



All Party Parliamentary Group for Outdoor Learning

Portcullis House

6th May 2025

Meeting notes

The following MP's attended this launch meeting or have expressed support for the APPG since its launch was announced a drop-in meeting at Portcullis House 1st April 2025

MP	Constituency	Party	APPGOL launch	APPGOL role
Tim Farron	South Lakes	Lib Dem	attended	chair
Phil Brickell	Bolton West	Labour	attended	officer
Sir Julian Lewis	New Forest East	Conservative	attended	officer
Rebecca Long-Bailey	Salford	Labour		officer
Andy McNae	Rossendale & Darwin	Labour	attended	
Susan Murray	Mid Dumbartonshire	Lib Dem	attended	
Lee Dillon	Newbury	Lib Dem	attended	
Caroline Voaden	South Deveon	Lib Dem	attended	
Danny Chambers	Winchester	Lib Dem	attended	

APPGOL supporters

Kevin Hollinrake	Thirsk & Malton	Conservative
Nigel Huddleston	Droitwich & Evesham	Conservative
Neil Hudson	Epping Forest	Conservative
Greg Stafford	Farnham & Bordon	Conservative
Roger Gale	Herne Bay & Sandwich	Conservative
Stuart Anderson	South Shropshire	Conservative
John Lamont	Berwickshire	Conservative
Shockat Adam	Leicester South	Independent
Jade Botterill	Ossett & Denby Dale	Labour
Neil Duncan-Jordan	Poole	Labour
Maya Ellis	Ribble Valley	Labour
Lewis Atkinson	Sunderland Central	Labour
Kirith Entwistle	Bolton North East	Labour
Anna McMorris	Cardiff North	Labour
Julie Minns	Carlisle	Labour
John Whitby	Derbyshire Dales	Labour
Tonia Antoniazzi	Gower	Labour
Jonathan Pearce	High Peak	Labour



Steve Witherden	Montgomeryshire & Glyndwr	Labour
Irene Campbell	North Ayrshire & Arran	Labour
Markus Campbell-Savours	Penrith & Solway	Labour
Michael Wheeler	Worsley & Eccles	Labour
Rachel Maskell	York Central	Labour
Helen Maguire	Epsom & Ewell	Lib Dem
	Glastonbury &	
Sarah Dyke	Somerton	Lib Dem
Zoe Franklin	Guildford	Lib Dem
Olly Glover	Didcot & Wantage	Lib Dem
Roz Savage	South Cotswolds	Lib Dem
Rachel Gilmour	Tiverton & Minehead	Lib Dem
Edward Morello	West Dorset	Lib Dem
Adam Dance	Yeovil	Lib Dem
Liz Saville-Roberts	Dwyfor Meirionnydd	Plaid Cymru

Following the formal appointment of officers the meeting heard 2 presentations:

1. The evidence base for Outdoor Learning

Dr Dave Harvey

Dr Harvey gave an overview of the wealth of evidence pointing to the benefits of engaging children and young people in outdoor learning and the range of Government departments for which outdoor learning can support aspirations. See appendix i.

2. The Nature Premium campaign

Dr Sara Collins

Dr Collins outlined the work to date on developing a fundable approach to enabling all children and young people to benefit from outdoor learning through school by empowering Head Teachers and drawing on a Social Bridging Finance model. [Nature Premium](#)

Meeting with Department for Education

The APPG noted that Tim Farron MP had met with Stephen Morgan MP (Minister for Early Education) on 28th April 2025. The Minister was supportive of outdoor learning and pointed to the National Education Nature Parks project established by the previous government.

The minister agreed to review the reasons for the substantial inequality amongst school age children and young people in their access to outdoor learning and benefiting their from it.



Further discussions led to the following commitments:

1. The APPG to prepare a 2-page submission to the DCMS youth strategy review outlining the role outdoor learning plays in effective youthwork before 22nd May 2025.
2. The APPG to look for an opportunity for a Westminster Hall debate in the coming months to generate a wider understanding of the potential of outdoor learning, especially for children and young people.
3. Consideration of an approach to HCLG Department to ask for clearer policy on access to nature based environments for children and young people.
4. Conduct a review of children's membership options for nature / natural environment focused charities.
5. The secretariat to liaise with Andy McNae MP and his work with a new APPG on outdoor recreation and access to nature issues.
6. The APPG to approach Stephen Morgan to request that Nature Premium be considered as a national initiative supported by the Department for Education, rather than a regional initiative.

Secretariat provided by the [Institute for Outdoor Learning](#), supported by the [Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres](#).



Appendix i.

Outdoor Learning

An overview

Dr Dave Harvey

APPG for Outdoor Learning
6th May 2025



What is 'outdoor learning'?

1. Planned and purposeful learning and development activities
2. Facilitated
3. Predominantly take place in the natural environment

Outdoor
education

Learning outside /
beyond the classroom

Learning in the
natural environment

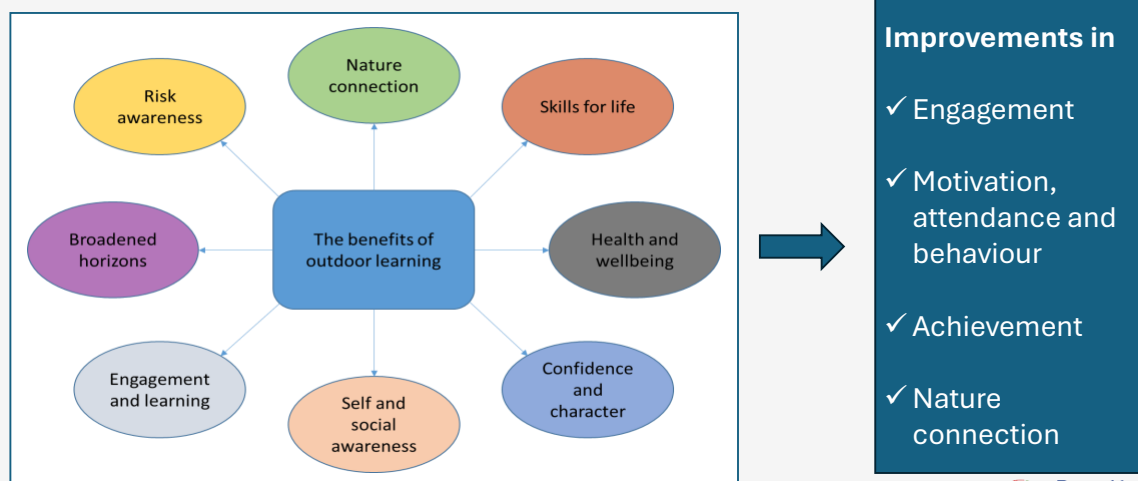




Benefits



Outcomes

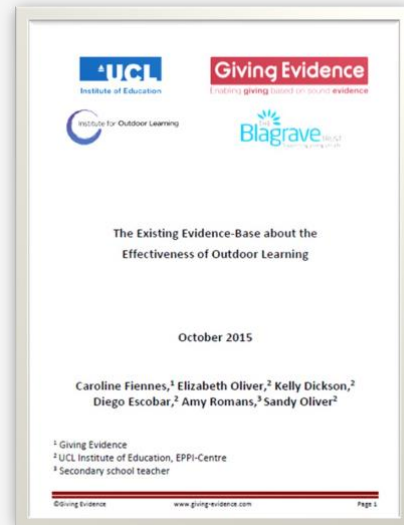
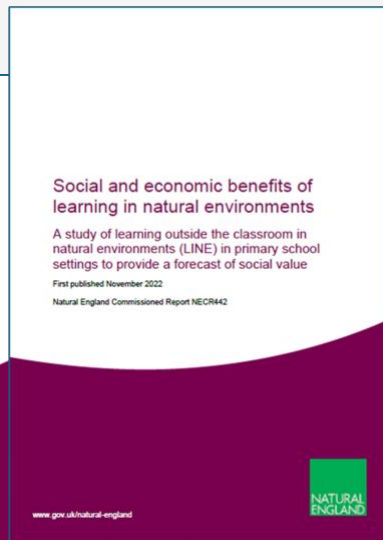
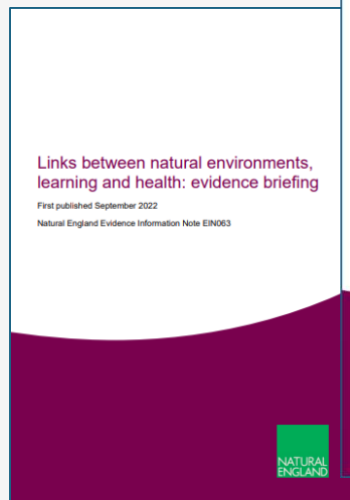




Approved statement 13.05.25

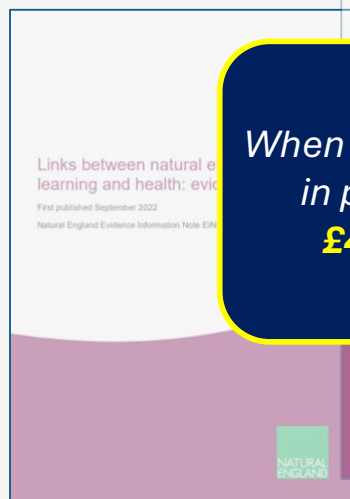


Evidence

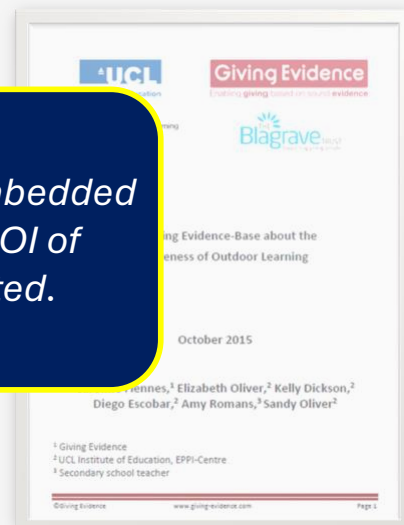
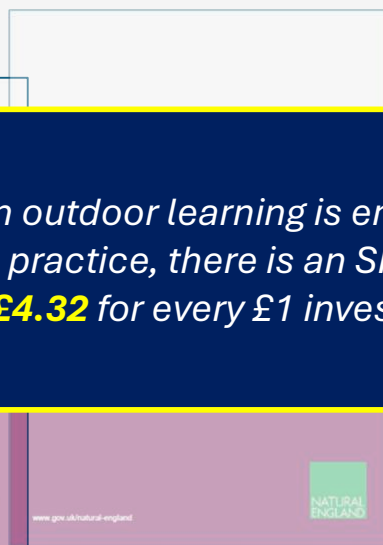


Dave Harvey
Outdoor Learning

Evidence



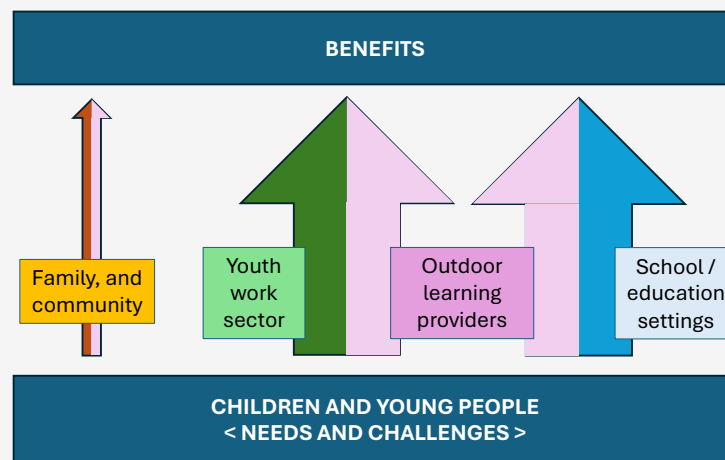
*When outdoor learning is embedded in practice, there is an SROI of **£4.32** for every £1 invested.*



Dave Harvey
Outdoor Learning



Benefits pathway



Inequitable access

13% of children (under 16) and **5% of young people** (aged 16-24) typically never visit the natural environment or even spend any of their leisure time outdoors.

18% of children living in the most deprived areas never visit the natural environment at all.

33% of children never have lessons outside

- ❌ Money
- ❌ Transport
- ❌ Culture
- ❌ Gatekeepers
- ❌ **Policy**



Making it happen

Outdoor learning needs to be explicitly valued by government as a way to develop nature connection, with all its attendant wellbeing and environmental benefits, build social capital and improve engagement with education.

- ✓ Include outdoor learning approaches into all policy statements and frameworks from the start.
- ✓ Better understand the barriers to equitable access
- ✓ Explore and identify innovative funding solutions