



Education Pack



Thank you for your interest in bringing your group to visit Queen Elizabeth Country Park. This pack is designed to help you find out more about what the park has to offer and help you with the preparation for your visit should you decide to come and visit us. It contains details on the domestic arrangements; arrival and departure, location of toilets, picnic areas as well as background information on the Park. If you are planning a self-guided visit and require further specific information please contact the Park's Education Ranger.

Content

1. Park Introduction
2. Facilities
3. Essential information
4. Health and Safety
5. Guided Sessions
6. Self Guided Resources
7. Pricing
8. Contact
9. Map

1. Park Introduction

Queen Elizabeth Country Park lies at the western end of the South Downs National Park, on the Hampshire and West Sussex border. The 564 hectare Park includes one of the highest points within the South Downs National Park, Butser Hill (271m). Queen Elizabeth County Park conserves a variety of habitats including open chalk downland, ancient woodland, flower rich grass meadows and evergreen forest. The site boasts a range of active pursuit provision with walking trails, mountain biking groups, bridleways and running clubs.

With a dedicated and extremely experienced education team Queen Elizabeth Country Park offers a wealth of outdoor activities for groups of all ages. Formal guided educational sessions are fun-packed with a range of interactive games and activities which can be tailored to the needs of your pupils whilst meeting your specific learning objectives. A range of informal sessions and clubs are also provided by our team as well as outreach. The team are always happy to hear from teachers and group leaders with their own ideas for sessions.

2. Facilities

Country Park

Toilets - Toilets are situated near the main entrance to the Visitor Centre. A unisex open access toilet is located near the café. There are two other set of toilets within the Country Park, one on the top on Butser and in the Juniper Car park, both with unisex open access.

The Visitor Centre Shop- The shop stocks a wide variety of souvenirs, gifts and educational items as well as local produce such as clothing produced by the Queen Elizabeth Spinners group. Souvenir bags can be pre-booked at £2 each.

Park Café- The café is adjacent to the Visitor Centre and offers a hot and cold drinks, cakes, snacks and light lunches. The kiosks are located in the Butser and Juniper car parks selling drinks and snacks on a seasonal basis. Groups can be catered for if booked in advance.

Picnic Areas- You are welcome to eat on the picnic benches on the patio between the café and Visitor Centre. There are two large grassy areas, the Meadow and Bottom field, located within easy walking distance of the visitor centre. These areas are also open to the general public.

Room Hire- Guided groups will be provided with an indoor space for the duration of your visit, subject to availability. This can be utilised for storing your bags, eating lunch etc.

Self-guided groups are able to book a room for their visit, subject to availability.

Charges for room hire can be found in the pricing section of this pack.

Juniper Play Trail- This woodland play trail is easily reached by following the Forest Drive to Juniper car park. The extensive range of play equipment is suitable for children aged eight and over.

Tots Play Area - Situated close to the visitor centre, a range of mini beast themed play equipment for children under eight years old.

Barbecue Areas- There are large purpose built BBQ sites situated at Juniper, Benham Bushes, Cannonball and Coney Acres. For more information and to make a booking please contact the Visitor Centre.

Car Park

The car park has a designated coach area for use by groups. The car park is a short walk from the visitor centre. The country park can be accessed by crossing the main road and crossing the main car park. Please note the car park is pay and display. Please see the pricing section for charges. Car parking passes can be ordered in advance and invoiced for along with the price of your visit.

3. Essential Information

Booking- Booking is essential for all groups, whether they are guided or self-guided. Spring and Summer terms are busy so please book in well advance. Please contact the education team directly to check availability or make your booking.

Supervision ratios- Please ensure you bring enough staff to supervise your group. You will receive 1 free adult per 3 children for pre-school and nursery aged children and 1 free adult per 5 children for school aged children and college groups.

Pre – Visits- For guided sessions the education team will contact you to arrange a pre-visit. It is essential that the group leader attends to make arrangements for the day, familiarise yourself with the site and receive our risk assessment.

It is strongly advised that group leaders for self-guided groups also undertake their own assessment of the site. Please contact the education team to book this in.

Staff briefing- Please ensure you fully brief all accompanying staff before your visit. All staff should be made aware of the risk assessment you have completed as well as any emergency procedures. It is advisable to provide adults with a map of the park and its facilities.

Arrival- Please lead your group directly to the visitor centre and inform the staff that your group has arrived on site. Please inform staff how many adults and children are attending on the day.

If you have booked any self-guided fun rucksacks they will be available for you to collect at the visitor centre.

Please note the visitor centre opens at 10am.

Insurance- Hampshire County council has a public liability insurance of £5,000,000. A copy of the certificate is available on request.

Cancellations- The minimum notice period required for a full refund is one month. Any cancellations within one month of your visit will require full payment.

4. Health and Safety

Please follow the guidelines set out by your local Education Authority with regards to taking groups on trips and carrying out fieldwork. We ask that the group leader is responsible for overall control and discipline of the group whilst they are on site.

Please ensure you follow our health and safety recommendations and ensure all accompanying staff are familiar with this information.

Arrival and general site

- Coaches and minibuses should park in the coach park to the right of the car park entrance
- Please lead your group directly to the patio area adjacent to the visitor centre, being mindful of other traffic.
- Children and staff should wear suitable footwear such as wellies, walking boots, sturdy trainers
- Please supervise you group at all times, particularly when using the play facilities
- Please ensure instruct your group to use equipment etc. in an appropriate manner
- Many surfaces are uneven, slippery or steep. Please supervise pupils and advise them not to run on such surfaces.

Group management

- Please advise pupils and staff if they are separated from the group to go directly to the visitor centre where staff can assist in locating the group
- Advise older pupils and staff to have their mobile phones on them and provide them with the visitor centre number 023 9259 5040
- Please ensure you are responsible for your groups behaviour whilst on-site
- Ensure your group are prepared for the weather. Children and staff should bring warm and waterproof clothing for visits during the autumn and winter and should wear sun hats, apply sun tan lotion and bring extra drinks in hot weather
- If you hear the fire alarm please proceed to the patio outside the visitor centre. Inform Park staff immediately if any of your group are missing
- You are responsible for administering first aid to members of your group. If you require emergency medical assistance please proceed directly to the visitor centre where staff can call the emergency services or call the visitor centre staff on 023 9259 5040
- Ensure pupils with allergies or medical conditions bring appropriate medication

Country Park

- Ensure pupils do not approach or touch any wild animals
- Children and staff should wear long sleeves and long trousers in the country park to avoid contact with wild animals such as ticks, bees, wasps etc.
- Staff and pupils should check for ticks in the summer months and if one is found medical advice should be sought. Ticks carry a zoonotic disease called Lyme disease.
- Please be aware there will be other users of the country park including dog walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers. Please ensure you supervise your group and advise them not to approach any dogs or horses. Advise pupils to look before they touch to avoid contact with faeces. Mountain biking trails are marked and pedestrians should avoid walking these trails to avoid collision
- Do not enter any fields unless they have a kissing gate and designated footpath. Instruct pupils not to approach any livestock within the fields and ensure they behave in a respectful manner
- Please leave gates as they find them i.e. if open leave open, if shut please shut behind you.
- Please do not allow pupils to climb any fences
- Hampshire Schools should have an Open Country Award staff member in attendance
- Avoid direct contact with sitting water as it can harbour a zoonotic disease called Weils disease. Instruct pupils to avoid touching their faces or eating or drinking with dirty hands. Ensure children and staff wash their hands after activities, before lunch and before departure. Alcohol hand gels are not a suitable substitute for washing your hands with soap and water
- Pupils and staff should cover any open wounds with a plaster to avoid infection
- Ensure pupils with allergies bring appropriate medication
- Be aware of forestry vehicles and machinery in operation

5. Guided Sessions

Unless specified all our sessions can be tailored to any key stage, ability or group.

Sensory Explorers

Using their senses the children explore the Parks variety of colours, textures, sounds and smells.

Sounds of Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Listen to the sounds of the park and find out how sound is made before creating your own natural rhythm.

Minibeast Safari

Take a look into this miniature world and find out why these beasts are so important.

Animals of Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Follow a trail of woodland animals discovering where they live and what they eat through games and activities.

Woodland and Meadow Habitat Comparison

Through a series of activities the children are encouraged to draw comparisons between two very different habitats.

Woodland Adventure

Get your boots dirty and discover our woodland through art, construction and sensory games.

Shelter Building

Working as part of a team your challenge is to build a shelter from natural materials that will protect you from the elements.

Orienteering

Learn how to read a map before we set you off on a team challenge to navigate our woodlands.

The Story of Plants

Follow the journey from seed to flower playing games about plants and trees.

Butser Rocks

Discover the geology of QE. Collect samples and conduct a range of experiments.

National Parks: A Study of Butser

Discover the highest point in Hampshire; learn about the landscape and how we use it.

Countryside Management

This session looks at the management of the Country Park as a business and as a visitor destination in the current challenging economic climate.

Land Based Taster Days

Students will get to work alongside our ranger and education teams. They will learn the day to day duties of the countryside ranger team and gain insight to a career in this industry. Suitable for upper KS2 and over, maximum 12 students.

Woodland Conservation Short Course

We can offer tailor made woodland conservation courses, ranging from 1 day to 6 weeks. The course will cover all aspects of woodland management including theory and practical sessions.. Suitable for KS3 and over, maximum 12 students.

14-16 Diploma courses

We offer accredited diploma courses specifically for 14-16 year olds. We are able to offer woodland management courses at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. The courses follow the awarding body criteria and are delivered with a strong emphasis on work based learning. Courses can be tailored to your groups needs.

6. Self Guided Resources

Fun Rucksack

A great addition to your self guided visit. We will prepare a rucksack full of games and activities for you to complete with your pupils whilst visiting the park. The rucksack includes resources for up to 30 children, with full instructions and a map detailing suitable locations.

The self-guided pack will be available to you to collect from the visitor centre upon your arrival. Activity instructions can be made available to you prior to your visit if required. Please request this at booking.

Choose a theme for your fun rucksack.

Minibeasts- The rucksack includes all the equipment you need to undertake a minibeast hunt within the Country Park.

Sensory- These resources will get pupils to explore the country park through some fun games such as meet a tree and natures palettes.

Orienteering

Choose from two orienteering courses of varying difficulty. Orienteering packs include maps and guidance.

Junior orienteering trail packs are also available to purchase. These packs are designed for younger students allowing them to understand the basic principles of orienteering within a smaller space.

Space Trail

One of the largest scale layouts of the solar system in the British Isles. Devised by the Hampshire Astronomical Group. The trail is 3.2 Km and waymarked through the park.

Downland and Woodland Walking Trails

Trails of varying duration allow you to explore many habitats and encompass spectacular views. Navigate by colour coded posts.

Mountain Biking

There are two trails designated for mountain-biking. The most suitable trail for all school groups is the purple trail which is 6km long. Groups should be led by a qualified mountain biking instructor. The Park has a number of mountain bikes and adapted cycles which can be pre-booked along with a leader if required.

7. Pricing

Guided session	<p>Half day session £4.75 per pupil (typical length 90-120 minutes)</p> <p>Full day session £6.60 per pupil (typical length 2 x 90 minute sessions with a break for lunch)</p> <p><i>Accompanying adults are free of charge. Recommended ratios for adults to supervise and assist children during guided sessions:</i></p> <p><i>Nursery and pre-school groups 1:3 adults</i> <i>Primary aged children 1:5 adults</i> <i>Secondary aged children 1:8 adults</i></p>
Self guided	<p>Fun rucksack £10 per rucksack <i>Each rucksack contains resources for 30 pupils</i></p> <p>Orienteering packs and trail leaflets £1 per leaflet</p>
Mountain Biking	<p>General Park trail leaflet £1 <i>POA for group hire and guided visit bookings</i></p>
Room hire	<p>Annex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half Day £30.00 • Full Day £50.00 <p>Theatre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half Day £30.00 • Full Day £50.00
Parking	<p>Up to 16 seats - £1.80 per hour or £3.50 per day</p> <p>16 seats including driver - £12.50 per day</p> <p>Season tickets - £40</p> <p>Blue Badge holder - Free</p>
Souvenir bag	<p>£2 per bag <i>Must be pre-booked</i></p>

8. Contact

If you would like to discuss anything please do contact the education team at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. We are always happy to hear from educational groups and are keen to design bespoke programmes just for your group. Email gecp.education@hants.gov.uk or call 023 9259 5040

To check availability or to make a provisional booking please fill in the online booking enquiry form on the Queen Elizabeth Country Park education webpage or contact us directly, gecp.education@hants.gov.uk or call 023 9259 5040. As soon as we receive your enquiry one of the education team will contact you to confirm your booking or offer alternative dates.

We will confirm your booking and send any necessary documentation via email, please ensure you provide a valid email address when contacting us.

