



Visits to the Ashdown Forest – KS2



Choose a from the sessions below or let us know your specific learning objectives and we can put together a bespoke day for you.

All our sessions are interactive, will boost co-operation and confidence in nature, enhance pupil health and wellbeing and promote curiosity and care for the natural world.

The day will include a morning and afternoon activity session where you will be guided by an Ashdown Specialist Leader in immersive trails, hands-on activities aimed at fun and inspiration.

‘Fantastic - well planned and delivered session. Informative, relevant, active and enjoyable for the children. Good curriculum links.’

‘So much fun!’

‘Well organised! Stress free!’

‘Always an enjoyable and informative experience with kind and friendly staff’

‘Really fantastic day! Interactive and the children learnt a lot throughout the day’

‘Thanks so much! Another brilliant visit!’

‘The children had a fantastic time and learned so much for our topic!’

‘Session led by very knowledgeable leaders who kept the children’s interest.’

Habitats, evolution and adaptation

- Compare and contrast woodland and heathland habitats on the Forest.
- Discover how plants and animals have adapted to suit their environment.
- Understand the food chains and life cycles of key heathland species.

- Understanding classification.

Curriculum links: Science living things and their habitats, evolution and inheritance

Maps and landscape features

- explore the physical and human landscape of Ashdown Forest
- develop map work and geographical skills.
- Rocks and soils – comparing samples in different sites around the Forest.

Curriculum links: Geography

History - Stone Age to modern times

- Explore practical Stone Age survival skills – hunting, tracking, tool making, shelter building, artefact handling.
- How people have used the Forest from the Stone Age to the modern day and understand how this has changed the Forest. Learn how maintaining this internationally important wildlife site for conservation draws on the historic land uses.
- Explore archaeological features of the Forest - pillow mounds, Norman boundary banks, Saxon routeway
- Local history study

Curriculum links: History, Technology

Rivers and water cycle

- Investigate the physical features of the river - measure flow and depth
- Explore how water moves through and changes the landscape
- Annotated field sketches, study the terminology and see it in situ

Curriculum Links: Geography

Conservation Task Day - year 5 and above

- Practical team day 'action for biodiversity' such as scrub clearance on the rare heathland habitat - develop resilience and how to cooperate as a team
- Understanding of how and why we need to look after the Forest and its habitats

- Safe use of tools – lopper and bow saws
- Hot chocolate reward!
- Can be combined with one of the above curriculum sessions

Free Outreach sessions

- If your school is within 15 miles of the Ashdown Forest the Education Team can deliver a free outreach session in your school. Use this either before or after your visit to consolidate learning or to enrich your topic work.
- Sessions can be workshops of any length up to a day per class or a general introduction to the whole school, for example through an assembly.

John Muir Award

- Upper KS2 classes can work towards gaining this nationally recognised award by taking time to explore and get to know the Ashdown Forest as part of their award programme. We can help create a John Muir Award programme for your school.

Forest school sessions

- Designated fenced Forest School area plus access to the whole of the Ashdown Forest
- Experienced Level 3 Forest school leaders
- Wellbeing, nurture and health groups
- Options for weekly or termly sessions

