



You may have heard of **The Footprint** – our new and beautiful eco-base, hidden in the woods at St Catherine's near Windermere. Lovingly built by like-minded individuals, it is now open for groups to use and enjoy.

We like to think our cross-curricular sessions get to the heart of sustainability and the environment like no other school programme can. Sessions are very much hands-on and inspire participants to a greener future, whilst having fun outdoors and in the Footprint itself.



THE FOOTPRINT PROJECT

A unique out-of-classroom experience!

Half or full day programmes, all year round:

Who lives in a Place like this? KS1/2 full day

Covers natural habitats, shelters, choices and basic needs in human and wildlife systems

Leaving a Footprint KS1/2 half/ full day

Considers sustainable building materials and their properties, design, choices and decision-making using our new and inspiring eco-classroom as a stimulus for learning

Countryside Detectives KS2 half/full day

Using historical evidence and present day clues to interpret the past values that shaped the landscape and identify the values today that will shape it in the future

Full Circle KS2 full day

Comparing natural and human cycles, energy and water flow, use and waste

All our programmes are fully risk assessed and led by experienced staff.

St Catherine's is easily accessible by train and on foot (20 minutes walk) from Windermere station.

There is minibus parking on site and coach drop off nearby.

Contact us: **015394 88409** or email: **footprint@nationaltrust.org.uk**

Checkout **www.strawfootprint.org** for more information and photos about this fascinating project and its construction, or visit **www.nationaltrust.org.uk** and search 'footprint' for background information.

We look forward to welcoming your group to St Catherine's.
Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.



Welcome to the Footprint

This beautiful straw bale building was constructed in 2006 and now provides an inspirational base for education and other groups visiting St Catherine's. It is the first straw bale building in the Lake District and it is the first one built or owned by the National Trust. It is innovative in other ways too; particularly through its design, its materials and the approach taken to getting it built.



The design is such that the energy needs of the building are low and many materials used for construction are sustainable, renewable resources, or are recycled. To cut down on transport these were as locally sourced as possible. At the end of the building's life many of them will naturally biodegrade or can be recycled, meaning our Footprint will leave a very small ecological footprint.

During construction, opportunities were taken to include people in the process and engage them with progress. Some of the building work was undertaken by volunteers either on courses learning new skills or on work parties. Alongside, site visits, open events and talks were arranged for visitors and community groups and a local school's project began.

The Design

The Footprint consists of a single open room of about 105m² with a small store and tea making area at the back. Outside there is a covered activity area and a timber walkway around the building. It is a simple but unusual shape, almost elliptical at one end with gently curved walls. There is quite a large roof overhang that curves around the building on all sides both for protection from rain and also to screen direct sunlight in the summer. The total size of the building is around 220m².



The south facing side is glazed panes and windows, allowing the use of natural light in the inside, maximising solar gain and ventilation. This also gives the feeling of the building being part of the outdoors and not shut off from it. There is one door and the sense of being part of the site is further enhanced with steps to the meadow.

The northern side is one long wall with a single window, which extends to provide a sheltered wall to the covered activity area. On the eastern end there is a straight glazed wall with another door leading out to the covered area. The western end is beautifully curved, with four small windows.