

# Educational Opportunities in the Norfolk Coast AONB

## Creating a Code of Conduct for visits or school grounds work



## 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 connect everyone with our national landscapes

We 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 endeavour to investigate, and share news of, any funding opportunities that may support visits wherever possible.

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## Resources for pre-visit or school grounds Code of Conduct

We would like you to encourage your group members to consider how their visit and behaviour could affect the environment that they are to visit and so create their own Code of Conduct to follow. The main themes to focus on are;

- **Respect for habitats:** Many rare plants and animals use sand dunes, shingle, marshes, meadows and woodland for nesting, feeding and to take refuge from predators. These habitats are very delicate so we must tread lightly and keep to any paths or boardwalks.
- **Respect for wildlife:** Disturbing animals such as birds and seals can prevent them from feeding, caring from their young or avoiding predators. Watch them quietly from a sensible distance.
- **Respect for other people:** This is a busy coastal area with many people living and working here. Make sure that your group does not interfere with the enjoyment or work of others. Keep yourselves and other safe, research tide safety and listen to your visit education officers – you'll learn lots!
- **Always take your rubbish home:** Take home all rubbish for recycling to help the environment and prevent animals from becoming injured or entangled. Remember to collect up all equipment you've used as this can become hazardous too.

Have any of your group heard of the government's national Countryside Code?

Details of this are at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership have produced comprehensive guidelines for everyone to enjoy, respect and protect valuable habitats and wildlife. This will also be useful for your visit risk assessment and can be downloaded at <https://wnnmp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/reports/2019/06/The-Wild-Recreation-Guide.pdf>



We have created a Norfolk Coastal Code which you can download from [The Coastal Code - Norfolk Coast Partnership \(norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk\)](http://The Coastal Code - Norfolk Coast Partnership (norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk))

It has been translated into 5 languages

**Create your own illustrated code with your class or group before a visit or outdoor activity.**

Evaluate your code when you return. Is there anything your group would change, or add, if you visited this area again, based on what you have learnt on this trip?

If you would like to contact us on any of the educational aspects of our work please email [aonb@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:aonb@norfolk.gov.uk)

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## Group Activity: Create your Code of Conduct

Highlight the special features of the Norfolk Coast AONB and develop a group code of conduct for your visit or residential stay.

- In small groups ask children to discuss what they expect to see on their visit or outdoor activities; obviously this will depend on your venue or ask what they would like to see and do as part of their input on planning the trip.
- Ask groups in turn to feedback. Did they think about the birds nesting on the beaches, seals or minibeasts that make this area their home? What kind of building might be there and who lives and works there? Make a list on a whiteboard. Some photo prompts may be useful and a variety can be found, free to download, at; [Image Gallery - Norfolk Coast Partnership \(norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk\)](http://norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk)
- Next, give each group some paper, or post it notes, and pens so they can write some ideas of ways to keep themselves, other people, and the wildlife they might encounter safe and happy.
- Come back together and group their ideas e.g. all the 'take our litter home' themed ideas together.
- From this write a Code of Conduct together – remember to keep it all positive i.e. 'walk quietly around bird nesting areas' rather than 'Don't climb on the dunes!'
- Once you have created your code ask everyone in your group to sign it and perhaps add a drawing of something Norfolk themed so that your code looks beautiful too. You could use the template on the next page as a starting point.
- Discuss which elements of the code are important at places other than on your visit. Think about situations at home, around the school site (are there any areas that are more important for wildlife than others?) or in local community areas.

### Further ideas and follow up;

- Make a short film clip promoting your code and highlighting the benefits each element can result in.
- Share your code with others, through your school website or social media channels. Do tag your visit venue hosts and @NorfolkAONB
- Discuss what changes everyone can make to ensure that their own home, school grounds or community becomes an area of natural beauty.



## Educational Opportunities in the Norfolk Coast AONB

# Our Code of Conduct for visiting the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Beauty

