



*Challenge, Development,
Education & Fun*

www.wolt.org.uk

at

BROKERSWOOD COUNTRY PARK

A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

WHAT WE ARE Brokerswood Country Park has 120 acres of ancient and semi-natural woodland is an ideal learning environment for school children of all ages. Now an isolated remnant of The Royal Forest of Selwood, the woodland has been entered into the Forestry Commissions “Dedication” scheme to conserve its flora and fauna for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. Brokerswood Country Park offers a range of leisure and recreational facilities, developed in keeping with the environment to help to sustain and conserve this sensitive habitat.

There are a number of picnic sites around the Park, some on the lakeside others under the woodland canopy away from the distractions of our ever-hungry ducks and geese.

All activities are run by the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team, a not-for-profit company with a vast amount of experience of working with all ages in a wide range of settings. You can find out more about the Team and the activities offered at www.wolt.org.uk

Enquiries can be made between 10 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday on 07789 94097. Please leave a message if we are out with a group.

WHAT WE OFFER We appreciate cost is a major factor for most schools and we hope we offer a range of competitively priced options to reflect this :-

Activity	Cost/Child
‘Do Your Own Thing’	£2.50 1 Adult free per 10 children thereafter £2.75 each
Guided Activities	£2.25 per child plus £80 per instructor for 2.5 hours activities

An Additional charge of £30.00 will be made if children consume picnics in the Pavilion.

An addition charge of £1 per person will be made for the train (if requested)

Example costings of a guided trip and train activity based on 30 pupils:

Entry	30 x £2.25	=	£67.50
	1 x instructor	=	£80.00
	30 x train rides	=	£30.00
	Trip total	=	£177.50 or £5.92 per head

How many WOLT staff would you need?

We are keen to keep the process as affordable as possible and therefore encourage the teachers to run an activity (using our resource pack) thus allowing the group to be split at least into two groups. If you would want smaller groups or our instructors to run all the activities you may need to hire another instructor. Please phone to discuss your requirements (tel: 07789 940971)

Our range of activities are detailed separately, we want schools to 'pic and mix' from the choices and are happy to discuss and accommodate any requirements you may have. We hope to develop our educational range and offer follow on work in the future, we also want to provide what you the schools want and are grateful for any feedback that may help us improve our service.

THE FACILITIES The Pavilion situated near the shop and toilets is available to schools for lunch or storage of bags etc (particularly useful if your coach does not stay for the duration of your visit). Shop and Café – located at the office – selling ice creams, drinks, take-away tea/coffee/sandwiches and a wide range of gifts/souvenirs suitable for children.

First Aid – First aid is available at the Office or directly from the WOLT instructor(s)

Narrow Gauge Railway - Tickets are £1.00 per person. Schools may book the train to round off their visit. The 2/3rd of mile ride through the woods takes approximately 15 minutes.

Toilets – Situated near the barrier at the entrance to the Park, behind the Reception.

Lake - Following consultations with Environmental Health and a review of our own Risk Assessments we have chosen to leave the 5 acre lake unfenced. Teachers are welcome to make a reconnaissance visit prior to their school trip.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU Advance bookings are essential, please notify us of any special requirements you may have. We appreciate you may want to ensure the Park is available on the day of your choice and are happy to take provisional bookings. These should be confirmed by completing and returning the attached booking form. We will invoice your school directly after the trip.

On arrival we ask that one teacher comes to the office to book in and confirm the arrangements for the day, collection of maps/activity sheets etc.

Children should be suitably dressed, i.e. waterproof clothing and wellies, sunhat and sun cream being on a clay soil, it is often muddy.

Children are welcome in the shop, but we do ask they come in groups no larger than 6 and are supervised throughout.

Only food purchased from the café may be consumed in the café or at the seating area outside the cafe

ADDRESS & ACCESS The postcode of Brokerswood is **BA13 4EH**. The park is well sign-posted from all approaches. **Please ensure your Coach Driver is advised that access for Coaches is via the crossroads at the Tin Church. The rear gate of the park will be closed on arrival. Please call the park office on 01373 822238 to have someone to open the gate for the coach.**

When arriving from the direction of the A36 turn left at the crossroads and then first right. From the direction of Southwick or North Bradley turn right at the crossroads and then first right. If arriving from the direction of Westbury and Dilton Marsh go straight over the crossroads and turn right.

WHAT A TYPICAL VISIT PROGRAMME MIGHT LOOK LIKE

0930	Arrival	Teacher in charges goes to book in, remaining teachers organise the children into two groups or classes etc. If the coach is staying bags, lunch can be left on board, if not they may be left in the wet weather room.
0945		1 st Group/Class commence guided activity (approximately 45 minutes in total). 2 nd Group carry out their own activity (as arranged by School)
1100		Short break
1115		Changeover 2 nd Group commence guided Activity 1 st Group carry out own activity
1215		Lunch at picnic areas or Pavilion.
13.00		1 st train ride (seats between 20 and 24 depending on size) the rest of the party could visit the shop in groups or play in the adventure playground ready to get the train as soon as it arrived back in the station!
14.00		Depart

OUR GUIDED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Indoor activities take place within our Pavilion which seeks to simulate a walk in woodland, with cut out trees around the room. Sessions are interactive and all may be customised to suit individual schools requirements.

Unless otherwise requested Guided Activities usually combine your choice of one indoor and one outdoor session.

Around the Trees Key stage 1-2 - A 30 minute indoor interactive session based on tree shapes that simulate trees in spring and summer and leafless trees that represent autumn and winter, briefly introducing the Seasons.

By describing the differences in shade and shape of each leaf the children begin to realise that trees may be identified by some of the characteristics, particularly the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees.

The fruits and seeds are also introduced. Having described and identified the leaves the children are invited to place the leaf/fruit shapes onto the correct tree. This session can be developed to suit older/more knowledgeable children.

Woodland Animals Key stage 1-2 - A 20 minute interactive period in which the type of animals common to our Woodlands can be introduced, the children learn about the animal by donning a mask and reading a small passage describing itself and its habitat. For older children food chains and webs can be introduced.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Perfume Cocktail Key stage 1 – This activity utilises the sense of smell, children are paired up to make a cocktail with our “Special Brew”.

Secrets Key stage 1-2 - Groups of children are given a pair of words with opposite meanings, they collect woodland items that represent the words and other groups have to guess what the words were from the collections.

Camouflage Key stage 2 – Class is split into groups of 8 – each group is taken with their adult supervisor along a specific path looking for 10 hidden (Camouflaged) objects.

Pond dipping Key stage 1 – 2 – the children work in groups with nets to find and identify wildlife found in our lake

Den building Key stage 1 – 2 – Groups of children work together to make dens and shelters. Great for team work and beginning to explore the concept of shelter making.

Basic bushcraft Key stage 1 – 2 - This activity will be adapted for the group / ability but may involve the groups trying to make a willow lead-pencil or basic fire lighting techniques (and then toasting marshmallows!)

Basic map reading / treasure hunt Key stage 1 – 2 An introduction to map reading skills set in the 80 acres of woodland.

BOOKING FORM FOR AN EDUCATIONAL VISIT at BROKERSWOOD

School/Establishment

Address :

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Telephone Number (including Code)

Number of Children: Approx. Age:

Teacher in charge of party:

Date/Date of visit: 1st Choice

2nd Choice

Time of arrival:

Time of Departure:

Type of Transport:

Type of Visit (see Teacher's Guide): UNGUIDED [] GUIDED []

Guided Activity Choices: 1.....

2.....

Number of WOLT instructors required:

Narrow Gauge Railway

Number of Passengers:

Time of 1st Ride:

Invoicing details: Please include the email address / contact name to whom the invoice should be addressed to:

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO office@wolt.org.uk or post to: School bookings,
Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team, c/o 7 Gipsy Lane, Warminster, BA12 9LR