

Epping Forest Countryside Stewardship Scheme

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/about-us/projects/epping-forest-countryside-stewardship-scheme/>

We are thrilled to be able to offer a number of fully funded opportunities for eligible schools to learn about Epping Forest, and understand and become engaged with farming and the environment.

Cattle have been grazed in Epping Forest for more than a thousand years. They have played a vital role in creating and maintaining the varied mosaic of grassland, heath, and wood-pasture habitats, that the 1878 Epping Forest Act sought to protect.

The visit will last two hours and will be led by the Field Studies Council. During the visit the links between farming, conservation and food production will be explained, using the land as a classroom. The session will be tailored to the group, and can cater to all ages, from primary to Alevel and will connect to relevant curriculum content.

The Countryside Stewardship Scheme

In August 2024, Epping Forest was awarded a grant from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs through their Countryside Stewardship Scheme, supporting habitat restoration across much of the Forest's footprint between 2020 and 2033. This funding enables City of London to improve the majority of Epping Forest SSSI to 'Favourable' condition, improve biodiversity and will build climate resilience and adaptation. The latest grant allow Epping Forest's conservation team to:

- Manage and restore wood pasture, grassland and heathland
- Conserve veteran trees
- Care for scheduled monuments
- Support the conservation grazing programme
- Commission Epping Forest Field Studies Council to run education sessions to tell young people about the grazing conservation work

Learning Objectives

- Describe the links between farming, conservation and food production.
- Describe the different habitats of Epping Forest, and how they are managed.

Times

- The course can run 10am-12noon or 1-3pm.

Outline

Pre Visit / Prior Learning

- None required. Though an introduction to the ecosystems, Habitats section of the curriculum / specification would be helpful.

Introduction

- Welcome and Introduction

Session

The content below will be adapted to the age of the group.

- Introduction to Epping Forest history and current management
- Visit to two contrasting habitats: wood-pasture and grassland and observe the living plants and animals within them.
- Observe pollarding and coppicing as a method of timber production and the relationship with grazing.
- Learn about habitat creation and conservation in a broadleaf woodland.
- Learn about conservation grazing, including the use of technology.
- Discuss how humans modify and change ecosystems, and issues related to biodiversity and their sustainable use and management.

Depart

Future Learning / Follow up

- The session can be connected to habitats and ecosystems content in the curriculum.

Specification / Curriculum Links

The session will be tailored to your group, and can be connected to relevant curriculum topics for example:

- **Key Stage 1, Science** Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants and how they depend on each other.
- **Key Stage 2, Science** Living things and their habitats. Animals, including humans
- **Key Stage 3, Science** Interactions and interdependencies
- **Key Stage 3, Geography** Human and physical geography, understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate
- **Common Entrance Geography** Environment (Sustainability and Stewardship) Local and National Environmental Issues

- **Common Entrance Science** Living Processes (Year 3), Living things in their environment (Year 4), Living things and their habitats (Year 5), Living things and their habitats (Year 6),
- **Common Entrance, Biology** The interdependence of organisms in an ecosystem, Variation in living organisms
- **GCSE Geography** Global ecosystems and biodiversity, Resources and their management,
- **GCSE Science** Ecosystems
- **AS/Alevel Science** Living organisms, Biodiversity, Ecosystems
- **AS/Alevel Environmental Science** The Living Environment, Conservation of Biodiversity, Agriculture, Forest Resources, Sustainability,
- **AS/Alevel Geography** Carbon Cycles

Eligibility and conditions:

- Open to 'not for profit' schools in In the London boroughs of Newham, Waltham Forest, Epping Forest (NOTE: youth clubs, toddler groups and extra-curricular events are not eligible)
- The visit can take place at Epping Forest Field Centre, High Beach, or at a location in Epping Forest closer to your school.
- The visit is for two hours
- Children must be under 18.
- Maximum of 30 pupils per class and 1 class per day.
- All schools must complete a 'visit declaration form'
- Please note, because the cattle graze freely across the forest, we can't guarantee seeing them during a visit.

Additional Details

- **Customer Information** Details of how to book, terms and conditions, policies and procedures, including risk assessments can be found on the Field Studies Council website: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/customerinformation/>
- **Variation** The outline shown is indicative. Whilst we do our best to deliver the agreed programme, we sometimes must change the programme due to for example weather, access to sites, or staffing issues. Most changes are insignificant and will not affect your trip.
- **Liaison** This programme is designed to meet the curriculum / specification requirements. Prior to your visit, one of the Tutors leading your group will be in touch via email, this is an opportunity for us to find out more about the group and to make small adjustments to meet your groups needs.
- **Tuition** is delivered by Field Studies Council Tutors, with an expert knowledge of the subject and fieldwork locations, and a passion for the subject being taught. The education team are DBS checked, and undergo regular training including in first aid, water safety and risk assessments.
- **Transport** There is no requirement for transport during the day. All activities take place on site or within walking distance.

- **Teaching Groups** Your group will be divided into an agreed number of taught groups at the point of booking. This may not match your normal classes. Please sub divide the taught group into sub groups in advance of your visit, discuss with the Tutor at liaison how many sub groups are required.
- **Teachers and supporting Adults** The school should provide teachers and support staff or parents to meet minimum ratios per teaching group. Teachers and adults are expected participate and support the student learning. Teachers are expected to manage behaviour & support group management and to supervise break and lunch times.
- **What to bring:** A kit list can be found on the Field Studies Council website <https://www.field-studies-council.org/customerinformation/>. Please adjust this based on the weather conditions. Ensure the group bring lunch and plenty to drink.
- **Clothing and footwear** Appropriate outdoor clothing (and waterproofs) should be worn, taking into account the weather forecast. The group will be outside most of the day even in wet weather. It is advised long trousers are worn, even on sunny days due to the presence of ticks. We advise wearing sensible footwear – trainers or walking boots that can get muddy.

This programme is available at

Amersham	
Bishops Wood	
Birmingham Parks	
Epping Forest	✓ This funded course is only available in Epping Forest and can run near your school.
London: Bushy Park	
London: Greenwich Park	
London: Regent's Park	
London: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	
London: Beckenham Place Park	
London: Urban	

To book or for any enquiries:

- To apply for a free visit, please contact us using [this form](#)
- Email: enquiries@field-studies-council.org
- Tel: 01743 852100