

Future Tides: Learning for the Future of the Inner Forth

Over the past few years it has become apparent that children are losing touch with the natural environment. Whether you blame i-pads, TV or health and safety, it is clear that all too often children no longer understand the natural world in the way they used to. Through the Future Tides project we aim to take a small step towards changing this by helping school children of the Inner Forth really connect with their local environment and understand why it is so special.

The project will take pupils from three schools within the area on an adventure through the ever changing landscape of the Inner Forth, exploring its wildlife and changing land uses to enable a greater understanding of why the landscape is shaped like it is and how it may change in the future. This will help build a connection between the pupils, their local community and the nature that surrounds them, encouraging them to take ownership of its future.

The project will run as part of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative and will involve studying three different aspects of the landscape, wildlife, industry, agriculture and the impacts of climate change. We really want the pupils to be able to engage with their local community so they will be working with people that actually make use of the landscape and to whom it is more than just the place where they live. It may be helping volunteers who are working on a wildlife site, or talking to a farmer about how he uses the land, but we want to get the children fully engaged with aspects of the Inner Forth landscape.

And that's not all! The project will conclude with a debating event where the pupils from each school will play the role of a different land user and debate the issues facing the Inner Forth landscape. This will show the pupils how special the landscape is for so many different people and how we will need to work together if we are going to make sure it remains a special place in to the future.

We believe this project can have a lasting impact for these pupils and for the Inner Forth landscape by encouraging the next generation of farmers, ecologists, teachers and all who call the Inner Forth home to understand and appreciate their natural environment, and strive to ensure it remains a special place.