



Education at Aldenham Country Park



A perfect location for a wide range of curriculum-led outdoor visits at affordable prices!

Learn from our friendly instructors about the farmers' daily jobs animal lifecycles, woodland wildlife, seasonal changes, egg incubation, orienteering and much more...



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Park Profile

Aldenham Country Park consists of 100 acres of land surrounding a 60-acre lake which was excavated by French prisoners of war in 1795 to help maintain local river levels after the construction of the Grand Union Canal.

The country park was created on green belt land in 1971 by Hertfordshire County Council as an area for quiet countryside recreation, wildlife protection, nature trails and for the conservation of rare breed farm animals. There are now generations of people from Hertfordshire, North London and further afield who have enjoyed and become regular visitors to the park.



With lots of water, woodland and grassland habitat, it has become a haven for a wide range of animals and birds, all this and only 12 miles from central London. The educational farm on site holds a variety of animals including Long Horn Cattle, Berkshire pigs, and poultry ranging from Buff Orpingtons and Lavender Pekins through to Norfolk Black Turkeys and Peacocks. Throughout the year, there are seasonal demonstrations of farm life, from sheep shearing, goat and cow milking, to vegetable growing and harvest.

Learning opportunities at the park have been developed by our Education Team to help you explore where food comes from, conduct habitat surveys, and take part in art and photography projects. We have many different educational visits and workshops listed in this brochure which can be tailored to suit different age groups and requirements, so if you want to do something that is not listed give us a call to discuss how we can accommodate your group.



Outdoor Learning

We are here to help children interpret the natural world and encourage them to learn about where their food comes from. Learning outdoors provides a fun and different way to discover the world and accompany classroom learning. It can also benefit to a child's wellbeing.

The educational opportunities at Aldenham relate primarily to science, art, geography and PSHE.

Overall Aims

- Help students to have fun and enjoy their learning experience
- Increase appreciation of our inter-dependent relationship with the natural world
- Develop confidence within a rural environment



How we achieve these aims

- Create clear objectives for each session and provide a safe, secure learning environment
- Deliver interactive demonstrations and talks that relate to school topics
- Challenge pupils and enable them to explore concepts independently by asking questions

You can select self-led activities to build a package that includes workshops all of this can be tailored to your needs and budget. Please contact a member of the educational team with any queries or to book a visit on 0203 642 4588/0208 953 9602 or email

martine@aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk



Self-led Visits

Self-led Farm visits

A Farm Pass allows you to visit the farm as a self-led activity; this allows you to walk around the farm, park and 100 Aker Woods at your own leisure giving you more freedom to meet our animals, learn teamwork skills, and discover more about nature. We can provide a Farm Activity trail for you to follow and will deliver a welcome and health and safety briefing with every visit.

There is plenty to see and do at Aldenham with information boards accompanying each of the animals around the farm, and opportunities to pet some of the animals at certain times of the day. Animal feed is also available to purchase if children want to feed the animals.

The farm also includes an indoor play area as well as tea and coffee facilities in the snug area.

The farm is open from 9am to 5pm every day and welcomes any size group.





Map of Farm





Self-led Park visits

We have many areas on site that are free to explore and are a great way to enjoy wildlife.

The Nature Trail can be accessed next to the entrance to the farm, and has signs about the plant and animal species to look out for. This walk takes around 15 minutes, but you can of course go at your own pace and stop to appreciate nature. Species that you may see include squirrels, beetles and birds such as Treecreepers, Nuthatches, and even the odd Parakeet. We also have a 60acre lake that you can walk around as well as various fields and a majestic avenue of Turkey Oaks. If you fancy, it may even be possible to camp in these areas with your school group.



The 100 Aker Woods

Visit Winnie the Pooh and his friends' houses as you follow the paths through the 100 Aker Woods. The beautiful walk is especially exciting for younger groups, you can play 'Pooh sticks' on Pooh's bridge and even post your own letters to Winnie the Pooh in his post box next to his house.

This area is free to explore, however you can also get a 100 Aker Wood trail map from the farm shop. For an additional cost Winnie can make a guest appearance or read a story (more information on page 12).





Educational Workshops

We also provide staff led workshops which last 45 minutes each and are suitable for up to 30 children.

These onsite workshops are divided in to 3 main areas:

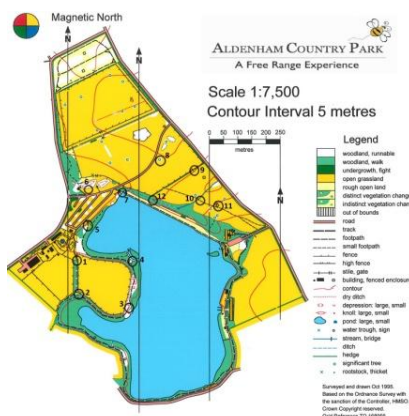
1. Farm



2. Woodland



3. Park



The workshops provide suitable learning for Key stages 1 and 2, however they can be adapted for any age groups and requirements. Workshops listed in this brochure with an 'Early Years' stamp are suitable for nursery and preschool classes.

Please note: that the Workshops do not include Farm Entry.



Farm Workshops

Farming is vital in ensuring food security; the daily jobs of a farmer can be tough, but rearing livestock and growing crops is important to provide people with a choice of foods. Our educational farm supports rare breeds of animals, provides a source of meats, eggs and milk, and encourages everyone to appreciate where our food comes from.

Interactive Farm Tour

This is a general farm tour around the whole farm with a ranger learning about the animals including hands on demonstrations and opportunities to pet some of the animals. This tour can be adapted for all age groups, and can be tailored to focus on the following:

- Animal Lifecycles
- Healthy lifestyles
- What does a farmer do?

Please note: when booking a farm tour you will also need to pay for a farm pass per child. Animal feed bags are not included, but can be purchased from the shop for £3 per bag, or £5 for three bags.





Woodland Workshops

Woodlands provide valuable habitats for hundreds of species, from insects to birds and mammals, and their protection is vital for our ecosystem as a whole. Aldenham Country Park has beautiful woods that make a great place to learn about the importance of trees and the animals they support.

We offer the following Woodland Workshops:

Mini-beast Hunting and Food Chains

Learn about the bugs and beasts that live on the forest floor, where to find them, how to handle them and some of their adaptations. Discover why they are vital to our ecosystem.

Animal Addresses and Adaptations (includes den building)

All animals and people require shelter, security and food to survive. The children will explore the meaning of habitat and how creatures adapt to different environments. They will then go on to construct a habitat for an animal using material's around the woodland.

Bear Hunt (includes den building)

EYFS

Children can enjoy learning about what a bear needs to survive in the wild through listening to an inspiring story. Children go on a bear hunt and then build dens for their bears.

Survival Skills

From tying knots, to lighting a fire, learn some techniques to help you survive in the wild. (Perfect for older children (8+))





Park Workshops

Our Country Park has plenty of open spaces as well as a beautiful lake, which provides the perfect setting for walks, recreation, and team building activities. Here we encourage everyone to be creative and have fun while learning about nature. We offer the following Park Workshops:

Land Art

Students will use their creativity and imagination to manipulate natural materials to interpret their surroundings. Using inspiration from the Park, students can work in groups or independently to create three dimensional art that will enhance the landscape. Artistic concepts and the relationship between art, people and the environment will be explored.

Orienteering

Orienteering is an adventure sport that encompasses the outdoor, exercise, maths, map reading skills and science. It is a great opportunity for the children to let off some steam while learning. Sessions can also be made competitive and we have different courses depending on the age group.

Habitat Comparison

Lead by a trained ranger who will give you a talk on the various habitats around the park. The children will then collect and record data so that they are able to compare the various habitats.

Seasons through the Senses

A ranger will lead the children around the nature trail encouraging them to use all their senses to discover how the natural environment changes throughout the seasons. There are also various activities that take place along the way such as creating rainbow cards.





Winnie the Pooh activities

Meet and Greet Winnie the Pooh

Follow the trail around the 100 Aker wood and find Winnie the Pooh. Pooh Bear can be available for meet and greet sessions with children of any ages. The meet and greet can happen around the 100 Aker Woods, in the woods cabin or outdoor playground.

This provides plenty of photo opportunities and lasts around 15 minutes.



Story time with Winnie the Pooh

Follow the trail around the 100 Aker wood till they eventually find Winnie the Pooh. The children will then have a story read to them with Winnie the Pooh and a member of the education team.

This activity lasts 45 minutes.





Room Hire

Onsite we have a variety of facilities to cater for different sized groups ranging from a woods cabin to a fully catered indoor playground. These can be hired out throughout your whole visit allowing you to come and go as you please.

Woods Cabin

The Woods Cabin is a new facility catering for groups of around 30 children. It does have an outside area allowing for extra children (weather permitted).

Located near the car park, this cabin is easily accessible and fenced off allowing no interruptions from the public.



Additional cabins will be available to hire in the near future (subject to availability)



Outreach Programmes

We can also travel to provide a range of interactive activities at schools or clubs to deliver a fun and different way to learn.

The Incubation Project

Hatching your own eggs in class provides a unique experience to see lifecycles up close. We provide all the equipment and support needed for a stress free, fun project. For more detail, pick up our Incubation Project Information Pack (can be found on our website).

Assemblies

we can hold a talk about the Country Park and why farming and a healthy lifestyle are so important.

Workshops

We will visit your school to deliver a range of workshops on issues such as farming, healthy lifestyles and the environment.

Mobile Farm

Mobile Farm we can bring some of the smaller animals to you: Rabbits, guinea pigs and various poultry. The children will have a hands-on experience and question session.





Important Information

Arrival

All Coaches must park in the coach parking area even if they are only dropping children off. We meet all school groups to make sure they are settled in and know where to go particularly if they have booked the yard room and workshops, as well as to deliver a short health and safety briefing.

Workshops

Please arrive at least 10mins before your first booked workshop, late arrivals may mean your workshop is shortened. Workshops can only hold up to 30 children (average class size). Groups larger than this will need to book additional sessions. We ask that you organise the groups before your arrival. Aldenham Country Park requires a minimum ratio of adults to children as follows: (adults within the OFSTED ratio are FREE, additional adults will be charged).

EYFS - 1:2, KS1 - 1:6, KS2 - 1:8, SEN – 1:1

Teachers and carers are responsible for the children in their party at **ALL** times. Our Staff are on hand to make your day run smoothly, lead the activities and answer any questions or queries you may have about your visit.

Lunch

We can store lunch if you are visiting the farm. The lunches need to be together in bags or boxes for easy storage and collection. There is also a classroom you can hire to store and eat lunch.

What to wear

It is important you think about the weather before your visit. Please make sure you pack waterproofs for wet weather. Wellington boots or outdoor shoes are advisable. If you are bringing wellingtons, we suggest you bring a change of shoes. During summer months a sun hat is advisable. If booking woodland workshops, suitable foot wear is required for the tree climbing activities.

Wet weather

At Aldenham Country Park we promote outdoor and hands on learning, therefore, the majority of our workshops are outdoors. In case of bad weather we can adapt most workshops to take place undercover. If this is not possible then we can reschedule the visit if we are given at least 24 hours notice.

Payments

An invoice will be sent out before your school trip. Full payments for workshops and yard room hire should be made when completing your online booking. Details will be on your invoice.

Cancellation Policy

Regrettably, cancellations less than 7 days before the visit cannot be refunded but can be rescheduled. Payments for Yard Room Hire are non-refundable.



Health and Safety

To get the most out of your visit, and to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable time, we ask that you keep yourselves safe and healthy by following the guidelines listed below:

- Please take note of safety signs around the farm and keep clear of farm machinery.
- Please ensure all hands are washed thoroughly after touching the animals and before eating
- Pupils should be supervised when using play equipment on the farm
- Please try to minimise pupils putting their hands in or near their mouths
- Please be aware animals can be unpredictable
- Please be aware if any pupils have allergies and bring appropriate medication
- Pregnant ladies are advised not to touch sheep and lambs particularly during the lambing season
- Accidents should be reported to a member of staff, we have first aid kits situated in numerous areas around the farm and many of our rangers are first aid trained.
- In the event of a fire and if the alarm sounds please make your way to the fire assembly point which is situated in the Yard concrete area between Lower and Upper farm.
- In the event if an emergency evacuation, school groups are the responsibility of their host. However teachers must always have a register of children in their group.
- Smoking, drinking and eating is not permitted on the farm
- When using our nature trail and lakeside walks please follow the countryside code
- Please be aware our animal feed does not contains nuts

Hand washing

Hygiene is of up most importance and you will be asked to wash your hands after all activities.

Please note that hands should be washed using hot running water and soap. We provide hand washing facilities at three main stations in the park; Upper farm (in the yard room's cloakroom), Lower Farm (behind Ticket Office) and next to the Woodland Adventures area.

Wet wipes and anti-bacterial gels are **not** a substitute

Risk Assessment

Aldenham Country Park can provide you with a risk assessment which you may use as a guide. However, schools are encouraged to carry out their own risk assessments prior to their visit. Please contact our education team if you wish to book a health and safety visit to carry out your risk assessment. For these visits you are not required to pay entry to farm or parking fees.

Protecting our park and nature trails

1. Please take all litter home with you or dispose of in the bins provided.
2. Take care not to damage the plants trees or animals around the site
3. Animals can behave unpredictably particularly if they are with their young
4. Be fire aware. Take care not to drop matches or cigarettes
5. No eating, drinking or smoking on the farm



Prices

Education on site

Farm Pass (per child, adults within OFSTED ratios are free)	£3.00
Animal feed bags x1	£3.00
x3	£5.00
Petting session	£50.00
Guest Appearance with Pooh	£50.00
Workshops	£95.00

Facilities

Woods Cabin	£50.00
Coach parking	£45.00
Car/mini bus parking	£4.50

Outreach

Incubation Project	£300.00
Assemblies	£100.00
Mobile Farm (half day)	£300.00
Mobile Farm (full day)	£450.00

Our Facilities

- Coach, car and disabled parking
- Woods cabin
- Toilets & Hand washing
- Lunch storage areas
- Picnic Areas
- Onsite Kiosk with hot and cold refreshments (Seasonal)
- Outdoor Play areas



Find Us

Address:

Aldenham Country Park
Aldenham Road
Elstree
Herts
WD6 3BA



Contact details

www.aldenhamcounrypark.co.uk

For more information on anything you have read or if you would like to make a booking please contact the education department on 0203 642 4588/0208 953 9602 or email martine@aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk

