



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

Wild Journeys: Habitats Through Time At Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Provisional Day Plan

Group 2 The Nightingales

10am Arrival

Welcome, introduction and toilets at the Environmental Education Centre. The adventure begins - children are issued with time travel wristbands, time dials and individual explorer kits to use throughout the day.

10.15 – 12.00 noon Morning activities

Journey to 160 million years ago - Interview with an Ichthyosaur

Hear how Paxton Pits was once a very different habitat. Using clues in kit bags discover what the Ichthyosaur is doing here.

Journey to 30,000 years ago

Imagine you are palaeontologists unearthing clues from the past and what this tells you about the history of the nature reserve.

30,000 years ago at the 'pingo swamp'

Discover what very large creatures lived here in the past before searching for some much smaller creatures living at the pingo swamp under logs – that have been around ever since.

Return to present day

Children birdwatch with binoculars at the Hayden Hide to discover just why Paxton Pits is well-known for its amazing birdlife today.

12.00 noon Lunch at the Environmental Education Centre

12.35pm – 2.30pm Afternoon activities

Journey to the 1960s

Children discover how the lakes came to be here and pond dip to find the creatures that have come to live in the pits that were created by gravel extraction.

Journey to the 1980s

Wildlife starts to recolonize. Children hear how Paxton Pits started to gain recognition as an important place for wildlife and sweep-net to discover minibeasts in the meadow.

The future

Looking into the future at Paxton Pits as it becomes 3.5 times as big with some new wildlife habitats. Children discover what might be here when they are teenagers.

2.30pm The Journey Home