



## Field Studies Council East Ayrshire

Early in 2021 small team from Field Studies Council, Millport, began delivering outreach work at the Barony school campus in East Ayrshire, supported by the Education Recovery Fund. They worked mostly with vulnerable children with special learning needs and/or disabilities and children of key workers. This programme involved daily afternoon out-door activities for a 6-week block. Participating young people were challenged to “learn about the local environment and develop new skills” by participating in activities across a range of themes: wildlife & ecology, bushcraft, navigation & orienteering, and STEM. The challenge was undertaken around the school grounds and estates that include a variety of habitats for exploration including some fantastic woodlands, rivers, and grasslands, allowing the young people to truly engage with and explore a variety of ecosystems.

### Direct Impact

- All of the 34 participating young people showed improved attendance at school and increased engagement in learning.
- All developed new skills and overcame barriers to learning as they did so.

### Accredited awards

All 34 young people achieved their Young Stem Leader and Dynamic Youth Awards.

### Young People

“During bushcraft I practiced using the flint and steel and built confidence”

“Today I went pond dipping and I was good at spotting the things in the tray. I learned how to identify what I found.”

### The Higher Education Placement students

“We expected that the students who completed this course would gain a greater appreciation for local wildlife and STEM careers. However, we were lucky to witness the mixing of a diverse range of individuals, who learned to communicate and support each other in a unique and inspiring way.”

“The outdoor learning has reintroduced the young people to spending quality time in natural spaces, including woodland and riverbanks. We have seen them grow to enjoy the freedom of learning away from the classroom.”

### Depute Head Teacher

“The pupils engaged very well in the activities which were delivered by experienced, knowledgeable, friendly, and very professional instructors. The pupils gained Dynamic Youth and STEM Leader awards, improved their wellbeing, and developed their knowledge of our local environment through the activities offered.”

Martin Robertson, Depute Head Teacher, The Robert Burns Academy

### Field Studies Council:

“The Education Recovery Fund has given FSC Scotland, working in partnership with The Robert Burns Academy and LOST, a great opportunity to help improve learning opportunities for children and young people affected by COVID. Delivery of a bespoke programme based entirely in the outdoors, supporting participants to gain awards has been a great success.”

Alex MacFie, Group Operations Manager North, FSC Scotland