



# Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre and Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre

Information for Schools, Youth Clubs and  
Community Groups



# Creating memories for a lifetime

## At Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre and Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre is a not-for-profit activity, outdoor learning and residential centre in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside. The Centre is owned and operated by Community First. We also manage Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre in partnership with The Blagrave Trust.

Our Centres are the perfect setting for school and group day visits, residentials and camping trips. We offer a bespoke package of curriculum enrichment, outdoor education and adventure activities, led by our friendly and experienced Outdoor Education Instructors. This brochure contains more information about our Centres and how we work with schools, youth club, groups and organisations to deliver outstanding outdoor education and adventure for all.



**01380 732806**



**[info@oxenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@oxenwood.org.uk)**



**[oxenwood.org.uk/bookings](https://oxenwood.org.uk/bookings)**

# About Us

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As a charity that works with adults, children and young people, Community First believes in outdoor education for all. This includes opportunities to learn and explore outside the classroom, confidence building, teamwork and taking part in adventure activities in a structured and safe environment.

Both Oxenwood and Linkenholt Centres are operated on a not-for-profit basis, offering affordable and high-quality residential and day trips for schools, club, groups and organisations.



## Mission Statement

**Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre is committed to delivering quality and professional outdoor education to all, to help nurture health and happiness. Offering a bespoke, quality Centre for single occupancy.**

Community First is a registered charity (288117) based in Wiltshire and a member of the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) network. Our Patron is Her Majesty The Queen. Alongside outdoor education, we also offer a variety of programmes and services which support people, places and communities. This includes the national award-winning Youth Action Wiltshire service, employability programmes, grants, community transport schemes, community development and support for village halls and local councils.

When you book a residential or day activity at Oxenwood or Linkenholt Centre, you are helping to support our work. You can find out more about Community First via our website or on social media:

[www.communityfirst.org.uk](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk)

[enquiries@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@communityfirst.org.uk)




# Our Residential & Outdoor Learning Centres

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre and Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre are located in open countryside, close to the borders of Wiltshire, Hampshire and West Berkshire. Both Centres are within the boundary of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with excellent links to local geography, wildlife and landmarks including Kennet and Avon Canal, Fosbury Iron Age Hillfort and Wilton Windmill.

## Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre




Oxenwood is an independent, outdoor learning and residential Centre. The Centre offers a range of safe and exciting Instructor-led activities and is a popular choice for school and group residential or day visits.

 Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre, Oxenwood, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3NQ

## Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre



Linkenholt Centre offers high-quality day activities and camping residential for schools, clubs and groups. The Centre is frequently used by youth groups e.g. Scouts, Cadets and Duke of Edinburgh and walking groups.

 Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre, Linkenholt, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 OEA

## Our Centre Locations



# Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre

## Day Activities and Residentials



**With a range of activities to choose from and plenty of space to get outside, your school or group will learn new skills, have fun in nature and create memories that last a lifetime!**

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre is our primary outdoor learning and activity centre and the most popular choice for school residentials, curriculum enrichment days and on-site adventure activities.

We can offer exclusive access to the Centre and facilities for overnight groups and groups using the classroom.

The Centre is fully equipped for day and residential groups with a catering kitchen, toilet and shower facilities (including disabled access), washing and drying facilities, a main hall, staff room and playing field. We also have a fully equipped classroom, with video and audio equipment.

Oxenwood has a 38 bed capacity in four dormitory rooms for residential bookings. The Centre also has an additional 6-8 bed capacity for group leaders.

Groups can select from fully catered, part catered and self-catered options during their residential visit to Oxenwood. Nutritious, home-cooked food is prepared on the premises each day by our fantastic catering team, with specialist diets and allergies also catered for.



# Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre

## Day Activities and Camping



**Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre offers high-quality day activities and camping residentials for schools, clubs and groups, all set in 2,000 acres of wide open, varied countryside.**

Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre is an ideal location for groups who are looking to camp overnight. The Centre 'Base Camp' has ample parking and a large, flat camping area. Schools, clubs and groups can also make use of the main hall for meeting and dining with tables and chairs for up to 50 people, toilet and shower facilities (including disabled access) and kitchen.

Linkenholt Centre is suitable for self-led, independent wildlife, arts, orienteering, team-building, team sports or bushcraft activities. In addition, our team of Outdoor Education Instructors can enrich your group experience through adventure activities e.g. mountain biking, archery and climbing or bespoke Curriculum Enrichment Days.

Linkenholt Centre is a self-catered venue and visiting groups should bring their own cooking supplies or prepared food. The Centre has a fully equipped kitchen with two cookers, microwave, toaster, two kettles and a variety of cooking pots, utensils and crockery.

Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre is open for bookings between March-September each year, with exclusive access for groups camping overnight.



# Centre Facilities

Please see below for a summary of the facilities available at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre and Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre. Please get in touch with our team if you have any questions about the facilities.

		Oxenwood Centre	Linkenholt Centre
Facilities Available	 Residential accommodation (dormitories and beds)	✓	✗
	 Catering (fully catered or part-catered)	✓	✗
	 Large, flat campsite	✗	✓
	 Parking for cars and minibuses	✓	✓
	 Full toilet and shower facilities (including disabled access)	✓	✓
	 Washing and drying facilities	✓	✓
	 Kitchen facilities (for self-catering)	✓	✓
	 Meeting/recreation room	✓	✓
	 Dining hall with chairs and tables	✓	✓
	 Staff room with basic kitchen and tea/coffee making facilities	✓	✗
	 Fully equipped classroom with audio/visual equipment	✓	✗

## Catering for Residential Groups

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre has a fully equipped catering kitchen and in-house catering team who prepare freshly cooked, healthy and nutritious meals for residential groups. Please let us know at the time of your booking if members of your group have any specific dietary needs.

Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre does not offer catering and groups who are camping will need to bring their own food which can be prepared in the kitchen.



# School and Group Residentials

Have fun, learn new skills and develop independence



**For many young people, a structured and well-organised residential can be a life-changing experience.**

School and group residential trips are a great way for young people to engage positively with learning outside the classroom. Being away from home also helps young people to develop essential life skills like decision-making, problem-solving, confidence and personal responsibility.

We can organise self-catered, part-catered and fully-catered residentials for schools, clubs and groups with a range of exciting adventure activities, team-building exercises and outdoor learning.

Our residential programmes are bespoke and designed to meet your individual needs, with qualified and experienced instructors who are focused on delivering engaging and safe activities. All of our activities are centred around teamwork, effective communication and confidence building, allowing you to set measurable goals and celebrate your achievements.

## Residential Activities:

- Adventure activities
- Organised walking
- Orienteering and navigation
- Problem solving
- Team building exercises
- Woodland activities



# Example 4 Night Residential (KS2)

Includes accommodation, catering and activity programme



	08.00	09.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00	18.00	19.00	20.00	21.00	22.00	
Day 1			Arrival and welcome session	Lunch	Themed day or day hike						Evening Meal	Children's Duties	Night Walk - Spooky Alley	Bed		
Day 2			Paddlesports (A) Mountain Biking (B)	Lunch	Mountain Biking (A) Paddlesports (B)		Climbing Wall						Disco	Bed		
Day 3	Breakfast		Activity Briefing			Survival Day - Shelter Building, Fire and Campfire Cooking										Bed
Day 4			Archery and Rifle Shooting	Lunch	Fencing (A) Orienteering (B)		Orienteering (A) Fencing (B)						Stream Dipping	Bed		
Day 5	Breakfast. Pack Bags and Clear Rooms		Problem Solving		Lunch	Departure								Talent Show	Bed	

Price: £250 per group member / £90 per group leader

Please note – We do not charge VAT on bookings from schools, youth groups or charities.

# Example 2 Night Residential (KS1)

Includes accommodation, catering and activity programme

	08.00	09.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00	18.00	19.00	20.00	21.00
<b>Day 1</b>				Arrival and welcome session	Lunch	Owl barn and woodland activities				Evening Meal and Children's Duties		Evening Nature Walk	Return to Centre	Bed
<b>Day 2</b>		Breakfast and Children's Duties. Pack Bags and Clear Rooms	Botley Drove Daytime Nature Walk		Lunch	Photo Search		Departure						



**Price: £105 per group member / £30 per group leader**

Please note – We do not charge VAT on bookings from schools, youth groups or charities.

# Adventure Activities

Challenge yourself and try something new new



**Taking part in adventure activities in a safe environment is a fantastic way for young people to develop independence, self-confidence, teamwork and trust.**

Join us for a fun-filled day or half-day of adventure activities, led by our qualified and experienced Outdoor Education Instructors. We offer a variety of opportunities to get outside and take part in individual or group adventure activities including water sports, climbing, archery and mountain biking.

All of our adventure activities are centred around teamwork, effective communication and confidence building. Our sessions are suitable for beginners and those with more experience. Contact us to discuss your day or residential trip and we can build a programme of activities for your school or group.

## Accreditation

We are committed to providing safe, accessible and high-quality outdoor learning and adventure activity instruction at Oxenwood and Linkenholt Centres. We are registered with the following accrediting organisations:



# Adventure Activities

We offer the following adventure activities:



## Archery

Learn to use a bow and arrow on our outdoor archery range. Practise your individual archery skills with support from our trained Instructors and take part in a team competition to put your new archery skills to the test.



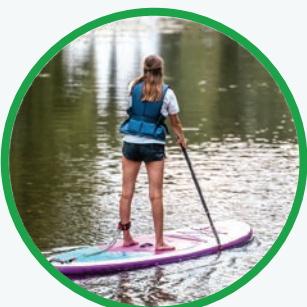
## Bushcraft/Survival Skills

Survive in the great outdoors by learning how to light and cook on an open fire. Learn how to build a shelter as a group, using sticks, foliage and other materials typically found in woodland and outdoor areas.



## Canoeing

Have fun and build confidence on the water. Our multi-person canoes can seat up to four people. Canoeing is a great way to improve communication skills and encourage group-based learning.



## Paddlesports

We offer multi-person canoeing, individual kayaking and Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP), so your group can experience a variety of water sports. All of these skills are designed to build confidence on the water.



## Raft Building

Raft building is a great team-building activity. Groups of young people or adults work together to design and build a buoyant raft using a selection of materials including barrels, rope and wooden planks.



## Kayaking

Kayaking is an individual skill. This activity will help develop independence, decision-making, coordination, and resilience, with games and challenges designed to improve your paddling technique and confidence.



## Climbing Wall

Have fun on our climbing wall, test your skills and see if you can climb to the top. This activity develops confidence, strength and endurance. Our climbing wall also has an auto belay for safety and ease of use.



## Cycle Skills

Develop your cycling skills in a safe space away from traffic and other hazards. This session will help your group develop confidence on a bicycle, improve independence, develop social skills and boost wellbeing.



## Mountain Biking

A guided mountain biking session is an exciting way to explore the outdoors including local trails and routes. Test your skills with varied terrain and develop confidence when cycling off-road, either individually or as a group.



## Fencing

Fencing is a great way to develop strategic thinking and confidence. Learn techniques including attack and defence, test your skills by competing against others in your group. The session includes protective clothing and headwear.



## Olympic Style Air Rifle

Learn to safely handle and shoot an air rifle with support from Instructors. Develop patience and concentration as you get to grips with an air rifle. Test your skills with target practice in our outdoor range.

# Other Activities



Organised local walks (day and night walking)



Shelter building



Orienteering



Mini beast hunting



Photo search



Stream survey and stream dipping



Navigation and map reading



Tree identification



Night navigation exercises



Bird identification



Journeying and basic expedition



Woodland art and sculpture



Problem-solving (outdoor and indoor)



Mountain days and rock climbing (offsite)

For a complete list of all our activities including age ranges and weather dependency, please visit: [www.oxenwood.org.uk/activities](http://www.oxenwood.org.uk/activities)

# Curriculum Enrichment

Bring history and literacy to life for your students



**We can offer a range of exciting curriculum enrichment days covering a variety of themes linked to the national curriculum.**

## Need help with a topic?

We can bring history and literacy to life for your students with themed enrichment days, where we meet our ancestors (or literary characters) close up, and through a range of interactive and action-oriented workshops. We cover most periods, from our Stone Age ancestors through to the present day. Topics we have previously covered include: Celts and Romans, King Arthur, Beowulf, The Vikings and 1066: The Year of Battles.

Please get in touch with us to discuss your topic and find out how we can design an immersive and interactive learning experience which meets your learning objectives.



# Curriculum Enrichment

Examples of historical/literacy curriculum enrichment days we have previously organised for schools include:

- **Stone Age Man**  
Hunter gatherers, the mobile 'supermarket' and the birth of farming
- **Celts and Ancient Britons**  
Druids, rebellion and hillforts
- **Romans**  
The army, invasion and daily life
- **King Arthur**  
The legend and the hero from history
- **Angles and Saxons**  
Rune swords, riddles and the forging of England
- **Beowulf**  
Heroes and monsters
- **Alfred the Great**  
Burnt cakes, heroic battles and strong rule
- **The Vikings**  
Long ships, new lands and long voyages
- **Knights and Castles**  
Squires, jousts, and fair and fierce maidens
- **Tudors**  
A King, Queens, the executioner's axe and the age of exploration
- **Explorers and Adventurers**  
Treasure maps, galleons and new worlds
- **Pirates**  
Cutlasses, buried treasure and skulls and crossbones
- **Wiltshire in the Civil War**  
Waller and Hopton, gunpowder and sieges
- **1666 – The Great Fire**  
A king, a diary, a war and disaster
- **1066**  
The Year of Battles; the defeat of the Vikings and the coming of the Normans; Stamford Bridge and Hastings



# Activities – Learning Objectives Matrix

Please see the table below for a Learning Objectives Matrix for all of our activities. This also includes offsite activities (mountain days, outdoor rock climbing and SERE).

1 = Low 2 = Medium 3 = High

		Learning Objective									
		Confidence	Communication	Skills Development	Teamwork	Leadership	Wellbeing	Independence	Resilience	Challenge and Risk	Knowledge/Learning
Adventure Activities	Archery	3	1	2	1	1	3	3	2	3	2
	Bushcraft/Survival Skills	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2
	Canoeing	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3
	Paddle Sports	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
	Raft Building	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2
	Kayaking	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3
	Climbing Wall	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	1
	Cycle Skills	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	2	3	2
	Mountain Biking	3	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	2
	Fencing	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Olympic Style Air Rifle	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	
Outdoor Activities	Orienteering	2	3	2	3	1	3	2	2	1	2
	Photo Search	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2
	Navigation and Map Reading	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3
	Night Navigation Exercises	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3
	Journeying and Basic Expedition	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Guided Walking Activities	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	3
	Mountain Day (Pen y Fan) - Offsite	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
	Mountain Day (Waun Fach) - Offsite	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
	Outdoor Rock Climbing - Offsite	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3
	SERE (adults only) - Offsite	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Shelter Building	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
Problem-Solving (Indoor and Outdoor)	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	
Outdoor Education	Mini Beast Hunting	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
	Stream Survey and Stream Dipping	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2
	Tree Identification	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2
	Bird Identification	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2
	Woodland Art and Sculpture	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	2
	Curriculum Enrichment Day	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	3



## Bookings and Enquiries

Please get in touch with us for more information or to make a booking. You can also complete our online booking enquiry form and a member of the team will contact you to discuss your requirements. When making a booking please include as much information as you can, including:

- Number of people in your group
- Number of group leaders e.g. teachers/support staff
- Dates you would like to attend
- Special dietary requirements
- Disabilities or additional needs and any adjustments that may be needed

When booking a Curriculum Enrichment Day, please tell us more about what you have been learning in school so we can tailor this to your learning objectives. You will need to complete and return a booking form along with a deposit to confirm your booking.



**01380 732806**



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# Vibrant Communities Brighter Futures

# COMMUNITY FIRST



## Oxenwood Centre

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre, Oxenwood,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3NQ

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## Find us on social media:



Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre is owned and operated by Community First. Community First also manages Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre in partnership with The Blgrave Trust.

Community First  
Unit C2, Beacon Business Centre  
Hopton Park  
Devizes  
SN10 2EY

01380 722475

[www.communityfirst.org.uk](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk)

[enquiries@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@communityfirst.org.uk)



## Linkenholt Centre

Linkenholt Countryside Adventure Centre, Linkenholt,  
Andover, Hampshire, SP11 0EA