

Editorial

We started this year as we left it in 2015 – busy!!.

We are working with Belfast City Council in some of their Community Centres in South Belfast – Sandy Row, Markets and Donegal Pass. This was all possible with funding from the Challenge Fund.



Above: Working with after-schools club at the Markets Community Centre in Belfast



Above: Working with after-schools club at the Sandy Row Community Centre in Belfast



Above: Working with after-schools club at the Donegal Pass Community Centre in Belfast



NIFSA will be starting a Shared Education initiative involving St James Nursery School and Whitehouse Nursery School in Newtownabbey over the next 3 years.

To prepare for the Forest School sessions NIFSA built a Forest School site at Sta James Nursery School to support the work. Perfect for fire building, circle time and if it rains we can put up the tarpaulin.

Featured website this month –

Outdoor Woodland Learning – Scotland

<http://owlscotland.org/home/>



About Us



Learning outdoors together

Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland - increasing opportunities for learning outdoors

OWL Scotland is dedicated to increasing the use of Scotland's outdoor environments for learning.

Learning outdoors, be in in playgrounds, towns, cities, parks or our stunning natural environments, actively engages young people and connects their broader learning with the world around them.

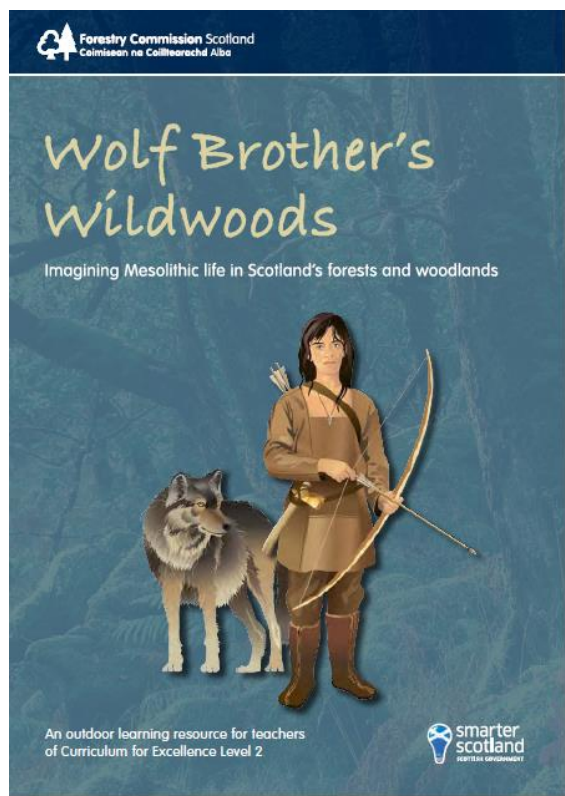
OWL Scotland is supported by Forestry Commission Scotland and evolved out of the Forest Education Initiative (FEI) which has run successfully for over 20 years.

Nationally OWL Scotland supports outdoor and woodland learning for local OWL groups through provision of :

- grants
- resources
- advice
- training
- networking opportunities

Examples of Resources

<http://owlscotland.org/resources/resource-library/?channel=resources&resourcecat=4&subject=17&keywords=>



1. Introduction to this resource

1.1 About this resource

This resource has been produced to support teachers who are reading the novel *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver with their classes. Set in Mesolithic times, the novel is not only an exciting read but also reveals much about the lives of hunter-gatherers who lived in Scotland 10,000 years ago.

Much of the action is set within the forests of an unspecified northern European country. The characters are utterly at home in this environment, and know how to make the most of the resources the forest can offer. Understanding the woodland is therefore the key to understanding Mesolithic life.

The activities are most suitable for pupils who are working at Curriculum for Excellence Level 2, but may be adapted for pupils older or younger. Activities are designed to be carried out by a non-specialist classroom teacher.

This resource aims to:

- Bring the Mesolithic period to life through a series of woodland and classroom learning activities
- Encourage pupils and teachers to enjoy spending time in their local woodland
- Support teachers in delivering Curriculum for Excellence outcomes through outdoor learning

The content and approach is in line with new initiatives for learning in Scotland, such as Outdoor Learning and Studying Scotland.

Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to Orion Books and especially to Michelle Paver!