



Education Visit Information

INTRODUCTION

Ashdown Forest is steeped in history, rich in wildlife and beautiful whatever time of the year. Originally a deer hunting forest in Norman times, Ashdown Forest is now the largest free public access space in the South East and lies at the centre of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Open all year, it is a great place for walking and enjoying spectacular views over the Sussex countryside and is known the world over as the 'home' of Winnie-the-Pooh. The [Ashdown Forest Centre](#) is the ideal base for any visit to the Forest and offers a range of education options and resources to suit your school.



FREE RESOURCES



Winnie-the-Pooh Story Sack

A Winnie-the-Pooh Story Sack, suitable for Key Stage 1 pupils, can be borrowed (for free!) for up to 3 weeks. Ashdown Forest is the 'home' of this very famous bear and using A.A Milne's book, *The House at Pooh Corner*, as a springboard for activities, the Story Sack is full of resources and ideas linked to the National Curriculum. Enjoy re-telling the famous adventures with the cuddly characters (Winnie, Piglet, Tigger, Owl and Eeyore are included!), complete the Poohsticks science investigation, learn about Winnie-the-Pooh's heathland habitat at Ashdown Forest, use the 100 Aker Wood poster to map journeys, and much, much more! The Sack also includes a handbook for teachers with explicit curriculum links and numerous suggested activities to engage and enthuse your children. **You will need to collect and return the sack to the Ashdown Forest Centre .**

High Weald Outdoor Activity Cards

For fun ideas and activities, plus pertinent teaching points, Outdoor Activity Cards are available to help KS1 & 2 children explore Ashdown Forest and the High Weald AONB. Download the Cards from the Education Resources section of the Learning Zone - www.highweald.org. Any equipment needed to carry out these activities on Ashdown Forest is available from the Ashdown Forest Centre. Pre-booking is required.

Nature v Nurture Debate Pack

Easy to use and designed to inform and promote discussion with Key Stage 2 children prior to, and during, a visit to Ashdown Forest. This Debate Pack looks at the key management issue of cutting down trees, aiming to promote awareness of Ashdown Forest itself and an understanding of why such action is needed. Through activities, thoughts and discussion, children will consider different opinions and begin to make informed decisions about a relevant and often misinterpreted local issue. Download from www.ashdownforest.org

Please see overleaf for details of guided and self-guided visits to the Ashdown Forest Centre.



Education Visit Options



OPTION	A Sussex Wildlife Trust workshops Whole day 2 x 2hr sessions 10.00 – 14.30 with lunch break	B Half day 2 hour session 10.00–12.00 or 12.30–14.30	C Self-guided visits Times to suit you between 10:00–14:30	D
Access to Education Barn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to Information Barn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maximum number of children	2 groups – maximum of 30 per group	2 groups – maximum of 30 per group	60	60
Coach parking and toilet facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pre-packed Explorer Packs	No	No	Yes	No
Booking required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost	£115 (for up to 30 pupils) £230 (for 31 – 60 pupils)	£65 (for up to 30 pupils) £130 (for 31–60 pupils)	£75	£65

Options A & B - Sussex Wildlife Trust Workshops KS1&KS2

All equipment is provided and the sessions are run by an experienced tutor from the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Activities include:

- mini-beast hunting & identification;
- mirror walk - 'fly' through the woodland, experiencing what it is like to be high in the tree canopy, finding out about how the trees survive and the wildlife they support;
- heathland identification & management - looking at the colours within the heathland and learning to identify some common heathland plant species;
- journey cards - looking at contrasting habitats along part of the route.

Sessions can be tailored to suit your needs - just ask!

Options C & D - Self-Guided Visits

You are welcome to visit the Forest, have access to the Education and Information Barn, but carry out your own self-guided activities and field work e.g. habitat surveys, without the aid of a tutor. With Option C, you can also have access to a range of art materials and basic field work equipment to support your 'self-guided' session. Download a list of available resources from www.ashdownforest.org, fill in what you would like to use, send it back and the equipment will be ready on the day, pre-packed in a convenient rucksack. If you do not require any equipment, choose Option D. The Broadstone Amble, a route waymarked from the Ashdown Forest Centre car park, is perfect for many outdoor activities and for experiencing a range of habitats on the Forest. Download the route from www.ashdownforest.org.

Education Barn This provides a base for your visit, somewhere to store your things when walking and an area to work in or eat your packed lunch if it is wet.

Information Barn As well as a permanent display on the Forest, the Information Barn often has temporary exhibitions. There is also a small shop where you can purchase 'pocket money' items.

Booking Information All options are available on all weekdays except Bank Holidays. Visits must be booked through the Ashdown Forest Centre, Wych Cross, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5JP.

Office opening hours: Weekdays 09.00-17.00

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Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org