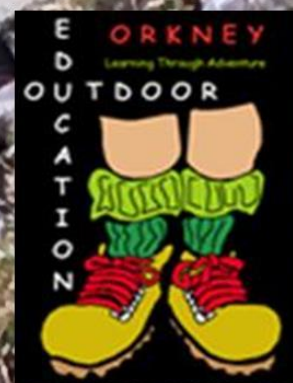


OUTDOOR EDUCATION



Annual Report 2017



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FACTS AND FEEDBACK, 2017

Schools taking part in
Outdoor Education
Programmes

20

Total Participation in
Outdoor Education

882

Outdoor Education
Activity Days

116

Participants taking
part in
Environmental
Activity

939

Instructor Safety / Professionalism
(Leader Survey)

94% Excellent / Inspirational

Total Field Teacher
Activities & Events

53

Top 3 Outdoor
Education
Programme
Activities (Participant
Survey)

Coasteering
Gorge
Walking
Canoeing

Instructor Staff
Training Days

18

Outdoor Education
Residential Nights

41

Would You Come
Back Again?
(Participant Survey)

83% Definitely



INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Schools Outdoor Education 'Residential Adventure Activity Programme' has been offered to all local schools for over 17 years. The current format offers 3 different levels of programme with the emphasis on learning personal, team and adventure activity based skills and learning progression from P4 through to S2 age groups. The programme durations on offer vary from 1 day through to 3 days.

The key educational aims within all programmes offered is for participants (and teaching staff) to explore, discover, play and learn outdoors using adventure activities as the means of interacting with their peers in the outdoor environment. Through this positive outdoor interaction the key aims and learning outcomes are discussed with participants prior to, and reviewed after each activity has been successfully completed.

The 2017 Outdoor Education Programme was offered to all schools during the summer and autumn term times. The focus of the service provision is to offer all participants a practical educational experience involving outdoor adventure activities and a residential experience away from home and the school environment.

Additional outdoor programmes which supplement the core outdoor programme included day visits to schools on the Orkney Mainland and North Isles plus activities offered to youth groups, charities and Orkney based children groups using Active Schools funding during the Summer holiday period. A full range of environmental topics and activity services offered by the Orkney Field Teacher were also offered throughout the year.

Individually tailored activity packages were also delivered to private individuals and youth / activity groups within and out-with Orkney. These included the use of Archery, Bushcraft and the mobile climbing wall.

The KGS Climbing Wall In-House Instructor Scheme was offered to KGS staff and has successfully resulted in 1 member of teaching staff completing the pre-requisite training, logbook experience and assessment to offer climbing wall activity to pupils in the school.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award offered in 4 Secondary schools was supported by the Outdoor Education Service offering Bronze Expedition training, Silver Expedition Assessment and Expedition Leader training days.



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & GROUPS

All schools within Orkney were invited to book an Outdoor Education experience / programme during the April to June and August to October periods. The following Orkney schools and youth organisations took part:

Firth Primary School
Orphir Primary School
Hope & Burray Primary Schools
Dounby Primary School P5
St Andrews Primary School P5
Rousay Primary School
Papdale Primary School

Evie Primary Schools
Stenness Primary School
Dounby Primary School P4
Shapinsay Primary School
Stromness Primary School
Glaithness Primary School

Sanday, Westray, Papa Westray, Eday & Stronsay (North Isles Schools)

Stromness Academy S2
KGS S3-4 Geography Studies

KGS S2

KGS Duke of Edinburgh Award Group
Fair City Singers Choir Group

John Muir Award / RSPB (KGS Group)
Hoy Youth Club

'ACTIVE SCHOOLS' SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

In conjunction with Active Schools, the Outdoor Education Service offered 10 days of activity based from either Kirkwall Grammar School or Stromness Academy.

In total there were approximately 120 places offered for the outdoor activities on offer spread out over the 10 days.

The mobile climbing wall, archery, bushcraft, outdoor climbing / abseil activities were deemed the most suitable activities for the programme as they were mobile and efficient to set up / take down. This enabled participants to easily complete the choice of land based activities in either a half or full day's activity session.

Youth groups or charity based projects that were invited to take part included:

Connect programme
Young Carers Orkney

Kirkwall Youth Café
Women's Aid

Funding for the summer programme was enabled by the 'Cash back for Communities' lottery bid and no charge was made for activities offered.



ORKNEY FIELD TEACHER ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY

Joint funding for the Orkney Field Teacher post has been provided by OIC Outdoor Education and RSPB for the past 17 years. The aim of the joint funded post is to offer outdoor environmental activity to schools, youth groups, members of the public and assist in projects and on-going wildlife / environmental studies managed by the RSPB.

Close links and input within the 'Outdoor Orkney' steering group (which was set up pre 2004) has enabled the Orkney Field Teacher post to be fully aware and involved in a wide variety of projects within Orkney include the organising and management of the annual 'Bag the Bruck' campaign and event. The Outdoor Education Advisor and Orkney Field Teacher are both part of the Orkney environment based group and aim to work closely to ensure activities and resources are available to all schools and the wider public to educate and heighten awareness of the local outdoor environment.

In past years the Orkney Field Teacher has been fully integrated in the Outdoor Education Programme offering half day environmental activities with schools whilst on their outdoor residential programme on Hoy / Birsay. During the past 17 years, outdoor activity programmes have changed and schools now have more direct access to the services of the Orkney Field Teacher within their schools. Environmental specific activity is now generally completed out-with the Outdoor Education Residential Activity Programme based on Hoy.

This year the Orkney Field Teacher has been active in 13 schools and completed a total of 42 visits offering over 16 outdoor environmental topics ranging from Transient art, Mini Beast Hunting to assisting with the John Muir Award Scheme. A full list of topics offered may be found within the Orkney Field Teacher Yearly Report for 2017 within the appendices. The Orkney Field Teacher has also been involved in over 11 public events in conjunction with other partner organisations and local Orkney wildlife groups. The aim of these events is to promote the varying fauna and flora and outdoor environment found within Orkney through presentations, public events, activity days, data gathering and informative talks / slideshows. A total of 163 children and 145 adults have been involved in a wide range of local events which are listed in the Orkney Field Teacher annual report within the appendices.

Special projects managed and led by the Orkney Field Teacher within schools for a number of years include the 'Little Terns Project', 'Corncrake Project' and the 'John Muir Award'. These individual projects collect data and aim to educate pupils in conservation and appreciation of the local environment close to the schools involved.

Future plans for 2018 include developing and delivering lesson plans and projects to local schools working with the 'Orkney Native Wildlife Project' in relation to educating pupils about the 'Stoat Eradication Programme' which is currently being trialled.



Links between the Outdoor Education Advisor and the Orkney Field Teacher have been re-established this year and through a number of meetings have highlighted the ongoing work and input by the Orkney Field Teacher in relation to schools and educational establishments. These meetings have assisted in a closer working relationship and possible joint activities with schools in 2018

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INFORMATION AND BOOKING SYSTEM

Residential activity programme information and booking forms were sent out to all schools and interested groups in November 2016. Schools wishing to book an outdoor programme were requested to submit their booking form before the start of December 2016 to be included in the schools programme in 2017.

Special mention should go to KGS for 'Doing the Double' this year which offered the opportunity to all S2 pupils to take part in an Outdoor Education Residential activity programme. This logistically difficult challenge involved 110 pupils and 17 teaching staff taking part in a 3 day programme totalling 16 days of activity. The school's allocated activity period which has been moved to late September / October which has now (along with other participating schools) filled up the autumn term time programme.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES OFFERED

A total of 27 different activities and educational experiences ranging from 1 hour to 1 day in duration were available and on offer this year.

The range of activity included:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Canoeing | Kayak (sit on) |
| Kayak (sit in) | Kayak (sea kayak) |
| Raft building | Coasteering |
| Gorge walking | Orienteering |
| Coastal walking | Hill walking |
| Camping / bothy overnight | Environmental walk / studies |
| Archery | Bush-craft (shelters) |
| Bush-craft (fire-lighting) | Bush-craft (tracking and map skills) |
| Problem solving / team building | Bridge Building Challenge |
| Mountain bikes / road cycling | Mobile wall climbing / abseiling |
| Climbing wall (KGS) | Rock Climbing |
| Abseiling | Tyrolean traverse |
| Activity reviewing and debriefing sessions | Evening games and team challenges |
| The 'Cuillags Challenge' | |



EQUIPMENT & STORAGE FACILITIES

As part of the ongoing safety and suitability check on all outdoor equipment which is completed each year all equipment was checked, I.D. marked and suitably maintained by the Outdoor Education Advisor and a full inventory of all equipment was updated and completed.

Due to the high level of use of personal items and equipment offered to participants during the past 3 years (whilst the Outdoor Education Advisor had been in post), there should be a replacement scheme for many of the items which had started to see high levels of wear and use.

The use of 3 lockable, secure containers based at the Hoy Centre and 1 based at the Birsay Centre ensured all outdoor equipment was stored safely and racked in order for easy use and issue to participants.

All kayaks and canoes are now stored and managed on Hoy (except larger sea kayaks kept in Kirkwall).

All mountain bikes are stored on Hoy and have been serviced on-site at the start of this year after their higher than normal level of use during 2016.

A number of outdoor equipment items (purchased using the 2016-17 budget) have been replaced, updated and included in the outdoor inventory and were ready to use before the start of the season. Items included:

Open Canoes
Child sized Archery Bows and Arrows
Bushcraft Parachute Shelter
Child sized Walking Boots
Kayak Towlines and Safety equipment

Archery Butts / Targets
Wetsuit Socks, Hoods and Gloves
Child sized Waterproof Trousers
Child sized Wellies
Climbing and Abseil specific Rope

Evening Indoor Games including Pool, Indoor Football and Table Tennis Equipment.

TRANSPORT AND MINIBUS PROVISION

There were 3 minibuses available during the 2017 programme. It is planned to replace the 15 seat minibus with a smaller 9 seat vehicle (with storage capacity). This will allow drivers who do not possess the required D1 on their license, to drive a smaller vehicle.

In order to have suitably trained drivers there is an ongoing agreement by directorate and the OIC Insurance Advisor to allow the instructors (who are sub-contracted to OIC) to drive minibuses once they had attended a MIDAS minibus training course and had suitable provision to drive the required vehicles on their license.



This enabled there to always be at least 1 minibus driver plus the Outdoor Education Advisor available for each programme. A further 2 instructors completed the MIDAS Training Course with Orkney Disability Forum this year.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

The 1 year public tender contract for instructional staff for the 2017 season was nationally advertised in October 2016 and confirmed mid December 2016. The information and specific requirements for the contract were improved and more specific than in past years and clearly outlined the provision requirements to any contractor wishing to provide the service.

The successful contractor was 'Adelong Training' who provided the instructors throughout 2017.

The return of Adelong Training for the 4th year in succession enabled the Outdoor Education Advisor to build on prior staff training and continue working with instructional staff from previous years. There are now 15 instructors fully trained from Adelong Training with 7 suitably trained to drive minibuses.

This year all instructional staff were requested to work a minimum of 3 weeks / 15 working day. One of the many positive elements of offering the contract to Adelong Training was that 4 of the returning instructors had completed the MIDAS minibus training in past years therefore suitably trained and insured to drive OIC minibuses in 2017.

In total there were 8 returning instructors and 3 new instructors who tirelessly worked to provide a successful, safe and high level of professional instruction throughout the 98 days of programmed activity. This amounted to over 240 instructor days throughout the activity season April to October.

All new instructional staff were offered a comprehensive 2 days of familiarisation and training by the Outdoor Education Advisor. This training was offered on the Thursday and Friday of the week before they were to start work, this allowed them the weekend to rest and ready themselves for work on the following Monday morning.

This period of training and familiarisation was highlighted by the AALS Inspector as exemplary in relation to staff management and training, especially with regard the number of instructors that work throughout the season. Any returning instructional staff were given 1 day of update and refresher training before starting work on an activity programme.

All instructional staff were issued Outdoor Education branded outdoor clothing which comprised 2 t-shirts, a gilet and fleece jacket. The functional outdoor clothing provided all instructional staff with suitable day to day work clothes which also looked professional, smart and identifiable to all participants and visiting staff taking part.



Feedback provided by group leaders, teachers, and participants who have been involved with an activity programme have been excellent. There has been high praise for the level of instruction, safety, maturity, decision making and competence in dealing with the needs of the individual and the group. The staff Feedback and comments are highlighted in the appendices.

It was proposed and agreed by the Outdoor Education Steering Group last year that the method of employing instructional staff and a new tender for outdoor instructors should continue but be increased to a 3 year period. This will ensure returning, trained and suitable instructional staff could be offered ongoing work between 2018 and 2020. This will continue to improve the high level of instruction, professionalism, ongoing safety and valued experiences offered to participants taking part in outdoor education and activity programmes in the future.

As in past years, it gives me great pleasure in thanking Charlie Chambers from Adelong Training and her highly professional staff for providing another excellent season of instruction and flexibility in providing additional staffing when required.

The Orkney Field Teacher who is based at the RSPB head office in Stromness has continued to work diligently with schools and youth groups. Joint funding towards the post has been in existence for over 17 years and the partnership between the council and the RSPB has been ongoing over this period in providing a much needed resource within Orkney for both organisations and at a number of public events.

AALA LICENSE

The license Inspector visited the Hoy Centre in September this year for the annual inspection. During the 2 days in Orkney she was able to meet and discuss activity safety and programme matters with Chris Jex (Outdoor Education Advisor) and instructional staff and also Garry Burton (Leisure Manager) and Charlie Chambers (Adelong Training) who were also present on Hoy throughout the day.

The extension to last year's license through until October will now enable the annual license inspection to be completed each September rather than in July (when there may not be any outdoor activity being offered).

The license inspector thoroughly checks the following information:

Staff Handbook	Operating Procedures
Risk Assessments	Safety rope and Buoyancy Aid test records
Instructor monitoring and observations	Staff qualification / records
In-House training and sign-off records	Management of day to day documentation
Activity emergency procedures	



It was reported that a new 1 year license would be granted from October 2017 to October 2018 and there were no outstanding matters for attention.

It was highlighted that the approach to staffing, although not common in the UK, was a positive move to ensure ongoing activity safety, staff training and continuation of a high level of service. The 'future-proofing' of the service needed to be addressed to ensure the safety and management of such a unique service to schools could be managed and maintained in the future. The inspector commented on focussing on the depth and breadth of management and support, as this was a good basis / model on which to continue improving and growing the excellent service offered within Orkney.

The new 'Activity site guide for Hoy' was seen an excellent resource for instructors and it was suggested that this should be updated and extended to the Orkney mainland activity sites which are used on an annual basis.

The license Inspector commented on the Generic Risk Assessments and mentioned that they could be simplified and updated to be more 'readable' by removing the categorisation of risks and any grading systems and including additional risk benefits for each activity. This will be updated and available for 2018.

PROGRAMME COSTS

The ongoing pricing structure for outdoor services and use of accommodation for residential groups was clearly outlined to all group leaders and teachers and was generally accepted as good value for money.

The secondary schools now pass on the cost of the majority of the course fees directly to the parents and do not subsidise the costs. Most primary schools continued to fundraise or request donations from local parent / school council groups in order to reduce the per pupil cost asked from parents.

The annual Outdoor Education budget, in relation to covering the cost of staff and accommodation was within budget. It is anticipated and planned that there will not be a rise in the cost of instructor charges for 2018 (subject to the instructor tender contract being awarded successfully).

It is vitally important to ensure that schools, organisations and other services that choose to participate in outdoor courses and activities are offered safe, educational, good value for money and the highest level of service at all times. It is also important to be aware and recognise that the cost of providing this service to them has markedly risen over the past few years and needs to be realistic and within the Outdoor Education budget. Part funding of the Orkney Field Teacher post continues to be resourced from within the Outdoor Education budget and it is important to look at ways to ensure that the future-proofing of the resource and part funding continues.



WEATHER

The period between April and July 2016 was generally unsettled, windy, but drier than in previous years. There were less sunny days noted in the daily diary and instructor meeting weather forecasts with the wind coming from the East and South East for more prolonged periods than normal. The effect of this meant instructors had to be more flexible with activity programming, choosing appropriate activities for the conditions and higher awareness of wind chill especially in relation to water based activities.

The school summer holiday weather was a mix of sun and showers with relatively unsettled but warm weather. The activities offered were flexible enough so as not to be affected by poor weather.

The wetter, warmer and very windy autumn period was challenging for all water based activity sessions due to larger seas and rough ocean swells running for weeks on end. The knock-on effect meant decreased amount of coasteering activity and increased amount of visits to the Gorge-walking and woodland Bush-craft activity which took advantage of higher than average water levels and the need to escape from the strong gale-force winds predominantly from the South East and then the West during October. The benefit of unsettled and windy weather during September and October meant less midges!

Sometimes just being out in the elements was enough for some participants who relished / dreaded the tug of the strong winds whilst walking down the 'Rackwick Valley' and splashing / immersing well beyond welly depth in the 'Candle of the Sale' Gorge scramble activity.

No activities were cancelled and the flexibility of instructional staff was paramount to being able to offer a fun adventurous and educational action packed programme, regardless of the inclement weather periods.

PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATE AND SOUVENIRS

All participants taking part were issued a certificate of achievement as a record and reminder of activity completion and living away from home with others in their peer group. It is generally the format, that upon returning to school they were presented with their certificates during an assembly in front to the school.

Outdoor Education branded souvenirs were not offered for sale or the stocks replenished this year. The stock of many of the items has not been replenished for over 10 years and the provision (if continued) will need to be closely managed, so as to ensure a break-even point financially. It would be beneficial for participants to pre-order some items (T-shirts) so as to ensure there is enough sizing / stock available.



EXCURSION POLICY

The current 2016 version of the policy was not updated or any amendments made during 2017. The inclusion of the 'Extended School Boundary Area' information was sent out to all schools in June 2017 and was offered as of September 2017. Application for an extended school boundary area is offered to all schools within Orkney. A successful application will enable a school to make use of a wider (approximately 1 km radius from the school) boundary area in which to promote and teach many of the curricular topics which have practical applications close to the school, or where visits to historic buildings or sites of importance would be of benefit to pupils.

The extended school area will also make interaction with the local environment much easier for teachers wishing to utilise the local area and enable short journeys, visits or outdoor lessons to be completed with minimal paperwork and quicker approval from the Head.

It is hoped that schools which have applied for the extended boundary area around their school can positively utilise the Orkney Field Teacher to assist with environmental outdoor activities, which in turn will enhance the quality of practical activity and learning by pupils, linking the local environment to the school curriculum.

The Outdoor Education Advisor will continue to offer assistance and training to all group leaders, teachers and heads in relation to the Excursion Policy and the Extended School Boundary area.

PROGRAMME FEEDBACK

Participant feedback is generally completed by all participants at the end of the programme before departure and during the review activities. The format of ticking 1 of 5 boxes for key areas for them to give feedback was slightly amended this year in order to suit a younger audience and making it easier to read. There were 466 responses from participants which summarised in the appendices of this report.

Visiting teacher feedback was also changed this year and was available through a 'Survey-monkey' questionnaire which all leaders and teachers were given a link to. In total there were 17 responses and the data collected is highlighted within the appendices.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FACEBOOK PAGE

The Outdoor Education Advisor set up a Facebook page at the start of the year and has added information on a daily basis throughout the year for the schools and general public to browse. The Facebook page is a point of contact to anyone who wishes to contact the Outdoor Education Advisor, make comment about the service and understand what we offer and do each day through words and pictures. To date there are nearly 500 regular followers and the page has been read by over 3000 people since its start.



2017 STATISTICS

Outdoor Education & Active Schools Programme

The 2017 Outdoor Education Programme (April 21st to 13th October) was based from Hoy and Birsay Centres.

Active Schools Summer Programme was offered for 10 days on weeks starting 17th July and August 14th

Youth based groups taking part	4 groups	No Change
Schools taking part	20 schools	+ 25%
Individual courses (1-3 days) completed	38 courses	+ 19%
Activity days completed	116 days	+ 18%
Staff training days	18 days	- 10%
Instructional staff employed	13 staff total	+ 30%
Days of activity unfilled within programme	2 days	- 71%
Total participants attended	782 participants	+ 26%
Total teachers / group leaders attended	100 leaders	+ 49%
Accommodation nights used	41 nights	+ 8%
Income for instructor / activity provision	£40976.00	+ 15%
Income for centre based accommodation	£11186.60	+ 7%

Orkney Field Teacher Activities

The Orkney Field Teacher has been available and worked throughout the year providing environmental based activity for schools and with environmental projects for the public within Orkney.

Schools involved in environmental activity	13 schools
Field Teacher led activity sessions	42 activity sessions
Pupils offered environmental activity	639 participants
Number of topics offered	27 topics
Other events managed / attended	11 events
Child and adult participation at events	308 participants



THE FUTURE

The activity season planning and preparation for many schools started earlier than in past years. This allowed schools and teachers the opportunity to confirm dates and put in plans for fundraising and heightened awareness to parents of the dates of the Outdoor Education Residential Programme for their child.

The quieter winter period enabled the Outdoor Education Advisor to plan and prepare for the forthcoming year and ensure all equipment, paperwork, safety and operating procedures and the new activity site guide was updated and completed.

Input and reporting to the Outdoor Education Steering Group (twice a year) has enabled there to be a clearer pathway looking ahead and to wider issues affecting Outdoor Education provision including ongoing improvement.

There has been a general increase in all statistical areas including activity days, provision, staffing and income. There has been a sharp rise in the number of participants taking part in daily and residential activity rising by 26 %. The number of adult leaders has risen by 49% compared to last year. This rise is not set / forecast to increase year on year, but does show an increasing demand and confidence in the outdoor activity and residential services offered to them.

A very busy and productive year for the Orkney Field Teacher who has led environmental based activities in over 13 schools, to at least 639 pupils. This has undoubtedly assisted schools in providing practical learning opportunities to pupils both indoors and outdoors which has strengthened important links between the local environmental and the curriculum.

Thank you to all teaching staff who put in a lot of time and effort to ensuring their school had a successful year. Your time and effort is highly acknowledged and appreciated by the Outdoor Education Advisor, Orkney Field Teacher and all outdoor instructors.

Thank you for your support and positive feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further suggestions, ideas or ways of offering high quality Outdoor Education in Orkney.

**Chris Jex,
Outdoor Education Advisor
15th November 2017**



Appendix 1

OUTDOOR EDUCATION, PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Each participant was asked to complete a brief questionnaire slip prior to their departure from the Hoy or Birsay centre. A total of 466 questionnaires were completed and recorded.

All responses given for the first 8 questions are shown as **percentages (%)**

The first 8 questions asked were to be marked on a 5 point / description scale:

1) No 2) Sometimes 3) Generally 4) Most of the Time 5) Definitely

QUESTION 1-8

	LOW =1				HIGH =5
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
1) Did you enjoy your activity programme ?	0	3%	5%	24%	68%
2) Was the food tasty ?	2%	8%	14%	32%	44%
3) Was the Outdoor Centre comfortable ?	1%	2%	12%	27%	58%
4) Did you feel safe when taking part in activities ?	0	5%	5%	28%	62%
5) Was the outdoor equipment suitable ?	0	2%	8%	18%	72%
6) Did you learn anything new ?	1%	8%	11%	18%	62%
7) Did you have to work as a team on any activity ?	0	3%	3%	22%	72%
8) Would you like to come back again ?	1%	3%	6%	7%	83%

The final 2 questions required a written response:

Q9 What was your favourite activity?

The list of activities below shows the **number of responses to the favourite activity** of the participants who took part:

COASTEER	147
GORGE SCRAMBLE	94
CANOE	65
ARCHERY	58
BUSHCRAFT	41
RAFT BUILD	16
WALK	12
KAYAK	11
CLIMBING TOWER	11
'CUILLAGS'	4
ORIENTEER	3
MOUNTAIN BIKE	2
CAMP	2



Q10 Write 3 words to describe your outdoor experience ?

INDEPENDENCE	ACTION PACKED	SURPRISING	ADVENTURE	SUPREME
TRANSFERABLE	UNEXPECTED	TEACHERS	EXHILARATING	SEA
COZY	CHALLENGED	SPECTACULAR	WHITEWATER	INCREDIBLE
TOO-SHORT	DIFFERENT	SWEET	DARING	HILARIOUS
MEMORABLE	KNOWLEDGE	VIEW	MUDDY	FANDABIDOSIE
UPLIFTING	LEARNING	ENCOURAGED	LOUD	BEST
STUNNING-VIEW	WOW	LEARNING	LAUGHTER	CHILLY
AGAIN	DETERMINED	FUTURE	FOCUS	PEACEFUL
WET	BUCKET	ENCOURAGED	INVOLVED	COMFORTABLE
WINDY	FISH	CRAZY	FRIENDS	AUTHENTIC
PROUD	MONKEYS	BESTEST	RELAXED	CAMP
EPIC	AMAZEBALLS	MAGICAL	TRUST	CHUFFED
TOUGH	HOT	FOREVER	SLEEPLESS	CUILLAGE
SPEECHLESS	OUTSTANDING	RIVETTING	INSPIRED	OLD MAN
NERVOUS	SAFETY	EXHAUSTED	HEALTHY	PUDDLES
FUN	BARNACLES	HILARIOUS	PHYSICAL	SQUELCH
AWESOME	BRUISES	SHIVERING	MIDGES	SLEEPY
EXCITING	SAND	BURNT	10 / 10	SUNSET
BRILLIANT	OUTDOORS	MOIST	ENERGETIC	SUNRISE
TIRING	AIR	RORY	ANTICIPATION	CLEAN
SUPER	BANTER	CHRIS	LOVE	FITNESS
COOL	MUSIC	LEADER	FANTASTIC	ECSTATIC
SMILE	WET	CHARLIE	MEMORABLE	NERVOUS
CHALLENGED	THRILLING	BEX	EDUCATIONAL	
SAFE	CREATIVE	MATT	GREAT	
ENCOURAGED	INVIGORATING	ANNA	AWESOME	
TEAM	COMMUNICATION	TIM	INTERESTING	
TEAMWORK	LISTENING	JONO	SCARY	
UNDERSTANDING	LONGER	MICK	COOL	
BEAUTIFUL	GRAND	BEN	GOOD	
BREATHTAKING	COLD	PHIL	POWERFUL	
EXPERIENTIAL	SHORT	KATY	VALUABLE	
YUMMY	SOGGY	EXOTIC	HAPPY	



Appendix 2

TEACHER & GROUP LEADER FEEDBACK

A total of 17 'Survey-monkey' questionnaires were completed. (Some responses were completed for multiple programme visits)

The results below in the tables are ALL expressed as a percentage (%).

1a) Please rate the Outdoor Centre / Base / Accommodation used ?:

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>ADEQUATE</u>	<u>SATISFACTORY</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>
Centre safety / ease of locking external doors	0	0	6%	18%	76%
Centre cleanliness / general appearance	0	0	6%	24%	72%
Bedrooms / sleeping areas	0	0	12%	12%	76%
Bathrooms / toilets / shower facilities	0	0	12%	6%	82%
Kitchen / cooking facilities	0	0	6%	30%	64%
Living area / hall / common room	0	0	6%	35%	59%
Changing / equipment storage area	0	0	6%	35%	59%
Drying facilities	6%	0	0	47%	47%
Visiting staff / instructor area	0	6%	0	47%	47%
Outside grounds	0	0	6%	47%	47%
Car parking area	0	0	13%	31%	56%
Waste disposal / external rubbish bins	6%	0	6%	38%	50%
Disabled access	0	0	0	44%	56%
Other facilities	0	0	0	40%	60%

1b) Please add any comments below:

- Everything was great.
- Children only mentioned afterwards that they had trouble with the bathroom doors sticking and were hard to open and close.
- Understand the need to keep energy costs down, but drying room needs a bit more heat in it.
- Bedroom heating didn't seem to be working.

- Some of the shower room doors were sticking and wouldn't close properly. However, the centre was in a much better state of cleanliness and repair than in the past.
- The changing area/drying room can be quite cramped with a large group.
- Wi-fi throughout the building (especially bedrooms) would be nice.
- Good to have the cleared area outside for the children to play on.
- The Hall is a bit 'echoey' for teaching purposes otherwise top notch facility that really fitted with our needs.
- Considering there were too many of us for the space/utensils/chairs etc we made the best of it and all involved were adaptable.
- The Centre is great. We didn't use the disabled access so I can't really comment on it.
- A gate across that we could use in the evening to make sure children didn't go on road would have been even better for car park, and maybe an area for outside ball games? The children managed fine though!
- We really like the centre.
- The building is very good, but is a maze of corridors.
- There is good space in the accommodation area and plenty of space for activities.
- I think that best use is being made of the building, a very comfortable place to spend time.
- No recycling - all the rubbish goes into one bin outside.
- WI FI Link weak

2a) If you used the outside food caterer during your stay, please rate this service ?:

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>ADEQUATE</u>	<u>SATISFACTORY</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>
Choice of menu	7%	0	7%	46%	40%
Quality of food	0	7%	7%	34%	52%
Quantity of food	0	7%	0	40%	53%
Value for money	0	8%	8%	39%	46%
Ease of ordering and delivery	0	8%	0	39%	53%

2b) Please add any comments below:

- Menu choice has been the same for the past 7+ years, perhaps it is time for a change?
- Disappointed that the snack bar supplied for packed lunch stated '**may contain nuts**'. Felt this was not satisfactory when it stated on the menu form that there was a child with a nut allergy.
- It's always difficult to get quantities right. We did have large excess of bread and milk.
- It was useful having the contact numbers to ask for extra, and this worked really well as items came across on the first boat the next day.
- First night was a bit short on Potatoes but loads the next night, otherwise excellent portion sizes for hungry teenagers.
- Menu was a bit limited for our vegetarians but they did comment that food that they did order was tasty.
- Great food - although there wasn't much for one child who was vegan - to be fair this should have been picked up by the school before the visit.

- Lots of food provided - just not sure what to do with what was left - reluctant to waste any of it.
- Very good as always (we just couldn't manage all the tatties!)
- The food was very good quality and plenty of it.
- A good system.
- No vegetables are served with the meals.
- Could be better labelled
- No Baked Tatties

3a) Please rate the activity programme you took part in ?:

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>ADEQUATE</u>	<u>SATISFACTORY</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>
Pre programme information / paperwork	0	0	7%	27%	66%
Booking procedure / confirmation	0	0	0	36%	64%
Pre programme visit / meeting	0	0	14%	14%	72%
Content / variety of programme	0	0	0	24%	76%
Suitability of activities offered	0	0	0	24%	76%
Level of fun / challenge / adventure offered	0	0	0	18%	82%
Personal outdoor equipment offered	0	0	0	12%	88%
Outdoor safety equipment offered	0	0	0	12%	88%
Transportation / minibus suitability	0	0	0	30%	70%
Activity sites chosen / used	0	0	0	12%	88%
Instructor safety / professionalism	0	0	0	6%	94%
Instructor flexibility / cooperation	0	0	0	12%	88%
Management of programme / decision making	0	0	0	18%	82%
Length of programme	0	0	0	12%	88%

3b) Please add any comments below:

- Gorge walk- Fantastic Bushcraft- Great Pancake walk through Rackwick valley- Fantastic Hill climb- Great
- The level of challenge and adventure could have been improved if the weather had been better.
- A day trip kayaking, walking on the hill tops and coasteering was mentioned. It was unfortunate that the weather prevented us from completing these activities.

- I struggled a bit to get packed lunch eaten, keep tabs on children, get myself sorted and deal with any issues concerning the children in the 20 mins given for lunch. Fortunately there was some leeway, but it was rather hectic at times. Understand we want to give the children the best experiences and longer lunch means less activity time, this is also probably to do with boat time too and picking up food.
- Not personally involved with the pre-programme part. Chris had obviously done a lot of work to improve the organisation and provision of equipment and facilities.
- The pool table, table tennis, table football and other equipment/activities really helped with keeping the children entertained in the evening.
- First year of doing this at the centre. Chris couldn't have been more helpful with the pre-trip information etc.
- The instructors were highly competent and extremely professional.
- Related well with the kids and really listened to the academic aims of the trip.
- All pupils said they had got a lot from the trip and many pupils and parents commented about how much fun the pupils had.
- From a teaching standpoint it has helped us gather high quality primary data which has made the write ups of their Added value units for Nat 4 and Assignments for National 5 really easy. Will definitely be booking next year.
- Raft building - good amount of time to plan and prepare and excellent safety awareness - good at engaging some of the kids who didn't want to be engaged;
- Archery - patient and good humoured instructing. Real sense of achievement when kids improved.
- Lots of time to do activity but kids really enjoyed it so good it wasn't rushed.
- Orienteering - well planned and well run - lovely route and even the rain didn't dampen it. Lots of good team building here.
- Climbing wall - really enjoyed by the kids - even those who were nervous of heights were encouraged to push themselves and achieve.
- I think the instructors read the kids really well - they could tell who to push and how much by and they made them feel safe.
- Bushcraft - great short achievable activity.
- We loved all the activities and the instructors were great.
- I felt the level of instruction and organising was very good and safe.
- The activities were all good and pupils had the opportunity to take part in several activities in only a few days
- The First Aid kit used on the walk didn't seem to have that many resources for dealing with minor injuries.
- Car-share ?



4a) Please rate the staff and instructors who worked with you on your Outdoor Activity Programme ?:

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>SATISFACTORY</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>INSPIRATIONAL</u>
Approachability / friendliness	0	0	6%	53%	47%
Enthusiasm / motivation	0	0	0	47%	53%
Competency in activities offered	0	0	0	47%	53%
Style of delivery	0	0	0	65%	35%
Awareness of group safety / wellbeing	0	0	0	47%	53%
Empathy / attention to individuals	0	0	0	59%	41%
Inclusiveness of all participants	0	0	0	47%	53%
Expertise / professionalism	0	0	0	41%	59%
Ability to work under pressure / Make changes to activity	0	0	0	41%	59%

4b) Please add any comments below:

- They were all fantastic.
- All instructors were great, thanks Chris for putting the programme together so efficiently
- I can't rate the instructors and staff highly enough. They were all superb. The children, other adults and myself thoroughly enjoyed working with them.
- I cannot rate the staff highly enough. Kids were safe, engaged, and challenged at all times and this resulted in a really high quality experience that I am sure they will remember fondly for years to come.
- They were wonderful - really gentle and authoritative, lots of experience with kids but made each and every one of them feel special i think.
- All were fantastic and related really well to the children.
- The instructors are fab - every year!
- Chris was regularly used as a driver each day, we were not sure if this was the best use for him as we presume he is highly qualified in outdoors and it seemed a shame to waste his resources on minibus driving?
- The instructors were extremely competent both in leading activities and in their interpersonal skills in interactions with pupils.
- The Outdoor Education staff and instructors on our trip were not only extremely competent and gave the children a first class experience but they were friendly and approachable and the children responded really well to them.
- They made the trip a pleasure.
- Very good patients and understanding at getting unsure pupils to participate
- Adelong training is amazing

5a) Please rate your overall experience of the Outdoor Activity programme ?:

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>ADEQUATE</u>	<u>SATISFACTORY</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>
Strong links to the curriculum / educational value	0	6%	0	25%	69%
Positive effect on participants	0	0	0	18%	82%
Positive effect on group leaders / teachers	0	0	6%	12%	82%
Opportunity for participants to learn new skills / activities	0	0	0	18%	82%
Opportunity for participants to work / communicate together	0	0	0	12%	88%
Opportunity to express themselves	0	0	0	18%	82%
Duration of your programme	0	0	6%	24%	70%
Overall cost effectiveness	0	0	0	19%	81%

5b) Please add any comments below:

- Perhaps a stronger link to the capacities of ACfE and what we were hoping the children would achieve.
- As good as the purpose ran Kindrogan program that was delivered by geography professionals, and at a fraction of the cost, not to mention the time and money saved on not having to travel to Perth.
- Great experience!
- Changing accommodation (tent to hostel room) was a bit of a bind - will be great another year when so much time doesn't need to be spent on it and the kids can have a solid base for themselves to chill out in.
- It's a great opportunity for the children.
- Be back next year

6) What were the most positive elements of your Outdoor Activity programme ?:

Please add any comments below:

- S2 pupils getting an opportunity to push themselves and learn in a different environment.
- The instructors were professional and lead the activities so that they were fun, challenging and safe.
- The hostel, setup, equipment and organisation was of a very high standard.
- The food was good.
- My personal highlight was playing sniper at the bottom of the gorge walk!
- Seeing the pupils enjoy themselves
- The determination of the the instructors to focus on team work and communication paid off at the end of the 3 days. I am seeing more communication between the boys and girls back at school too.
- First rate instructors.
- Activities related to our current class project.

- Enjoyment and challenge.
- Development of teamwork and co-operation.
- Very hard to decide on just one or two. I suppose the high quality experience our young people got to enjoy.
- The tight links to our academic aims. Made possible by the top quality instruction delivered by the centre
- That even with so many children, the experience felt in no way watered down for them. If anything, they had to mix better and quicker than last year and they had plenty of opportunities to try new and exciting things.
- Seeing the children working together and trying new things, especially when they were initially nervous.
- Watching and helping people overcome their fears.
- Being outdoors and active.
- I got to make fire!
- Seeing the children thrive in a new and challenging environment .
- The 2nd day with the high hills walk was a very positive experience.
- Pupils were all challenged and pushed themselves to keep going even when things got tough.
- The instructor did a good job of putting the responsibility onto the pupils to plan the route using the map and compass, and reflecting on the route taking.
- The 1st day coasteering was a great experience and the pupils who were involved definitely gained a lot from it.
- Only thing that was disappointing was the lack of time, but this wasn't the instructors fault. The pupils took an age to get the wet suits on and we were late coming in from the boat.
- The combination of excellent facilities and competent instructors which facilitated an exceptional experience for the young people involved.
- Personal development of pupils through being challenged in many different ways (resilience, perseverance, team work).
- Great team of instructors and management.
- It was a fantastic experience from start to finish but the variety of activities led by excellent staff was the real highlight.
- Group participation and inclusion
- Plenty of activities for the children in the evening
- Very good supply of extra clothing available I felt very included in all activities and decisions by the instructors
- Landscape

7) Please give information / suggestions as to how we can improve the Outdoor Activity programme , the activities offered, or overall experience ?:

Please add any comments below:

- The programme could be run earlier in the year (early September). This would reduce the probability of adverse weather conditions.
- I feel the service already listens and tries to make improvements, keep doing that.
- As mentioned above a greater emphasis on constantly reminding the children the educational value/links to the four capacities and to project work being done in the classroom. Maybe a chat between instructors/ group leader just before the first activity would help?

- Will play about with timings and activities, just as we play about with what is on offer, though to be honest this was a pretty perfect initial trip so it will be hard to see what can be improved!
- See above comments on numbers and movements between tents and hostel - this shouldn't happen again anyway and everyone made the best of it.
- No other suggestions - it was a fabulous experience!
- I cannot think of anything which would improve the experience.
- If it ain't broke don't try fixing it.
- None - unless you can guarantee no rain!
- I would have liked to have seen more links to the values and educational skills we are trying to develop within the pupils. I did feel sometimes the pupils were asked to do something but there was no mention of WHY we are doing it. "Why are we having to cook our own meals and set our own tents up?"
- To develop responsibility! Linking to the Significant Aspects of Learning (SALS) within PE would have been beneficial.
- I think reflecting on a task as well would have improved the experience, there were times when pupils maybe didn't work well together or co-operate, so there could of been more times the group reflected on tasks to discuss if its working or not?
- An information pack for staff/teachers going out for the first time.
- For this particular trip I do not feel there are any improvements that could be made to make it better.
- Longer Stay

8) Please summarise your outdoor activity programme / experience in 3 words?:

Fun	Challenging	Wet	Enjoyable
Professional	Inspirational	Hectic	Challenging
Amazing	Windswept	Educational	Relevant
Satisfying	Exciting	Exhausting	Beautiful
Motivational	Challenging	Organised	Informative
Enjoyable	Proud	Motivating	Positive
Rewarding	Excellent	Chilled	Fantastic
Inclusive			



Appendix 3

RSPB Field Teacher Yearly Report for 2017 (Jan – September)

Number of school Sessions: 42

Number of pupils: 639 pupils (1,165) pupils if you count repeated visits to the same class / group



A Classroom Session



Clearing litter from the 4th Barrier Beach



Playing a bumblebee game



Kick sampling and identifying aquatic invertebrates



Using senses outdoors



Planting a wildflower area in the school grounds for bumblebees

Number of pupils engaged with: (includes repeats)

School	Number of visits	Classes visited	Number of individual pupils engaged with	Total pupils (including repeat visits to the same class / group)
Rousay School	2	Whole school	10	20
Kirkwall Grammar School	8	John Muir Award Group	8	64
Stromness Primary School	7	Nursery, p1 and p5	95	207
Hope Community School	3	Whole school (inc. nursery and preschool)	96	278
Burray Primary School	3	Whole school (inc. pre school for 2 visits)	29	71
Stenness Primary School	2	P1/2/3	17	34
Papdale Primary	5	All P1 classes, P3/4 class, one P7 class, all P3 classes	237	237
Dounby Primary	2	P3 and P5	42	84
Orphir Primary	2	P2/3	22	40
St. Andrews	2	P2	21	41
Firth Primary	2	nursery	18	36
Evie Primary School	1	P1/2/3	12	12
Glaitness	3	Activity group and P5	32	41
Total			639	1,165

Topics offered:

Bird ID, behaviour and making fat balls

Big Schools Bird Watch

Raptors and dissecting Owl Pellets

Nature walk (various locations)

Sensory Walk

Nests and nest building

Improving school grounds for wildlife

Mini-beast hunting and survey techniques (terrestrial and aquatic)

Marine Litter

Bird Watching Trips

Sea Eagles

Transient art

Rock pooling

Wildflowers/Trees

Bumblebees

John Muir Award

I am always happy to provide support with other environmental topics.

Events:

Event	Partner Organisation	Location	Number of Children attended	Number of Adults attended
Big Garden Bird Watch	Woodwick House	Woodwick House, Evie	9	7
Wild Scavenger Hunt		Binscarth Woods	12	
Whose are those footprints?		Warbeth	8	
Whose are those footprints?		Warbeth	8	
Nature Diaries	Wordsmit creative writing group	Cottascarth	7	3
Meet the Little Terns		4 th Barrier Beach	23	31
Big Wild Sleep Out		Onziebust, Egilsay	11	7
County Show	Orkney Agricultural Society	Kirkwall	Approx. 60	Approx. 80
Batty About Bats	Orkney Bat Group	Finstown Community Gardens	8	9
Batty about Bats	Orkney Bat Group	Finstown Community Gardens	8	5
Bird Watching	West Mainland Adventure Club	Cottascarth	10	3



Wild scavenger hunt



Rock Pooling



Whose are those





Big Garden Bird Watch



footprints



Bird Watching at Cottascarth



Moth magic at the Big Wild Sleep-Out



Rock-pooling at the Big Wild Sleep-Out



Marshmallow toasting at the Big Wild Sleep-Out

Special Projects

We are trying to encourage schools to take on a rare / endangered species as a project. So far we have two projects ongoing.

Little Terns

This is a project that has run for 2 years. Little Terns are our second rarest seabird and the breeding colony at the 4th barrier beach is the furthest north in the UK. Pupils of Burray Primary School and Hope Community School have taken on the role of little tern protectors. Each year they make posters to inform the public how to keep the terns safe, they make and paint the decoys, make little tern chick shelters and clean the beach of litter. Before the schools became involved in this project there had been no fledglings for many years. We were delighted that in the first year of this project we had at least 8 fledglings and this year at least 11 fledglings have survived. A great example of community work protecting a very rare species!



Corncrake project

Rousay Primary School have taken on Corncrakes as their endangered species. They are working on the island of Egilsay and have so far produced posters asking members of the public to report any corncrakes they have heard to the RSPB. They have also had their first visit out to Egilsay to complete surveys of different habitats to work out what habitats provide the best cover / food for corncrakes. They will undertake a second visit to Egilsay in November to complete practical conservation work to create more suitable habitat for Corncrakes.

John Muir Award

The John Muir Award is run by the John Muir Trust and is a project designed to explore wild spaces. It is an accredited award, recognised by many organisations. It is recommended for upper primary and older. Kirkwall Grammar School has run a John Muir Award with a small group of pupils who would benefit from outdoor / conservation work, for the last few years. There are 3 levels of award: **Discovery, Explore and Conserve**. KGS pupils have completed the Discovery award which has a minimum time commitment of 24 hours; this can be covered over a period of a week to a year, depending on what suits that school / class / group.

In the award there are 4 areas that need to be covered. **Discovery of a wild place, exploring a wild place, conserving a wild place and sharing the experience of all those**. It can be done within one wild place or several places linked in some way. For convenience, many schools will

choose parks or school grounds to complete an award. Schools in Orkney that have completed the John Muir Award have chosen places such as Happy Valley (Stenness Primary school), Scapa Beach (Glaitness Primary school) where the pick up 3 pieces initiative was born, and RSPB nature reserves such as Brodgar and Hobbister (Kirkwall Grammar School).



If unable to accompany schools on trips I will endeavour to lend any equipment that might be of use. There are ongoing school visits throughout the winter period, including a John Muir Award project with a group of Kirkwall Grammar School pupils and another visit to Egilsay with pupils from Rousay Primary School. We are also developing lessons on invasive species as part of the Orkney Native Wildlife Project and the stoat eradication that is due to commence... these will be trialled in a couple of schools before 2018. We also have a variety of family events that will run for the remainder of this year.

Appendix 4

Assorted Outdoor Education Pictures from 2017

