

Enjoy. Explore. Learn
Residential Adventures for All
Longtown, Herefordshire



LONGTOWN
Outdoor
Learning

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The Court House . Longtown . Herefordshire . HR2 0LD

Jump in..

Established in 1964 Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre continues to be a popular choice for Schools wishing to escape the classroom for a refreshing and memorable outdoor adventure.

Previously owned and operated by Northamptonshire County Council, the Centre is now managed by a team of local staff and trustees who together form Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust. The building and land retain its strong historical connection to Northamptonshire under the ownership of The Wilson Foundation – a Northamptonshire based Youth Development Charity.

We now welcome children, young people and adults from across the UK.

Free planning
visits &
free leader
places

Unique Site
&
Location

LOtC
Quality
Badge

We comfortably accommodate 75 visitors between the Old House and Monnow Wing with the extended option to camp for a further 60 residents during the summer months. We have a choice of communal areas between the Main House and Monnow Wing, plus the Barn and Hive, so there's plenty of space for groups to get together and celebrate their achievements with a hot chocolate in the evening or whilst roasting marshmallows around the campfire! The possibilities at Longtown are endless and we work with each school individually to create a memorable residential experience for your students.

An exciting new development comprising an extended dining hall, catering kitchen and campers' showers is due for completion in 2023.



Location

Situated on the Herefordshire and Monmouthshire border the Centre is set within the quaint linear village of Longtown — just 25 miles from the M50 and 30 miles from the M4. Cardiff, Bristol and Birmingham can all be reached within an hour or two.

As you approach the village, the uniqueness of our rural and natural environment is revealed amongst the rolling countryside and mountains. Our 16 acre site includes traditional farmland, surrounded by rivers, fields and mountains plus our very own woodland. A Norman Castle can be reached within minutes, by foot from our doorstep. Off site activities typically take place within 45 minutes of the Centre and showcase some of the most impressive landscapes in the Brecon Beacons National Park, Black Mountains and Wye Valley.





Activities

All of our activities are designed to make the most of our natural setting and the stunning surrounding landscape. We work with each group individually to build a programme of activities to suit the needs and desired outcome of your visit.

All specialist kit and equipment is provided so there's no need to bring anything other than warm clothing. We have a dedicated and attentive team who will look after your group every step of the way.



Offsite:

- Canoeing
- Caving
- Hill Walking
- Gorge Walking
- Rock Climbing
- Stream Scrambling



Onsite:

- Archery
- Bushcraft
- Campfire
- Challenge Wall
- Climbing Tower
- Crate stack
- Jacobs Ladder
- Kayaking
- Leap of Faith
- Low Ropes Course
- Nightline
- Orienteering
- Raft Building
- Shelter building
- Sky Trek
- Standup Paddleboarding
- The Crane
- Traverse Wall
- Tunnel Challenge
- Zip Wire



Accommodation

Accommodation is allocated according to your group size and needs. Stay in the charming and historic Court House, more modern Monnow Wing or under Canvas during the warmer months.

The Court House — The charming and historic Court House provides a clean, warm and comfortable base for a maximum of 40 people. The Court House has 7 dormitories over 2 floors sleeping between 4 and 8 children plus staff bedrooms for single or double occupancy depending upon group size and student/teacher ratio. Wash hand basins in all dormitories plus toilets on the central landing. Shower facilities are provided in the new shower block plus a private Staff shower room on the ground floor. First floor shared bathroom.



The Monnow Wing — adjoining the Old House the Monnow Wing can sleep up to 35 people in shared bedrooms. These rooms typically have bunk beds and single beds, sleeping groups of 2, 3 and 4. Accessible rooms are located on the ground floor. Bedrooms in the Monnow Wing without an en-suite have shower facilities in the shower block in the courtyard.

The Court House and Monnow Wing together comfortably accommodate groups up to 75 people.



Base Camp - Base camp is situated within the Centre's grounds next to 'the hive' - a timber clad building providing a comfortable dining and social space. Comprising of 12 Bell Tents each accommodating 4-8 children or up to 3 staff. The Bell tents come with sleeping mats (or camp beds and mattresses for staff). Sleeping bags can also be provided at no additional charge.

The toilets and showers are just one minute's walk from the camp along a well-lit path throughout the night. The Campground is enclosed by fencing and locked gates with a single pedestrian gate to access the toilets. Base Camp is available May to September and can accommodate up to 60 people in total.



The Lodge - Due for completion in 2023 our proposed new dining hall, catering kitchen and camper's showers.



Together with group leaders, helpers and carers, we create a suitable programme of activities to include every student in the class regardless of ability and mobility!



Adventures for All

We are committed to ensuring that residential outdoor learning opportunities are open to all irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, religion, financial hardship or social circumstances.

Financial Help

We offer affordable experiences with a range of pricing options dependent on the time of year, accommodation selected, length of stay and programme choice. We operate two bursary funds to enable all children, regardless of financial circumstances to take part in our courses. We don't want anyone to miss out and both of these funds make it possible for those who wouldn't normally be able to afford such an opportunity to be included at generously subsidised rates.



The Wilson Foundation
Bursary Fund
for children from
Northamptonshire, funded by
The Wilson Foundation for up
to 40% support.

The Longtown
Bursary Fund
for children from
Herefordshire and other
counties, funded from the
Trust's general funds. Awards
up to 30% of course fees.

Additional Needs

We have experience of working with a broad range of additional needs including reduced mobility, visual and hearing impairments and a range of mental health issues. We are able to adapt our programmes to meet a range of needs including activities that are suitable for wheelchair users, for example;

Activity Days;

1. Underground - Big Pit National Mining Museum
2. Hill Walking (assisted) on the Blorenges
3. Canoeing on the Brecon & Monmouthshire Canal
4. Onsite Rock Climbing / High Ropes

The Monnow Wing is Equality Act compliant with an electric profiling bed, portable hoist and shower commode. We also have a range of portable ramps so all internal communal areas can be accessed at ease.

Sample Activity Programme

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<p>12pm Arrive with Lunch Centre Induction</p> <p>2pm Mountain Walk or, Centre Challenges</p> <p>5.30pm Dinner</p> <p>7.00pm Orienteering</p>	<p>7.45am Breakfast</p> <p>9.30am Full day Activity e.g Caving</p> <p>5.30pm Dinner</p> <p>7.00pm Team Games</p>	<p>7.45am Breakfast</p> <p>9.30am High Ropes & Climbing</p> <p>1.30pm Standup Paddleboarding</p> <p>5.30pm Dinner</p> <p>7.00pm Staff led evening e.g Castle Visit</p>	<p>7.45am Breakfast</p> <p>9.30am Full day Activity e.g Gorge Walking</p> <p>5.30pm Dinner</p> <p>7.00pm Camp Fire</p>	<p>7.45am Breakfast</p> <p>9.30am Final Activities</p> <p>12.30pm Departure</p>

Residential breaks are available from 2 to 5 days. A Packed Lunch is included from day 2 to departure day. Times stated in the sample programme above may vary for shorter stays and smaller groups.

MENU	
<p>DAY 1 Sausage, Mash & Beans Crumble & Custard</p>	<p>DAY 3 Pasta Bolognese Gateau & Cream</p>
<p>DAY 2 Chicken Curry & Rice Cake & Custard</p>	<p>DAY 4 Breaded Chicken, Chips and Peas Ice Cream</p>

Catering

Breakfast and Dinner are served in the Dining Room, Barn or Hive according to the group size and season.

A self serve Breakfast of cereals, toast and fruit is included each morning and children prepare their own packed lunch daily to include a choice of sandwiches, crisps, fruit and snack.

Dinner times include a traditional homecooked 2 course meal. Special diets and food allergies and intolerances can all be catered for with advance notice.

Winter Residentials Substantial Savings Dec - Feb

A magical place to be during the Winter

Experience. . .

- The Brecon Beacons Dark Skies
- Blaenavon World Heritage Site/Big Pit
- Llanthony Priory Abbey
- Denbuilding
- Bushcraft
- Winter Walking
- Waterfall Walks
- Caving
- Campfires, hot chocolate & roasted marshmallows



We are well versed in running activities, provide full outdoor kit and are able to operate whatever the weather. Our knowledge of the local area and choice of onsite activities enables us to fully function without interruption.

Educational Visits Advisory Service

Subscribing to the advisory service will allow your school access to:

- Specific expert advice concerning Educational Visits from Mike Fawcett, Head of Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust and accredited member of the National Outdoor Education Advisers Panel (OEAP)
- Nationally approved training courses for Educational Visit Co-ordinators and Visit Leaders
- Support and guidance in the interpretation of OEAP National Guidance
- Access to the eVisit web based system for Educational Visit planning linked to OEAP National Guidance. This system will enable the school to run its own system for the planning and approval of Category A and B visits, whilst Category C visits will be reviewed and approved by Mike Fawcett.
- The Visit Emergencies Support Network (VESN). This offer comprises 5 experienced members of OEAP who provide support to schools in neighbouring counties in the Midlands. If a critical incident occurs and Mike Fawcett is not available to provide advice and support then schools may contact any of the other VESN advisers. Access to the VESN enhances the capacity, expertise and resilience of schools.

For full details on our Advisory Service please see our Website;
www.longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk/eva-service



eVisit Workshops

Software Training for staff delivered at your school from £15 per head

(Minimum group size of 5 staff)

eVisit

OEAP
ACCREDITED
MEMBER

Training for Planning and Leading Educational Visits

As a registered provider for the Outdoor Education Adviser Panel we are able to deliver courses to school staff who take responsibility for leading, planning or co-ordinating educational visits and other learning outside the classroom activities. These courses enable employers to fulfil their health and safety at work act obligations to provide appropriate training to staff aligned with national guidance. Educational Visit Coordinator (EVC) training remains valid for 3 years, while Visit Leader training requires periodic updating.

Educational Visits Coordinator Training Course

This one-day nationally accredited training course covers aspects of the law related to educational visits, risk assessment of visits, and the administrative requirements associated with off-site educational activities.

The course will enable EVCs to plan and manage their schools' educational visits and off-site activities in line with national guidance and current good practice. It will also help to fulfil their health and safety obligations.

This course is aimed at new and existing EVCs (re-validation courses are open to those within 6 months of their current expiry date, otherwise you will need to complete a new full course).

Key outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding about the effective supervision of young people taking part in off-site activities and visits
- Greater confidence and ability to act as the Education Visit Co-ordinator
- Increased competence in assessing and managing risks on off-site visits

For all course dates and pricing, please refer to the website.

Visit Leader Training

OEAP accredited Visit Leader training is either offered as a half day (3.5 hours) theory module or a full day course (6.5 hours) which combines both theory and practical modules. Both theory and practical modules cover risk benefit assessment and provide opportunities for being updated on national best practice for keeping children and young people safe whilst learning outside the classroom. The full day course includes practical coverage of vehicle safety, supervising road crossings, managing safety near water and in public access venues. Part of the course is delivered outdoors, so you will need to bring stout footwear and suitable warm and waterproof clothing with you.

Key outcomes

- Recognising hazards
- Practical risk benefit assessment in the field
- Party management
- Presenting a balanced rationale for offsite education
- Learning outside the classroom
- An overview of national best practice
- An overview of legal requirements

HOW WE DEVELOP CHARACTER & RESILIENCE



HEALTH & WELLBEING

We develop children and young people's emotional resilience, confidence and independence through engagement in adventurous activities.

We design outdoor activity programmes that focus on empowering children and young people and promote the benefits of an active healthy lifestyle.

We provide a welcoming and safe environment with clear routines that give children and young people a sense of security.



ACTIVITY AS THERAPY

We support children and young people to establish and develop self-efficacy, improve skill acquisition and performance in a wide range of activities.

We provide challenge with an element of perceived risk, that will develop children and young people's insight into their abilities and potential.

We use mindfulness approaches to encourage children and young people to connect to their senses.



SOCIAL INTERACTION

We support children and young people to create positive relationships and promote positive behaviour.

We highlight and celebrate achievements together.

We believe that shared experiences, which allow for group reflection, support the feeling of belonging and being valued.



LEARNING

We encourage autonomy and choice that give children and young people a sense of self worth and encourages self-directed learning.

We develop children and young people's ability to overcome challenges, which builds motivation, perseverance and commitment.

We increase children and young people's cultural capital by enabling them to experience awe and wonder in the natural world.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

We are committed to promoting the link between physical exercise and improved mental health and wellbeing.

We encourage children and young people to explore their physical capabilities, interests and talents and we provide a progressive challenge for all.



NATURAL CONNECTION

We believe that connecting with nature supports children and young people to establish strong and supportive relationships and nurtures creative play.

We also support children and young people to develop confidence in unfamiliar environments and build their resilience to challenging situations, which supports them to manage their own risks in the outdoor environment.



Safety

NATIONAL GUIDANCE

Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust has adopted National Guidance for the management of outdoor learning, off-site visits and learning outside the classroom, as compiled and provided by the Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel. (<http://oeapng.info/>)

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES LICENCE DETAILS

The holding of an Adventure Licence means that we have been inspected by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA), and our risk analysis and management systems were found to be at least satisfactory for the following activities – Watersports, Climbing, Caving and Trekking. More about what holding a licence means can be found on the Licensing's Authority website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aala/> Reference No: R0100 Licence No: L58467

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM QUALITY BADGE

The LOtC Quality Badge is the only national award combining the essential elements of provision - learning and safety - into a trusted accreditation scheme for all types of learning outside the classroom. The Department for Education guidance on Health & Safety on educational visits recommends that schools look for the LOtC Quality Badge when choosing

external providers of educational visits. This includes all on-site activities that are not 'in-scope' for the AALA regulations (see above). Certificate No: R2QB100832

RISK ASSESSMENTS / RISK BENEFIT ANALYSIS

All risk assessments are checked by Adventure Activity Licence Service and are reviewed and updated yearly. We also have external technical advisors to oversee our risk assessments and they also play an active part in our staff development. Our staff are always assessing risk on a daily basis especially whilst delivering activities in a changeable environment.

STAFF COMPETENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

All staff will either hold a relevant National Governing Body (NGB) qualification, or a statement of competence signed by an appropriately experienced and qualified person consistent with the requirements of the Licensing Regulations. Copies will be available for inspection on site.

CHILD PROTECTION AND DBS

Our policy is consistent with current good practice and meets current statutory requirements. Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are carried out on all staff.

SUPERVISION

The legal Duty of Care is with the Visiting Leader/Teacher. Centre staff are on duty or on call – 24 hours.

FIRST AID

All Centre staff hold current first aid qualifications to the required standard.

INSURANCE

Insurance Company: AIM
Amount of liability: Third Party liability
Employers Liability: No less than £5 Million
Public Liability: No less than £5 million
Personal Accident: No less than £5 million

PROVISION OF FOOD

Excellent - 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating from Herefordshire County Council.



Support us

As a charity we are grateful for every little bit of support, no matter how large or small. All donations help us to continue our vital work with young people and enables them to experience adventure which would not usually be attainable for them. We are eternally grateful to our volunteers who kindly provide their time and energy and to those who donate on a one-off, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis - your support can really help to secure our future!

Donations

You can make a donation to Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust in various ways;

Single/Regular Donations by BACs:
Donation can be made directly through your bank. Payments should be made to:
Account name: Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre
Account No.: 65241079
Sort code: 08-92-99

By Card:
Go to www.longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk/product/donation/

JustGiving:
See www.justgiving.com/longtownoutdoorlearning

Please remember to gift aid your donation – this allows us to claim back the tax paid.

Volunteer

Volunteers are vital to the work of the Longtown and there are many ways you can get involved. Not only does volunteering help us, it can be a rewarding and fun experience for everyone involved. Volunteering can offer you the opportunity to gain new skills, useful life and work experiences as well as meeting interesting new people!

We offer volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups, as well as work experience placements for students studying Outdoor Education or Recreation.

Our volunteering opportunities range from assisting with activities, domestics, catering and site maintenance.

To enquire about volunteering please email: mike@longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk

Fundraise for us

Whether you're taking part in an organised event, or raising money in your own way, fundraising on our behalf makes a real difference to the experiences we can offer to young people. Crucially, donations and sponsored events provide funding for pupils who would not normally be able to experience a residential trip with their school and classmates or a day visit trying a new adventurous outdoor activity. In addition to supporting our bursary fund, donations and fundraising helps us to fund new kit and equipment and carry out essential repairs and maintenance to our Centre and Grounds.

If you have chosen to fundraise on our behalf, please do get in touch and we will do all we can to support your event!

Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust - A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Charity number: 1180322
Registered Office: Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust, The Court House, Longtown, Hereford, HR2 0LD.





We hope to welcome you to the Centre soon.

If you would like to arrange a viewing or check availability please do get in touch.

We are also always happy to provide presentations.

Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust
The Court House
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Hereford
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Charity number: 1180322

Website: www.longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk
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