



Warwickshire

Wildlife Trust



Primary
Education Pack
2012



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Brandon Marsh



- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- One of the most important wetland nature reserves in the Midlands
- Pools, marsh, reedbed, grassland and woodland habitats
- Nature trails, bird hides and visitor centre
- Education centre
- Interactive displays
- Sensory garden
- Tea room with external dining area
- Gift shop

Brandon Marsh is the ideal place for your school visit due to its excellent opportunities for learning about nature, wildlife and the environment. We have ponds, bird hides, meadows and woodlands all set within our 200 acre nature reserve. The Education Team can provide your school with a tailor made package for your day where you can cover up to four topics. We have excellent facilities for children of all ages as well as those with special educational needs.

There is a designated area for children to eat their lunch as well as a tea room if the teachers need a well earned cup of tea! The children will have an allocated time to visit the gift shop so they can purchase their souvenirs from their exciting day on the reserve.

Your pupils will get to experience a day out in the wild and get to see wildlife and plants that they may not have seen before. There may even be something the teachers have not seen before!



Parkridge Centre



- Interactive displays
- Tea room
- Education centre
- Wildlife gift shop
- Five acre nature park
- Woodlands

Parkridge Centre is in a great location in the heart of Brueton Park, Solihull. It is an ideal location for children to explore their local area and experience the nature and wildlife that our area has to offer. We have a five acre nature park, where we hold our sessions which is separate from Brueton Park. However, we would recommend visiting the main park as part of your day.

There is a classroom and courtyard for the children as well as a well marked path throughout the park. The nature park has a lake which attracts many birds and other wildlife, an arboretum which is ideal for minibeast hunting, woodland and a play area if the children have been good!

Once again we can tailor sessions to suit your pupil's needs and we will allow time to visit the gift shop during the day.

We can offer all sessions here and it is ideal for children from Foundation Stage upwards.

Parkridge Centre is a great place for introducing children to nature and the wildlife they can find on their own doorstep and the activities we offer can really engage them with their environment.

Location and Contact Details

Brandon Marsh Nature Centre Brandon Lane, Coventry CV3 3GW



Parkridge Centre Brueton Park Warwick Road, Solihull B91 3HW



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Education Sessions and Activities

All our topics have great curriculum links and provide a great accompaniment to theory covered at school. With fully engaging practical activities your pupils will gain a real understanding of their topic and enjoy a great opportunity to be in the great outdoors.

A half day trip will comprise of two 45 minute activities with a full day being four activities. There are some longer topics available if you wanted a more in-depth study. We can also come out to your school and run sessions for you in your school grounds.

Example Timetable

10.00-10.15 **Arrival and introduction**

10.15-11.00 **Minibeast Safari**



11.00-11.45 **Pond Dip**



11.45-12.45 **Lunch**



12.45-1.30 **Wild about Rabbits**



1.30-2.15 **Outdoor Art**



2.15-2.30 **Sum up and departure**

Primary Programme

Topic	Availability	Key stage	Duration	Suitable for Outreach
Sensory Explorer	All year	1	45 minutes	
Teddy Bears' Picnic	All year	1	45 minutes	
Animal Antics	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Minibeast Safari	March to October	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Beautiful Birds	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Tree Watch	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Wild about Rabbits	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Pond Dipping	February to November	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Nature's Canvas	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Recycling	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Plants	April to October	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Weather	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Hedgehogs and Hibernation	September to November	1	45 minutes	
Den building	All year	1 and 2	45 minutes	
Celts	All year round	2	1 ½ hours	
Rocks	All year round	2	45 minutes	
Nocturnal animals	All year round	1 and 2	45 minutes	

Sensory Experience

Experience the five senses: smell, touch, hearing, sight and taste. To investigate their smell sense children collect different plants and flowers in the garden to make their own smelly cocktail. Using texture cards, children try and match up things they find in nature with the different texture on the cards to understand their touch sense. The sounds of nature are hopefully picked up by even the noisiest children! Finally use an 'eye in the sky' for a unique view at what is above our heads.

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Each child (& adult) brings their own teddy bear! The children undertake a sensory walk and play a series of games to understand the needs of living things. The children create a shelter containing all the things that teddies need to survive.

Animal Antics

The class will learn how animals make their homes and have a go at making their very own animal home in groups. Key Stage 1 children will enjoy making a home for a cuddly mouse, gathering materials to keep it warm. After visiting the meadow to view the rabbit burrows, the children will pretend to be mice within Brandon's willow mouse maze! Key Stage 2 children can take the activity further, by using thermometers to see which group has made the best nest.

Minibeast Safari

Children explore the meadow and woodland see where different minibeasts live. Using I.D charts and keys, the children identify the creatures that they have found using bug pots, pooters, nets and beating trays. Children will learn how minibeasts have adapted to live in their environment. This session can be extended where children learn about classifying minibeasts and a more detailed look at adaptations and survival.

Beautiful Birds

Children visit one of our bird hides on the reserve. Using binoculars and I.D charts, the children try to identify the birds they can see. They will consider how a particular bird is suited to its habitat by observing its adaptations.

Tree Watch

Go down to the woodland to use your senses to explore the trees in a new way. Firstly, for 'eye in the sky', the children observe the tree canopy to look at the leaf and branch patterns and colours, keeping watch for animals and their homes. Children get friendly with nature by hugging a tree and exploring its texture whilst blindfolded!

Wild about Rabbits

The children discover how a rabbit has adapted to its habitat, as one child gets the chance to dress up in the rabbit costume! Then see if the 'rabbit' can guess who the 'fox' is, by playing the silent predator game. Go outside onto the meadow for the chance to catch a glimpse of a real rabbit, then play rabbit tag to see how many rabbits can get all their needs of life and make it back safely to the warren before the foxes gobble them up!

Pond Dipping

Armed with a pond net, the children sample the animal life in the pond and discover what lurks in the water. They identify the animals that they find using I.D charts and keys and discuss some of the ways in which they are suited to their environment.

Nature's Canvas

Create giant works of art in our outdoor art gallery using only natural materials. Then the children will create a smaller work of art to take home as a reminder of their day.

Recycling

Half of this session takes place indoors and is centred on a discussion about where our rubbish come from and where it goes. Recycling games will help to reinforce the message. Children are encouraged to recycle materials from their packed lunches.

Ponds Alive

This is a half day session looking at the fauna found in a pond habitat. The session starts with 'Who am I?' a simple game that will introduce the children to identification and classification. The children will then dip in the pond and study the creatures found. The morning will finish with the children inventing and making a pond creature model which they use to tell the whole class about its special characteristics that enables it to survive in the pond.

Glorious plants

Half a day learning about the different parts of a plant and flower and discover how seeds are formed. Look at the different physical features of land and aquatic plants and discover how important plants are in the food chain.

Some link activities vary with season:

- Flower structure, dissect a bud (Spring only)
- Examining seeds and seed dispersal (Autumn only)
- Looking at the variety of flowers (Late Spring and Summer only)

Food Chains

This activity will concentrate on energy flow and food chains. Children will construct their own food chains and learn about herbivores, omnivores and predators. The children will discover where energy comes from and how the plants and animals use this energy and pass it on to the next link in the chain.

Weather

Children will look see how nature can give clues about what the weather will be like today and tomorrow. They will measure the weather using manual recording instruments .

Tree Teasers

Which is the oldest tree in the wood? Which is the tallest tree? Using simple mathematics, your pupils will work out the answers to these questions and more. Work out the canopy and leaf area of their chosen tree and using keys and charts, the children will learn to improve their tree identification skills. Using bug pots, the children will explore how many invertebrates their tree supports.

Hedgehogs and Hibernation

Your pupils will find out about hedgehogs and hibernation. Make hedgehog hibernacula and find out lots of interesting facts about hedgehogs.

Team Building

This is a fantastic new range of sessions which can be delivered at a range of levels. We can provide your pupils with a whole day of outdoor team building activities which will engage them with their peers and provide a great talking point when back in the classroom. Alternatively this can be an excellent complement to our more traditional topics as listed above. Activities in this range of sessions can include den building, survival skills and team games.

Celts

Spend a morning with your group learning about how the Celts lived. Your pupils will get a chance to try drop spinning and dress up in traditional clothing and visit our roundhouse ruin. A great practical experience.

Rocks

This is a brand new sessions which allows pupils to handle rocks and perform simple tests to explore their properties

Nocturnal animals

A great chance to learn about nocturnal animals, such as bats, foxes and hedgehogs. The pupils will follow a trail and play a game about echolocation.

Please Note...

All topics have great curriculum links <http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk>.

What to Wear

The majority of your day will be spent outside so please ensure that all pupils are suitably dressed.



Summer

- Long sleeves and long trousers as the children could be in long vegetation
- Sun hat
- Sun cream
- Waterproofs
- Sturdy shoes or wellies



Winter

- Warm clothing
- Hat, scarf and gloves
- Waterproofs
- Sturdy shoes or wellies

Education Session & Activity Charges

In-house

£3.50 per child (half a day) Min £70 +VAT (20)
£6 per child (full day) Min £110 +VAT (20)

Outreach

N.B. Prices include WWT staff travel costs and prep time etc

After School Club	£700+VAT for 10 week programme, 1 hour per week
Outreach session	£70+VAT per class per topic
School Assemblies	£70+VAT for one hour
Informal talks (outreach)	£40+VAT for 30 minutes

Ready to book with us or want further information?

Simply contact the Education Team who will be happy to assist with your booking or any queries you may have.

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We look forward to welcoming you to our centre.