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| “I had the best time! Normally in the winter months, I tend to go outside a lot less than usual, snuggle up warm in cosy with a cup of tea and a book. But the project motivated me to go out at least once a day. I loved seeing all the photos of other explorers, aren't we blessed in Scotland? The project also motivated me to do a proper wildlife photography class to improve my skills, so thank you for everything.” "Keep promoting this type of event to get more people involved and exploring the great outdoors and what a difference it can make tophysical and mentalhealth. Well done “100 explorer packs distributed | Creation of an online discussion group, which has continued | Future green-based initiatives planned as a result of the project | Useful contact with student body for future engagement | Increase in outdoor activity and connection with nature for those who participatedHISA Nature Explorers ProjectHISAW | **Goal:** Encourage students to explore the Scottish wilderness and improve mental health during the pandemic.**Submitted by:** Emma Robson **Project:** To circulate a number of free explorer packs to students, as an incentive for students to get outdoors. Run in conjunction with online competitions with various prizes.**Benefit to:** All students

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| ****Key message: Encourage outdoor exploration to improve mental health****  |
| Provision of 100 free explorer packs consisting of useful accessories such as a pedometer, poncho, and magnifying glass  |
| Online competitions, with prizes, with categories such as Best Wildlife Photo and Best Green Selfie  |
| Collaboration with existing societies, the Shetland Green Team and the Sustainable Development Society, during planning process  |
| Online interaction via social media  |
| **Project delivery**  |  |
| The explorer packs were sent out to all those who applied, with the target met |
| 50 participants joined a Facebook discussion group, which remains active to date |
| Participation in the online competitions was also high, with significant engagement on social media  |
| Students reported an increase in confidence in exploring the outdoors, and local lockdown guidance was adhered to  |
| The project is springboard for more green-based initiatives in the future, with a student-led and professionally supported conference planned for World Earth Day on 22nd April 2021 |

**Impact:**  Students reported feeling motivated to go outside and connect with nature in their local green areas. It also improved student’s confidence in exploring, and increased engagement with the student’s immediate surroundings.  |