



The wooded landscapes of Buchan and Tilgate Parks sit at the western end of the Weald Forest Ridge. This is the highest ridge of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Beauty; one of England's Finest Landscapes. Around one-quarter of the High Weald is wooded – with a staggering 68% of this having been continuous woodland since late medieval times.

Forest Schools will enable people to reconnect with this wooded landscape and allow them to enjoy its unique natural heritage.

Contact Details

For an informal chat about a programme to suit your group or to find out more about training opportunities, contact:

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The Forest Schools project is part of the Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Scheme. Project partners are:



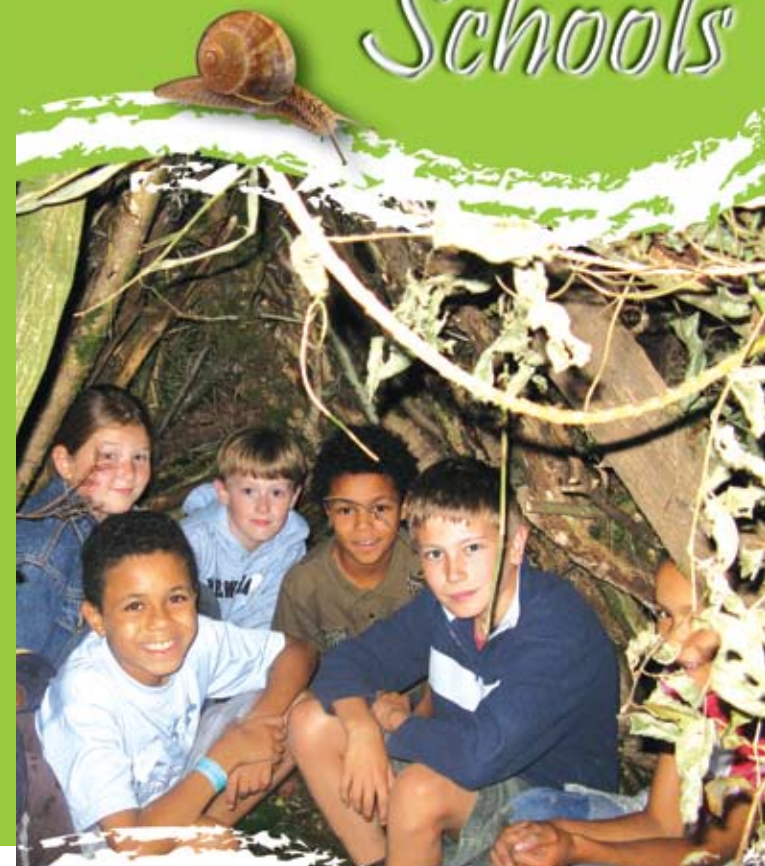
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Forest Schools



Where learning comes to life



A unique learning experience for local schools and community groups in the Crawley-Horsham area

Fun, new things for the children to learn every session. It's great to watch them grow in confidence and to see how excited they are about achieving the tasks they have been set. We always enjoy ourselves. Teacher

I just can't wait till we go out next time and do more activities like these. One of my favourite things is sitting around the campfire together. Student

This was a novel and really interesting opportunity to work together and develop new skills while learning more about the history of our local woodland and about the plants and animals that live there.

Local womens community group member



Are Forest Schools for you?

From pre-school to sixth form, home school networks to community groups, Forest Schools provide a valuable teaching tool for a wide range of subjects and are an excellent way to support the National Curriculum.

Working in small groups and matching activities with individual learning styles and needs means everyone can be included in an enjoyable programme of learning.

Subsidised training opportunities leading to a nationally recognised qualification to deliver Forest Schools also are available for volunteers and education professionals.



What are Forest Schools?

Forest Schools offer children, young people and adults of mixed abilities, regular opportunities to gain confidence and self-esteem through a series of achievable, hands-on, bush craft and conservation tasks in local woodlands.

Learning comes to life through the experience and improves an individual's ability to work both co-operatively and independently, while offering the opportunity to take risks, make choices and initiate learning.

Forest School groups explore local woodland on a regular basis, typically ten visits over ten weeks.

What's a Forest School Programme like?

The main aim of a Forest School programme is to tailor an outdoor educational curriculum to participant's preferred learning styles.

The group will get to grips with all sorts of woodland activities, including basic forest skills such as:

- Lighting a fire
- Using knives and bow saws



- Using storm kettles to make hot drinks
- Cooking a meal
- Shelter building

As the group becomes more comfortable with working in the woodland, the programme becomes more learner led - a journey of discovery directed by the participants.



A Forest School offers

- A unique and enjoyable experience
- Activities led by fully qualified staff
- Qualified first aid staff on site
- Comprehensive risk assessment
- All equipment supplied
- Waterproofs available



Where?

The woodlands of Buchan Country Park and Tilgate Park, situated close to Crawley, provide an ideal and easily accessible setting for outdoor learning. Sessions can also be delivered at a more local site or at your school.

