

# Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy

## Syllabus 2016



Inclusive Community Learning.

Glantawe Outdoor Education Academy  
Glantawe Riverside Park  
Pontardawe  
Swansea Valley  
07787 123789



Providing Outdoor Courses and experiences for the Community – Short and Long courses to suit all ages – 7 days a week.

<p><b>Parents and Children</b>          Tree Identification          Geocaching / Digital or Outdoor          Treasure Hunt          Minibeasts and river dipping          Go Wild Outdoor Discovery Sessions          Riverside Forest College – Basic          Riverside Forest College –          Intermediate          Riverside Forest College – Advanced          Storytelling &amp; Mask Making          Willow Structures</p> <p><b>Young Children</b>          Minibeasts and river dipping          Go Wild Outdoor Discovery Sessions          Riverside Forest College – Basic          Riverside Forest College –          Intermediate</p> <p><b>Older Children</b>          Go Wild Outdoor Discovery Sessions          John Muir Award          Riverside Forest College – Basic          Riverside Forest College –          Intermediate          Riverside Forest College – Advanced          Creative Photography 1          Creative Photography 2          Creative Photography 3          Storytelling &amp; Mask Making          Willow Structures          Finding Your Way – Geocaching/          Navigation 1          Finding Your Way – Geocaching/          Navigation 2</p>	<p><b>Adults</b>          Introduction to Hedge laying with hand          tools          Tree Identification          Introduction to Coppicing          Post and Rail or Stock Fencing and          Management          Geocaching / Digital or Outdoor          Treasure Hunt          Go Wild Outdoor Discovery Sessions          Wild medicine Walk          Riverside Forest College – Basic          Riverside Forest College – Intermediate          Riverside Forest College – Advanced          Creative Photography 1          Creative Photography 2          Creative Photography 3          Storytelling &amp; Mask Making          Willow Structures          Finding Your Way – Geocaching/          Navigation 1          Finding Your Way – Geocaching/          Navigation 2</p>
<p>Groups very welcome – Taking part in all of the above</p>	

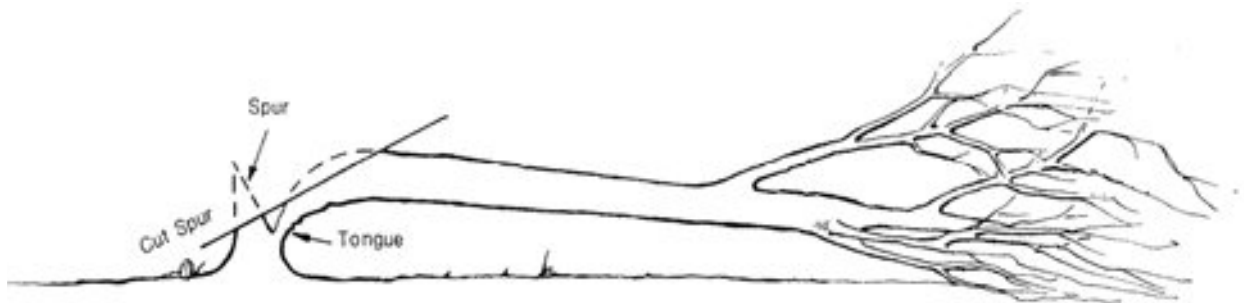
## Riverside Community Outdoor Education Centre Course List

### **Introduction to Hedge Laying with hand tools**

1 - 4 days each week

Fascinating course introducing hedge laying: history and tradition, biodiversity, techniques. Course includes Tools and safety: hedge laying tools, safe use, and maintenance, learning safe and effective techniques to start laying stems. Using deadwood to protect new growth, using stakes, root laying, trimming - you will learn and use this ancient craft - the longer the course, the more time to practice and hone techniques and complete a section of hedge to a good level of competence.

This will be 8 persons maximum for each course starting at 10am daily meeting at the Riverside Centre - 2 x day £95 per person - 1 x Day £50. All tools provided - we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves.



### **Introduction to Coppicing**

1 - 4 days each week

Learn the traditional craft of coppicing: history and tradition, biodiversity, basic techniques. Safe use, and maintenance coppicing tools, learning safe and effective techniques to start coppicing an area of woodland, layering, processing trees, creating habitat piles, and wood stacking



The longer the course, the more time to practice and hone techniques and complete an area of coppice to a good level of competence. This would also lend itself well to leading on to green wood crafts such as pole lathing, making mallets, hurdling, etc.

This will be 8 persons maximum for each course at 10am daily meeting at the Riverside Centre - £50

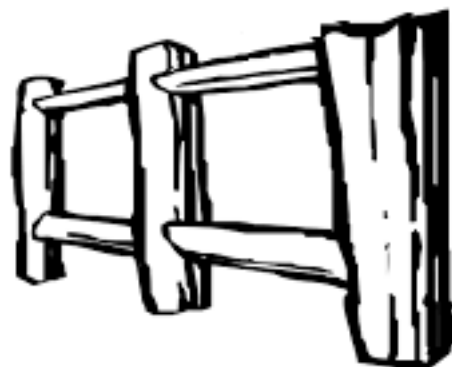
per person each day – All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves.

## Post and Rail or Stock Fencing and Management

1 – 4 days each week

Repair or replace and construct new fences around site. Includes planning, measuring cutting and ordering materials, tools and safety: fencing tools, safe use, and maintenance

This will be 8 persons maximum for each course at 10am daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £50 per person each day – All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves.



## Tree Identification



Summer or winter (more fun in winter!) tree identification. With schools, community groups, or as a public event. Using leaves, sticks, seeds, buds, etc. to get the clues to identify the tree. Can also combine this with geocaching, art, a quiz, etc. Also seed gathering and germinating, planting a tree nursery.

This will be 12 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, Accompanied Children £15 All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves.

## Geocaching / Digital or Outdoor Treasure Hunt

Learn and take part in this engaging activity using GPS-enabled devices to find the geocache (container or prize / item). This will vary according to the group, using caches that are part of a local / global network. Or, setting up a private trail within the bounds of Riverside and the woodland. Or, a temporary trail as a team building session, e.g. the ‘Time for a Cuppa’ trail where items needed to make a cup tea are cached at various points for participants to find and make tea using a Kelly kettle. Trails can also be set up as a means of on-site interpretation, telling participants about Riverside and the river Tawe. Fascinating day that you will enjoy.



This will be 12 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, Accompanied Children £15 All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves.

## Finding Your Way – Geocaching/Navigation 1

1 day course (upper primary/secondary/adult)

Learn to read a map and find hidden geocaches around the Riverside Centre. Using modern technology (own smartphone and app) and a map and compass explore the area around the centre and develop your skills in navigation. good start to navigation and also Geocaching which is a global sport.



This will be 12 persons maximum for each course at 10am - 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, Bring your mobile phone and app – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves.

## Finding Your Way – Geocaching/Navigation 2

1-2 day course– Geocaching/advanced (secondary/adult)

For those with basic navigation skills this is a chance to hone them in the wider countryside. We will be using gps apps (on own gps unit or smart phone) in combination with map and compass work to find geocaches in the surrounding countryside/National Park. This course is ideal for anyone wanting to get more confident in navigation whilst using engaging modern technology.

This will be 12 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, Bring your GPS/mobile phone and app – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves.

## Minibeasts and river dipping



Discover the hidden world of minibeasts at Riverside.

Discover the minibeasts that live in the woods and in the river. Learn to identify them and what they eat and how they have adapted to their environment. Tally your finds so that we can start to monitor numbers and species found around the Riverside. Learn more about the woodland and river environment and how we can protect it. Create natural sculptures of the animals that you find.

This will be 12 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, Accompanied Children £15 All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day and certainly bring wellies!

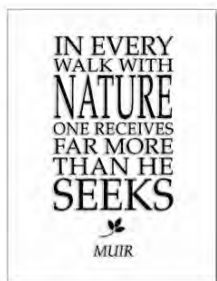
## Go Wild Outdoor Discovery Sessions

A mixture of storytelling, games and nature crafts to promote discovery and connection with the natural environment at Glantawe Riverside Park. Brilliant for Primary School groups and families. For example, Trail making, Awareness games, Natural Painting, Den building, Journey / Story Sticks, Shadow pictures, and tons more! Many of these can be linked to the Primary curriculum.

This will be 12 persons maximum for each course 2 hour sessions starting 10am and 12.30pm meeting at the Riverside Centre – £10 per person. All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day and certainly bring wellies!



## John Muir Award



Facilitating sessions for groups working towards achieving John Muir Award.

Discover, explore, conserve and share the environment and habitats of Riverside.

Not all sessions / activities have to be delivered at Riverside, some can be facilitated by teachers in schools with Riverside being used for the outdoor activities.

Discover activities will enable and support participants to 'discover' the site for the first time. It may involve activities

like sound of Sensory Mapping, Touch Trail, Tree Hugger, etc.

Explore activities will invite participants to get more up close and personal to the site, its features, habitats and creatures!

Conserve activities will involve doing something to help look after the site. This may include making habitats for animal, building and putting up nest boxes, repairing a fence, doing a wildlife survey.

Share activities will tell others about this special place. This could be done through art, photography, poetry, telling a story in assembly, inviting friends and family to an open day.

Give us a call to discuss!

## Riverside Forest College – Basic

Introduction to Outdoor Learning/1 day Taster

A 4hr session in the woods, activities including den building, tool use and fire skills. Enjoy, explore and discover with games and activities tailored to suit individual needs.



This will be 12 persons maximum for each course starting at 10am daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, Accompanied Children £15 All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day and certainly bring wellies!

## Riverside Forest College – Intermediate



2 day course – Building on the introduction/taster experience participants will have the opportunity to further enjoy and explore the woodland environment through a variety of activities including shelter building, outdoor cooking, tool use and basic green woodworking. Courses tailored to suit the participants abilities and needs.

This will be 12 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, Accompanied Children £15 All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day and certainly bring wellies!

## Riverside Forest College – Advanced

Working within this framework, longer courses can be facilitated. This may be either week-long courses or one day weekly for an extended period of time. Such courses would focus on skills development and could include accreditation. Participants would become familiar with the environment, learning species identification and gaining an understanding of the ecosystem. They would be offered the opportunity to undertake woodland management tasks helping to develop a sense of environmental awareness. An introduction to tool use, green woodworking, fire skills and outdoor cooking will be incorporated. The development of personal and social skills through co-operation and teamwork will be encouraged. A camp-out would also be included where we would supply tenting equipment, you need sleeping bags and jim-jams!.

This will be 8 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves and waterproof footwear.

## Wild medicine Walk

Tune in to the earth beneath your feet and the abundance of food and medicine that it provides.

In a walk along the riverside we will be learning to safely identify and collect local medicinal and edible plants, with the opportunity to make a herbal preparation to take home.



In an afternoon workshop we will take a closer look at our individual constitutions, to equip you with a working understanding of why disease arises and how to maintain vitalised wellbeing. Finishing with a nourishing organic and wild crafted lunch to share. With medicinal herbalist Jody James.

This will be 8 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person All tools provided – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves and waterproof footwear.

## **Creative Photography 1**



In the incredible and varied Glantawe Riverside Park – 1 day (upper primary/secondary/adult)

Learn the basics of what makes a good photograph. Experiment with composition, how to tell a narrative and to get your photographs tell your story. Discover other photographers and be inspired by their work. Suitable for either point and shoot/phone cameras or bridge and above and will cover some technical aspects of the camera.

This will be 10 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person Bring your cameras – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves and wellies.

## **Creative Photography 2**

5 day course (secondary/adult)

Develop your creativity through photography. Learn about composition and how to create dynamic images. Discover other photographers and develop your own style. Learn how your camera works so that you can create effective images with your knowledge of aperture, shutter speed and ISO. Develop your confidence of shooting with ambient light and how to tell a narrative with your camera. Suitable for top end point and shoot, bridge or DSLR cameras.

This will be 10 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £125 per person for the 5 days. Bring your cameras – we recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves and wellies.

## **Creative Photography 3**

One term course (secondary/adult)

These Small Places – Photography Book and Writing Project (More information about this exciting project soon – speak to us for more information)



## Storytelling & Mask Making

2 day course (secondary/adults)

To explore the stories connected to the landscape through storytelling and mask work.

There are stories in every landscape and this course will introduce some well-known and little known stories of the area. Participants will be invited to discuss these stories and what this may have said about how people connected to their environment. We will look at how this connection to this has changed over the years and how that would shape stories written today.

The course will encourage participants to devise their own characters through mask making to create contemporary mythologies.



This will be 10 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £45 per person, £10 each accompanied child for the course. We recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves and wellies.

## Woodland Kindergarten

Bring your little one along to make a cake in our mud kitchen, build a den, and read stories and sing songs around the campfire. The children will be learning through play in a beautiful setting, perfect for exploration and discovery. Our family-orientated outdoor learning sessions are run by experienced outdoor practitioners who facilitate a child-led process, encouraging all aspects of development. The high staff to child ratio ensures that each child receives a high quality learning experience.

Sessions run in all weathers, suitable waterproofs and wellies essential (expect your child to get dirty!)

Suitable for accompanied pre-school age children, sessions 10 –12pm, 12.30 – 2.30pm, £10 per child. Please ring with any queries. Booking essential, as places are limited.



## Woodland Learning



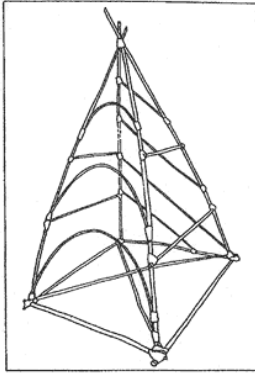
Come and join us for learning with a twist in a beautiful outdoor setting perfect for exploration and discovery. A diverse range of participant-led educational opportunities, designed to draw out each child's individual potential. The high staff to child ratio ensures that each child receives a high quality learning experience. Come and light a fire, build a shelter, explore the elements and investigate the natural environment. Learn how to use what you find in a

variety of different ways, for example, foraging, use of medicinal plants and traditional crafts.

Sessions run in all weathers, suitable waterproofs and wellies essential (expect your child to get dirty!)

Suitable for accompanied school-age children (also available to school groups), sessions 10 –12pm, 12.30 – 2.30pm, £10 per child. Please ring with any queries. Booking essential. Places limited.

## Willow Structures



1 day course (upper primary/secondary/adult)

Learn how to create willow domes, hedges and bowers. A hands on practical session that looks at the techniques for creating structures out of living willow. You will learn skills to take back to your home or school and we will be encouraging the building of living willow structures around the Riverside that can be nurtured over the years.

This will be 12 persons maximum for each course at 10am – 3pm daily meeting at the Riverside Centre – £25 per person, £15 each accompanied child. We recommend stout clothing appropriate to the weather on the day with gloves and wellies.

Contact: Rob Clapham 0778712373

# Riverside Community Education Centre

*Riverside Community Outdoor Education Centre,  
Glantawe Riverside Park ,  
Pontardawe  
SWANSEA ,  
Wales/Cymru,  
SA8 3HZ*



## Course Venue Directions

Pontardawe is situated 4 miles north of the M4 motorway from junction 45  
From the M4 motorway, exit at junction 45 and take the A4067 north,  
signposted to Pontardawe.

Take A4067 North from Pontardawe (Tesco Roundabout) about three quarters of  
a mile towards Brecon

Turn Left on the first roundabout sign posted “Glanrhyd Industrial Estate”  
Then turn first left through the barrier down to the only building around 200  
metres away.

This is the Arena Pontardawe Site and Pontardawe Riverside Park,



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