

Brockhill Country Park - Programmes of study

Forest School

Suitable for: all ages

A focused programme of achievable tasks, designed to enrich the curriculum through woodland adventure. This programme aims to help develop language, mathematical, physical, social and emotional skills. It also encourages an appreciation and respect for the environment. Students learn important skills such as handling risks, working with others and using their own initiative to solve problems. Activities include campfire cooking, environmental artwork, shelter building and using tools. Group sizes are limited to 15 students per session. Activities can be developed according to the needs of the group and in consultation with group leaders.

Natural play

Suitable for: early years

Natural play supports the development of communication skills, imagination and co-ordination. It includes games and songs, sensory activities, bushcraft and play-based activities. Students are encouraged to build relationships, develop independence, and increase environmental understanding.

Sensory activities

Suitable for: early years, key stage 1

Investigate the country park to find out more about the natural world and take part in sensory games and activities.

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Suitable for: early years, key stage 1

Bring your teddy for a picnic in the park and learn the secret of SWAF (all the things that animals need to survive). This full day programme includes a story, sensory activities, building a teddy-bear shelter, games and songs.

Habitats

Suitable for: early years, key stages 1 and 2

Explore varied habitats to find out where different plants and animals live. Use a range of spotter sheets to identify what has been found and consider how they are adapted to live in their habitats. Food chains and webs are put together to show the relationship between plants and animals.

Art naturally

Suitable for: early years, key stages 1, 2 and 3

Collect natural materials and create artwork that can be taken back to school. A range of items can be made including masks, hedgehogs, collages and picture frames. Older students can develop visual and tactile skills by creating sculptures and learning forest crafts.

Eco challenge

Suitable for: key stages 1, 2 and 3

Through solving a number of outdoor challenges, students will have the opportunity to learn more about how to care for the environment. Themes include water use, recycling and composting.

Stream study

Suitable for: key stages 2 and 3

Starting at the Royal Military Canal, follow the Brockhill Stream to the Country Park. Identify and sketch man-made and natural features and make links to local history. Look at an Environment Agency structure for flood prevention. Carry out experiments and collect evidence, including aspects of flow, depth and width of the stream.

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Investigation of the water cycle

Suitable for: key stage 2

Find out more about the journey of a raindrop and take part in water-cycle games and experiments to learn more about evaporation and precipitation. It is possible to combine this programme with the 'river study' programme.

Way finding

Suitable for: key stage 3

Navigate your way around the country park using map reading, compasses and scales. Make field sketches and investigate landscape features.

Geo caching

Suitable for: key stage 3

Use GPS handsets to navigate your way around the park and find hidden treasures. An ideal activity to combine with the more traditional way finding.

We can tailor programmes to meet current themes of study and special requirements.

Outreach/INSET Opportunities - We can also come to you to run workshops and provide staff training.

Brockhill Country Park

Brockhill Country Park is situated in Saltwood, close to Hythe in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Once part of a Norman Manor; Brockhill offers a wide range of study opportunities in an idyllic location. Programmes cater for all age groups from early years to GCSE and A Level project work.

The woodland and grassland habitats are rich in wildlife and the stream can be easily accessed for pond dipping. It is also an ideal site to safely investigate watercourses as the Brockhill Stream flows into the historically important Royal Military Canal. Programmes cover a comprehensive range of subjects including art, geography, science, design and technology, literacy, numeracy and citizenship.

Children and young people can now experience the exciting world of Forest School which offers unique opportunities to enjoy confidence building activities. The natural play programme is also designed to stimulate the senses of early years children.

Practicalities

NEW Outdoor classroom adjoins the Forest School site

Our Forest School site incorporates natural features and play structures.

A cafe and outdoor seating is available for picnic lunches.

Orienteering and geo-caching trails and GPS handsets are available for paying school groups.

Sets of waterproof and hi-visibility clothing for children aged 8 and under are available on request.

Toilets include facilities for the disabled.

Coach parking is available on site weekdays throughout the year. Coach parking is free for groups who have booked one of our educational services; however space is limited and must be pre-booked. Single deck coaches only.

Booking Procedure

Please contact our Education Rangers to discuss your requirements and any special access needs. We will send you a booking form to complete and return within 3 working days and an evaluation form to complete on the day of the visit. We use all information to support us in developing and enhancing our programmes.

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