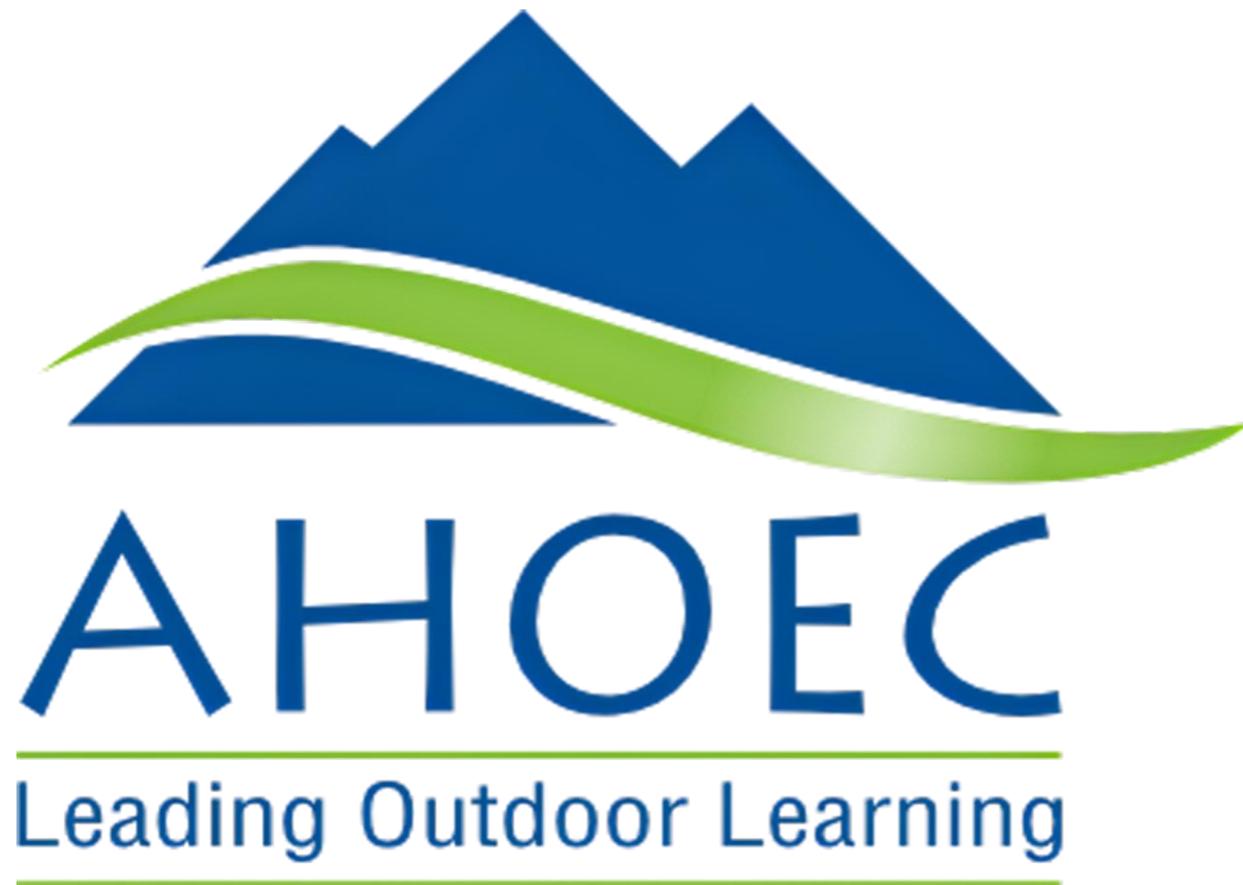


# CPD Day for Outdoor Learning Professionals and Practitioners

‘Developing our Community of Outdoor Learning Practitioners’

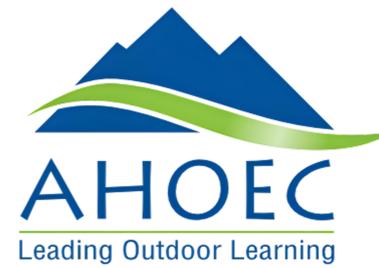




AHOEC is the **Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres**, representing leaders of outdoor learning organisations, centres and providers across the UK.



# Transforming lives through high-quality outdoor learning for all



## Our core mission:



**Developing and sharing excellent practice** in the leadership and management of outdoor learning

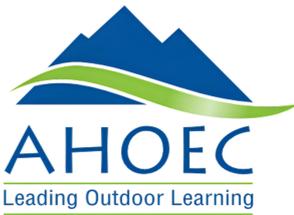


**Championing the benefits and outcomes** of high-quality outdoor learning to local and national policymakers



**Working collaboratively** with other representative bodies connected to the outdoor learning sector

# AHOEC Membership

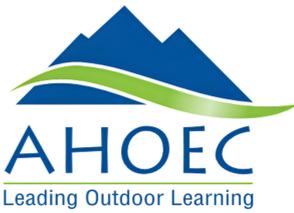


Members come from local authority, charitable, private, and wider education sectors.



AHOEC Executive  
National and Regional  
Representation in all 4 Home  
Nations  
Co-opted roles AHOEC Gold,

# AHOEC and NAHT



## NAHT The School Leaders' Union

NAHT is the definitive voice of school leaders.

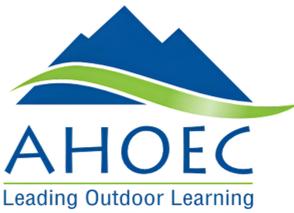
Alongside their members, we work to create a better education system for both educationalists and students alike.

They represent school leaders working within a number of different areas of the education sector, and our members include head teachers, deputy and assistant heads, school business leaders, special educational needs coordinators, virtual school heads and leaders of outdoor education centres.



AHOEC Members have access to  
Membership in NAHT

# AHOEC GOLD



The AHOEC Gold Standard is the association's flagship accreditation programme. It goes beyond the LOTC Quality Badge, Adventure Mark, and AALA Licence requirements.

- **Purpose:** Prestigious accreditation demonstrating excellence in operational practice and high-quality outdoor learning outcomes
- **Eligibility:** Provider must employ full AHOEC members in senior leadership roles; applies mainly to under-18 provision but adaptable for adults
- **Framework:** Gold Standard defines principles & expectations for responsible, high-quality outdoor learning and training
- **Process:** Completion of a detailed Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) → desktop review → onsite inspection of all provision, evidence, and observed sessions
- **Management:** Administered by AHOEC's Gold Standard Managing Group
- **Benefits:** Automatic entitlement to LOTC Quality Badge and Adventure Mark upon fee, without additional inspection



# AHOEC GOLD – Areas of Assessment



## **1. Learning and Development**

Programmes have agreed and reviewed outcomes, consistent high-quality delivery, embedded learning, and a strong commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

## **2. Safety Management**

Robust health, safety, and welfare systems; strong safety culture; effective risk management; competent staff; reliable equipment; and clear emergency, supervision, and technical support arrangements.

## **3. Safeguarding**

Protective measures for children, young people, vulnerable adults and staff, including secure procedures, privacy safeguards, and management of psychological and physical risks.

## **4. Customer Care**

Accurate information, transparent pricing, clear supervision responsibilities, strong communication, responsive feedback systems, sound administration, and secure data handling.

## **5. Leadership and Management**

Effective leadership structures with strategic focus on high-quality learning, strong staff development systems, organisational stability, and clear internal and external communication.

## **6. Facilities and Transport**

Safe, legally compliant vehicles and drivers; suitable accommodation and facilities; compliant external providers; and well-managed catering and maintenance systems.

## **7. Environmental Sustainability**

Actions that promote biodiversity, reduce energy and water use, minimise waste, support sustainable food choices, and encourage healthy and environmentally responsible practices.

## **8. Continuous Improvement**

Ongoing, evidenced improvement across all areas: learning, safety, safeguarding, customer care, leadership, facilities, and sustainability.

# AHOEC



## Advocacy & Public Affairs

2025 has been quite a year to celebrate

Major advocacy milestones included:

Outdoor Education Bill in AHOEC Scotland

AHOEC Scotland - Scottish Outdoor Learning Strategic Working Group – tasked with inclusive provision and access to outdoor learning in Scotland

Outdoor Manifesto AHOEC Wales presented to SENEDD

AHOEC Northern Ireland New Chair (Greg McCann) and Vice-Chair (Michael Cross) have been welcomed on board.

AHOEC England Continued engagement with the APPGs across Outdoor Learning, Outdoor Recreation and Access to Nature, and Education.

AHOEC is supporting the Clean Water Alliance

Contributions to the Outdoors for All national campaign and associated letters to UK Government.

Supported the launch of the Economic, Health, and Social Value of Outdoor Recreation Re-Economics Report 3.0

Local Authority – working group in AHOEC England and Wales

Sector advocacy during debates on curriculum review, youth strategy, clean water legislation, and residential outdoor education policy.

Environmental Sustainability Group – led by James Dawkins

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group – working group

AHOEC has continued to support centres facing closure pressures



# AHOEC 2025



## Sector Work & Partnerships

### Collaboration

- NAHT Meeting arranged with the General Secretary and President of NAHT – potential for Motion at NAHT Conference
  - IOL High Quality Outdoor Learning, Collective Knowledge
  - CLOTIC, OEAP, BAPA, OIA, Activity Alliance, AUK, NGBs
- AHOEC has also met with key employers in the sector, representative bodies

### Conferences & Events

#### This year saw:

- National Conference at Brathay Trust
- Half-Yearly Conference at Hollowford, packed with workshops and sector discussions.
- Engagement in wider events such as the IOL International Conference, BAPA, Vertex Industry Day, and outdoor learning CPD across the UK.
- Catering Conferences, PHAROS training events, CPD events in North Wales
- OEAP (Association of Advisers for Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits) regional events

### Inclusion For All

- Working with Royal Geographic Society and Equal Adventures
- Adventure Away From Home**

AHOEC 2026 National Conference - Brathay Trust  
(2027 - Northern Ireland!)



## 2-year focus

**1**

Strengthen and grow  
the AHOEC gold Status  
offer

**2**

Design and  
embed an improved  
membership journey

**3**

Review and develop  
the  
CPD offering

**4**

Establish constitutional  
recognition for the home  
nations

**5**

Clarify and modernise  
governance structures and  
processes

**6**

Define and communicate  
the role of AHOEC

## 5-year ambitions

**1**

Expand AHOEC's  
lobbying and advocacy  
influence

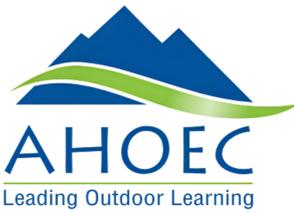
**2**

Build and  
deepen strategic  
partnerships

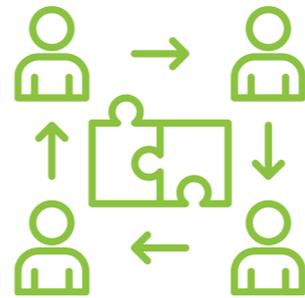
**3**

Develop support frameworks  
for  
members facing operational  
challenges

# Why join AHOEC



**AHOEC Gold  
scheme**



**Collaborative,  
supportive culture**



**Focus on high-quality  
learning**



**Diverse home nation  
membership**

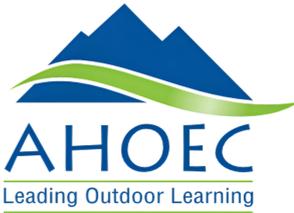


**Strong  
shared values**



**Volunteer-led  
model**

# AHOEC Join and Follow



## Follow



## Join





Any questions?





# IOL Update for CPD for Outdoor Learning Professionals & Practitioners 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Jo Barnett – Chief Executive Officer



Share your love of the outdoors with others

The Institute for Outdoor Learning is the professional body for organisations and individuals who use the outdoors to make a positive difference to others.

[Institute for Outdoor Learning - Home](https://www.outdoor-learning.org)

Institute for Outdoor Learning

# The Institute for Outdoor Learning

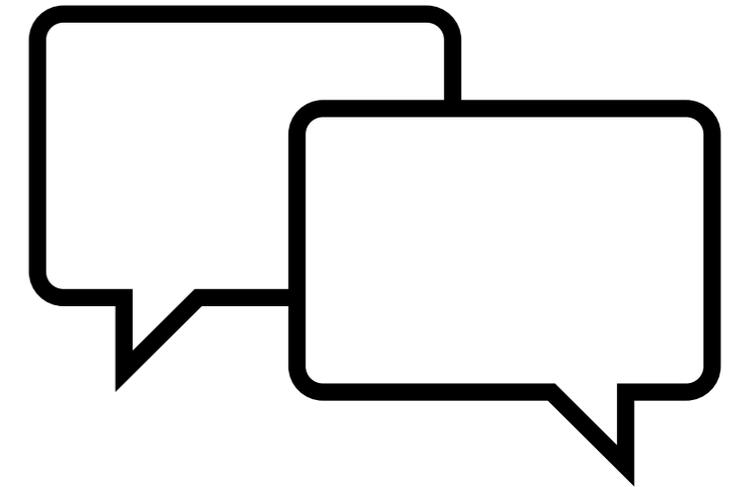
- The Institute for Outdoor Learning is the professional charity for organisations and individuals who use the outdoors to make a positive difference for others.
- We are driven by a vision of Outdoor Learning as a highly valued form of development, education and employment in UK society.
- We provide a competitive platform of quality services to enable others who share similar aspirations and purpose to achieve their organisational aims.



[Join Us](#)



# How does Outdoor Learning lead to?



## **APPG-OL Statement of Purpose**

Through outdoor learning, we support the development of sustainable behaviours in children, young people and adults which lead to

- Personal happiness, health & wellbeing and self-fulfilment
- Preparation for work and economic independence
- Readiness for active stewardship and citizenship

Building on distinguished heritage - responding to the challenges of today.

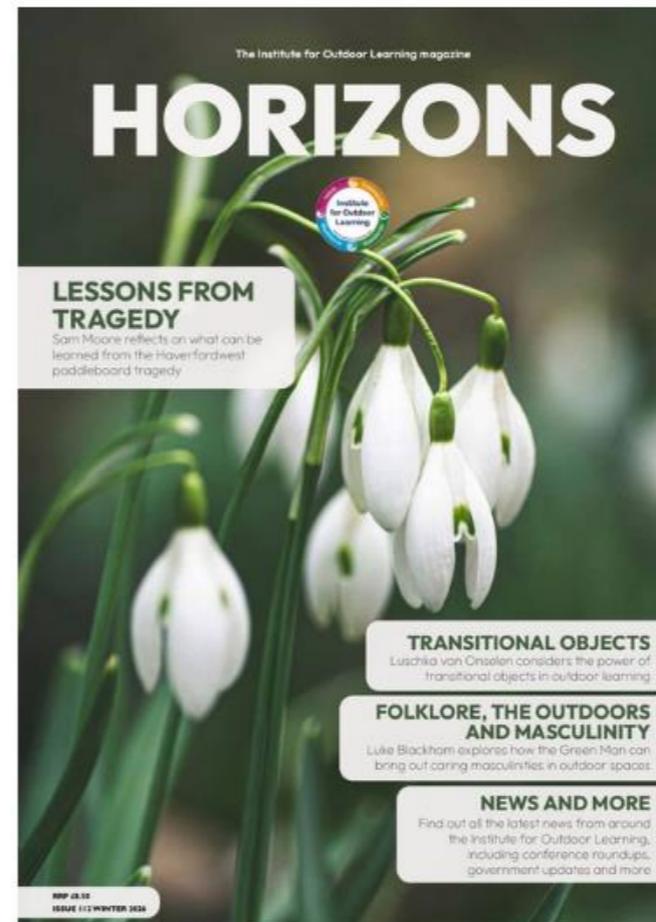
In **50** words

Are you interested in championing outdoor learning to policy makers, national organisations and governments?

## Give Outdoor Learning a Shout Out!



APPG Map  
17,063 views to date.  
**Friday 12th June**  
MP Nature, Outdoor & Adventure Day



[IOL Voice](#)



Institute for Outdoor Learning



Are you seeking others in outdoor learning to join up to share and develop practice?

Find your IOL communities...

Jobsite

Join

My account ▾

About Us ▾

Voice ▾

Community ▾

Workforce ▾

Standards ▾

News, Events & Pr

Home > Member homepage

Home > Community > Geographical Areas > South of England & Channel Islands

South of England & Channel Islands

Geographical Areas

Sector Specialist Groups

Update details →

Bike Trail

Walking Trails

Recognised Professionals  
Directory

Organisation Directory

In this section

Edit organisation

Edit profile

Order history

My subscriptions

Manage security

My events

Shopping basket

My payment methods

Organisation invoices

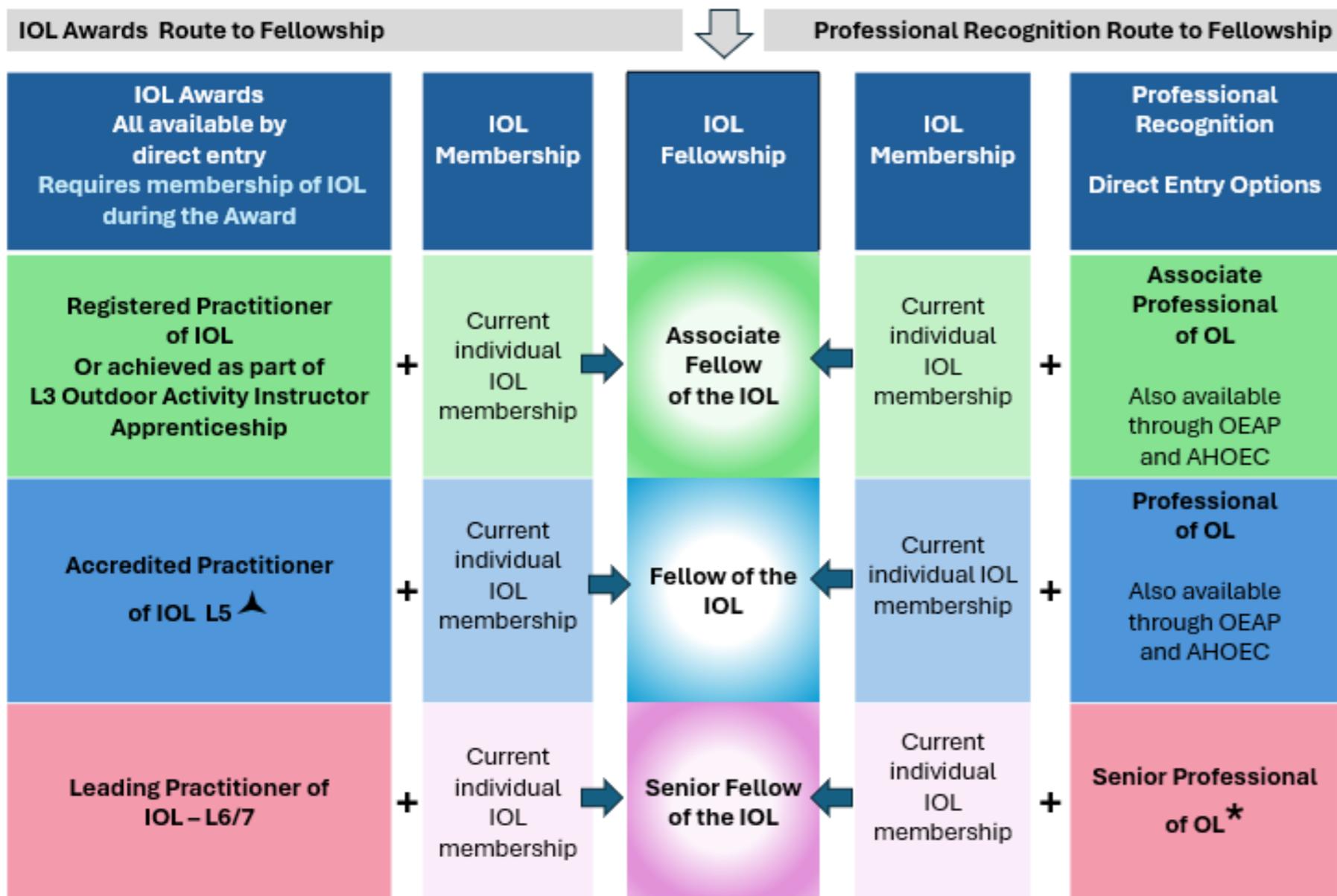
Community



Institute for Outdoor Learning

Are you looking for career advice, professional development and recognition?

## IOL Accreditation & Professional Recognition



Jobs Page  
107,803  
views in 2025

[IOL Events](#)





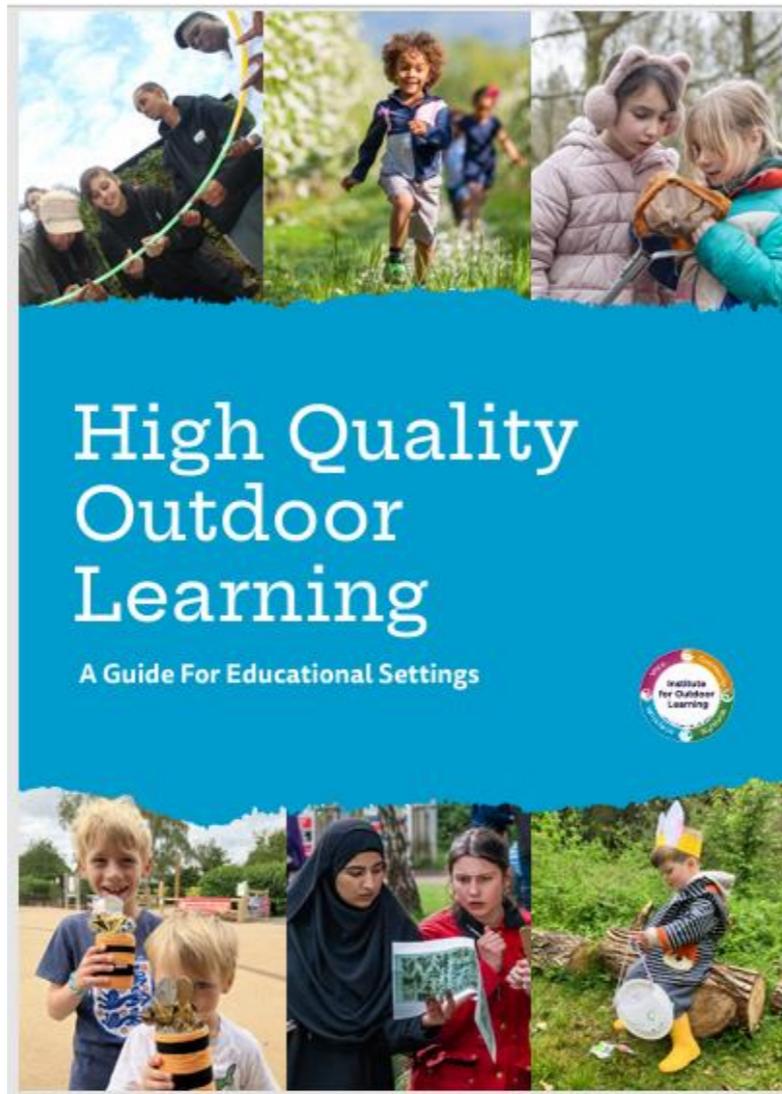
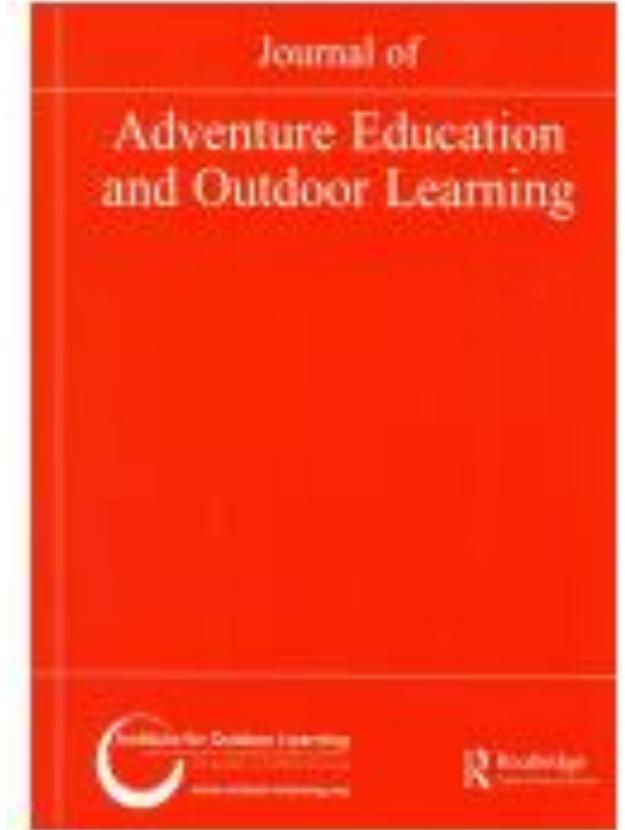
Are you interested in knowing about, developing and sharing research and good practice?

**Learn more!**



QUICK SUMMARY  
Snapshot Survey 2026

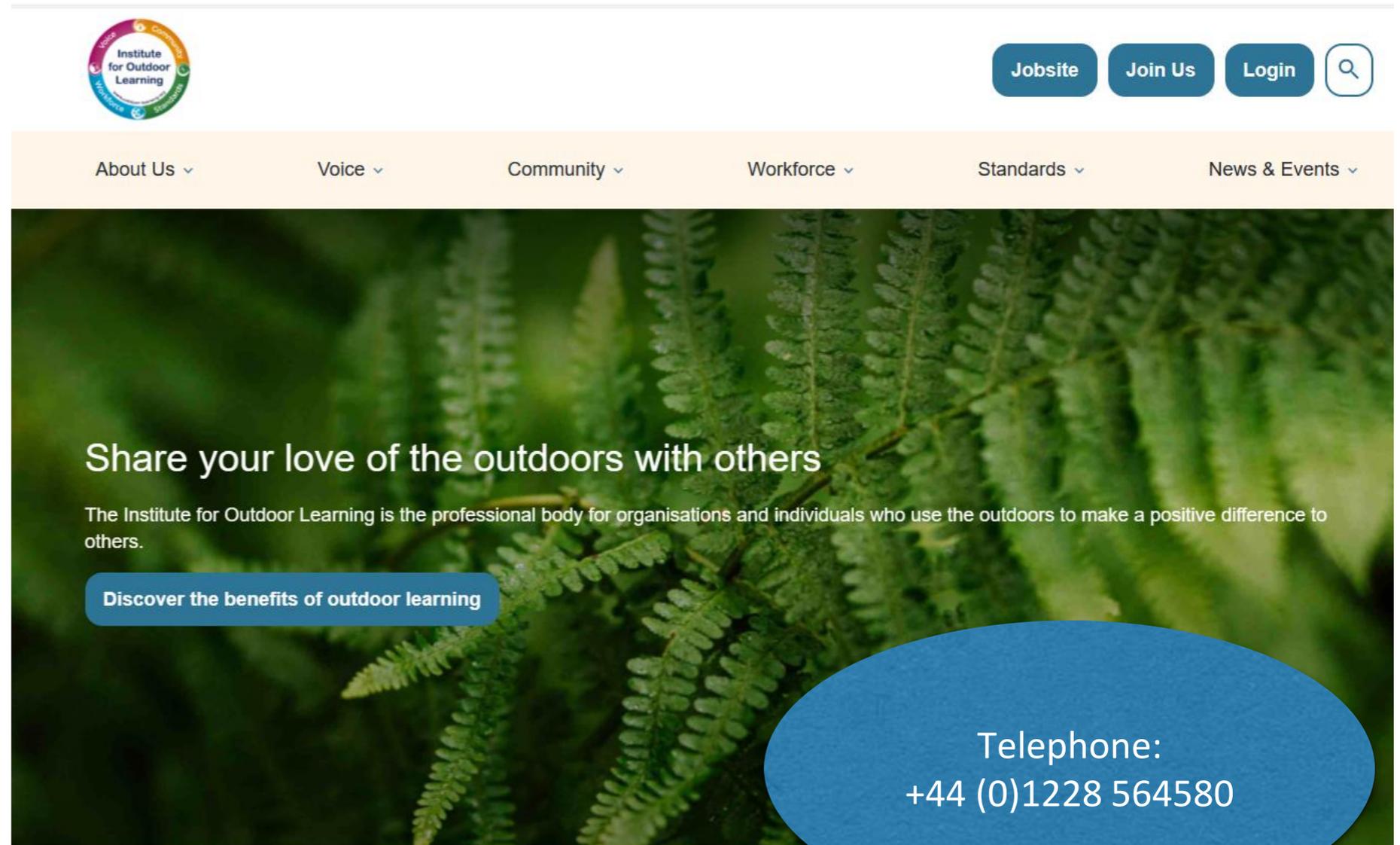
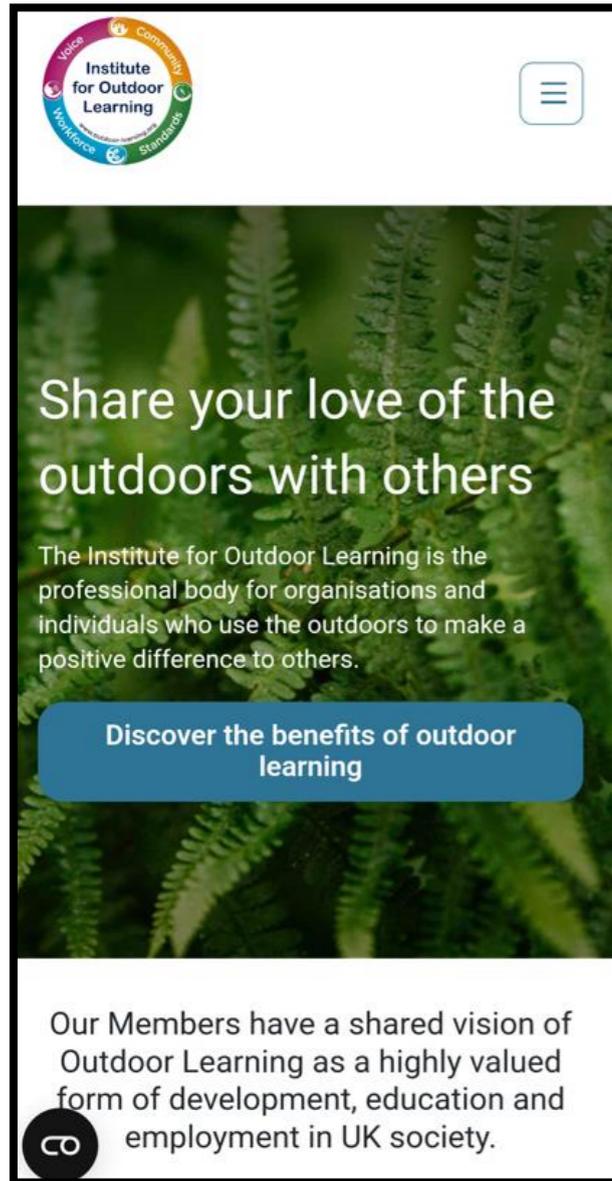
To sign up for the survey  
Scan the QR code to access the  
online [Consent Form](#).



**Institute for Outdoor Learning**

# Championing Outdoor Learning

# Contact Us

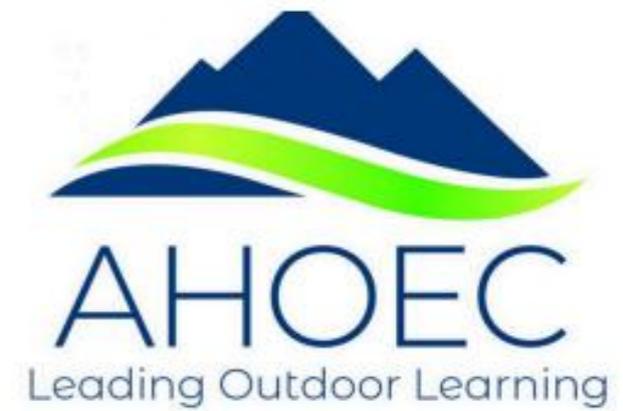


Our Members have a shared vision of Outdoor Learning as a highly valued form of development, education and employment in UK society.

Website: [Institute for Outdoor Learning - Home \(outdoor-learning.org\)](https://outdoor-learning.org)

Email: [institute@outdoor-learning.org](mailto:institute@outdoor-learning.org)

Institute for Outdoor Learning



# CPD Day for Outdoor Learning Professionals and Practitioners

‘Developing our Community of Outdoor Learning Practitioners’





*Have a*  
**GREAT DAY!**

# IOL AHOEC CPD Day for Outdoor Practitioners

