

Secondary & Further education

All of the primary school activities can be adapted for Key Stage 3 students. We can also help to develop new activities to meet your specific requirements for GCSE & A-level field trips & course work.

Ecological surveys

quadrat work, population sampling, human impact & transects.

Tourism

human interactions, visitor surveys, possible conflicts and impacts and how we try to minimise & resolve them, combining the needs of humans, dogs & wildlife.

Team building

a variety of activities to encourage co-operation & competition including den building, trust activities, orienteering & compass work.

MSc thesis & university projects

we can offer advice & support for students undertaking a wide variety of ecological projects, we can also offer ideas for study areas.



Year 10 & above work experience

students can shadow & take part in a range of practical & educational activities with the Rangers.

Special needs

Most activities can be adapted for students of all ages who have additional physical &/or learning requirements.



Site	Town	Toilets	Indoor Classroom	Max no.	Disabled
Barford Road Pocket Park	St Neots	Limited	No	30	Limited
Paxton Pits Nature Reserve	St Neots	Yes	Yes	1 coach	Good
Stukeley Meadows Local Nature Reserve	Huntingdon	No	No	30	Limited
Spring Common	Huntingdon	Limited	No	30	Limited
Hinchingbrooke Country Park	Huntingdon	Yes	Yes	120	Good
Coneygear Park	Huntingdon	Limited	Yes	15	Good
Holt Island Nature Reserve	St Ives	Limited	No	30	Limited

You can find out more about our sites by visiting www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/parksandcountryside

It is essential to book early.

Please contact us for further details and pricing.

St Neots sites - contact the Rangers (01480) 406795

email: paxtonpits@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Huntingdon & St Ives sites - (01480) 451568

e-mail: hinchingbrookecountrypark@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

School Visits

Huntingdonshire District Council's Countryside Service offers a broad range of practical, hands on education experiences for all ages at a number of sites around the district.

Our aims

- ✿ To provide a high quality education service
- ✿ To promote use of the countryside for education & leisure
- ✿ To inspire the next generation of naturalists
- ✿ To encourage respect for our environment

Why visit a Countryside Services Site?

- ✿ Specialist & highly experienced staff
- ✿ Ranger to organise & lead your visit
- ✿ All leaders are free
- ✿ Free pre-visit to design your day
- ✿ Full instructions & rotas given in advance
- ✿ Specialist equipment, identification charts & keys provided
- ✿ Large selection of tried & tested activities to choose from
- ✿ A wide variety of habitats to explore & study
- ✿ Good disabled access to many sites
- ✿ Adapted activities for special needs groups
- ✿ Full risk assessments provided
- ✿ Indoor facilities at 2 sites
- ✿ Support for higher education students
- ✿ Advice to enable you to organise independent visits

Primary Environmental Education

Primary Environmental Education

Here is a summary of the main subject areas we cover for primary schools, each with a number of different activities for you to choose from. Mix & match activities from different subject areas to create the perfect outing for your group. At busy times set days will be offered.

Pond dipping

a universally popular activity to discover the inhabitants of a pond, identify them & learn some fascinating adaptations for their watery life.



Habitats

compare plants from wetter & drier habitats, find out how creatures are adapted for their habitat or look at the homes & niches available within one specific habitat.

Literacy

use the surrounding environment as inspiration for creative writing, making up word banks, poems and stories in the field & follow up activities in the classroom.



Numeracy

discover the shapes hidden in natural and man made structures, sort leaves into chosen categories, measure & map a site or estimate ages and heights of trees.

Geography

discover the local area with a variety of maps & aerial photos, draw maps of the site, including a scale plan, plot found objects on a map, work out compass bearings and grid references and make up a route for classmates to follow.

Science

scientific sampling & recording techniques for minibeasts & plants. Use of microscopes for detailed study.

Set days

Hinchingsbrooke Country Park:

Environmental Day 1

- * Pond dipping
- * Grassland minibeast hunt & flower structure & variety
- * Tree activities
- * Discovery activities 1
- * Discovery activities 2

Environmental Day 2

- * Pond dipping
- * Grassland minibeast hunt & flower structure & variety
- * Tree activities
- * Discovery activities
- * Woodland minibeast hunt & collages

Minibeasts

- * Pond dipping
- * Grassland minibeast hunt
- * Woodland minibeast hunt
- * Microscopes & K'nex
- * Bee studies

Habitats

- * Pond dipping & survey
- * Flower structure & variety & comparing plants
- * Grassland minibeast hunt & survey & animal homes
- * Tree activities
- * Woodland minibeast hunt & survey & collages

Autumn Art

- * Collages
- * Tree dressing
- * Music & dance in the woods
- * Shapes, textures & patterns

Paxton Pits Nature Reserve:

Farming & land use

Learn about environmentally sensitive farming techniques on the reserve and also discover the natural harvest.

Man & nature

- * Geological history of the reserve
- * Mans influence on the current landscape
- * Discover the gravel processing plant
- * Examining mammoth remains

Science

- * Pond dipping
- * Grassland minibeast hunt
- * Sensory activities
- * Bird watching
- * Woodland minibeast hunt

Tree work

explore woodlands, meet a special tree, identify them and discover their ages or heights. Make leaf & bark rubbings or sort the leaves with a variety of numeracy activities.

Discovery activities

a selection of fun activities to increase observation skills and environmental awareness using sight, touch, sound & smell.

Minibeast hunting

discover the smaller inhabitants of grasslands & woodlands up close with the use of sweep nets, large sheets & magnifying glasses. Compare habitats with a minibeast survey & follow up in the classroom using the data collected.



Environmental art

make observational drawings, simple leaf rubbings or large collages & sculptures which remain on the site to be enjoyed by everyone.



Plant studies

compare plants from wetter & drier areas, discover the different shapes, colours & structures of flowers & plants. Transects & quadrats can be used for more scientific studies. Seeds, berries & methods of dispersal can be investigated in autumn.

Fun!

scavenger hunts, parachute games, environmental games, orienteering, den building and more....

Bees - Hinchingsbrooke Country Park only

learn about bees, how they live, how they help us and how they make honey. Watch bees in our hives.

D&T

create a sculpture out of K'nex, make recycled floating vessels or make animal homes from natural materials. Explore structures & shapes.

Music

listening games, making music with natural materials & moving to rhythms. Drawing sound maps.



Rivers - Paxton Pits Nature Reserve only

investigate the variety of water bodies from the source to the sea, puddles, ponds, ditches, streams & rivers. Look at currents, the water table & the water cycle.



Please see our contact details overleaf if you would like more information or to make a booking.