

Activity and Workshop Information Pack



For school, college and community groups

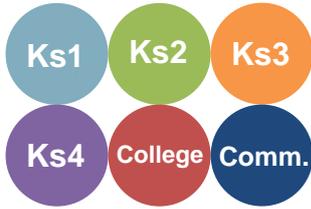
The North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has recently embarked upon a project called Coastal Creatures - an exciting two-year project which aims to educate about the diverse marine and coastal natural heritage of the AONB. This project, which runs until summer 2018, offers Learning in the Natural Environment sessions for school and college groups of all ages all around the North Devon Coast AONB.

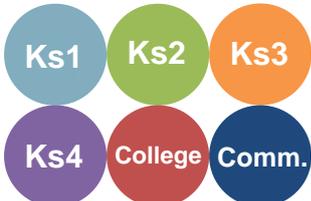
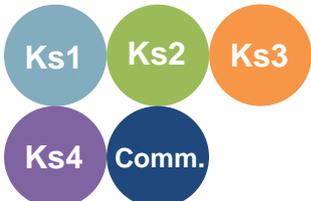
We are offering opportunities for young people to learn about coastal animals and plants by visiting the environment, and to build on that experience by helping to survey and record what they find. These opportunities tie in with a selection of curriculum subjects, and we are happy to adapt our sessions to meet requirements of learning outcomes.

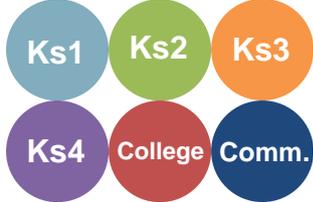
We are targeting four locations within the AONB, as seen in the map below, to help us understand these areas better. However, there is the possibility to work in different areas if requested. We work with schools and college groups in and around the AONB.



Workshops and activities for groups on offer

Activity/ workshop	Activity content
<p>Marine litter workshop</p> <p>Suitable for:</p> 	<p>Marine litter is a problem that affects everyone! From our visits to the coast seeing pieces of plastic, to eating seafood in our day to day lives. This interactive one hour workshop delivered in your classroom/lecture room covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What marine litter is comprised of and why it is a problem • Interactive activity about degradation of materials in the sea • The impact of marine litter on the environment • Marine litter on a worldwide scale • Solutions and ideas • Marine litter quiz • How to conduct a beach clean <p>Ideally this session would lead up to a beach clean so that the group is able to take action on the problem of marine litter.</p>
<p>Rocky shore workshop</p> <p>Suitable for:</p>  <p>* Upper Key Stage 2 only</p>	<p>The rocky shore is the zone along the coast which is covered by the sea twice a day and is dominated by a rocky substrate. We would like to help educate groups about the plants and animals which live on the shore and how to record them. This interactive two hour workshop would be held in a classroom and covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky shore ecology (zonation) • Identification of intertidal animals and algae • How to conduct a rocky shore survey • Health and safety considerations on the shore.
<p>Beach cleaning on your local beach</p> <p>Suitable for:</p> 	<p>There are 40 beaches around the North Devon Coast AONB and unfortunately many of them have marine litter on them. Your group can make a positive change by helping to clean your local beach, and can also do a Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch survey to help collect information about what we are picking up on beach cleans.</p>

<p>#2minutebeachclean</p>	<p>The #2minutebeachclean is a clever initiative which encourages everyone to spend just two minutes picking litter at the beach or shore. We can incorporate these two-minute beach cleans into any activity on the shore, and your group will pride themselves in doing something good for the environment that day.</p> <p>More information can be found at http://beachclean.net</p>
<p>Suitable for:</p> 	
<p>Guided rock pooling</p>	<p>The rocky shore is a treasure chest of fascinating animals and plants adapted to live in an extreme environment. A two-hour session discovering the rocky shore and looking at anemones, crabs, tiny red seaweeds and much more in greater detail is an excellent way to spend a couple of hours next to the sea. There are a range of excellent rock pooling beaches in the north Devon Coast AONB including Westward Ho!, Croyde, Lee, and Combe Martin, all of which are accessible and have facilities nearby (depending on seasons).</p>
<p>Suitable for:</p> 	
<p>Rocky shore surveys</p>	<p>By conducting rocky shore surveys as part of the Coastal Creatures project, your group will have the opportunity to get involved in a citizen science which will have an impact! We are trying to collect as much information as possible about the plants and animals found on the rocky shore. Your group can take part in surveys in one of three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a timed species search where we give your group cards with pictures of plants and animals on to go and find (½ hour) • Record animals and plants using a transect and quadrats (2-3 hours) • Participate in a species census where we will be taking photos of everything and recording what we find on a list (1 ½ hours). <p>Depending on the amount of time you want to spend on the shore it is possible to do a combination of two types of survey.</p>
<p>Suitable for:</p>  <p>* Upper Key Stage 2 only</p>	

Beach combing and strandline searches	<p>Twice a day the sea moves up and down the beach depositing a collection of seaweed, crab shells and shark egg cases. This session takes a closer look at what is around the strandline and why it may have ended up there. For groups interested in recording what we find there, we can do shark and ray egg case hunts as well as nurdle hunts (small plastic pellets).</p>
<p>Suitable for:</p> 	<p>We are able to look at a variety of different coastal environments including sand dunes, mud flats, salt marsh, and coastal geology. If your group is interested in exploring different coastal habitats, we can facilitate half-day activities exploring one or more of these environments depending on proximity.</p> <p>If your group wanted to specifically look at a group of animals (eg. wading birds) or plants (eg. seaweeds) we have a range of activities and surveys we can offer/facilitate. Example of surveys to in which to participate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Seaweed Search (Marine Conservation Society and Natural History Museum) • Great Nurdle Hunt (FIDRA) • Great Eggcase Hunt (Shark Trust) • Beachwatch Survey (Marine Conservation Society).
Coastal science activities	<p>We are able to look at a variety of different coastal environments including sand dunes, mud flats, salt marsh, and coastal geology. If your group is interested in exploring different coastal habitats, we can facilitate half-day activities exploring one or more of these environments depending on proximity.</p> <p>If your group wanted to specifically look at a group of animals (eg. wading birds) or plants (eg. seaweeds) we have a range of activities and surveys we can offer/facilitate. Example of surveys to in which to participate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Seaweed Search (Marine Conservation Society and Natural History Museum) • Great Nurdle Hunt (FIDRA) • Great Eggcase Hunt (Shark Trust) • Beachwatch Survey (Marine Conservation Society).
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Suitable for key:

-  Key stage one
-  Key stage two
-  Key stage three

-  Key stage four
-  College group
-  Community group including home school groups



Booking a visit

Please get in touch with our Education and Interpretation Officer, Cat Oliver at catherine.oliver@devon.gov.uk or call 07768 214597 to discuss booking any of these activities/workshops

Before getting in touch, please take time to think about the following things about your activity/workshop:

- Which activity/workshop you'd like to pursue
- Time, date and length of activity. Please let us know if you'd like to fit it into a school session or a whole day/half day activity. Please note that outdoor activities will be tide dependant as low tides are needed for most events
- Location of activity/workshop. We would be happy to facilitate activities in your school or college or at your nearest most suitable shore. If you are unsure, please choose from the most convenient location: Croyde, Lee Bay, Combe Martin or Westward Ho! (Northam Burrows Country Park)
- Age range of your group
- Number of pupils attending and number of support staff attending. Our maximum group number is 30. Larger groups are still welcome to enquire as we may be able to facilitate this
- You will need to conduct a risk assessment for your own requirements for the activity, with which we will be able to assist. We will conduct a separate risk assessment for your visit
- You will need to provide details of insurance for your group. If you do not have insurance for your group for outdoor activities, please get in touch
- You will need at least one of your staff attending to be first aid trained and bring your own first aid kit. At least one staff attending our events will be Outdoor First Aid Trained and will also carry a first aid kit

- To comply with the Children’s Act, we require that your group has enough adult helpers, and abides by these ratios on trips:
 - 1 - 2 years - 1 adult to 3 children
 - 2 - 3 years - 1 adult to 4 children
 - 4 - 8 years - 1 adult to 6 children
 - 9 - 12 years - 1 adult to 8 children
 - 13 - 18 years - 1 adult to 10 children
- As part of Coastal Creatures, we have a travel budget to get you and your pupils from your school to the shore and back by minibus/coach. Please enquire about this budget if you are interested. Currently we are offering one trip per school/college/community group until further notice.



Planning your visit

Once you plan your trip, we would appreciate if you could please abide by the following rules and considerations:

- You should provide us with information about any medical issues or allergies in your group. Some animals and plants on the shore can sting which should not affect most people but can affect very few
- Your group should be kept under control and have good behaviour at all times. This responsibility lies with the group leader. We will terminate the trip if any behaviour is unacceptable or causes danger to others

- Your group should be prepared for all weathers and bring waterproofs, waterproof and sturdy footwear (wellies) and outdoor clothing. In summer sun-cream and sun hats are recommended
- We will undertake activities in most weather conditions (except extreme and dangerous weather conditions such as storms/icy conditions). If the trip has to be cancelled, we will endeavour to rearrange or provide an alternate activity if possible
- Please bring your own refreshments and lunch if you are staying for a full day or over lunch. For hot weather please ensure your group has plenty of water
- Please ensure you take home all rubbish or dispose of it appropriately
- Public toilets are available at some of our sites and are open dependant on the season. We will advise on this when booking your location
- Please let us know of any special requirements you require for your trip and we will endeavour to do our best to accommodate your group
- If you need to cancel the trip, please give us as much warning as possible. Likewise, if we need to cancel the trip we give you sufficient warning. For both instances, we will try and reschedule the trip if wanted

After your visit

- We endeavour to constantly improve our education services in and around the AONB. We would appreciate if you could fill in and return a feedback form after your visit and return it to us.

Coastal Creatures is proud to be working in partnership with the following organisations:



More information about the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and our Coastal Creatures project can be found here:

www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

Find us on Facebook and Twitter @ExploreTheCoast