



Occombe Farm Educational Visits

1. Access and Parking



From the M5

Once you reach Newton Abbot, travel down the A380 heading for Torquay until you come to a main roundabout where the A380 turns right on the Torquay ring road for Paignton and Brixham. Take the right turn onto the A380 and follow it until you come to the second roundabout. Here take the first exit on your left onto Preston Down Road. Occombe Farm car park is a further 300 metres on your left hand side. Parking is free of charge.

From the A38:

Exit A38 at junction for Totnes/Paignton and follow signs through Dartington and Totnes for Paignton. After 8 miles you reach a major set of traffic lights with directions left for the A380 ringroad and right for Brixham. Go left and follow the ringroad, going straight over at the first roundabout and at the second take the last exit on your right onto Preston Down Road. Follow directions as above.

On Arrival:

Minibuses and coaches should drop groups in the main car park NOT the farmyard where it is difficult to turn. Groups will be met by a Trust Ranger.

Access for those with disabilities: the farm, farmyard and nature trail are designed to be accessible for wheelchair users. The main car-park is on the same level as the upper floor of the Visitor Centre. There is a lift in the Visitor Centre to access the ground floor Shop which is the same level as the Farmyard. The nature trail and community garden are a mixture of wooden boardwalk and stone path. There are some gradients. The new Kitchen building has a specialist disabled changing space.

2. Facilities

Occombe has it's own Farm Shop with a Butchery and a Café. A new straw bale Education Building was built in 2008 which is the base for group visits and a new Community Kitchen opened in August 2010. We now also have a large Yurt in the middle of the Community Garden which we use with groups and we have created a new Wartime Dig For Victory allotment complete with Air Raid Shelter.

Community Kitchen: The kitchen is fully equipped with 12 ovens, workstations and a demonstration area with a digital projector. Equipment also includes a dishwasher, fridge and bread prover. All workstations are height adjustable. The community kitchen includes changing facilities, cloakroom,



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hand washing facilities, toilets and a disabled toilet.

Community Garden – The new garden was created in Spring 2010 as part of the Lottery funded One Planet Project. It includes raised beds with a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, wildflowers and fruit. The garden also contains polytunnels, compost and wormery area and a clay oven.

Yurt – A 24ft diameter yurt has been installed in the Community Garden to be used as a base for group activities and events.

Nature Trail: The farm has a 2km nature trail that runs from the farmyard through the Site of Special Scientific Interest in a loop. The trail runs past the Bird Hide which looks out upon a bird feeding station. We can provide binoculars for use by visiting groups.

Toilets: there are toilets, including a disabled one, in the Café building. Toilets are also located in the community kitchen including a specialist disabled changing space.

Health & Safety: All activities are risk assessed and we follow the latest guidance. Handwashing facilities are located in front of the Farm Shop in the Farmyard and outside the Community Kitchen. Hand washing facilities are also located in the Education Centre and the kitchen has a separate changing room.

Meeting point if children get lost: Farm Shop

Emergency Meeting Point: Farmyard or in the case of fire the Main Car-park.

Lunch: A simple lunch can be included as part of the days activities. If the group does breadmaking as an activity then we use their bread to make rolls or sandwiches. For own brought lunch inside spaces are available if the weather is bad alternatively there are picnic benches that can be used for packed lunches and a small playground for a run around if desired.



Straw Bale Visitor Centre



Meeting our Ruby Reds



Baking bread



Meeting the pigs



Community Kitchen



Community Garden

3. Equipment

The farm has a stock of waterproofs. Wellington boots are useful. We do have some spare pairs if needed. We have clipboards and other equipment for activities.

4. Activities

The Trust has dedicated education staff who are experienced in managing group visits. Visits are 2 hours (1/2 day) or 4 hours (full day) with most groups arriving about 9.30am and leaving about 2.30pm.



Activities

Occombe Farm run full day visits which consist of 2 activities in the morning and 1 activity in the afternoon, choices of activities are shown below. We are happy to run variations to these days, just let us know which activities you would like to include. We can accommodate to any topic or curriculum link to connect with school work, please phone us to discuss.

MEET THE FARM ANIMALS

Occombe Farm has a range of animals to see, discover more about Ruby Red Cows, Pigs, Chickens, Goats, Alpaca and Ducks and even help the ranger feed some of these animals.

BAKING

Bake your own organic bread, focaccia or pizza and learn about the history of bread. You will learn about ingredients, how to mix dough, how to knead dough, how to shape different types of rolls and loaves, proving and baking. Children can use their baked creations to make their own healthy lunch using ingredients from the Farm Shop (extra charge, discuss with ranger).

FOOD MILES/FAIRTRADE

Small groups visit the Farm Shop and investigate what products are on sale, where they come from and whether they are organic and fair-trade or not. Then use the internet to calculate the food miles involved and plot this on a world map.

NATURE TRAIL EXPEDITION

Groups can walk the nature trail and take part in fun activities along the way – including tree spirits, the wiggly worm game, colour cards and investigating the bird hide.

WILDLIFE GARDENING

Groups can visit the community garden and take part in a range of gardening activities depending on the season. Activities can include sowing, planting, composting and harvesting using tools provided, children will learn how to attract wildlife to your garden and even have the chance to make a minibeast hotel. We also offer the Germination game for Year 3 and above.

PICK AND COOK

Groups can visit the garden, learn some gardening skills and harvest some seasonal produce. Groups return to the kitchen for a wide-ranging cookery session. This session requires additional ingredients. Groups can choose sweet or savory dishes incorporating freshly picked produce from the garden. Some examples include: carrot muffins, seasonal vegetable pizza, seasonal vegetable frittata and Variations can be discussed. Children need to bring a container to take their dish home in.

MAPPING CHALLENGE

Groups are given an introduction to the farm before walking the Nature Trail and mapping the land use and features on to a template map. They will identify different types of pasture, habitats and features such as: paths, fencing, streams, buildings, ponds, etc.

MINI-BEAST SAFARI

Introduction to organic farming and why we have more invertebrates than on conventional farms that use pesticides etc. On your mini beast safari you will walk the Nature Trail and discover minibeast along the way with the use of ID guides.

Choice of the following, choose 1 habitat for a short session or all for longer (dependant on season):

- Meadow sweep net (spring, summer): try to capture a Great Green Bush Cricket in the long grass



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- Pond dipping (spring, summer): Discover Dragon Fly Nymphs in the depths of the pond
- Woodland: Uncover creepy crawlies from under tree bark

SPOTTER CHALLENGE

Groups locate and identify numbered plants/trees/fruits/seeds along the Nature Trail at the farm. They are given spotter sheets to identify the flower or leaf which are tailored to the plants they will find. This activity can be adapted to most times of year and age of group. Students can work in small groups.

World War Themed Activities

DIG FOR VICTORY GARDEN

Help us weed, sow, plant and water our wartime allotment. Learn about what was grown during the war and the type of animals they may have kept, visit the pigs and chickens alongside other farm animals.



WARTIME COOKING

Learn about rationing and the kind of things that children had to eat during wartime. Have a go at making some simple wartime dishes: rock buns, glory buns, carrot fudge, potato cake, no cook chocolate cake.

OPERATION AIR RAID

Make pin hole torches – bring torches with you and make them into pin hole torches to use in our air raid shelter.

Anderson Shelter – experience an air raid in our genuine Anderson Shelter, hear stories from the past whilst we wait for the all clear.

Wartime Cinema – watch our wartime films in our shed cinema!

5. Booking and Costs

For more information on any of the activities offered at Ocombe Farm or to book please contact Sarah Kent:

sarah@countryside-trust.org.uk

Tel: 01803 696243

Fax: 01803 696252

www.occombe.org.uk

Send in a Group Booking Form which you can download from the website.

2013 charges				Minimum charge	
Activity		Half day	Full day	2 hr (1/2 day) session	4 hr (1 day) session
Activity	excl VAT	£4	£6	£60	£100
	incl VAT	£4.80	£6.50	£72	£120
Cookery	excl VAT	£4.50	£6.50	£66	£106
	incl VAT	£5.40	£7.80	£79.20	£127.20

VAT is charged at 20%