

Adventure Development Youth

The vision for
Lower Grange Farm



KENT
SCOUTS

Lower Grange Farm aspires to be a **fully accessible and inclusive centre of excellence for activities, outdoor adventures and training** for all ages.

We continuously look for ways to improve and extend our delivery of **adventurous activities, outdoor learning and environmentally led projects** to the local community, schools, youth groups and our members.

We work collaboratively with young people, volunteers, parents, the wider public and staff to ensure all voices are considered and valued.



Beaver Scouts take to the sky and explore science with water rockets





Let us take the adventure

Young people can find it difficult to access the outdoors and try new things.

Our ethos is learning by doing. We know that young people who participate in group activities at all levels grow in confidence and build their self-esteem.

To enable more young people to gain skills for life, we deliver an alternative curriculum for learning and pursuits.

We offer vocational training schemes for young people, volunteers and those seeking to lead or assist with outdoor activities.

I really enjoyed having a go at climbing and abseiling at Lower Grange Farm. The climbing barn is fantastic and the instructors were very friendly and motivating.

A unique setting

Lower Grange Farm Activity Centre provides fun and adventure for young people and adults alike. They discover interests and talents that can benefit themselves and their communities.

We offer residential experiences, conferences, special occasions, outdoor learning and training for all ages. Individuals have fun, learn new skills and enjoy being part of the natural environment.

Our location is rural, but centrally located in Kent with good motorway and rail networks, providing easy access from London and Europe.


It is well placed on the edge of Kent's County town of Maidstone and the Medway Towns, close to the main M2/M20 corridor, and a few strides from the North Downs countryside and the River Medway.



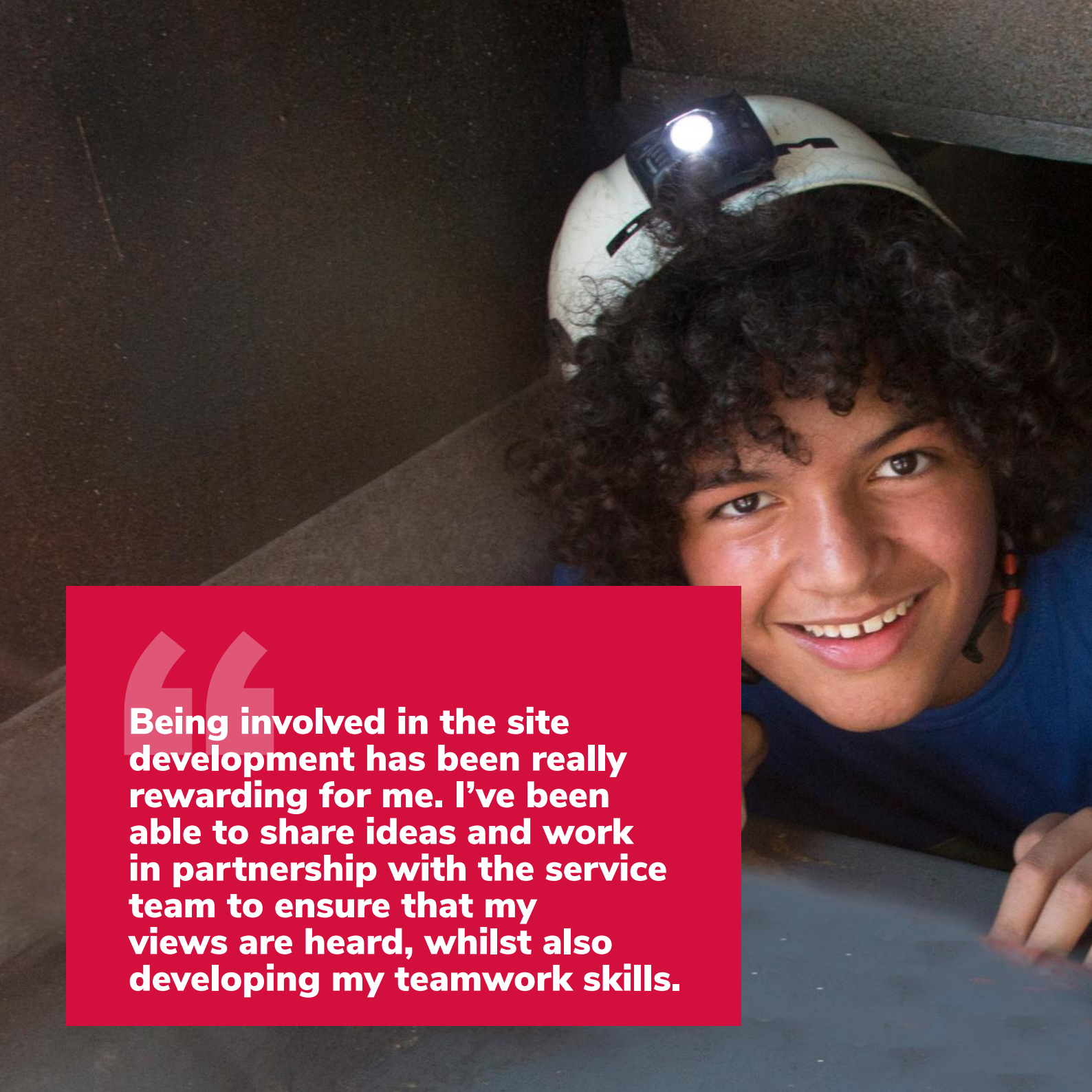


Canterbury

Dover



Tented village for residential stays



“Being involved in the site development has been really rewarding for me. I’ve been able to share ideas and work in partnership with the service team to ensure that my views are heard, whilst also developing my teamwork skills.”



Strategy

We empower young people by giving them the responsibility to make decisions and provide the resources for delivering their aspirations.







Mental health and wellness of young people

We deliver our vision through inspiring young people, motivating, encouraging and building their resilience to help them through the stresses of life. They learn to ask the big questions, play their part and think for themselves. It can help them build confidence in themselves and stand up for what they believe in.

Being outdoors and active can improve our mental health and wellbeing. Being active helps young people cope with their moods and increases their energy levels, as well as enabling them to cope with stress and anxiety. Whilst regular physical activity and spending time outdoors are not the panacea for a stress free life, studies have shown that they can reduce the likelihood of young people suffering from depression.

Being at Lower Grange Farm helps young people feel connected as they take part in activities with others as well as making and sustaining friendships.

Empowering youth

Our Youth Projects Team has shaped the way that Lower Grange Farm has developed since Kent Scouts' purchased the site in 2009.

Young people were pivotal in the building of the climbing centre and their vision now enables thousands of young people and adults to enjoy the sport of climbing.

We further encourage and mentor our young members (age 14 – 25) in a range of delivery and management roles, sharing knowledge and skills as part of their continual personal development. Our constitution ensures that 18–25 year olds are represented on the management teams for Kent Scouts and Lower Grange Farm.

Young people are involved at all levels whereby their ideas, knowledge and skills help to ensure that Lower Grange Farm is able to offer fun, challenge and adventure that meets the needs and interests of our members and the wider community.





Young people taking part in a work party weekend



Some of the 40 acres now owned by Kent Scouts





Experience the centre

Lower Grange Farm is a 40-acre site. Our indoor spaces include a large Kentish Barn, climbing centre, conference room, residential accommodation and smaller training rooms. In addition we have an on-site warden and office facilities that support Scouting across the county.

We have a comprehensive portfolio of active pursuits for individuals

and groups of all ages including archery, climbing, tomahawk throwing, guiding hikes over the North Downs, geocaching, weather tracking, camping, zorbing and more! Each outdoor activity is led by our experienced team.

We have a fully inclusive access policy, enabling all to get maximum benefit from their adventures.

Eco education for young people

Our Vision embraces the natural habitat that is Lower Grange Farm and its surrounding area.

Lower Grange Farm is accredited by the Council for “Learning Outside the Classroom” and registered with Kent County Council’s “EVOLVE” project for educational visits. Sharing our outdoor space and providing forest school style experiences, encourages young people to explore the natural habitat whether things are small, creepy and crawly or engage in discussions about our changing world.

We deliver field trips that bring adults and young people closer to their surroundings and encourage them to learn about plants, woodland management and the animals that form the eco structure across the sweeping Kentish chalk Downs.



Preschool children enjoying a ‘Family Forest Fun’ session







Environmental impact

At Lower Grange Farm we are fully committed to improving the environment we live in.

The environment is key to our vision and we help young people understand how important it is to protect and enhance their local area, to promote biodiversity and ensure our actions have a positive impact on the future.

We are committed to planting 5000 trees and hedgerow plants by the end of 2025. We are also reinstating an ancient pond which will further enhance the wetland habitats and enable our visitors to get closer to nature with new activities on the water.

Planning is underway for our sensory garden and wild meadow area to offer more tranquil learning spaces.



We're on a journey

Lower Grange Farm continues to develop and evolve through the support and input of our members, volunteers and partner organisations.

We have exciting plans for the future, developing the site's 40 acres and improving our facilities.

If you would like to join us on this journey, we would love to hear from you.

Get in touch

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