



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

Your Day at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve with the Wildlife Trust: Habitats Through Time

The information below is for all teachers bringing a school party to Paxton Pits Nature Reserve booked through the Wildlife Trust. The information is designed to ensure that you and your group gain maximum benefit from your day out. If you have any questions about your visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Pre-visit

It is recommended that all teachers make a pre-visit before their day out. This is to help familiarise your staff with the site and the organisation of the day. To arrange a visit please telephone the Education Team on 07734 478475

Site address

Paxton Pits Environmental Education Centre
Paxton Pits Nature Reserve
High Street
Little Paxton
St. Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 6ET
Grid Reference TL 197629
Tel: 07734 478475

Charges for the visit

School visit rates of £5 per pupil per day apply with a minimum charge of £160. Schools are invoiced after the visit.

Preparation of children

- Children should come with waterproof clothing, Wellington boots if wet, or strong shoes (trainers are ideal), long trousers and a warm jumper if necessary. In warm weather, children should still wear long sleeves such as a shirt. Paxton Pits is an open site so a sun hat and sun cream are very important.
- The school should provide a towel and extra clothing in case of accidents.
- Unsuitably clothed children will not be taken out with the group.
- Only very wet weather halts proceedings.
- Everyone should bring a packed lunch and plenty to drink in hot weather. There are toilets and plenty of space for picnic lunches.
- Please inform Trust staff, in advance of your visit, of any mobility or allergy issues that may be relevant to the day.
- Please ensure that all open cuts on hands are covered. This is a protection against Weil's disease, a rare water-borne disease.

Organisation of the Group

- Before you arrive please divide your class into two groups – The Cormorants and The Nightingales.
- Adults must be allocated to give an adult:child ratio of at least 1:8 (1:5 for KS1). We will discuss supervision of pond dipping with you before your visit.
- Parent-helpers are welcome. Please do not bring any pre-school children with the helpers.
- It is important that each adult has a list of the children in their particular care with them on the visit and that there are regular headcounts.
- Please ensure that all your parent-helpers are aware that they will be expected to help the children to complete the activities.

Organisation of the day

- Coaches are met just outside the Environmental Education Centre (a little further down the road from the Visitor Centre) in the road and following unloading of passengers, directed to the coach parking bay as the car park has a height barrier restricting access.
- All necessary equipment is provided.
- Toilet facilities are located at the Environmental Education Centre.
- Lunch is eaten inside the Environmental Education Centre if wet.

Responsibilities

The Trust has a Child Welfare and Safety Policy in association with other Wildlife Trusts. It should be noted that while the Trust staff organise the activities for maximum educational value, it is considered that the senior teacher is in charge of the party. Therefore, discipline throughout the day, especially at lunchtime and at departure, is the responsibility of the teacher in charge. However, disruptive pupils will be excluded from activities by Trust staff if necessary.

It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that all members of the group, including the school helpers, are adequately insured. Risk assessments for each activity are available. It is also the responsibility of the school to return all equipment as borrowed. A charge will be made for equipment lost or damaged.

Please note lorries making collections from the quarry use the Haul Road at times. See below.

Health and Safety during the visit

It would be useful if you could also cover these issues before the coming to the site.

Accidents

Each member of Trust staff will be aware of the current accident and emergency procedures and will carry a recommended first aid kit, but it is expected that teachers bring their own first aider and kits. A fully-trained first aider will be available on site and all accidents must be reported to both the teacher and a Trust staff member. It is expected that the teacher in charge should take over-all responsibility for emergencies.

Movement around the site

There are areas of the reserve where the ground is uneven. There are also areas of deep water, low branches and other natural hazards. Please ask the children to move around the site carefully and not to run. The road between the car park and the Visitor Centre is used all day by gravel lorries, so the Wildlife Trust staff need to work with school staff to organise safe road crossings.

Members of the public

Our sites are open to the public and some may be curious as to what the groups are doing. Please emphasise to the children that if they have any concerns, questions or queries during the visit, that they only approach the adults working with them on that day.

Dogs

Dog walkers use the reserve regularly. Please ensure that the children know what to do if a dog approaches them i.e. to stand still, with their arms at their sides and try not to stroke the dog.

Hygiene

Hand-washing facilities are available for use before eating. Please emphasise to children that they should not eat anything that they find on the site and that hands should be washed before lunch.

Appropriate behaviour and proper equipment use

The Trust staff will know what types of behaviour are acceptable and safe. This may depend on weather conditions leading up to the visit as well as weather during the visit, and the history of the site. Please support the Trust staff by ensuring that instructions and guidelines are carried out. If you would like to question the Trust staff member about instructions please do not hesitate to pick an appropriate moment to do so.

Telephone Contact:

Wildlife Trust staff member: 07734 478475

Paxton Pits Visitor Centre: 01480 406795

Further information:

The Wildlife Trust is operating the 'Wild Journeys' Education Programmes at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, which is managed by Huntingdonshire District Council with support from The Friends of Paxton Pits.

For more information about Paxton Pits, please visit www.paxton-pits.org.uk

Huntingdonshire District Council also run an education service at the reserve. To avoid confusion please ensure that any enquires about the 'Wild Journeys' programme are directed to the Wildlife Trust on 07734 478475.

More information about the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough can be found at www.wildlifebcnp.org

We hope that you have a rewarding and enjoyable visit with the Wildlife Trust. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of the visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.