

Educational Opportunities in the Norfolk Coast AONB

Norfolk's Wildlife

Habitats, observation & identification,
gathering, recording & presenting data,
environmental change



The Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers intertidal, coastal and agricultural land with a total area of over 450 square kilometres and is highlighted in green on the map below. Stretching from the silt expanses of the Wash in the west through the coastal marshes, soft cliffs and hinterland of north Norfolk, to the dune system at Winterton in the east, it is an area of remarkable beauty, diversity and scientific importance. Although 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' is essentially a landscape designation, natural beauty includes wildlife and historic and cultural heritage as well as scenery, and all of these are closely linked.

The Norfolk Coast Partnership aims to ensure that the natural beauty and special character of the Norfolk Coast are conserved and enhanced through the work of the Partnership; a group of stakeholders, including the community, who manage a range of issues affecting the natural beauty of the area.

Find out more about this special area and the work of the Norfolk Coast Partnership at <http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/>



Opportunities for schools

Through our partner organisations and Norfolk Coast AONB Education Officers Group we are working to fulfil the aims of the 2019 Landscapes Review (Glover report): to connect all people with our national landscapes and make a night under the stars in a national landscape for every child a reality.

The partnership can offer;

- Lesson plan & activity ideas to support teacher led classroom and school grounds topics
- Lesson plan & activity ideas for wildlife habitat creation within school grounds
- Recording tools and wildlife identification support
- Adapted resources to support ongoing home learning as required
- Visits to nature reserves, coastline, farms and other protected landscapes in the area
- Small group activity ideas for school wildlife clubs, school councils or Eco school committees
- Career discussion opportunities for secondary schools

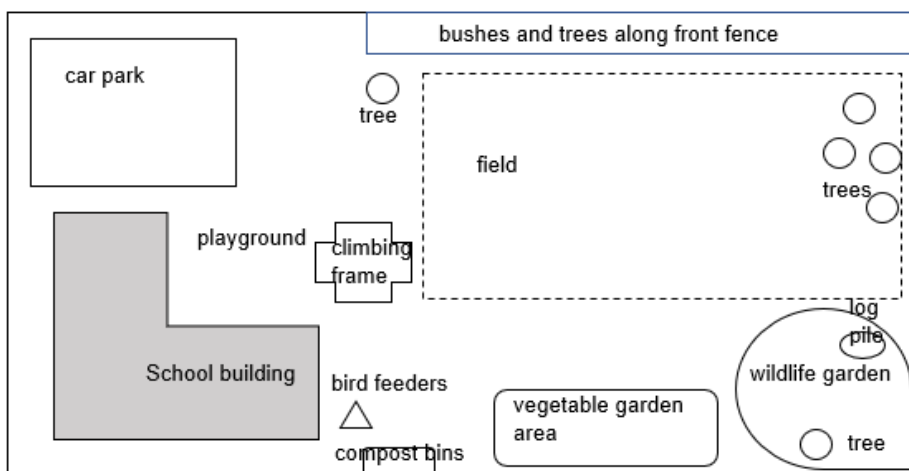
Cost: There may be costs involved with off site visits or outreach work undertaken by partner organisation education officers. We will investigate, and share news of, any funding opportunities that may support visits wherever possible.

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Wildlife surveying in your school grounds.

Activities which can be adapted as appropriate for carrying out a biodiversity audit in your school grounds;

- Discuss the term wildlife – create definitions for plants and animals (e.g. finds own food, builds own home, plant that grows without human intervention – leading perhaps to the ‘what is a weed’ debate?)
Key words: native, habitat, natural, eco-system, environment, biodiversity
- Scientists and naturalists have kept records of wild plant and animal populations for many years and studied the changes. Discuss what we can learn from this data collected.
Key words: data, population, climate change, urbanisation, endangered, monitoring, survey
It’s not all negative – monitoring and habitat improvement success stories in Norfolk include [NWT marsh-harrier](#) and spoonbills [Holkham spoonbills](#)
- Find and make a copy, or create a simple version, of your school grounds. See example below:

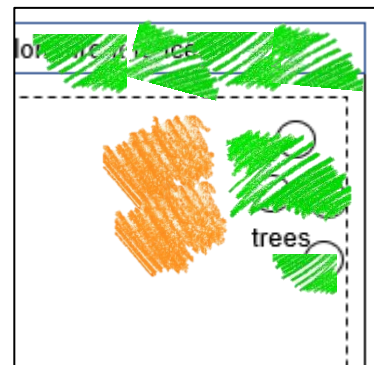


Can pupils predict where wild plants and animals may be found most often?

What are their reasons for these predictions? Do they include: finding food or water, shelter, less disturbance by people?

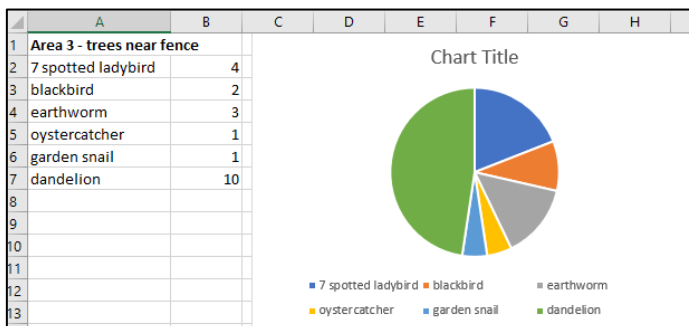
Introduce the concept of food chains and webs as appropriate.

- Work in small groups to carry out a wildlife survey / biodiversity audit of your school grounds. Divide your school plan into the same number of sections as you have groups and introduce a simple colour coding e.g. red = no wild plants or animals, orange = some wild plants or animals, green = lots of wild plants or animals.
Ask pupils to shade their school plan section according to what they find in that area.
- Each group should also list species found using age appropriate spotter sheets and ID guides (some of which can be downloaded via the links below in this document) and take photos as evidence and for identification use later.



- Come back together as a class, reassemble your school site plan using each colour coded section. How closely does the result match your wildlife area predictions? Carry out any further species identification required using ID keys or iSpot (see below).

- Each group can present their findings in an age/ability appropriate way. Some suggestions are;
Bar graphs and pie charts. These can be drawn by hand or created with Excel database sheets.
Group presentations using their photos and findings to highlight areas most suited for wildlife.



- Submit your records using one of the methods listed below and your data will be included in vital records for the future. Do send us some photos of your work to aonb@norfolk.gov.uk as we’d love to know how your audit went. Consider how you can make improvements to your school grounds to benefit wildlife.

Resources for Norfolk's Wildlife Project

Local land managers, along with the Norfolk Coast Partnership, have established the North Norfolk Coastal Group to coordinate conservation activities in the region. Their aim is to record and collate detailed wildlife and habitat information with a Biodiversity Audit in partnership with a team of experts at the University of East Anglia. The audit aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the range of species in the area, defining their importance, and identifying their habitat requirements. The Norfolk Coast Group are very keen for children, young adults and their teachers to engage with the audit, and the project lends itself to a wide range of STEM topics.



Our partner organisations have a wealth of fantastic environmental education resources and skilled education officers providing excellent on-site visits to coastal areas as well as outreach work in schools in person or online. In addition, land managers taking part in the Biodiversity Audit are keen for links to schools to share wildlife and habitat information and sightings with.

Lesson and activity ideas

Key Stage	Organisation	Resource title and activity overview	Link
All	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Make a pooter	https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/documents/downloads/activity-sheets/pooter.aspx
All	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Bee identification	https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/documents/downloads/spotter-sheets/beeidsheet.aspx
1&2	RSPB	Downloadable spotter sheets for minibeasts, birds, mammals and plants	https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/lesson-plans-and-supporting-resources/spot-it/
All	RSPB	Do a Wildlife Survey – with links to current species specific surveys	https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/do-a-wildlife-survey/
All	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Wildlife survey forms The Wildlife Information Service can help with identification. If you spot an animal or plant and don't know what it is, take a photograph of it and email: wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk	https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-in-norfolk/wildlife-information-service/surveying-wildlife/surveying-invertebrates#TabsSurveying_TabSurveyforms
Primary	National Trust	Make a bug trap (short video)	https://youtu.be/SrTZ4-nVidg
Primary	National Trust	Nature and wildlife learning resources including spotter sheets and images of plants and minibeasts.	https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/raiham-hall/features/nature-and-wildlife-learning-resources
All	Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service	Download their recording spreadsheet to submit your class wildlife sightings.	http://www.nbis.org.uk/submitted-your-records
All	iSpot	Identification keys and quizzes. Submit photos of sightings for identification by experts.	https://www.ispotnature.org/
All	LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)	Farmer Time - Free fortnightly video calls between farmers and classrooms.	https://leafuk.org/farmertime/home

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Visits and outreach work

Key Stage	Organisation	Venue and activity overview	Link
All	Norfolk Wildlife Trust Q	School grounds improvement advice for teachers and school support staff.	https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover-and-learn/teachers/school-grounds-advice
All Primary	Norfolk Wildlife Trust Q	Outreach at your school – a closer look at wildlife and the wild spaces in and around your school.	https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover-and-learn/teachers/outreach
All Primary	Norfolk Wildlife Trust Q	Wide range of habitat sessions on offer mainly at Ranworth Broad, Hickling, Cley Marshes, Holmes Dunes or West Runton.	https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover-and-learn/teachers/sessions/primary-sessions
Secondary & 6 th Form	Norfolk Wildlife Trust Q	Surveying includes identifying flora and fauna in natural habitats using a variety of surveying techniques.	https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover-and-learn/teachers/sessions/secondary-and-higher/surveying-data-collection
All	LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)	Norfolk Farm venues - activities linked to Science & Geography curriculum, including biodiversity audits in different farm habitats e.g. hedgerows, ponds, rivers, woodland, field margins & pasture.	Email Gaina Dunsire gaina.dunsire@leafuk.org for details
All	Sandringham Estate	Contact to discuss your requirements – visit opportunities to varied habitats on the Estate.	Email Learning Engagement Officer Hannah Woods outofthebox2029@gmail.com
EYFS & KS1	Holkham Estate Q	Pond Dipping, Woodland Explorers or a Wildlife Walk exploring plants and animals which live here	https://www.holkham.co.uk/learning/programmes/eyfs-ks1
KS2	Holkham Estate Q	Explore the habitats at Holkham National Nature Reserve, record wildlife present using fieldwork skills, discover more about conservation.	https://www.holkham.co.uk/learning/programmes/ks2
Secondary & 6 th Form	Holkham Estate Q	Geography & Biology curriculum-based fieldwork, countryside management, ecology & sampling techniques.	https://www.holkham.co.uk/learning/programmes/secondary-sixth-form
Secondary & 6 th Form	Kingswood Q	Students can undertake their geographical enquiry with the use of primary data, IT labs and GIS software.	https://www.kingswood.co.uk/plan-your-trip/our-programmes/gcse-geography/
Secondary & 6 th Form	Biodiversity Audit team from UEA	Updates and monthly audit topic themed presentations.	Email Catherine Leigh at Norfolk Coast Partnership catherine.leigh@norfolk.gov.uk

Q Quality Badge awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom indicating that the quality of education provision and risk management procedures have been nationally recognised.

Get in touch

If you would like to become involved or receive further information on any of the educational aspects of this project please email catherine.leigh@norfolk.gov.uk

Please include;

- School name
- Named contact
- Email address
- Year group(s) that would like to take part
- Any aspect of the project that is of particular interest to your school