

About The Site

Yateley Common Country Park is a beautiful and varied site with 476 acres of heathland, woodland, grassland and ponds. Much of the Common is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its significant importance for wildlife. The reserve is also part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area for internationally important bird populations.



Yateley Common is a valuable resource for local people and visitors alike. As such, we aim to manage the area in such a way that people can enjoy quiet, informal recreation in pleasant and safe surroundings. The Common has many user groups including local dog walkers, cyclists and horse riders, who use the designated rights of way.

Although we would always encourage schools to come out to Yateley Common to experience nature and the local environment first-hand, many of our activities can also be carried out in school grounds and we are willing to consider travelling to schools if it is not possible to come out to us.

Facilities

There are no on-site toilet facilities and parking is sometimes restricted. It is therefore suggested that if travelling by coach, prior arrangements should be made with a member of staff. All activities are outdoors, and so teachers *must* ensure that children are suitably dressed for the weather. We always ask for a visiting member of staff to come for a short pre-visit to discuss health and safety aspects and finalise the programme for the day.

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Price Table

In order to ensure that we can continue to deliver high quality outdoor sessions and cover increasing costs of materials, there is a small charge to schools for visits. However, we are dedicated to equal opportunities, so please contact us if you have any queries or are unable to make a payment and we will always try to accommodate. A minimum charge of £20 per session applies.

Number of Sessions Booked	Price Per Session
<i>1</i>	<i>£1.50 per child</i>
<i>2+</i>	<i>£1 per child</i>
<i>4+</i>	<i>Please contact us to arrange a suitable price based on your requirements.</i>

Catering For All Ages and Abilities

All of our activities are designed to meet National Curriculum requirements. They are listed by National Curriculum subject areas and below each activity the key stage topic areas each relates to are given. Activities can be booked alone or in combination for a more comprehensive package. Where appropriate, we will provide worksheets to assist you with follow-up activities and to consolidate and extend learning back in the classroom. You can book a session lasting anywhere between one hour and half a day. All sessions can be tailored as necessary and we are happy to help you to decide on custom built programmes to best cover your needs.

For younger children (Yrs 1&2), we have many simple, fun and stimulating games and activities focusing on senses and exploration, which encourage learning while capturing the children's imaginations. For older children (Yrs 3, 4, 5&6), we can focus on covering more curriculum-based skills in a natural environment where children are free to explore and learn at their own pace.

We try to be as inclusive as possible in ensuring that everyone who wishes to take part in our activities can get maximum benefit, and we will always endeavour to adapt our activities in order to cater for any special requirements. However, in order to plan for this we do request that any relevant information is clearly communicated to us prior to the event (i.e. on booking form and during pre-visit).

A Day in the Life of a Ranger...

This may involve a short talk or walk which can be included as part of your package to explain who we are and what we do. The discussion can be as short or as long as you wish and can include the following topics:

- **Yateley Common and why it is a nature reserve**
- **Heathland/ Grassland/ Woodland/ Pond wildlife and management** – including demonstration of skulls, nests and snake-skins (sloths) found in the area!
- **Recreational uses of the site and how they affect the nature reserve**
- **How to become a ranger**

Can be adapted to KS1 (Sc2 1c; 5a & b) KS2 (Sc2 1c; 5a & b; Geography 4b; 5a & b)

A. Science

Habitats - Woodland/Heathland/Grassland

On a ranger-led guided walk around the park, children will explore up to three habitats, and are encouraged to question why these areas differ. Woodland, grassland and heathland can be explored using a variety of games and activities including tree ID, spotting wildlife, learning about habitats and adaptations, food chains and pyramids. Differences in micro-climate, diversity of species, life processes and specific adaptations to each habitat may also be explored in a fun way.

Ponds and Minibeasts are two of our most popular habitat-study sessions (see descriptions below), which work well as stand-alone sessions as well as in a comparison with each other (or other habitats).

Can be adapted to KS1 (Sc1, 2a, b, f & g, Sc2 1b & c; 2a, b & e; 4b; 5a, b & c) or KS2 (Sc2 1a & c; 4a & b; 5b & c)

KS1 (Sc1, 2a, b, f & g, Sc2 5a, b & c) & **KS2** (Sc1 1a & b, Sc2 4a & b, 5a, b, c, d & e)

Activity length: Variable

Ponds

This popular activity allows children to discover for themselves the huge variety of invertebrates and plant species that live in a freshwater ecosystem. All the necessary equipment is provided and a ranger will be on hand to help the children identify the creatures using a simple key. A variety of activities and games are available in addition to help the children explore further topics such as the fascinating adaptations of pond life to its environment, food chains and why we must look after our environment.

KS1 (Sc1 1, 2a, f & g, Sc2 1a, b & c, 2a, b & e, 4b, 5a, b & c) & KS2 (Sc2 1a & c, 4a, b & c, 5a, b, c, d, e & f)

Activity length: 60-90 mins

Minibeasts

Nets, trays and sieves are used to catch invertebrates living in different habitats, such as in trees/hedges/long grass, in leaf litter and under wood. A simple key is used to help identify the invertebrates caught and their life processes are discussed. A variety of activities are available for inclusion as part of this session, where further depth of knowledge of topics such as adaptations and food chains can be learnt in a fun way.

KS1 (Sc1 2f, Sc2 1b & c, 2a, b, e & g, 4b, 5a, b & c) & **KS2** (Sc2 1c, 4a, b & c, 5a, b & c)

Activity length: 30 – 60 mins

Science cont.

Other Games and Activities...

We have a wide range of science-based games and activities that focus learning on various parts of the curriculum such as food chains, adaptations, habitats, pollination and pollution. These can be easily tailored to suit all ages, abilities and requirements, and are effective at stimulating learning of all ages in a fun and energetic way. Please ask one of our rangers if you require any further information.

Nature Bingo *KS1 (Sc2 5a), KS2 (Sc2 5b)*

Nut Hunt *KS1 (Sc2 5a), KS2 (Sc2 4a, 5b)*

Hide Your Nuts *KS1 (Sc2 1b & c, 2g, 5a) KS2 (5b)*

Smelly Cocktails! *KS1 (Sc2 2g; Sc3 1a)*

Elf National Park *KS1 (Sc1 2f & g)*

Colour Matching *KS1 (Sc1 2f, Sc2 2g, Sc3 1a & b)*

Meet a Tree *KS1 (Sc1 2f, Sc2 2g, Sc3 1a)*

Sound Mapping *KS1 (Sc1 2f & g; Sc2 2g)*

Scavenger Hunt *KS1 (Sc1 2f, Sc2 2g, Sc3 1a & b)*

Worm Charm *KS 1 (Sc2 1c, 2b, e & g, 5a & b)*

Who am I? *KS1 (SC1 2a & b, SC2 2a, 4b, 5a) KS2 (SC1 2b & j, SC2 4b)*

Seed Game *KS 1 (Sc2 3a) KS2 (Sc 2 3a)*

Build a Tree *KS1 (Sc 3a, b & c), KS2 (Sc2 3a, b & c)*

Pollution game *KS2 (SC2 5a, d, & e) KS3 (SC2 5e & F)*

Race to the Sun *Can be adapted to KS1 (Sc2 3a) or KS2 (Sc2 1b; 3a)*

Classroom trail/Scavenger Hunt *KS1 (Sc2 1a: 5; Sc3c) or KS2 (Sc2 5b & c)*

Caterpillar Game *KS1 (Sc2 5) or KS2 (Sc2 5b, c & d)*

Woodcutter Game *KS1 (Sc2 5) or KS2 (Sc2 5a)*

Animal Estate Agents *KS1 (SC1 2a & b, SC2 1b & c, 2b & e, 5a, b & c) KS2 (SC2 1a & c, 5a, b, c, & d)*

Habitats Game *KS2 (Sc1 1a, Sc2 1c & 5b)*

Food Web Game *KS2 (Sc2 5d & e)*

Food Chain Race *KS2 (Sc2 5d & e)*

Connection Inspection *KS2 (Sc 5a, b, d & e)*

B. Geography

Pond Survey Map

An introductory session will discuss the purpose of a map, including scales, keys and orientation. Each student is asked to produce a map of a pond with a labelled key, marking out features such as plants, fishing swims and steps using the ideas considered earlier in the session.

KS1 (2a, b, c & e)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

Treasure Trail

Children follow directions in clues leading them on a circular trail around the Common. The directions are hidden in riddles, all based on the flora and fauna in the surrounding environment, thus intelligent interpretation is required (difficulty can be tailored according to age/ability). We will explain accurate use of compasses and discuss symbols and geographical terms. Works well to consolidate previous learning in an orienteering/wildlife-based session.

KS1 (2a & c) or KS2 (2c)

Activity length: 60-90 minutes

Orienteering

Children work in pairs or small groups to locate hidden animal-cards of local wildlife by using a simple map. Keys and symbols are explained and teamwork is encouraged.

KS2 (2c)

Activity length: 60-90 minutes

Compass Story/Four Winds

This is a great game to introduce another aspect to using a compass. Points of a compass are marked out in a circle on a field. A ranger will tell a story, usually with a nature-based theme, incorporating all the compass directions. Whenever a direction is mentioned, children must run to the appropriate point in the circle. In this way, previous learning can be consolidated while children become more familiar with compasses. For older/more capable groups, this activity can be extended to include wind directions. For example, if the ranger shouts out a strong South-Easterly wind, the children must pretend to be blown in the appropriate direction (i.e. NW).

KS1 (2a) or KS2 (2a)

Activity length: 20-30 minutes

C. History

Yateley Common Timeline/Shelter Building

Children learn the history of how Yateley Common came to be heathland by building a timeline. After discussing the history and wildlife of heathland habitats in Britain from the last ice age to present, we will find a suitable spot in the woods for the groups to build their own shelter, mimicking the nomadic lifestyle of the groups of people that first lived on the heath. Gloves and materials will be provided.

KS1 (1a & b; 2a; 5; 6a & b) KS2 (1a & b; 5a & c; 6; 7)

Activity length: 60-90 minutes

D. Maths

Tree percentages and fractions

Children estimate the percentage or fraction of two or more types of tree in an area of woodland. They can then work out the percentages or fractions of trees in different sized areas and compare these to the estimates. Children learn about the trees in a local woodland whilst also improving their numeracy skills.

KS2 (Ma2 1e; 2f & g)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

Holly charts

Children look at the number of spikes on holly leaves. They sort a collection of leaves according to the number of spikes and produce a chart which enables them to look at the distribution and the range of spike numbers. This activity also allows the children to explore the variation within a species.

KS2 (Ma4)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

Numeracy trail

Follow a trail around Yateley Common and solve the clues along the way. All the clues are related to mathematical puzzles which must be solved in order to move on to the next clue. This activity takes around an hour.

KS1 (Ma2 & 3)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

E. Art and Design

Natural "Bug" art

Using anything they can find in the habitat around them, children can use their imaginations to the full by having a go at creating a piece of 'bug art', either a picture on the ground or even a small sculpture. This is a great way to get the children to look more closely at the creatures that live on the Common and to discuss the animal's body parts and explain what they are for.

KS1 (1a; 2a, b & c; 5a, b & c) KS2 (1a; 2a, b & c; 5a, b & c)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

Build a birds nest

An opportunity for children to build their very own nest using twigs, mud, straw and anything else they can find on the Common. To make this harder for older children, there is an added twist that only have a pair of tweezers or tongs, to imitate a birds' beak, can be used to construct their nest.

KS1 (1a; 2a, b & c; 5a, b & c) KS2 (1a; 2a, b & c; 5a, b & c)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

Natural Art

Children work individually or in groups to create a piece of natural in the style of Andy Goldsworthy, using material collected from the woodland floor.

KS1 (1a; 2a, b & c; 5a, b & c)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

F. English

Create Your Own Story

A variety of activities are available, which can be adapted to meet your requirements. An example of the variety of sessions on offer is provided below.

Mini Adventures

Children are given a length of string, small flags and a magnifying glass and are each taken to their own small work area. They must imagine they are as small as an ant, using the magnifying glass and must create a story based on what they can see. The string is used to trace the story over the ground and the flags are used to pick up key events in the story. Children tell their story to each other in turn.

KS1 (EN1 6a & b; 8a & d; EN3 1a, b & c; 9a & b; 12) & KS2 (EN1 1b & d; 8b & c) EN3 1a, b, c; 9a, b & d; 12)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

Poem Quadrant

In this activity, a grid is laid out over an area of heathland. Plants and animals are then looked for within the grid and a sentence is written about each one, combining the sentences to create a poem.

KS2 (EN3 1a, b & e; 9a; 12)

Activity length: 30-60 minutes

Map Sticks

Children are taken on a trail through the common and given the task of creating a map using only wool, sticks, and items found en-route. Different colours of wool may be used to represent different aspects of the route, and sticks/leaves/feathers might be used as symbols to remember specific areas visited along the trail. To finish off, a discussion will encourage children to recognise different ways of communicating, and they will get to keep their map-sticks as memories of the trail.

KS1 & 2 (EN1)

Activity length: 60-90 minutes

The Teachers' Responsibilities...

The following guidelines are provided to ensure that your visit will run smoothly and effectively.

- 1) Rangers will act as guides and interpreters, but responsibility for safety and discipline remains with the teacher. It is also the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the activities planned are safe and appropriate for the group.
- 2) The teacher should ensure that the ranger is aware of any children with any relevant special physical or medical requirements.
- 3) Although most equipment is provided by the rangers, the school should provide basic equipment such as paper and pencils if needed (advance warning will be given).
- 4) The teacher should be prepared to help to interpret the activities appropriately for the children.

Hampshire County Council Education Department has published the Open Country Activities Regulations (MCC Education "Off Site Activities" 1990; HCC Education "Safety in Hazardous Pursuits" 1990). It is the head teacher's responsibility to ensure that these regulations are adhered to:

- 1) The pupil:adult ratio must not exceed 12:1 (this does not include rangers)
- 2) Although all our rangers are first-aid trained, it is the teacher's responsibility to carry a first-aid kit.
- 3) Children must wear suitable footwear and clothing.
- 4) The group leader must be familiar with the site. This can take place during the pre-visit, which we will be glad to arrange should you choose to book a session.



Yateley Common is managed by Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service, which is part of the Culture, Communities and Business Services department.

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**Hampshire
County Council**