

# Warwickshire

## *Wildlife Trust*



Secondary  
Education Pack  
2012



# Contents

Page 3	Introduction to Brandon Marsh
Page 4	Introduction to The Parkridge Centre
Page 5	Location and contact details
Page 6	Education programme at Brandon Marsh
Page 7	Table of topics offered
Page 8	Topic contents
Page 10	What to wear
Page 11	Prices



# 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 a number of topics or simply focus on one. We have excellent facilities for secondary age children 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! Your pupils will have ample time during lunch to visit the gift shop and explore the reserve.

Your pupils will get to experience a full day of field studies which will enhance their learning and encourage them to work as a team whilst gaining data which will be vital to coursework or projects.



# 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 your pupils 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 lake.

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

We can offer all sessions here however it is more suited to younger age groups.

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



Senior Education Ranger  
Vicky Worthington  
024 7630 8977  
[victoria.worthington@wkw.org.uk](mailto:victoria.worthington@wkw.org.uk)

Education Ranger  
Amy Dowling  
024 7630 2912  
[amy.dowling@wkw.org.uk](mailto:amy.dowling@wkw.org.uk)

# 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 and collect data that they will find invaluable to their coursework.

A full day trip will usually comprise of two 1 hour and 45 minute activities. However, if you would like us to design a day around your coursework requirements please note the day will commence at 10am and finish at 2.30pm. We can also come out to your school and run sessions for you in your school grounds.

## Example Timetable

<b>10.00-10.15</b>	<b>Arrival and introduction</b>
<b>10.15-11.45</b>	<b>Invertebrate Sampling (Land)</b>
<b>11.45-12.45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12.45-14.15</b>	<b>Mammal Study</b>
<b>14.15-14.30</b>	<b>Sum up and departure</b>

# Secondary Programme

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Key stage</b>	<b>Duration (this is flexible)</b>
<b>Vegetation Sampling</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Belt Transect</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Invertebrate Sampling (Land)</b>	<b>March to November</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Abiotic Study (Land)</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Comparison Study (Land)</b>	<b>March to November</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Mammal Study</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Invertebrate Sampling (Water)</b>	<b>March to October</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Abiotic Study (Water)</b>	<b>February to November</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Water Quality Assessment</b>	<b>March to October</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Pond Profiling</b>	<b>March to October</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Bird Study</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Succession</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins</b>
<b>Nature Study/Walk</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>1 hour 45 mins (or less if required, this can also be self-led)</b>
<b>Team Building</b>	<b>All year</b>	<b>3 and 4+</b>	<b>45 minutes/1 ½ hours or a full day (3 hours)</b>

# Aims of Sessions

## Woodland & Grassland Ecology

### Vegetation Sampling

To identify common species found in certain habitats and recognise patterns in abundance and distribution.

### Belt Transect

To evaluate changes in vegetation and associated change in abiotic factors from an area of open grassland to woodland.

### Invertebrate Sampling

To identify common invertebrate species and be aware of the techniques used to sample them.

### Abiotic Study

To help explain the patterns/changes in plant distribution in a given area.

### Comparison Study

To compare the variety and types of animal and plant life in a woodland and meadow.

### Mammal Trapping

To study mice and voles, considering their adaptations to their environment and the variety of organisms that make up their ecosystem.

## Aquatic Ecology

### Invertebrate Sampling

To identify common invertebrate species found in a pond and the different areas in which they live.

### Abiotic Study

To establish the abiotic factors that influence pond life.

### Water Quality Assessment

To use indicator species to assess the water quality of a given pond.

### Pond Profile

To produce an accurate profile of a pond using the relevant techniques.

## **Other**

### **Bird Study**

To identify a variety of birds and discover their adaptations to their habitat and method of feeding

### **Succession**

To evaluate and measure the stages in ecological succession and to identify areas where succession is occurring.

### **Nature Walk**

To understand the management of the reserve and the conflicts involved.

### **Team Building**

To take part in a range of activities which encourages bonding within a group and encourages team development and personal confidence. This can be an excellent session to complement other more academic sessions.

**Please note that we are not limited to these sessions and we can tailor fieldwork around your requirements. Please contact us if you would like to discuss your fieldwork options and what we can provide for your school.**

All topics have great curriculum links <http://curriculum.gcda.gov.uk>. For any more information regarding these links please do not hesitate to contact the education team.

# 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 pupils 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

£4 per child (half a day) Min £80 +VAT (20)

£7 per child (full day) Min £140 +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 – please contact us for details on available topics
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.**

Senior Education Ranger  
Vicky Worthington  
024 7630 8977  
[victoria.worthington@wkw.org.uk](mailto:victoria.worthington@wkw.org.uk)

Education Ranger  
Amy Dowling  
024 7630 2912  
[amy.dowling@wkw.org.uk](mailto:amy.dowling@wkw.org.uk)

**We look forward to welcoming you to our centre.**