

INFORMATION FOR DAY VISITS TO THE SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE



The Centre lies on the South Downs on a windy and exposed slope in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Classroom facilities and an eating area are available for the use of school parties during wet weather but it is expected that on most visits at least some of the time will be spent out of doors. For this reason we strongly advise that individuals are well equipped with the following:

- Good, strong sensible footwear and in wet weather Wellingtons or similar
- Waterproof jacket and in really wet weather waterproof trousers
- Warm sensible clothing for exploring the site in, or in summer layers of sensible clothing that may be adjusted to allow for strong breezes or showers.
- It is particularly important to cover up well as a protection against ticks and as a precaution against the unlikely event of a snake bite.
- Please ensure that individuals have their own sun block applied on bright days.
- Every pupil should have a water bottle that can be refilled

In addition to the above we suggest that individuals bring a packed lunch, a break time snack and drinks (or a refillable water bottle as above). Accompanying adults may want to bring a HOT DRINKS FLASK on Monday when the Beech café is closed.

There will be no need for pupils to bring any notebooks or pens with them, as we will provide any necessary materials.

- **Arrival procedure**

On arrival the school teacher should send one adult to the foyer/reception of the main building where the centre education staff will meet you. Please do not alight into the car park until the centre staff are with you.

- **Supervision and pupil/leader ratios**

The school teacher/ establishment group leader is responsible for the discipline and overall control of the group at all times, and for ensuring that all helpers are briefed on their responsibilities during the activities. Please follow the guidelines on pupil/ leader ratios as specified by your LEA (please return the site rules and behaviour management signed slips)

- **First aid**
Please follow your LEA offsite visit guidelines and continue to apply your own school procedures. In addition a centre member of staff with a first aid qualification will be available by radio and in case of an accident the activity leader will report immediately to the Centre.
- **Medical conditions/special needs**
Please ensure that all centre leaders are aware of the requirements of any pupils with a medical condition or special needs. You can let us know by email, by phone or in person during your pre-visit.
- **Infectious diseases/ dangerous plants/ animals**
Care needs to be taken if handling certain plants, materials or animals. The Education Officer has more detailed information if required.
- **Lunch boxes and general belongings**
Lunch boxes and belongings can be left at the owner's risk in the centre classrooms. Please take all rubbish away with you at the end of your visit. We do not have the capacity to sort, recycle or dispose of extra waste therefore encourage you to reduce your own waste as part of your visit planning.

Use of Our Partner Venues / Farms Visits

If you choose to go to one of our partner sites as part of day visit, ie Hyden Farm or Lower Farm please read the following:

We provide basic HSE information and farm packs on our website. The Education Manager for the Sustainability Centre is familiar with the farms included in the programme. We are happy to recommend them, however, a separate pre visit to the farms should be arranged. The school can then complete a risk assessment.

Hand washing facilities will be provided after the visit at the Lodge at the Sustainability Centre site.

You will also need to declare the Lower Farm or Hyden Farm visits separately on your evolve forms (or other local authority approved software).

We ask you to follow the County guidelines on off site activities and educational visits and remind you that you are responsible for your pupils' behaviour at all times.

School bookings and funerals at the Centre

The Centre is involved in delivering a number of eco-friendly services to the public all of which are in keeping with the ethos of our project and contribute to the financial stability of the Centre. Green burials are a regular feature of the Sustainability Centre site and when booking a school visit teachers should be aware that pupils may see a funeral in progress.

What will this involve?

The class will have its own classroom/s and toilet facilities and when working out of doors may see the hearse arrive and see the mourners and the flower decorated coffin outside the Centre. The coffin will then progress down the path with the mourners and out of site into the woodland. The mourners may be seen returning from the woodland. Typically this is a peaceful ceremony with minimum disruption to the school's visit. It can also normally be arranged to suit a time at which the class are indoors although this is not always possible.

We feel that, while this may bring up questions from the pupils, the experience should not be more affecting than a ceremony outside the local church.

If you have further questions about your visit or program contact the Education Team on 01730 823166

Directions to the Sustainability Centre

FROM THE A3

From the A3 take the **Clanfield** turn off (South of Petersfield and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park, north of Waterlooville and Horndean) Follow the signs for Clanfield for approx 1.5 miles and take a right hand turn into **East Meon Road**. (If you pass the row of shops on the left you have gone too far). Follow this road for 1.6 miles to the top of the hill. **Turn left** (sign posted to Droxford). The road bends to the right passing a grassy triangle and climbs for a further 1/3 of a mile. We are on the left hand side

FROM THE M3

Take the Winchester turn off (**Junction 9**) and follow the signs for **A272**. Follow the A272 through Bramdean until it comes to the **A32** at the West Meon Hut. **Turn right** here onto the **A32** in the direction of West Meon and Droxford. You will climb and then drop down to the village of West Meon. Continue on for a further mile and enter the village of **Warnford**.

In Warnford turn left opposite the **George and Falcon** (sign posted to **Clanfield**). This is a single track lane and climbs up hill for the first 2 miles. Follow this road for approx 4 miles (going past Old Winchester Hill). Ignore all other lanes and signs for East Meon. We are on the right hand side. This single track lane is not recommended for coaches.

FROM SOUTHAMPTON

Drive to **Wickham*** either via Botley or along the M27. Then follow the **A32 northbound**.

Go through Droxford, over the Corhampton roundabout and on to the village of **Warnford**.

In Warnford turn right opposite the **George and Falcon** (signposted to Clanfield). This is a single track lane which climbs steeply for the first 2 miles. Follow this road for approx 4 miles (going past Old Winchester Hill). Ignore all other lanes and signs for East Meon.

We are on the right hand side.

This single track lane is not recommended for coaches.

* If you feel confident it is quicker to go via Bishops Waltham instead of Wickham. This would cut through the A32 at Corhampton.