

# Titchfield Haven



## National Nature Reserve

### About the Pack

Due to limited resources only self led visits are available at Titchfield Haven. This pack is designed to help with the preparation for your self guided visit. It contains details on the domestic arrangements; arrival and departure, location of toilets, as well as background information on the reserve.

### Pack Content

1. Reserve Introduction
2. Essential information
3. Health and Safety
4. Self-Guided Sessions
5. Costs
6. Booking information
7. Evaluation Form
8. Map

# 1. Reserve Introduction

The varied habitats and abundant wildlife of our Nature Reserve can be used to teach a host of subjects linked to the national curriculum. A visit to the nature reserve also offers children a multi-sensory experience beyond the curriculum and helps to meet PSHE objectives.



## 2. Essential Information

The following information will help you get the best from your visit. If you need any further information then please do contact us.

**Pre – Visits** A visit to our site prior to your intended visit is essential in order to secure your booking. This gives group leaders the chance to familiarize themselves with the workings of the site. This helps ensure that the children gain maximum benefit from their visit. A pre-visit should include a walk around the site. As Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve is a countryside site it is strongly recommended that all visitors dress appropriately.

Please wear flat-soled shoes or boots and appropriate clothes for the weather conditions.

**Accidents and First Aid** All staff are qualified first aiders. If you require medical assistance or in case of an accident please report to reception or the nearest member of staff. **If you call for an ambulance directly please let the reception know.**

**Safety** Please follow the guidelines set out by your local Education Authority with regards to taking groups on trips and carrying out fieldwork. The teacher/group leader is responsible for the discipline and overall control of the group at all times, and to ensure that all helpers are briefed on their responsibilities.

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

**Arrival procedure for self guided activities** On arrival the teacher/group leader must report to the reception desk within the Visitor Centre with the booking form and number of children attending the day.

**Toilets** Ladies, gents and disabled toilets are situated in the Visitor Centre.

**Cancellations** The minimum notice period required for a full refund is one month.

**Clothing** Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve is a countryside site and it is strongly recommended that all visitors dress appropriately. Please ensure **all members** of the group wear flat-soled shoes or boots that they don't mind getting dirty and bring appropriate clothes for the weather conditions. Being a coastal site we can experience extremes of weather from storms and gales to bright blazing sunshine. As all activities will be taking place outside good waterproof clothing is essential at most times of the year. Sunscreen and hats are recommended during hot weather.



### 3. Health and Safety

**Machinery and tools** The Reserve is a place of work and there will be times when machinery may be in operation. It is important that children are supervised by an adult at all times.

**Weils disease** can be contracted from the exposure to water contaminated with the urine of rodents. Children should avoid touching their eyes, ears and mouth, wash their hands and cover open wounds with a waterproof plaster if coming into contact with the lake's edge.

**Ticks (Lyme disease)** Ticks can be picked up in wooded or grassy areas particularly during the warm summer months. The best way to avoid this is to wear long sleeved tops, trousers and sturdy shoes so that ticks can not reach the skin. If you pick up a tick please seek medical advice.

## 4. Examples of Self-Guided Sessions

Our site and activities are particularly well suited as a backdrop to teach Science and Geography

Title	Description
<b>River Study AY KS1/2/3</b> <b>Geo/His/Sci/Eng/Art</b> <b>The River Meon</b>	The National Nature Reserve covers the lower reaches of the River Meon. The River Meon is a good river for study because it is relatively small, running only 21 miles from its source south of the village of East Meon to its mouth at Hill Head. This means a variety of landscapes can be seen in short distance. However, the River Meon differs from other rivers where it meets the sea.
<b>Pond Dipping S</b> <b>EYFS/KS1/2/3</b> <b>Sci/Geo/Art/Eng/Ma</b> <b>The Walkway Pond</b>	At Titchfield Haven we have a specially built dipping platform over a pond that is a 10-minute walk into the reserve. This gives children the chance to see a pond in a natural setting and relate it to other wetland features such as reedbeds.
<b>Solent Shore Study S</b> <b>EYFS/KS1/2/3</b> <b>Geo/Sci/His/Art/Eng/Ma</b> <b>The Solent Shore</b>	Titchfield Haven Visitor Centre is located by Hill Head Harbour between the beaches at Meon Shore and Hill Head. These beaches are gently shelving and are a mixture of shingle and sand with extensive mudflats at low tide. Pools created at the foot of groins and around boulders on the beach support sea life associated with rocky shores.
<b>Wildlife Walk S</b> <b>EYFS/KS1/2/3</b> <b>Sci/Geo/Art/Eng/Ma</b>	The Nature Reserve is home to many animals. Whilst Titchfield Haven is famous for its bird life there are also many mammals living here including foxes, badgers, otters, deer, voles, shrews, and mice. There are also a number of reptiles including grass snakes, slow worms and common lizards.
<b>Birdwatching AY KS1/2/3</b> <b>Sci/Geo/Eng/Ma/Art</b>	Titchfield Haven is famous for its bird life. The site is designated a National Nature Reserve because it has internationally important populations of certain species. The eight hides around the reserve have been specially built to give people closer views of the birds and other wildlife such as fox and deer.
<b>Invertebrate Study S</b> <b>EYFS/KS1/2/3</b> <b>Sci/Geo/Art/Eng/Ma</b>	There are a great variety of terrestrial invertebrates at Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve and the study of these can form the basis of a mini-beast safari or bug hunt.
<b>Coastal Geography S</b> <b>EYFS/KS1/2/3</b> <b>Sci/Geo/Art/Eng/Ma</b> <b>The Solent Shore</b>	Titchfield Haven Visitor Centre is located at the Hill Head Harbour between the beaches of Meon Shore and Hill Head. These beaches are gently shelving and are a mixture of shingle and sand with extensive mudflats at low tide. The shoreline is particularly interesting here as the River Meon was dammed in the 17th century and so it does not have an estuary. Sea defences along this section of shoreline include the seawall

	and the groins. Two shingle spits can also be seen. Brownwich Cliffs are a short walk away and form an excellent backdrop for discussion around erosion.
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## 5. Prices

<b>Self led sessions</b>	Normal admission charges apply
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## 6. Booking information

If you would like to bring your school or group to Titchfield Haven please fill in the online booking enquiry form on the webpage. We will then be in touch with you to confirm your booking or to suggest an alternative date, and to gather more information.

## 7. Evaluation Form

Once you have completed your visit to Titchfield Haven please would you be kind enough to fill in the online evaluation form. This feedback allows us to continually improve the educational offer we provide.

Thank you in advance.

## 8. Map

### Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve

The reserve covers 369 acres (145ha) of the Meon Valley, encompassing a mosaic of natural habitats. River, fen, pools, reedbed and meadows, are carefully managed by Hampshire County Council, giving protection to a range of special wildlife.

**A reserve ticket provides access to two trails and eight hides.**



#### Boardwalk Trail - a 1mile/1.5km return trip

A boardwalk meanders across wooded marshland. Willow catkins, frog spawn and birdsong herald the coming of spring. Watch dragonflies on the ponds in summer and kingfishers along the river in the autumn. The explosive song of Cetti's warblers can be heard all year around and look out for marsh harriers as they quater the reedbeds.



#### Scrapes Trail - a 1.3mile/2km return trip

From the seafront, the trail passes scrub and reedy pools where stonechats and bearded tits may be found. In winter the scrapes hold numbers of wigeon, teal and shoveler, with luck you may spot a bittern.

From early spring the scrapes are home to nesting gulls, terns and avocets. Black-tailed godwit are joined by other wading birds stopping-off on their long migrations.

In addition to the trails, a public footpath links the seafront to Titchfield village.

