

Countryside Service

*Learning outside
the classroom*



The Axe Estuary Wetlands

Educational visits to the Axe Estuary Wetlands.

Wetlands Classroom

Built on stilts over a reed bed, the Wetlands classroom offers a fabulous all weather facility for visiting educational groups. The classroom can easily accommodate a class of 30 students and is an ideal base from which to explore the Wetlands.



The new wetlands Classroom

What this means for visiting groups.

An Education Ranger (a qualified teacher and experienced environmental educator) can work together with you to deliver programmes of exciting hands-on learning activities, based on the Reserve. Activities are linked to different aspects of the curriculum and can tie-in with schemes of work or topics already being studied in class.

East Devon District Council is able to provide **free** educational sessions to visiting groups on the Axe Estuary Wetlands, thanks to support from Defra's Higher Level Scheme.



Hands-on Learning

A large pond offers the opportunity for groups to take part in **pond dipping** to discover amazing invertebrates adapted to living in their underwater habitat. Throughout the Wetlands, ponds, hedgerows and meadows provide habitats for a variety of plants, wild flowers and invertebrates. This is a fantastic space for children to **hunt for mini-beasts** and take part in **creative activities** to develop a greater awareness of the world around them.

Stafford Brook (a small stream which runs through the Reserve) is the ideal place for children to be involved in **practical river investigations**; take a transect measurement of the brook, measure water flow, investigate the river as a habitat or build rafts to race through the water!



Kick sampling



Artwork produced by children at the Axe EstuaryWetlands



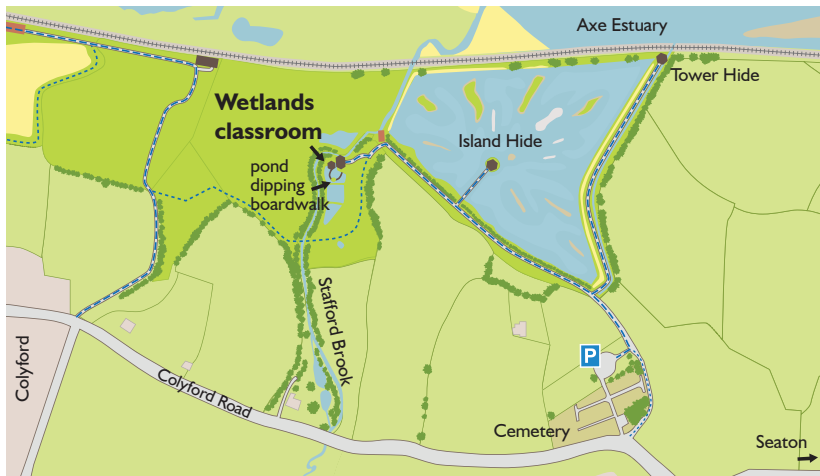
Discovering what lives in the underwater world of the Wetlands

Feedback from school groups who have visited the Axe Estuary Wetlands

‘This was one of the best visits we have done due in main to the excellent planning, communication and the Education Ranger’s awareness of the Primary Curriculum. It perfectly supported our class topic for this term’

‘We really enjoyed the visit. Very enriching for the children – super activities to develop fieldwork skills’

‘Pupils were thoroughly involved investigating and learning through first hand experience. We were able to take back to school information to lead us into further work’



If you are interested in setting up a visit to the reserve please contact:

Meg Knowles

Education Ranger.

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