

# 'Wild Outings' with the Far Ings Education Team

Far Ings Education Centre & National Nature Reserve lies just outside Barton upon Humber and offers unique opportunities to experience and learn about the natural world first hand. The reserve has a wide range of habitats and species to investigate including freshwater ponds, brackish lagoons, reedbeds, woodland and meadow areas. Below are a number of activities we offer; there is an approximate estimate of the time needed for these activities and a key for the location and time of year available. You can combine them in a number of ways to suit your curriculum needs and a number of sessions have seasonal adaptations offering the opportunity to study changes in the environment through the year.

## Primary Prospectus

FI = Far Ings Education Centre & Nature Reserve

Sch = Your school /School grounds

EY= Early Years specific

 Summer  Autumn  Winter

### Pond Dipping: (1.5 - 2hr) (FI)



At Far Ings we have 2 purpose built pond dipping areas providing ideal safe places to study freshwater life. Using nets, viewing pots and simple identification keys, children can investigate and then record the animals they find. The study focus can be on adaptations, foodchains, life cycles or classification/identification features depending on your learning requirements.



Photo: Mandy West

### Minibeast Safari: (1 - 1.5hr) (FI/Sch)



An opportunity to investigate the miniature inhabitants of the Nature Reserve or your local environment. Using different sampling methods and equipment children can find out what lives in the different habitats and microhabitats and record what lives where. Again adaptations, foodchains, life cycles or classification/identification features can be the focus of this activity.



Photo: Emma Wilmot

### Habitat/Nature Walk : (1 - 2hr) (FI)



A guided walk around the Nature Reserve looking at the different habitats, the plants and animals that live there and using a range of simple survey equipment. Depending on your learning requirements the children's findings can be recorded in a variety of ways including on a map sheet with keys or by creating a 'Nature Postcard', 'Journey Stick', 'Smelly Cocktail' or 'Nature's Sound' card.

### Perfect Plants: (1 - 2hr) (FI/Sch)



This activity has been designed to allow children to explore plant structure, form, function and reproduction. Due to the very seasonal nature of plant growth the study can be adapted to a variety of learning outcomes through the year including pollination, seed dispersal, plant defence, identification features and also *may* include seed planting activities (please bring trays/ boxes to transport the seed pots).

### Feathered Friends : (1 - 2hr) (FI)



Visit the bird hides and use binoculars and guides to search for the feathered friends of Far Ings. Where different birds live and their special adaptations are subjects that can be looked at with the chance to design a brand new species of bird! The 'Nest Building Challenge', 'Woolly Caterpillars' or making 'Bird Cakes' can be incorporated into the session depending on the season.

### Wild Art: (1-2hr) (FI)



Nature the artist provides us with many ways to study the variety of colour, texture and patterns in the landscape. Natural plant materials can be collected by the children to create outdoor collages and ephemeral sculptures. Natural textural rubbings can also be created and individual 'Nature's Palettes' compiled to take back to school at the end of the day.



Photo: Hellen Hornby



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An average day runs from 10am to 2.30pm with 30 minutes for lunch. We have a large classroom and outdoor education area plus a small Wildlife Gift Shop that can be visited by prior arrangement. We provide all the specialist equipment needed for your visit, relevant Risk Assessments and offer free preliminary visits & advanced planning sessions for visiting staff.


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### Home Sweet Home: (1 - 1.5hr) (FI/Sch)

This is a practical task to encourage children to think about conservation and ways to help local wildlife. Bird nesting or minibeast hibernation boxes can be made from timber kits and then taken back to school or home. This is a great way to encourage the safe use of tools and practical woodworking skills. There is an additional charge of £6 per box for the materials.



### Wildlife Gardens: (1 - 1.5hr) (FI)

What do all animals & plants need to survive and thrive? After investigating the education areas at Far Ings, the plants and animals that live there and what they need to survive, the children can create self contained habitats from collected materials and wildlife friendly seeds. These can be taken back to school or home and, with a bit of water and sunlight, grown into a wildlife garden in miniature.

### Create a Creature: (0.5 - 0.75hr) (FI/Sch)

A fun activity to complement Minibeast Safaris or Habitat Walks. Based around adaptations and identification/classification features the children can create their very own species of minibeast using natural materials and air drying clay.

### Environmental Games : (0.25 - 0.5hrs) (FI/Sch)

A choice of short activities can be added in to your programme to enhance learning and provide an extra element of fun! These can include: Un-Nature Trail, Scavenger Hunt, Who's Eating Who?, Cycle of Life, Bat and Moth, Migration Game, Nature Names and Busy Busy Bees amongst others.

### Stick Man's Adventure EY: (0.75-1hr) (FI/Sch)

Using the story of 'Stick Man' the children will take their own stick man on a journey though the Nature Reserve. But what will stick man discover on his way?

### Nature Tales EY: (0.75-1hr) (FI/Sch)

Nature Tales are a series of illustrated stories to help children age 6 and under learn more about nature. Each story is followed by a fun 'wild' activity. Available are: 'Bernie the busy bee', 'A toad abode', 'Lazarus the ladybird' and 'Hibernating hoglets'.

### Fairies of Far Ings EY: (0.75-1hr) (FI)

The fairies of Far Ings need a new home as Boomer the Bittern has blown them all away! The children will make miniature homes/dens for their own fairies using natural materials on the Nature Reserve.

