

## The Parks and Countryside Rangers

The Parks and Countryside Ranger Service was established over 20 years ago, and has been working to bring people and wildlife together ever since.

Every day in the life of a Ranger is different and can involve surveying areas for wildlife, working with volunteers to improve local parks and countryside, supporting community groups who want to make a difference to their local green space, leading guided walks and of course working with children to teach them about the nature on their doorstep.

All of our work aims to protect and promote the wildlife and green spaces of Leeds and children are a hugely important part of this – we hope they enjoy their experience of the great outdoors and will help us to look after it in the future.

### The Parks and Countryside Education Programme

The Rangers run FREE outdoor education sessions which are available for all primary schools in the Leeds district. In 2008 we worked with over 3000 Leeds school children.

All of our staff are first aiders, are CRB-checked, and our sessions are fully risk-assessed.

We provide all resources, knowledge and equipment necessary (although we may ask you to provide clipboards) and there is no charge for our time.



## Come out to play!

Learning doesn't have to take place indoors. Why not come outside and see what the natural world has to offer?



Ranger-led visits to your local parks and countryside offer a fun way to learn about local habitats, plants and animals. They can open young eyes to the wonders of the great outdoors and give children an understanding of how they can protect it in the future.

All sessions are tied in with the National Curriculum and can be adapted to the age and abilities of your class.

### How to book

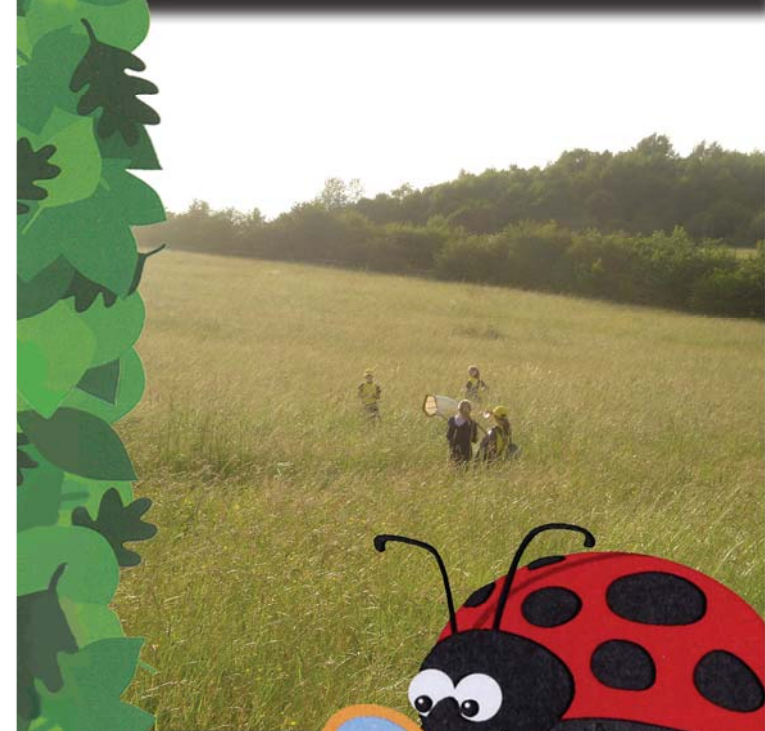
To arrange a session, or to talk to the Rangers about these and other activities for children please get in touch!

Tel: (0113) 237 5320 or 237 5312  
Email: [countrysiderangers@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:countrysiderangers@leeds.gov.uk)

Sessions are subject to availability. The education scheme operates on a first come, first served basis so you are advised to book early.



# The Outdoor Classroom



Environmental education  
for primary school children  
with the  
Parks and Countryside  
Rangers

## Locations

There are hundreds of green spaces that can be used as Outdoor Classrooms around the Leeds district. The sites listed below are some of the best places to visit with school groups because of the quality and variety of their wildlife habitats but if there is a suitable alternative within walking distance of your school we are happy to run sessions for you there.



### Central Leeds

Meanwood Park

### North Leeds

Chevin Forest Park, Otley  
Breary Marsh Local Nature Reserve &  
Golden Acre Park, Bramhope

### West Leeds

Bramley Fall Woods  
Kirkstall Abbey grounds  
Woodhall Lake

### South Leeds

Middleton Park and Woods  
Rothwell Country Park

### East Leeds

Hollinhurst Wood, Great Preston  
Townclose Hills, Kippax



# The Outdoor Classroom

Ranger-led sessions for primary schools can cover a variety of themes - from woodlands to wetlands, meadows to minibeasts - and are linked to aspects of the Science curriculum at KS1 and KS2. All sessions provide children (and grown-ups) with a hands-on experience of wildlife in its natural habitat as well as a breath of fresh air and the excitement of exploring a new environment. Sessions can be tailored to suit the age and abilities of your group, and will make the best use of the natural resources available at the site you visit. A half day visit will usually involve 2 or 3 activities – please choose from the following list.

### Pond dipping

Discover what creatures lurk beneath the calm surface of the pond, and use keys to identify them. Who eats who in the underwater food chain? How are our freshwater friends adapted to aquatic life?

### Woodland wander

Explore the woods and learn about local trees, what lives in them, how they work and why they are important.

### Meadow magic

Wildflower meadows and grasslands are buzzing with life in the summer months and are brilliant places to learn about flowers, pollination and seed dispersal.

### Minibeast safari

Minibeast hunt to find out how our creepy crawly friends are adapted to living in different habitats. A chance to look at life cycles, food chains, variation and camouflage.

### Sensory trail

A range of activities aimed at exploring the sights, smells, sounds and textures of nature - smelly cocktails, nature's rainbows and blindfold activities.

### Seed gathering

Help us collect tree seeds to grow into tomorrow's woodlands. Learn about seed needs and seed dispersal, and plant seeds to take away with you.

### Helping nature

There may be practical nature conservation activities you could do on your visit – tree/bulb planting, making leaf or log piles, bird feeders, minibeast homes or hedgehog habitats.

### Arts and crafts

Creative fun to link in with the wildlife you are studying – could include environmental sculptures, natural collages, making pond skaters, butterflies or dragonflies, or building elf houses.

### Games and activities

**Bee game** looking at interaction between bees and flowers

**Butterfly survival game**

**Camouflage hide and seek**

**Find your flock** a game about birdsong and variation

**Flower power game** looking at parts of a flower

**Food chain game** can be adapted for different habitats

**Leaf bingo** gather leaves to get a full house!

**Minibeast murder mystery** quiz trail using reference books

**Move like a minibeast** a racing game

**Photosynthesis game** to introduce the concept of photosynthesis

**Pond creature behaviour game**

**Runaround quiz** on any subject!

**Scavenger hunts** who will find all the objects first?

**Seed dispersal activities** can be linked to trees or flowers

**Shrinking habitats game** can be adapted for different habitats

**Unnature trails** can you spot all the unnatural objects along your walk?