Self-Led School Visits to Parc Slip Nature Reserve
Visiting Parc Slip Nature Reserve

Parc Slip has a number of fantastic habitats, including ponds, woodlands, meadows and hedges which are brilliant for class investigation to meet your curriculum requirements. A huge variety of wildlife lives at Parc Slip from minibeasts and mammals to birds, frogs and toads.

For your classroom needs, there is an outdoor learning space in the woods and the Discovery Room with projector, TV screen and microscope is available for hire. A visit to Parc Slip also has historical interest, as the Nature Reserve used to be a coal mine.

Many areas of interest on the Nature Reserve can be found within 10 minutes walk of the Visitor Centre and car park, including the Bug Hotel ‘Bugingham Palace’, the bird hides overlooking the bigger ponds, the bird feeding station, dipping ponds and dragonfly ponds and the sunflower field.

Facilities

• The Discovery Room is available for hire for the duration of your visit for your own pre-prepared activities and storage. There is a projector, microscope and TV that is HDMI-ready which can be prepared for your use. The room can also be used for packed lunches. A charge applies for the room hire; please discuss your needs when booking your visits.

• The Coffee Shop serves hot and cold drinks, hot and cold food and cakes and snacks. Small groups can be catered for by pre-arrangement. Please ask when booking your visit.

• Toilet and hand washing facilities including an accessible toilet and baby changing room are located in the Visitor Centre.

• The Outdoor Classroom and Forest School area in the woods is available for your use during your visit. Please indicate during booking if you would like to use this area.

• We have a number of worksheets that could come in useful for your visit that are available for free as digital copies. Ask during the booking process.
Booking Information for self-led visits

• All group visits must be booked in advance to avoid group booking clashes.
• Primary school groups and other educational groups of children up to the age of 11 must be accompanied by adults in the ratio of 1 adult per 8 children.
• Secondary school and other educational groups should follow the policy of their organisation regarding the number of accompanying adults.
• Visiting groups are welcome for any length of time, depending on other group visits booked that day. Please state your intended length of visit when booking.
• There is no limit on the size of group, depending only on other groups visiting that day and the building capacity.
• Groups are welcome to prepare their own activities to do in the Discovery Room in the Visitor Centre. Only dry art materials, pens and pencils may be used for activities by primary groups. The use of wet materials by older children or adult groups should be negotiated when booking your visit.
• The Parc Slip Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre is open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am until 4pm. Closed on Mondays. Restricted opening times over Christmas.

To book, contact the Education Officer on c.lewis@welshwildlife.org or 01656 724100
Risk Assessment

• Visiting groups are responsible for carrying out their own risk assessment according to their school’s/organisation’s policy.
• It is recommended that a preparatory site visit is made.
• The attached risk assessment on the next page provides information to help you complete your general group visit risk assessment. It identifies the hazards specific to Parc Slip Nature Reserve and how risk is reduced.
• Please note that the control measures, which reduce risk, involve action by the group supervisors.
• Parc Slip Nature Reserve has Public Liability Insurance. More information is available on request.
The risks are assigned a 'risk score' which ranges from 1 (negligible risk) to 16 (extreme risk). Multiplying the maximum severity of the perceived risk by the estimated probability of it happening yields this risk score. The scales used are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity:</th>
<th>Probability</th>
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<td>1 = negligible; 2 = minor injury, first aid suffices; 3 = minor injury, medical help needed; 4 = fatality</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 = unlikely; 2 = possible; 3 = highly possible; 4 = frequent occurrence</td>
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### HAZARD | RISKS/CONSEQUENCES | AGGRAVATING FACTORS | RISK SCORE | CONTROL MEASURES |
---|---|---|---|---|
**Vegetation** |
1. gorse, brambles, grasses | Cuts, abrasions | Children running | 2 x 3 = 6 | Warn all party. |
2. Hemlock | Skin irritation, possible blistering | Direct contact with sap | 2 x 2 = 4 | |
3. Woodland | Fallen or falling branches. Trips, bruises. Risk of poisoning, sickness, stomach cramps, diarrhoea. Possible fatality for some fungi. | Strong winds | 4 x 2 = 8 | |
4. Fungi and fruit on various plants | | Children’s curiosity | 4 x 2 = 8 | |
**Terrain** |
1. Uneven ground on some footpaths | Slips, trips and falls; cuts and bruises, fractures | Impatience, wet surfaces, fatigue | 3 x 2 = 6 | Warn all in party. Wear appropriate footwear. |
2. Pond side footprints | Fall into pond; risk of fatality | Rough/uneven ground | 4 x 2 = 8 | |
3. Ponds | Falling in; very slight risk of fatality. Risk of splashes, getting wet and cold. | Excitement, impatience. Wet and/or muddy banks | 4 x 2 = 8 | |
**Weather** |
1. Wind and/or rain | Temperature loss, hypothermia | Inadequate clothing | 3 x 2 = 6 | Suitable clothing. |
2. Wind and/or sun | Dehydration, heat exhaustion and sunburn | Inadequate clothing. High humidity. | 2 x 2 = 4 | Suitable, lightweight clothing. |
**Wildlife** |
1. Bugs and/or ticks | Bites, skin irritation and possibly Lymes disease | Deer and other livestock | 3 x 1 = 3 | Medical check of inexplicable rash. |
2. Biting/ stinging insects | Pain, inflammation, adverse reaction | Hot weather, provocation of insects | 2 x 3 = 6 | |
3. Dead animals or birds | Mites, ticks, fleas and bacteria of decay; risk of bites or tummy upsets. | Poor weather may increase mortality among young birds and small mammals | 2 x 2 = 4 | |
**Chemical** |
1. Wood preservative on fences | Skin irritation, risk of transfer to eyes | On-going repairs to facilities | 2 x 1 = 2 | Enquire of staff if the hazard is present. |
**Human Factors** |
1. Fatigue | Carelessness, increasing the risks from other hazards. | Long journey time for visit, previous energetic activities, hot, windy or humid conditions. | 2 x 2 = 4 | Warn party, walk at easy pace. |
2. Anger, frustration. Both your own and other people. | Carelessness: desire to leave footpaths, take short cuts. Increasing risks from other hazards. Aggression towards/ from others. | Exertion: dust, pollen, fear (e.g. heights, wildlife) | 2 x 1 = 2 | Prepare well for visit. Show due regard to the needs of others. In the event of confrontation, back off. |
3. Medical conditions | Lack or failure to take medication | | 3 x 2 = 6 | Awareness and adequate medication. At least 2 of the leaders should be aware of the circumstances of party members. |
4. Traffic | Cars, lorries. Risk of being knocked down. | Distractions by wildlife or other people | 4 x 2 = 8 | |
5. Fire | Possible fatality | Electrical failures inside building | 4 x 1 = 4 | |
6. Tools and equipment | Various injuries resulting from misuse or damaged equipment | Distractions and misuse. | 2 x 2 = 4 | |
7. Dog waste | Disease from handling dog mess | Children curiosity | 3 x 1 | |

Provided that the guidance given is followed and visitors do not stray off the pathways, Parc Slip Nature Reserve is a safe place for school parties. The greatest risk is of scratches or brambles or falls on even ground; these will seldom result in anything worse than minor cuts and bruises. Leaders should be particularly watchful near the ponds.
Parc Slip Nature Reserve

This map shows the main attractions for visiting schools. All of the features on this map are within 15 minutes walk of the Visitor Centre.

This Visitor Centre with Discovery Room, Coffee Shop and toilets is open Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm

This way to Sunflower field and memorial.

Wildlife Trust

South and West Wales Wildlife Trust

De a Gorllewin Gymru
A: Meadow Pipits feed on .... and invertebrates.

B: How long do Skylarks sing for at a time?

A: Which is larger, the male or female Buzzard?

B: What are their nests lined with?

A: Did the explosion occur in the morning or afternoon?

B: The ...... which compose the monument represent the 112 victims.

A: The Adders markings are dominated by a thick dark .... running the length of their backs.

B: How many snakes are native to Britain?

A: Name the order that Butterflies and Moths belong to.

B: All species go through .........., four stages of change.

A: Are Fox cubs born blind?

B: Males are called .... and females .....!

A: Where can you find White Willow growing?

B: Rowan is a member of the .... family.

A: How many wings do Damselflies and Dragonflies have?

B: Are their eggs mostly laid underwater or on land?

A: Bee Orchids grow on dry ...... and limestone soils.

B: Does the Common Spotted Orchid have spotted or plain leaves?

A: In which season are you more likely to spot Jays?

B: Being a member of the Crow family they are also known as '......'.

A: Which two birds need dense cover in the lower part of the Hedgerow?

B: When is the best time to trim?

A: As you walk around the reserve look out for streams, ponds, ......, reedbeds and a canal.

B: Between which two months can you see dragonflies skimming over the water.

A: What are baby Mute Swans called?

B: In flight, the Grey Herons neck forms an "..." shape.

A: The Tawny Owl is the most common and ........ owl in Europe.

B: Name two birds whose old nests they sometimes use.
1. Mae corhedydd y waen yn bwydo ar .... a rhywogaeth di-asgwrn cefn.

2. Pa un yw'r mwyaif, y gwryw neu'r fenyw? ......

3. Pa bryd yn ystod y dydd y digwyddodd y ffrwydriad?

4. Marciau mwyaif amlwg y wiber yw'r .... trwchus tywyll sy'n rhedeg ar hyd y cefn.

5. Enwch y teulu mae rhain yn perthyn iddo.


7. Ydwr llwynogod bach yn cael eu genin ddall?

8. Mae'r llwynog gwyrw yn cael ei alw yn .... ar fenyw yn .......

9. Ym mha le y gellir gweld yr helygen wen yn tyfu?

10. Faint o adenydd sydd gan y mursenod a gwás y neidr?

11. Pa ddau aderyn sydd angen gorchudd trwchus yng ngwaelod y gwrchy?

12. Pryd yw'r amser gorau i docio gwrchy?

13. Wrth gerdded o gwmpas y warchodfa edrychwch am nentydd llynoedd/pyllau dŵr...... corsennau a chamlas.

14. Beth yw enw'r rhai bach yr alarch mud?

A: Beth yw enw'r rhai bach yr alarch mud?

B: Pan ym hedfan mae gwddf y creyr glass yn ffurfio llythrynn.

A: A dyna'r dylluan fwyaf cyffredin

B: Mae dylluan frech weithiau yn defnyddio hen nythod adar eraill, enwch ddau ohonynt.