

Medina Valley Centre

A2 Biology Field Course for Edexcel September 2010 onwards 5 – Day Course

This course is specifically designed to support the Biology, Practical Skills and Assessment requirements within Unit 4 ‘*The Natural Environment & Species Survival*’ and Unit 6 ‘*Practical Biology & Investigative Skills*’.

The following outline programme illustrates relevant activities that can be modified to suit individual requirements.

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Arrive for lunch	Comparative study of diversity in three local ponds Species ID, sampling and abiotic measurements	Pond data discussion Abiotic factors Simpson Diversity Index
Tuesday	Visit to Newtown saltmarsh Zonation and succession Transect sampling % cover	Newtown contd. Coppiced woodlands and pastures climax communities	Introduction to statistics Kite diagrams Plant adaptations
Wednesday	Saltmarsh discussion Statistical analysis of data Plan individual investigations	Visit to Bembridge rocky shore Population interactions competition/niche separation Random sampling Mark-release-recapture Individual investigation trials	Planning session for individual investigations
Thursday	Carry out individual investigations on seashore	Individual investigations continued Mark-release-recapture	Individual investigations data analysis & Research
Friday	Local study Conservation and management in the Medina valley	Depart after lunch	

Students will gain experience of field data collection; analysis, presentation and interpretation in both aquatic and terrestrial habitats that will help develop their understanding of How Science Works. The discussion sessions will link biological concepts and methodologies to other areas of the syllabus where appropriate. We hope that students will develop a respect for the diversity of wildlife and the need for its conservation.