



# Learning Programmes and Activities

Image © J Drew



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

# > Learning with Kent Wildlife Trust

> Our activities enable young people to connect with nature and learn outside the classroom. Learners explore different habitats, learn new skills and have fun whilst meeting your curriculum objectives.

We are the leading wildlife charity in Kent; bringing people closer to nature and ensuring our wildlife is protected and restored in the future.

We have a passion for connecting learners with nature and offering high quality, meaningful learning experiences. We offer flexible learning options; we can tailor our sessions to suit the needs of your learners and support additional and special needs.

> We have been awarded **The Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTc) Quality Badge**. This badge is the only nationally recognised indicator of good quality educational provision and effective risk management.



“ We had an excellent time. Lots of time to get ‘hands on’ and active. ” Year 1 teacher

Activity	Duration	Early years	Key stage 1	Key stage 2	Key stage 3
<b>Forest School Programmes</b>	Full day (min. 6 weeks)	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Forest School Experience Days</b>	Full day	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Magical Minibeasts</b>	Half day/full day if combined with Dipping Detectives		✓	✓	✓
<b>Dipping Detectives</b>	Half day/full day if combined with Magical Minibeasts		✓	✓	✓
<b>‘Explore-a-Story’ Days</b>	Full days	✓	✓		
<b>Rivers</b>	Half day or full day if combined with Rock Stars			✓	✓
<b>Rock Stars</b>	Half day/full day if combined with Rivers			✓	
<b>Perfect Plants</b>	Half day/full day		✓	✓	

> Our offer!

For our current prices and risk assessments please visit our website. [kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

## > Forest School

**Forest School is an inspirational learning approach that offers regular hands-on opportunities in a safe, outdoor environment to develop learning, behaviour and life skills.**

Learners are given the opportunity to re-engage with nature through our exciting Forest School activities; developing skills and increasing knowledge, understanding and respect for their environment. Forest School is cross-curricular and enhances personal, social and emotional skills whilst supporting the National Curriculum. We tailor our programmes to be effective for all ages, abilities and learning styles to ensure learners connect with nature.

> All our activities are fully risk assessed; using our maintained woodland reserves, tools and equipment. Every session offers unique experiences and the chance to learn new skills. Activities include:

- ✓ Fire building
- ✓ Teambuilding challenges
- ✓ Shelter building
- ✓ Wild cooking on a fire
- ✓ Using tools
- ✓ Woodland species identification
- ✓ Nature inspired crafts

**Did you know?** Many schools use their Pupil and Sport Premium funding to get their learners involved with Forest School. This funding can also be used with our CPD and staff training offers.



### Forest School Programmes

(Recommended min. 6 weekly sessions)

A wonderful opportunity for young people to explore, discover and learn through a programme of weekly sessions in a natural, wooded environment over a range of seasons. Forest School has been shown to:

- Improve self-esteem, confidence and resilience
- Improve physical health, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Develop problem solving skills and enthusiasm for learning
- Develop knowledge and respect for nature and the environment
- Build learning capacity, encouraging creative and independent thinking

### Forest School Experience Days

A perfect way for learners or teaching staff to discover Forest School at one of our beautiful nature reserves. During a typical day, learners safely light a fire, boil water to make their own hot drink, build shelters, explore the woodland or make their own animal habitat homes.

“ Forest School is fantastic for their development and just as important as class work ”

Parent

## > Magical Minibeasts

Young explorers will set off into the 'wild' to seek out and capture unsuspecting invertebrates in our different habitats. By closely studying their finds, learners will discover more about the creatures and older learners will be encouraged to compare and contrast a range of habitats through a more detailed investigation, using keys, looking at adaptations and food chains.



“My favourite thing was looking at all the small animals under the microscope”  
Learner

## > 'Explore-a-Story' Days

This enchanting programme offers the perfect introduction to environmental study, ideal for pre-school or Key Stage 1 learners. With a range of titles to choose from, the day offers a lively mix of activities designed to bring the stories to life. Our story days are guaranteed to inspire and excite budding nature explorers.

“Thank you for such a lovely day. We were warmly welcomed, the resources were all ready and the activities lovely. There was no stress, just smiles”

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Year R teacher

## > Dipping Detectives

A chance to discover what lies beneath the water's surface in one of our most fascinating habitats; our pond. Using a hand lens and pictorial keys, learners will work together to identify their finds and learn more about the different ways they live, breath and move. Learners will consider their place in the food chain and how they have adapted to their underwater environment.



“Really good – child led and pitched to their age group. Amazing!”  
The New Beacon School Year R teacher



Please visit our website to view all of our available stories  
[kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**Book early  
to secure your date!**

## > Rivers

Our Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve is the perfect setting for this interactive day of physical and biological investigations. The programme begins with the main features of a river using our model river flume, and then considers the way the River Darent has developed and how man has altered its pathway.

Using a variety of measuring techniques, learners will investigate the physical aspects of the river by looking at the profile of the river bed and the flow of water at different points. They will also undertake a biological survey and investigate the results, considering the adaptations that help the organisms to thrive in the moving water.



## > Perfect Plants

Let learners explore the wonderful world of **Fabulous Flowers and Tremendous Trees**. They will learn all they need to know about **green plants; the building blocks of habitats through exciting activities.**

“The students thoroughly enjoyed the time they spent at this splendid wildlife reserve”

Knowle Academy Year 8 teacher

## > Rock Stars

This highly practical session explores the amazing world beneath our feet. Learners will handle and sort rock samples and learn how they fit into the rock cycle and how soil is made.

Using our large array of local and international rocks, learners will learn to recognise different rock groups according to their characteristics; understanding rocks are made of minerals and that soil is made from minerals and dead decaying animals and plants. They will experiment by making their own soil and fossils.

“The soil workshop was really enjoyable. There was a good mixture of hands-on activities to keep them focused and engaged”

Linton Park School Year 3 teacher



### Fabulous Flowers

Learners explore our wildflower areas, investigating flower structures and their purpose, the role of insects in pollination and the plant life cycle from seed to seed.

**Tremendous Trees** allows learners to identify different trees using leaves, nuts, seeds and flowers. They learn about the importance of trees in habitats and how they can host a huge range of creatures.



Image © J Drew

## > Bringing Nature to You

### Forest School in Your Grounds

We bring our trained staff to your school, saving you transportation costs and staff time.

Our teams plan and deliver bespoke outdoor programmes giving learners the opportunity to explore outdoor spaces whilst supporting their personal, social and educational development.

Forest School fits all learning styles and encourages and engages learners of all abilities. Activities support many areas of development including:

- Confidence
- Creativity
- Literacy
- Mental Wellbeing
- Handling Risks
- Numeracy
- Communication
- Resilience
- Geography
- Problem Solving
- Initiative
- History
- Team Work
- Independent Thinking
- Science

“Forest School is a very helpful tool in social and emotional development”  
Teacher

More information on Forest School on page 3

### > Celebration and Transition Days

Join us for a fun day of teambuilding, celebrating class achievements of the year or supporting the transition to a new school. Enjoy exclusive use of our wonderful woodland base camps for an action packed day led by our qualified Forest School staff.

See our **Forest School** section for further details on activities.



### > Bringing the Outside In

For those unable to benefit from a visit to one of our education centres, Kent Wildlife Trust has developed a range of half and full day opportunities that will bring the wild to you. Our trained staff bring our range of specialist resources to life!

#### Our sessions include:

- **Bioblitz** – ground survey identifying and recording all species found
- **Rocks** – explore our huge rock collection
- **Water** – investigate water in our local environment
- **Wildlife conservation** – inspire tomorrow’s nature enthusiasts

We are happy to develop workshops on request, simply contact us to discuss your requirements.

*Spending time in nature is known to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, with time and space to explore, learn and develop.*

### > School Grounds Development

**Is your Forest School area in need of a refresh? Are you looking at ways to develop your outdoor space?**

We can provide our professional expertise to review the use of your outdoor space or Forest School.

Enhancing your school grounds for wildlife or creating an outdoor learning environment is a great way to make the most of your site. We will visit to assess your current grounds and discuss your requirements. We will then produce a report outlining all our recommendations and further guidance, to help you progress. This can be run alongside planning sessions with learners and activity sessions such as tree planting or meadow sowing.

## > Professional Development for Wilder Outdoor Learning



### Professional Development and CPD

Increase staff knowledge and enthusiasm for outdoor learning through a suite of CPD sessions. Our outdoor learning experts deliver a range of workshops and training sessions that give teachers the confidence and enthusiasm to take their class outside.

Bespoke sessions are available; these can be delivered at our reserves or in your school grounds.

#### Training sessions include:

- ✓ Outdoor maths
- ✓ Outdoor literacy
- ✓ Fire management
- ✓ Shelter building
- ✓ Creating a base camp
- ✓ Outdoor science
- ✓ Nature
- ✓ Outdoor history
- ✓ Stone Age
- ✓ Romans
- ✓ Rocks and soils
- ✓ Environmental art



### > Wildlife Study Days

Enhance your learning and increase your skills by attending one of our Wildlife Study Days. A mixture of one day and longer term courses are available, which run throughout the year.

We offer a wide range of learning opportunities to help you increase your wildlife knowledge, which you can take back to the classroom; informing your practice.

#### Training sessions include:

- ✓ Getting more from bird watching
- ✓ Identifying reptiles
- ✓ Guide to fungi
- ✓ Wildflowers
- ✓ Tree identification
- ✓ Identification of bumblebees
- ✓ Plus many more!

From reptiles to mammals and flowers to trees; we can help you grow your wildlife skills and knowledge.



For dates and to book please visit our website  
[kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### > Wild About Gardens Award Scheme

If your school has a wildlife garden or is developing a nature area, you can enter our FREE scheme, receive a visit and you can win an award.



Visit our website for further information  
[kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

# > Our Education Centres



## > Tyland Barn Visitor Centre and Nature Park

Sandling, Maidstone, ME14 3BD

The nature park has been specially designed to represent – in miniature – the diverse range of habitats to be found in Kent. With a large pond, meadow, chalk bank, hedge, scrub and even a shingle beach, the site is a very flexible location for a range of fascinating studies.

## > Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve and Visitor Centre

Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3DH

This wonderful site consists of five stunning lakes, ponds, seasonally flooded pools, reed beds, woodland and the River Darent flows through part of the reserve. It offers a diverse community of plants, fungi and animals, plus a spectacular site for birds.

## > Denstead Wood

Near Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, CT4 7NT

Part of the South Blean ancient woodland, Denstead Wood consists of mixed native deciduous woodland, conifer and sweet chestnut plantations.

## > Bough Beech Education Centre and Nature Reserve

Winkhurst Green, Ide Hill, TN14 6LD

The 19th century Oast House and surrounding reserve at Bough Beech offers one of our most enchanting and tranquil locations. Adjacent to Bough Beech Reservoir, the site boasts a range of interesting habitats, including a pond, meadow, woodland and an ancient orchard.

## > Romney Marsh Visitor Centre and Nature Reserve

New Romney, TN28 8AY

The site has an award-winning Visitor Centre, with many eco-friendly features and offers an interesting teaching environment, with dune grassland, willow scrub and seasonal ponds. A replica 'Lookers' Hut' adds a historical dimension to group visits.



For further information on the facilities and accessibility of our sites visit

[kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)



To book call: **01622 662012**



Head Office: Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3BD  
Tel: 01622 662012  
[info@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:info@kentwildlife.org.uk) | [kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 239992. A company limited in England and Wales by guarantee 633098. Registered at the above address.



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future