

## Fieldwork sites in the Lake District

The Lake District National Park, with its diverse landscape and tourism industry, lends itself to a wide variety of fieldwork opportunities. Additionally good roads and an abundance of car parks suitable for coaches make it readily accessible from the north via the M6 and A66, and from the south along the M6 and A591/592.

**Key Stage 2:** The National Park has many areas worthy of study, for example, a wide variety of settlements set in a contrasting mountain locality. There are excellent opportunities for studying rivers, suitable for younger pupils to explore, and for hands-on experience of the water cycle. The coast can be accessed on the periphery of the National Park in places like St. Bees and Walney Island, though these take longer to reach. Field trips to study the natural and built environment can be combined with 'geography and numbers' to make an exciting and valuable day out. There are also limited opportunities to cover 'improving the environment' with several wind farms in the area, and Sellafield nuclear power station on the west coast.

**Key Stage 3/GCSE and at 'A' level:** The physical landscape offers opportunities for studying rivers and



glaciation across a variety of sites, and has some sections of coast worth visiting. The central mountain core is within reach of good roads and car parks for either day or half-day excursions studying river systems or glaciated upland landscapes, whilst on the periphery there are sites suitable for studying coastal erosion and sand dunes. Good, accessible sites are available for the study of ecosystems.

With 14 million tourists visiting the Lake District National Park every year, many of the settlements have been influenced by tourism, so lend themselves to urban studies and human impacts. Many of the towns and villages are suitable for half day settlement studies to look at urban geography, human impacts and rural change. On their fringes are accessible sites for studying topics like footpath and lakeshore erosion. A visit to Sellafield nuclear power station could be combined with looking

at a wind farm to cover the new energy unit. Several units could be combined to make a full day excursion.

## Facilitating Fieldwork:

There are a number of options for facilitating field work within the Lake District National Park:

Many education groups will be able to access opportunities through their **local authority activity centres**, there are a variety of these centres such as High Borrans for North Tyneside<sup>1</sup>, Lowbank Ground for Wigan, Tower Wood for Lancashire<sup>3</sup>, Ghyll Head for Manchester<sup>4</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> [www.highborrans.co.uk](http://www.highborrans.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [www.lowbank.dc-hosting.co.uk](http://www.lowbank.dc-hosting.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup> [www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/outdoor/tower/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/outdoor/tower/)

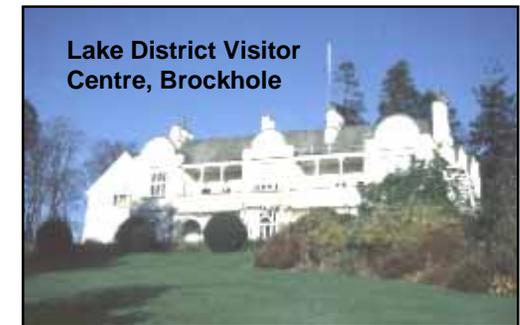
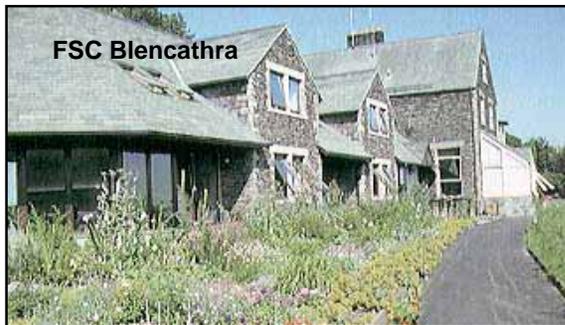
It is possible to access provision through independent providers such as Cumbrian Field Studies<sup>5</sup>, Hidden country field studies<sup>6</sup> There are a number of **specialist providers** such as the Keppleway Centre Broughton in Furness.<sup>7</sup>

### **Field Studies Council Fieldwork provision in the Lake District National Park and environs**

The Field Studies Council operate three centres in the area that provide opportunities for fieldwork in the National Park: Blencathra<sup>8</sup>, near Keswick, Castle Head<sup>9</sup> near Grange-over-Sands, both offer residential courses, these can work towards the three levels of the highly rated John Muir Awards combining adventure with the conservation of wild places.

The Lake District Education Service organised and delivered by FSC, based at Lake District Visitor Centre, Brockhole, between Windermere and Ambleside.<sup>10</sup> The Education Service at Lake District Visitor Centre, Brockhole offers day and half day tutored modules for students through Key Stage 1 and 2 to 'A' level and beyond. These can be delivered directly at the field work sites or run from accommodation providers.

The centre provides tutors who take responsibility for risk assessments and first aid and lead the fieldwork, which can be tailored to meet your specific requirements. The Lake District National Park Education Service also offers a free information service to support studies of the National Park<sup>11</sup> and United Utilities What About Water days.



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<sup>4</sup> [www.ghyllheadoec.com/](http://www.ghyllheadoec.com/)

<sup>5</sup> [moirahoulan@btinternet.com](mailto:moirahoulan@btinternet.com)

<sup>6</sup> [www.open-gate.co.uk](http://www.open-gate.co.uk)

<sup>7</sup> [www.keppleway.org](http://www.keppleway.org)

<sup>8</sup> [www.field-studies-council.org/blencathra](http://www.field-studies-council.org/blencathra)

<sup>9</sup> [www.field-studies-council.org/castlehead](http://www.field-studies-council.org/castlehead)

<sup>10</sup> [www.education@lake-district.go.uk](mailto:www.education@lake-district.go.uk)

<sup>11</sup> [www.lake-district.gov.uk](http://www.lake-district.gov.uk)

There are a number of **accommodation providers** that enable educational groups to manage their own field work delivery. The Youth Hostel Association offers reasonably priced accommodation for school parties planning to spend more time doing fieldwork in their 'learn4real' programme.<sup>12</sup> There are also a variety of hostels and hotels that are willing to accommodate school parties out of season<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> [www.yha.org.uk/find-accommodation/types-of-accommodation/Groups](http://www.yha.org.uk/find-accommodation/types-of-accommodation/Groups)

<sup>13</sup> [www.cumbria-the-lake-district.co.uk](http://www.cumbria-the-lake-district.co.uk)