Learning Outside the Classroom in the Chilterns
Contact details:
Information contained within this booklet was compiled by the Chilterns Conservation Board.

For further information please contact:
Cathy Rose
Activities and Learning Officer
Chilterns Conservation Board
The Lodge
90 Station Road
Chinnor
Oxon OX39 4HA
01844 355 506
email: crose@chilternsaonb.org

website: www.chilternsaonb.org

If you require photographs of the Chilterns for education projects, please visit the website of The Chiltern Society Photo Group at www.chilternphoto.org.uk Photographs are added regularly and may be copied and used free of charge by educational establishments.

Front cover:
Orienteering on the Ridgeway
Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Importance of Learning Outside the Classroom</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife of the Chilterns AONB</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape of the Chilterns AONB</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Cultural Heritage of the Chilterns AONB</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning a Visit</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location Map of Outdoor Education Providers</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary Table of Providers</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details of Outdoor Education Providers</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Visits to Farms</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest School in the Chilterns</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Right: Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve
Introduction

This directory outlines the opportunities for learning outside the classroom that exist in, and close to, the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

It is produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board, the body established by Parliamentary Order in 2004 to manage the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Board has two statutory purposes:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB
- To increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.

From pre-school to university, the Chilterns can offer a valuable learning experience in individual subject areas such as geography, science, maths, English, history, art and PE. Beyond this, though, are cross-cutting benefits such as emotional and social development opportunities, which have a huge impact on the child as an individual.
The Importance of Learning Outside the Classroom

The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, published in 2006 by the Department for Education and Skills, states:

“Every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability and circumstances.”

Learning outside the classroom is about raising achievement through an organised, powerful approach to learning in which direct experience is of prime importance. This is not only about what we learn but importantly how and where we learn.

There is strong evidence that good quality learning outside the classroom adds much value to classroom learning.

It provides a context for learning in many areas: general and subject based knowledge; thinking and problem solving skills; life skills such as co-operation and interpersonal communication.

Outdoor Learning:

- Improves health and fitness
- Increases self esteem
- Builds confidence
- Encourages responsibility
- Enhances social and communication skills
- Improves academic engagement and achievement
- Promotes positive attitudes to learning
- Develops coping strategies
- Encourages positive behaviour

Above: Smelly cocktails at Shortenills Centre. Right: Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve
The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

In 1965, the Chiltern Hills were designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The area was designated for the natural beauty of its landscape and its natural and cultural heritage. This helped to protect its special qualities, which include the steep chalk escarpment with areas of flower-rich downland, woodlands, commons, tranquil valleys, the network of ancient routes, villages with their brick and flint houses, chalk streams and a rich historic environment of hill forts and chalk figures.

‘Natural beauty’ refers not only to the scenic qualities of the landscape but to all those other elements which together produce the special character of the AONB. These elements include wildlife and man-made features such as its archaeological and built heritage.

The Chilterns AONB is one of 38 AONBs in England and Wales, which together cover 18% of the countryside.
Wildlife of the Chilterns AONB

The Chilterns AONB is a great place to study wildlife. Ranging from invertebrates to freshwater life, from grassland flora to woodland fauna, there are plenty of opportunities for students to explore the adaptations of plants and animals to a variety of habitats. Their inter-relationships can be investigated through food chains and webs.

The impacts of human intervention and climate change on the species and habitats of the Chilterns AONB can be investigated and this can lead to broader discussion of people and their environments.

The creative arts (art, drama and literacy) can be used as a media to explore the Chilterns’ wildlife and to generate cross-curricular learning experiences.

The hands-on experience of field work has numerous benefits for the students’ interpersonal, communication and social skills and their personal well-being, self-esteem and emotional development.

Special Chilterns Wildlife

- Red kites were re-introduced to the Chilterns AONB in the early 1990s and have established a thriving breeding population.

- Water voles, Britain’s fastest declining mammal species, can be found on some of the Chilterns chalk streams.

- The Chilterns are home to 3 species of wild deer: roe, fallow and muntjac.

- Chalk downland supports a huge variety of wildflowers which attract large numbers of rare butterflies.

- The beech woods are particularly well known for their springtime displays of bluebells and autumn fungi.

- The Chilterns has significant populations of farmland birds that are nationally declining, including corn bunting, linnet, skylark and yellowhammer.
Landscape of the Chilterns AONB

The chalk escarpment of the Chiltern Hills runs a distance of 50 miles from Hitchin in the north east to Goring-on-Thames in the south west. At its highest point near Wendover, it reaches nearly 900 feet (267 metres). The steep scarp faces to the north-west, while the dipslope gently shelves away to the south-east, incised by shallow valleys, some with chalk streams flowing to the River Colne and River Thames.

The chalk of the Chilterns was laid down during the Cretaceous Era (65 - 100 million years ago). Much of it is hidden below several feet of clay with flints, but in places, particularly along the ridge, the chalk lies near the surface. The heavy clay soils support extensive woodland cover and mixed farming.

It is the work of farmers and foresters that has shaped the landscape into what we see today. It remains an ancient landscape with features from many ages. Even fields and hedgerow patterns can be traced back many centuries as can most of the lanes, woodland banks and parish boundaries.

The Chilterns is one of the most wooded landscapes in England with over 20% woodland cover. Farmland covers 60% of the Chilterns, creating a mosaic of fields with arable crops and livestock, bordered by ancient hedgerows and trees.

Chalk landscapes are generally dry, but some of the shallow valleys contain gently flowing chalk streams, often bordered by pollarded willows and remnants of meadows and former watercress beds, once a thriving local industry.

Left: Radnage Valley.
Above: Hughenden Stream
There are over 187 individual commons across the Chilterns, which provide a special landscape, largely untouched by development and modern agriculture. Many commons are close to towns and villages and provide valued, easily accessible green spaces for local communities.

The Chilterns has an extensive network of ancient routes, roadside hedges and sunken lanes. The Ridgeway (Icknield Way) reputedly the oldest road in the country, runs along the entire length of the Chilterns ridge, linking Wessex with Norfolk.

Villages and farmsteads with brick and flint cottages, churches and timber barns are scattered throughout the area. The more ancient settlements tend to nestle alongside streams and rivers or springs at the foot of the escarpment. More recent settlements have sprung up on the higher ground, strung along the edge of commons and beside droving routes.

The area boasts a wealth of great houses, follies, parkland and designed landscapes. Foremost is the Prime Minister’s rural retreat at Chequers near Wendover.
History and Cultural Heritage of the Chilterns AONB

The landscape of the Chilterns is above all a 'cultural landscape', the product of a long legacy of human influence. Over 1,400 years ago, the tribe that lived here (the Chilternsaetan) gave their name to the area.

The Chilterns is an ancient landscape and has been inhabited for thousands of years, with relics of many different eras: Bronze Age barrows and field systems, Iron Age hill forts, medieval churches and deer enclosures, eighteenth century sawyer pits, 20th century military trenches and chalk figures carved in unknown times.

It is because relatively little of the Chilterns has been subject to intensive cultivation that so much survives. The downland and commons, rarely ploughed but grazed for centuries, have helped to conserve much of interest. The extensive woodlands hide a great deal that has still to be discovered.

The historic settlement pattern has larger towns and villages along the river valleys and below the escarpment. More dispersed hamlets and farms are on the higher ground and newer settlements are on the edges of commons.

Left: Ellesborough Church
Inset: Bodgers camp near High Wycombe
The most common building material in the Chilterns is brick. These were made locally, and three active brick yards still remain. Flint is also widely used as a building material, commonly in combination with brick. Clay tiles became the general roofing material from the 16th century onwards, but thatch was still being used on humbler buildings at the end of the 18th century. Welsh slate became commonplace in the 19th century.

The attraction of the Chilterns as a country retreat within easy reach of London led to the development of many grand country houses and parks. In 1820, there were around 600 parks, with examples of every period and style between the 17th and late 19th centuries.

The designed landscapes of the 18th century are the best known and include examples of the work of some of the most famous landscape designers of the period, including Charles Bridgeman, ‘Capability’ Brown and Humphrey Repton.
Planning a visit

Planning a visit to one of the providers in this guide is simple. First, look at the summary table to decide which organisations can best meet your needs, and then call them to chat through the options available.

All the organisations in the following pages have specialist staff who are able to discuss your trip and tailor activities and sessions to meet your learning objectives. There is often the opportunity for you to arrange a pre-visit to the site for planning purposes.

Information and resources can often be sent to the school before the visit to provide background, and in some cases, centre staff can visit schools and colleges for a pre-trip session with groups.

Discuss the trip with your Education Visits Co-ordinator and ensure you have contacted your LEA for advice on the visit if it involves a residential stay, adventurous activities or fieldwork in open country settings.

Reviewing is a powerful tool. It allows students to reflect on their learning and develop links with their wider education. It is also important to the organisations listed in this guide that you provide them with feedback. Information on both positive and negative experiences and suggestions for improvement to their service will allow them to ensure that provision of outdoor education in the Chilterns is amongst the very best in the UK.
Risk Management

There is sometimes (often unfairly) a perceived risk attached to taking groups into the outdoor environment. This risk is often minimal and can be mitigated further through careful planning, risk assessments and consultation with your LEA. All the organisations in this guide have full risk assessments for all the activities they carry out and where appropriate have the relevant national governing body qualifications.

For self-led groups it is important to seek the advice of your LEA in terms of qualifications needed, first aid requirements and ratios of adults to young people.
1 Amersham Field Centre
2 Amersham Museum
3 Ashridge Estate
4 Boxmoor Trust
5 Chiltern Open Air Museum
6 College Lake Environmental Education Centre
7 Dell Farm Outdoor Residential Centre
8 Dunstable Downs
9 Earth Trust
10 Ewelme Watercress Beds
11 Field Farm, Lewknor / Aston Rowant NNR
12 Ford End Water Mill
13 Green Park Outdoors
14 Green School (various sites)
15 Groundwork Herts/Luton & Beds (various sites)
16 Groundwork South - Thames Valley (various sites)
17 Hughenden Manor
18 Natural History Museum at Tring
19 River and Rowing Museum
20 Shortenills Centre
21 Stockwood Park Discovery Centre
22 The Paper Trail, Frogmore Mill
23 Warburg Nature Reserve
24 Wardown Park Museum
25 Wendover Woods
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Location number</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>Early Years</th>
<th>Foundation Stage</th>
<th>KS1</th>
<th>KS2</th>
<th>KS3</th>
<th>KS4</th>
<th>A Level</th>
<th>University / FE</th>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Life sciences</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Art</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>Sustainable education</th>
<th>Adventurous activities</th>
<th>Classroom facilities</th>
<th>Specialist teaching</th>
<th>Toilet facilities</th>
<th>Coach</th>
<th>Parking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amersham Field Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amersham Museum</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Drop off x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashridge Estate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxmoor Trust</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiltern Open Air Museum</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Lake Environmental Education Centre</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dell Farm Outdoor Residential Centre</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunstable Downs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Trust</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewelme Watercress Beds</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Farm, Lewknor / Aston Rowant NNR</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford End Water Mill</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Drop off x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Park Outdoors</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green School (various sites)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Drop off x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundwork Herts/Luton &amp; Beds (various sites)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundwork South - Thames Valley (various sites)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughenden Manor</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural History Museum at Tring</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River and Rowing Museum</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortenills Centre</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockwood Park Discovery Centre</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Paper Trail, Frogmore Mill</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warburg Nature Reserve</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wardown Park Museum</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendover Woods</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amersham Field Centre (Field Studies Council)
Summary
Visit Type: Day visits
Capacity: 60
Age Range: Early Years Foundation Stage to A level

Amersham Field Centre is located within 30 hectares of mixed woodland and meadows that surround Amersham Substation. Habitats include oak, beech and pine woods, two ponds and an area of heathland. As the site is privately owned it provides a particularly secure and relaxed setting for school visits. We offer day courses for pupils of all ages including habitat studies, rocks and soils activities, river studies and biology coursework. The courses are linked to the National Curriculum and exam board specifications and can be tailored to ensure visitors gain the maximum benefit from their visit. The centre has two well equipped classrooms and can accommodate up to sixty pupils at any time of the year. All staff are qualified first aiders and trained in carrying out risk assessments for sites and activities.

Prices vary depending on the time of year and age of pupils. Please contact the centre for further details.

Amersham Museum
Summary
Visit type: Half-day visits
Capacity: ~30
Age range: KS1, KS2

Amersham Museum is part of a Tudor hall house in Old Amersham High Street. The museum has displays on local history from the Romans through to WW2, including the local craft industries of lace making and straw plait. A visit to the museum can be combined with outdoor activities, including a walking tour of the old town or a visit to the museum’s herb garden to find out more about plants that were traditionally cultivated for use in the kitchen or as medicines.

The guided walk around the old town is particularly suited to local studies projects and is an excellent comparison to more modern towns. The guide can concentrate on the buildings - from timber-framed Tudor buildings through to 18th and 19th century brick construction or look at the functions of the buildings such as coaching inns, market hall, almshouses, shops and private houses.

The museum opens seasonally from March to end October each year. All school groups to book with us in advance. Cost: £2 per pupil for a museum visit. We offer school visits throughout the year.
Ashridge Estate - National Trust
Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: 60
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to University

School visits for Early Years Foundation Stage & Key Stages 1, 2, 3 & 4. Activities for EYFS, KS1 & 2 are linked to the National Curriculum. Programmes are tailor made to your needs. National Trust model risk assessments are available for all activities.

Science
SC2 Life processes and living things
● Living things in their environment
● Green plants
SC3 Materials and their properties
● Grouping materials
Art
● Exploring & developing ideas
● Investigating & making art, craft and design
Geography
● Geographical enquiry & skills (orientation trail)
Key Stage 3 & 4 field trips to survey managed and unmanaged footpaths near the Visitor Centre and Ivinghoe Beacon. All booked sessions are led by a member of National Trust staff.

Price per child £3.10 for National Trust Education Group Member*
£4.75 for Non Education Group Member. This price is for an all day visit with entry to the Discovery Room and the Bridgewater Monument and the use of our classroom for the day.

*By becoming an Education Group Member your school will be entitled to a reduced rate for a year. Please ring for more details.

The Box Moor Trust
Summary
Visit type: Day visits, INSET
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to adult

The Box Moor Trust has a diverse range of habitats, including woodland, meadows, ponds, rivers, and agricultural and urban areas. We deliver a varied curriculum, including science, geography, art, literacy, numeracy, agriculture, heritage, seasonal courses and bushcraft. A list of ready-made courses is on our website and we can tailor courses to suit your precise requirements. All age groups can visit, all year round.

We offer Forest Schools to local schools and Forest Schools training to teachers and other adults.

We have an indoor classroom with toilets and an outdoor shelter. A boardwalk leads to pond dipping platforms and mini-beast hunting areas. Our facilities have good disabled access.

All courses are taught by experienced staff with first aid training and CRB/DBS clearance. Health and safety and child protection are high priorities and all activities are risk assessed. All equipment is provided.

We hold the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.
Chiltern Open Air Museum
Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: Up to 250 students a day
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to further education

WINNER OF 3 SANDFORD AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN HERITAGE EDUCATION

Chiltern Open Air Museum’s award winning education team provide a wide range of Cross Curricular resources and hands on activities for all ages. Our enclosed 45 acre countryside site contains over 30 historic buildings, furnished as homes and places of work and provides a wonderful day out.

Visiting schools can choose from a range of more than 30 workshops or themed days and special events. These are available to pre-book (February to November) for nursery aged children right through to Key Stage 4 students and can be adapted to meet the needs of your class. Our workshops are also ideal for scout or guide groups.

The Museum holds the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

Full information, including our Health and Safety and Child Protection Policies is available on our website

College Lake Environmental Education Centre
Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: 60
Age Range: Early Years Foundation Stage to KS2

Explore our beautiful reserve created on the site of an old chalk quarry. Watch out for the wildlife that makes its home in the varied habitats of wetland, chalk grassland and woodland.

Discover that whatever the season, College Lake is the ideal place to visit for a day learning outside the classroom. Our schools programme provides exciting hands-on opportunities for children to experience a magical learning adventure on the nature reserve.

We offer a range of day visits for pre-booked primary groups all year round. All our programmes offer many links with Science and Geography, and excellent opportunities for developing literacy and numeracy skills. Each programme will be tailored to the age and ability of your group.

We provide high-quality indoor and outdoor resources, including varied teaching spaces, specialist science equipment and a diversity of habitats. Sessions are enjoyable, inspiring, exciting and fun.

We currently ask for a donation of £5 per pupil, accompanying adults are free. For further information please contact us.
Dell Farm Outdoor Residential Centre

Summary
Visit type: Residential, day visits, holiday camps, weekends
Capacity: Residential 42, day visit 30
Age range: Mainly KS1 - KS2. Also Early Years Foundation Stage and older age groups including adults.

Dell Farm Outdoor Residential Centre provides a range of activities that are educational, social, environmental and adventurous. A unique feature of the centre is its farm. We have a variety of child friendly animals for the children to get to know whilst they are here. Our aim is for every child to have an enjoyable experience at Dell Farm, exploring the local environment, while learning to live and work together.

We cater for residential visits from local schools for 3 to 5 days, day visits from 9am until 2pm, weekend parties and holiday camps. We are also available to hire.

Please call for more information.

Dunstable Downs - National Trust

Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: 30
Age range: Mainly key stage 1 and 2. Other activities available on request

Stretching from Whipsnade Zoo to within a few minutes walk of Dunstable Town Centre this varied landscape of over 400 acres is managed by the National Trust.

With a wide variety of archaeological sites, unusual plants and varied landscapes Dunstable Downs is a great place to bring a group to learn about history, science, geography or just to have a great day out making and flying kites! We offer:

- Kite making workshops (charges for materials apply)
- Habitat studies - hedgerow surveys, woodland ID, bug hunting and more...
- History hikes
- Team building activities including geocaching
- Practical nature conservation sessions

The Chilterns Gateway Centre includes a bookable education space of 6m x 14m and a recent donation is allowing us to convert part of our farm for educational use. The Chute Farm Education Barn will be completed Summer 2013 and may be booked for groups of up to 30.

Rose Roberts, Community Ranger
Chilterns Gateway Centre
Dunstable Road, Whipsnade
Bedfordshire LU6 2GY
01582 500920
bedfordshire.countryside@nationaltrust.org.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Earth Trust
Summary
Visit type: Day visits, INSET
Capacity: 90
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to university / FE level

The Earth Trust enjoys a unique position in the Oxfordshire countryside. Rising over the River Thames the Whittenham Clumps provide a stunning location for outdoor educational activities.

We aim to provide your class with an exciting and varied day full of learning opportunities that focus on their area of study. Our visits and staff offer a holistic approach to topics and support your pupils in exploring the connections between subject areas. Experience the amazing story etched into the landscape from our prehistoric past to a sustainable future all on one site!

Visits are focussed on outdoor learning and can be fairly active. We try to provide quality outdoor learning for all, please contact us if any of your pupils have mobility issues and we will try our best to accommodate their needs.

To make a booking or to find out more, contact our Learning Team.

Earth Trust
Little Wittenham. Abingdon
Oxon  OX14 4QZ
01865 407 792
admin@earthtrust.org.uk
www.earthtrust.org.uk

Ewelme Watercress Beds Local Nature Reserve
Chiltern Society
Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: 36
Age range: KS2, A level, university

The Ewelme Local Nature Reserve and Watercress Beds Centre, are owned by The Chiltern Society. We offer you a new educational experience.

Our Teachers' Pack delivers many aspects of KS2 History, Science and Geography, with plenty of opportunities to reinforce literacy and numeracy skills throughout. Subjects boundaries are fluid, suitable for a single local study project. References to QCA Schemes of Work are given.

Topics and skills include:-

What is on offer?
The 80 page school-based Teachers' Pack contains student worksheets, stimulus material, puzzles, research ideas, and information sheets for teachers

A Site Visit with dedicated teacher / guide are yours free
The use of the well equipped Centre and adjacent Reserve.

Watercress Beds Centre
High St. Ewelme
Wallingford
Oxon OX10 5HJ
For more information contact Margaret Connelly
01491 833 649 / 01491 835 173
www.ewlemewatercressbeds.org
Field Farm, Lewknor / Aston Rowant NNR -

Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: Max 45
Age range: Best suited to Key Stage 1-2

FREE school visits bringing together the unique combination of a working farm and a National Nature Reserve are offered jointly by Field Farm, the Chilterns Conservation Board and Natural England.

Field Farm is an 800 acre family-run working farm comprising both arable and livestock, owned by Murray and Sue Graham.

Aston Rowant is a 160 acre National Nature Reserve with a mosaic of habitats including flower rich chalk grassland, ancient beech woodland and scrub.

Spend the morning on the farm, meeting the animals and learning about where food comes from. After lunch take a trailer ride to the Reserve to discover the local wildlife and habitats and see how the conservation work of the farm complements its natural surroundings.

These joint visits offer a structured but fun learning experience that can be tailored to suit your needs, with classroom and outdoor sessions that are fully risk assessed and led by trained staff, farmers and volunteers.

Available dates are listed on the website.

Murray and Sue Graham
Field Farm
Shirburn Road, Lewknor
Watlington OX49 5RR
01491 614666 or 07814 133468
thebarn@fieldfarm.co.uk
www.fieldfarm.co.uk

Ford End Watermill

Summary
Visit type: Full and half-day visits
Capacity: 30 - 40
Age range: KS1 to A level

Set just outside the picturesque village of Ivinghoe at the foot of the Chilterns, a school visit to this magical mill is a must.

This little mill was still in use in the 1960's and dates back to at least 1767, it is now the only remaining working mill in Buckinghamshire with original machinery.

Special teacher-led tailor-made programmes are available, all linked to the National curriculum and QCA's. All areas of the curriculum are covered but favourite visits are 'Forces in Action' where the pupils can actually feel the force and 'life as a Miller'.

The Mill is not just open for school visits and has special milling days when it turns its cogs for the public. Please look on the web-site for special milling Open Day dates, prices and times.

Ford End Watermill is also open for other party bookings by arrangement.
Cost: 75p per child with minimum charge of £15.

Ford End Watermill
Station Road
Ivinghoe
Bucks LU7 9EA
Contact Jill Graves, 01296 660 074
jill.graves@sky.com
www.fordendwatermill.co.uk
Green Park Outdoors specialises in providing high quality outdoor education & team building programmes to schools, youth organisations and business. Its 80 acres of beautiful parkland at the foot of the Chilterns Hills are home to a comprehensive and exciting range of outdoor activities:

- Climbing - Abseiling - Zip Wire - High Ropes Course - Low Ropes Course - Archery - Orienteering - Team Challenges

All programmes are tailored to your particular requirements. We offer both day and residential programmes with onsite purpose built accommodation for 60, plus camping facilities. Our highly trained and experienced staff will ensure that we exceed your expectations.

With a heated yurt as a teaching base, programmes are also offered in environmental and field studies activities across Science, Geography, History, Literacy and Maths.

Teacher and Early Years Foundation Stage training offered for Learning Outside The Classroom.

Green Park Outdoors
Green Park
Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton
Bucks HP22 5NE
Tel: 01296 633 808 / 633 833
gpark@bucksc.gov.uk
www.bucksc.gov.uk

Green School
Summary
Visit type: Day visits, overnight and residential by arrangement
Capacity: up to 150 throughout a day (day visits only). Overnight activities for small groups only.
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to 18+

Offering outdoor skills, bushcraft and adventurous activities throughout the Chilterns since 2008, Green School is owned and run by ex-Forestry Commission Ranger Rod Anderson Boyle. Rod has permits to use Wendover Woods, the Ashridge Estate, near Berkhamsted as well as private woodland in the Chilterns to run activities.

Activities on offer: survival shelter building; fire lighting (without matches); cooking on an open fire; tracking animals (incl. Gruffaloes); nature awareness; navigation and map making; bug hunts; understanding the landscape as our ancestors might have; prehistoric weapons and tools; plants, trees and folklore.

All sessions can be linked to the curriculum, or made bespoke to suit your learning objectives. Green School carries professional indemnity cover, up to date First Aid training, CRB and risk assessment documentation. Copies will be provided on request. Costs for activities depend on group size and age of children (all supporting adults free)

Green School
Tel: 07759 497101
rod@green-school.co.uk
www.green-school.co.uk
Groundwork Hertfordshire / Luton and Bedfordshire

Summary
Visit type: Visits into schools
Capacity: n/a
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to university

Groundwork Luton and Bedfordshire and Groundwork Hertfordshire work with communities in the north and central Chilterns.

Our environmental education and youth work aims to strengthen young people’s connection with their surroundings through creative practical projects. We can set up environmental projects for young people, aged 5 to adult - tailored to your specific needs.

Groundwork in Hertfordshire; and in Luton & Bedfordshire can deliver after-school clubs such as a Growing Club or an Environmental Club. We also run Motiv8 - a project aimed at Secondary school pupils at risk of exclusion involving them in outdoor practical action to improve motivation; and can offer ‘Eco- Action Days’ where pupils aged 16-18 undertake a practical conservation activity. Our Landscape Department specialises in school grounds and can offer advice and help on projects such as creating a wildlife garden.

Northern and Central Chilterns
Groundwork Luton & Bedfordshire.
Groundwork Hertfordshire
Environmental Education Officer
01707 260129
hertfordshire@groundwork.org.uk
www.groundwork-herts.org.uk/

Groundwork South - Thames Valley Region

Summary
Visit type: Day visits, in-school programmes and activities
Capacity: 10 to 100
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to A Level

Groundwork South learning services professionally trained teachers offer an award winning range of activities and programmes that are tailored to meet your children’s learning needs. Our mission is to help children create a better future for themselves, others and the world around them.

Centres
We manage five LOTC quality badge award winning education centres.

- Iver Environment Centre, Nr Uxbridge.
- Denham Country Park, Denham.
- Elsdale Floating Classroom, Grand Union Canal.
- Braywick Nature Centre, Maidenhead.
- Lakeside Energy from Waste education centre, Langley.

Green Schools In-Schools programmes
Groundworks Green Schools Initiative aims to embed sustainability into the school development plan.

- Love Local Food programme inspires children to grow, cook and sell local food.
- Energy & Waste programme helps schools reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.
- Natural Connections helps children reconnect with nature.
- Green Entrepreneurs aims to develop children’s enterprising skills.

Groundwork South - Thames Valley Region
Green Schools Officer
Iver Environment Centre
Slough Road, Iver Heath, South Bucks
SL0 0EB
01895 270 730
www.south.groundwork.org.uk
Hughenden Manor - National Trust

Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: 60
Age range: Key Stage 2

School visits to the home of Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli offer a fun and participative way of engaging with two key topics for KS2: Victorian life and the WW2 - Hughenden was a secret map-making base for the Air Ministry in the 1940s.

Victorian Lifestyles KS2
Tour the manor, help in the kitchen garden and get hands-on with a range of Victorian artefacts, toys and games.

1940s Britain KS2
Discover the secrets of 'Hillside'; learn how to Dig for Victory, visit an air-raid shelter and the ice-house bunker, and handle a range of 1940s artefacts.

Sessions run from 10am - 2.30pm between March and October.

Schools with Education Group Membership are charged from just £3.00 per pupil, adults are free. Non EGM schools from £6.00 per pupil.

Estate Office
Hughenden Manor
High Wycombe
Bucks HP14 4LA
01494 755 573
hughenden@nationaltrust.org.uk or www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The Natural History Museum at Tring

Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: 120
Age range: Mainly KS1-3 but can provide resources for other age groups

Bears and butterflies, snakes and sharks, mice and monkeys, discover more than 4,000 different species at the Natural History Museum at Tring and learn more about nature’s spectacular animal kingdom.

Entry to the Museum is free and we offer one free workshop per class. All our workshops, activity sheets and guidance for teachers are tied closely to the National Curriculum. Most link to the science and history curriculums for KS1-2, but we are also developing workshops and self-guided gallery trails for KS3-4. We’re also popular with art classes of all ages. If you’re studying a particular topic or have groups with special needs or requirements then we’re happy to tailor a session to suit your needs.

Whatever you want from your visit, please contact the Learning Team to make a booking, for more information, to discuss your needs or to arrange a pre-visit.

Natural History Museum at Tring
Akeman Street
Tring
Herts HP23 6AP
0207 942 6175 / 6160
tring-enquiries@nhm.ac.uk
www.nhm.ac.uk/tring/education
Shortenills Centre - Buckinghamshire County Council

Summary
Visit type: Residential, day visits, INSET
Capacity: Residential 50, day visits 35
Age range: KS1 - 3

Shortenills is an Eco-Centre set in its own 5 hectares of woodland, meadows and ponds near Chalfont St Giles historical village. It is adjacent to 40 hectares of Woodland Trust woods, a working livestock farm and within walking distance of the Chiltern Open Air Museum. It provides:

- Residential visits for primary pupils (3-5 day visits from £25 - £38 per pupil day)
- Day visits for Key Stage 1,2 and 3 pupils (£135 – 150 per class)
- In-service training courses on sustainability themes
- Forest School training
- Summer school residential courses
- Facilities for self taught parties

Its main customers are the primary schools of the area and its flagship programmes are:

- The Eco-Trail featuring its alternative technologies, recycling, composting etc.
- The “Earth Champions” programme featuring earth education activities and its own Environmental Footprint day.

Programmes cover many aspects of science, geography and outdoor & adventurous activities and are constructed to suit the needs of the customer.

The River & Rowing Museum provides taught courses to support the National Curriculum at all Key Stages, from Foundation Stage upwards. We offer creative and cross-curricular opportunities to learn in a new and stimulating environment, exploring the natural environment of the River Thames and the Museum’s varied collections.

Our service to schools provides a range of courses from Understanding Rivers for KS2 Geography to Paint Me a River for Art and Design across all key stages. There is also the enchanting Wind in the Willows installation and boat trips along the river.

There are qualified teaching staff to help you plan your visit, and a purpose built Education Centre with dedicated learning and lunch spaces, toilets and cloakroom facilities.

Day long courses are £5.25 + vat per student, with accompanying adults free.

River & Rowing Museum
Mill Meadows
Henley on Thames
RG9 1BF
01491 415 605
edbookings@rrm.co.uk
www.rrm.co.uk

Nightingales Lane
Chalfont St Giles
Bucks
HP8 4SG
01494 872288
shortenills@buckscc.gov.uk
www.bucksc.gov.uk/shortenills
Stockwood Park Discovery Centre

Summary
Visit type: One hour or half-day visits
Capacity: 35
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to A level

Stockwood Discovery Centre is a multi-purpose site offering engaging and hands on sessions using the museum collections, extensive landscaped gardens, nearby deciduous woodland as well as nature conservation sites across the town.

An extensive small school programme is offered, and some visits can be tailored to the needs of individual groups after prior discussion. Please check our website to see the full range of what we can offer.

Exploring Nature - Pre School One hour
Discover the creatures and habitats at Stockwood through the story of Neville the Squirrel

River study - KS2 half day
Explore Leagrave Common; investigate features of the river Lea and it’s source, sketch animals and plants.

Habitats - KS2 - half day
Explore habitats such as hedges, ancient woodland trees, shrubs and grassland and learn to apply scientific methods of recording.

One hour: £50 per group
Half-day: £90 per group
Max 35 children per group

Stockwood Park
London Rd
Luton LU1 4LX
01582 548600
schools@lutonculture.com
www.lutonculture.com/learning/schools/museum-schools-service/

The Paper Trail, Frogmore Mill

Summary
Visit type: Full and half-day visits, Enterprise Education
Capacity: 180
Age range: KS2 to university

In 1803, the world’s first papermaking machine, capable of making paper in continuous sheets, was successfully installed at Frogmore Mill in Apsley.

A tour around Frogmore Mill is fascinating. You can see paper being made on a Victorian steam driven machine (unlike most modern machines which are fully enclosed). This unique industrial heritage site is like walking back in time to the Victorian era.

The Mill is open throughout the year for arranged school visits. We offer a variety of curriculum-linked activities, including handmade papermaking, paper art activities, letterpress printing, etc, suitable for various ages.

The machine runs most days but we cannot guarantee it will be running on any particular day. Please wear suitable clothes, as the mill can be cold in winter and to wear flat, waterproof footwear.

Please see our website for booking details and entry prices. In addition to our normal timed tours and group bookings, we cater for school education activities, adult education and beginners computing. Groups of 10 or more should book in advance please.

Frogmore Mill
Fourdrinier Way
Apsley. Hemel Hempstead
HP3 9RY
0870 950 9272
education@thepapertrail.org.uk
www.thepapertrail.org.uk
Warburg Nature Reserve
Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

Summary
Visit type: Day visits
Capacity: 30
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to KS2, university

Warburg Nature Reserve is a beautiful woodland reserve in the Chilterns near Nettlebed. School groups are welcome to visit by appointment. Guided tours and educational activities are available and particularly suited to primary school children. Typical activities would include pond-dipping, comparing habitats & studying invertebrates. Further education groups are also welcome.

Indoor facilities are very limited and we aim to be outside whatever the weather. We have toilets, a picnic area, a small visitor centre and a wildlife garden.

Access is not possible for coaches but minibuses are fine.

Warburg Nature Reserve
Bix Bottom
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 6BL
01491 642 001
gilesalder@bbowt.org.uk
www.bbowt.org.uk

Wardown Park Museum

Summary
Visit type: One hour or half-day visits
Capacity: 35
Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to A level

Wardown Park Museum is situated in a landscaped park on the outskirts of Luton town centre. The museum has a range of permanent and temporary exhibitions different Luton-based subjects. The schools service offers a range of exciting activities across the key stages, including:

Housework Then & Now - KS 1 - One hour
Meet a Victorian housewife and learn about cooking, lighting and heating the home, bath time and washing and ironing clothes.

Keep Smiling Through - KS 2 - One hour per session
Three different sessions about aspects of WWII using professional re-enactors. A WWII officer explains the realities of frontline life; our billeting Officer leads a role-player about life as an evacuee and the bombing of Luton; and our housewife will explain life on the home front using real and high quality replica artefacts.

Victorian Child at Work - KS 2 - One hour
Learn about 19th century plaiting and hat making in Luton. Explore the children’s working conditions in the plait schools, split a wheat-straw using a straw splitting ‘engine’ and make a simple plait with art straws.

Cost:
One Hour: £50 per group
Half day: £90 per group
(max 35 children)

Schools Service
Wardown Park Museum
Old Bedford Road
Luton LU2 7HA
01582 546740
www.lutonculture.com/learning/schools/museum-service/schools@lutonculture.com

Wardown Park Museum
Old Bedford Road
Luton  LU2 7HA
01582 546740
www.lutonculture.com/learning/schools/museum-service/schools@lutonculture.com
Wendover Woods offers a fantastic educational playground for children and adults of all ages to learn within a safe woodland environment. With its main focus on recreation it is particularly appealing to geography students learning about countryside and recreational management. Life science students will be interested in the various soil and habitat types and the animals and plants associated with them. The ancient Boddington Hill Fort and more recent land ownership and use will appeal to history students.

Within the woods there are walking, cycling and horse riding trails (horse riding by permit only), an orienteering course for all abilities along with an adventure play area for younger children and a fitness trial for adults. Go-Ape, an aerial adventure course is also situated in the woods.

Parking: Up to 2 hours: £1.50. 2-4 hours: £3. All day: £5.50. The site offers toilet facilities, a café and a classroom which is situated next to the office adjacent to Wendover Woods. Open daily (except Christmas Day), gates locked around dusk (see website for exact times).

Schools intending to visit must book (no charge will be made) via the office 01296 625825 to avoid conflict with other groups.
School Visits to Farms

Farming and Countryside Education (FACE) is a national charity that helps young people learn about food and farming in a sustainable countryside. It is a membership body working with organisations, businesses, farms and schools. Details of memberships for schools, farmers and other interested organisations can be found on the FACE website. It helps organisations and businesses to create relevant materials for teachers, supports farmers who wish to host school farm visits and arranges farm visits for schools. FACE offers a variety of projects which can be organised for schools on farms such as gifted and talented and enterprise days, work related learning, biodiversity on farms and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers. It promotes teaching and learning linked to cooking, growing and farm visits. FACE also work closely with the Princes Countryside Fund to help ensure all schools are able to make the most of the opportunities that FACE have to offer. For teaching materials and to find out how FACE can help you go to www.face-online.org.uk
Growing Schools is a Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) programme managed by FACE. It provides extensive advice on the Growing Schools website www.growingschools.org.uk

Many farmers in the Chilterns have received training under the Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme (CEVAS) which is a national scheme established in 2003 to help farmers and growers ensure that schools are guaranteed safe and worthwhile visits to all kinds of farms and countryside sites. CEVAS is now the Awarding Body for the Farming and Countryside Sector for the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge (LOtC) which is a government initiative promoting learning outside the classroom. For more information about LOtC please see the following website www.lotc.org.uk

There are many experienced Chilterns farmers who host farm visits catering for all Key Stages. The majority of visits are free and farmers will provide pre visits for teachers together with a farm visit risk assessment. Many of the farms are advertised on the Growing Schools website under Places to Visit. If you require specific advice on arranging school visits, location of farms to visit, curriculum advice about using farm visits in your school, advice on growing in schools or related sustainable projects please contact the Central England FACE regional coordinator: Louisa Devismes Louisa@face-online.org.uk 01273 890 454 ext. 2415
Forest School in the Chilterns

Forest School, with its unique and specialised approach to learning outdoors, has been gathering momentum across the Chilterns. It originated in Scandinavia and is based on the idea that all children are born with a natural instinct to learn and that all young people can benefit from the opportunities provided by a woodland environment.

What is Forest School?

“Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education.”  
(Forest School Association 2012)

Forest School is guided by key principles Forest school is long-term process that takes place frequently and regularly in a woodland environment, it promotes holistic development and supports appropriate risk taking. Forest School is run by qualified Practitioners with high adult to child ratios and the process is learner centred.

Forest School Learning Outcomes

Forest School offers a challenging and inspiring learning experience that can enrich all curriculum areas. Forest School sessions are practical and offer opportunities to experience den building, playing hide and seek, tree climbing, exploring woodlands for mini-beasts, cooking over small fires, woodland crafts and tool use and telling stories.

For more information on training to be a forest school leader, Forest School sites and support for practitioners please contact: 
Buckinghamshire Forest School programme Tel: 01296 437 044
www.bucksgfl.org.uk/course/view.php?id=428
Oxfordshire Forest School Tel: 01865 861 954
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/forest-school
Bedfordshire Forest School
www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/childcare_and_family_info/careers_in_childcare/forest_schools.aspx

Through the Forest School approach participants develop: personal confidence and self esteem, communication and social skills, ability to make choices and manage risk, gross and fine motor skills, a deeper understanding of their own natural and made environments, enjoyment of the natural world alongside awareness of wider environmental issues and positive attitudes to learning and citizenship.
Chilterns Conservation Board. 2013

Discovering the wonders of wildlife