

Planning your visit

You are welcome to contact us to discuss your visit in more detail, or to come in advance to prepare a risk assessment - please call to make an appointment. There is also a lot of information about British wildlife on our website.

Clothing

Much of the site is outdoors, so please ask parents to prepare children for hot, cold or wet weather. Paths are tarmac but in very wet weather there can be mud or puddles in some areas, so suitable footwear is important.

Lunch

Children should bring their own packed lunch which is taken in our outdoor picnic areas. Unless the school permits it, we do not normally allow the children to buy sweets and drinks. All rubbish generated by your school must be taken away with you.

Gift Shop

Our British wildlife-themed gift shop offers many pocket-money items suitable for children. Just let us know if you wish to visit the shop during your visit or we can provide a gift selection for each child to suit your set budget.

Parking

There is plenty of parking on site and ample space for coaches to manoeuvre.

How to Find Us

We are on the A22 in Surrey between Blindley Heath and Newchapel, 10 minutes from the M25 junction 6.

Approximate journey times from:

Crawley:	20 mins
East Grinstead:	15 mins
Redhill:	25 mins
Croydon:	35 mins
Tunbridge Wells:	30 mins
Haywards Heath:	30 mins



British Wildlife Centre School Visits 2021/22

Animal Encounters

For Reception to Year 7

A school visit to the British Wildlife Centre's collection of over forty different British wild mammals and owls is an excellent opportunity for children to learn about Britain's own wonderful wildlife!

We will not be open to the public during your visit, and all groups will be led throughout by a member of our own experienced keeper team.

Discover Britain's Wonderful Wildlife!

British Wildlife Centre
Eastbourne Road (A22), Newchapel, Lingfield,
Surrey RH7 6LF Tel: 01342 834658
Email: info@britishwildlifecentre.co.uk
www.britishwildlifecentre.co.uk



Animal Encounters at the BWC

Our 'Animal Encounters' programme is run for organised school groups from Reception to Year 7. It complements and brings to life teaching in the classroom on a variety of National Curriculum topics and skills in Science, Geography and History at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. A visit here will encourage a greater awareness of the natural world, show how we fit into it and emphasise the need to care for the environment and its sustainability.

This is a chance to see many fascinating British animals and birds including otters, foxes, wildcats, and owls. The children will learn about wildlife habitats, the countryside and the survival challenges faced by wildlife in Britain today.

We ask you to select one of the following themes. We will also try to explore links with any other topics your pupils may be studying at the time, so do advise us of any particular interests.

RECEPTION / KEY STAGE 1

Animals in Your Garden

Discover the animals that visit or live in different parts of your garden, what they eat and where to see them. Find out which species are nocturnal.

KEY STAGE 2

Life in the Hedgerow

Discover the vital habitat of the hedgerow and the great variety of wildlife that depends upon it for food and shelter.

Mammal Detectives

Learn where and how Britain's mammals live by identifying the clues, tracks and signs that they leave behind.

KEY STAGE 3

From Ice Age to Our Age

The fascinating story of the changing wildlife and countryside of Britain from the last ice age to the present day. Learn why we have the wild animals we have today and about the impact of man on the environment.



Format of your visit

A typical day combines talks, animal encounters and an audio visual presentation relevant to your chosen theme. These are led by our own team of keepers and take place in our fully-equipped lecture theatre and around the animal enclosures. With a break for lunch and a visit to the gift shop (optional), the day ends at 2pm.

Typical School Visit Schedule:

The presentation and tour sessions may be take place in a different order.

- 10.00 Arrival and introductions
- 10.15 Classroom presentation & red squirrels
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 Guided tour of the smaller animals
e.g. hedgehogs, rats, barn owls
- 12.15 Lunch (and gift shop if required)
- 1.00 Guided tour of the larger animals
e.g. foxes, wildcats, otters, deer, birds
- 2.00 Departure



When to visit

Visits are available during term time all year round, and whenever you come we will be closed to the public. The summer term is especially popular and we usually fill all dates in May, June and early July, so please book early for this period. However, there is much to see at other times of the year.

How to book

Always call us first to check availability. We can provisionally book your preferred date so you can check transport availability and other requirements. Then simply complete and submit a booking confirmation form on our website to secure the booking. We will email to confirm receipt.



Group sizes, costs and payment

The minimum group size is 25, the maximum is 90.

Prices from September 2021 to July 2022:

£9.50 per child

One teacher/helper is free per 8 children. Additional adults are charged at the child rate. A deposit will be required and we will issue an invoice on the day of your visit for the balance. Costs are charged for the number booked.