



TANAGH

Outdoor Education & Training Centre

The Study of an Ecosystem



Woodland Ecology

*This course Investigates native woodland habitat and the transition to woodland grassland. The investigation of freshwater ecology can be included if requested. The day is fast moving and active. Investigating the amazing diversity of the woodland ecosystem will give even the most jaded young biologist a powerful outdoor learning experience. The following timetable represents a typical day but courses can be tailored to meet the specific needs of your group. Most of the day is spent outdoors so **dress warmly, bring hat, gloves, extra fleece, wellingtons and rain jacket.***

9.30am Arrival at Tanagh OETC Field Studies Classroom

- **Short Introduction to Ecosystem Ecology:** Divide into small teams, each team is given the necessary ecological survey equipment,
- **Survey Fauna:** Check for large mammal tracks and traces. Check moth trap. Sweep ground vegetation for bugs. Use beating tray to capture creatures from shrub layer. Check pitfall and cryptozoic traps. Take soil samples for testing. Check small mammal traps. The pond habitat is surveyed using pond nets. Identify species found using habitat specific keys.

12.40am Lunch

1.15pm Introduction to afternoon session in the classroom before leaving for ecosystem location.

- **Belt transect:** Abiotic and biotic factors are linked to percentage cover of flora in the transition zone between grassland and closed canopy woodland.
- **Percentage frequency and Percentage Cover:** The distribution of Flora species under the canopy and in the grassland area are investigated using open quadrats and grid quadrats.

2.45-3.15pm Return to Centre. Depart



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Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
an Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin
Cairn and Monaghan
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