

Blashford Lakes Centre

Activities for Key Stage 2

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Many teachers know that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's **Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve** is a fantastic place to visit in the summer and that it is *the* place to teach children about **habitats!**

The nature reserve's mosaic of lakes, ponds, river, woodland and grassland, provides the perfect location for hands on activities that enable children to compare habitats, discover wildlife and marvel at animal and plant adaptations.

But did you know that Blashford Lakes offers **even more throughout the year?** Many activities are best done in the autumn and spring terms - we provide exciting, fun and inspirational activities year round, what ever the weather!

Read on to find out more, and if you can't find what you're looking for, please ask - many of the activities that are on offer were originally inspired by a request from a teacher looking to support their topic work.



Survival skills!

Spend a whole day outdoors learning basic bushcraft skills. Work in teams to build a shelter and learn how to safely light a fire before cooking up a tasty treat to enjoy altogether. Use tools to create a woodland craft to take back to school.

Learning Opportunities:

- Maths – Shape, space and measures
- Science – Materials and their properties
- English – Speaking and listening
- DT – Working with tools, equipment, materials and components to make quality products

Problem solving and teamwork focusing on communication and discussion.



Water waste?!

Learn how water is stored, cleaned and transported to your house from the reservoirs at Blashford Lakes. Explore and compare wetland habitats, dip nets in the pond and river to discover the amazing wildlife hidden in their murky depths and visit a bird hide to see the variety of waterfowl living on the reservoir. Play the water cycle game and then follow the interactive water conservation trail to help understand why water saving is important for us and wildlife.

Learning Opportunities:

- Geography – Knowledge and understanding of places / patterns and processes / environmental change and sustainable development
- Maths – Shape, space and measures
- English – Speaking and listening
- Science – Life processes and living things



Outdoor artists

Use your senses to explore Blashford Lakes and seek inspiration from nature to create wild masterpieces using natural materials. Weave willow, create woodland collages and sculpt a 'boglin' from clay you've dug up from the ground yourself.

Learning Opportunities:

- Maths – Shape, space and measures
- Science – Materials and their properties
- English – Speaking and listening
- Art & Design – Knowledge, skills and understanding





Plant portrait

Find out what seeds and plants need to grow and discover the variety of shapes, colours and special adaptations of plants. Play games which illustrate seed dispersal, and be part of the drama of a tree's life. Learn how the lives of plants and insects are interlinked and play the 'Bee Game' to find out how bees find nectar and help the flowers too! Get hands on exploring plants and their many minibeast visitors.

Learning Opportunities:

- Science – Life processes and living things
- English – Speaking and listening



Find your way

Develop geographical skills using language, map work progression and recording skills. The children will look at aerial photos and maps in the Centre before using a map to find their way around the Nature reserve. They will help map results for a scientific investigation to find out where newts spend the winter and use a giant map to help find the bugs for the giant bug ball! Finally they will use natural materials to make a map to use to find some hidden treasure!

Learning Opportunities:

- Geography – Geographical enquiry and skills
- Geography – Knowledge and understanding of places
- Maths – Shape, space and measures
- English – Speaking and listening



Beneath your feet - rocks and soils

Go back in time to walk with the dinosaurs. Explore the historical secrets of the sediments and soil beneath our feet and compare different types of rocks and their uses. Meet nature's dustmen and soil makers and compare different types of soils before making a clay model to take home using natural clay dug up on site.

Learning Opportunities:

- Geography – Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes
- Science – Life processes and living things
- Maths – Shape, space and measures
- English – Speaking and listening



Eco challenge!

Find out about the wildlife that lives at Blashford Lakes and discover what impact rubbish could have on it. Learn how long rubbish will last if we just throw it away by constructing a waste time line and think about how we might re-use it. At lunch time join in the Waste Free Lunch Competition and sort your lunch rubbish to see just how much is going to be sent to landfill.

Learning Opportunities:

- Geography – Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development
- Science – Life processes and living things
- English – Speaking and listening
- Citizenship – Preparing to play an active role as citizens

Contact Us

There is no formal charge for group visits but we do rely on your donations to help towards the running costs of the centre and nature reserve – as such we ask for a suggested donation of £4 per person for half a day (£60 minimum donation) or £7 per person for a full day (£100 minimum donation).

To book your visit and discuss how we can tailor your day of activities to suit your learning objectives please contact us on 01425 472760 or email BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Blashford Project is a partnership project between Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the New Forest District Council, Bournemouth Water and Wessex Water

