

Inspiring environmental understanding through first-hand experience



Epping Forest Field Centre

The Centre is managed by FSC for, and on behalf of, the City of London



Head of Centre's report on final Discovering Epping Forest (DEF) Workshop

Purpose of report:

This report is intended to provide information to the Committee in relation to the final Def workshop and the steps to build on the legacy of the DEF Project. I recommend that this report be RECEIVED.

This is the final report of the DEF project and follows the publication of the full Project report. It refers to:

- the seventh and final Champions' Workshop
- the Project legacy
- the future

The seventh and final Champions' Workshop was held at Epping Forest Field Centre (EFFC) on 12 September 2012 and (with this report) concluded the delivery of the DEF project and provided the opportunity to present the Project report 2009 -2012 to participant schools.

The Workshop was used as means to bring the project to an end and to facilitate the transition to post-DEF collaboration of the partners involved (ie the schools and the learning providers) in taking forward the DEF legacy.

Workshop programme

- Discovering Epping Forest the legacy and the future (Steve Bunce, EFFC)
- Learning opportunities in Epping Forest (Learning Providers)
- Workshops + 'clinics':
 - Try out learning activities
 - View learning materials
 - Biodiversity and taxonomy in the New Curriculum
 - Ask questions
 - Plan for the future

- Lunch – screening of Discovering Epping Forest DVD
- Keynote external speakers:
 - Learning Outside of the Classroom accreditation (Sally Thompson)
 - Real World Learning at the leading edge (Anthony Thomas)
- Workshops + ‘clinics’: *[Refreshments]*
 - LOtC accreditation
 - Eco-schools
 - Ask questions
 - Plan for the future
- Closing remarks

The workshop was generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the ‘Branching Out’ project and was designed to:

- Inspire teachers to continue to champion the aims of the ‘Discovering Epping Forest’ project.
- Encourage continuing use of the services of Epping Forest Learning providers
- Highlight the legacy of Discovering Epping Forest including the learning programmes, resources, networking and collaboration.

Teachers from primary schools had the opportunity to experience or observe a range of exciting key stage two learning activities including ‘leading edge’ science and ‘ESD’ programmes as well as having the opportunity to discuss with learning providers plans for ongoing learning in Epping Forest. Participants also heard about plans for continuing and improved access to online learning resources and the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Mark for schools as well as receiving copies of the Discovering Epping Forest report and DVD.



Rosie Withill (EFFC) introducing Steve Bunce



Teachers viewing display material

Steve Bunce

Steve drew attention to the Project report and to some significant numbers :

- **12,150** learner experiences across three years – mass participation
- **93%** of teachers ranked ‘overall’ satisfaction of the programme in the highest category on a 5-point scale – outstanding quality
- **0.012%** of learners received a injury (only very minor) – terrific safety record

He also asked participants to reflect on and build on the DEF legacy and confirmed that the discovering.ef@field-studies-council.org can still be used for any communication in the knowledge that communications will be receive an appropriate response with forwarding, as appropriate.



Rosie Withill introducing Anthony Thomas
World Learning'



Antony Thomas *presenting 'Real*

Sally Thompson

Quality Badge Development Manager for the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Sally explained how LOtC is valued by the government and OFSTED and is gaining widespread recognition. She introduced the new LOtC Mark for schools answered questions that teachers raised regarding LOtC in general and the LOtC Mark in particular.

Anthony Thomas

Formerly Chair of the Real World Learning Steering Group reporting to HM Government, Chairman of the Forest Education Initiative and CEO of the Field Studies Council. Trustee of

the Royal Geographical Society and Trustee of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Tony gave an inspirational presentation on real world learning to encourage Champions to take forward the DEF legacy and answered questions about the latest developments in education.

Discovering Epping Forest Report and DVD

A free copy of the Discovering Epping Forest short film (DVD) and the Discovering Epping Forest 2009 – 2012 Report was provided to each of the participant schools

Both the Report and DVD will be available soon on the City of London website.

Summary of the DEF legacy taken from the full DEF Report

The legacies of the Discovering Epping Forest project include the following:

- Increased awareness and appreciation of Epping Forest among participating students and teachers.
- A network of teaching professionals in local schools committed to teaching in and about the Forest, acting as 'Epping Forest Champions'.
- A growing number of primary schools have built DEF work or activities into their programming with intentions to use the Forest on a frequent basis.
- Raised levels of skill, knowledge and confidence about outdoor teaching within participating schools.
- Greater use of Epping Forest by schools arriving by foot or on public transport has increased understanding in relation to how the Forest can be accessed with to help to minimize travel costs and the impacts of traffic upon the Forest.
- Increased understanding and appreciation of each Forest Learning Provider that enabled more effective working relations.
- Promotion of all the Forest Learning Provider services through the programme and online materials, raising the profile of Epping Forest.
- An enhanced ability amongst the Learning Providers to work in partnership and understand how services can be delivered in a complementary manner.
- Web based learning resources.

Legacy for the Learning Providers

City of London Corporation learning service

1. Course development

As a result of developing a module for the DEF project, the QEHL now has a permanent school session entitled 'Epping Forest through History (Case study: Victorians) KS2'.

2. More learners at QEHL

The DEF project has increased confidence, enthusiasm and ability among DEF Champions to continue using the Forest as a learning resource for classes.

3. Website resources

DEF-derived teaching support material from all partners is now available to download from the EF section of the CoL website:

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/learning/Pages/Teaching-Support-Material.aspx>

4. Repeat visits to QEHL

We have lots of anecdotal evidence that participating children and adult helpers have spread enthusiasm for the Forest among friends and family.

Epping Forest Centenary Trust (EFCT)

1. Delivery capacity

The Discovering Epping Forest Project has helped develop the confidence and capacity of the Trust, to secure and manage grant funded projects in the future.

2. Partnership working

The DEF Project increased our understanding of partnership working and the work of partners in the Forest.

3. Web site resources

The web based materials developed through the DEF project is enabling the Trust to better assist groups visiting the Forest and to expand its services to a wider range of groups.

4. Engaging new audiences

Through the DEF Project, EFCT was able to work with new audiences, increasing schools' awareness of our services and encouraging new participants in the future.

Epping Forest Field Centre (EFFC)

1. Multi-partner working

The Discovering Epping Forest project enabled EFFC to develop multi-partner working with the City of London, Epping Forest Centenary Trust and Suntrap, which provided added value to core funding.

2. Delivery capacity

Increased funding allowed an increase in Key Stage 2 delivery and allowed EFFC to teach groups and reach new audiences, especially those from the deprived London boroughs of Newham and Redbridge.

3. Cascading learning

Learning by EFFC from the innovation and delivery of the successful City Bridge Trust funded 'Sustainable SchoolsTM' project (2004-2007) allowed cascading of experience to develop the Discovering Epping Forest project.

4. Best practice for documentation

By delivering the DEF project, EFFC was able to develop best practice for documenting and recording in a range of areas including: evaluation tools, pre- and post- course liaison, risk assessments, site working information cards, transport and schools liaison.

5. Outreach capacity

The DEF project enhanced the Centre's ability to deliver outreach projects at a number of learning sites within the east London area and to carry out teaching at sites near the learners.

6. Teaching modules

EFFC has developed a stand-alone KS2 course which examines the impacts of humans on Epping Forest.

Suntrap Forest Education Centre

1. Improved course delivery

Forming partnership with other Learning Providers allowed Suntrap to experience other teaching courses which resulted in improved course delivery.

2. Improved teaching capacity

Taking part in the Discovering Epping Forest Project resulted in an increase in teaching capacity by the Centre.

3. Development of materials

The Centre has developed specific Epping Forest teaching resources which can be incorporated into other courses.

4. Teaching at Forest sites

The project allowed teaching at alternative Forest sites and has increased the capacity of the Centre to deliver at these locations in the future.

Attendance list

Champion Name	School Name
Tracey Lapado	Carpenters Primary School
Amy Barnes	Lambourne Primary School
Claire Houghton	Parkside Primary School
Noel Tuohey	St Edward's Catholic Primary School
Kathleen Jones	St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Natasha Bowen	Uphall Primary School
Alison Gilligan	Uphall Primary School
Michael Pearmain	Sandringham School

Victoria Bettelheim	Central Park Primary School
Adam Dobson	Roding Primary School
Sinead Crick	Roding Primary School
Khaledha Begum	Ranelagh Primary School
Allan Love	Coppice Primary School
Carolyn Perret	Oakdale Junior School

The future

There are good things that are in place as part of the legacy that are now part of ongoing work and there are many things we will be able to do if we are successful in acquiring new funding.

The Epping Forest Learning Providers Forum continues to provide an opportunity to explore these things further on the basis of this legacy. It is anticipated that these discussions will be informed by the Review of Learning in Epping Forest undertaken by consultants for the City.

Steve Bunce, Head of Centre

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