

Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden (near Acle) Schools Programme Information 2019



Welcome to Fairhaven: a beautiful woodland garden comprising 130 acres of diverse habitats including ancient oak and beech, alder carr and our own broad. Our woodland is 100% organically managed using traditional techniques such as coppicing. As a result we have some fantastic wildlife – some of it quite rare! Leaving the classroom behind students can experience first-hand these various habitats that make a visit to Fairhaven so unique.

We are excited about sharing our love for nature and the outdoors, so it's time to rediscover that inner wild child!

Cost per student is £5. Accompanying adults are free. Boat trip available for £3 extra per pupil.
 (We provide a marquee, toilets, easy access paths – and a welcome cuppa for adults!)

This is what a typical visit would look like:

9.45am - 10am	Arrival and welcome. Brief safety talk for students.
10 – 10.45am	Guided nature walk down to the glade (school area) encompassing a range of habitats, wildlife and also the history of the garden (30 to 40 mins). A chance to do some sensory activities that gently introduce the children to the natural world of Fairhaven. Snack time in the glade. Under marquee if wet. Complimentary tea and coffee are provided for the adults.
10.45 – 12.15pm	Morning session – 2 supervised exploratory hands-on activities from the menu below (30 to 40 mins each).
12.15 – 1pm	Lunch time in the glade. Under marquee if wet. Once in the glade the children are encouraged to make the area their own. A den building area provides opportunity for imaginative play. Complimentary tea and coffee are provided for the adults. There are compost loos nearby.
1pm	Afternoon session – 1 activity from the menu below (30 to 40 mins).
1.45pm – 2pm	Leave for school.

We are flexible and happy to adapt each visit to the needs of your school group. So please do chat through any ideas for your special day out.

Wild play, adventure and mindfulness (Suitable for all ages)

It is becoming more and more apparent that children are not getting enough time out in nature, exploring, discovering and having adventures. We can offer sessions where the children are given space and time to find their inner 'wild child' through free play, guided play, sensory activities and mindfulness activities. We can mix and match such a session with the learning opportunities below.

Living things and their habitats – Suitable for KS1/ KS2 (for KS2 we can adapt our sessions to include more complex classification, working with keys, environmental change, life cycles, and working scientifically. We are happy to give a focus to any part of the curriculum - including English, Maths, and Art).

Explore our woodland habitat by choosing 3 activities from the menu below. Each activity is linked to the national curriculum. We are also a member of BEEN: The Broads Environmental Education Network.

Cost per student is £5.

Activity Menu

- **Wild play and sensory exploration.**
A session with a light touch. Giving the children a chance to explore and enjoy the surroundings deeply with a range of gently guided activities. Great for the soul!
- **Dyke Dipping**
Explore a dyke habitat. Working in small groups, each student will get a chance to dip. Students will identify from classification charts a variety of pond creatures using their observable characteristics. We will explore and answer questions about simple food chains, understanding the difference between herbivores, carnivores, omnivores and detritivores. This is also a great activity to explore life-cycles.
- **Hedge ‘ Bashing’**
Explore a hedge habitat. In small groups have-a-go at ‘beating’ a laurel hedge. Students will identify and name the variety of bugs that fall out, including any adaptations to their micro habitat.
- **Leaf Litter Rummage**
Explore a leaf litter habitat. In small groups rummage through leaf litter to look for the creatures that live there using collecting pots and magnifying glasses. Students will identify and name the creatures they find. We will discuss the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates and their relationships to each other. We will discuss the importance of micro habitats in creating diversity in a larger woodland environment.

(Each of these 3 activities above will explore simple food chains and life cycles, introduce the simple classification of vertebrates and invertebrates, discuss which creatures are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and look at how some creatures are adapted to live in their habitat. At the end of each activity the whole group will come together to discuss their findings.)
- **Tree Identification**
On a guided walk identify and name using charts some of our native trees that make up a typical woodland habitat. Learn about the differences in leaf shape, growth habit and bark of a tree. Students can then sow a seed/nut from one of the trees discovered on the walk using Fairhaven leaf soil made from the same trees! Students will identify deciduous and evergreen trees and some of the more common native species and understand the different habitats some native species need for optimum growth.
- **Build a Nest Challenge**
Using found woodland materials teams will design and build a nest for their chosen bird. Each team nest will then be judged by the other teams of nest builders. Each team must be able to explain why they used the materials they did and also explain the construction of their nest.
- **Mini Beast Homes**
Thinking about what kind of creatures may want to live in their home students individually gather together materials to create the ideal home for mini beasts to take back to school. Students will be able to master simple weaving skills and also analysis of the materials they have collected and talk about why.
- **Bird Feeders**
From our Pic n’ Mix Bird Buffet students will make individual bird feeders to take back to school.

Students will discover which ingredients make nutritious food for birds and why. They will need to make decisions as to which birds they want to attract to their feeders and then which food to use.

- **Clay Mini Beasts**

Individually create a real/fantasy mini beast from air-drying clay and found woodland materials to take back to school.

Students will need to forage for their materials, making choices about what they collect to create the characteristics of their own mini beast.

- **Woodland Clay Prints**

Individually create a unique record of your visit to Fairhaven with air-drying clay and foraged materials to take back to school.

- **Tree Face Clay Play**

Using imagination, clay and found woodland materials individually create a face, complete with nose, mouth, eyebrows etc., among the trees. (Not to take home – camera advised).

Boat Trips

In addition to the above we can also offer a 20 min boat trip to replace one of the activities. This is at an additional cost of £3 per student. All students will be supplied with life jackets and will need to be accompanied by 2 adults per trip.

The trip takes the children out onto the magical water of South Walsham Broad and gives them a timeless experience of boating on the Broads!

Next Steps

If you would like to make a booking, please contact Lee Cozens (Mrs) on (01603) 270449 or at education@fairhavengarden.co.uk



We look forward to meeting you!