

Annual Alternative Education Programme

Introduction

2009/10



Introduction

This document is the synergy of the country park management programme, heritage management programme and education programme which come together to create the Annual Alternative Education Programme for 2009 and 2010 school year which begins in September 2009 and ends in July 2010.

The education programme is fundamental to the delivery of the country park management programme and without the forest schools element of site management then there would be a de-scoping of the management programme.

School visits occur within the school day effectively from 9.30 / 10am through to 1.30 / 2pm thereby minimising the cost of transport and reducing the overall cost for a school visit.

The forest schools programme will deliver additional elements which have all been programmed in and these include:

- **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**
- **ASDAN Certification**
- **John Muir Award Scheme**



Whitlingham Country Park has been delivering a range of educational packages for a period of years and this folder has been created to formalise the organisation, learning outcomes and safety concerns for groups attending the educational programmes delivered by the country park staff.

The education programme is delivered on site by trained and qualified forest school rangers all of whom have completed their forest school level 3 qualifications. These staff lead the training sessions and will assist in ensuring that all sessions are run as safely as possible and this includes:

- **Carrying out safety checks on site**
- **Site risk assessments**
- **Safe and effective use of tools**

The feedback we have received so far for the educational programme and how we deliver the programme has been fantastic: *“its been the best week of my life”* is a typical response we receive and it’s this type of response and enthusiasm we try to elicit from young people attending the sessions as it shows we are really making a difference to that young person’s life. The teachers have also given excellent feedback:

“Forest Schools has been the making of him.”

“Attending the forest schools sessions has completely changed this child.”

These are just two of the memorable comments we have received. The forest schools programme has expanded tremendously over the past two years and there are now more than 4,000 attendances during the school year ending July 2009. Attendance in the academic year to July 2010 is expected to reach 5,000.

The folder represents the synthesis of three years of Forest Schools work with a wide range of young people with ages from 3 years to 19 year olds and we have developed the programme year on year to include formalised qualifications which will contribute towards young people’s achievements.

These include the ASDAN qualifications, the John Muir awards and, new for 2009, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

We have worked with each school group individually to produce a bespoke educational package in order to deliver the educational outcomes best suited to their needs.

Annual Conservation Programme

Annual Alternative Education Programme



Forest Schools Timetable

Monday

Future Projects

Russell

Tuesday

Larkman Primary

Paul / Russell

Wednesday

Education Other Than At School (BEST)

Paul

Thursday

Future Projects (NR5)

Russell

YMCA Entry to Employment

Edgar

Friday

Norwich City College

Edgar

This allows capacity for additional bookings such as CNS and St Michaels throughout the year.

Forest Schools Individual Work Programmes

Larkman Primary School

Lead staff member	Russell Wilson / Paul Bolton
Link teacher	Craig Deal
Contact number	07766 546437
Forest Schools Day	Tuesday

September 2009

Week 1

Site orientation. Introduction to forest schools

October 2009

TBC

November 2009

TBC

December 2009

TBC

January 2010

TBC

February 2010

TBC

March 2010

TBC

April 2010

TBC

May 2010

TBC

June 2010

TBC

YMCA Entry to Employment Scheme

Lead staff member: Edgar Hoddy
Link teacher: Adam Savvas
Contact number: 07806623770
Forest Schools Day: Thursday

July and August 2009

Meadow management throughout park

Includes:

Cutting and raking to form habitat piles.

September 2009

3rd Fencing work at forest schools site 1
10th Fencing work at forest schools site 1
17th Fencing work at forest schools site 1
24th Fencing work at forest schools site 1

October 2009

1st Prepare site for lime kiln
8th Prepare site for lime kiln
15th Prepare site for lime kiln
22nd Prepare for Halloween event (Pumpkins / Story / Ruin / special effects)
29th Prepare for Halloween event

November 2009

5th Fencing work at Whitlingham Woods's education area
12th Fencing work at Whitlingham Woods's education area
19th Fencing work at Whitlingham Woods's education area
26th Fencing work at Whitlingham Woods's education area

December 2009

Fencing work at Whitlingham Woods's education area

January 2010

Footpath work in Whitlingham woods

February 2010

Footpath work in Whitlingham woods

March 2010

Work on barn area preparing for summer season

April 2010

Footpath maintenance throughout Country Park – wood chipping and repair where required

May 2010

Alder cottages area and Orchard area

June 2010

Beach maintenance and little broad area

Future Projects Monday class

Lead staff member	Russell Wilson
Link teacher	Mike Scoggins
Contact number	01603 250505
Forest Schools Day	Monday

September 2009

Complete vehicle access to woodland - Trowse woods

October 2009

Thinning of Sycamore / coppicing of Elm - Trowse woods

Woodland Management

November 2009

Woodland Management

Car park maintenance and management

December 2009

Whitlingham woods car park and river edge

January 2010

Coppicing on Whitlingham Marsh to support Fringe project

Bird hide maintenance

February 2010

Bird screen work at Whitlingham Great Broad and coppicing work

Install support structures in gateways throughout Country Park

March 2010

Install support structures in gateways throughout Country Park

April 2010

Picnic meadow access management

May 2010

Revetment work throughout country park (great broad area)

Revetment work throughout country park (River Yare)

June 2010

Revetment work throughout country park (great broad area)

Revetment work throughout country park (River Yare)

Future Projects Thursday class

Lead staff member	Russell Wilson
Link teacher	Jodie
Contact number	01603 250505
Forest Schools Day	Thursday

September 2009

- 3rd Creation of woodchip footpath through to Whitlingham woods
- 10th Creation of woodchip footpath through to Whitlingham woods
- 17th Creation of woodchip footpath through to Whitlingham woods
- 24th Creation of woodchip footpath through to Whitlingham woods

October 2009

- Bridge Construction
- Creation of woodchip footpath through to Whitlingham woods

November 2009

- Work on view point at Whitlingham wood

December 2009

- Coppicing around the broad

January 2010

- Work in Colman's cut – education area preparation

February 2010

- Work in Colman's cut – education area preparation

March 2010

- Trowse Newton Hall management - Cutting back on vegetation etc
- Trowse Newton Hall management

April 2010

Trowse woodland – cutback overhanging trees on cycle path and through woodland

May 2010

Trowse woodland – cutback overhanging trees on cycle path and through woodland
Access management throughout site

June and July 2010

Meadow management throughout site

Education Other Than At School (BEST)

Lead staff member	Paul Bolton
Link teacher	Christine Ramp Wolf
Contact number	01603 430302
Forest Schools Day	Wednesday

September 2009

Heathland creation – Whitlingham Woods

Heathland creation – Whitlingham Woods

16th Fencing work at forest schools site 2

23rd Fencing work at forest schools site 2

October 2009

1st Fencing work at forest schools site 2

8th Fencing work at forest schools site 2

15th Fencing work at forest schools site 2

22nd Fencing work at forest schools site 2

29th Fencing work at forest schools site 2

November 2009

5th Cutting Epitomic Growth - Lime Avenue

12th Cutting Epitomic Growth - Lime Avenue

19 Fence and Gate Picnic area by Visitor Centre

26th Fence and Gate Picnic area by Visitor Centre

December 2009

Fence and Gate Picnic area by Visitor Centre

Christmas Forest schools session

January 2010

Work on roadway through Country Park

February 2010

Work on roadway through Country Park
Create grassland area near small broad car park

March 2010

Create grassland area near small broad car park

April 2010

Site maintenance to prepare for the season (painting benches etc)

May 2010

Site maintenance to prepare for the season (painting benches etc)
Site maintenance on Trowse water meadow

June 2010

Site maintenance on Trowse water meadow

July 2010

Forest schools sessions.

Norwich City College

Lead staff member

Edgar Hoddy

Staff teacher

Tracy Ready

Contact

01603 773 289 (x.3289)

Day

Friday

September 2009

Footpath improvement works throughout Trowse woodlands

October 2009

Footpath improvement works throughout Trowse woodlands

Boardwalk construction on Trowse water meadow

November 2009

Boardwalk construction on Trowse water meadow

December 2009

Work on Trowse church meadows

January 2009

Work on car park and roadway

February 2009

Work on car park and roadway

Country Park maintenance

March 2010

Create new footpath in Whitlingham woods area

April 2010

Create new footpath in Whitlingham woods area

May 2010

Fence in pit area by Whitlingham Woods Car Park

June 2010

Fence in pit area by Whitlingham Woods Car Park

Yarmouth High School

Starting 2nd November 2009
Time Mondays 12.30 – 3.30
Lead staff Edgar Hoddy / Jim Froud

November 2009

Start to clear dead wood in low ropes course area
Clear wood in low ropes course area
Set out low ropes course look at access issues
Start to create seating area

December 2009

Seating area / picnic area / clearing woodland for access
Christmas session

January 2010

Coppicing round great broad area
Planting throughout the country park

February 2010

Woodchip throughout the low ropes course area
Planting in woodland area by view point in Whitlingham woods

March 2010

Planting in Whitlingham woods
Planting by roadway

April and May 2010

Access management for country park:
Looking at footpaths , benches, seating areas, woodchip footpaths, erosion etc.
Meadow management throughout the country park site surveys and comparisons

June 2010

Hay raking and general site management

July 2010

Review of progress to date – look at projects completed

Forest schools sessions

Evaluation of school visit to Whitlingham Country Park

(For teachers and group leaders)

What was the nature of your school visit?

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Was the school visit a one off or part of a programme?

.....

Were you happy with the teaching?

.....

Were you happy that the school visit delivered the agreed learning outcomes?

.....

If so can you explain why?

.....

If not, why not?

.....

How could we improve our programme of education?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Whitlingham Charitable Trust Education and Development

(For students and attendees)

What did you do at Whitlingham Country Park?

.....

What was the best thing about what you did?

.....

Did you enjoy your visit?

.....

How could we make it better next time?

.....

Has this helped out with you being at school?

.....

If it has helped out with being at school can you tell us how?

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