

**Medina Valley Centre
GCSE Biology Field Course
5 – Day Course**

This course is specifically designed to support GCSE Science Unit 2.1 (Organisms and Health) and Unit 2.4 (Environment, Earth and Universe) from the programme of study. The emphasis is on how ‘organisms are interdependent and adapted to their environments’ and linking that in with ‘how the effects of human activity on the environment can be assessed using living and non-living indicators’.

During the course, students will develop many practical skills, including collecting, processing and evaluating data. Courses include both quantitative and qualitative techniques and a range of ICT opportunities. It may also be possible to complete an assessed practical whilst on the field course.

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

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Arrive for Lunch	Introduction to Course Pond Study –compare the diversity in 3 local ponds	Analyse and discuss pond data
Tuesday	Isle of Wight Zoo Animal Behaviour	Woodland Management Coppicing and biodiversity	Introduction to the Rocky Shore
Wednesday	Bembridge Rocky Shore Identification and adaptations	Group project work at Bembridge Analyse data and prepare a presentation, using ICT	Mini-project presentations
Thursday	River Study Indicator species Pollution Human impacts	Medina Estuary ID estuary invertebrates Food chains and food webs	Produce pyramids of numbers and biomass, using ICT
Friday	Farm Visit Guided tour of an organic farm	Depart after lunch	

Students will gain experience of field data collection, analysis, presentation and interpretation 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 also hope that students will appreciate and develop a respect for the diversity of wildlife here on the Isle of Wight and the need for its conservation.