



Avon
Wildlife Trust



STEP BY STEP GUIDE

FOR PLANNING YOUR VISIT

*The following should assist you
in planning a school trip to
Carr's Wood, Twerton Roundhill
or other local nature spots.*



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

Build the case

Formal curriculum links –

Nature-based school visits support learning across the curriculum. Our Nature-based Learning Curriculum Links document outlines many of these.

Hidden curriculum links –

Visits to local wildlife sites show children that:

- We deserve enriching experiences
- We live in a beautiful area which is worth exploring
- We believe nature is amazing and important to protect



Engagement with learning

– Learning in natural environments:

- Builds teacher-pupil and pupil-pupil bonds
- Creates 'sticky' learning, that children will remember back in class
- Develops children's confidence



Build the trip into your planning

School visits are often done as a ‘wow’ at the start of a topic, to engage learners and inspire learning throughout the term. School visits closer to the end of a topic can consolidate and deepen learning.

You should also consider what time of year is best for the visit – both in terms of what animals and plants you are likely to see, and the ground conditions.



**Thinking creatively,
you can use your
visit as a stimulus
for learning across
the curriculum back
in school.**

Health and Safety

- You should always visit the local wildlife site yourself, walk the route and complete your own risk assessment. We have created risk assessments specifically for **Carr's Wood** and **Twerton Roundhill**.
- You school will have set adult:child ratios for visits. For visits to natural environments we recommend an adult:child ratio of 1:10 at KS2, and 1:6 at KS1 with a minimum of one teaching staff per class. One person per class must be first aid trained and carry a first aid kit.



Reverse Risk Assessments

If you are meeting any resistance to your visit, you could consider doing a **'reverse risk assessment'**. This is a thought provoking way to highlight the benefits of school visits, by thinking of the risks to children of not going on the visit. In this case the risks might include:

- Lack of confidence in being in nature – therefore missing out on the proven physical & mental health benefits of spending time in nature
- Weak ability to assess risk when outside – therefore more likely to have a serious injury in the future
- Lack of engagement in learning – leading to lower attainment

Activities

On your pre-visit to the local wildlife site, scope out at least two places where your whole class can comfortably and safely stop to listen, where they can all see and hear you. This will help inform where you start and finish activities.

We have suggested activities for visits to Carr's Wood and Twerton Roundhill, however each season will bring new learning opportunities that you can build into the plan. One of the great and challenging things about teaching in nature is that you can never quite predict what you'll encounter – stay open to these opportunities to build children's connection with nature, whether it's an impromptu rain dance or a close encounter with a curious squirrel!

Resources

There are plenty of great free printable nature ID guides and worksheets online.

Try wildlifewatch.org.uk and treetoolsforschool.org.uk as a starting point



Put together a basic wild school visit kit bag

Our top must have items are:

Sit mats (these can be cut out of cheap camping mats)

Whistle (to save your voice – wooden bird song whistles are lovely)

Laminated ID guides (for trees, birds and minibeasts)

Bits of cardboard (you can use these for impromptu poetry or drawing)

First aid kit

Documenting your visit

Photos and videos are a great way to share the visits with parents and the rest of the school community. They can also be a useful stimulus for follow up work in class. As well as a prompt for reflecting on the visit with the class, photos of plants and animals found can be used to create fact files and posters, whilst photos and videos of scenery can be a stimulus for art or poetry.



If your school uses social media, please tag @bathscape and @avonwt in your posts and we might retweet you!

