



About Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre



Blackland Farm was established as a campsite and activity centre back in 1938, using its 127 acres of nature-rich fields, woodlands and streams to provide young people with fantastic outdoor experiences.

We have been delivering a number of adventurous activities and personal development programmes from Blackland Farm since 1987, as well as other sites across England and Wales. Our established and well-regarded programmes were initially developed by our founder, Chris Taylor B.Ed.

In 2023, we succeeded in a bid to purchase Blackland Farm from its historical owner, Girlguiding UK. We now offer a full programme of activities, workshops, accommodation and events from the site, as well as using it as a base for expeditions and residentials all across the UK.

We are a respected provider of:

- High quality Outdoor Education
- Bespoke school residential trips
- Activity Day Courses
- Alternative Needs Curriculum
- Special Educational Needs Provision
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Expeditions and Residentials



Not all classrooms have four walls



Outdoor education acts as a catalyst for social and personal development, promotes independence and responsibility, and connects us all.

Activities

Watersports - Kayaking, Canoeing, Paddleboarding, MegaSUP, Raft Building

Roped Activities - Climbing (artificial and sandstone), Abseiling, Zip Wires

High Ropes - All-aboard, Leap of Faith, Gladiator Challenge, Jacob's Ladder, Crate Stacking, Indy Bridge

Land - Team Building, Archery, Bungee Trampolining, Bushcraft, Low Ropes, Nightline, Aeroball, Bouldering, Tunnels, Walk, Orienteering, Axe Throwing

Evening Entertainment - Campfire, Night Hike, Wide Games, Olympics, and more!



Accommodation

- **Bell Tent Camping** - large glamping tents with enough room to stand and stretch! Our bell tent pitches come with private toilets and showers, fresh water, catering marquee and all the equipment for a comfortable stay.
- **Pod Camping** - large purpose build pods on a private field, with space for camper vans and additional tents. Come with private toilets and showers, staff respite area, fresh water, catering marquee and additional equipment.
- **Indoor Lodges** - comfortable indoor lodges with separate student and teacher facilities, communal areas, kitchen, bathroom and garden areas.

All accommodation options require students to provide their own sleeping bag and pillows (and roll mats for camping accommodation)



Catering

We offer a nutritious range of hearty meals for young people and staff alike, catering for a large range of dietary requirements and needs.

- **Breakfast** - Assorted cereals, pastries, fruit, yogurt, bread, butter and jams.
- **Lunch** - Build Your Own sandwiches and wraps with a selection of fillings and sides.
- **Dinner** - A variety of home-made meal favourites, from curries to pasta dishes and pies, served with a delicious pudding to finish.

*Self-catering options also available



Programme



Time	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
8.00-9.00am	Breakfast		
9.00-10.30am	Zip Wire	Canoeing	Abseiling
11-12.30pm	Canoeing	Abseiling	Zip Wire
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch		
1.30-3.00pm	Abseiling	Zip Wire	Canoeing
3.30-5.00pm	Archery	Archery	Archery
5.00-6.00pm	Letter and Diary Writing, Free time		
6.00-7.00pm	Dinner		
7.00-8.30pm	Campfire		
8.30-9.00pm	Hot Chocolate		
9.00pm	Wind Down for bed		

*Each bespoke programme is created to suit group aims, objectives and needs



<https://youtu.be/hvRVXuYeEMA>

FAQs

Is it safe?

Safety is our top priority, and we adhere to strict guidelines and regulations.

Site- Our site has security gates on all entrances, CCTV, as well as strict visitors and safeguarding policies.

Staff- Our staff are subject to DBS checks, thorough recruitment practices, regular training and monitoring processes and hold a First Aid Certification as standard.

Activities and Equipment- Our activities and kit are checked against national regulations for safety by competent members of our team, plus external bodies. We are proud to use the newest and most appropriate equipment on our centre.

What if a child does not want to take part in an activity?

We abide by the popular outdoor education philosophy of "Challenge by Choice". It refers to the idea that participants are encouraged to take part in activities at a level that feels challenging yet manageable for them, but they are not forced to participate beyond their comfort level.

Do the children need to be competent swimmers?

Watersports participants will always wear a bouyancy aid on the water, and be supervised by staff competent in instruction and rescue. All we ask is that children are 'water confident' and able to take instruction in the water.

What kind of 'waiting times' are there on activities?

Our outdoor education ethos means that most of our activities involve a team effort to achieve a shared goal. This means that even when one participant is climbing, the rest of the team can be assisting to belay, encourage, problem-solve, and prepare themselves for the next climb.

How do you decide who shares a bedroom/tent?

Our accommodation splits group by various sizes- we leave bedroom allocation up to the school but always have a back-up tent if things don't go to plan!

What should children bring with them?

We have a parent's zone on our website which includes a recommended kit list- www.blacklandfarm.org

What is the supervision ratio?

Our standard sessions are 1 instructor to 12 children, although for watersports this increases to 1:8.

How are special needs accommodated?

We strive to be inclusive and will work with schools and parents to accommodate physical, dietary, and learning needs. It's important to discuss any specific requirements in advance to ensure appropriate arrangements are made.

Do you have a menu for the food options?

We have worked hard to produce a menu that the majority of students are happy with, taking into account dietary and special needs- trying new foods is an important part of our experience but we understand that this needs to sit within a safe comfort zone. Below is an example menu:

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Breakfast	-	Cereals, yogurt, fruit, toast / jams	Cereals, yogurt, fruit, toast / jams
Lunch	PACKED LUNCH (brought with)	Build Your Own Wraps, crisps, snack, fresh juice	Build Your Own Baps, crisps, snack, fresh juice
Dinner	Pasta Bolognese	Sausage and Mash	-
Dessert	Apple Crumble	Chocolate Cake	-
Snacks	Fruit, Biscuits, Toast and Bread available throughout		

*Vegan / Vegetarian / Gluten Free / Halal etc options available

Further Information

www.blacklandfarm.org



HOME INFORMATION ▾ PRICES & BOOKING WHAT WE OFFER ▾ DOFE ▾ ONLINE SHOP ONLINE BOOKINGS 🔍



Residential Trips

Welcome to Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre, where residential are transformed into unforgettable adventures! Nestled in the heart of nature, our centre offers students the perfect blend of learning, exploration, and fun. With a wide range of outdoor activities, from team-building challenges to watersports, we create immersive experiences that inspire growth, confidence, and lasting memories.

Our dedicated team ensures a safe and supportive environment, making it the ideal destination for groups looking to enrich their curriculum with hands-on learning and outdoor excitement.

Come discover the magic of the great outdoors with us!

Residential Package

Our residential package takes the pressure off the planning and gives you a few extras. We design a bespoke programme to your desired outcomes and needs, provide you with a dedicated Account Manager for all your pre-arrival queries, and a dedicated Course Director throughout your stay to ensure your students maximise every second of their trip. Accommodation ranges from pre-pitched bell tents to indoor lodges.

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Testimonials

We first dangled in the treetops with [at Blackland Farm] over ten years ago. Their flexible day courses offer plenty of thrills without the spills. Both staff and students go home exhilarated and happy.

- Jane Ives, Deputy Head, Duke of Kent School

This week has been flawless – mainly due to the support from your staff. Anything, big or small, has been considered and adapted to suit our group all the way through the week. Full recommendation for anyone else who is thinking about visiting.

- Will Brook, Ratton School

Really great activities for the kids, and REALLY great instructing staff that I was really impressed with. Teambuilding, fun activities, thought provoking - generally just great enjoyment in a nice and safe environment. Includes; abseiling, rock climbing, archery, tunnel crawling, teamwork, trampoline basketball..... 100% recommended.

- James Karamath, Science Teacher

We have had a great 4 days and the children have made memories to last a lifetime. Thank you to the amazing team. The campfire was amazing

- Telscombe Cliffs Primary School