

# Activities for Schools & Groups



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**Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Ltd**

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Charity No. 266202

[www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)



# Welcome to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's learning brochure for your school and community group

“ The Wildlife Trust is a local charity with a vision to help create a sustainable future for wildlife and people and a mission to connect people with nature. We know from experience that engaging with nature helps people connect to each other and improves wellbeing. This may involve one of our nature reserves or it could take place in your school grounds or local park.

We offer a wide range of opportunities for your class or community group to learn about wildlife and the environment through workshops, events and staff training. All our activities are delivered by experienced and knowledgeable staff who firmly believe in learning through fun and hands on experience. Have a look and see what would work for you.

If you don't find anything suitable, give us a call and we can tailor a session to meet your needs. ”



**Dr Gary Mantle**  
Chief Executive



## What we can do for your primary pupils

### Forest School

Forest School aims to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. It provides an opportunity for children and young people to experience nature in a safe, secure and hands-on way. We aim to develop young people's ability to build self-esteem and encourage a greater appreciation of the natural world.

Forest School can benefit all pupils and our experience has shown us that it often has a lasting positive impact on children who struggle in a formal learning environment and we regularly work with children who have a variety of complex needs.

*'We have had letters from parents stating that the self-esteem of children who have taken part in Forest School has risen dramatically. In school we have some children with quite extreme behaviour difficulties and these children have thrived under the projects they have taken part in with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.'*

**Westbury Junior School**



We can provide Forest School sessions in your school ground, on a local nature reserve or green space.

Forest School groups ideally consist of 4 -12 young people with a volunteer or staff member from the school to support the Forest School leader. All our Forest School leaders are Level 3 qualified, hold enhanced DBS clearance and have extensive experience in a wide range of settings.



Forest School sessions can be booked as half days or full days, and more than one group might come out during the day. To maximise the benefits of Forest School we recommend booking at least a six week block of sessions with the same group.

We can offer taster days for single classes or the whole school. Instead of taking your pupils on an end of year trip, why not run a Forest School extravaganza or a 'Wild Week'?

*"The children who took part in Forest School have grown in confidence, Boxall profile assessments have demonstrated long term increases in engagement, self-esteem and relationships with peers."*

**Holbrook Primary School**



## What we can do for your primary pupils

### Creative indoor and outdoor learning opportunities

Enrich your curriculum learning experiences by using your school grounds to deliver hands-on activities. Our wildlife workshops can take place just a few steps from your classroom and we will provide all the necessary resources to make your classroom topics come alive!

This is a selection of some of our most popular workshops but we have over 40 workshops to choose from, so if you don't see what you need here, just contact us. Some workshops can be delivered in one hour, others are more suited to a whole morning or afternoon - please call us to discuss.

#### Key

**All** – Any setting you wish

**Classroom** – Mainly classroom based but may include some outside content

**SG** – School grounds

**LMF** – Lower Moor Farm Reserve and education centre

**LL** – Langford Lakes Reserve and education centre



#### Amazing Animals

**KS1, KS2**

All

What makes something an animal? As your class answers this they will take a closer look at food webs, the classification system and the things all animals need to survive.

#### Animal Masks

**EFYS, KS1**

Classroom

Learning about the importance of reusing and recycling, pupils make animal masks using waste materials and/or natural materials collected in the grounds. They then join in with the delightful tale of Fox and his messy problem.

#### Brilliant Birds

**KS1, KS2**

All

Can you identify a bird from its call? We demonstrate ways to identify the birds living in your school grounds and explore the potential dangers of migration. There is also the option of making bird boxes and feeders (an additional charge for materials will be required).



**Build a Tip-Tap** ↗  
Upper KS2  
All

A hands-on workshop exploring why water is so precious, where students work in teams to build a simple African hand-washing device using a handful of materials. This is a great team-building challenge and works well out on the school playing field!

**Ecoteering**  
KS1, KS2  
LMF, LL

How do you read a map or use a compass? Our fun and informative course helps pupils to explore the local environment using maps and keys, and take part in our wildlife challenges.

**Endangered Species**  
Upper KS1, KS2  
All

What does it mean for an animal to be endangered and why does this happen? Which native species are under threat and what can we do about it? We look at eco-systems, find out why habitats are so important and discover what action we can take to make a difference locally.

**Ethical Food**  
Upper KS2  
Classroom and SG

In small groups, pupils discover the issues around food such as food miles, fair trade and organic production and the impact this is having on our climate, before planting their own seasonal produce.

**Evolution**  
KS2  
All

What is evolution and how does adaptation work in the natural world? Using games, activities and hands on learning pupils will look at the process of evolution, the fossil record and how adaptation is seen today in the world around us.

**Forest School Taster**  
EYFS, KS1, KS2  
SG, LMF, LL

Try your hand at a range of survival skills including fire-lighting, campfire cooking, shelter-building or tool use. Play active games or create some natural artworks. Sessions include a range of activities and are suitable for all ages and abilities.

**Hibernating Hedgehogs**  
EYFS, KS1  
SG, LMF, LL

Using their senses, children will explore the world of a hedgehog. Children search for its favourite food, build nests for them to hibernate in and discover how we can help this iconic but threatened species.



**Naturally Nocturnal**  
EYFS, KS1  
SG, LMF, LL

Experience life in the dark with blindfold trails and games, discuss why some animals are nocturnal and how they are adapted for a 'sensational' nightlife.

**Perfect Plants**  
KS1, KS2  
SG, LMF, LL

Explore the world of plants. Make a 'human tree', explore the colours of the season, the uses of plants (germination, pollination, seed dispersal), how they disperse their seeds, who lives in them and even estimate the height of trees.

**Recycled Paper**  
KS2  
Classroom

Learn about the paper recycling process and then get messy as pupils make their own piece of recycled paper and practise the ancient art of origami.



### Marvellous Minibeasts

EYFS, KS1, KS2  
SG, LMF, LL

Discover and compare minibeasts from different habitats. Pupils enjoy pond dipping and exploring before classifying their "beasts" and learning how they are adapted to their environment.

### Renewable Energy

KS2  
Classroom

Using mini wind turbines, fans and voltmeters, teams of pupils carry out a scientific investigation to decide which shape and size of blade is most effective at generating electricity. They may also experiment with mini solar panels.

### A Rivers Tale

Years 5 and 6  
Langford Lakes

Explore the geography and ecosystem of the River Wylde, its landforms, wildlife and habitats. Walk this local chalk river mapping key features like riffles and tributaries. This outstanding workshop includes kick sampling, fauna ID and observations of river temperature, speed and flow.

### The Seasons

KS1, KS2  
SG, LMF, LL

Why do we have seasons and what causes them? We will look at the differences between the seasons, observe the changes and find out why these occur. Activities will vary with the season, but may include pond dipping, make bird feeders and wild art. This can be an individual workshop or a series of four throughout the year. Book all four sessions and receive a discount!

### Soil, Rocks & Fossils

KS2  
All

What is soil and why is it important? How are fossils formed and can you make new rocks? Explore different types of rocks, make your own 'fossil' and discover why soil is so important to all life on earth.

### Waste Wall Hanging

EYFS, KS1, KS2  
Classroom

As a whole class, year group or school, pupils make an amazing, colourful wall hanging for display from plastic bags and other small items of rubbish. (Due to the preparation involved in this activity, there are increased costs i.e. £200 for a half day and £300 for a full day.)



### Wild Art / Stone Age Art

EYFS, KS1, KS2  
All

Create a series of artworks using natural materials found in your school grounds. You'll be amazed by the colours, patterns and textures the children will find! Stone age art will focus on stone age techniques such as the use of pigments and creation of prehistoric hand stencils.

### Wild Scientists

KS2  
All

Do all scientists work in laboratories and wear white coats? We are all scientists! Pupils will do activities to measure, observe and report on natural science to gain a greater understanding of what 'being a scientist' is all about.

## School Trips



### Lower Moor Farm

A stunning mosaic of lakes, ponds, wildflower meadows, woodland and ancient hedges support a huge range of plant and animal species at this wildlife hotspot in north Wiltshire. Lower Moor Farm nature reserve provides an outstanding and safe environment for outdoor experiences. Our learning area has a large pond with dipping platforms and plenty of habitats to discover an array of insects and other creatures. We even have a thatched 'Iron Age' roundhouse which can provide shelter as a unique outdoor classroom or sheltered picnic spot.

**Lower Moor Farm (SN16 9TW)** is located in north Wiltshire, within easy reach of Malmesbury, Swindon and Cirencester.



### Langford Lakes

Langford is a stunning nature reserve in South Wiltshire with an amazing abundance of wildlife and a range of varied habitats. The beautiful River Wyle runs by the reserve and can be explored in the 'River's Tale' workshop or students can use our pond dipping platforms to discover the river's creatures and mini beasts.

**Langford Lakes (SP3 4NH)** is in South Wiltshire about 10 miles north west of Salisbury just off the A36.



Facilities at both reserves include a large indoor classroom, toilets, outdoor handwashing area and ample parking. To create a full day of activities please select two workshops from the earlier table or discuss ideas with our staff. We provide a flexible service that can be tailored to your needs and to accommodate the British weather. See **page 26** for full details of prices.

For pre-visit information, maps and directions, or to see what other activities we offer, please visit our website:  
[www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

## What we can do for your secondary pupils



### Creative indoor and outdoor learning opportunities

Whether it's a one-off workshop to support a particular topic, or a year group challenge as part of a Citizenship Day, we have activities to enthuse your students and engage them in environmental issues.

Our workshops and activities can be delivered in the classroom, outside in school grounds or for something memorable come to one of our flagship reserves.

This is a selection of some of our most popular workshops but if you don't see what you need here contact us and we can work with you to develop what you need.

#### Key

**All** – Any setting you wish

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#### Build a Tip-Tap

**KS3**

All

A hands-on workshop exploring why water is so precious, where students work in teams to build a simple African hand-washing device using a handful of materials. This is a great team-building challenge and works well out on the school playing field!

#### Conservation and Land Use Management

**KS3, KS4**

LMF, LL

Our evolving nature reserves are ideal locations to learn about the complexities of land management. Students will learn about the importance of a nature reserve and biodiversity along with the inevitable conflict between conservation, education and public access.



#### Eco Dragons Den (whole day)

**KS3, KS4**

Classroom

For this challenge, students explore a range of environmental problems, with a focus on local issues. In teams they come up with innovative local solutions and get the chance to create designs and build prototypes, before presenting their ideas to the panel of 'eco dragons'.

#### Ecology Fieldwork

**A level**

LMF, LL

Our ecological sampling programmes are designed to enable students to gather good quality data ideal for analysis after the visit and fulfil A level specification requirements. Activities may include belt transect investigations, invertebrate sampling from different habitats and tree height analysis. All programmes can be tailored to suit your educational aims, including data collection for other statistical tests.

#### Ethical Food

**KS3**

Classroom and SG

In small groups, students discover the issues around food such as food miles, fair trade and organic production and the impact this is having on our climate, before planting their own seasonal produce.

**Habitat Adaptation****KS3, KS4, A level**

LMF, LL, SG

On our reserves students can study contrasting terrestrial and aquatic habitats and the adaptations of the invertebrates that inhabit them. Students will sample for invertebrates in different settings, classify them using keys and identification guides and explore habitat adaptation and interdependence.

**Hypothesis Testing****KS3, KS4**

LMF, LL

Using real data the students will set and then test a hypothesis related to invertebrates on the nature reserve. They will collect real data from different habitats, assess whether their data is valid and reliable and draw conclusions about the factors affecting invertebrate populations.

**The Packaging Problem****KS3**

Classroom

Using real-life products, students find out how much unnecessary packaging is produced, why it's an issue and what we can do about it. This can be linked to the 'Live Waste Free Week Challenge'.

**Recycled Paper****KS3**

Classroom

Learn about the paper recycling process and then get messy as students make their own piece of recycled paper and practise the ancient art of origami and other paper crafts.

**Renewable Energy****KS3**

Classroom, LMF, LL

Using mini wind turbines, fans and voltmeters, teams of pupils carry out a scientific investigation to decide which shape and size of blade is most effective at generating electricity. They may also experiment with mini solar panels.

**Trashion Show (whole day)****KS3, KS4**

Classroom

Fashion is important to young people but what is the real cost of cheap clothing and accessories? Students explore these issues and work in teams to develop items of 'eco' clothing and accessories. The day culminates in a fun fashion show modelling all the students' creations.

**Waste Wall Hanging****KS3**

Classroom

As a whole class, year group or school, students make an amazing, colourful wall hanging for display from plastic bags and other reusable items. *(Due to the preparation involved in this activity, there are increased costs i.e. £200 for a half day and £300 for a full day.)*

**Wild Art / Stone Age Art****KS3**

All

Create a series of artworks using natural materials and ancient techniques. Experiment with colours, patterns and textures to create something unique. Stone age art will focus specifically on stone age techniques such as the use of pigments and creation of prehistoric hand stencils.

**Forest School****KS3, KS4**

SG, LMF, LL

Forest school is a positive way of working with students of all ages. We can organise taster events for single classes or support some of your more complex students in an outdoor environment. **See page 3** for more details and talk to us to create your bespoke forest school experience.





## What we can do for your grounds

Let us help you design and develop your school or community grounds - enable your group to experience the benefits of learning outside the classroom and increase the wildlife potential of your site.

### Here's what we can offer:

#### Initial site visit

We usually start with an accompanied visit to include:

- Lots of inspirational ideas
- A sketch of how your grounds can reach its wildlife and outdoor learning potential
- An action plan of development and maintenance

#### Getting involved

We aim to involve children and young people as much as possible, from planning to implementation. For example, they can help:

- Plant trees
- Establish bee / butterfly havens
- Plant a living willow dome
- Create an outdoor learning space
- Clear out the pond
- Build bird boxes and raised beds
- Create a bug hotel

#### Eco-Action Days - blitz those grounds!

Organise whole eco-action days, where teachers, governors, parents, 'Friends of' groups and, of course, the pupils all work together to get those big projects completed with the support of our trained staff.

### Case study



#### Greentrees Primary School

At Greentrees Primary School staff, parents, governors and pupils turned out in force to develop a new Forest School and outdoor learning area. Together we created a woodchip path, started a coppiced area for hazel rods and habitat piles and made dead hedges to encourage invertebrates, hedgehogs and birds.



## What we can do for you and your team

### Teacher Training

#### Learning in the natural environment (LINE)

We deliver tailor-made sessions to teachers and teaching assistants on using school grounds in imaginative and stimulating ways. From teaching the curriculum outdoors, through to team challenges, problem solving and assessing risk. We can give you the skills, knowledge and confidence to take your pupils outdoors, and provide lots of ideas to get you started.

#### Short session (1-2 hours)

This is ideal for a short training session during the school day or after school.

#### Half day (3 hours)

Lots of practical suggestions for activities you can carry out with your class. Health and safety aspects of taking children out of the classroom will be discussed and how to link activities into the curriculum and have fun – try your hand at fire lighting without matches or shelter building.

#### Full day (up to 6 hours)

Spend a whole day looking at your own school grounds, discussing how it can be improved for wildlife and outdoor learning opportunities as well as gaining lots of activity ideas. Alternatively, a whole day can be segmented into shorter sessions repeated for different groups of staff members.

## Forest School Training

**Wiltshire Wildlife Trust** is a recognised centre for the delivery of National Open College Network (NOCN) Forest School qualifications. Our inspiring courses provide you with the understanding, knowledge and practical skills needed to be a Forest School Leader, support a Forest School Programme or gain basic skills in child-led outdoor learning. Develop your expertise to work with children and young people in an outdoor environment.

By placing emphasis on the journey not the outcome and holding regular sessions, Forest School provides emotional time and physical space for child-led learning to come alive.

Through developing a Forest School programme of your own, you will help children and young people to develop:

- A positive mental attitude, self-motivation and independence
- Resourcefulness, self-regulation and resilience
- Perseverance, self-confidence and communication skills

## Courses available include:

### The NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Forest School Programme Leadership (QCF)

This course is designed for learners seeking the knowledge and skills required to lead groups outdoors, or for those wanting to develop their own Forest School programmes. Participants will learn about Forest School principles and facilitating outdoor activities safely.

The minimum age is 19. This course can be completed within 6 to 12 months and requires 126 guided learning hours and a portfolio to be completed.

### The Level 2 Award in Forest School Programme Support (QCF)

This course is designed for those who will be supporting Forest School Leaders and school / college staff or youth workers wanting greater knowledge about this subject.

The minimum age is 18. This course can be completed within 4 to 6 months and requires 48 guided learning hours and a portfolio to be completed.



### The Level 1 Award in Introduction to Forest School Principles (QCF)

This is particularly suitable for those wishing to gain skills and learning in the outdoors and those who wish to learn more generally about Forest School. It is designed for a wide range of young learners, including students, offender learners and adults with an interest in working in the outdoors.

The minimum age is 14. This course can be completed within 3 months and requires 27 guided learning hours and a portfolio to be completed.

### Course Locations

Most training and assessment weeks will be held at our flagship Langford Lakes and Lower Moor Farm nature reserves. As we own or manage over 40 nature reserves across the county we may also use them to explore different settings and offer extended learning opportunities.

### Advance booking is required.

For more information on our courses contact **01380 829076**, email [forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org) or visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org/education](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/education) where you can download a booking form. See page 27 for full costs and further information.

## What we can do for you, your family and your community

### Brownies and Cubs

#### Hands-on nature activities

We offer a variety of activities that allow groups to explore, discover and gain personal experiences in nature.

#### Community projects and conservation tasks

If you are interested in running a community project or carrying out conservation tasks on a nature reserve near you then please call us to discuss your requirements.

#### Brownie badges

We can help you work towards the following badges:

- Collector
- Out and about
- Friend to animals
- Wildlife explorer

#### Beavers and Cub badges

We can help you work towards the following badges:

##### Beavers

- Explore activity badge

##### Cubs

- Global conservation activity badge
- Naturalists activity badge
- Scientist activity badge

Activities we can offer include:

- **Minibeast hunts** in pond, grassland and under logs
- **Themed nature walks** around our reserves e.g. butterflies or an evening bat walk
- **Wild art** using natural materials found around the site
- Our **Ecoteering** course includes map reading, compass use and wildlife challenges
- **Bird watching** on the lakes and surrounding hedgerows

Basic costs are £85 for up to 2 hours, £150 for a half day session or £250 for a full day. We can cater for up to 25 participants at one time but you could have more than one group take part e.g. a full day could include three 2 hour sessions for 25 children per session. **See 'What you need to know' page 24** for more information and booking details.



### Case study

12th Salisbury Brownies visited Langford Lakes to complete their "Friend to Animals" badge. They carried out stream-dipping to discover which animals live in water and then used the knowledge gained to make animal masks, using camouflage patterns to show how animals hide themselves.

## Forest School Birthday Parties

Bring your budding naturalists to the woods for a party they'll never forget! Create a bespoke birthday party full of fun and adventure for your child which could include activities such as:

- Fire lighting with a flint and steel
- Pond and/or stream dipping and animal identification
- Wild art and green woodwork
- Shelter building
- Woodland games

All parties include a drink and snack and last for around two hours. We provide invitations and your child will go home with their own unique woodland gift. Parties can be booked at Langford Lakes or Lower Moor Farm - **see page 10 and 11** for details.

Basic cost of £125.00 for up to 12 children with extra children charged at £8.00 a head with a maximum party size of 20. To make a booking or for more information, please contact us on **01380 829076** or email us at **learning@wiltshirewildlife.org**



## Bushcraft Weekends, Birthdays & Corporate Events

Spend time in the wilds of our reserves with our bushcraft and survival expert, Mike Harrison. Courses are available for everyone from beginners who have never camped out before, to experienced outdoor lovers looking to hone their skills. Courses include vegan foraging and living off the land, 'lads and dads' events, women's bushcraft weekends, day courses and survival weeks.

See **www.wiltshirewildlife.org** for the latest courses and dates. Gift vouchers are available.

We can also undertake bushcraft birthdays for older children, teenagers and adults which are bespoke, run for a full morning or afternoon and may include:

- Fire lighting techniques
- Basic tool construction
- Preparing & cooking game outdoors (£25.00 extra charge)
- Forest foraging
- Advanced shelter building
- Traps and snares

Standard charge of £165 for a party of up to 12 participants. Contact us for more information on **01380 829076** or email us at **bushcraft@wiltshirewildlife.org**

## What you need to know

### Booking activities and workshops

For booking any of our activities or for more information and to discuss your requirements, please call **01380 829076** or email [learning@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:learning@wiltshirewildlife.org)

NB: all prices listed cover staff time but some workshops or activities may require additional materials which will incur extra costs. This will be made clear when booking.

**Discounts:** Any regular booking of 6 weeks or more is entitled to a discounted rate. Speak to staff for more details.

**Our staff:** Our experienced education officers have full DBS clearance and up-to-date first aid certificates. All Forest School leaders are level 3 qualified and all workshop leaders hold a teaching qualification as well as excellent knowledge of the subject area.

**Health and safety:** Our programmes are fully risk assessed for each school visit or workshop. Copies are available on request. Adult/child ratios will vary depending upon the type of activities taking place and ages of the pupils. This is particularly relevant to reserve visits, Forest School activities and school grounds work.

**Clothing:** For all outdoor activities and outdoor workshops participants should wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear.



### Pricing and further information

#### School Workshops Costs:

Length	1 Staff Member	2 Staff Member	3+ Staff Members
<b>Half Day</b> (3-3.5 hrs)	£150	£210	£240
<b>Full Day</b> (up to 6.5 hrs)	£250	£350	£400

These prices apply to workshops undertaken within the classroom or school grounds. Please speak to us about which workshops you want to include in your booking.

Forest School will be half day or full day sessions and can cater for a class size as a taster session. However, adult to child ratios will vary depending on the type of activities taking place and the ages and abilities of the pupils. Long term regular sessions are designed for smaller groups but are eligible for the 6 session discount.

For full school or multiple class activities further staff may be required and these will be charged at the above rate. Please confirm your requirements when making your booking.



## Nature Reserve Visits

### Primary Schools

**Cost:** Full Day £7.00 per child per day (adults free)  
Minimum charge: £150  
Maximum group size is 65 children.

### Secondary Schools

**Cost:** Full Day £8.00 per child per day (adults free)  
Minimum charge: £150  
Maximum group size is 65 students.



## School and Community Grounds Visits

**Costs:** Initial advice visit: £50 + mileage (up to 1.5 hours)  
Half day: £150  
Full day: £250

Children are given a safety talk at the start of any activities they are to participate in, and demonstrations where tools are to be used.

## Teacher Training

**Costs:** Short Course: £100  
Half Day: £150  
Full Day: £250

Each course and LINE training session comes with additional resource materials which can be used in school.

## Forest School Training

**Costs:** Level 3 Certificate - £800 per participant  
Level 2 Award- £450 per participant  
Level 1 Award - £200 per participant

Payment plans can be discussed and discounts are available if a single school or group books more than one place on a course. Participants who complete Level 2 with us and then decide to undertake Level 3 will receive a £150 discount.

**Further information:** Advance booking is required.

For more information on our courses contact **01380 829076**  
email [forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org) or download a booking form from [www.wiltshirewildlife.org/education](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/education)