



'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 and we can tailor the different options to meet your curriculum and exam board needs.

Secondary and 16+ Prospectus

FI = Far Ings Education Centre & Nature Reserve

Sch = Your school / School grounds

Spring half-term & Summer (March - July)

Autumn Half Term (September-October)

Winter & Early Spring Term (November –February)

Freshwater Ecology: (2hr) (All levels) (FI)

At Far Ings we have two purpose built pond survey areas providing ideal safe places to study freshwater life. Using a range of aquatic survey equipment, students can investigate these ecosystems with a focus on adaptations, classification/identification features, diversity & numbers, feeding relationships and energy or by using practical techniques depending on your curriculum and exam board requirements. Abiotic factors can be measured and data collected to enable statistical analysis and presentation of the findings.



Photo: Mandy West

Mark, Release & Recapture: (0.5hr x2)

(A Level) (FI)

Carried out as part of a full day of activities, students will capture mobile organisms, mark and then release them. After time has elapsed a repeat sample is taken towards the end of the day. The results can be processed using the Lincoln Index to estimate population size and discussion can be made around sampling methods and limitations of the study.



Saltmarsh Succession: (1.5- 2hr) (A Level) (FI)

Students can investigate the species composition and changes along a transect on a section of saltmarsh on the banks of the Humber Estuary. This study provides the opportunity to develop plant identification skills, use a range of field survey equipment and techniques as well as develop and test hypotheses about plant succession and the abiotic environment. Data can be collected and analysed either at the Education Centre (if timetabled in) or back at your school/college.

Bird Survey: (2 - 2.5hr) (KS 3 & 4) (FI)

Using binoculars provided, students can undertake a survey of the different bird species at different locations around Far Ings NNR such as our lakes, woodlands and estuary foreshore. Their specific adaptations to the different habitats can be identified and this study offers the opportunity to compare the changing species compositions across the seasons. A fun extension is for the students to design new species of bird using our specially designed 'Create... Evolve... Survive!' I.T. based activity.



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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.

Contact: The Education Team, Far Ings Education & Visitor Centre, Far Ings Road, Barton upon Humber, DN18 5RG
Tel: 01652 637055 Email: faringseducation@lincstrust.co.uk Web: www.lincstrust.org.uk

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Photo: Adrian Royston

Sampling Methods : (1 - 2hr) (All levels) (FI) ☀️🍁

In different areas of the Nature Reserve students can undertake transect surveys incorporating a variety of biotic and abiotic measurements. These may include, for example, woodland ground flora and light levels, meadow plant species composition and trampling/soil compaction, plant height and invertebrate diversity or the Education Officer in charge of your visit can design a specific study to meet your field work requirements.

Terrific Trees: (1 - 1.5hr) (KS 3 & 4) ☀️🍁❄️

A great introduction to identification techniques, this study can be carried out in all seasons to identify tree species according to leaf shape and composition or twig and bud structure. In summer months samples can be taken using field equipment to investigate how different species of tree support different invertebrate species compositions. During the Autumn seed dispersal mechanisms can be investigated and in the Winter a range of measurements can be taken to incorporate a mathematical element to your visit.

Home Sweet Home: (1 - 1.5hr) (KS 3 & 4) ☀️🍁❄️

(FI/Sch)

This is a practical task to encourage students to think about conservation and ways to help local wildlife. Bird (Autumn & Winter), bumble bee (Autumn & Winter) or invertebrate hibernation (Summer & Autumn) 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.

Pit Fall Trapping: (0.5hr x2) (All Levels) (FI) ☀️🍁

Carried out as part of a full day of activities, students will design a study of ground dwelling invertebrates using pit fall trapping techniques. Traps can be positioned in the Education Area of the Reserve at the start of the day, in different microhabitats, taking into account factors such as light levels, temperature, vegetation type etc. These are then revisited later to investigate any differences in the type of invertebrates caught and the reasons why.

