

## Farm visits for schools

KS2/3/4

Celebrate the Year of Food and Farming with a visit to our unique farm at Abbots Hall Farm, Gt Wigborough, near Maldon.

Abbots Hall Farm has been owned and managed by Essex Wildlife Trust since 2000 to support wildlife whilst making a profit. Wide field margins and beetle banks allow predators of crop pests to flourish. Crops include winter wheat, conservation grade oats for Jordan's cereal bars, oil seed rape for oil, ancient spelt flour and bird seed and we have grazing for sheep and lambs in the spring.

In 2002 parts of the sea wall along with the farm were breached to allow the sea to find its natural levels. This was the first of its kind and Abbots Hall is a practical demonstration of a sustainable approach to coastal defences. Since the breach coastal marsh has begun to colonise the strip of arable land beyond the sea wall.

### Farm Tour (1 hour approx)

Led by CEVAS accredited Essex Wildlife Trust Education Officer. This tour will introduce the farm to you and give you an insight into the history of the farm and how it works.

### Field to Fork (1 hour approx)

This activity introduces sustainable food miles. Teams take a shopping basket with common food items such as packaged fruit, milk, flour, porridge oats, tea.... and use maps and scale rulers to give the food miles of each food item. You may be surprised!

### Name the Grain (45 minutes approx)

Discover what the seeds that are grown on the farm look like and match them to the end products such as bread, bird food...

### Natural predators (1-2 hours)

Sample the ponds, beetle banks, wide field margins using pond nets, sweep nets, pots and transects and identify the invertebrates using books and keys. Use the results to discuss the effectiveness of habitats such as these for natural pest control.

### Sustainable Land use (1 hour approx)

Compare maps before and after the breach of the sea wall and before and after Essex Wildlife Trust took on the farm to see land use change on the farm. Using maps plot the current use of the farm.

### Visit details

We provide all equipment and lead each session.

Visit from 9.30am – 2.45pm

Pre visits available on request.

Each activity is risk assessed.

Under cover seating (not heated), toilets and hand washing facilities.

We cater for all learning needs.

We request a donation of £3 per KS2 pupil and £5 for KS3/4. Minimum donation of £50 half day and £100 full day.

To book or for more details contact Laura Harvey  
Telephone: 01621 869922 or [click here to email](#). (Office day Mondays)

We hope to see you soon  
Laura Harvey CEVAS accredited Schools Officer