

Outdoor Learning Programme KS1/2



At your site, a local green space or Essex Wildlife Trust sites, the Outdoor learning team offer workshops and projects to meet curriculum needs and engage children with their local natural world.

Please see below for details:

Wildlife areas See here for details	Natural art See here for details
Forest School See here for details	Ponds See here for details
Senses See here for details	Coasts & beaches See here for details
Minibeasts & invertebrates See here for details	Trees & plants See here for details
Bush craft See here for details	After school clubs See here for details
Orchard & apple days See here for details	Living willow structures See here for details
Farming See here for details	Rivers See here for details

For prices [See here for details](#)

For bookings and further information contact:

Outdoor Learning Manager: learnoutdoors@essexwt.org.uk 01621862992



Wildlife areas



Skills	IT, mapping & keys, art & sculpture, safe use of tools, DT, identification & classification, habitats, ecosystems, wildlife, life cycles, collaboration, plants & growing, adaptation & evolution, food chains.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Planning (half day/ day)	Improve the grounds for biodiversity and fieldwork opportunities; designed and constructed with pupils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with students to identify existing species and ecosystems • Make a site plan of existing areas and draw up a management plan for the site
Creating wildlife habitats (half a day/day)	Use hand tools to put the plan into practice and create new wildlife habitats e.g. living willow structures, orchards, pond, invertebrate habitats, hedgerow, wildflower meadow, sensory garden, wildlife borders. For bug hotel, habitat logs, stag beetle pyramid and nectar border see here for details .
Managing and rejuvenating existing areas (half a day/day)	Use hand tools safely to cut and clear and prune and tidy your overgrown wildlife area to bring it back into shape as a useful learning resource.

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Senses



Skills	Fine motor skills, safe use of tools & equipment, maths, exploring senses, living things, life cycles, identification & classification, food chains, care & consideration for living things and ecosystems.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects (30 mins/ 1 hour):
Sound	How many different sounds can you hear outside? What are they? Where are they? Can you keep a beat with a stick or a natural drum or do you know the sounds of bird calls - Can you find your flock?
Sight	Can you find colours to match the pieces from the rainbow? Or search for minibeast and think about how they use colour to protect themselves? Can you find the hidden caterpillars? Why are some easier to find than others?
Smell	Make a cocktail using natural materials found and add a special mixer. Is it a perfume or a pongy potion? Can you give it a name? How many different smells can you find outside?
Touch	Feely challenge – can you find something tickly and prickly? How about smooth or rough? Or can you find the tree you hugged blindfolded?
Taste	Explore safety issues around eating things growing outdoors. Taste a variety of locally grown produce or natural delicacy or why not try a gooey marshmallow?
Messing with your senses	Disorientate your senses using a mirror to walk in the tree tops and fall into the sky.

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Minibeasts & invertebrates



Skills	Strength, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, DT, safe use of tools, art & sculpture, identification & classification, habitats, ecosystems, wildlife, life cycles, collaboration, plants & growing, evolution & adaptation, care & consideration for living things and seasons.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Bug hotel (half a day)	Using pallets and a variety of materials, create magnificent five star high rise hotels for the local minibeast. (one class in two groups)
Habitat logs (half a day)	Lay logs for rolling and make log piles to increase the valuable dead wood habitat at your site for a multitude of bugs and create a learning resource too. (one class in two groups)
Stag beetle pyramid (half a day)	Insert a variety of long stag beetle friendly logs to create a nursery for stag beetle larvae. (one class in two groups)
Nectar border (half a day)	Plant a variety of specific flowering plants to provide a rich nectar source for insects from early spring to late autumn. SPRING/ AUTUMN ACTIVITY
Minibeast survey (1 hour per habitat)	Explore the different habitats of the site using sweep nets, bug pots and tree beaters to identify different species. What ones live where and why and how are they adapted to their environment?

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Ponds



Skills	Strength, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, safe use of tools, maths, DT, soils and rocks, plants & growing , collaboration, problem solving, living things, life cycles, identification & classification, food chains, care & consideration for living things, ecosystems, eutrophication, decay & nutrient cycle.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Pond creation (half day to start with)	Planning with pupils and, once the pond is dug out, lining and edging and filling the pond. (carried out in stages)
Pond clearing (half day/ day)	Pupils/adults/ sometimes two Outdoor Learning Officers required to clear out weed from overgrown ponds and clear foliage and branches overhanging the pond to let the light back in and keep leaves out. (up to one day, depending on state of pond and number and strength of helpers) AUTUMN/WINTER ACTIVITY
Pond planting (1/1.5 hours)	Plant a range of aquatic plants to create a healthy balance pond.
Pond survey (1/1.5 hours per class)	Use nets, trays and ID keys to sample the pond and identify the wildlife living there.
Pond food webs (30 mins)	A game to explore the links between pond creatures and what happens if it becomes unbalanced.
Biotic index (30 mins)	Sample the pond and use the species found to indicate how clean the water is.

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Natural art



Location: Own site, local wild space, Essex Wildlife Trust sites.

Skills	Safe use of hand tools, green woodwork, knots, experimentation, risk management, physical mobility & agility, problem solving & collaboration, species identification, understanding & knowledge of the world, seasons, art, DT, weaving and seasons.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects (1/1.5 hours):
Land art	Work in groups and take inspiration from Land artists like Richard Shilling and Andy Goldsworthy to create some land art using materials collected from your site.
Stone age painting	Use different natural materials to make paint and paint brushes and create a masterpiece.
Hapazome	Use leaves and fabric and natural stone hammers to recreate this ancient Japanese art work style.
Tree faces	Use natural clay to sculpt 3D faces for the trees giving them characters that suit the tree.
Stick people	Use natural materials to make your own stick person considering ratios of body parts and finding the best materials to make your person right.
Weaving	Work in teams to create natural weaving using a variety of media from willow to netting.

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Coasts and beaches



Skills	Fine motor skills, safe use of tools & equipment, maths, DT, soils & rocks, weather, collaboration, problem solving, living things, life cycles, identification & classification, food chains, care & consideration for living things and ecosystems.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects (1.5/ 2 hours):
Strandline search I.D	Using a range of identification sheets and books, explore the strandline and intertidal zone at low tide to identify wildlife and
Beach art	Using natural materials, make land art using inspiration from the beach.
Longshore drift	Explore what actions the waves have on the shape of the beach.
Exploring coastal habitats	Explore the intertidal zone, groynes, breakwaters and high tide line to discover and identify the wildlife that exists there.
Adaptation and evolution at the beach	How is marine wildlife adapted to deal with different conditions? What does it eat and why does it live there?
Coastal School (Set of 6 sessions for 1.5/ 2 hours for 15 children)	Like Forest School but at the beach. This is a series of visits to a local beach led by a trained Coastal School Leader who brings a variety of activities and adapts sessions to follow the direction and interests of the children through the weeks. They may explore stones, sound, identification, den building, fire lighting (if allowed), tides and weather

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Trees & Plants



Skills	Strength, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, safe use of tools, soils & rocks, plants & growing, collaboration, problem solving, living things, life cycles, identification & classification, food chains, care & consideration for living things, ecosystems, evolution & adaptation, photosynthesis, decay & nutrient cycle.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Planting (half day/ day)	Plant trees with pupils and include rabbit guards, ties and weed suppressant.
Tree survey (1/1.5 hours)	Identify the tree/shrub species at your site. Option to make a tree ID guide for your site for others to use.
Parts of a plant (1 hour)	Identify different parts of the trees and bushes around you and see if you can make your own 2-D/3-D tree or plant.
Seed dispersal (1/1.5 hours)	Nuts, berries, parachutes, Helicopters, pepper pots... Explore and collect the different types of seed containers from around your site and work out how they work. AUTUMN activity
The seed game (20 minutes)	A good introductory run around game to remember all the elements required for a seed to grow into a healthy plant.

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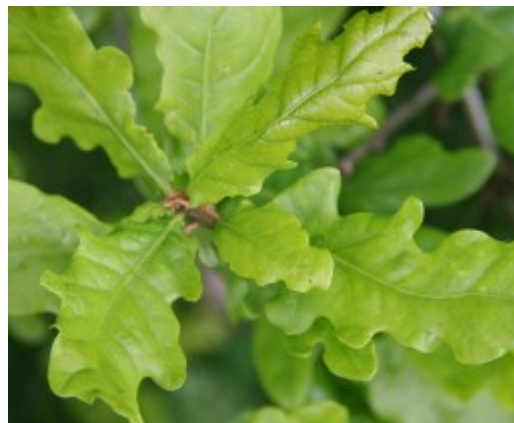
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Trees & Plants

Continued...

Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Leafy lookalikes (30 mins)	Identify trees and shrubs and see if you can match their leaves to your surroundings.
Charlie the leaf (30 mins)	Explore the nutrient cycle and decay through the interactive story of Charlie the Leaf.
Hug a tree (10 minutes)	Use your senses to explore a tree.
Green food factories (30 mins)	Explore the inner workings of a leaf and how it feeds all the world through photosynthesis and the transport system of a tree .
Tree top walk (20 minutes)	Use a mirror to take a disorientating walk through the tree tops and make sure you don't fall into the sky!



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Farming



Location: Abbots Hall Farm Abbots Hall Farm, Great Wigborough, CO5 7RZ
 Map Ref : TL 966 142

Skills	Strength, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, soils & rocks, plants & growing, collaboration, problem solving, living things, life cycles, care & consideration for living things, ecosystems, land use and investigating rural farming sustainable.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Flatbread making (1 hour)	Learn how to make bread and where the ingredients come from. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grind corn from our farm to extract flour • Make and cook flatbreads • Make your own butter to go with the flatbreads • Enjoy your locally produced homemade flatbreads
Abbots Hall Farm trail (1 hours)	This includes a walk around our farm identifying crops and discussing farming methods with challenges along the way testing your senses and the wildlife surrounding us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work out what soil type we have • We will look at the fields around us • Listen and look out for wildlife • Identify trees in our mini woodland • Make your own farm out of natural materials Can be turned into orienteering trail.
Guess the grain (10 minutes)	By looking at and feeling the grain can you guess what is with a choice of oil seed rape, wheat, barley, peas and wild bird food mix. Can you get 5 out of 5?

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Living willow structures



Winter activity

These provide shade, sculpture, boundary lines and an endless supply of willow rods for use in Forest School and Outdoor learning sessions to make wreaths, crowns, cooking sticks or more willow structures...

Skills	Strength, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, safe use of tools, art & sculpture, weaving, maths, DT, soils & rocks, propagation, plants & growing, collaboration and problem solving. NB extra cost for willow
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Willow tunnel (half day/ day)	We work with students in groups of 12 for a minimum of 1hr each group to plant and weave and tie a living willow tunnel. (half a day- a day depending on length of tunnel and £30 per m for willow and ties and weed suppressant)
Willow dome (one day)	We work with students in groups of 12 for a minimum of 1hr each group to plant and weave and tie a living willow dome approx. 3.5m diameter. (a day, 30 students max and extra £130 for willow and ties and weed suppressant)
Willow 'fedge' (half a day/day)	We work with students in groups of 12 for a minimum of 1hr each group to plant and weave and tie a living willow hedge or fence into a lattice. (half a day- a day depending on length of fedge and £20 per meter for willow and ties and weed suppressant)
Maintaining an existing willow structure (half a day/day)	We work alone or with students in groups of 12 for a minimum of 1hr each group to prune and weave your willow structure to bring it back. We can also take away lots of the cuttings. (half a day- a day depending on the state of the structure)

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Bush Craft



Location: Own site, local wild space, Essex Wildlife Trust sites.

Skills	Shelter building, fire lighting, safe use of hand tools, green woodwork, knots & rope work, experimentation, risk management, physical mobility & agility, problem solving & collaboration, species identification, understanding & knowledge of the world, seasons, art and DT
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects (1/1.5 hours per activity):
Shelter building	Team challenge working in groups to make shelters able to shelter the team from a rainstorm. Using natural materials and tarpaulins and ropes.
Green woodwork	Use tools such as knives, pruning and bowsaws, hand drills, gimlets, mallets, billhooks and potato peelers to make a variety of items such as musical instruments, bows and arrows, butter knives, peashooters, charcoal pencil, beads from a range of wood species.
Rope work	Work in teams to learn knots and use ropes for a range of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a rope swing • Rope walk • Rope trust game • Zip wire

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Bush Craft

Continued...

Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Fire Lighting	Understand the legal and safety issues when lighting fires outdoors and collect materials for tinder, kindling and firewood. Grade and sort materials for the fire and explore different methods of fire lighting. Learn to use flint and steels to make small fires.
Cooking on a fire	Consider the food health and safety implications of preparing and cooking food outdoors. Choose food to cook – marshmallows, s'mores, drop scones or flatbreads. Prepare and cook selected food on the fire.
Arts and crafts	Use mud and natural materials such as clay, raffia and willow for a variety of projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land art • Stick people • Little people furniture • Mobiles • Weaving • Willow platter • Tree faces • Charcoal pencils



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Orchards and apple days



Autumn/winter activities.

An orchard is a wildlife rich habitat that is traditional to Essex.

Skills	Strength, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, safe use of tools, art & sculpture, weaving, maths, DT, soils & rocks, propagation, plants & growing, collaboration, problem solving, history, traditions and customs
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
Planting (half day/ one day)	We work with students to plant trees. Five apple trees make an orchard. (half a day- a day depending on the number of trees planted).
Apple pressing (1.5 hours)	Apple day is traditionally y in late October. If you have a glut of apples we can bring our apple press to make apple juice with students.
Apple tree dressing (1-1.5 hours)	Use natural materials to make bird food and other decorations for a tree. Explore old British traditions and help feed the birds.
Wassailing (1/ 1.5 hours)	Celebrate the ancient art of wassailing to ‘help the orchard grow’ and explore what trees really need to produce fruit.
Orchard trail (1 hour)	To discover the history of apples and orchards in this country through a trail round your site.
Apple tasting (1 hour)	Sample a variety of old English apple varieties and judge them.

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Rivers



Locations: a nearby river/ stream with access

Skills	Strength, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, safe use of tools, maths, DT, soils and rocks, plants & growing , collaboration, problem solving, living things, life cycles, identification & classification, food chains, care & consideration for living things, ecosystems, eutrophication, decay & nutrient cycle.
Session outlines	Choose from the following series of projects:
River survey (1/1.5 hours per class)	Use nets, trays and ID keys to sample the river and identify the wildlife living there.
River food webs (30 mins)	A game to explore the links between river creatures and what happens if it becomes unbalanced.
Biotic index (30 mins)	Sample the river and use the species found to indicate how clean the water is.
Survey the river (30 minutes)	Survey the river and find out the width and depth of the river and see if you can create a drawing of the river. Measure the river flow and see if you can spot any pollution outlets by your river.

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Outdoor Learning Programme KS1/2



Your Day

We offer Outdoor Learning sessions across the year to enrich the curriculum and provide bespoke sessions for science weeks and eco schools.

Choose from whole days, half days and one off sessions.

When you book a workshop with us, we will tailor the event to meet your needs and provide the following:

- Risk Assessments
- Lesson Plans
- Links to the curriculum
- Resources/ equipment
- Expertise in the subject
- Links to wildlife and local natural spaces

Prices

Requested donations:

1 to 1.5 hour session	from £90 (one class)
Half day	from £140 (up to two classes)
One day	from £240 (up to three classes)
Abbotts Hall Farm KS1/2 £6/child	
FREE funded visits in Spring and Autumn term for farm days	

The price includes one leader, travel expenses, equipment and materials.
Extra cost for willow/logs/plants etc. if we source them for wildlife areas.

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