

Glenveagh National Park
A Place to Learn

Ecology & Conservation Field Studies

Junior and Leaving Cycle



Páirceanna Náisiúnta
National Parks

An informative, practical day in Glenveagh National Park, where students will take part in hands-on activities using scientific ecological methods and record their findings. This day aims to bring textbook definitions to life through real examples of conservation work and science in the National Park.



Who is this Module For?

- This programme is for Junior and Leaving Cycle students who require completion of the Habitat Study or the Study of an Ecosystem section of the biology syllabus.
- It is best suited to groups who want to get an insight into conservation work carried out by conservation rangers and ecologists, and carry out their Field Study in the setting of a National Park.

Learning Outcomes: What Your Group Can Expect

- A practical outdoor visit which will bring ecology and the biology syllabus to life
- A better understanding of the definitions of Ecology, Adaptation, Environmental Factors, Habitat, Competition, Food Webs and Pyramid of Numbers, Trophic Levels, Energy Flow and Qualitative and Quantitative Surveys, and real-world examples of these
- A greater understanding of the links between different organisms and their interactions in populations, communities and ecosystems
- Direct field experience that students will remember, and that will help them to complete projects and answer exam questions
- A greater understanding of the work of ecologists, and the reasons why this work is carried out



Before You Visit

Before your trip to the park, we suggest that science/biology classes do the following:

- Cover the chapters on Ecology/Habitat Study/Study of an Ecosystem
- Familiarise with relevant terminology such as 'adaptation', 'habitat', 'environmental factors' etc.
- Discuss various types of equipment that will be encountered on the study
- Identify common plants and animals that are found in a woodland habitat
- Practise habitat mapping

Follow Up Back in Class

Suggestions for when you return to the classroom after your visit:

- The workbook we give you will contain your sketch map and all of the data you gathered during the field work. You may wish to use this information for later revision
- Create graphs using the data gathered during the quadrat sampling
- Think about the species observed or discussed during your trip, and consider how they may fit into a food chain
- There is large scope for a conclusion essay taking in a variety of different aspects of the field study - such as how abiotic factors and adaptations have impacted results of the study



Appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear are needed.
Dress for the season!



Bring a healthy packed lunch.
It's an active day.



All equipment and workbooks are provided.