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INTRODUCTION

Substantial evidence exists to indicate that fieldwork, properly conceived, adequately planned, well taught and effectively followed up, offers learners opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in ways that add value to their everyday experiences in the classroom

Rickinson et al. (2004) *A Review of Research on Outdoor Learning*

Outdoor education has attracted an increasing amount of attention in recent years, in both educational and political circles. The introduction of Foundation Phase, the promotion of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) and the re-emergence of a more experiential approach to learning at all levels have placed the outdoor classroom and field studies nearer the centre of educational theory and practice.

However, following a number of high profile accidents and court cases, schools and local authorities have become increasingly concerned about the risks associated with outdoor education and the potential for litigation should anything go wrong. As schools and colleges are, on one hand, being encouraged to use the outdoors, so too, ever more stringent procedures are being set in place which potentially could discourage involvement in outdoor activities. Schools must now seek approval from the LEA Educational Visit Coordinator for visits in the highest category of risk. The Welsh Assembly is preparing new comprehensive guidelines for educational visits, which are expected by mid-2007.

This directory has been produced by **Swansea Environmental Education Forum**, or SEEF, (see page 48) to inform teachers of local resources which can support outdoor education, particularly in relation to the study of the natural environment. It includes details of a range of organisations and individuals that offer accompanied site visits, with information about what each can offer, to which age groups, at which sites and with what level of expertise and experience. The directory also provides practical information about a selection of local sites which can be used effectively for field studies. Site particulars have been provided by practitioners who are familiar with each particular site, and have experience of providing educational activities at them. The final section contains information about a number of other organisations and projects that can offer additional support or opportunities for fieldwork.

SEEF wishes to encourage all schools and colleges to participate increasingly in outdoor activities but to do so in a safe, environmentally sensitive and educationally valuable way. The **code of good practice** (see page 3) highlights important issues that all teachers should consider when planning and carrying out field activities.

SEEF is not able to endorse or recommend any particular independent provider, whether listed in this directory or not. Schools and colleges should always undertake their own thorough and careful checks before selecting an independent provider to support their outdoor education work. The **checklist for choosing an independent provider** in this document (see page 4) may be a helpful aid in this respect.

Many of the sites listed in this directory can also be used by schools independently of specialist professionals, though in most cases permission is required and it may be advisable to seek advice before arranging such a trip. SEEF also encourages schools and colleges to consider adopting a site local to them and contribute to its management and development for the benefit of wildlife and the wider community – the **Nature Conservation Team** (see page 17) may be able to advise on this issue.

Code of Good Practice for Field Study Visits

<p>Know the Site</p>	<p>The visit leader, whether an independent provider or a teacher working independently, should know the site well and be aware of any risks and know how to deal with them. Read site specifications, talk to the landowner, visit the site in advance and prepare a risk assessment. Be aware that some sites are not suitable in certain weather conditions or at certain times of the day or year e.g. visiting caves when bats are hibernating, rivers in full flow or rock pools with an incoming tide.</p>
<p>Liaise with the Landowner</p>	<p>It is important to contact the landowner before a trip to check whether the site is accessible or already in use on the day you plan to visit. Always seek permission if you plan to leave footpaths, carry out any activities other than walking or leave semi-permanent devices. If you spot hazards or anything that concerns you, or if your students produce good data, let the landowner or site manager know.</p>
<p>Be Prepared</p>	<p>Ensure that visit leaders are suitably experienced, qualified and trained, and that emergency procedures, appropriate adult to pupil ratios, site permissions, parental consents and medical forms are all in place. Prepare alternative activities and routes in case of unexpected changes, identify suitable places for shelter and take emergency contact details, spare clothes, extra drink and food, a first aid kit, and a charged mobile phone (check for reception in advance).</p>
<p>Leave as you Find</p>	<p>Always leave habitats as you find them: put animals, rocks, logs, etc. back in their exact locations; take care not to damage river banks when carrying out river work, etc. Be aware that many species are protected by law and should never be picked or removed from site. Where taking samples is permitted, these should be limited in quantity and, where appropriate, returned to where they came from.</p>
<p>Be Green</p>	<p>Follow the Countryside Code (see below). Encourage awareness of wider environmental impacts; consider the mode of transport you use; remove and, if possible, recycle litter found and waste created.</p>



Follow the Countryside Code (www.codcefngwlad.org.uk)

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Checklist for Choosing an Independent Provider

It is strongly recommended that a school or college checks the credentials of an independent provider before committing to their services. This checklist highlights some of the important questions that should be asked before any visit, some of which are essential while others may be useful. The teacher must use their judgement as to what is appropriate in each particular situation. This checklist may also be a useful guide for teachers leading their own trips.

N.B. New guidelines and requirements for field visits are expected from the Welsh Assembly in 2007 to clarify procedures for organising field visits.

Name of provider: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Health and Safety:

1. Does the provider possess appropriate professional qualifications?
(e.g. teaching qualification, Basic Expedition Leader Award (BELA), Forest School Leader, etc.)

 details: _____

2. Does the provider possess appropriate first aid qualifications?

 details: _____

3. Does the provider carry emergency supplies and first aid kit?

 details: _____

4. Has the provider prepared a risk assessment for the site and activities?
(request a copy)
5. Has the provider identified alternative routes and prepared alternative activities?
(request details)
6. Has the provider prepared lost child and emergency procedures?
(request a copy)
7. Has the provider prepared instructions on how the children should be dressed,
shod and equipped and information on what school staff should bring with them?
(request a copy)
8. Does the provider have up-to-date and adequate public liability insurance?

 details: _____

9. Are all the provider staff CRB checked?
10. Does the provider have a child protection policy?
(request a copy)

N.B. The City and County of Swansea council runs an Approved List system for contractors and suppliers. Though most of the non-council providers in this directory are not currently on the List, the system may become more widely applied in the future. Where an independent provider is on the Approved List for outdoor education then the council will have checked their insurance, first aid and professional qualifications, child protection and health & safety policies, CRB certificates and risk assessments.

Division of Duties:

The provider and teachers should work as a team, each playing to their strengths. As the teacher knows the group it makes sense that they organise some elements of the trip. Check that you have agreed the division of duties listed below and inform the provider of any concerns:

11. Have you agreed who is responsible for:
- a. obtaining and checking consent forms _____
 - b. briefing staff, volunteers, parents, etc. _____
 - c. carrying emergency contact details _____
 - d. carrying and administering medicines _____
 - e. ensuring appropriate adults:children ratio _____
 - f. head counting on the visit _____
 - g. group discipline on the visit _____
 - h. lunch time supervision, hand cleaning, toileting, etc. _____
 - i. backmarking on walks _____
12. Have you informed the provider of any special needs that may affect the trip?

Suitability of Activities and Sites:

13. Does the provider have information on curriculum links for each activity and site?
14. Does the provider offer resources to help with introductory and/or follow up work?
(request details)
15. Does the provider follow a code of good practice for field study visits and/or any codes of practice for protecting the sites being used?
(request details)
16. Do the sites being used have access to toilets?
17. Is there always shelter available at the sites being used?

Residential Visits:

There are many additional checks that should be made for residential visits, such as:

18. Are all facilities covered by a current fire certificate and compliant with relevant statutory requirements for health & safety, the environment and transport?
19. Is the accommodation secure from intruders?
20. Will your group be required to share sleeping accommodation with other groups?
21. Are there suitable arrangements for obtaining medical and emergency assistance?

INFORMATION ON PROVIDERS

The following pages provide details of local providers of environmental education which are able to directly support the study of the natural environment at sites in and around the City and County of Swansea.

Information is given in the final section of this guide about several organisations and projects that are developing provision or offer resources or other support for field studies.

- Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre (CCS) page 7
- Down to Earth Project page 8
- The Environment Centre page 9
- Field Studies Council (Margam Park Education Centre) page 10
- Forest School (Swansea Neath Port Talbot) page 11
- Forestry Commission Wales page 12
- Gower Activity Centres (CCS) page 13
- Gower Heritage Centre (Y Felin Ddŵr) page 14
- National Botanic Garden of Wales page 15
- The National Trust page 16
- Nature Conservation Team (CCS) page 17
- The Penllergare Trust page 18
- Plantasia (CCS) page 19
- Precious Earth Field Education Services page 20
- RSPCA Llys Nini Animal Centre page 21
- Swansea Community Farm page 22
- Ty'r Blodau (CCS) page 23
- WWT National Wetland Centre Wales page 24

Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre (CCS)

Karen Jones & Dai Morris

Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre
Caswell Road, Caswell
Swansea SA3 3BS

01792 361703

karen.jones@swansea.gov.uk

www.swansea.gov.uk/bishopswood

Number of Education Staff: 2 (see also page 17)

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 30

Age Range: **KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4**



Details of Provider

Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre offers day visits to woodland or seashore (or both) led by qualified teacher Karen Jones and warden Dai Morris. These are mainly for KS1/2 but KS3/4 can be accommodated. Sessions last 4–6 hours involve comparing habitats (woodland and seashore) and are linked to various curriculum areas including maths, art, geography, science, English and history.

Resources and equipment available for use include nets, buckets, bug pots, books, leaflets, clinometers, measuring tapes, clipboards, etc.



Activities Offered

- woodland studies
- seashore studies
- environmental games
- Earth Education
- guided walks

Sites Used

- Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve (see page 26)
- Caswell Bay Beach and Rock Pools (see page 28)

Additional Information

There is no charge to schools. Group sizes under 30 are preferred.

Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre and staff are part of the City and County of Swansea's **Nature Conservation Team** (see page 17).

Down to Earth Project

Mark McDonald

Down to Earth

19 Hareslade

Bishopston

Swansea SA3 3DU

07900 077122

info@downtoearthproject.org.uk

www.downtoearthproject.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 2

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 20–30

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4**



Details of Provider

Down to Earth provides a unique and groundbreaking approach to learning in the outdoors. Combining personal development, traditional skills and global perspectives, the project offers learning experiences that not only benefit individual learning needs, but the local and global community within which we live. The award-winning programme *Glide* was established by Mark McDonald with funding by the WAG ESDGC Panel. This enabled him to develop new approaches to exploring and accrediting ESDGC.

The approach is based on a diverse range of outdoor learning experiences from building with earth, making furniture from freshly-felled trees, woodland survival skills, traditional and natural building and working with animals. The project can also offer workshops exploring poverty, inequality, cultural diversity, interdependency and other ESDGC key concepts.

All Down to Earth workers have extensive experience in working with young people – in particular disaffected and hard to reach learners. Workers have been trained as Forest School Leaders and have completed the Youth Work Foundation Course.

Activities Offered

- green woodwork – building rustic furniture
- natural building with earth and straw bales
- working with animals
- growing food organically
- woodland based activities – bushcraft etc.
- Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship

All these activities can be OCN accredited. The project specialises in working with disaffected and hard to reach young people, but activities can be designed to meet group needs.

Sites Used

Down to Earth Project primarily use their own site in Mansfield, Gower, but also:

- Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve (see page 26)
- Gelli Hir Nature Reserve (see page 30)

Additional Information

Group size and costs of provision depend on the needs of the young people. Contact the staff for more information.

The Environment Centre

Jane Richmond
Environment Centre
Pier Street
Swansea SA1 1RY

01792 469817
jane@environmentcentre.org.uk



www.environmentcentre.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 1

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 20

Age Range: **KS2 KS3**

Details of Provider

Jane is the Project Officer for Schools based at the Environment Centre. As part of her overall education programme she runs ecology field study days for schools at Crymlyn Bog National Nature Reserve. As a qualified biology teacher Jane has the knowledge and expertise to provide a busy, fun-packed day, which introduces pupils to ecological study using an internationally important wetland habitat on the edge of Swansea.

A day visit to the reserve gives pupils the opportunity to discover the hidden wonders of a wetland habitat and uses the human and natural history of the area to illustrate the importance of the site. Jane is also a qualified first aider.

Activities Offered

- human and natural history of Crymlyn Bog
- adaptation to the environment – specifically UK environment with emphasis on freshwater
- adaptation to diet
- pond dipping
- identification and using keys
- human effects on the environment

Sites Used

- Crymlyn Bog National Nature Reserve (see page 29)

Additional Information

There is a charge of £20 for the day and the maximum number of pupils per session is 30.

Refreshments are provided but pupils and teachers are expected to provide their own packed lunches.

See page 29 for information on access restrictions to and at **Crymlyn Bog NNR**.

Field Studies Council (Margam Park Education Centre)



Richard Green
Margam Park
Port Talbot
SA13 2TJ

01639 895636

margam_sustainable_centre@hotmail.com

www.margam-ed-centre.org



Number of Education Staff: 3

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: up to 360

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4**

Details of Provider

All teaching staff are widely experienced in fieldwork, two are teacher trained. All are qualified in environmental subjects. The Centre specialises in education for sustainability, especially with KS2 groups. Residential experiences are available throughout the year. Day visits available throughout the year on 4 days per week (currently not Wednesdays). Priority is given to Neath Port Talbot and Swansea schools. The standard residential programme includes geography, science and history elements linked through sustainability education.

Activities Offered

A wide range of geography, science and history fieldwork for all age ranges. Topics include:

- habitats
- Victorians
- river study
- Celts and Romans
- orienteering
- map work
- team building
- shelter building
- sustainability activities
- farm visits

Most residential sessions are Monday to Friday (weekends/school holidays also available). Day session run from 10.00am–2.30pm (half days available for preschool and KS1 groups).

Sites Used

All fieldwork takes place in Margam Park which includes formal gardens, informal parkland, deer herds, farm animal collection, ponds, river valleys, coniferous, deciduous and mixed woodland, coastal plain, upland habitats, historic buildings from medieval, regency and Victorian times, and evidence of Celtic settlement.

Additional Information

NPT and Swansea schools have a subsidised rate for residential visits during term time weekdays (currently £13.50 per student per night). Day visits are currently £75 per group for NPT and Swansea schools. Transport is provided for these visits by the LEAs. Other groups and times: £155 per day visit and full costs for residential (variable depending on season).

Forest School (Swansea Neath Port Talbot)

June Frances

Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre
Caswell, Swansea
SA3 3BS

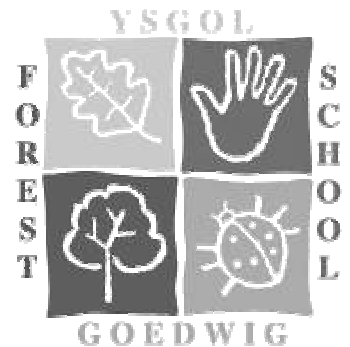
01792 367118

info@forestschoolsnpt.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 16

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 250

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4**



Details of Provider

Forest School SNPT is an independent charity set up to provide a special child-initiated educational and recreational experience in a woodland setting for young people of all ages and all abilities and training for adults. Sessions are devised to encourage and inspire children in their own learning and discovery in the natural environment. They aim to build self-esteem and self-confidence, as well as to raise awareness of the environment, by setting small achievable tasks for children to succeed in and by allowing children to learn how to take appropriate risks safely. The group size is kept small to ensure a high staff:child ratio.

There is a pool of qualified Forest School Leaders (OCN level 3) and Assistants (OCN level 2) and trained volunteers (OCN level 1). All workers and volunteers have CRB checks and there is always at least one qualified first aider on site.

Activities Offered

A broad range of activities on offer including sensory games, woodland habitat exploration, woodland crafts and management, bushcraft, campfire cooking, art, team challenges and play.

- regular weekly sessions for one term or a whole year (EY to KS4)
- Woodland Taster days for all ages
- Inset training for Early Years Keyworkers
- whole school Inset days
- Forest School Practitioner training for adults at OCN Levels 1, 2 & 3
- Forest Fun Play Days in the holidays for 8–14 yrs
- after school clubs

Sites Used

- Bishop's Wood LNR (see page 26)
- Gelli Hir Nature Reserve (see page 30)
- Kilvey Hill Community Woodland (see page 32)
- Penllergaer Forest

Plus a number of smaller sites across the county enabling provision in sites appropriate for requirements of individual groups.

Additional Information

Taster days cost £280 per class (2006 rate). For longer programmes, the preferred group size is 10-12 and charges are on a similar basis. Grants and subsidies are sometimes available. Training opportunities are available for individuals and whole schools.

Forestry Commission Wales

Amy Phillips

Coed y Cymoedd Forest
District Office
Resolven
Neath SA11 4DR

01633 580202 / 01639 850564

amy.phillips@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

www.forestry.gov.uk

Number of Education Staff: 1

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: varies

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4 A-level**



Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Cymru
Forestry Commission Wales

Details of Provider

Forestry Commission Wales' aim is to encourage the use of woodlands for learning. There are education staff who can do everything from helping to plan a visit to a local woodland, to leading the day for all age and ability groups. They also offer help and advice and training for Forest School and run teacher training events.

Activities Offered

The most popular activities are 'hands on' activities for the primary age group but FCW offer visits for everyone interested in learning about woodlands, including secondary school groups and university groups and others. Activities can be tailored to suit the school's curriculum.

Sites Used

- Afan Forest Park, Neath
- Kilvey Hill Community Woodland (see page 32)
- Parkwood, Gower
- Penllergaer Forest

The main education site in the region is Afan Forest Park, Neath, which has both coniferous and mixed woodlands, grassland, ponds and streams. It is situated in a steep-sided valley and has many recreation resources available including a classroom, visitor centre with café and toilets, interpretation panels, leaflets and a ranger. There are many other sites across the area available for use and FCW are happy to help schools use private or council-owned woodlands.

Additional Information

Groups are limited to class sizes (about 30 per visit) but there is no charge for schools in Wales. Permission for use of all Forestry Commission sites must be sought well in advance and the local education officer can provide site risk assessments. If a school or college is interested in leading their own group, the FCW may be able to loan equipment.

Gower Activity Centres (CCS)

Mary Devoy

Dan-y-Coed House
Huntington Close
West Cross, Swansea
SA3 5AL

01792 401548

mary.devoy@swansea.gov.uk

goweractivitycentres.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 10

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: up to 900

Age Range: **KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4 A-level**



Details of Provider

The Outdoor Environmental and Residential Education Service is based in the three Gower Activity Centres; Rhossili Activity Centre in Middleton, Borfa House in Port Eynon and Dan-y-Coed House in West Cross. The centres are available for 4 night / 5 day weekdays residential visits and weekends, all year round for group sizes from 10 to 55.

Recently refurbished, the centres are comfortable and welcoming with modern facilities and are *Visit Wales* accredited. Our activities team deliver outdoor adventure activities as well as environmental studies to all ages. Each programme is tailored to the needs of each group, and staff can deliver from KS1 to A-level and accredit NVQ and OCN modules. The staff team includes qualified teachers who also hold activity-specific qualifications and the centres are AALA licensed.

Activities Offered

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| ○ river studies | ○ map reading |
| ○ woodland studies | ○ team building |
| ○ beach studies | ○ problem solving |
| ○ survival skills | ○ geography GCSE & A level |
| ○ Gower castles | ○ outdoor adventure activities including orienteering, climbing, surfing |
| ○ Gower heritage | |

Site Used

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Ilston Valley (see page 31) | ○ Cefn Bryn |
| ○ Rhossili Bay (see page 40) | ○ South Gower cliffs |
| ○ Port Eynon (see page 39) | ○ Mill Wood |

Additional Information

All equipment, curriculum resources and materials are supplied and site-specific information is available to groups who have booked courses. Group sizes: minimum 10, maximum 55.

All courses are residential with programmes lasting from 2 to 7 days. Get in touch for up-to-date charges, booking information and details, and availability of subsidised places.

Gower Heritage Centre (Y Felin Ddŵr)

Roy Church

Gower, Heritage Centre
Parkmill, Gower
SA3 2EH

01792 371206

info@gowerheritagecentre.co.uk

www.gowerheritagecentre.co.uk

Number of Education Staff: 2

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 50

Age Range: **KS1 KS2 KS4 A-level**



Details of Provider

Gower Heritage Centre is based around an 800-year-old working water mill (Grade II Listed) and owned by the Y Felin Ddŵr Charitable Trust. Visitors can see how natural resources have been used to provide a sustainable and renewable energy source to the mill buildings and workshops. The Centre has its own purpose-built classroom and there are qualified staff on site including Trustee Roy Church, who holds the BELA and Mountain Leaders Award, and Vic Gregg, a former shepherd and BELA Award Holder. There are other qualified craft workers and environmentalists based at the Centre who participate in the various activities on offer.

Activities Offered

Guided walks concerning local history and heritage together with the natural environment e.g. river studies, plant life, seascape and land formations. A guided walk along the mill leat and Pennard Pill shows how the water courses have been formed in the limestone rocks. Also, studying plants in the stream and mill pond and looking at local wildlife in the water meadow. The Centre also has its own collection of waterfowl and domestic poultry plus a display about the former gamekeeper at the Penrice Estate. The walks also feature prehistoric sites around Parkmill and explanations as to how Neolithic man used, and lived in, the natural environment. Recent industrial history is also examined, with studies of the local lime kilns and other quarry activities in Green Cwm and on the Beach Cliffs.

Mainly 2-hour field trips with 1 hour in the classroom for KS1 and KS2, but activities also offered to KS4 geography students and A-level Tourism and Leisure students.

Site Used

- Heritage Centre mill pond and leat
- Three Cliffs Valley
- Green Cwm
- Giants Grave and Cathole Cave

Additional Information

The Centre has its own car park with bus parking, toilets, undercover areas for picnics and alternative activities for wet days. The Centre is accessible by wheelchair and pushchair, and is very child-friendly. Walks into Pennard Valley are all on maintained footpaths or bridle paths.

Group sizes should be up to 30 and charges are from £1.50–£3.50 per student depending on the group and the activity being undertaken.

A full set of risk assessments are available on the website in a downloadable format.

National Botanic Garden of Wales

Trevor Roach
Education Department
National Botanic Garden of Wales
Llanarthne
Carmarthenshire SA32 8HG

01558 667150
education@gardenofwales.org.uk

www.gardenofwales.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 3

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 200–300

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4 A-level**



Details of Provider

The Education Department's aim is to bring the curriculum alive and to inspire young people to engage with the environmental challenges of living sustainably in the future. The National Botanic Garden of Wales plays a vitally important conservation role, providing a home and a refuge for some of Wales' most rare and endangered plants. The Great Glasshouse is the biggest single span glasshouse in the world and home to Mediterranean plant conservation work. The double walled garden is the biggest one of its type in Britain and home to a fruit and vegetable garden, school allotments, and the Plant Family beds – a living register of plants based on the latest DNA information.

The whole site is managed by state-of-the-art sustainable technology including rainwater harvesting to flush the toilets and living plants are used to clean our waste water. A biomass boiler heats the Great Glasshouse and plant waste is composted. The 400 acre organic farm is home to a rich diversity of wildlife. These resources are used to offer a wide variety of learning opportunities from Foundation Phase to A-level and across a wide variety of subjects. There is also an extensive programme of teachers' courses and a consultancy service focused on helping teachers develop their own skills in teaching out of doors and in the development and use of their own school grounds.

Activities Offered

Taught programmes at the Garden contribute to a wide range of curriculum-focused learning for pupils, including science, geography, PSD, ESDGC, literacy, maths, art, history, ICT. Most sessions last a day, starting and finishing at times that meet the needs of the school group.

Sites Used

All public areas of the Garden are used for education visits. Some programmes allow for pupils to visit areas excluded from the public, such as the computer control systems in the basement of the Great Glasshouse and the propagation glasshouses.

Additional Information

The Garden can accommodate a large variety of numbers of pupils in any one visit, from a class of 25 up to a secondary school year group of 120+. Taught programmes cost £3.25 per pupil (primary and secondary), self-led groups are charged £2.75 per pupil. All programmes are discussed and planned in advance with the visiting teachers to ensure groups needs are met. Currently, the Garden has no grants or subsidies to support its education programme.

The National Trust

Mike James

The National Trust
 Little Reynoldston Farm
 Reynoldston
 Gower SA3 1AQ

01792 390636

michael.james@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 0

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 5

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4 A-level**



**THE
 NATIONAL
 TRUST**

Details of Provider

The National Trust owns and manages 5,500 acres on Gower. It can provide guided walks and talks at many of its sites on Gower providing information for students which can be used at GCSE and A level. These may include nature conservation, flora and fauna, archaeological and geological features. Students may also gain individual access to sites by permission to undertake fieldwork. All activities are subject to staff availability.

Activities Offered

- river walk through Bishopston Valley – flora / fauna in ancient woodland / river valley and geological / archaeological features.
- coastal walks – Rhossili / Worms Head, Pennard Cliffs – coastal flora / fauna and habitats / archaeology / geological features
- Whiteford Burrows / Nicholaston Burrows – dune habitats / flora and fauna
- butterfly surveys / habitats –Welshmoor
- treasure hunts – Rhossili Down
- rocky shore ecology – Worms Head Causeway
- river ecology / invertebrate sampling – Bishopston Valley
- tree identification / woodland habitats – Bishopston Valley
- fluvial geography – Bishopston Valley
- heathland habitats – Welsh Moor, Ryer’s Down
- off site educational talks about the work of the National Trust on Gower

Sites Used

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ○ Ryer’s Down (see page 41) | ○ Rhossili and Worms Head (see page 40) |
| ○ Whiteford Burrows | ○ Pennard Cliffs |
| ○ Bishopston Valley | ○ Welsh Moor |
| ○ Nicholaston Burrows (see page 36) | |

Additional Information

Average class size catered for but there must be suitable ratio of adults and children. Suitable footwear and clothing must be worn. Cost per day visit £4–£6 per pupil.

Nature Conservation Team (CCS)

Jo Mullett

Environment Department
The Guildhall
Swansea SA1 4PH

01792 635784

jo.mullett@swansea.gov.uk

www.swansea.gov.uk/natureconservationteam

Number of Education Staff: 1 (*see also page 7*)

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 10

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2**



Details of Provider

The Nature Conservation Team provides advice and INSET training for teachers and delivers school field trips at a variety of sites important for nature conservation in Swansea. Sessions and activities vary according to the needs and level each group. Jo has 8 years experience, leading field visits and outdoor education programmes, and has the following qualifications:

- BSc Geography
- PGCE (Primary Education)
- Forest School Leader
- CCS Risk Assessment training
- First Aid at Work
- Earth Education Training
- Joseph Cornell Training
- Volunteer Walk Leader
- currently undertaking Basic Expedition Leader Award (BELA)

Much of the Nature Conservation Team's schools field study work is carried out by staff at the **Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre** (*see page 7*).

Activities Offered

The programme varies depending on requirements but mainly consists of science, geography, foundation phase curriculum and experiential learning opportunities. Full-day sessions for Early Years and Primary.

Sites Used

- Bishop's Wood LNR (*see page 26*)
- Cadle Heath LNR (*see page 27*)
- Mumbles Hill LNR (*see page 35*)
- Swansea Vale Nature Reserve (*see page 44*)
- Kilvey Hill Community Woodland (*see page 32*)
- Pwll Du LNR
- Cwmllywd Woods LNR
- Killay Marsh LNR

Plus other sites important for nature conservation e.g. school grounds, parks, beaches, etc.

Additional Information

Average class size catered for but school must ensure agreed ratio of suitable adults to children and all participants must have appropriate clothing and footwear. Accompanied field trips and advice are free services to school groups. Sometimes bus costs can also be covered as part of specific projects. INSET generally costs £50 per teacher.

The Penllergare Trust

Jennie Eyers
Coed Glantawe
Esgairdawe
Llandeilo SA19 7RT
www.penllergare.org

01558 650416
jennie.eyers@penllergare.org
Number of Education Staff: 1 (plus volunteers)
Number of Field Sessions Each Year: varies
Age Range: **KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4**

Details of Provider

The Penllergare Trust (spelt as the historic name for the estate, as distinct from the current community of Penllergaer) is an independent charity which promotes the conservation and restoration of the culturally and historically important park and gardens at Penllergare Valley Wood. As part of its Community Engagement and Education programme, the Trust offers informal, site-specific activities to primary schools (with secondary starting in 2007) centred on the historic Penllergare estate in north Swansea. These include guided walks, themed slide shows, an annual art competition, a junior supporters club (The Round Robin Club) and community events involving parents and children.

The aim of the educational activities is for children to learn through enjoyment, for them to explore and discover the natural and historic world of Penllergare, with its riches of wildlife, experience the features that made the place renowned in the past, and to understand what an interesting and stimulating place it is today.

Jennie Eyers (BA, Cert.Ed.) is a CRB-cleared trained teacher, experienced with working with all age groups, and has also specialised in communication and presentation skills training and development. She has worked for the Trust since its inception in 2000 and created the community and education programme with the help of volunteer supervisory assistants.

Activities Offered

- *Walk & Talk* – 2½ hour guided walk (KS2)
- *Penllergare in View* – 1½ hours in-school interactive session with slides (KS2)

Both activities support National Curriculum history, geography, English, art and science and not only put the Dillwyn Llewelyn family (pioneers of horticulture, photography and astronomy) and Penllergare into an historical context but also explain the aims of the restoration project and introduce children to the wider issues of ecology and protection of the environment.

Other activities are under development, including introductions to bushcraft survival skills.

Sites Used

- Penllergare Valley Wood (see page 38)

Additional Information

School groups of up to 30 maximum, with accompanying teachers. Visits are free at the moment but charges may be introduced in 2007. Schools have to fund their own travel arrangements to Penllergare. A resource pack for teachers is available and a CD of images.

Plantasia (CCS)

Maria Bowen
Plantasia
Parc Tawe
Swansea
SA1 2AL

01792 474555
Maria.Bowen@swansea.gov.uk

www.plantasia.org



Number of Education Staff: 1–3

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 320

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2**

Details of Provider

Staff at the council-run Plantasia offer tours of the indoor tropical hothouse with plants and animals, featuring 3 different climatic zones. Maria Bowen (QTS) can lead workshops on environmental issues relating to rainforests and their destruction, based on her trips to Amazon.

There are 11 different workshops or tours – all linked to the curriculum – which can be adapted to specific topics or themes. Workshops vary in length (1–2 hours) and are most suitable for 4–11 year olds but tours or specific talks requested can be adapted for any age. Talks on leisure, tourism and marketing can also be delivered.

Activities Offered

Workshops available on:

- seed germination
- roots, shoots & flowers
- feltmaking
- art
- poetry
- music
- papermaking

Site Information

Plantasia is open to the public 7 days a week 10am–5pm (closed Mondays in Dec/Jan). The site is completely wheelchair accessible and there is 3-hour free car parking in Parc Tawe.

- schoolroom
- toilets
- interpretation panels
- leaflets
- trails (available in advance)
- worksheets (available in advance)

Additional Information

Groups must book in advance and there is generally a limit of 2–3 schools per day. Maximum group size is 35. The schoolroom is available for lunch with prior booking. The cost is £30 per class or £100 annual fee for unlimited visits.

Particular care should be taken in the cactus and pond areas.

Precious Earth Field Education Services



Sheena Bishop
33, Eaton Crescent,
Uplands, Swansea
SA1 4Q

01792 555336
s.bishop5@ntlworld.com

Number of Education Staff: 1

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 50–150

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4 A-level**

Details of Provider

Sheena runs an independent service under the title Precious Earth and is the Gower Field Education Officer for the **Countryside Council for Wales** (see page 46). She offers quality field education in ecology, natural history, biodiversity, geography, sustainability and prehistory suitable for Key Stages 1–3, GCSE and A- and AS-level.

Activities can be adapted to suit class needs and the focus can be either 'awe and wonder', sensory games, physical and mental challenges; or a more structured investigative approach can be taken, more facts and more data but still great fun.

Sheena has the following qualifications, training and experience:

- MSc. Rural Resource Management
- PGCE Senior Science
- BSc. Environmental Science
- Senior Ecology and Geography Tutor for the Field Studies Council
- Forest School Leader
- First Aid and Risk Assessment
- Mountain Leader
- Play Leader
- Basic Expedition Leader (BELA)

Activities Offered

- river walk – 4.2 miles source to sea (KS3 to A-level)
- sand dune succession (KS3 to A-level)
- adaptations to habitat and diversity of life at Oxwich:
(a) beach habitats, (b) plants of the NNR, (c) animals of the NNR. (KS1 to KS3)
- pond and heath ecosystems study at Ryer's Down (KS2 to KS4)
- treasure hunts (KS2 to KS3)
- woodland days (KS2 to KS4)

Sites Used

- Oxwich Burrows, Beach and Rock Pools (see page 37)
- Gelli Hir Nature Reserve (see page 30)
- Ilston Valley (see page 31)
- Nicholaston Burrows (see page 36)
- Ryer's Down (see page 41)

Additional Information

Teaching resources available for many days to aid introduction and follow up work. A full day costs £135 per class of 30 (subsidised by the Gower Society and Welsh Assembly). Other subsidies are sometimes available to further reduce costs. Free advice and accompanied site reconnoitre visits are also available.

RSPCA Llys Nini Animal Centre

Sally Hyman **01792 229434**
Llys Nini Animal Centre sally@llysnini-rspca.org.uk
Penllergaer
Swansea
SA4 9WB

www.llysnini-rspca.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 1

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 50–150

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4 A-level**

Details of Provider

Sally Hyman is a part-time Volunteer Education Officer with the RSPCA. She is a former Secondary School Headteacher (NPQH) and experienced Biology/Science teacher with the following qualifications:

- MSc Education Management
- BSc (hons) Zoology
- PGCE Secondary Biology with Science.



Activities Offered

Lessons are delivered both at the Centre and in schools/groups on a variety of issues and curriculum areas including sustainability, numeracy, literacy, animal welfare, ecology, etc. Foundation/KS1 Welsh medium delivery possible.

A visit to the Animal Centre can include a classroom experience, an outdoor classroom facility, exploring/surveying the grounds, pond dipping, use of keys, etc. Activities can be delivered in liaison with schools'/groups' requirements.

Sites Used

- Llys Nini Animal Centre and Grounds (see page 33)
- visits to schools

Additional Information

For those wishing to use the classroom, the group size is dependent on age with 25–30 for Foundation, KS1 and KS2 but limited to 20 for older (bigger) students. For field studies using only the grounds, the group size is unlimited.

Swansea Community Farm

Leila Roberts

Swansea Community Farm
2 Pontarddulais Road
Fforestfach
Swansea SA5 4BA

01792 578384

leila@swanseacommunityfarm.org.uk

www.swanseacommunityfarm.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 2

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 30–40

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2**



Details of Provider

Swansea Community Farm's new education project is being developed to support local schools in teaching environmental and sustainability issues. The Farm currently offers a half-day field trip incorporating 'Animal Tour' and 'Composting' sessions. The sessions are conducted outdoors as much as possible and activities include animal handling and mini-beast hunting. The content of the sessions can be adapted to suit specific areas of the curriculum if required. Staff leading the field trips are suitably qualified and experienced.

- Education Officer: QTS (Secondary Science), BSc. Zoology, CEVAS Accreditation
- Animal Keeper: HND Animal Science, NVQ 1, 2 & 3 Environmental Conservation, 16 years experience in farming and animal husbandry, Welsh speaker

Activities Offered

- Animal Tour: includes food production, farming, farm and pet animal welfare (conducted in Welsh if required)
- Composting session: covers environmental and scientific aspects of waste, recycling and composting and includes adaptation and diversity of compost mini-beasts
- Further programmes including 'Food and Farming' and 'Energy' are under development, using the 'Development Compass Rose' as a model; sessions will be developed to suit all Key Stages

Sites Used

- Swansea Community Farm site (see page 43)
- Cadle Heath LNR (see page 27)

Additional Information

Average class sizes are catered for, but the school is responsible for ensuring an adequate staff to pupil ratio. A teacher support pack for the composting session is under development and will be available soon. A standard half-day visit costs £2.75 per pupil but please make contact if this poses a problem.

Ty'r Blodau (CCS)

Steve Hopkins
Room 123
Guildhall, Swansea
SA1 4PE

01792 635490
steve.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk



www.swansea.gov.uk/botanics

Number of Education Staff: 2

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: over 40

Age Range: **KS1 KS2 KS3**

Details of Provider

The Botanical Gardens in Singleton Park is run by the Parks Service of the City and County of Swansea. Ty'r Blodau is a purpose built education and visitor centre located within Singleton Botanical Gardens.

The classroom facility is fully equipped with learning and information technology apparatus including an interactive whiteboard and projector. It is designed to accommodate a maximum of 30 children with tables and chairs to suit all ages. The centre can also be used independently by schools, colleges and others, when available and for appropriate activities.



Activities Offered

Workshops or activities can be tailor-made for groups of all abilities and educational materials are linked to various National Curriculum subject areas including history, geography, maths, science, art, design and technology. Staff can also cater for specialist courses for college and university. It is highly recommend that a pre-activity visit is arranged before the students visit in order to get the most out of the facility. A full and detailed educational programme is being developed and will be available in 2007.

Sites Used

- Singleton Botanical Gardens (see page 42)
- Clyne Gardens

Additional Information

There is no admission charge to the Botanical Gardens and school's workshops and activities are also currently free, however a small charge may be made for a learning pack. Ty'r Blodau is equipped with a basic kitchen facility and is available for private bookings at a charge.

WWT National Wetland Centre Wales

Dominic Carmichael

National Wetland Centre Wales
Llwynhendy
Llanelli SA14 9SH

01554 741 087

education.llanelli@wwt.org.uk

www.wwt.org.uk

www.wwtlearn.org.uk

Number of Education Staff: 2

Number of Field Sessions Each Year: 150

Age Range: **FP KS1 KS2 KS3 KS4 A-level**



Details of Provider

A range of activities suitable for school groups from early years to A-level is on offer in and around the visitor centre, which is equipped with a full range of visitor facilities. Staff use the collection birds, ponds and a variety of different types of wetlands at the Centre to run programmes exploring aspects of wetland biodiversity – living things, habitats, adaptations, ecosystems, populations, etc.

The approach ranges from using stories to fieldwork sessions according to the needs and levels of visitors. Emphasis is always on using practical hands-on exploration and experience of the site for learning. Staff are experienced in running engaging and exciting sessions for teaching and learning about wetlands to different audiences and there is bilingual provision in most programmes. Groups are free to wander and continue their work informally after teaching sessions. A teacher information pack is available.

Activities Offered

- stories and walks — living things in their environment (Early Years)
- ponds and pond dipping – living things (KS1, KS2)
- environmental change – geography, ESDGC (KS2)
- water cycle – geography, ESDGC (KS2)
- biodiversity and ecology, pond and birds – biology and geography (KS3+)
- salt marsh days – biology and geography. (KS4+)

Sites Used

- centre grounds and collection birds
- Millennium Wetlands (see page 34)
- salt marshes (see page 34)

Additional Information

Maximum number should be about 60, though larger groups may be accommodated with due care. No minimum number – but please ask. Admission: £3.50 per child (2007 rate) but adults in the group free. Areas to eat lunch, restaurant to buy food, shop, toilets, teaching area, hides, play areas, indoor and outdoor interpretation. Inset available, and free teacher-familiarisation visits can be arranged.

INFORMATION ON SITES

The following pages provide details of local sites that can be used for studying the natural environment. This is just a sample of the main sites regularly used by the providers listed in the previous section. There are dozens more sites across the City and County of Swansea that are also suitable for fieldwork.

- Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve page 26
- Cadle Heath Local Nature Reserve page 27
- Caswell Bay Beach and Rock Pools page 28
- Crymlyn Bog National Nature Reserve page 29
- Gelli Hir Nature Reserve page 30
- Ilston Valley page 31
- Kilvey Hill Community Woodland page 32
- Llys Nini Animal Centre and Grounds page 33
- Millennium Wetlands and Salt Marshes page 34
- Mumbles Hill Local Nature Reserve page 35
- Nicholaston Burrows page 36
- Oxwich Burrows, Beach and Rock Pools page 37
- Penllergare Valley Wood page 38
- Port Eynon Beach page 39
- Rhossili and Worms Head page 40
- Ryer's Down page 41
- Singleton Botanical Gardens page 42
- Swansea Community Farm Site page 43
- Swansea Vale Nature Reserve page 44

Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve

Caswell, Gower (Grid Ref. SS 594877)



This Local Nature Reserve features oak/ash woodland and limestone cliff grassland and parts of the wood are described as ancient woodland. Interesting species include bluebells, wild garlic and herb Paris. Historical features include boundary stones, a derelict chapel, an Anderson shelter and small limestone quarries.

Resources and Facilities Available

- Roundhouse within the woodland can accommodate up to 50 children
- large car park and toilets by Caswell Bay
- interpretative board
- leaflet with map
- 2 p/t staff at **Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre** (see page 7)

Site Ownership and Access

Bishop's Wood LNR is managed by the City and County of Swansea and open all year. Access is from the main Caswell Bay car park. Large groups should notify the Countryside Centre staff in case other schools are visiting. The site is mainly used by visiting primary schools but sometimes university students. It is also used by the general public e.g. dog walkers, etc.

The Caswell Bay car park by the beach provides a suitable drop-off / pick-up point and there is parking at the nearby Countryside Centre.

There is wheelchair access to the Roundhouse and beech tree glade but other footpaths are narrow and can be slippery when wet. There are steep steps on either side of the valley.

Main Potential Hazards

A risk assessment is available but main potential hazards include branches coming down in stormy weather, steep slopes (which can be avoided) and slippery paths.

Cadle Heath Local Nature Reserve

Fforestfach, Swansea (Grid Ref. SS 627968)



Cadle Heath Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is one of the best examples of urban heath in Swansea. Heathlands are a declining resource and are a priority for conservation in the UK.

In addition to wet heath the 11.5 hectare reserve has areas of species rich grassland, ponds, scrub and woodland. It provides a home or habitat for a wide range of plants and animals including butterflies and dragonflies, frogs, skylarks, heather, orchids and whorled caraway.

Resources and Facilities Available

- leaflets
- management plans
- species lists (plants & animals)
- staff of the **Nature Conservation Team** (see page 17)

Site Ownership and Access

The LNR is owned by the City and County of Swansea and managed by them with help from **Swansea Community Farm** (see page 22). It is situated just off the A483 at the traffic lights signposted to Blaen-y-maes. The car park and entrance are on Pentregethin Road. Footpaths wind gradually around part of the reserve and are suitable for people of all abilities. Access to the LNR is also possible from the Community Farm site.

Main Potential Hazards

- tethered ponies
- fly tipping
- dog faeces

A full risk assessment is available from Jo Mullett, Nature Conservation Team.

Caswell Bay Beach and Rock Pools

Caswell, Gower (Grid Ref. SS 593875)



Caswell Bay has an extremely popular beach for families, bathers and water sports. There are also good facilities including public toilets and snacks kiosks right next to the beach. Lifeguards patrol the beach during high season and there is a dog ban on Caswell Bay from 1st April to 30th September. Caswell Bay regularly gets the prestigious Blue Flag.

The site features include rock pools, strandline, sandy shore, limestone faulting, fossils, caves and rocky shore ecology.

Resources and Facilities Available

- café
- lifeguards (summer months)
- toilets
- 2 p/t staff at **Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre** (see page 7)

Site Ownership and Access

The site is open to the general public and can be busy in the summer. There are steps and ramped access to the beach. There are two large car parks which have charges during the summer months.

Main Potential Hazards

The main potential hazards at this site are linked to:

- climbing rocks
- sea

Crymlyn Bog National Nature Reserve

Dinam Road, between Port Tennant and Bonymaen, Swansea (Grid Ref. SS 686943)



The main habitat type is lowland fen with areas of wet woodland. Species include a typical range of wetland plants, birds and invertebrates. Notable species include the fen raft spider, Britain's largest spider. Crymlyn Bog has Ramsar, SAC and SSSI designations.

The nature reserve includes a circular nature trail (about 1km long) which starts and ends at the visitor centre car park. This offers good views of the bog at various points and a variety of wildlife including birds, dragonflies and wetland plants. The nature trail pond, developed from a section of disused canal, is an

interesting area of open water habitat, providing a good location for supervised pond dipping. The bog itself is largely inaccessible to the public due to dangerous wet ground conditions.

Resources and Facilities Available

Crymlyn visitor centre includes a medium-sized classroom with tables and seating for up to about 30 children/students. The classroom also contains an interpretive display providing information about the wildlife and history of Crymlyn Bog. There are two toilets and a small basic kitchen. The visitor centre is irregularly staffed at present but educational visits by school groups are arranged in advance through the **Environment Centre** (see page 9). Guided walks by other groups can be arranged in advance through the Countryside Council for Wales.

Site Ownership and Access

Crymlyn Bog is managed by the **Countryside Council for Wales** (see page 46) The nature trail is open to the public throughout the year, but the car park itself is currently only open on Tuesday to Thursday. The site is occasionally used by HE students for research projects.

The way-marked paths on the trail are generally not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs and can be muddy in wet weather so appropriate footwear should be worn. Pupils and teachers are advised to bring wet weather gear, particularly Wellingtons though there are a limited number of boots available for use at the centre. The visitor centre has toilet facilities and is considered to be wheelchair accessible. There is a car park but due to access problems along the very narrow approach to the site, large buses are unable to get there safely so it is advised that small coaches or minibuses are used.

Main Potential Hazards

A site risk assessment has been prepared by the Countryside Council for Wales. The main hazards are the treacherous ground conditions on the bog itself, with areas of wet peat and floating vegetation over deep water. The nature trail pond is a potential hazard due to the risk of drowning. Adequate supervision is therefore essential during any activities involving the nature trail pond. There are horses on site as part of the management of the reserve and all efforts are made to ensure pupils do not come into contact with them during lead activities.

Gelli Hir Nature Reserve

Fairwood Common, Gower (Grid Ref. SS 562925)



Gelli Hir is predominately mixed broadleaf woodland ranging from wet oak/birch woodland in the south and east to drier ash/elm woodland in the north and west. Part of the site is classed as ancient woodland. Gelli Hir is situated on deep glacial drift over Carboniferous grits and shales. The variety of habitat types also includes open rides, streams and a pond. Dead wood supports an abundance of lower plants, fungi, and invertebrates, including some nationally-scarce hoverflies.

Birds such as buzzard, tawny owl, sparrowhawk, mallard, moorhen and the occasional green sandpiper are found at Gelli Hir and the wood harbours a population of dormouse. Moths and butterflies include the comma, holly blue, silver-washed fritillary and speckled wood. There are also blue-tailed damselfly and common darters.

Resources and Facilities Available

There is a leaflet with information about the site, which is available from the **Wildlife Trust for South & West Wales** (see page 48) and downloadable from www.welshwildlife.org. Gelli Hir site is being managed to encourage educational use. Paths have been upgraded and two main teaching areas cleared, with central fire circles and rustic benches or stumps. A pond dipping area and glade with benches will soon form a third teaching area. Sheena Bishop of **Precious Earth** (see page 20) is developing teaching days, resources and INSET for both this site and Priors Wood, on behalf of the Wildlife Trust.

Site Ownership and Access

The wood is owned and managed by the Wildlife Trust. It lies on the northern edge of Fairwood Common and access is gained by way of a field gate and stile on the east side of the unclassified road which runs north from the B4271 to Cilonen. There is a small car park inside the gate and a lay-by opposite; coaches could not park, but drop-off is fine.

The site is used by **Forest School** (see page 11) and **Precious Earth** (see page 20). The Wildlife Trust would prefer groups to be led by field tutors known to them. If groups wish to go alone, they should contact the Wildlife Trust office on 01656 724100.

Main Potential Hazards

- barbed wire topped perimeter fence
- deep pond
- loose branches in high wind

Ilston Valley

between Ilston and Parkmill, Gower (Grid Ref. SS 556904)



Ilston Valley provides a perfect place to study river processes and features. There is a small river that is rarely deep and can be followed from source to sea, with many classic river features along the way. It is best to start from a first order stream on Fairwood Common up above the valley – this has splendid bog and heath communities, with sundews, carnivorous plants and devil's bit scabious, supporting the rare marsh fritillary butterfly. In the main part of the valley, there are second and third order streams: from Ilston down, the bedrock is limestone, thus swallow holes, caves and mining add interest. It is possible to walk all the way from Fairwood Common to Three Cliffs to see the huge meanders and wide valley floor but it is 4.2 miles and takes junior groups all day without fieldwork.



There are also great places for stream invertebrate studies including one good site just above Ilston village and another by the Gower Inn, when the river is fairly low. The villages of Ilston

and Parkmill are perfect for discussing human influences on river systems and vice versa, with mills and flood defences, ruined houses and flood plains. Ilston also has a wonderful church and graveyard with a magical yew tree, and the ruins of the first Baptist church in Wales are hidden in the valley.

Resources and Facilities Available

There are no public toilets, but in an emergency the pub can be used. Sheena Bishop of **Precious Earth** (see page 20) has made risk assessments for the site and can offer information to schools working alone, and accompanied site reconnoitres are possible.

Site Ownership and Access

There is a small informal car park up on the common where buses can drop off. Only minibuses can get into Ilston village. Buses can also pick up or drop off at the Gower Inn or the Heritage Centre and Sheppard's in Parkmill (permission needs to be sought and a fee may be charged). The route is used by a few dog walkers and many students studying rivers.

If you intend to leave the footpath for activities of any kind, then the landowners should be contacted. The valley bottom is managed by Leader Management and the river is in private ownership. The landowner only wants leaders known to her, and communication with her is through Sheena Bishop.

The route can be very muddy and in some places the footpath is very uneven with lots of exposed rocks. In several places, the paths are very close to the river and are therefore not suitable when the river is in spate. It is a 'flashy' catchment so the river rises and falls quickly in response to rainfall.

Main Potential Hazards

- usual river hazards
- bogs should not be crossed
- avoid heather in tick season
- slips and trips
- springs/holes off path
- out of mobile range (off common)

Kilvey Hill Community Woodland

between Pentrechwyth, Bonymaen St.Thomas and Port Tennant (Grid Ref. SS 672945)



Kilvey Hill Community Woodland is a young woodland providing a refuge for wildlife in the city of Swansea and incorporating a variety of habitats including woodland, heathland, wetland and meadow. Kilvey Hill also offers a sculpture trail, woodland walks, Pluck Lake (with blue-tailed damselfly and the emperor dragonfly), industrial and archaeological remains and great views over Swansea.

The Lower Swansea Valley, around Kilvey Hill, was centre of South Wales' copper industry for the 200 years up to the 1920's leaving a legacy of barren toxic land devoid of vegetation. In the 1970's, *The Lower Swansea Valley Project* removed the worst of the waste, returned the area to business and recreational use, and improved the local environment. The Forestry Commission planted 450,000 trees in the area, many of which were planted by local people in one of the first large-scale community environmental projects in Britain.

Kilvey Community Woodland Project was established in 1993 and aimed to make the area more attractive and accessible for local people. The project has continued to the present day, working to provide an enjoyable day out for the visitor, improving the conservation value of the area and involving local people in making Kilvey Community Woodland a place for everybody.

Resources and Facilities Available

- leaflets
- management plans
- species lists (plants & animals)
- staff support (various organisations)

Site Ownership and Access

There are several access points to Kilvey Hill and the Community Woodland but the White Rock car park just off the junction of Foxhole Road (A4217) and Pentrechwyth Road (B5444) is the best for visiting schools as there is an off-road car park. There are some well-defined footpaths but some, especially those from White Rock, are too steep for wheelchairs.

The **Nature Conservation Team** (see page 17) and **Forest School** (see page 11) use the site for work with schools several times a year.

Main Potential Hazards

- cyclists and off-road motor bikes
- remoteness of some parts of the hill

A full risk assessment is available from Jo Mullett, Nature Conservation Team.

Llys Nini Animal Centre and Grounds

Penllergaer, Swansea (Grid Ref. SS 609995)



The site comprises grassland, wet grassland, improved and unimproved grassland, deciduous ancient woodland, streams, pond, scrub succession on an industrial tip, reclaimed opencast, and coppiced woodland. Notable species include red kite, yellow-necked mice, scabia, common lizard, aquatic invertebrates, lepidoptera, etc.

Resources and Facilities Available

- part-time Volunteer Education Officer
- prepared lessons for all key stages
- classroom/lecture room
- toilet (including disabled)
- training/work experience for 16+
- leaflets on companion animal care, dangers of litter and sustainability
- information sheet for teachers on visits to the site

Llys Nini are hoping to expand facilities to include purpose-built education block and café.

Site Ownership and Access

The site is owned by **RSPCA Llys Nini Animal Centre** (see page 21) and the opening times to the general public are daily 11.00am–3.45pm (except Wednesday). Car parking is available for 200 cars and coaches.

Buildings, access to pond and wooded path are all wheelchair and pushchair accessible. There is a tapping board for the partially sighted.

Educational visits are by arrangement and currently all those groups who want a lesson delivered at the Centre, use the site. It could also be used by groups wanting to undertake research, environmental studies, ecology, land use etc.

Main Potential Hazards

- animals (and faeces)
- pond and stream
- plants and fungi (including ragwort)
- roads and car park

Millennium Wetlands and Salt Marshes

WWT National Wetland Centre Wales, Llanelli (Grid Ref. SS 532985)

The Millennium Wetlands is a 250-acre fresh water wetland reserve served by paths and hides. It is managed by the **Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust**, or WWT, (see page 24) and was created out of old farmland using recycled water from Welsh Water treatment works. It offers an outstanding resource for learning about migration, habitat creation, water use and conservation, with a biodiversity trail that interprets these concepts.



WWT also manages 250 acres of adjacent coastal salt marshes and mudflats which is a very important wetland bird site with Ramsar and SSSI designations. It provides an excellent resource for learning about ecology, succession and adaptation. There is very limited access, however, due to tides and the sensitivity of the site.

Resources and Facilities Available

Groups using the Millennium Wetlands or going out on to the salt marshes can access the facilities in the visitor centre and grounds including:

- areas to eat lunch
- restaurant to buy food
- shop
- toilets
- teaching area
- hides
- play areas
- indoor and outdoor interpretation.

Site Ownership and Access

The visitor centre and its grounds are open to the public 9.30am–5.00pm each day. There is free car and coach parking. Visiting groups to the main centre and grounds, the Millennium Wetlands and the salt marshes, must pre-book.

There are tarmac or gravel paths throughout the visitor centre grounds and in the Millennium Wetlands, allowing disabled and wheelchair access to almost the entire area. Wheelchairs and electric wheelchairs are available for borrowing but should be booked in advance.

The saltmarsh is not open to the general public and although the site is made as easy to walk as possible, it is still very rough ground and not suitable for any sort of wheelchair use. Disabled visitors would need to make contact in advance to see if arrangements could be made for safe access.

Main Potential Hazards

- hygiene issues due to contact with wild animals
- tripping / rough ground (particularly on saltmarsh)
- tides (on saltmarsh)
- exposure to the weather

A full risk assessment is available on application.

Mumbles Hill Local Nature Reserve

Mumbles (Grid Ref. SS 625875)

The site has a variety of habitats including maritime heath, limestone grassland, limestone scrub and limestone woodland. The reserve forms part of a migration route for small birds such as swallows, martins, wheatears, redstarts and warblers - over 1,000 birds an hour have been recorded. Kestrel, tawny owl, green woodpecker, yellowhammer,



stonechat and various warblers can be seen during the breeding season. Badgers, squirrels, rabbits, foxes and adders live on the hill. Scarce plants such as pyramidal orchid, juniper, perennial flax, wayfaring-tree, musk thistle and common gromwell grow on the site.

Resources and Facilities Available

- LNR leaflet
- interpretative panels
- site management plan
- species (plants and animals) and habitat lists
- Nature Conservation Team staff
- contacts for specialist site knowledge (e.g. for WW2)
- toilets, car parking (pay and display) and drop-off point at Bracelet Bay

Site Ownership and Access

The site is owned by the City & County of Swansea and managed by the Nature Conservation Team in partnership with Mumbles Development Trust. The reserve is always open to the public although there may be some restrictions from time to time to allow for conservation work. Access is via paths from Thistleboon Drive (suitable for wheelchairs) or there are several paths opposite Bracelet Bay car park.

The **Nature Conservation Team** (see page 17) offer a limited number of accompanied field visits and support environmental art with local artist Sarah Holden, focused on seasons.

Main Potential Hazards

- vehicles in car park / crossing road
- trip hazards, uneven surfaces
- some steep drops (most are fenced)
- adders

A full risk assessment is available from Jo Mullett, Nature Conservation Team.

Nicholaston Burrows

nr Beynon's Farm, South Gower (Grid Ref. SS 520877)



The site features fine mixed deciduous woods on a steep slope with a sandy path leading down to the burrows. The burrows are a mature sand dunes system with invasion of tree species. There is also a dynamic embryonic area at the western edge close to the Nicholaston Pill. There is a Flandrian cliff line and a good strand line for shells.

This is an excellent site for an adventurous outing. A walk of a mile and a half can take you through woods, across dunes, along a beach and over a stream, providing many habitats to explore in a very spectacular and quiet location. The site is a wonderful place for butterflies such as the marbled white butterfly. Other notable species include pink grasshoppers, venus and piddock shells, cuttlefish (bones) and tiny flounder in the brackish pill.

Resources and Facilities Available

- parking, café and toilets at Beynon's Farm (01792 371209) - only open in the late spring and summer months
- **Precious Earth** (see page 20) offers treasure hunts through the dunes, has carried out a risk assessment and can lead reconnoitre visits

Site Ownership and Access

Nicholaston Burrows are owned by the **National Trust** (see page 16).

There is a very steep path through the woods, lots of steps and deep sand. Field visits are quite rare, but the beach has become much busier in the summer as the car park and facilities at Beynon's have grown. Despite this, in term-time the beach is often empty.

Main Potential Hazards

- high winds
- the sea
- adders
- heat and thirst.

Oxwich Burrows, Beach and Rock Pools

Oxwich, South Gower (Grid Ref. SS 501864)



A good site for habitat comparison, adaptation studies, succession and zonation, management issues and general awe and wonder. Much of the site is designated a National Nature Reserve and SSSI. The site includes dune habitats from fore dunes to slacks and both freshwater and salt marsh, though these are mostly inaccessible (boardwalk over a freshwater section). There is a small woodland at the back of the dunes suitable for quick habitat comparison but other nearby woodlands are mainly on steep slopes. Rock pools at the north-west end of the beach are accessible but over-used and have poor seaweeds. There are many notable species on the site including dune gentian, sea stock, sharp rush, dune moss, bee orchids, adders, otter, sand hoppers, pink grasshoppers and devil's coach-horse beetles.

Resources and Facilities Available

- clean toilets
- shops on seafront (summer)
- car park (about £5 per coach)
- nearby hotel (open all year)

Site Ownership and Access

Oxwich Burrows are owned and managed by CCW with a small section, and the car park, owned by the Penrice Estate. The beach and rock pools are also owned by the Penrice Estate up to the rocky platform 50m SE of the church from which the NT are owners. Permission is needed from CCW and NT if fieldwork is to be carried out on their land. The beach is not very suitable for wheelchairs. It is feasible to arrange with CCW for the gate along the marsh road to be opened to allow wheelchair access to this section.

Precious Earth (see page 20) offer accompanied visits and can give free advice and sometimes take teachers on reconnoitre days (service funded by CCW).

Oxwich is a popular tourist area so the beach is busy in the summer. The dunes have a fair few dog walkers and ponies, and the rock pools have crabbers and fishermen, but there is usually sufficient room.

Main Potential Hazards

- trips and slips
- water - marsh and sea
- rubbish in strand line
- sand in eyes
- unicellular algae coats rocks
- adders
- hemlock water dropwort

Penllergare Valley Wood

between Penllergaer and Portmead (Grid Ref. SS624994)

Penllergare is a Grade II listed landscape, currently damaged and in need of restoration, in the steep-sided valley of the River Llan. It has three distinct natural zones - wooded hillside, open grassland and damp water margins. It is a notable 19th-century parkland and garden designed in the 'picturesque' tradition including a 1½ mile carriage drive, walled gardens, terraces and walkways with interlinking stone steps, two lakes, river walks, hill walks with views, and a renowned waterfall.



Penllergare is noted for its woodlands with many exotic species, including Japanese red cedar, sequoia, wellingtonia, swamp cypress, monkey puzzle and fern-spray cypress, as well as native trees and rhododendrons. Wild flowers abound during the growing season as well as rarer plants such as orchids, Solomon's seal, royal and buckler ferns, Himalayan honeysuckle, three varieties of bamboo, bog asphodel and whorled caraway. It is also a hugely varied habitat for grasses, fungi, insects, small mammals and birdlife. The Afon Llan, once polluted, is again full of life and in the autumn salmon can be seen jumping the waterfall.

Resources and Facilities Available

There are no on-site facilities at the moment though they are included in restoration plans for the site. **The Penllergare Trust** (see page 18) provides educational services and resources:

- half-day visits with a trained teacher and a volunteer with specialist knowledge in ecology
- resource pack for teachers
- in-school session with slides
- informative website
- *Round Robin Club* newsletter
- art competition
- annual school picnic

Site Ownership and Access

The site is managed by the Penllergare Trust with permission from the leaseholders, the BJ Group. Penllergare is open to the public all the year round from dawn to dusk. School parties must be accompanied by Trust staff.

Car parking is available off the A48 in a lay-by next to Midway Café or, with permission, at the adjacent Civic Centre. The site has designated footpaths but these consist of stony and uneven ground with mud in places - not suitable at the moment for wheelchairs or people with impaired mobility.

Main Potential Hazards

The Trust has a risk assessment and schools are sent a health & safety policy prior to each visit. Every school visit also starts with a talk on safety – what to look out for, how to be careful and what is expected in terms of behaviour.

Main hazards include

- stony and uneven ground
- stone steps
- sudden drops
- the river - Afon Llan
- occasional off-road motorbikes

Port Eynon Beach

Port Eynon, Gower (Grid Ref. SS475855)



Port Eynon offers an excellent site for rocky shore and strandline studies. There are quite good examples on site to illustrate limestone geology, fossils and wavecut platform. The sandy shore is good for environmental art. There are also interesting historical features including the old lifeboat station and the Salthouse. There is evidence of old fishing and oyster industries and there are old quarries just above the beach, all providing good story-telling opportunities.

The site is particularly convenient for school groups staying at Borfa House or using the services of the **Gower Activity Centres** (see page 13)

Resources and Facilities Available

- lifeguards (summer months)
- public toilets

Site Ownership and Access

There is a council pay and display car park, which closes at 8pm, but buses can drop off and pick up next to the beach. There is a ramp making access to the beach easy.

The site is used by a number of field study centres on Gower so there is the potential of overcrowding. The beach also gets incredibly busy with tourists in the summer months and it can get hard to access the beach and there can be problems with parking and traffic congestion

Main Potential Hazards

The main potential hazards include the danger of being cut off by the incoming tide when rock pooling. The rocks can also be slippery and difficult to walk on. In the summer months, there is a risk of losing children.

Rhossili and Worms Head

Rhossili, Gower (Grid Ref. SS 414881)

Rhossili is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its maritime coastal slopes, a National Nature Reserve for its geology, flora and fauna and is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and common land. It is popular with visitors and locals and is used as an iconic view of Gower / Wales by the Welsh Tourist Board amongst others. The causeway to Worms Head is exceptional for its rock pools, and the local geology can clearly be seen at Tears Point. There are many archaeological features from different periods which can be clearly seen and interpreted.



Resources and Facilities Available

There is a National Trust shop and Visitor Centre with leaflets and displays about the local area, which can be used by schools as a resource centre if available. There is a large public car park with toilets next to the Visitor Centre. Booking for use of the Centre is advisable; wardening staff may also be available if booked in advance.

Site Ownership and Access

Rhossili is owned and managed by the **National Trust** (see page 16) and the NNR is leased to and managed by the **Countryside Council for Wales** (see page 46). There is a large private car park in the village, together with public toilets. For opening times of the NT Shop and Visitor Centre contact 01792 390707.

The path along the top of the cliffs to the Old Coastguard Lookout is accessible by wheelchair. The site is open access, but there are steep cliffs and the whole area is grazed by stock. The path to the causeway has recently been upgraded to allow easier access to the tidal island but please note the tide times if crossing to Worms Head – the causeway is only open for 2 ½ hours either side of low tide. Tide times are available on site, at the NT shop, the Old Coastguard Lookout and from Swansea Coastguard.

Main Potential Hazards

Risk assessments are available from the National Trust and the area has been zoned according to risk levels.

Hazards include:

- steep cliffs
- tidal waters
- slips, trips and falls
- grazing animals
- steep slopes
- slippery rocks
- strandline debris
- seals
- adders
- weather conditions
- rock falls

Ryer's Down

between Burry Green and Cheriton, Gower (Grid Ref. SS 449923)



Ryer's Down is part of the Gower Commons. The site includes several ponds in different states of repair but the one close to the track has a good structure for pond dipping: Dug in 2004, it is completely carnivore top heavy and the community is still in flux. It is a perfect place for dragonflies. The little wooded area provides some shelter and trees and bushes to beat for invertebrates. The hill hides many historical remains, medieval longhouses, ancient walls, a Celtic hut platform, bomb crater, etc. The heathland vegetation is rather grass-dominated but heathers can be found and so can tunnel web spiders, lizards and grasshoppers. The trig point provides splendid views of Gower, the Burry Estuary and mountains beyond.

Resources and Facilities Available

There are no public toilets at the site, but in an emergency Kennexton Farm is down the road and has toilet facilities. Sheena Bishop of **Precious Earth** (see page 20) leads pond and heath studies on behalf of the **Gower Commons Initiative** (see page 47) and will be developing a generic teaching day pack to allow teachers to work at the site on their own, if they wish. A full risk assessment has been carried out and accompanied site reconnoitres may be possible.

Site Ownership and Access

Permission to use the site must be obtained from the **National Trust** (see page 16) and the commoners. Coaches can drop off by the track and park in a nearby village or pay to park at the farm (although some drivers may not like the bridge to enter farm).

The pond is close to a track, but the terrain around it is uneven. The heath is dominated by molina tussocks, so difficult going.

Main Potential Hazards

- trail bikes
- slips, trips and falls (tussocks)
- grazing animals
- ticks
- adders
- Weil's disease (if working with water)

Singleton Botanical Gardens

Singleton Park, Swansea (Grid Ref. SS628926)

The Botanical Gardens in Singleton Park hold not only a wealth of beautiful plants but also a depth of horticultural knowledge and expertise.

Bringing children into closer contact with these can encourage them to take an interest in the natural environment, motivate them to participate in outside activities, and support their growing knowledge and understanding of how plants work and why they are so fundamental to our existence on earth.



The gardens feature:

- outdoor and indoor ponds
- hot tropical, rainforest, arid desert, temperate, plants
- alpines, vegetable demonstration garden
- large herbaceous border
- state-of-the-art formal bedding designs
- orchids
- cacti range
- Mediterranean herb garden

The staff are striving to be environmentally friendly and sustainable with methods such as composting green waste and heating the main glasshouses using a biomass boiler. There is an environmental policy and the team are working towards Green Dragon Environmental Standard.

Resources and Facilities Available

- toilets (including disabled toilets)
- well-resourced classroom in **Ty'r Blodau** (see page 23)
- interpretive panels and signs
- biomass boiler

Site Ownership and Access

The Botanical Gardens are run by the City and County of Swansea council's Specialist Parks Team. They are open 9.00am–4.30pm in winter or 9.00am–6.00pm in summer (under review).

There is roadside parking around the perimeter of Singleton Park and a coach drop-off point alongside St Paul's Parish Church. There is wheelchair access and one un-motorised wheelchair is available.

Main Potential Hazards

- trip hazards
- poisonous plants
- machinery in use on site
- water features.

Swansea Community Farm Site

Fforestfach, Swansea (Grid Ref. SS627963)

The Community Farm site has been developed on 3.5 acres of previously derelict land in Fforestfach, Swansea. It is now home to a variety of rare-breed farm animals, including pigs, sheep, ducks and chickens. The purpose-designed buildings and grounds are accessible to all and have been built with environmentally friendly features. Through planting trees, shrubs and flowers, as well as native hedgerows, habitats well suited to the needs of native wildlife are being created. The pond, built by the child and youth volunteers, is home to frogs, newts and a variety of aquatic insects, and the new apiary ensures there are plenty of bees to help pollinate local flowers.

There is access to a small pocket of ancient coppiced woodland as well as **Cadle Heath** (see page 27), allowing habitat comparison studies as well as a pleasant working environment. The Compost Demonstration Area is under development as composting provides a valuable teaching resource, as well as a means of fertilising the vegetable plots.



Resources and Facilities Available

- indoor and outdoor teaching areas
- comprehensive educational materials
- interpretation panels
- education workshop being developed
- toilets with wheelchair access
- handwashing facilities
- car park with disabled spaces
- accessible raised bed garden

Site Ownership and Access

Swansea Community Farm is run by a charity of the same name (see page 22) and is open to the public 10am–4pm, Monday to Saturday. The education programme is available during school term times by prior arrangement.

There is a car park with limited space on site but buses can stop in the turning circle before the farm gates (outside Cadle School). Paths around the buildings and close to paddocks are tarmac and easy to access with pushchairs and wheelchairs. Other paths are packed gravel and are accessible to wheelchairs and push chairs but can be bumpy.

The Farm's education project has use of the site and its facilities as required. The Farm also hosts many group sessions including: BTCV's Green Gym, adult volunteer days, child and youth workdays, after-school play schemes, Healthy Living workdays, heath conservation days, local produce fayres and organic gardening. A variety of courses are also run on a regular basis, including Beekeeping, Animal Care and Woodworking.

Main Potential Hazards

- contact with soil, compost and animal-borne micro-organisms
- animal contact – possibility of scratches and stings

Visitors are advised to dress appropriately for outdoor activities.

Swansea Vale Nature Reserve

Llansamlet, Swansea (Grid Ref. SS514053)



Situated in north-east Swansea, the 6 hectares of Swansea Vale Nature Reserve represent one of the few remaining areas of wetland in the region.

Wetlands are amongst the most threatened natural habitats in the UK – threatened from development and poor management – making them a priority of nature conservation. Notable species at Swansea Vale include kingfisher, water rail, otter, common hawkmer dragonfly, greater reed mace and the blue-tailed damselfly.

Resources and Facilities Available

- leaflets
- management plans
- species lists (plants & animals)
- **Nature Conservation Team** staff (see page 17)

Site Ownership and Access

Swansea Vale Nature Reserve is managed by the City and County of Swansea. It is accessible from Walters Road, Llansamlet. Parking might be available in the Ysgol Lon Las school car park on request from the head teacher. A footpath catering for all abilities has been built around the southern part of the reserve providing the opportunity to discover wet woodland, rivers, ponds and marsh.

Main Potential Hazards

- water (river and pond)
- fast road around reserve

A full risk assessment is available from Jo Mullett and the Nature Conservation Team.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS, PROJECTS, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The following entries include organisations and projects that are developing new local provision of field study services, or that offer resources and support in other ways.

- Blackpill Wildlife Centre (Swansea Bay) below
- Broadleaf Woodland Enterprise Scheme page 46
- Countryside Council for Wales page 46
- Cwm Clydach Nature Reserve (RSPB) page 46
- Gower Commons Initiative page 47
- Sustainable Swansea Initiative page 47
- Swansea Environmental Education Forum page 48
- Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales page 48

Blackpill Wildlife Centre (Swansea Bay)

Between September and April Swansea Bay becomes the feeding haven for vast numbers of wildfowl, waders and gulls. More than 150 different species have been noted in the area, of which, 60 are rare and 41 scarce breeds.

Blackpill Wildlife Centre provides spectacular views of Swansea Bay, from the Marina and Docklands area right across to Knab Rock and the Mumbles Lighthouse. Situated in the Blackpill Lido lifeguard hut, 2 miles west of Swansea on A4067 towards Mumbles, the Centre was first opened in January 2001 and is full of information about the wildlife, especially the birds that can be seen along the bay.

The Centre is run through a partnership between the West Glamorgan RSPB Members Group, the Gower Ornithological Society, and the City and Council of Swansea. Volunteers and binoculars are available to help with identifying the birds, and there is a children's section full of magazines and a table of things to do including an in-house quiz.

School groups must be restricted to 10–12 children and accompanied by a teacher. Entry is free but pre-booking is essential. For further information or to book a visit, contact Colin Jones on 01269 822876 or at colin.jones02@ntlworld.com.



Broadleaf Woodland Enterprise Scheme (Mumbles Development Trust)

Mumbles Development Trust is a grassroots community organisation concerned with the regeneration of the Mumbles area through practical community self-help projects. The Trust has initiated the Broadleaf Woodland Enterprise Scheme, which will involve the development and management of a small woodland to support craft workshops, educational visits and community events. A series of guided walk leaflets, incorporating some of the local sites improved by the Trust, is also being produced. For more information on the Trust and its work, contact Terry Scales at mdt@btinternet.com or 01792 361012.



Countryside Council for Wales

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) is the Government's statutory adviser on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters. In addition to their core scientific and advisory work, CCW provide environmental and environmental education grants to local authorities and other partners. This directory is part-funded by CCW.



The CCW website, www.ccw.gov.uk, includes a 'CCW for Kids' section with games, activities and teacher's resources. CCW also produce publications that can support the study of the natural environment including posters and booklets on various species and habitats, and information on National Nature Reserves and other designated sites. These resources can be ordered, or in some cases downloaded, from the website.

Cwm Clydach Nature Reserve (RSPB)

The area around this site has been coal mined for at least 300 years. The reserve has a tramway running the whole length, providing an easy footpath for visitors with the first 1300 metres of nature trail being accessible to wheelchairs. It is a mixed broadleaved woodland and home to breeding pied flycatchers, redstarts and buzzards. The Lower Clydach river flows through the centre of the reserve.



The reserve is situated on the B4291 between Craig Cefn Parc and Clydach with a car park next to the New Inn public house. Public paths and trails are open from dawn to dusk and there are two main trails which begin at the main car park. The shortest, known as the Nixon Trail, is a 2.2 km circular walk which is suitable for pushchairs but the 4.7 km Trussler Trail is rugged in parts. Both trails connect with longer distance footpaths leading off the reserve. For more information, contact the warden on 01792 842927 or at Martin.Humphreys@rspb.org.uk.

RSPB education staff lead educational visits at several other sites in Wales but currently not at Cwm Clydach. However, RSPB also produce a wide range of educational materials, many of which are free and downloadable from their website - www.rspb.org.uk/youth/learn.

Gower Commons Initiative

The Gower Commons Initiative is a broad partnership of bodies with a variety of interests in the Gower Commons. It was established to reverse the decline of internationally important wildlife habitats whilst providing opportunities for learning and leisure and helping commoners and landowners to continue to graze animals.



The Gower Commons are a fantastic natural resource covering 20% of Gower and teeming with wildlife waiting to be discovered. The Gower Commons Initiative is developing two trails linked to teaching days, and plans to work with a few schools in 2007/8 to test these trails and associated resources. This will lead to the creation of site-specific field trips that schools could self-lead. Detailed packs of resources, maps and routes are being produced and training is being offered. The field days will be science biased or centred on history/art/PSE. The habitats being focused on are ponds, heathland and grassland; the latter being particularly important as they are much neglected in junior studies due to the lack of specialist knowledge. These packs and trails will allow both teachers and pupils to discover the wealth of biodiversity and history that can be hidden in a grassy hill.

For further details on the Gower Commons Initiative and its educational work, contact Siôn Brackenbury on 01792 391670 or sion.brackenbury@swansea.gov.uk.

Sustainable Swansea Initiative

The Sustainable Swansea initiative co-ordinates a range of projects which seek to make the City and County of Swansea a more sustainable place to live, work, and visit. Led by Swansea Environmental Forum, Sustainable Swansea helps deliver some of the aims in Swansea's Community Plan by facilitating change across the county; by raising awareness of sustainability and environmental issues, by offering training and support for communities developing new projects and by highlighting and rewarding good practice.



Key projects include:

- **Swansea Green Map** – with over 200 locations in and around Swansea including green sites, services and resources – also available as an interactive web-based tool.
- **Swansea Sustainability Trail** – showcasing good practice in sustainability across Swansea. A trail guide has been produced and a schools education pack is being developed, explaining how the trail sites can be accessed and used effectively.
- **Sustainable Swansea Awards Scheme** – recognising and rewarding individuals and organisations (including schools) that help make Swansea a more sustainable place.

For further information contact Lisa Kirman, based at the **Environment Centre** (see page 9), at lisa@environmentcentre.org.uk or 01792 480200.

Swansea Environmental Education Forum

Swansea Environmental Education Forum (SEEF) was created in February 1999 as a network of over 50 organisations and individuals that are involved in environmental education and education for sustainable development and global citizenship (ESDGC) in Swansea. Its aim is to facilitate a more strategic approach to raising awareness of environmental and sustainability issues in formal and informal settings and to encourage partnership in environmental education and awareness-raising projects.



Swansea Environmental Education Forum
Fforum Addysg yr Amgylchedd Abertawe

SEEF brings together a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience and has developed a range of services and resources for schools, youth and adult groups, businesses, the general public and other organisations, which help to improve the quality and increase the participation in environmental education and ESDGC throughout Swansea. These include:

- access to resources to support environmental education in schools
- a programme of in-service training for teachers on ESDGC and environmental issues
- a directory of local support for environmental education and ESDGC in Swansea
- a directory of further, higher and community education courses
- an annual environmental events programme (leaflet)
- green envelope information packs to schools each term
- education features in the Environment Centre's monthly newsletter Green Light

The SEEF co-ordinator, Anita Houten, is based at the **Environment Centre** (see page 9) and can be contacted at education@environmentcentre.org.uk or 01792 469817.

Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales



South and West Wales
De a Gorllewin Cymru

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts across the UK and the fourth largest in area with 92 nature reserves, 24 of which lie within the City and County of Swansea.

During 2007/8, the Trust will be carrying out pilot studies of new educational programmes and investing considerable funding towards making local reserves more accessible and suitable for education groups. In particular, work is being undertaken at Gelli Hir, Prior's Meadow and Llanrhidian Hill with development of new paths, opened-up clearings, trails, bridges, ponds and sitting areas.

Schools involved with the Trust can become associate Wildlife Trust members and set-up Wildlife Watch groups for pupils – usually run as after-school clubs. Associate membership entitles schools to free officer-led trips to the reserves and officer visits to school.

For more details of the nature reserves and the Trust's work, go to the website, www.welshwildlife.org or contact the local officer, Kevin Davies, at the Trust's headquarters in Tondy, on 01656 724100 or k.davies@welshwildlife.org.uk.