

Educational outreach events

In March, Pwllpeiran takes part in the annual British Science Week, when over 1400 schoolchildren from around Wales visited the University. A popular hands-on activity we developed demonstrates the properties, function, and importance of peat bogs in the uplands, and the role of Sphagnum moss as an ecosystem engineer. This activity has also been part of the interactive children's live lab on the IBERS stand at the Royal Welsh Show.

Following the success of the science fairs, we were keen to promote science and environmental engagement through participation with local schools.



Utilising the resources at the Centre we have developed a range of interactive learning experiences for pupils out in the field, which are supported by a dedicated education space back at the centre. The aim is to collaborate with schools, offering the chance to attend organised ecology fieldwork sessions relevant to the current curriculum, giving the schoolchildren a unique learning experience relating to local habitats, environmental processes, flora and fauna, ecology skills, and much more. A full day's activity for primary pupils typically consists of river dipping, fresh water invertebrate identification, mini-beast hunts, plant and tree identification, nutrient cycles, and discussing human impacts on the local environments; as well as introducing the pupils to the research work that goes on at Pwllpeiran. We also offer field-based activities for secondary school pupils. For example, we recently organised an ecology-based session, focussed on the peat bogs found on our Tyn Bryn Mountain, for pupils aged 16-17 years old that were taking part in the Aberystwyth Summer University scheme.

With the vast range of habitats and resources at Pwllpeiran, we hope to continue developing outreach sessions in order to engage with young people in and outside of the classroom. Our goal is to raise awareness, and encourage young people towards environmental subjects and scientific research.

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