



QUEEN
ELIZABETH
Country Park

About the Pack

Thanks you for booking in your class/group to visit Queen Elizabeth Country Park, and welcome to the briefing pack.

This pack is designed to help with the preparation for your visit, whether guided or self guided. It contains details on the domestic arrangements; arrival and departure, location of toilets, picnic areas as well as background information on the Park and follow up activities.

If you are planning a self-guided visit and require further specific information please contact the Park's Education Officer on 02392 59 50 40.

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Group Visits Essential Info

The following information will help you get the best from your visit.. If you need any further information then please do contact the Education Officer.

Pre – Visits

A pre-visit for all your group leaders is strongly recommended. Contact the Education Officer to book in.

Arrival procedure for guided activities

On arrival the teacher/group leader must report to the reception desk within the Visitor Centre with the booking form.

Accidents and First Aid

All Park staff are qualified first aiders and carry two way radios/mobile phones. If you require medical assistance or in case of an accident please report to reception or the nearest member of staff. **If you call for an ambulance directly please let the reception know.**

Safety

Please follow the guidelines set out by your local Education Authority with regards to taking groups on trips and carrying out fieldwork. The teacher/group leader is responsible for the discipline and overall control of the group at all times, and to ensure that all helpers are briefed on their responsibilities.

Insurance

Hampshire County council has a public liability insurance of £50,000,000. A copy of the certificate is available on request.

Toilets

Ladies and gents toilets are situated near the main entrance to the Visitor Centre. The unisex open access toilet is located near the café. There are two other set of toilets one on the top on Butser and in the Juniper Car park, both with unisex open access options.

Cancellations

The minimum notice period required for a full refund is one month.

Infectious Diseases/dangerous plants/animals

As with any countryside site, care needs to be taken if handling certain plants, materials or animals. The Education Officer has more detailed information if required.





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Open country

Part of the Downland Trail that crosses Butser Hill is classed as open country. As a consequence an Open Country qualification is required of the leader.

Clothing

Please ensure that all pupils and adults are briefed prior to the visit regarding appropriate clothing. We recommend that stout footwear and long trousers are worn throughout the year. In addition extra warm and waterproof clothes for the winter and a hat and sun cream during the summer months.

The Visitor Centre Shop

The shop stocks a wide variety of souvenirs, gifts and educational items which will add to your visit. Souvenir bags can be pre-booked at £2 each.

Lime Café

The café is adjacent to the Visitor Centre and offers a wide range of hot and cold drinks, cakes, snacks and light lunches. The kiosks are located in the Butser and Juniper car parks selling drinks and snacks on a seasonal basis. Groups can be catered for if booked in advance. Please contact Lime directly on 023 9259 6345.

Picnic Areas

You are welcome to eat your lunch on the patio between the café and Visitor Centre, we also have two large grassy areas, the Meadow and Bottom field, which are also used by members of the public. If you are a guided group we will provide an inside space for you in case of bad weather. Groups visiting independently cannot be guaranteed any space under cover. However you may book the Annexe or Theatre prior to your visit.

Juniper Play Trail

This woodland play trail is easily reached by following the Forest Drive to Juniper car park. The extensive range of play equipment is suitable for children aged eight and over.

Tots Play Area

Situated close to the visitor centre is a range of mini beasts themed play equipment for children under eight years old.

Barbecue Areas

There are large purpose built bbq sites situated at Juniper, Benham Bushes, Cannonball and Coney Acres. For more information and to make a booking please contact the Visitor Centre.

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Park Introduction

Queen Elizabeth Country Park lies at the western end of the South Downs National Park, on the Hampshire and West Sussex border. The 564 hectares (ha) of the Park includes the open downland of Butser Hill (231ha) and the woodland slopes of Holt and War Down (333 ha).

Butser Hill is not only the highest point in the Park at 271m, and also the highest point on the South Downs, with the Bt radio mast on the summit, it is a distinctive local landmark.

Since 1976 QECP has been managed as a Country Park by Hampshire County Council in partnership with the Forestry Commission. The site has Green Flag and Country Park Accreditation Status.





Guided Visits

The guided sessions are generally 2 hours long

Sensory Explorers (Foundation / Key Stage 1, Science)

Using their senses, the children explore the Park's variety of colours, textures, sounds and smells.

Mini-beast Safari (Key Stage 1 & 2, Science)

Explore the world of woodland mini-beasts aided by pooters and bug pots. We use colour ID charts and play games that highlight issues such as camouflage.

Woodland Discovery (Key Stage 1 & 2, Science)

Discover the woodland habitat and the relationship between its plants and animals. Activities can include food chains, life of a tree and adaption's.

(Follow on activity – grassland and woodland food chain mobiles)

Woodland and Meadow Discovery (Key Stage 2, Science & Geography)

Through a series of activities, the children are encouraged to draw comparisons between two very different habitats.

(Follow on activity – grassland and woodland food chain mobiles)

Habitats (Key stage 2 & 3, Science & Geography)

Explore the many different habitats found within our Park including woodland, meadow and pond. Using professional equipment the pupils will discover what creatures can be found in each habitat. Comparisons and adaption are also covered.

Team Building (Suitable for all ages)

Tackle a variety of activities such as an obstacle course, orienteering and shelter building to discover the importance of being a team member.

Sustainability (Key Stage 2,3 & 4)

An interactive talk by Park staff about sustainability and how the Country Park and your school can do their bit. This is a two hour session with the talk lasting approximately 1 hour followed by a self-guided questionnaire/orienteering activity for the second hour.





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Geography on Butser – Key Stage 3 and 4

This 2 hour session looks at the landscape and land form of Butser hill. We will also cover topics such as land use and conflict between users.

Man and the Landscape Key stage 2 - 4

A similar 2-hour session to the Conservation Management session following the same route but adapted to concentrate on landscape use and man's impact on the landscape.

Key areas of discussion include farming, countryside recreation, historic landscape and land use in the future.

Wildlife Survey and Monitoring (April – September) Key Stage 3, 4 and Further Ed

A 2 ½ hour session looking at basic survey and monitoring techniques used at the Park. A typical session would include looking at reptile monitoring, small mammal trapping, vegetation assessment and simple tracking techniques. The maximum group size is 15.

Global Citizenship – The Conservation Perspective Key Stage 3 & 4

This 2 hour session is based upon experiences gained through our connection with the National Park in Uganda and work with organisations such as the IRF (International Ranger Federation), PACE (Pan African Conservation Education) and Education Uganda. The main emphasis of this session is to explore the global nature of conservation, the role and impact that the individual has on their natural environment. The session includes powerpoint and video presentations, role-playing exercises and group discussion.

Countryside Management – Key Stage 4/Further Ed

This session looks at the management of the Country Park as a business and as a visitor destination in the current challenging economic climate. The role of the National Park partnership organisations and the local community are all featured.

Conservation Management – Key Stage 4/Further Ed

This session looks at conservation work in the park and includes the management of vulnerable habitats, (e.g. chalk downland), species diversity, monitoring techniques and land designations.

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Self – Guided Activities

Fun Ruck Sack

Why not hire a fun ruck sack for the day, we can provide mini-beasting equipment for your whole group including ID charts, blindfolds and much more. Ruck sacks cost £10 each and need to be booked in advance.

Orienteering

A pack is available with a map and notes on how to use the orienteering course. There are three suggested routes of varying difficulty. (Orienteering Pack 75p)

Space Trail

Believed to be the largest scale layout of the solar system in the British Isles. Devised by the Hampshire Astronomical Group. The trail is 3.2 Km and waymarked through the park. (Trail leaflet 50p)

Downland/Woodland Trails

Trails of varying duration allow you to explore many habitats and encompass spectacular views. Navigate by colour coded posts. (Maps cost 75p)

Mountain Biking

There are two trails designated for mountain-biking. The most suitable trail for all school groups is the purple trail which is 6km long and shown on the park map. Groups should be led by a qualified mountain biking instructor. The Park has a number of mountain bikes and adapted cycles which can be pre-booked along with a leader if required.





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Prices 2011

Two hour guided session	£4 per pupil
All Day guided Session	£6 per pupil
Accompanying Adults	Free
Fun Rucksack	£10 per day

With guided session an indoor space will be provided free of charge

Hire of Annexe

Half a day	£30
Whole Day	£50

Hire of Theatre

Half a day	£30
Whole day	£50

Maps and Leaflets can be brought from the Visitor Centre and vary in price.

To find out more about the park or to make a booking please contact:

The Park Office
Queen Elizabeth Country Park
Gravel Hill
Horndean
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO8 0QE

Tel: 02392 59 50 40
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