

Teesmouth Field Centre

Registered Charity Number 1161087

Annual Review 2021



Teesmouth Field Centre Monthly 2021 Reports

January

Teesmouth Field Centre is currently closed to all visitors due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The five classes that we had booked in for outreach sessions in schools had to be cancelled due to school closures.

The Field Centre staff were partly furloughed for January and worked from home. They have been working on the new website, funding bids and visitor figures during the lockdown.

Both Clare Gubbins and Clare Shakespeare-Watts attended a British Red Cross Emergency First Aid at Work course on 22nd January at the Riverside Stadium which was able to go ahead in person. The Field Centre staff renew their first aid qualifications every three years.

February

Teesmouth Field Centre remains closed to all visitors due to the Covid-19 pandemic

The Field Centre staff were partly furloughed for February and worked one day a week from home for most of the month. The staff returned to the Field Centre office on Friday 26th February.

They have been working on updating the databases of school's email addresses for advertising purposes and writing and collating reports for the Annual Review 2020. The day in the office was used to plan and advertise outreach visits to schools ready for their reopening on 8th March.

March

Teesmouth Field Centre remains closed to all visitors due to the Covid-19 pandemic

The Field Centre staff were partly furloughed for March and worked one day a week in the Field Centre Office. We visited St Therese of Lisieux RC Primary School to deliver a Rivers workshop. It was great to be back in the classroom again and to see the enthusiasm of the children. They made some excellent maps of the River Tees and showed a detailed knowledge of rivers in the 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' quiz. On office days the staff continued to develop advertising posters and to advertise the Habitats, Rivers and Rocks outreach workshops to schools. This advertising has resulted in many bookings for the Summer Term. The Field Centre will continue to work in this way until school visits are able to resume.



The River Tees Outreach Presentation



The children smelling the sulphur in the rock

April

The Teesmouth Field Centre staff returned to working three days a week on 12.4.21 after the Easter holidays. The Field Centre is still not able to welcome visitors, but we are able to deliver outreach workshops in schools. These workshops are proving extremely popular as travelling on coaches is still difficult due to the pandemic.

In April we delivered twelve outreach workshops in five different schools. Seven of these workshops were based on the Field Centre's River Tees study. The children have a journey down the River Tees from source to mouth in pictures. Learning to name river features and about the history of Middlesbrough including the Transporter Bridge. They finish the session by drawing maps of the River Tees and enjoy playing the 'Who wants to be a millionaire' quiz all about Rivers. The habitats option was chosen for five of the workshops. The children learn about the habitats of Teesmouth and compare those found in their school grounds. We include planting sunflower seeds and making sparkly starfish with the younger children.

The schools that we visited in April were:

West View Primary School, Hartlepool – 3 rivers workshops

Barnard Grove Primary School, Hartlepool – 3 rivers workshops

Ormesby Primary School, Middlesbrough – 2 habitats workshops

Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Seaton Carew – 1 habitats and 1 rivers workshop

Mount Pleasant Primary School, Darlington – 2 habitats workshops



Children enjoying the activities in the Field Centre's habitats workshop

May Report

The Field Centre staff had some office days at the beginning of May which enabled us to advertise our outreach workshops. As a result, we are now fully booked up to the end of the Summer term.

In May we delivered fifteen outreach workshops in seven different schools. Seven of these workshops were related to habitats including work on food chains, adaptations and classification of plants and animals. The children really enjoy planting sunflower seeds and we have had feedback from the teachers saying how the children are enjoying watching them grow. We delivered five workshops on rivers and one on rocks this month. Reid Street Primary School in Darlington were studying both Rivers and Habitats so we managed to do a combined workshop to meet their learning targets.

The schools that we visited in May were:

St Joseph's RC Primary School, Middlesbrough – 2 habitats workshops

St Aidan's C of E Primary School, Hartlepool – 2 habitats workshops

Reid Street Primary School, Darlington – 2 habitats and rivers workshops

Normanby Primary School, Middlesbrough – 3 rivers workshops

Fairfield Primary School, Hartlepool – 2 rivers workshops

St Thomas Moore RC Primary School, Middlesbrough – 1 habitats workshop and 1 rocks workshop

St Benedict's RC Primary School, Redcar – 2 habitats workshops

June Report

June has been a very busy month for outreach visits and we had our first out of the classroom visits this month. High Clarence Primary School took part in our rivers workshop followed by a visit to the River Tees at Port Clarence. The children enjoyed the walk down to see the River Tees to bring their learning to life. Another school who managed an off site visit were Bewley Primary School, Billingham, they invited us in to school to deliver rivers workshops on the 24th June. The following day they hired a coach so that they could visit the working river at the Transporter Bridge and see the river mouth at the North Gare. We took one class in the morning returning to school for lunch followed by the second class in the afternoon. Unfortunately, it decided to rain heavily for most of the day so it was quite a memorable visit!

In total we visited 9 different schools in June. We delivered 20 outreach workshops to 549 children. We also took 76 children on off site visits during June.

The schools that we visited in June were:

High Clarence Primary School – 1 rivers workshop and a visit to the Transporter Bridge

St Edward's RC Primary School, Middlesbrough – 3 rocks workshops

Wynyard Primary School – 2 habitats workshops

Ayresome Primary School, Middlesbrough – 4 habitats workshops

Whale Hill Primary School, Eston – 2 rivers workshops

Crooksbar Primary School, Norton – 2 habitats workshops

Bewley Primary School, Billingham – 2 rivers workshops and visit to the Transporter Bridge and North Gare Beach

St Gabriel's RC Primary School – 2 habitats workshops

Deaf Hill Primary School – 1 rivers and 1 habitats workshop



Hunting for minibeasts
in the school grounds



A very wet visit to the Transporter
Bridge

July Report

The Field Centre staff continued to deliver outreach workshops to local primary schools. These have been extremely popular with teachers and pupils and allow us to continue to operate even though the Visitor Centre building is closed to visitors due to the pandemic. We visited 5 primary schools in July and delivered 10 different outreach workshops to 267 children.

At the end of term, we had two office days which enabled us to advertise for the Autumn term and complete the evaluation for the Nineveh Charitable Trust funding. The Nineveh

Charitable Trust have kindly funded the Helping Habitats outreach workshops delivered to schools this term.

On the last day of term, we discovered an exciting find, a bee orchid on the EDF site just behind the Visitor Centre building.

The schools that we visited in July were:

West Park Primary School, Darlington – 2 rivers workshops

St John the Evangelist RC Primary School, Billingham – 2 rivers workshops

St Gabriel's RC Primary School, Eston – 1 rivers and 1 rocks workshop

Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Seaton Carew – 1 habitats and 1 rivers workshop

Rossmere Primary School, Darlington – 2 rivers workshops



August and September Report

The Field Centre staff were both on annual leave for August and returned to the office at the beginning of September. In the first week back after the summer we advertised our outreach workshops for the Autumn term and had a very successful meeting with Jamie Moss and Ross Nuttall from EDF. The workshops are very popular with schools resulting in plenty of bookings. We then prepared all the resources to take out to the schools as it is only possible to visit the Field Centre occasionally to restock. During September EDF have relaxed the visitor rules to the Field Centre and we can now have 10 visitors in the Field centre classroom. Hopefully this will mean that we can welcome some groups back soon.

In total we visited 8 different schools in September. We delivered 14 outreach workshops to 360 children.

The schools that we visited in September were:

Ribbon Academy, Murton – 2 rivers workshops

Grange Primary School, Hartlepool – 2 rivers workshops

Fairfield Primary School, Stockton – 2 habitats workshops

Archibald Primary School, Middlesbrough – 2 habitats workshops

Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Northallerton – 1 rivers and 1 rocks workshop

St Joseph's RC Primary School, Middlesbrough – 2 rivers workshops

Deaf Hill Primary School, County Durham – 1 rocks workshop

Bader Primary School, Thornaby – 1 rocks workshop



Teesmouth Field Centre rocks experiments on the move



Delivering a rivers workshop at St Joseph's RC School, Middlesbrough

October Report

During October the Field Centre staff continued to visit schools to deliver outreach workshops. The workshops support the Science and Geography National Curriculum and bring the children's learning to life. During this month we had some 5 and 6 year old pupils taking part in our rivers workshop and we had great fun building the River Tees using sheets and towels. The children became the waterfalls on the river, they built Barnard Castle from plastic containers and two children became the Transporter Bridge. They finished the session by drawing their own maps of the River Tees with some excellent results.

In total we visited 5 different schools in October. We delivered 11 outreach workshops to 326 children.

The schools that we visited in October were:

St Joseph's RC Primary School, Middlesbrough – 3 rivers workshops

Viewley Hill Primary School, Middlesbrough – 2 rocks workshops

St Teresa's RC Primary School, Darlington – 3 rivers workshops

St Joseph's RC Primary School, Middlesbrough – 2 rivers workshops

St Aidan's CE Memorial Primary School, Hartlepool – 2 rivers workshops



Delivering a rivers workshop to Year 1 pupils at
St Joseph's RC School, Middlesbrough



Viewley Hill Primary School pupils testing for permeability during a rocks outreach workshop

November Report

During November the Field Centre team were busy visiting local schools to deliver outreach workshops. We also managed to visit the North Gare beach to do some staff training and risk assess the beach following reports of an influx of dead crustaceans. There were quite a number of dead crabs on the beach but not the huge numbers that had been found on other local beaches.

We really enjoyed the habitats workshop that we delivered to Coatham Primary School as they have an amazing wildlife garden which was perfect for mini-beast hunting. The Year 3 pupils at Billingham South Primary School enjoyed two full days of activities as they were studying both Rocks in Science and Rivers in Geography. They were really engaged in all the activities and were careful to keep their tests fair when carrying out the rocks experiments.

In total we visited 6 different schools in November. We delivered 15 outreach workshops to 347 children.

The schools that we visited in November were:

Coatham Primary School, Redcar – 1 habitats workshop and 1 rocks workshop

Hemlington Hall Academy, Middlesbrough – 3 rocks workshops

Kingsley Primary School, Hartlepool – 2 rocks workshops

Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Hartlepool – 2 rivers workshops

Billingham South Primary School, Stockton-on -Tees – 2 rocks and 2 rivers workshops

Lynnfield Primary School, Hartlepool – 2 rivers workshops



December Report

December has been a quiet month for outreach workshops as schools are busy with Christmas activities. We visited one school in December to deliver two Rocks workshops. We also attended the Hartlepool Power Station LCLC meeting and updated the meeting on the Field Centre's work with schools in the Autumn term. Due to the escalating Covid-19 risk we have had to cancel the schools booked in for January and rearranged them as outreach visits instead.

The quieter period has allowed us time to update the Field Centre Risk assessments for 2022. We have also spent some time visiting the beach at Seaton Snook to prepare a lecture on habitat changes and sand dune transects for Teesside University.

School visited in December

Chandlers Ridge Academy, Nunthorpe – 2 Rocks workshops to 43 pupils



Testing rocks for permeability



The path to Seaton Snook beach in the December sunshine

Report from the Trustees 2021

In January 2021 no one at Teesmouth Field Centre anticipated that twelve months on, the usual programme of outdoor environmental activities at Teesmouth would still be suspended, but this is so. The first three months were quiet, Clare Gubbins and Clare Shakespeare-Watts were on flexible furlough, working from home. One outreach session took place in March. The Visitor Centre was closed until April, when TFC staff were allowed back into the building.

The decision was made to advertise outreach sessions to schools for the Summer Term which proved successful. Teesmouth Field Centre staff used existing resources plus some new activities and coped with all the problems of working off-site, such as parking at schools, loading and unloading the equipment and fitting in with school risk assessments and variable school timetables. It was hard work, but the visits were valued by the teachers and pupils and generated a number of favourable email responses. In 2021 there was a total of 51 outreach days, with visits to 46 different schools, delivering 98 environmental workshops to a total of 2624 pupils. In addition, two classes from Bewley Primary School, Billingham actually made half- day visits to the North Gare beach at Teesmouth on a very wet day in June and one class from High Clarence Primary School walked to the Transporter Bridge as part of the River Tees workshop.

In July 2021 EDF were asked to review the Covid Risk Assessment for the TFC accommodation which only allows a maximum of 10 in the TFC classroom. The Covid Risk Assessment was not changed, so it remained impossible for school groups to visit the Field Centre. As a result the outreach programme continued into the Autumn Term 2021 and the two staff took to the road again. Their efforts and hard work have kept the Field Centre going and the Trustees are most grateful. There have been no community/recreational group visits at all in 2021.

The TFC Trustees met four times in 2021 using Zoom. There have been no meetings of the TFC Advisory Group in the year. The Teesmouth Field Centre Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 is published on the Charity Commission web-site and available to read in full. Total income for the year was £31,380 and total expenditure ££29,239. In the current financial year EDF Energy sponsorship continued, with an extra payment of £1500 as 'exceptional additional funding for disruption caused by Covid restrictions'. Venator Materials Ltd provided £800 x 2 towards TFC environmental activities to cover two years 2020 and 2021. All this financial support is appreciated by the Trustees.

TFC had three funded projects in the pipeline when Covid challenged everything. One funder has accepted changes to the project and allowed outreach sessions as an alternative, and one has agreed to a time extension until April 2022. The third project, funded by The Schroder Charitable Trust is due to run until July 2022. The one funding application made in 2021, to the Ernest Cook Trust was rejected.

With Covid infection numbers rising again in early December 2021 the Visitor Centre once again closed to all visitors, and the Covid Risk Rating for the Hartlepool Power Station was increased to 3 again. The Covid Risk Rating will have to fall to 1 before any change re school group visits will be considered. The Teesmouth Field Centre Team do fully understand that the prime objective of EDF Energy is to reduce Covid transmission so that operation of Hartlepool Power Station can continue safely. We can only hope that TFC will be able to operate normally sometime in 2022.

Ann Oxley, Chair TFC Trustees.

Visitor Figures 2021

	Spring Term		Summer Term		Autumn Term		TOTALS	
	Jan - Mar 2021	Jan - Mar 2020	Apr - Aug 2021	Apr - Aug 2020	Sept - Dec 2021	Sept - Dec 2020	2021	2020
Educational Groups								
Primary	0	575	76	0	0	8		
Secondary	0	63	0	0	0	6		
FE inc SFC	0	0	0	0	0	0		
18+ inc HE	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Educational TOTAL	0	638	76	0	0	14	76	652
Recreational Groups								
Non School Groups	0	67	0	0	0	0		
Seal Watches	0	0	0	0	0	0		
General Public	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Partnership events	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rec & Gen pub TOTAL	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	67
Outreach Work								
Shows/events/presentations	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Schools/groups visited	30	30	1518	0	1076	83		
Outreach TOTAL	30	30	1518	0	1076	83	2624	113
Total Outdoor Visitors	0	705	76	0	0	14	76	719
Grand Total & Outreach	30	735	1594	0	1076	97	2700	832

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