



Bruton, Somerset BA10 0BA 01749 812 307 www.millonthebrue.co.uk

Welcome to Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre

The outdoors is a great leveller and a fascinating tutor. Used imaginatively the experience can enable a far greater understanding of ourselves and others, and achieve lasting change which can be profound.

With a background in the outdoors, both personally and professionally, as well as training and counselling, we believe there is hidden potential in each person who visits; as a child or adult from whatever cultural background, they are challenged and encouraged with support, to achieve and develop.

Our single purpose is to provide you with the most rewarding outdoor experience you have ever had, in an exciting and enjoyable environment.

We offer

- Residential midweek and weekend courses for schools and groups
- Day or half-day courses for schools and groups
- Team building and integration for sixth forms and colleges
- Multi-activity residential summer holidays for unaccompanied children (8–15 years)
- Multi-activity summer holiday day camps for unaccompanied children (7–12 years)

Also

- Birthday parties all year
- Team building for companies and organisations
- Special needs courses
- Fun days for adults eg. hen parties etc.
- Specialist courses (first aid, canoeing, archery)
- Weddings in the stunning Longhouse with exclusive use of the whole centre.

More details, including downloadable application forms, are available on our website

millonthebrue.co.uk











Thank you for another wonderful week at your fantastic centre. Children and adults alike are buzzing with memories of exciting activities, personal challenges, fabulous food and an incredibly supportive team to help things along.









Mill on the Brue:

our award-winning outdoor activity centre, founded in 1982, is a family run, not-for-profit educational organisation. Situated in its own 25 acres of fields, woods and river valley, just outside the little town of Bruton, the centre comprises of a comfortable early Victorian farmhouse, with converted barns, an environmentally built dining room & kitchens, the Longhouse, the Garden Cabin and Longhouse extension. New for 2020 Rivermead – a separate building accommodating 34 students and 4 staff.

The centre, open all year, can accommodate 120 plus visiting staff for residential trips. Additionally from May until the end of September we have a fully equipped camp site for a further 50+ visitors. Day courses are also available all year round.

95% schools make return visits: some for over 20 years















School/Group Trips 2020 at Mill on the Brue Key points

- All Activities are at the Centre unless you particularly want to go offsite. (See sample programmes)
- Strong environmental emphasis a way of life for all who work at the Centre. Includes conservation, recycling & re-using, food waste management, environmental buildings, alternative energy, geothermal, solar and wind, organic horticulture, and raising awareness of nature and the seasons. Holder of the Green Tourism Business Scheme Gold Award.
- Well qualified and experienced staff we adhere to LA guidelines for school trips, both ratios and necessary qualifications. We are inspected and licensed by AALA for open canoeing, improvised rafting, rock climbing, abseiling, hill walking and mountaineering (summer conditions only) licence number L13646/R0301 until August 2021. Holders of the Learning Outside the Classroom and Adventure Mark Badges. We are also a founder member of the British Activity Providers Association and inspected by them.
- **Risk assessments** undertaken annually each January for all activities, buildings, fire, etc. which we can provide on request.
- Individually written programmes for each group these are written in consultation with your party leader with a clear aim for the visit, provided requirements reach us by the requested time. (See sample programmes)
- **Value for money** the price quoted is inclusive; there are no hidden or extra costs. We even have a stock of waterproof jackets and trousers which we can lend.

- Arrangements made easy we try to help the Party Leader as much as possible. There is a designated senior course leader who communicates with your group all week and a staff member on duty throughout the night. There is a qualified first aider on 24 hour call.
- Residential accommodation a maximum of 120 students and 14 visiting staff in four buildings. We allocate the accommodation. There is also a fully equipped campsite floored tents, camp beds, showers and lavatories, single tents for teachers, a separate barn for wet weather and camp fire, even a solar drying room, for up to 60 plus staff from the beginning of May until the end of September at a reduced rate.
- Meals are all home cooked and healthy. Great care is taken with the menus, the organic vegetables and some fruit comes from our own gardens, we source locally and special diets are always catered for.
- **Group Day Visits** available all year and can be booked from 1 hour to 5 hours. A minimum of 10 students. There is a special Day Visit Barn and adjacent lavatories and changing rooms for your
- **Presentation evenings** we have a DVD (2019) and are happy to send a representative from the Centre to answer any questions if you are holding a Parents' evening.
- Family-run Centre since 1982 to many of our customers this is a very important part of the special nature of Mill on the Brue.

Code of conduct for visiting groups

As a result of previous visits by some groups we have drawn up the following Code of Conduct with respect to property and others.

- If there is wilful damage the school or organisation will be invoiced immediately for the full cost of replacement or repair, to include reasonable labour costs.
- Mill on the Brue is a no smoking centre, but if it is necessary, there will be a designated area. There is no smoking allowed at all during the activity sessions.
- Mobile phones are not to be used on activity sessions.
- Drugs and Alcohol are not tolerated at the Centre.
- We do not accept the following behaviour; spitting, threatening, swearing or abusive language to peers or staff.
- If someone is considered by the Instructor to be misbehaving during a session, the Instructor may stop the activity if they think that to continue would be unsafe.
- The Management at Mill on the Brue reserves the right to ask persons to leave the property before completion of the programme if the group's behaviour is unacceptable, having discussed the matter with the party leader.

Residential stays

Mill on the Brue staff will instruct the activities and projects during the day from 9 am until 6.30 pm. They will also be responsible for your group on Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7.30 pm until the agreed cocoa time with a midweek party, and on a Saturday evening from 7.30 pm until the agreed cocoa time with a weekend group. There will be a designated senior staff member who will liaise with the Party Leader throughout your stay. You are responsible for the supervision of your group at non activity times, especially on the climbing frame, meal times, evenings, and from after cocoa onwards. It is expected that all residential visitors will respect the fixtures and furnishings within their accommodation. Offices, Mill on the Brue staff accommodation, kitchen and storage areas are out of bounds. Visiting school/group staff are only permitted in the common room areas NOT bedrooms.



Activities and outdoor pursuits 2020

Your programme can be as full and active as you wish or fewer activities and slower. The programme is written specifically for your group and depends very much on the age of the participants, their concentration levels, whether the party leader wants to go offsite or not and the amount of time you have booked at the Centre. The list is divided into various categories and you can choose a mix of, for example, teambuilding and multi activity or environmental and multi activity etc. The activities can each take from 30 minutes to two hours or three hours plus. You can also request a free period for some 'down time' if you wish. Please see the sample programmes enclosed which will give you some ideas. If you are here for a 4 night stay you should choose approximately 17 activities, a 2 night stay 9 activities.

TEAMBUILDING

Assault Course – Nets, balance beams, swinging bridges, obstacles to scale, etc.

Challenge Tracks – Short, fun, problem solving tasks designed to teambuild & improve communication. (KS 1–3)

Challenge Track 1: Toxic Waste, Crossing the swamp, Elephants feet etc. (KS 1 & 2).

Challenge Track 2: Bottomless Pit (KS3), the Gallows, Spiders Web & Trust V – (KS 1–3)

Challenge Track 3: Zap field, stepping stones, Matrix, Marble run. (KS 1–2)

Challenge Track 4: (Nuclear Challenge) Themed challenges inc: Eternal Triangle, Elephants feet, Stumps. (KS 1–3)

Colony Game – Tribes must barter with others for materials to construct shelters & light fires. They also need to compose a poem, song, or dance to trade water with the water native enabling them to make their hot chocolate on the fire.

Command Tasks – all based on problem solving & communication, working together to achieve.

- a) Save the River: getting barrels across the Brue; not easy when there are only A-Frames & ropes & nothing must get wet!
- *b) Great Wall*: get the group over a 2.5 metre wall; no ladders! (Higher for KS3)
- *c)* The Beast: often used indoors. A task which demands good communication.

- *d)* Crossing the River: similar to Save the River but involves swapping the whole team over the river on an improvised bridge or zip wire. (KS3)
- *e)* The Great Egg Race: build and fire a rocket over the river, transport an egg from bank to bank, build a fire and cook the egg.
- *f)* Blind Fury: an excellent communication indoor task.
- *g)* Rafting weather permitting, again as a group, build the raft with barrels, ropes & poles, & paddle it down the river. Usually there is a race!

Great Egg Drop – use unusual materials to construct a protective device & allow an egg to plummet without breaking.

Low Ropes – complete the circuit of elements, involving teamwork, communication & trust. Only 1 metre off the ground, tasks are incorporated into it & can be as easy or difficult depending on age & ability.

Night Line – a blindfold trail where the group needs to communicate & trust each other.

Search & Rescue – various tasks undertaken during day or night time around the Centre, again involving teamwork & communication.

Sheep & Shepherd – Forward planning, leadership, problem solving and communication are all needed in this simple but very effective task. (KS3)

Thirty Minute Initiative Tasks – Juggernaut, Toxic Waste, straw build etc. All stand alone tasks of 30 – 40 minutes.



Trebuchet – The group must follow a set of instructions to build a working 7ft trebuchet, co-operation, communication and logical thinking will be essential to complete this task. Once built they will fire the trebuchet at a set target!

'Trust Us' – using the assault course in an imaginative way to encourage communication, trust & support. (KS3)

Tunnelling – 100 metres of tunnels & chambers crawling through pipes in the pitch dark. A variety of tasks include mapping out the tunnels, saving a casualty or discussing what animals & minerals are found underground.

Reviewing – After many of these teambuilding activities there is an opportunity for the group to look at the way the task was undertaken & what lessons can be learned for subsequent activities. Reviewing is included as part of our Learning outside the Classroom Badge & we use different techniques to extract the learning.

NOLA – This is the National Outdoor Learning Award which is designated to promote and capture personal development (this is optional). Each student will receive their own award.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Air Rifle Shooting – 1.77cal air rifles in a short range enclosed shooting shed.

Archery – a short-range course, firing under cover & situated well away from other activities.

Axe Throwing – Originating in the Canadian wilderness, lumberjacks would compete by throwing their axes at soft wood targets.

Transferring this to Somerset it has become an unusual and addictive target sport.

Canoeing (open) – Introduction to paddling on our stretch of the River Brue. They learn to paddle, steer

& play some games. Canadian canoes accommodate two to three children.

Climbing Tower – 9 metres with a variety of routes plus a low traverse wall.

High Ropes – a 12 metre high ropes course consisting of 6 independent elements that are run as 'stand-alone' sessions.

Depending on how many elements are requested there could be 1–3 sessions. The elements are a mix of self development, personal challenge, trust & teamwork:

- *a) Crate Stack*: The whole group works together to get their team as high as possible on the crates without collapsing.
- b) The Burma Bridge: one person at a time walking along a thin wire suspended high above the ground.
- c) Inclined Logs: two suspended logs, one much higher than another that are traversed; again a personal challenge.
- *d)* Leap of Faith: climb an 8 metre pole & launch yourself into the air to punch a large ball.
- *e)* High All Aboard: this element needs the whole team to work together, as four people at a time climb to the top of a pole, belayed by their team members.

Orienteering – we have various courses around the Centre, used depending on the students age/experience. Everything between orientating the map to 6 figure grid references can be covered.

Sliding & Gliding – a Burma Bridge over the river. Then onto the Aerial Glide. (KS1 & 2 only)

Tower Jump – experience the feeling of jumping into mid-air while being lowered to the ground.

Tree Climbing – Climb the tree using holds and branches or try the rope ladder challenge.

ENVIRONMENTAL/EDUCATIONAL

Animal Feed – Pigs, chickens, sheep, a donkey & a miniature Shetland pony all need to be fed & watered. A great opportunity to see and learn about animals up close.

Apple Pressing – During the Autumn students can juice our own apples and hold a blindfold tasting comparing our juice with a supermarket brand.

Bushcraft – firelighting, spoon carving, campfire cooking.

Cooking in a pizza oven – buns, bread, pizzas – delicious!

Crafts – the Applestore which is our straw bale building, lit by wind power, contains many materials for crafts & a potters wheel.

Discovering Bruton – a town study to identify the numerous historic buildings & discover some fascinating facts about this ancient town. A visit to the Bruton Museum can also be arranged if enough notice is given.

Garden to Table – pick the organic vegetables & taste some of the different salads and herbs we grow. (In the autumn we use the juicer to press our own apples & then have a blindfold testing.) Learn about composting, food waste & our wormery.

Night Walk – following footpaths in the countryside, listening for badgers & other wildlife & seeing the stars. This is seasonal, depending on weather and time of year.

River Study – nets, trays and identification charts are used to identify wildlife in the River Brue.

Sustainability Tour – learn what sustainability really means and then be shown around the award winning Longhouse and other buildings before designing your own sustainable classroom.

SIMPLY FUN!

Assault Course Race – on the last afternoon, a bit of healthy competition between the groups! Groups must do assault course in the week before the race.

Crazy Olympics – as the title suggests as mad as can be!

Disco – last evening for the residential group.

Grass Toboggans – hurtle down the grass slope on a toboggan.

River Splosh – having fun in the River for KS 1–2. All that's needed are wellie boots!

Story Telling – In the yurt using objects they have collected along the way.

Water Slide – hot weather only, how far can you get?

Zuper Zip Wires – Due to demand we have added another Zip wire! The adrenaline runs fast and furious as you fly across the valley and over the river, covering the 240m in just 20 seconds!

Note: safe working load is 15.3 stone (100kg).

THE WEATHER!

If really continuous wet or bad weather there are activities and areas under cover: the Day Visit Barn which has skittles, chess, table tennis. the Wine Cellar, the Applestore, the Lambing Barn, the Yurt, the Undercroft & the Longhouse. Archery field, shooting and tunnelling are undercover so the activities can continue in bad weather.

Sample Residential Multi Activity Programme

Mon 11:00am	Arrive, unpack, briefi Fire Practice	ng. Tour of Mill on the I	Brue. Welcome in the I	onghouse
	Otters	Magpies	Squirrels	Foxes
12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30pm	Icebreakers	Icebreakers	Icebreakers	Icebreakers
2:00pm	Spiders Web	Storytelling	Low Ropes	Slide and Glide
3:00pm	Challenge Track 3	Water Slide	3:30pm Slacklining	3:30pm Spiders Web
4:30pm	Теа	Теа	Теа	Теа
5:00pm	Raft Building	Challenge Track 3	Slide and Glide	Water Slide
6:30pm	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper
7:30pm	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa
Tues 8:00 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00am	Low Ropes	Tunnelling	Challenge Track 3	Storytelling
10:30am	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00am	Slide and Glide	Archery	Tunnelling	Canoeing
12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30pm	Canoeing	Slide and Glide	Assault Course	Tree Climbing
3:00pm	3:30pm <i>Tea</i>	Tree Climbing	Archery	Challenge Track 3
4:30pm	4:00pm Storytelling	Теа	Теа	Теа
5:00pm	Tree Climbing	Low Ropes	Raft Building	Archery
6:30pm	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper
7:30pm	Activities with MoB	Activities with MoB	Activities with MoB	Activities with MoB
	Cocoa	Cocoa	Сосоа	Cocoa
Wed 8:am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00am	Water Slide	Canoeing	Leap of Faith	Tunnelling
10:30am	Break	11:00am Break	Break	Break
11:00am	Assault Course	11:30am Spiders Web	Water Slide	Raft Building
12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30pm	Archery	Assault Course	Tree Climbing	Leap of Faith
3:00pm	Zip Wire 2	High All Aboard	Spiders Web	Assault Course
4:30pm	Теа	Теа	4:00pm Tea	Теа



5:00pm	High All Aboard	Raft Building	4:30pm Canoeing	Zip Wire 2
6:30pm	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper
7:30pm	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa
Thurs 8:00am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00am	Assault Course Race	Assault Course Race	Assault Course Race	Assault Course Race
10:30am	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00am	Tunnelling	Leap of Faith	Zip Wire 2	High All Aboard
12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30pm	Leap of Faith	Zip Wire 2	High All Aboard	Low Ropes
3:00pm	Save the River	Save the River	Save the River	Save the River
4:00pm	Теа	Теа	Теа	Теа
4:30pm	Colony Game	Colony Game	Colony Game	Colony Game
6:30pm	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper
7:30pm	Disco	Disco	Disco	Disco
	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks	Drinks
Fri 8:00am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:30am	Farewells	Farewells	Farewells	Farewells
10:00am	Coach Departs	Coach Departs	Coach Departs	Coach Departs

Sample Multi Activity Day Visit Programme

9.15 am	Arrive and Welcon	Arrive and Welcome in the Day Visit Barn				
	Herons	Woodpeckers	Finches	Sparrows		
9:30am	Tree Climbing	Archery	Leap of Faith	Zip Wire		
11:00am	Archery	Leap of Faith	Zip Wire	Tree Climbing		
12:30pm	Lunch					
1:30pm	Leap of Faith	Zip Wire	Tree Climbing	Archery		
3:00pm	Zip Wire	Tree Climbing	Archery	Leap of Faith		
4:30pm	Depart					

School/Group Dates and Prices, January 2020

School/Group (under 18 years) prices for Residential Visits

Dates	Midweek	Weekend	
January – 28 February 2020	£274	£144	Special Offer:
1 March – 30 April 2020	£311	£165	If your group size is more
1 May – 30 September 2020	£387	£205	than 50 – three free student
Camping from beginning May	£316	£178	places.
1 October – 31 October 2020	£311	£165	
1 November – December 2020	£274	£144	

LENGTH OF VISITS AVAILABLE

Midweek

Monday 11am to Friday 10am (4 nights)

Short Midweek

11 am Monday – 11 am Wednesday 2 pm Wednesday – 2 pm Friday

Weekend

Friday 5pm to Sunday 5pm (2 nights)

Full week

Add Midweek price to Weekend price Monday 11am to Sunday 5pm (6 nights)

Other

Ask us to quote for any special date requirements – we try to be as flexible as possible.

However, if coming outside our standard times you may have to vacate your rooms early or be unable to get into your rooms straight away.

Free staff places

up to 12 students = 1 free staff place up to 24 students = 2 free staff places up to 36 students = 3 free staff places up to 90 students = 8 free staff places

Please note

Additional non-participating staff are charged for bed and board only – £35 per person per 24 hours.

Important

These prices apply to students of school age of up to 18 years. Adult groups, including adult special needs, prices available on request.

Group Insurance

In the event of cancellation of the group within three calendar months of the start of the visit, the cancellation charges below apply as a percentage of the total cost of the visit less the non-refundable deposit.

Less than . . .

3 calendar months before arrival – 40% 2 calendar months before arrival – 50% 1 calendar month before arrival – 75% 2 weeks before arrival – 100%

We recommend taking out student cancellation and curtailment insurance as we do not give refunds.

School/Group (under 18 years) prices for Day Visits – minimum of 10 participants.

£47 per person for 5 hours of activities	FREE student places for full day visit
£29 per person for 2.5 hours of activities	1 free place for 12 – 23 students
£12 per person per single hour	2 free places for 24 – 35 students
Special packages for birthday parties!	3 free places for 36 – 47 students, etc



Accommodation

4 Residential Buildings with total accommodation for 90 students + 11 visiting staff (maximum).

The Farm House 3 rooms sleeping 28 max

Showers and lavatories

Visiting staff flat with sitting room with TV, tea and coffee making facilities and separate bathroom

4 visiting staff bedrooms – one sleeping up to 2 people, the others one.

Large Common Room (the Wine Cellar)

Gas Central Heating throughout and solar heating for hot water

The Clubhouse 9 rooms sleeping 50 students (max)

Showers and lavatories (some rooms ensuite)

3 visiting staff rooms sleeping 5, (2 twin, 1 single), all ensuite. Staff sittingroom (The Snug) with TV, coffee and tea making facilities

Gas Central Heating throughout, solar heating for hot water and solar voltaic for electricity

The Garden Cabin 3 rooms, all ensuite, which take 4 per room

Visiting staff bedroom, sleeping 1 or 2, again ensuite with TV.

Total: 12 students plus 1 or 2 visiting staff.

Centrally heated.

Can be used as an overflow from the Clubhouse or Main House or on it's own for a small group.

Rivermead 6 rooms sleeping 34 max

(New for 2020) Showers and lavatories (all ensuite)

3 visiting staff bedrooms sleeping 4 (1 twin, 2 single) all ensuite

Sitting room, dining room, drying room, kitchen

Centrally heated

Campsite Self-contained for 60 + staff from beginning May until end September

(Sharing the campsite might happen if the group size is lower than 30 children)

Tents with flooring sleeping 5-6 per tent, camp beds, pillows, blankets Separate single tents for visiting staff with beds, pillows and duvets

Solar lighting

Campfire with wood supplied and seating

Barn with tables and chairs

Showers and lavatories – some solar, rainwater harvesting for lavatories

Solar drying room. Tea making facilities and fridge

The Longhouse Large dining room seating 120+

Meeting hall

Accessible lavatory; separate male and female lavatories (rainwater harvesting)

Geothermal heating and woodburner, also solar heating for hot water

Patio with canopy cover

Other Facilities Large drying room

The Apple Store – a straw bale building with wind turbine lighting used for activities and crafts

Drinking water fountains Clay oven for cooking outside

2 Barns for wet weather games and day visits Shop selling chocolate, sweets and souvenirs

Day Visits – meeting area, games, changing rooms, lavatories (rain water harvesting), wash-

rooms and showers

Yurt for story telling/quiet time

The above facilities allow a considerable amount of flexibility – depending on bookings and

numbers the whole Centre can be booked, just one building or the campsite.



Thank you for the delicious food. When I first tried the food, it felt like my stomach was in heaven.

Mary Elton Primary School

I would like to thank my Instructors for taking me on a wonderful adventure and showing me what the outdoors is really like.

St Louis School

I just wanted to send a quick message to say thank you. We, once again, had a wonderful time with you. Your staff are amazingly kind and generous and I feel totally privileged to be able to witness children overcome fears and step outside their comfort zones in such a short space of time.

This year we also brought a new member of staff and I really think he has gained so much from this experience - even though he won't admit it - I never thought I'd see him on a zip wire!

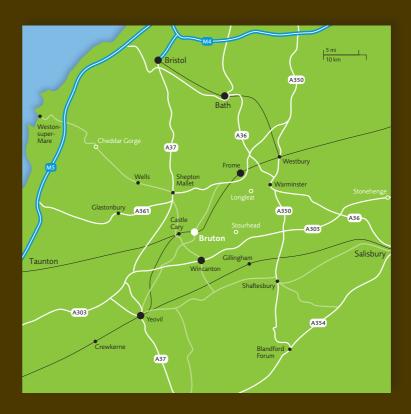
I strongly believe residential trips are so important to the health and well-being of both children and adults (even if the teachers are a little tired!)

Thank you so much for again making this a memorable experience.

Kate Davies
Deputy Head
Fox Hill Primary School



Bruton, Somerset BA10 0BA 01749 812 307 www.millonthebrue.co.uk



Mill on the Brue Ltd

Trendle Farm, Bruton
Somerset BA10 oBA
telephone +44 (0) 1749 812 307
fax +44 (0) 1749 812 706
email info@millonthebrue.co.uk

Where to find us

Mill on the Brue is in Bruton, Somerset. Only 2.5 hours from West London via M3 and A303; Bath and Bristol one hour. Main railway line: Castle Cary, 4 miles. Bruton station: Bristol to Weymouth line. Nearest airport: Bristol, 45 minutes away.











Mill on the Brue is a founder member of the British Activity Providers Association, and member of the Institute for Outdoor Learning, and Activities Industry Mutual. Licensed by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority for climbing, watersports, mountaineering, hill walking, L9643/R0301.

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