



Field Studies
Council

Residential Centres 2024/5



The Field Studies Council has 12 residential properties throughout the UK in some unique buildings and stunning landscapes. The centres provide full board accommodation for up to 160 people with generous sized workrooms, interactive whiteboards and free wifi. Select centres have specialist field equipment including a marine vessel or RIB for charter. There are also adventurous activities available at our AALA licenced centres.

From quiet spaces to adventurous places.....

We offer:

- Comfortable accommodation
- Large meeting rooms with interactive whiteboards
- Catered menus, accounting for allergies and different faith groups
- Optional self-catering at some centres.
- Free wi-fi internet access
- Adventurous activities available at select centres
- 24hr duty and on call system
- Free pre-visits with planning support from centre staff
- Wet weather gear available for hire
- Access to a range of inspiring landscapes



Details correct at the time of print



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Blencathra

Blencathra is in the heart of the Lake District, and runs mainly off renewable energy. It occupies a dramatic setting at 300m up the south facing slope of Blencathra in the Lake District National Park, offering panoramic views across the Keswick, Helvellyn and Skiddaw areas.

Bed capacity	173
Total no. of bedrooms	45
No. of en-suite bedrooms	25
Wheelchair access	2
Catering one sitting	70
Self-catering available	Yes
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	Yes
Shop	No
Drying rooms	1
Class/work rooms	6
AV projectors	Interactive whiteboards
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	30 cars 2 coaches
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year



Local attractions

- An impressive setting which has a true sense of space.
- It offers award winning eco-friendly accommodation, the electricity is generated by the Centre's own hydro scheme and the heating is powered by Cumbrian-sourced biomass.
- The magnificent Lake District is on the doorstep with plenty of walking and mountain biking routes.

How to get there

By Car: From Junction 40 on the M6 follow A66 to Keswick. After 12 miles turn off following signpost for Threlkeld.

By Train: The nearest train station is the Penrith Train Station, approximately 13 miles from Threlkeld.



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Castle Head

The centre is an impressive Georgian house which is situated in 20 hectares of extensive private grounds in stunning South Cumbria.

There is lots of space for rest and reflection on the large front lawn, amphitheatre sloped back lawn, terraced garden, on an easy walk along the river and outdoor covered veranda.

Bed capacity	162
Total no. of bedrooms	33
No. of en-suite bedrooms	9
Wheelchair access	1
Catering one sitting	96
Self-catering available	Yes
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	No
Shop	No
Drying rooms	2
Class/work rooms	6
AV projectors	Projection equipment
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	30 cars, 3 coaches
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	March to October

Local attractions

With easy access to both the coastline of Morecambe Bay, the glaciated uplands of the southern Lake District and the lakes of Windermere and Coniston, Castle Head is ideally situated for a wide range of both field studies and adventurous activities.

How to get there

By Car: Perfectly located only 20 mins from the M6, 1.5 hours' drive from Liverpool and Manchester. Follow the A590 sign posted for M6 then join the B5271.

By Train: The nearest railway station is Grange over Sands on the Barrow to Manchester Airport line.

By Bus: The X6 bus connects Ulverston with Lindale.



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Dale Fort

Dale Fort is set in a spectacular location high on the cliffs within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, giving superb views over the sea. Built in 1856 to defend the Milford Haven waterway against invasion, it has been a field centre since 1948. It is ideally located for coastal studies and for accessing Skomer Island with its renowned resident sea bird populations, including puffins, guillemots and razorbills.

Bed capacity	144 (136 comfortably)
Total no. of bedrooms	33
No. of en-suite bedrooms	18
Wheelchair access	Yes
Catering one sitting	70
Self-catering available	Yes
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	Yes
Shop	Yes
Drying rooms	1
Class/work rooms	4+
AV projectors	5
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	20 cars
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	March - October

Local attractions

- Great water-sport areas and facilities including tuition and sailing craft hire.
- Close proximity to surf beaches: West Dale (5 mins), Broad Haven (20 mins) and Newgale (40mins).
- On the Wales Coastal Path.
- Walking access to rocky shore habitats from very exposed to very sheltered, and saltmarsh.

How to get there

By Car: From the M4 (Junction 49) follow the A48 to Carmarthen and then the A40 to Haverfordwest. From Haverfordwest take the B4327 to Dale. There is no coach access to Dale Fort, a drop off in the village is required. We provide a luggage shuttle.

By Train: The nearest railway station to the Centre is Milford Haven.

By Bus: Please visit Fflecsi travel's website or download the Fflecsi app.



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Flatford Mill

Flatford Mill is the first and original field studies centre which was set up in the UK during the 1940's. It is the centre for Constable Country, set amidst the quintessentially English countryside of the Dedham Vale in Suffolk, sitting on the banks of the River Stour. Flatford Mill runs residential field study visits for school students and provides a very wide range of natural history and art courses.

Bed capacity	91
Total no. of bedrooms	24
No. of en-suite bedrooms	11
Wheelchair access	Limited
Catering one sitting	60
Self-catering available	No
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	Only with meals
Shop	Yes
Drying room	No
Class/work rooms	5
AV projectors	Projectors and smart boards
Commercial filming	Requires approval
Parking	30 cars
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year

Attractions

- Heaths AONB.
- Most accommodation is in listed buildings.
- The centre is the location of the Haywain Painting by John Constable.
- Places to study or relax in include the meadow, woodland, island, river frontage or ball games area.

How to get there

By Car: The Centre is located between Colchester and Ipswich and is about 10 miles from each, approximately 2 miles from the A12.

By Train: The nearest train station is Manningtree.



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Juniper Hall

Juniper Hall is a 17th century country house set at the foot of Box Hill in the Surrey Hills AONB. As a learning location, the varying contours of the slopes of the North Downs provide habitats and environments for study including unimproved chalk grassland, coppiced woodlands, heathland, fresh water rivers, streams and springs. Easily accessible from London and a 10 minute drive from the M25.

Bed capacity	130 - 140
Total no. of bedrooms	34
No. of en-suite bedrooms	13
Wheelchair access	1
Catering one sitting	120
Self-catering available	No
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	Yes
Shop	Yes
Drying rooms	1
Class/work rooms	7 + 1 outdoor classroom
AV projectors	Smart boards
Commercial filming	Not permitted
Parking	15 cars 2 coaches
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year

Attractions

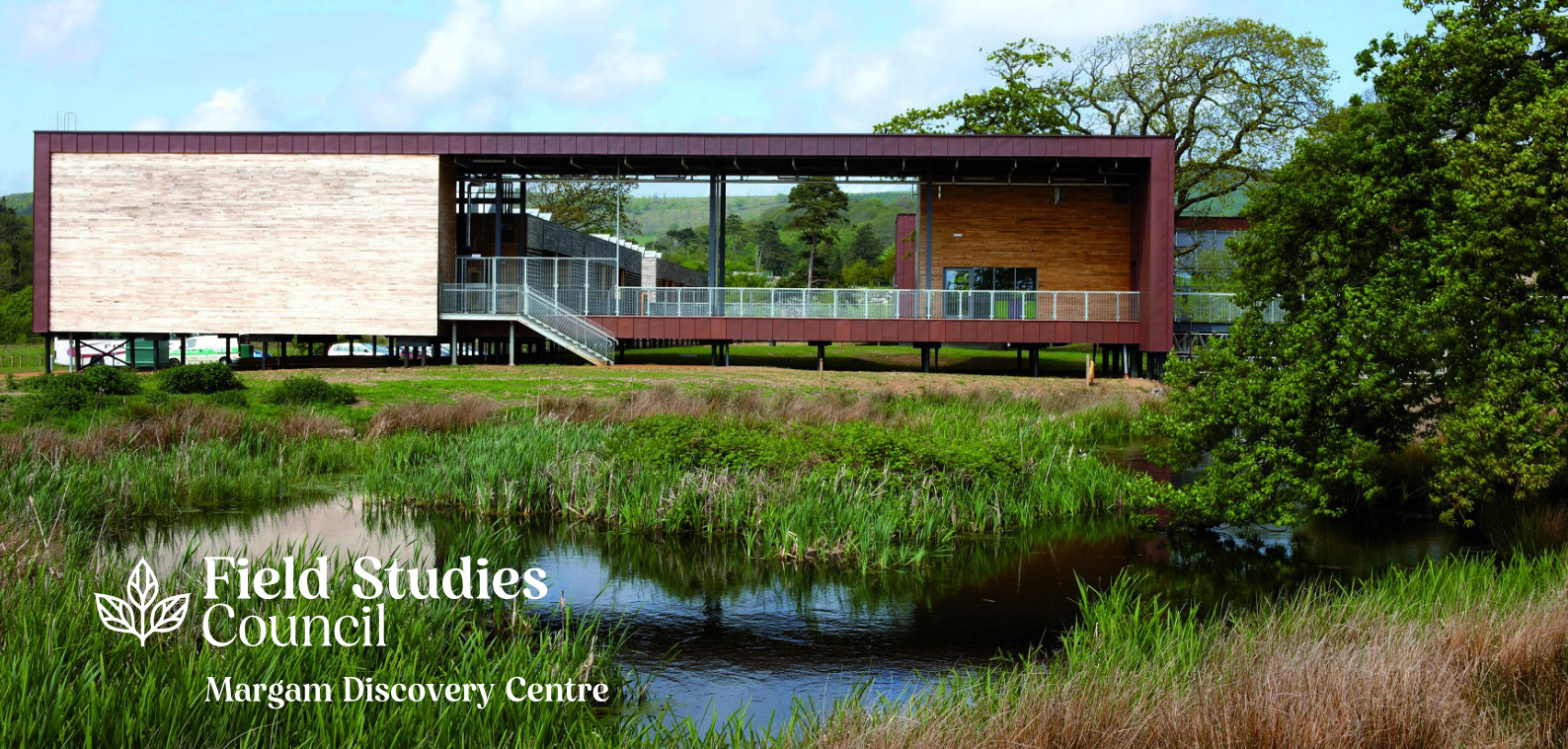
- Box Hill and Surrey Hills AONB.
- Grade II listed building.
- Close to London.

How to get there

By Car: From junction 9 of the M25 take the A24 towards Dorking.

By Train: The nearest train station is Dorking station which is 1.6 miles away.





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Margam Discovery Centre

Margam Discovery Centre is a state of the art, low carbon footprint building situated within Margam Park, an 850-acre country estate nestling on the narrow coastal plain and southern slopes of Mynydd Margam. The centre is situated just off the M4 between Swansea and Cardiff and has easy access to a wide variety of field sites on the Gower AONB, a few miles to the west; the Heritage Coast to the east and Brecon Beacons to the north, and the diverse and varied landscape of Margam Park itself.

Bed capacity	142
Total no. of bedrooms, all en-suite	33
Wheelchair access	5
Catering one sitting	120
Self-catering available	No
Common rooms/lounges	2
Bar	Yes
Shop	No
Drying rooms	Yes
Class/work rooms	4
AV projectors	Interactive white boards
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	Yes 30
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year

Local attractions

The surrounding area offers a range of ecosystems from freshwater ponds and streams to mixed woodland and grassland. There are large herds of deer, including the rare Pere David deer. It is also one of Wales' richest bat locations.

How to get there

By Car: Just off Junction 38 of the M4 Motorway.

By Train: Frequent Great Western links London Paddington, Reading, Swindon, and Bristol Parkway (connections from northeast England and Midlands) with Port Talbot.

By Bus: Stops at main road entrance, 15 minutes' walk to reception area, around 1km.



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Millport

Millport is situated on the shores of the Isle of Cumbrae in the Firth of Clyde, only an eight minute ferry ride from the mainland at Largs. A purpose built coastal centre for academia, it offers comfortable accommodation and a fully equipped meeting auditorium. The centre is an ideal base for exploring the island and has a rich history as a marine research station.

Bed capacity	154
Total no. of bedrooms, all en-suite	64
Wheelchair access	16 w/chair accessible 2 with wet rooms
Catering one sitting	90
Self-catering available	Yes
Common room/lounges	Yes
Bar	No
Shop	Yes
Drying rooms	2
Class/work rooms	8 - capacity 25-150
AV projectors	7
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	Yes
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year

Attractions

- RV Sepia, 11m vessel that provides a very safe working platform for 12 people.
- Caters for divers.
- Private pier.

How to get there

By Car: From Glasgow take the M8 to the A737. The A760 then takes you to Largs to catch the Millport ferry to the Isle of Cumbrae.

By Train: From Glasgow Central train station travel to Largs train station. Once you arrive in Largs train station, the ferry departs, 100 metres to your left.

By Air: There is a regular bus service from Glasgow airport.



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Nettlecombe Court

Located in a secluded valley and surrounded by historic parkland, including many veteran trees, Nettlecombe Court offers excellent access to the Jurassic coast, Exmoor National Park (a Dark Skies area) and The Quantocks AONB. Both areas have large herds of red deer.

Bed capacity	120
Total no. of bedrooms	23
No. of en-suite bedrooms	11
Wheelchair access	1
Catering one sitting	60 - 70
Self-catering available	Yes
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	Yes
Shop	Yes
Drying rooms	No
Class/work rooms	5
AV projectors	Interactive whiteboards
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	40 cars
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	March to October

Local attractions

- Somerset Coast (Jurassic coast) – beaches, salt marsh, coastal path, coastal town.
- Exmoor – walking, historic landmarks, AONB, SSSI, wildlife.
- Quantocks – walking, historic landmarks, AONB, SSSI, wildlife.
- Local attractions – cider farm, Butlins, Tropiquaria, Steam railway, Dunster Castle.

How to get there

By Car: From the M5 follow the A358 (from Taunton) or the A39 (from Bridgewater) to Williton and then the A39 towards Minehead. Sat Nav TA4 4HT.

By Train: The nearest station is Taunton. There are regular buses from the station to Williton, but the final section to the centre needs to be by taxi.



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Preston Montford

Preston Montford is set on a 12 hectare estate in the heart of Shropshire on the banks of the River Severn with views into Wales. For the more adventurous the centre offers climbing, canoeing, a low ropes course and team building activities.

Bed capacity	131
Total no. of bedrooms	47
No. of en-suite bedrooms	45
Wheelchair access	2
Catering one sitting	80
Self-catering available	Yes
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	Yes
Shop	Yes
Drying rooms	1
Class/work rooms	6
AV projectors	Multimedia equipment
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	25 cars
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	March to October

Attractions

- The estate provides a rich range of habitats, including the River Severn Montford SSSI – semi-ancient woodland growing on a steep bank of glacial drift.
- Easy access to practically every type of habitat and urban setting in Britain. Ranging from the Long Mynd and Stiperstones in the South Shropshire Hills AONB, to Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, Ludlow, Birmingham and Snowdonia.

How to get there

By Car: Take the A5 signposted to Mid-Wales and Welshpool.

By Train: The nearest station is Shrewsbury station. A pickup is available by prior arrangement.



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Rhyd-y-creuau

Rhyd-y-Creuau is set in the beautiful, rugged landscape of the Snowdonia National Park, yet close to secluded wooded valleys, rocky shores, beaches and traditional seaside resorts. The 2.2 hectare estate includes a football pitch, woodland, biodiversity garden, campfire area and teambuilding challenges.

Bed capacity	100
Total no. of bedrooms	32
No. of en-suite bedrooms	19
Wheelchair access	1 with twin beds
Catering one sitting	96
Self-catering available	Yes
Common room/lounges	Yes
Bar	Yes
Shop	Yes
Drying rooms	Yes
Class/work rooms	4 - capacity 18-30
AV projectors	4
Commercial filming	By permission only
Parking	Yes
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year

Local attractions

- Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park.
- Walking distance from Betws-y-Coed.
- Close to Zip World Fforest and Go Below.

How to get there

By Car: We are a short drive south from the A55 North Wales Expressway, making us easily accessible throughout the year from most areas.

By Train: Nearest railway station is at Betws-y-coed, a simple flat walk of around 1km.





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Slapton Ley

Slapton Ley is located within the South Devon AONB close to field sites in Dartmoor National Park and urban centres in Plymouth and Torbay. It is within easy reach of the M5 and mainline train station at Totnes. This spacious centre can sleep large groups in four blocks.

Bed capacity	178
Total no. of bedrooms	42
No. of en-suite bedrooms	34
Wheelchair access	2
Catering one sitting	90
Self-catering available	Yes
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	No
Shop	Yes
Drying rooms	1
Class/work rooms	8
AV projectors	Smart boards/ projector
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	20 cars
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year

Attractions

- Slapton Ley is the largest freshwater natural lake in south-west England, separated from the sea by a narrow shingle bar. The lake is surrounded by reed beds, marshes and woodland habitats.
- It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and was declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 1993.
- The NNR is managed by the Field Studies Council in partnership with the owners Wild Planet Trust, Natural England and South Hams District Council.

How to get there

By Car: 20 miles (30km) from A38.

By Train: 13 miles (20km) from Totnes station.



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Start Bay

This centre is great for smaller groups and ideally located above Start Bay with panoramic views of this spectacular coastline. The rural location near Slapton village provides a feeling of remoteness, but with the convenience of the village shop and pubs nearby.

Bed capacity	41
Total no. of bedrooms	8
No. of en-suite bedrooms	3
Wheelchair access	2
Catering one sitting	41
Self-catering available	Yes
Common rooms/lounges	Yes
Bar	No
Shop	No
Drying rooms	No
Class/work rooms	No
AV projectors	Smart boards/ projector
Commercial filming	Permitted
Parking	15 cars
Garden	Yes
Seasonal opening	All year

Attractions

- Start Bay is a self contained centre with a large secluded garden including a low ropes course, campfire and barbecue area.
- Dartmoor National Park.
- Marine coastal access.

How to get there

By Car: 20 miles (30km) from A38.

By Train: 13 miles (20km) from Totnes station.

By Bus, Bike or Foot: The bus stops on Slapton Line and at the village bus stop outside the centre. The Nature Reserve is on the route of a national trail, the Southwest Coastal Path and near Route 28 of the Sustrans National Cycle Network.



Field Studies Council is an environmental education charity providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore and understand the natural world.

With a proud 80-year history, the charity has a network of UK locations providing high quality fieldwork and outdoor learning.



If you would like some help and advice in choosing the best centre for your specific needs, please get in touch.



Contact us:

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Email: enquiries@field-studies-council.org

www.field-studies-council.org/venue-hire