

# Activities and Programmes

For Schools and Community Groups



Youth Education  
and Wellbeing (YEW) Team



## Welcome to the Youth Education and Wellbeing (YEW) Team here at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

“ Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is a local charity with a vision to help create a sustainable future for wildlife and people and a mission to connect people with nature. We know from experience that engaging with nature helps people connect to each other and improves wellbeing. This may involve one of our nature reserves or it could take place in your school grounds or a local green space.

We offer a wide range of opportunities for your class or community group to learn about wildlife and the environment through workshops, events and staff training. All our sessions are delivered by experienced and knowledgeable staff who firmly believe in learning through fun and hands on experience. We are happy to tailor activities to your needs so give us a call to discuss your requirements. ”



**Gail Grimes**  
Youth Education and Wellbeing Manager

## What we can do for you

Our experienced team of Education Officers and Forest School Leaders offer a huge range of services including:

**Bespoke Forest School alternative provision** for individual children and young people with a variety of needs.

**Youth provision** including our work experience group for 11-18 year olds.

**Education workshops** in school grounds or out on our nature reserves.

**Forest School programmes** for nurture groups or whole classes.

**Outdoor activity days** and events for youth groups.

**Teacher training** in Forest School and Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC).

**Assemblies and advice** for schools.

**Forest School taster days** and **formal qualifications** for anyone interested in training to be a Forest School Leader or Assistant.

**Wildlife Watch groups** and a programme of family events throughout the year - see our website for more details.

## Contact Us

For more information on any of our services, please see our website [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org) or contact us: [learning@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:learning@wiltshirewildlife.org) (all general education and forest school enquiries) or: [forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org) (forest school adult qualifications)



## Forest School Alternative Provision

Forest School can have a lasting impact on children who struggle in a formal learning environment. As an approved provider of alternative provision for Wiltshire Council, we provide quality bespoke provision and have experience working with children and young people with a range of complex needs. Our provision is available to children of all ages and can take place on nature reserves, woodlands and school grounds all over Wiltshire and Swindon. We have various transportation options available and can discuss these with you.

Some children attend with their own support worker, or with a support worker provided by us. Sessions usually last half a day (up to 3 hours). We use a variety of play and skills-based activities to engage children, tailoring sessions to the individual's interests and aptitudes. We take a holistic approach, helping participants develop their emotional intelligence and working towards target areas identified in EHCPs, while also embedding numeracy and literacy where appropriate. Forest School can provide a route back into mainstream education, rebuilding a child's trust in adults and helping them develop resilience for learning. Our sessions provide valuable stimulation and time away from home for children waiting to start a new placement, or as part of an alternative package of education.



To make a referral for our alternative provision, contact **Gail Grimes** on **07736 457649** or email [gailg@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:gailg@wiltshirewildlife.org)

*"We have been so grateful for all the support and kindness we have had from the WWT team. Thank you for all you do."*

**Parent of year 4 child**

*"Just have to say you have some amazing staff working for you, who are making such a difference in P's life. We could not be happier with his progress."*

**Parent of year 6 boy**

## Youth Alternative Provision

As well as Forest School, we offer bespoke outdoor experiences for students who may require other provision that meets their needs. As well as tailored programmes of 2:1 work, we have a work experience group for 11 – 18 year olds that meets once a week on Friday mornings at our flagship nature reserve Langford Lakes near Salisbury.

Sessions are task-focused, with activities including: maintaining footpaths; tree stump removal; small tree felling; tool and equipment maintenance; health and safety learning; cutting back vegetation; pollarding and many more rewarding and worthwhile outdoor tasks. Ongoing development of skills and teamwork allow accredited AQA Level 1 learning certificates to be achieved.

Group members learn how to actively listen to instructions, build personal responsibility, work safely and be mindful of others' needs. In this way new life skills and positive social interactions with adults and young people can be developed and new friendships made.



**Care Farms**

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust also has two Care Farms, providing therapeutic alternative provision for children and young adults. Lakeside Care Farm is located within our Lower Moor Farm nature reserve near Oaksey in north Wiltshire and The Willows is in Broughton Gifford just outside Melksham. For more information see our website or contact

**Dean Sherwin - [deans@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:deans@wiltshirewildlife.org)**



## Forest School for Classes and Nurture Groups

Forest School aims to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. It provides an opportunity for children and young people to experience nature in a safe, secure and hands-on way. We aim to help children and young people develop skills for life and encourage a greater appreciation of the natural world.



*'We have had letters from parents stating that the self-esteem of children who have taken part in Forest School has risen dramatically. In school we have some children with quite extreme behaviour difficulties and these children have thrived under the projects they have taken part in with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.'*

**Westbury Junior School**

*'The children who took part in Forest School have grown in confidence; Boxall profile assessments have demonstrated long term increases in engagement, self-esteem and relationships with peers.'*

**Holbrook Primary School**

We can provide Forest School sessions in your school grounds, on a local nature reserve or green space. We can work with whole classes, although we recommend smaller groups to maximise benefits. Forest School works well with small nurture groups ideally consisting of 6 -12 children with volunteers or staff from the school to support the Forest School Leader.

Forest School sessions can be booked as half days or full days, and more than one group might come out during the day. To maximise the benefits of Forest School we recommend booking at least a six week block of sessions with the same group.

We can offer taster days for single classes or the whole school. Instead of taking your pupils on an end of year trip, why not run a Forest School extravaganza or a 'Wild Week'?

All our Forest School Leaders are Level 3 qualified, hold enhanced DBS clearance and have extensive experience in a wide range of settings.

*"The children have developed some excellent independent learning and teamwork skills and, through your guidance and creativity, have had some fantastic education opportunities 'beyond the classroom'. The sessions have helped to enrich our curriculum and have supported the teaching of, amongst other things, science, geography, art and PE. The problem solving they are required to do helps to develop mathematical reasoning and the real-life experiences they glean from the classes also help to deepen their literacy skills. Above all - they all seem to have great fun!"*

**Teacher, Kiwi Primary School**



## Education Workshops for Primary Schools



*"We just wanted to say a huge thank you for yesterday's workshop. The children and staff absolutely loved it! They were so engaged with the workshop and learned so much about vertebrates and invertebrates and British wildlife. They haven't stopped talking about it!"*

**Teacher, Amesbury Archer primary**

Enrich your curriculum learning experiences by using your school grounds to deliver hands-on activities. Our wildlife workshops can take place just a few steps from your classroom and we will provide all the necessary resources to make your classroom topics come alive!

We offer a huge range of workshops and are constantly creating new programmes or tailoring activities to suit the needs of our schools. If you think we might be able to help you deliver your topic in a hands on way, do contact us and we'll see what we can offer.



Our most popular workshops, which can be delivered either in school grounds or at our flagship reserves include:

### Perfect Plants

Discover the wonderful world of plants and learn about pollination and seed dispersal.

### Wild Art

Get creative and make your own natural artworks using a variety of wild materials.



### Amazing Animals

Learn all about our native species and how they are adapted to their environments.

### Marvellous Minibeasts

Discover the fascinating world of invertebrates living in different habitats and find out about life cycles and food webs.

### Brilliant Birds

Learn all about our feathered friends and make bird feeders to help the birds where you live.

### Happy Hedgehogs

Discover how this iconic species uses its senses and explore ways to help our endangered prickly friends.

### Ecoteering

only available at Lower Moor Farm or Langford Lakes

Using maps and compasses, explore the nature reserve and learn about the wildlife that lives here.

### A River's Tale

only available at Langford Lakes

Explore the geography and ecosystem of the River Wylfe, its landforms, wildlife and habitats. Walk this beautiful chalk river mapping key features, before having a go at kick sampling, fauna ID and observations of river temperature, speed and flow.



## What we offer Secondary Schools

Whether it's a one-off workshop to support a particular topic, or a year group challenge as part of a Citizenship Day, we have activities to enthuse your students and engage them in environmental issues.

Our workshops and activities can be delivered in the classroom, outside in school grounds or for something memorable, come to one of our flagship reserves. Activities range from team building exercises in your school grounds, learning about climate change in the classroom or kick sampling and classifying invertebrates in our chalk stream at Langford Lakes.



This is a selection of some of our most popular workshops but if you don't see what you need here contact us and we can work with you to develop what you need.

### Build a Tip Tap

A hands-on workshop exploring why water is so precious, where students work in teams to build a simple African hand-washing device using a handful of materials. This is a great team-building challenge and works well out on the school playing field.

### Habitat Adaptation

On our reserves students can study contrasting terrestrial and aquatic habitats and the adaptations of the invertebrates that inhabit them. Students will sample for invertebrates in different settings, classify them using keys and identification guides and explore habitat adaptation and interdependence.

### Wild Art

Get creative and make your own natural artworks using a variety of wild materials.

### Amazing Animals

Learn all about our native species and how they are adapted to their environments.

### Conservation and 'Giving Back'

We welcome groups to our nature reserves to learn about how we manage our reserves and to have a go at some conservation management by doing some hands on activities such as coppicing and pollarding. We provide all equipment and have experienced staff who can ensure the activities are fun as well as educational.



### Forest School Taster

Forest school is a positive way of working with students of all ages. We can organise taster events for single classes or support some of your more complex students in an outdoor environment.

See pages 4 and 5 for more details and talk to us to create your bespoke forest school experience. In a taster session activities may include: shelter building, bushcraft, survival techniques, fire-lighting, making rafts and woodland crafts.

## Our flagship nature reserves

At Langford Lakes near Salisbury, and Lower Moor Farm near Malmesbury, we have beautiful nature reserves with education facilities, that are fantastic destinations for school trips. We can also offer trips to other reserves such as Biss Wood in Trowbridge. Contact us to find out more about the programmes we have on offer.



### Langford Lakes

Langford Lakes is a stunning nature reserve in South Wiltshire with an abundance of wildlife and a range of varied habitats. The beautiful River Wylye chalk stream runs alongside the reserve and can be explored in the 'River's Tale' workshop or students can use our pond dipping platforms to discover the many aquatic creatures that call this reserve home.

Langford Lakes (SP3 4NH) is in South Wiltshire between Warminster and Salisbury, just off the A36.

### Lower Moor Farm

A picturesque mosaic of lakes, wildflower meadows, woodland and ancient hedges support a range of plant and animal species at this wildlife hotspot in north Wiltshire. Our learning area has a pond with dipping platforms and plenty of habitats to discover an array of insects and other creatures. We even have a thatched 'Iron Age' roundhouse which can provide shelter as a unique outdoor classroom or sheltered picnic spot.

Lower Moor Farm (SN16 9TW) is located in North Wiltshire, within easy reach of Malmesbury, Swindon and Cirencester.

## Wildlife Watch Groups



Wildlife Watch Groups are wildlife clubs for primary school aged children and their families to join in with wildlife activities and have fun outdoors.

Wildlife Watch is the junior wing of the Wildlife Trusts and we have a number of groups around Wiltshire. See our website for the contact details of each group and to book places for a small fee (reduced for Wildlife Watch Members). [www.wiltshirewildlife.org/watch](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/watch)

## Family Events

We also run an exciting programme of family events at Langford Lakes and Lower Moor Farm during school holidays. Sessions offer nature-based craft and outdoor activities for children and their parents and can be booked via our website.

Contact **Gail Grimes** - [gail@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:gail@wiltshirewildlife.org) or check the events page of our website for details [www.wiltshirewildlife.org/events](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/events).



## Forest School Qualifications



Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is a recognised centre for the National Open College Network (NOCN) Forest School qualifications. Our Forest School courses provide you with the understanding, knowledge and practical skills needed to be a Forest School Leader or Assistant.

Our courses will develop your expertise to work with children in an outdoor environment, enabling you to build their social communication and risk management skills, and to provide opportunities for them to thrive and learn about themselves.

At Wiltshire Wildlife Trust we offer training on three of our beautiful reserves: Lower Moor Farm, Langford Lakes and Biss Woods. As part of the course you will also visit another nearby reserve, providing a unique opportunity to learn about Forest School delivery in different settings and to gain knowledge in a practical setting rather than a classroom.

Our qualified trainers have many years of experience delivering Forest School programmes with a broad range of groups and will support you throughout your Forest School journey.

*"The practical, hands on experience has been outstanding. I am so pleased I selected this course with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust."*

**Participant on our Level 3 course**

*"Thank you for the most inspiring week - it was even better than I had hoped for! I can't wait to continue my Forest School journey after such a fantastic start."*

**Participant on our Level 3 course**

## Forest School Level 3 Qualification

The Forest School Level 3 course is the nationally recognised training for anyone who wants to lead and manage a Forest School programme. The course will equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to set up, plan and deliver a Forest School programme in your setting. It consists of a practical training course with us, planning and delivery of your own pilot programme of six sessions, a written portfolio, portfolio support sessions and practical skills assessment. In order to qualify, trainees must also undertake a two day outdoor first aid course, unless they already have this.

The total qualification time is estimated at 180 hours, which includes 96 guided learning hours. The course must be completed within twelve months of commencement.

**Cost of Level 3 course: £850\*.**



For more information about our Forest School Qualifications, including entry requirements, booking information and prices, see our website or contact [forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:forestschool@wiltshirewildlife.org).

\*Please note: Course costs can be paid in instalments - please contact to discuss a payment plan. Prices subject to change. See our website for up to date prices and dates of upcoming courses: [www.wiltshirewildlife.org/forest-school-training](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/forest-school-training).

## Forest School Level 2 Qualification

This course is designed for those who will be supporting Forest School Leaders and school / college staff or youth workers wanting greater knowledge about this subject. The Level 2 course covers a lot of the Level 3 content but with a smaller written portfolio. As well as attending the practical training and completing skills assessments, Level 2 learners must assist with three Forest School sessions in their own setting and complete a portfolio within 6 months of the course commencing.

**The cost of the Level 2 course is £450\*.**







## Staff training

### Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC)

We deliver tailor-made sessions to teachers and teaching assistants on using school grounds in imaginative and stimulating ways. From teaching the curriculum outdoors, through to team challenges, problem solving and assessing risk, we can give you the skills, knowledge and confidence to take your pupils outdoors, and provide lots of ideas to get you started.

### Forest School Taster Sessions

We can deliver Forest School half day or full day taster sessions for groups of adults, which are an enjoyable way of learning about the Forest School ethos and taking part in lots of practical activities, such as fire-lighting, den building, wild art and sensory games. Sessions can be delivered in a range of settings, including our two beautiful flagship reserves, Lower Moor Farm and Langford Lakes.

To enquire about teacher training or forest school taster days, please email [gailg@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:gailg@wiltshirewildlife.org). Prices available upon request.

*"The Yew Team at WWT is just so brilliant. I am always passing on to colleagues around and about how wonderful the experiences of working with WWT have always been."*  
**SENCO at Studley Green Primary**

## Booking Information

### Our staff

We have a large team of experienced staff to lead and support activities. Our Forest School sessions are run by qualified Level 3 Forest School Leaders and our leaders all have experience working with children and young people with a range of complex needs. Our school workshops and visits to reserves are led by staff who have extensive experience of the subject area and many are qualified teachers.

### Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and we follow all safer recruitment practices. All our staff have full enhanced DBS clearance and hold first aid and Team Teach qualifications. All activities and sites are fully risk assessed and risk assessments are available on request.



## Forest School Provision

### 2:1 or Groups

**Cost:** Half day (up to 3 hours): £170  
 Full day (up to 6 hours): £280  
 Additional cost to provide a WWT Support Worker.  
 If we transport a student to a site we charge 45 pence per mile to cover transport costs.

### Work Experience Group at Langford Lakes

**Cost:** £95 per student per session  
 Students make their own way to Langford Lakes.

### School Workshops

**Cost:** Half day with one class: £170  
 Full day (up to 6 hours): £280  
 For multiple class activities requiring more WWT staff, there will be additional charges to be agreed at the time of booking.

### Teacher Training and Adult Forest School Taster Days

Contact us for a quote



image by freepik.com

## Nature Reserve Visits

### Primary Schools

**Cost:** Full day £7.50 per child per day (adults free)  
 Maximum group size is 65 children.  
 Minimum charge £160

### Secondary Schools

**Cost:** Full day £8.50 per child per day (adults free)  
 Maximum group size is 65 children.  
 Minimum charge £160

### Please note:

Prices correct at time of printing, but subject to change. Some activities may require additional materials which will incur extra costs. This will be made clear when booking.

### Contact Us

For booking any of our activities or for more information and to discuss your requirements, please email [learning@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:learning@wiltshirewildlife.org).

To make a referral for alternative provision contact **Gail Grimes** on **07736 457649** or email [gailg@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:gailg@wiltshirewildlife.org).





## About Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Our vision is to create a county rich in wildlife and to help people live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment for the benefit of everyone.

We have more than 23,000 members, look after over 40 nature reserves, are supported by over 1,000 volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims.

To do all this, we rely on the support of our members. If you would like to join us, or to find out about how you can help the environment, please visit [wiltshirewildlife.org](http://wiltshirewildlife.org).



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