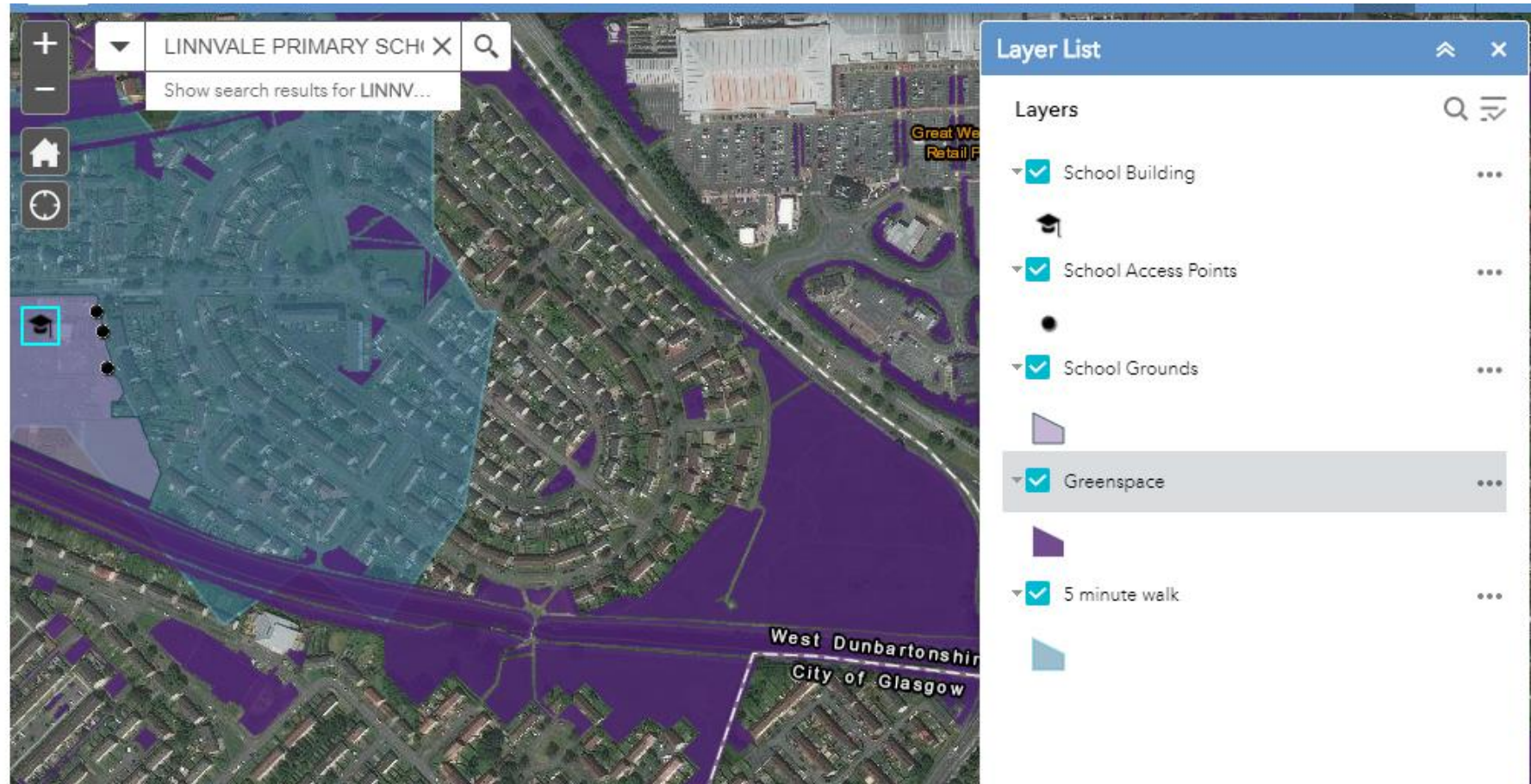
Improving your local greenspace



Spreading & embedding learning in local greenspace



<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/education/greenspace-map-outdoor-learning>



## Using your greenspace: policies, procedures, routines



### Plan ahead for:

- ✓ adverse weather: when is it too bad to go/so bad you must leave early?
  - ✓ if you encounter anti-social behaviour: can you move to another area; when must you leave all together?
  - ✓ if a pupil needs to return to school: will the whole group return or will one adult go back?
  - ✓ if a pupil is 'lost': different responses are required according to your location, the age of the pupil and length of time they have been missing.
- 
- ✓ **Develop routines with the pupils for:**
  - ✓ establishing today's learning area/boundary.
  - ✓ assessing and mitigating risk on arrival and during the session.
  - ✓ how to behave when approached by a wasp; dog; or person from out with the group.
  - ✓ handwashing and sun cream or insect repellent application.



## Opportunities for personal achievement

J has a very pronounced aversion to touching anything soft/ goeey/ wet/ squidgy... he was picking up pieces of Old Man's Beard lichen from the woodland floor, wet leaves and even held a wet leaf with a small slug sleeping on it.

Robert Owen Primary School, SLC



## Interdisciplinary Learning



B got a pair of sticks and found that he could make fun sounds by hitting them together. He then went on to explore the different sounds the sticks made when hit against different trees. He found that he could make music like this. "Look! I'm making music!" After that, he was in a flow of using the sticks in different ways. He stacked them in the fork of a tree and tied rope around it. He then took the sticks and made a square on the ground with a face in it. "I'm never as creative as this!"

Crawforddyke Primary, SLC

**The Curriculum**  
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'



K never liked going outdoors and was always a chore if asked to go out to play. Now we take walks and he tells us everything he has learned at Forest School... Visiting local woodlands is part of our family now.

St Mary's, SLC

One of the P7 girls has a new-found fascination for pond life. She was able to use the ID charts to identify the beasties she was catching in her net and was determined to try and catch at least one of everything.

Crawforddyke Primary, SLC



Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects



Level	Progression: Woodland	Place	Nature
Early	<b>What is a tree?</b> Discovery, using all senses, and very interdisciplinary DYW	School grounds and local spaces AND indoors	<b>Emotional connection</b> to trees and their environment: being with trees, enjoying, observing and experiencing.
First / Second	<b>What is a woodland?</b> What is sustainable forest management? Using local sites to discover Scottish woods/forests DYW		<b>Cognitive connections:</b> developing knowledge of the woodland environment, resources and multiple benefits
Third /Fourth	<b>Global forests</b> and our impact on them DYW	As above with progression to places further away, including globally (online /botanic gardens) AND indoors	Understanding own and others impact on nature and why sustainable management is needed
Senior Phase	<b>Subject based</b> DYW		Personal positions, values and beliefs about our forest resources now and in the future.  Influencing society as an active, responsible and ethical citizen





# Resources

Subject/  
Interdisciplinary

Literacy, Maths and  
Health and Wellbeing

Scottish Forestry / Coilltearachd na h-Alba

**The Woodland Workout Physical Activities**  
A resource for educators

Scottish Forestry / Coilltearachd na h-Alba

**Tree Stories**  
A learning resource

smarter scotland

**TREE MEASURING**  
Connecting Trees with Curriculum for Excellence

Outdoor Woodland Learning

smarter scotland

**The world beneath our feet**  
Connecting soils and curriculum

Scottish Forestry / Coilltearachd na h-Alba

**Wolf Brother's Wildwoods**  
Imagining Mesolithic life in Scotland's forests and woodlands

smarter scotland

An outdoor learning resource for teachers of Curriculum for Excellence Level 2

Scottish Forestry / Coilltearachd na h-Alba

**Scotland's Native Woodlands**  
A learning resource for Senior Phase Environmental Science

Smarter Scotland



Scottish  
Forestry

Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

# Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland OWLS

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland (OWLS) website. At the top left is the Scottish Forestry logo. The main navigation menu includes Home, About Us, Local Groups, Learning, Resources, Events, and Contact Us. A search bar is located below the navigation, with links for Resources, Find an OWL Group, and Training & Events. The central banner features a photograph of a group of people in a forest, with the text "Providing training and support for teachers and practitioners". Below the banner is a section for "News and events from the network" with tabs for News and Events. The Events Calendar shows August 2020 with a calendar grid. A news item is visible under the News tab, dated 08 June 2020, titled "Owl Group Events" and "DGOWL online Meeting".

[www.owlscotland.org](https://www.owlscotland.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/101821253217957/>

AND the Outdoor Learning Directory  
<https://outdoorlearningdirectory.com/>

forestry.gov.scot





# Outdoor Learning in the National Park

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A RED SQUIRREL SCHOOL PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
SAVING SCOTLAND'S RED SQUIRRELS

ALI CUSH, EDUCATION AND INCLUSION ADVISER

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

# Red Squirrel success story

- Our key partner in conserving this threatened species is 'Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Project'.
- Thanks to the hard work of the project and other partners, the red squirrel population is expanding across the National Park.
- They are now in the vicinity of most of the Primary Schools within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.





# Primary Schools' Red Squirrel Roadshow

- Project Overview
  - Aimed to raise awareness of the iconic red squirrel by engaging with Primary Schools in the National Park.
  - Delivered in September in the run up to Red Squirrel Awareness Week – before squirrel activity quietens down.
  - Offered two interactive sessions to each of the schools participating covering red squirrel ecology, threats and conservation.



# Primary Schools' Red Squirrel Roadshow

- Supported each school to continue learning about and helping their local Red Squirrel population by providing a feeder box and seed mix to keep and a camera trap on loan.
- Schools installed the feeder boxes in their school grounds and positioned the cameras to record any visitors to the boxes.
- Pupils monitored their camera recordings for wildlife visiting the school grounds.





# Primary Schools' Red Squirrel Roadshow

- Key Outcomes
  - Support 9 local schools in the National Park – either targeted year group (P6/7) or, for small rural schools, the entire school.
  - Support schools completing a John Muir Award – Discover, Explore and help to Conserve Red Squirrels.
  - Increase awareness of the Red Squirrel Sightings project in the National Park – and increase the number of sightings recorded
  - Increase awareness of the Red Squirrel Awareness week events.

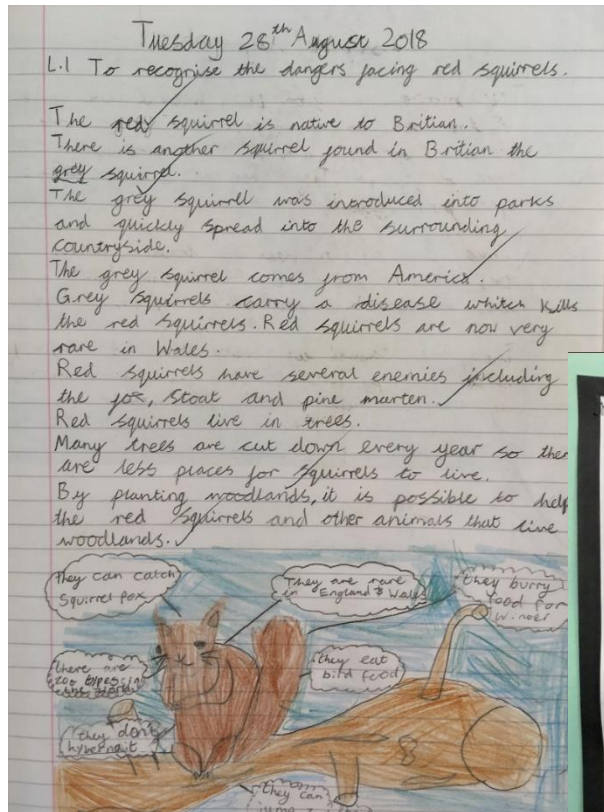


# Curricular support

- STEM – Citizen Science, invasive species, habitats, microscopes.
- Literacy – personal writing.
- Expressive Arts – school poster displays.
- ICT – uploading and viewing the videos from the cameras.
- Health & Wellbeing – Being out and active in the school grounds.
- Learning for Sustainability – understanding their role in conserving this native species.



# Examples of pupils work





# Wider School community – Twitter posts



Fantastic video footage from our @Bushnell camera, loaned to us from @lomondtrossachs of red squirrels behind the school @ScotSquirrels #RedSquirrelAwarenessWeek Just one of many fantastic videos including one of a pine marten!



706 views



# Feedback

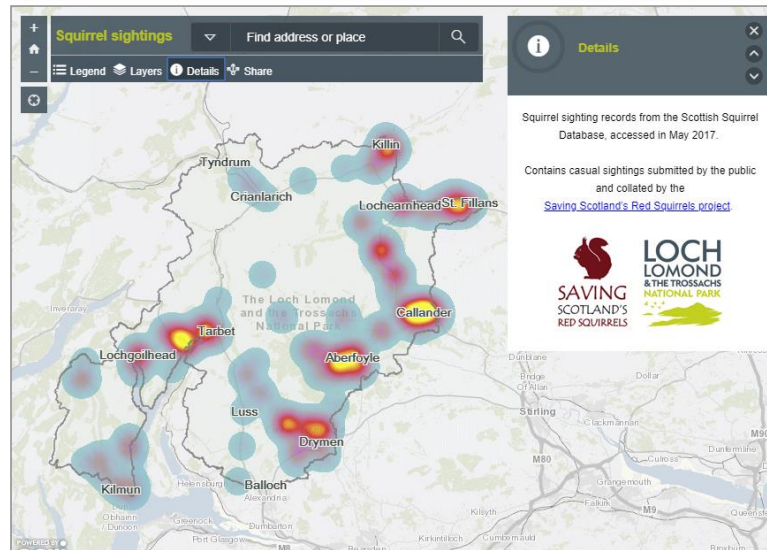
“Linked in well with our 'Living in the Trossachs' topic.”

“The children were eager to record sightings of red squirrels and think of ways to help protect them - especially regarding traffic and sources of food.”

“Children thoroughly enjoyed all activities, in particular seeing the footage that was taken on the camera installed within the school grounds.”

# Resources for older pupils

- Case Studies – National 4/5 and Higher resources
- Sightings maps and spatial data
- Practical Conservation and Volunteering



BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE NATIONAL PARK **CASE STUDY 2**


## Red Squirrel Conservation

### INTRODUCTION

The red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* is one of our most popular and well-loved mammals but they are in danger of becoming extinct in Scotland.

There are less than 120,000 red squirrels remaining in Scotland which is about 75% of all of the red squirrels in the UK. Compare this to 2.5 million grey squirrels in the UK!


Historically large areas of native woodland across the country have been lost due to de-forestation and changes to land management practices, and red squirrels are also threatened by the introduced North American grey squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*.



### Loss of habitat

The cover in Scotland used to be so extensive that a red squirrel could have travelled from one side of the country to the other without touching the ground.


Following a long history of land use change, the small, isolated fragments left over from Scotland's once huge native woodland could not support our red squirrels. Modern-day woodland planting is helping to turn this around. With help from Scottish Forestry we're making sure large areas aren't felled all at once but in stages so red squirrels always have access to a suitable habitat.



### The spread of American grey squirrels and squirrelpox

The non-native grey squirrel was introduced in Britain by the Victorians. This American cousin of our native red squirrels have spread out in our woodlands and ended up as neighbours to our red squirrels.

Grey squirrels are twice as big as red squirrels and can digest food such as acorns easier and get more nutrients from them. This means that grey squirrels need more food than reds and can utilize acorns better. They have also been found to steal food that red squirrels have saved up for overwinter leaving the reds hungry. They also carry a virus called squirrelpox which can be fatal to our native reds. Grey squirrels are carriers of the disease but they are resistant to it themselves.





# Red Squirrel trails and places to visit

- Balmaha— Red Squirrel interpretation in Visitor Centre and trail through the woods.
- Aberfoyle – The Lodge Visitor Centre and wildlife viewing hide.
- Benmore Botanic Gardens – Red Squirrel trail and viewing hide.
- Argyll & Queen Elizabeth Forest Parks



# Outdoor Learning in the National Park

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- Free outdoor learning support through our Ranger Service.
- National Park Travel Grant to contribute towards the costs of travelling to and around the National Park – including Active Travel.
- Partnerships with the John Muir Award.
- Resources available on our website.
- Contact [education@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:education@lochlomond-trossachs.org) for more info

Thanks

# Learning across the four contexts: Local & Global Learning

## Opportunities for personal achievement

Our Rainforest Adventure turns children into rainforest glasshouse guides so they can share their learning with others.



## Interdisciplinary Learning

Studying plants in our glasshouses using our senses to compare plant diversity from all over the world with the flora of Scotland.



### The Curriculum

'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

Growing food together to address learning for sustainability themes – seasonal local food; food security and learning about the need to share global resources.



Advanced Higher Biology students learning about plant taxonomy with our scientists using our global collections in RBGEs herbarium.



Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

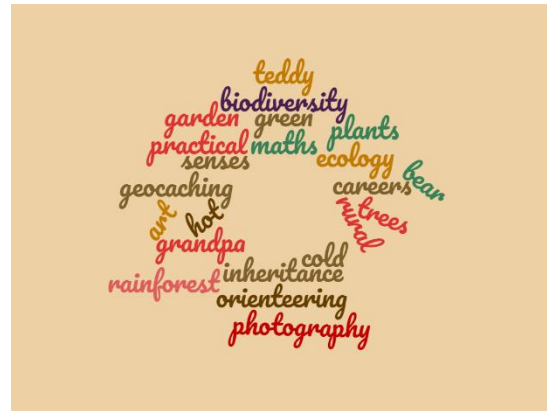


# RBGE Educational Offering

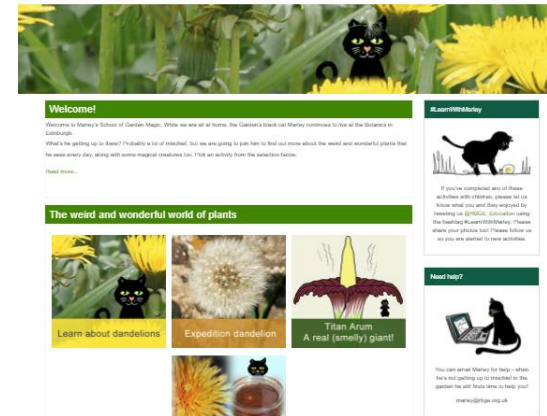
If I say RBGE...(what's the first word that comes into your head...type in the chat!)

We offer a range of experiential inter-disciplinary and cross-curricular, outdoor learning programmes for EY – Upper Secondary including ASL

- Previously:



Now:



- Things you probably didn't know about RBGE:
  - Online resources available
  - Advanced higher biology project support
  - Has a plant collection of 13,500 species in its 116 hectares of Garden
  - Describes on average 36 new species per year



# Post Covid

We can't wait to welcome you back!

- what do you need from us? New delivery models?
- Focus on:
  - Nature prescribing – helping you handle the impact of Covid on you and your pupils
  - CLPL in outdoor learning - Maths for early years, Investigating plant lifecycles and Science on your plate
  - Employability – world of work week, virtual work placement, circular economy projects
  - Equality and Diversity – plants as a means of explaining diversity. Connecting classroom opportunities with our global field project schools



Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



Benmore Botanic Garden



Logan Botanic Garden



Dawyck Botanic Garden

At present only self guided access  
(14<sup>th</sup> September onwards)

From early 2021 - 2 sessions being offered onsite:

- P1 – 3: Explore the garden using your senses
- P4 - 7: Finding Lost words at the garden



Now for some 'practical' work...







**THANK YOU!**

@STEMedscot

#LearnOutdoors

#STEMnation

For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators

# Outdoor learning/Learning for Sustainability Wakelet

<https://wakelet.com/wake/dx8-511rFvLFU03cIV9eh>



## Learning for Sustainability Scotland

Learningforsustainabilityscotland

A new Publication Celebrating Award-Winning RCE Project Contributions to Education for Sustainable Development has been produced, including one of Learning for Sustainability Scotland's award winning...



## Home - Wildlife Watch

Wildlifewatch

Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts and the UK's leading environmental action club for children and families.



## Backyard BioBlitz

Facebook

Backyard BioBlitz are videos and quizzes online (via Facebook). It is about monitoring wildlife in our own backyards, to explore the biodiversity around us while staying close to home. Remember



## MerPack - Marine Education Resource Pack - COAST

COAST

This pack for primary school teachers includes fun and engaging activities with all the worksheets required. It is aimed at level 2 of the Curriculum for Excellence



## Outdoor learning ideas | Outdoor Lesson ideas | Ltl

Ltl

Hundreds of free outdoor learning ideas from Learning through Landscapes, ideal for forest school and curricular led lessons.



316 5:01 PM - May 25, 2020

180 people are talking about this



## Outdoor Learning

Outdoorlearningdirectory

Scotland's Outdoor Learning Directory aims to provide a portal to



## John Muir Award - John Muir Trust

Johnmuirtrust

Our engagement initiative encourages people to connect with,



## Outdoor learning ideas | Outdoor Lesson ideas | Ltl

Ltl

Our free outdoor learning ideas and outdoor lesson plans are below, ideal for curricular led outdoor



## The Royal Highland Education Trust

Rhet

Next month 18th/19th June, we are working with partners up and down Scotland to bring online activities and videos about food and farming direct to young people. The Food & Farming Extravaganza that is Royal Highland Show goes online for 2020. There are a variety of activities scheduled including quizzes, videos, live feeds and the opportunity to cook along at home.





Thank you



# Outdoor Learning Webinar Evaluation

<https://bit.ly/2FwUZNP>

Share your outdoor  
learning, and tag us at  
**@STEMedscot**  
**#LearnOutdoors**