

Learning outside the classroom Warwickshire's Country Parks 2011 - 2012



Ryton Pools Country Park & Kingsbury Water Park



At Warwickshire's Country Parks you will find:

- Education programmes for foundation stage to up to KS3 at four Country Parks: Ryton Pools Country Park, Kingsbury Water Park, Pooley Country Park and Harshill Country Park
- Accessible education centres, at Ryton Pools Country Park, Kingsbury Water Park and Pooley Country Park.
- Inclusive programmes for pupils with special educational needs.
- A wide variety of habitats including meadows, woodlands, and ponds.
- Wildlife spotting opportunities all year round - our indoor education centres offer shelter from the weather if necessary, making autumn or spring an ideal time to visit.
- A permanent Forest School base at Kingsbury Water Park with 3 qualified forest school leaders.

How to book a visit to a Park

- Advance booking is essential for all groups.
- Choose a programme from those listed.
- Telephone 024 76305592 for Ryton pools & 01827 872660 for Kingsbury Water Park, Pooley Country Park and Hartshill Country Park to make an enquiry and arrange your booking.
- Please book as early as possible to obtain your preferred visit date.

Teacher preview visits

We strongly recommend that teachers make a preliminary visit to the country park to familiarise yourself with the layout of the site and the facilities available, **at least two weeks before your visit**. The preview must be booked in advance by calling 024 76305592 for Ryton pools and 01827 872660 for Kingsbury, Pooley and Hartshill.

Schools Outreach

We offer an exciting range of outreach programmes during the Autumn and Spring terms. All of our activities provide hands-on fun whilst encouraging pupils to discover the natural environment and to learn to treat animals and plants appropriately.

The programmes are flexible enabling us to fit in with the timing of your school day.



Programmes

All of our programmes operate on the following basis:

Price until March 31st 2011

- £3 per child for ½ day = 1 programme
- £6 per child for whole day = 2 programmes

Price from April 1st 2012

- £3.50 per child for ½ day = 1 programme
- £6.50 per child for whole day = 2 programmes

- 1 class per ranger (maximum class size of 36 pupils)
- 1:6 adult to child ratio for KS1 up
- 1:4 adult to child ratio for Foundation Stage.

The programmes we offer are set out below. We have specified where each programme is available using the following abbreviations: **R = available at Ryton**, **K = available at Kingsbury**, **P = available at Pooley** and **H = available at Hartshill**.

Forest Schools 3yrs +

Season Available: All year

Site Available: R K

We offer a full Forest Schools programme at Kingsbury Water Park and 3 fully qualified Forest School leaders. The site is available for groups of any age to use. We run sessions throughout the year, in all weathers, giving children the opportunity to experience seasonal variations. You are also able to book the forest school site for use with your own qualified leaders.



We recognise that the number of visits a meaningful Forest Schools Programme requires isn't possible for some schools and so we also offer our **'Wild Woods'** programme at all sites as a bookable, one off activity. The programme is based on the principles and ethos of Forest Schools and enables children to experience the positive outcomes of the approach.



Early years – Foundation Stage

- **Nocturnal animals - Site Available: R K P H**

Unravel the nocturnal animal mystery in the park. Follow the animal trail and investigate who's around at night. Can you guess the nocturnal animal sounds, and make your own nocturnal animal model or mask?

- **Hedgehogs - Site Available: R K**

Help our friend spike the hedgehog get ready for or wake up from his hibernation. Hunt the fleas, make a nest for him and discover what hedgehogs like to eat.

- **Nature sensory explorers - Site Available: R K P H**

Join the Ranger on a nature trail, and use your senses to complete the challenges they set you. Discover how animals living in the park use their senses.

- **Minibeasties - Site Available: R K P H**

Come and help the ranger hunt for lots and lots of wriggly legs! Using nets, pots and shaker sheets to discover what's jumping, crawling and flying around the park. Who can count the most legs?

- **Lovely ladybirds - Site Available: R K P H**

Have a go at making a ladybird hat and then join the ranger and hunt for some lovely ladybirds. Discover where they live, what they eat and investigate what they get up to all year.

- **Wild woods - Site Available: R K**

Join the ranger in the woods, and have some fun mud painting, making homes for woodland animals, following trails, digging for treasure, den building/playing. Based on forest school principles.

- **Little ducklings - Site Available: R**

Have some messy fun making a feathery duck hat, and then take a walk with the ranger to spot some ducks splashing in the lake, and have a go at feeding them.

- **Outdoor Art - Site Available: R K P H**

Use the natural environment as an inspiration for creating masterpieces!



Key stage 1

- **Nocturnal animals - Site Available: R K P H**

Unravel the nocturnal animal mystery in the park. Follow the animal trail and investigate who's around at night. Can you guess the nocturnal animal sounds, and make your own nocturnal animal model or mask?

- **Hedgehogs - Site Available: R K**

Help our friend spike the hedgehog get ready for or wake up from his hibernation. Hunt the fleas, make a nest for him and discover what hedgehogs like to eat.

- **Nature sensory explorers - Site Available: R K P H**

Join the Ranger on a nature trail, and use you senses to complete the challenges they set you. Discover how animals living in the park use their senses.

- **Lovely ladybirds - Site Available: R K P H**

Have a go at making a ladybird hat and then join the ranger and hunt for some lovely ladybirds. Discover where they live, what they eat and investigate what they get up to all year.

- **Wild woods - Site Available: R K**

Join the ranger in the woods, and have some fun mud painting, making homes for woodland animals, following trails, digging for treasure, den building/playing. Based on forest school principles.

- **Outdoor Art - Site Available: R K P H**

Look at shapes, patterns and colours in our parks and use the natural environment as an inspiration for creating masterpieces!

- **Pond Minibeasts 1- Site Available: R K**

Use nets to catch, and magnifiers to look at the special animals and plants that make their home in and around our pond habitats. Take a look at simple lifecycles, and play some fun games.

- **Woodland or meadow minibeasts 1 - Site Available: R K P H**

Discover some of the amazing minibeasts that fly, hop and crawl in our woods and meadows. Get an exciting close-up view with a magnifier, and look at the colours, shapes and ways that they move.

- **Green plants - Site Available: R K P**

Join the ranger and track down some weird and wonderful plants. Have fun playing games and take on the challenge to find as many different leaves as you can. Investigate the names and functions of plant parts and discover what plants need to grow.

- **Orienteering - Site Available: R**

A very practical introduction to map reading and teamwork! Use our permanent course with the ranger (different levels available) to find your way round the park. Whose team will be the first back?

- **Survival shelters - Site Available: R K**

Work as a team to build a survival shelter into which all the team can fit! Discover what you need to survive and use your imagination to make life in the woods comfortable!!



Key stage 2

- **Animal Homes- Site Available: R K**

Find out what different animals homes are like, where they live, what they need to survive and how we can help them make a home in our gardens e.g. bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog boxes, minibeast hotels, ladybird hibernators, bee pots.

- **Outdoor art - Site Available: R K P H**

Investigate patterns, colours and shapes in our parks and take a look at what outdoor artist Andy Goldsworthy has done. Have a go at using the natural environment as an inspiration for creating a master piece of your own.

- **Pond minibeasts 2 - Site Available: R K**

Use nets to get hands on and catch some of the weird and wonderful animals living in our pond habitat. Take a look at how the animals are adapted to the watery environment and investigate their food chains and lifecycles.

- **Food chains – site available: K**

Introduction to the concept of food chains and energy flow. Discover the holly leaf miner food chain!

- **Interdependence & adaptation – site available: K**

Investigate the interaction of plants and animals within a habitat and the way in which animals are adapted to that habitat.

- **Woodland or Meadow minibeasts 2 - Site Available: R K P H**

Hands on investigation into minibeasts and where they live. Using nets, pots and shaker sheets discover what's jumping, crawling and flying around the park. Classify creatures into groups and find out how they're part of a bigger food chain, within woodland and meadow habitats.

- **Seeds & seed dispersal - Site Available: R K P H**

Explore how different plants and trees disperse their seeds, using the environment and animals in the park. Collect seeds, fruits and nuts and match them with their disperser and join in some fun games, to help you remember!

- **Soils - Site Available: R K P**

Get your hands muddy whilst comparing different soils and discover their importance to plants. Write your own recipe and have a go making your own soil.

- **Orienteering - Site Available: R K P H**

A very practical introduction to map reading and teamwork! Use our permanent course with the ranger (different levels available) to find your way round the park. Whose team will be the first back to base?

- **Wild woods - Site Available: R K**

Join the ranger in the woods, and have some fun mud painting, making homes for woodland animals, following trails, digging for treasure, den building/playing.

- **Survival shelters - Site Available: R K**

Work as a team to build a survival shelter into which all the team can fit! Discover what you need to survive and use your imagination to make life in the woods comfortable!!



Key stage 3

Let us know if you have a topic you want to cover in the park and we will see if we can accommodate you!

Some ideas we have are....

Orienteering, Team building, Bat / bird boxes, Habitats – ponds/woods/meadows – how creatures are adapted, Kites & rockets, Shelter building



Useful information

What to wear on the day

Summer

Light anorak

Trainers

Lightweight trousers (protects against brambles and nettles)

Sun cream & insect repellent

Winter

Waterproof coat and trousers

Hat, gloves and scarf

Waterproof shoes

All season

Spare socks, trousers and top- if wet or shelter/den building

Packed lunch

Drink in a refillable bottle

Role of adult supervisors & helpers

- To have an idea of the aims of the visit.
- To supervise and support a small group of pupils, when undertaking activities with the ranger.

Behaviour code

We will make every effort to make your visit enjoyable. You can help by making sure pupils are adequately supervised at all times. Behaviour and discipline of pupils is the responsibility of teachers and adult supervisors.

Please agree on the following code of behaviour during your visit:

- ☺ Treat wildlife and nature kindly. No squashing, squishing, head or leg pulling.
- ☺ Do not pet or approach dogs, they can be scared of us
- ☺ Do wear appropriate clothing- no fairy costumes or super hero outfits!
- ☺ No wild parties in the bird hides ...Shhhhh the birds like it quiet.
- ☺ Walk sensibly, don't run.... unless the ranger runs or walks like a crazy minibeast!!
- ☺ Respect other visitors enjoying their visit.
- ☺ Don't be rubbish bin it & sort your recycling .
- ☺ Be cautious around water, some lakes are deep and have steep sides.
- ☺ Stick with your team & don't lose the ranger....they have the key for the lunch box room!
- ☺ Listen to the ranger and have a big smile ready.

We reserve the right to curtail sessions if groups misbehave.

Alterations

Please contact us as soon as you can if you need to alter your booking . We recommend a pre visit with the ranger to iron out any issues at least two weeks before your visit.

Cancellations

Please give as much advance warning as possible of any cancellations. You may be charged for a late cancellation.

Downloads

Please go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parksed for the following:

- [Pooley Country Park booking form \(pdf, 201Kb\)](#)
- [Kingsbury Water Park booking form \(pdf, 203Kb\)](#)
- [Ryton Pools Country Park booking form \(pdf, 202Kb\)](#)
- [Risk assessment \(pdf, 102Kb\)](#)
- [Pupil attendance list \(pdf, 167Kb\)](#)
- [School shopping order form \(pdf, 129Kb\)](#)
- [Feedback form \(pdf, 173Kb\)](#)
- [Behaviour code \(pdf, 67Kb\)](#)