

Do you know... You can travel to Needham Market by train or bus?

Location of visit Needham Lake / school / other -

Preferred date of visit.....

(Please supply alternative).....

Number of children.....

Age range.....Key Stage.....

Number of adults.....Number of coaches/cars.....

Approx time of arrival.....departure.....

Activities will be invoiced after the visit, to the address supplied on the booking form, unless otherwise stated.

Name of school/group.....

Name of person organising visit.....

Telephone number.....

Email address (if checked regularly).....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Booking Form

Be inspired, awaken interest, have fun and enjoy learning outdoors. Why not come on an educational adventure to Needham Lake?

We provide a range of sessions tailored to different ages, introducing children to nature and outdoor studies. This leaflet tells you what's on offer and how to book a visit with us. Our resources and activities are curriculum linked, but most importantly, fun and full of exploration and discovery.

Our activities are risk assessed and led by enthusiastic, experienced members of the Countryside Team. We advise that you also undertake risk assessments and, preferably, visit the site prior to your trip, particularly if you are leading an activity yourself.

We have introduced new activities: a river walk and the Aggregates Trail. Both of these activities are designed to be self-led. We are available for help and guidance and can lead activities if necessary. Self-led activities enable groups to be broken down into smaller numbers, which allows us to spend more dedicated time with students on activities such as pond dipping, minibeast hunts and discovery walks, whilst you take a group for a walk.

We are also available for visits to our other countryside sites, your school or local area. Please contact us to discuss your visit.

Overleaf you will find information about the activities we offer, along with those provided by our colleagues in Waste and Recycling.

The Outdoor Classroom

Discovery Project Resources

Aggregates Trail X Traction

- Written for KS1 – 3
- Information for teachers about the aggregates industry, geology, relevant web links, curriculum related and creative ideas for work in school, word bank, safety tips for visits and site specific information
- Laminated trail guide for children with information and questions on reverse
- Worksheets for Needham Market/Lake and Barham Pits
- 4 pop up banners, sample aggregates and minerals, rocks and fossils guides available to borrow



Project Ponds and Project Minibeasts

- KS1 and KS2 practical, laminated resources for teachers and students;
- 'How to' sections to help you run activities
- Targeted worksheets to compliment and enhance visit
- Ideas for themed work back at school
- Fold out 'Creature Features' leaflet and habitat cross sections
- Web links and ideas to continue learning across the curriculum



Project Rivers

- KS2 and KS3 practical, laminated resources for teachers and students;
- Source to mouth information, safety, cross curricular ideas, word bank and useful websites
- Planned route to introduce students to river features
- Targeted worksheets to enhance visit
- Concentrates on River Gipping, but flexible for use on your local river



These resources have been sent to all schools in Mid Suffolk. Please contact us if you require a duplicate copy.

Environmental Education Activities in Mid Suffolk



Discover the Countryside, Local Environment and Heritage with your Countryside Team



Activities are subject to availability, e.g. suitable time of year, age of participants, necessity (conservation work), resources available and location. Please ring or email us if you have any questions.

- Pond dipping
- Minibeast hunt
- River walk and study (self led)
- Led by Countryside Team
- Discovery Walk (please specify ideas for your walk on separate sheet)
- Practical Activities/Crafts (please specify activities you are interested in)
- Aggregates Trail (self led)
- Other(s) (please specify on separate sheet)

Please tick the boxes that apply. We like to keep to a maximum of 3 activities per day or 2 per half day.

Activity selection



Particular curriculum/subject requirements from visit

Any other information, e.g. allergies or other special needs

Activities

Our activities are suitable for a range of groups. We tailor the activities, learning requirements and running times to your group, their age and ability.

Practical activities

For example: woodcraft, making bird boxes and insect homes.

As our sites are managed for wildlife, as well as people, there are also opportunities to help with their conservation and enhancement.

We incorporate, where possible, natural materials into craft activities, such as hazel, willow and nettles.

We can use and provide ideas suitable for use at home and in school grounds.



Activity times vary in length.

Materials for these activities may incur a charge.

River Studies

(Self-led or Countryside Team led)

Explore the physical and man-made features of the River Gipping. A walk from Needham Lake, north to Hawksmill or beyond and back along the opposite riverbank.

Opportunities for taking river measurements, in and out of the water. Make use of work sheets to record findings, sketch features and annotate maps. Discover the sights, sounds, colours, fauna and flora of the river valley.

Can include study of old maps and comparisons with current Ordnance Survey maps.

Ideal activity for autumn, winter and spring as you can clearly see the river's features while the bank side vegetation is low. Always check height of river and flood warnings before undertaking a visit.



Minimum 2 hour activity at Needham Lake. Up to a whole day to explore the river from source to mouth.

Pond Dipping

Explore the world of freshwater minibeasts and other water loving creatures.

Discover the relationships between these and land living creatures, look at life cycles and food chains and adaptations to habitats. We use 'The freshwater name trail' key and 'Project Ponds' resources and worksheets to learn and record findings.

Safety around the pond and how to pond dip are covered.



Allow at least 50 mins for young children, up to about 1.5 hours for older children.

"I especially liked the mini-beasting because we went running through the long grass" Richard

"We really enjoyed walking round and getting ideas for our quiet area" George



"I hope to come back again with my family" Georgina

Groups#

Our activities are available to organised groups, such as Early Years and after school clubs, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts etc. Please contact us to discuss a visit.

Minibeast Hunt

Safari through meadows, hunt under logs and on leaves.

Identify land living minibeasts and discuss how they are adapted to their habitats. Use keys, ID guides and 'Project Minibeasts' resources and worksheets to learn and record your findings.

Think about who eats what and how minibeasts and other creatures are connected within their habitats. On some sites you might see habitat conservation in action.



Allow at least 50 mins for young children, up to about 1.5 hours for older children.

Aggregates Trail (Self-led)

The Aggregates Trail follows the route of the Gipping River Path between Needham Lake and Barham Picnic Site. The Gipping Valley provides a living, visual resource to piece together the lifecycle of the aggregates we use and highlights the importance of quarries and geology in our lives.

Studies can be carried out in Needham Market and at Needham Lake, as well as Barham Pits and Picnic Site and part way along the trail at Gallows Hill. Alternatively, take an older group along the whole trail.

A great activity for the autumn, winter and spring, particularly if working in Needham Market. Check river height and flood warnings before undertaking a walk along the trail, as the valley is subject to flooding.

See our education resource 'X Traction' for information and ideas to help you plan and carry out your visit, including worksheets and a walk map.



Activity length approx 2 hours for activity at Needham Lake and Needham Market. Can spend a whole day visiting other sites and/or walking the trail.

Recycling, Waste Minimisation & Composting – Getting it right...

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils (working in partnership under a joint waste contract) have two full-time Recycling Officers who are available to provide help, advice and support relating to recycling, waste minimisation and composting.

Recycling Officers are available for talks, games and activities or to simply help and advise. Literature, leaflets and posters are also available on request.

To speak to a Recycling Officer, or to make an appointment, please contact 0845 606 6045, or email recycling@midsuffolk.gov.uk.

Activities are subject to availability, e.g. suitable time of year, age of participants, necessity (conservation work), resources available and location.

Facilities at Needham Lake include:

- Coach parking
- Toilets (with disabled access)
- Picnic areas
- Pond dipping platforms
- A hard surfaced path around the lake
- The majority of the land is fairly flat and has been accessed by less mobile children on past visits.

"We've been inspired to start a 'nature table' and the children have joined in. They really have learned those 5 trees!"

GIPPING WAY

Discovery Walk

Awaken your senses and discover more about your surroundings. This can include: sensory activities, plant and tree identification and activities, animal tracking, environment/nature awareness games and how we manage our sites for wildlife. Please talk to us if you have alternative ideas.



Activity times vary in length.