

Thu 27th March 08:33

Dear Colleagues,

Key Outcomes from the Leadership Forum and Executive Weekend

Following a very packed 3 days in Birmingham - skilfully organised by Carina Parkinson- a clear course of action was agreed to guide our charity over the next five years, shaped around our now familiar 4Rs.

We agreed the following order and approach:

- **Resilience** will be our foundation because it underpins everything that we need to do and aspire to do. We will strengthen our financial sustainability by diversifying income, improving efficiency, and making wise investments in our long-term future.
- **Reach** will grow cautiously by focusing on scalable models such as digital learning, outreach in cities, and partnerships, before committing to big new builds.
- **Recognition** will support our resilience and reach by using our advocacy work, brand, and fundraising to turn our increased visibility into lasting impact.
- **Recovery** will be embedded into everything we do. We'll continue to integrate sustainability into our operations, pursuing carbon reduction and nature recovery in ways that also protect our financial health.

A shift in our Carbon Strategy

We've been working hard to reduce our carbon emissions since 2011. This has led to some fantastic results, including a 75% carbon emissions reduction between 2011-2023. In 2019 we set a target to reach Carbon Net Zero by 2030. This aspiration was set in good faith, before the pandemic and significant economic upheaval impacted us. We have achieved much, but we've now committed to [science-based targets](#) that ensure our sustainability actions are guided by the latest climate science and deliver measurable impact.

We will no longer aim for a fixed Carbon Net Zero date of 2030 as we must strike a balance to remain financially resilient. Trustees also agreed that we must continue to reduce our carbon emissions and live our values of inspiring action for the Environment. We'll be setting new, independently verified targets soon, aligned with the latest climate science and aimed at limiting the impacts of global warming to 1.5 degrees. This change reflects our desire to go further, faster—where we can—while remaining financially resilient now and in the long term.

Thank you for continuing to play your part. Together, we are building a stronger, more sustainable Field Studies Council that can continue to make a lasting difference.

GCSE in Natural History

There's finally been some good news as the Education Minister announced last week that the Government has agreed to move forward on the GCSE in Natural History. The content will be consulted upon only after the Curriculum and Assessment Review is published in the autumn. Therefore, the first teach of the subject is likely to be September 2026 at the earliest.

Field Studies Council has been closely involved in getting this over the line for many years. Despite it being a popular idea with young people, scientists and learned societies and being

fairly uncontroversial in political terms, there have been five Prime Ministers since staff first met with fellow campaigners. It's been a lesson in tenacity and patience.

Sunguarding Survey from the Melanoma Fund

Field Studies Council is an official supporter of the Melanoma Fund, and they are asking for our help to gather valuable insights into how sun safety is currently supported and implemented across outdoor activities, particularly those involving young people. They would like to hear from anyone who leads outdoor activities via [this survey](#), which is anonymous, takes only 10 minutes to complete and - if further inducement were needed above helping to make outdoor learning as safe as possible- there is a chance of winning a share of £800 of prizes and goodie bags.

Sam is on the run

In case you are one of the few that haven't heard, Sustainability Manager Sam Thurston is running the 2025 London Marathon on 27th April to support Field Studies Council Grants for Schools bursary and Young Darwin Scholarships. Here's a [link to a video](#) update recorded by Sam. He's raised over half the target £2,000 he's aiming for, you can sponsor him [here](#).

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Isha Hambly has joined the team at Slapton as General Assistant.

Joshua Scott has joined the team at Millport as a Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

Previous catch ups can be [found here](#).

Best regards

Mark