



LORTON MEADOWS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



THE NATURE RESERVE

Lorton Meadows nature reserve in Weymouth, is a haven for wildlife. Originally farmland, the 75 hectare (185 acre) reserve has been managed by Dorset Wildlife Trust since 1998 and boasts species rich grassland of national importance, with ponds, seasonal streams, hedgerows and small woodlands.

The proximity of a 'snap-shot' of Lorton's varied habitats, located close to the Conservation Centre makes Lorton a brilliant location for younger key stages. While the varied habitats and conservation management within an urban setting provide plenty of opportunities for higher Key Stages and Further Education groups.

THE FACILITIES

The Conservation Centre houses informative and interactive displays, including nest box/feeder cameras. There is a small shop providing wildlife books, identification guides and small gifts - if you would like the shop to form part of your visit, please let us know when booking. There are toilets in the centre and a car park, the Picnic Area and Outdoor Classroom are adjacent.

THE VISIT

Educational visits from 1 hour to a full school day are available, for all Key Stages and FE groups. You are welcome to eat your lunch on site, but please take your litter away with you.

All activities support the national curriculum, but if you can't find what you're looking for, please contact us to discuss your topic. We supply all the equipment necessary for the activities overleaf, including age-appropriate worksheets and ID guides.



Photos © Sally Welbourn (back), Nigel Brooks (front) & Kerry Stanton (inside)



Lorton Meadows
Conservation Centre,
Lorton Lane,
Weymouth,
DT3 5QH



HOW TO BOOK & CONTACT DETAILS

To discuss your requirements and book an educational visit please contact:
Tel: 01305 816546

Email: sdallimore@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

For further details of the nature reserve, conservation centre and events: www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

HEALTH & SAFETY

First aid and health & safety for all students is the responsibility of the visiting education facility. Groups must be supervised at all times with an appropriate adult to pupil ratio provided by the visiting education facility. (DWT staff are not included in this ratio). Risk assessments should be carried out by the visiting education facility prior to the visit – please ask for assistance if required.

ACCESSIBILITY

Activities can be adapted for students with special educational needs, the centre has a disabled toilet, disabled parking bay, an access for all mesh path around Withy Woods and picnic area, plus an accessible pond dipping platform. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

COSTS

Key Stages 1 & 2:

1 hour = £1.80/pupil, minimum charge £45.
2 hours = £3.00/pupil, minimum charge £75.
4 hours = £5.40/pupil, minimum charge £135.
We usually work with 1 class per session.

Key Stages 3 & 4, A Level & FE:
£2.00/student/hour.



Part of a
nationwide network
of Wildlife Trusts

Protecting **Wildlife** for the future

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY	DURATION	AVAILABLE	AGE
MINIBEASTS Explore 1, 2 or 3 different habitats to discover, identify and record the minibeasts. Choose from meadows (sweep netting) or woods (under logs or tree shaking).	30 mins/ habitat	April - October	Year R - 6
MINIBEAST & POND CREATURE FOOD-CHAINS OR FOOD-WEBS Beginning with a plant, create food-chains with producers, prey and predators or food-webs for animals adapted to the woods, meadows or ponds	30 mins	April - October	Year 2 - 6
MINIBEAST & POND CREATURE LIFECYCLES Discover the lifecycles of animals as they grow and change, do they pupate or change in stages?	30 mins	April - October	Year 3 - 6
CAMOUFLAGE CATERPILLARS Become a bird and find the hidden caterpillars – how many will you discover hiding?	20 mins	April - October	Year R - 2
HUNGRY CATERPILLARS (GAME) Will you find all the food you need to become a butterfly, or will you be eaten?	15 mins	April - October	Year R - 2
MINIBEAST MADNESS (GAME) Move like a minibeast you found today - can the class guess what you are?	15 mins	April - October	Year R - 2
POND DIPPING Use nets to collect pond creatures, then have a closer look, identify and record them while studying their adaptations.	1 hour	April - October	Year R - 6
DARING DRAGONS (GAME) Become a dragonfly nymph – will you eat enough or be eaten before you can leave the pond?	15 mins	April - October	Year 1 - 4
TREES – LEAF MATCHING Identify native trees using the shapes and characteristics of their leaves – which leaves have teeth, which are deciduous?	30 mins	April - October	Year 1 - 6
CLOSE-UP LEAVES Look closely at your chosen leaf and discover and draw the transport systems within it.	20 mins	April - October	Year 3 - 6
TREE STUDIES In the woods, discover the difference between trees, ID them by the leaves, bark, flowers or fruit.	30 mins	April - October	Year 1 - 6
PLANT IDENTIFICATION Discover plants in different habitats, for example the woods, meadows and ponds, and how they have adapted to get air, water, light, nutrients and to be pollinated.	30 mins/ habitat	May - September	Year 1 - 6
PLANT LIFE CYCLES What does a plant grow from, how does it grow, what are its parts called?	30 mins	April - October	Year 1 - 6
SEED DISPERSAL Discover exploding pods, peppercots, parachutes – how do seeds disperse, how have they adapted to use the wind, animals and other methods?	45 mins	September - November	Year 1 - 6
SEED SURVIVAL (GAME) Become a seed, will you collect everything you need to grow - air, water, soil, light, warmth?	15 mins	April - October	Year R - 3
MAPPING WALK Guided walk around the reserve using maps, aerial images & compasses to follow our route and find points of interest, discovering habitats of the reserve on the way.	1 - 1.5 hours	April - October	Year 3 - 6
HISTORICAL LORTON Guided walk to discover the historical use of the land, from Pre-History to a WW2 decoy operation, exploring the reserve on the way.	1 - 1.5 hours	April - October	Year 3 - 6
INVESTIGATING INVERTEBRATES Use scientific processes to collect, identify and record invertebrates from a maximum of 4 habitats – trees, woodland floor, meadow, ponds. Discuss invertebrate lifecycles and adaptation to predation, food supply and environmental factors.	45 mins/ habitat	April - October	KS3, KS4, A Level, FE
ECOSYSTEM RELATIONSHIPS Using knowledge gained from investigating invertebrates, discuss plant/animal relationships and construct food chains/webs/pyramids of biomass for a chosen habitat.	30 - 45 mins	April - October	KS3, KS4, A Level, FE
PLANT INVESTIGATION Use quadrats or transects in different habitats, identify and record plant species and compare results. Discuss plant adaptations - photosynthesis, reproduction, competition and plant/animal interdependence.	45 mins/ habitat	April - October	KS3, KS4, A Level, FE
NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT Guided walk around Lorton, exploring its geology, geomorphology, history, biodiversity of local/national importance, habitat conservation, future management and partnership working, all within an urban setting of high footfall. Can be adapted to your requirements.	1.5 - 2 hours	April - October	KS3, KS4, A Level, FE
PRACTICAL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT Use hand tools for supervised practical management of habitats on the reserve, tools and gloves provided. No cost.	2 hours	September - March	KS3, KS4, A Level, FE