

FIELD STUDIES IN NORTH DEVON

Connecting students to the outdoors through unforgettable geography and environmental fieldwork for Key Stages 1–5.



SKERN
ADVENTURE

Welcome to Skern Adventure

We believe adventure creates positive change.

Through real-world fieldwork, shared challenge and time immersed in nature, we help young people discover skills, confidence and curiosity that endure long after they return to the classroom.

Skern Adventure brings together two exceptional outdoor education centres, Skern Appledore and Skern Abbotsham, delivering outstanding Geography and Environmental Field Studies in the heart of North Devon.

Set within diverse and inspiring natural landscapes, our programmes connect classroom learning with tangible experience. With immediate access to rugged coastlines, surf beaches and one of the largest sand dune systems in England, students work in landscapes that bring learning to life.

This is adventure in its truest sense - in touch with nature, fully present. Through carefully designed residential programmes, students explore real places, make decisions, work together and discover what they are capable of, academically and personally.

Built on fifty years of heritage in delivering life-changing outdoor learning, Skern Adventure combines rigorous, curriculum linked fieldwork in an environment where every student is supported, encouraged and challenged.

Our centres

Skern Adventure, Appledore



Location: Appledore, Bideford, Devon, EX39 1NG

Located on the North Devon coast in the picturesque fishing village of Appledore, Skern Appledore sits on the shores of the Taw and Torridge Estuary. This warm, welcoming centre is deeply rooted in the local community and offers spectacular sea views alongside immediate access to world-class fieldwork sites.

Skern Adventure, Abbotsham



Location: Abbotsham Rd, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5AP

Nestled in the North Devon countryside, Skern Abbotsham provides a complementary inland base with excellent access to the coast path, rivers, and rural landscapes. The centre is ideal for combining rigorous fieldwork with adventurous outdoor learning in a supportive residential setting.

What we offer



- **Immersive learning in diverse, real-world environments**
- **Fieldwork experiences for Key Stages 1–5, including A Level NEA support**
- **Experienced, qualified tutors who lead with warmth, care and professionalism**
- **Bespoke courses designed around your syllabus and learning outcomes**
- **Residentials that balance academic rigour with adventure, teamwork and challenge**

All-inclusive pricing covering expert tuition, equipment, accommodation, food, and the reassurance that every student is seen and supported.

Why choose Skern Adventure?

Simple

We take care of everything: planning, delivery and logistics, so educators can focus on learning and students can fully engage in the experience.

Specific

Every programme is bespoke, shaped by your syllabus, exam board and objectives, and delivered by staff who understand how learning happens best outdoors.

Locations

With coastlines, dunes, rivers, and woodland within easy reach, our sites offer memorable, hands-on fieldwork in some of North Devon's most inspiring environments.

Adventure

Beyond data collection and enquiry skills, programmes can include outdoor activities designed to develop confidence, resilience, and teamwork – learning through real challenge, real excitement and shared experience.

Exceptional fieldwork locations

Situated within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Skern Adventure offers unrivalled access to a wide range of biodiverse study.

We visit sites including:

- **Braunton Burrows**
- **Northam Burrows**
- **Hartland Heritage Coast**
- **Exmoor National Park**
- **Taw & Torridge Estuary**
- **Pebble Ridge, Westward Ho!**
- **North Devon towns and villages**



Students benefit from access to a diverse range of fieldwork locations across North Devon. **Hartland Heritage Coast** and the unique **Pebble Ridge at Westward Ho!** offer dramatic coastal landscapes and landforms, making them ideal for studying erosion, coastal processes, and management, while **Braunton Burrows** provides an excellent setting for investigating dune succession and biodiversity.

Nearby towns such as **Bideford**, **Barnstaple**, and **Appledore** provide valuable opportunities for human geography fieldwork, and further study sites include rivers, woodlands, moorland, salt marshes, and more.



Skills development

Our programmes can be tailored for primary, secondary and post-16 students. As syllabuses evolve, we remain flexible - if you don't see a topic listed, we will happily design a course to meet your needs.

Human Geography:

- **Changing places and place representation**
- **Social inequalities and economic change**
- **Rural and urban settlements**
- **Regeneration and rebranding**
- **Sustainable living**

We can also integrate **Biology** and **Environmental Science** topics into our programmes, including opportunities to explore ecosystems, biodiversity, and human-environment interactions in the field.

Physical Geography:

- **River processes, dynamics and features**
- **Coastal landscapes: processes and management**
- **Sand dune succession and management**
- **Rocky shore ecosystems**
- **Woodland ecosystems and the carbon cycle**

Sample day

Aim: Investigate evidence of sand dune succession at Braunton Burrows

09.00	Introduction to sand dune ecosystems
10.30	Arrive at Braunton Burrows; beach walk with discussion on succession, species identification, adaptations and management
12.30	Lunch
13.00	Fieldwork investigation: sampling strategies and recording methods; transect study through dunes, measuring biotic and abiotic factors
16.00	Classroom data collation and methodology write-up
17.00	Dinner and free time
19.00	Data analysis, presentation and campfire

A Level NEA Data Collection

Skern Adventure offers dedicated support for A Level NEA Independent Investigations. Students can begin their projects with confidence through:

- **Local geographical expertise**
- **Pilot studies and primary data collection**
- **General guidance on appropriate fieldwork methodologies**
- **Top tips on data presentation and analytical techniques**

Students will leave with robust datasets, a clear action plan and the skills needed to complete their investigations back at school. All fieldwork equipment can be provided.

“Thank you so much to all of the staff at Skern. The students have learned so much about themselves and each other and have made real personal growth. Your team has been incredibly knowledgeable, informative and caring, and we feel very lucky to have had your support. A big thank you!”



Geography in action



Enhance field studies by blending adventurous outdoor activities that bring geography to life into your programme. These experiences help students apply theory in real-world contexts while developing teamwork, resilience and problem-solving skills.

Examples include:

- **Investigating river characteristics while kayaking the River Torridge**
- **Exploring coastal processes by surfing at Westward Ho!**
- **Coastal traversing across sedimentary rock strata at Hartland**

Sample programme

With a large variety of outdoor activities on offer – we can create the perfect programme for your group



	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Arrive 1pm	High Ropes	Lookout Walk
Tuesday	Coastal Fieldwork at Pebble Ridge	Surf & Body Board	Project Planning & Swim
Wednesday	Settlement Study at Bideford	River Kayak or Rafting on the River Torridge	Orienteering
Thursday	Coastal Exploration Day at Hartland		Campfire
Friday	Archery & Tunnels	Depart 12.30pm	

Case study: Chew Valley School

20 years of A Level fieldwork at Skern

For more than two decades, Chew Valley School has been bringing A Level Geography students to Skern to complete essential fieldwork that supports their curriculum and prepares them for their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA).

Through carefully structured investigations, students are introduced to key fieldwork and analytical techniques which they later develop further back in the classroom. The programme integrates seamlessly with their studies, giving students the practical experience needed to collect, analyse and interpret

geographical data with confidence.

One of the highlights of the trip is the river study on Exmoor. Its rugged landscape and dynamic river systems provide the perfect natural environment for students to carry out meaningful physical geography investigations.

“The fieldwork programme at Skern fits seamlessly with our A Level course. Students are introduced to the techniques and analytical skills they need, which they later build on when completing their NEA.”



Students benefit from learning in real landscapes, applying classroom knowledge to real-world environments and gaining a deeper understanding of physical geography processes.

“Exmoor is an outstanding location for river studies. It’s a wild landscape and provides exactly the kind of environment students need to experience real fieldwork.”

Alongside the academic benefits, the residential experience helps students develop independence and stronger working relationships as they collaborate in the field.

“The teaching at Skern is excellent and the staff are incredibly supportive. Our students gain a fantastic fieldwork experience and return home much more confident in their geographical skills.”

Over the years, many Chew Valley students have gone on to study Geography at university and pursue careers in environmental and related fields.

Plan your trip

Skern Adventure provides high-quality field studies delivered by people who genuinely care.

To learn more about our centres or to discuss a bespoke field studies programme, get in touch today.

Tel: 01237 475992

enquiries@skernadventure.co.uk

www.skernadventure.co.uk

