



Cockington Educational Visits



1. Facilities

Cockington Country Park is a 450 acre estate which lies close to Torquay in the heart of Torbay. The Park is managed by the Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust. The Trust has a well established educational programme at Cockington having run group visits for over 10 years. Visits are based in the thatched Gamekeeper's Cottage which lies in the heart of the Park and is large enough to accommodate 60 or even 90 students. The Park contains formal parkland, including an arboretum, woodland and farmland.

Gamekeeper's Cottage Education Centre: The historic Gamekeeper's Cottage is located in the heart of the country park, right on the edge of Manscombe woods and provides a wonderful, atmospheric indoor facility for groups visiting the park. There are full toilet facilities and disabled access with plenty of room to store bags while students are out in the field. If the weather isn't suitable for a picnic, the group can have their packed lunch in the large upstairs room.



Cockington Organic Garden: Behind the Cockington Court is a wonderful walled kitchen garden, open to all and producing an abundance of vegetables and fruit that have been grown using organic gardening methods. School groups are welcome by arrangement. The Cockington rangers can run gardening themed interactive activities and tours for up to 15 students at a time (if a class has to be split then they can be doing another activity in the park and then swap over).

Working Crafts: The Craft Studios at Cockington are open to the public and to groups 10 - 4pm, 7 days a week, entry is free and inside are several working Craft studios including a pottery, a blacksmith and glassblowers. The studios are run by independent craftspeople and demonstrations to groups of students can be arranged in advance during the low season. Timing: each demonstration would last for approx 15 minutes.

Warren Barn Residential Centre: The Trust's new residential centre opened in 2007. Nestling on the edge of the woodland in the grounds of the country park, close to the Gamekeeper's Cottage it is available to be hired by schools and other community groups. Groups can also choose and book ranger led activities from across all our sites. There is further information about the Barn available on the trust website www.countryside-trust.org.uk.

Toilets: Public toilet facilities are available at Cockington Court. There are 2 toilets at the Gamekeepers cottage (for booked groups only), please supervise all children in your care.

Emergency Meeting Point: In front of Cockington Court.

Meals/Picnics: There are many lovely lawned areas, ideal for picnics, near Cockington Court and near the Gamekeepers Cottage. Children must be supervised by adults at all times.

There are litter bins for any rubbish. Unfortunately there are no water fountains so please ensure that children bring a drink with their pack lunch if relevant.

The Cockington Court Café is situated in Cockington Court. Opening times 10 – 4pm (5pm in the summer, tel: 01803 607951). Ice cream is sold in cones.

There are also shops and other cafés in the village, and craft studios in Cockington Court and in the adjacent stable yard.

2. Equipment

Thanks to a Lottery Grant. The Trust has 100 sets of children's wellies and waterproofs to lend out to any student that needs them. This means that the weather or season need never be an obstacle to fieldwork. We can provide equipment necessary for activities.

3. Activities

WOODLAND EXPLORATION

Wonderful Woodland discovery trail

In teams find and gather the following information on 5 different species: leaf shape, name, tree shape, age (using girth of the tree), bark type, height. The students will also look at some tree sections and count annual growth rings.

Timing: 1 hour

Age Range: 4 - 12 yrs (KS 1 and 2)



Woodland and Hedgerow wildflower activities

Identification, distribution, abundance and looking at colour, flower structure, pollination method, seed structure and dispersal method as relevant to the age group.

Timing: 1 - 2 hours

Age Range: 4 - 12 yrs (KS 1,2 and 3)

Hedgerow Activities

Counting the number of species in a section of hedge and using the information to find out how old it is; identifying minibeasts and wildflowers in the hedge to look at its wildlife diversity. We can also use the OPAL national hedgerow survey and input our results online.

Timing: 1 - 2 hours

Age Range: 7 - 16 yrs (KS 2, 3 and 4) - we can also cater for A level and College students

Woodland habitat and community study (Who lives in the wood?) - Finding out about the plants, animals and microhabitats present, measuring physical factors (temperature, light levels etc) and looking at a couple of species – role in the community, distribution, abundance, adaptations etc in detail.

Habitat comparison study – As with the woodland habitat study but this time looking at and comparing two contrasting habitats and communities eg. deciduous and coniferous woodland.

Timing: half day or full day

Age Range: 7 - 16 yrs (KS 2, 3 and 4), A level and college students

CREATIVE WOODLAND ACTIVITIES

- Build a Tree and woodland ecosystem pupil modelling games
- Sky eyes

- Meet a Tree blindfold challenge
- Kim's woodland memory game
- Seasonal nature trail, natural treasure hunt and journey boards or mapsticks
- Animal tracks and clues discovery trail
- Food web game
- Autumn leaf and seed discovery - colour and variety
- Woodland symphony
- Woodland Art

Age range: For all ages

MAGNIFICENT MINIBEASTS

Woodland minibeast hunt with magnifying glasses, ID charts and keys, pooters if suitable (binocular microscopes also available back at the Gamekeepers Cottage) – range of animals, animal adaptations, life cycles, food chains and webs, pyramids of numbers—as relevant to age range.

Tree dwellers discovery – using beating sticks and white sheets we bring creatures from up high down to the ground to identify them (as with the minibeast hunt) .

Timing: 1 - 2 hours

Age Range: 4 - 16 yrs (KS 1,2, 3 and 4) - we can also cater for post 16 students.

BUSHCRAFT AND FOREST SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We offer fully risk assessed Ranger led bushcraft activities including:

- Introduction to fire skills
- Collection of firewood and natural tinder from the woods
- Use of firesteels and tinder and flint/steel - skills to actually get a proper fire going just from a spark
- Simple campfire cooking (marshmallows/hot drinks/trail bread / pancakes / fritters)
- Shelter building and minishelter building (with toys)
- Animal den building
- Mini-recycled raft building (with toys) and racing on the Cockington stream
- Storytelling outdoors
- Wild food / spring edibles rambles
- Sensory awareness earthwalks/nature walks.



Most of these activities take place in the beautiful woodland adjacent to Warren Barn

Timing: flexible

Age Range: any

POND AND STREAM WILDLIFE OF THE WATERY REALM

Who's in the water?

Freshwater minibeast hunt with nets, white trays, magnifying glasses ID charts and keys, (binocular microscopes also if desired) – range of animals, animal adaptations, life cycles, food chains and webs, pyramids of numbers (as relevant to age level).

Timing: 1 - 2 hours

Age Range: 4 - 16 yrs (KS 1,2, 3 and 4) - we can also cater for post 16 students



Biological indicators of the health of the stream – using the species found to assess how clean the water is

Pond or stream habitat and community study - similar framework to the woodland study (or look at both and compare them for an extended study)

Timing: half day or full day

Age Range: 4 - 16 yrs (KS 1,2, 3 and 4) - we can also cater for post 16 students

MEADOW, PARKLAND AND ORCHARD

Parkland tree and wildflower trail – Team challenge which involves finding certain trees, answering questions about them, identifying some meadow wildflowers and looking at their structure.

The seed germination game – a fun activity that helps reinforce the five things that seeds need to be able to grow into plants.

Timing: 1 - 2 hours

Age Range: 6 - 16 yrs (KS 2, 3 and 4)



Meadow minibeast hunt with sweep nets— structure as with woodland minibeast hunt.

Timing: 1 - 2 hours

Age Range: 6 - 16 yrs (KS 2, 3 and 4) - we can also cater for post 16 students

Meadow habitat and community study - similar framework to woodland study

Effect of grazing / mowing / slope / aspect on species abundance and distribution – ecological studies using quadrat and transect sampling techniques.

Timing: Full day or half day

Age Range: 12 - 18 yrs (KS 3, 4 and 5) - we can cater for post 16 students

CREATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES FOR ANY HABITAT:

- Seasonal Natural Treasure hunt and nature mosaics
- Creature Features
- Creature creativity
- Photo challenge
- Collective nature poems
- Blindfold walk with a partner -along a varied route
- Human Camera pair activity
- The listening game
- Caterpillar Camouflage game
- The Matchbox challenge
- Natural cocktails
- Mystery 'touch boxes'
- Mystery object challenge
- Fun 'run around' games – Animal scramble; What animal am I?; Noah's Ark; Bat and Moth; Team wildlife quiz, Animal Clue Game.

ENVIRONMENTAL ART ACTIVITIES

- 3D willow withy and tissue paper creations
- Working with clay to create impish Woodland Boggarts and Tree Ents

- Creating natural paints and dyes
- Green Man creations
- Natural masks and mobiles
- Woodland floor art
- Elder jewellery
- Huge range of child friendly craft activities

GEOGRAPHY

Cockington – a special place for wildlife, tourists and local people

Interactive, guided tour around Cockington; following a map; answering questions about the types of people that visit Cockington and the facilities that exist; colour coding and marking on features on the map; discussing what people feel about Cockington and how it should be looked after for the future.

Timing: half day or full day

Age Range: 6 - 14 yrs (KS 2 and 3)

Cockington village and country park management study

The Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust manage the country park with the aims of integrating tourism, recreation, farming, wildlife conservation and conservation of the landscape. Sometimes these different interests come into conflict with each other. We will study the issues that are thrown up, get into 'interest groups' and work out some potential solutions.

Follow up work can involve:

- Students in teams representing the different interest groups, debating the future of Cockington.
- Making illustrated posters / newspaper reports / leaflets putting across your groups views on the future for Cockington.
- Recording a 'radio or television interview' on the subject 'What is the future for Cockington?'

Timing: half day or full day

Age Range: 8- 16 yrs (KS 2, 3 and 4)

Mapwork

- After doing a tour, use aerial photographs and maps to locate site features eg the Court, Church and lakes, and mark them onto a blank map. Then mark on the different uses of the land in the country park eg pasture, woodland, housing, recreational parkland.
- Compare land uses in the present with those marked on the 1905 Ordnance Survey Map and the 1860 tithe map.
- Design your own walking route around the park and produce your own map and guide. You will be shown some examples and told which type of person to appeal to.

Timing: half day or full day

Age Range: 8 - 16 yrs (KS 2, 3 and 4) - we can also cater for post 16 students

River Study for Primary level

Cockington stream is small and shallow but long, varied, accessible, safe and therefore a very good field site for a practical study. In groups, students will do labeled field sketches, measure stream width, bankfull width, depth across the stream, flow rate and gradient at different places along the stream. Average depth, average velocity, (cross sectional area and discharge can then be worked out). From this we will work out the factors that affect the flow rate of the stream. Follow up work can include drawing stream cross section diagrams and graphs of depth with flow rate etc.

Timing: half day or full day

Age Range: 7 - 11 yrs (KS 2)



Relevant parts of Geography National Curriculum that can be covered using our activities:

Key Stage 2

Yr. 3 - Unit 6 - Investigating our local area - Use Cockington village and country park as part of the locality in which to carry out various fieldwork activities - suitable for schools local to Cockington. Cockington could also be used as the 'contrasting locality' required to be studied.

Yr. 6 - Unit 14 - Investigating Rivers

Key Stage 3

Yr. 9 - Unit 19: 'Tourism - Good or Bad?'

Key Stage 4

Field trips will enable students to carry out their coursework. The topics and locations will depend on the School's Geography syllabus. Thus, the field trips can be tailored to each individual school's needs.

Possible themes / topics:

- Managing natural environments: Leisure and the environment
- Fragile Environments: Threatened Natural Landscapes in the UK
- Environmental Issues

ORIENTEERING AND NAVIGATION

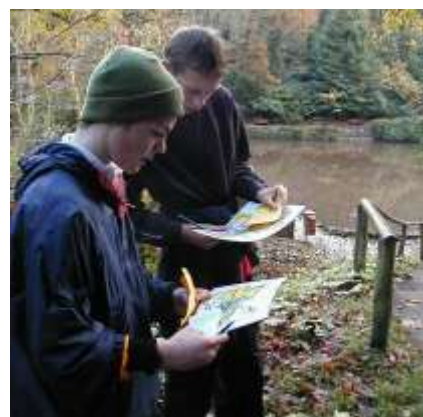
We have a permanent orienteering course set up within Cockington Country Park with 6 different map routes pre-prepared and varying in difficulty. The Interpretation Ranger is a qualified orienteering 'teacher-leader' and can lead sessions of varying length suitable for complete beginners or for those who have done some orienteering before. For students doing orienteering as part of the curriculum, activities aimed at building up the different skills used in orienteering can be planned as well as indoor map work exercises. They can then tackle the course in the second part of the day.

Activities can include:

Beginners compass games
Introductory markers and numbers course
Setting the map practice
Pacing practice
Symbols and keys matching game
Star orienteering
Line orienteering

Timing: half day, full day, or more than one day.

Age range: 7 years up to adult



In addition to orienteering we also run navigation (with compasses) and walking sessions

within the 450 acre country park and further afield in the adjacent woodlands and countryside. These can be tailored so that they are suitable for beginners or young people that already have some navigation skills. Most sessions will involve some indoor planning with maps at the Gamekeepers cottage.

Timing: half day, full day, or more than one day.

Age range: 10 years up to adult

HISTORY

Nestling in its sheltered valley, Cockington's famous 450 acre estate and thatched village has a fascinating and varied history. Its earliest written record is found in the Domesday Book of 1086 where it was documented as a well-established and busy farming community.

We have old maps, old photographs as well as the historic buildings themselves which all help to piece together the story of Cockington over the centuries.

Particularly important features include:

- The Court itself with its outbuildings, walled gardens, parkland, woodland and fish ponds. The oldest parts of the existing building dates back to Tudor times (16th Century), however the Court was altered and extended in the 17th Century and again in the 19th Century.
- The Norman Church (Tower 13th Century).
- The Higher Lodge (Tudor origins, present building 1830's).
- The Lower Lodge (1840's).
- The Village Forge (with its origins in the 14th Century).
- The Mill Wheel and Mill Pond (a mill has existed in the village since Medieval times).
- The 17th and 18th Century Thatched Village dwellings.
- The early 19th Century Gamekeepers Cottage (site of one of the Trust's Field Centres).
- Warren Barn, a 19th Century 'Out-Farm'.
- Site of Medieval Plague Pits.



Fieldwork Activities through which the National Curriculum can be covered:

- We can trace the history of Cockington, of its villagers and Lords of the Manor, over time for the key stage 2 local history study.
- We can focus on Cockington in Tudor* or Victorian times for key stage 2, section 8a.
- *- The Squire of the Manor of Cockington, George Cary, was responsible for a Spanish Galleon and Spanish prisoners of war in Torbay (held in the Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey) after the defeat of the Armada. He was later knighted by Elizabeth I.
- We can focus on life in Cockington and the influence of the Church in Medieval times.
- Cockington provides an excellent case study, enabling us to follow the changes in Agriculture and Rural Life in Britain 1750 – 1900. Due to its close proximity to Torquay it also has a story to tell regarding the rapid development of the area due to Victorian Tourism.

A detailed plan of the visit will be drawn up after discussion with the visiting group leader.

Timing: Half day, full day or longer.

Age range: 7 - 16 yrs (KS2, 3 and 4)

Relevant parts of the History National Curriculum

Key Stage 1

Unit 6b – Way of life of local people in the past

Key Stage 2

Unit 7 – Local history study

Unit 8a – Tudor times; Victorian Britain

Key Stage 3

Unit 8 - Britain 1066 – 1500 (Medieval society)

Unit 9 - Britain 1500 –1750

Unit 10 - Britain 1750 – 1900 (Industrialisation; changes in agriculture and rural life)

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

By using the environment as the stimulus, we can put literacy and numeracy work into a fresh and exciting context, bringing it to life. First hand, multi-sensory experiences in the environment can significantly enhance pupils' performance through increased motivation and understanding.

The entire focus of the field-work activities can be on literacy and / or numeracy or they can link in with the Science, Geography, History, P.E. or Drama curricula as well for a rich and holistic experience that helps teachers a great deal by covering a lot of ground.

Phone the Cockington Ranger for a list of example activities.

Timing: A number of different activities suited to the age of the class will be chosen in consultation with the teacher to make up a half day or full day's visit.

Age range: Primary level

TEAM BUILDING CHALLENGES

Some challenges have a mildly physical aspect to them, but in most, initiative and working together will be the most important factors. Depending on the group size, a selection of activities will be chosen, teams will be created and they will rotate around the activities, having a set time to try and complete each one. The activities can be scored as well if you wish to introduce a little competition.

Activities include:

Building a low rope bridge between 2 trees and getting the team across.

Building a waterproof shelter and testing it.

Crossing the bog! Using planks and crates.

Conquering the blindfold trail.

Mastering the wacky water bucket relay.

Camouflaged caterpillars.

Water Relay challenge

Timing: Half day, full day or longer.

Age range: Upper Primary, Secondary and College level



BAT WALKS AND DUSK NATURE SAFARIS – CREEPY CREATURES OF THE NIGHT!

One of our most popular activities and ideal for youth groups from age 6 and upwards. The whole group will become nature detectives, building up their night vision and taking a discovery trail around the fields, woodland and lakes of Cockington looking and listening for wildlife signs and playing a couple of environmental games (eg bat and moth and the listening game). The visit will culminate in a watch for bats and the Ranger will use bat detectors. A couple of ghostly and / or woodland faerie tales can be included if desired.

Timing: 2 hours

Age: 6 years to adult

Time of year: Late April to end of September.

GUIDED TOURS

Led by the Trust's expert Interpretation Ranger – the tour can cover:

- ◆ History of the village, Cockington Court and estate
- ◆ Wildlife in the woodlands, meadows, ancient lanes and hedgerows of the Country Park
- ◆ Human Geography – Why Cockington is an important tourist attraction and what facilities

it offers tourists, also the impact of tourism on Cockington. The change in land use of the estate through the ages.

We have several different quiz / question sheets for students to complete during the tour as we follow a route on a map. Another option is for the students to go off in small groups, following the route and finding answers to the questions for themselves.

Timing: 1, 2, 3 or 4 hours.

Age Range: 6 years to adult

The Cockington Court Café is a lovely venue for a drink and snack after the tour too.

4. Booking and Costs

Contact Lisa Brunwin

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Tel: 01803 696242

Fax: 01803 690391

www.countryside-trust.org.uk

Postal Address:
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Preston Down Rd
Paignton
TQ3 1RN

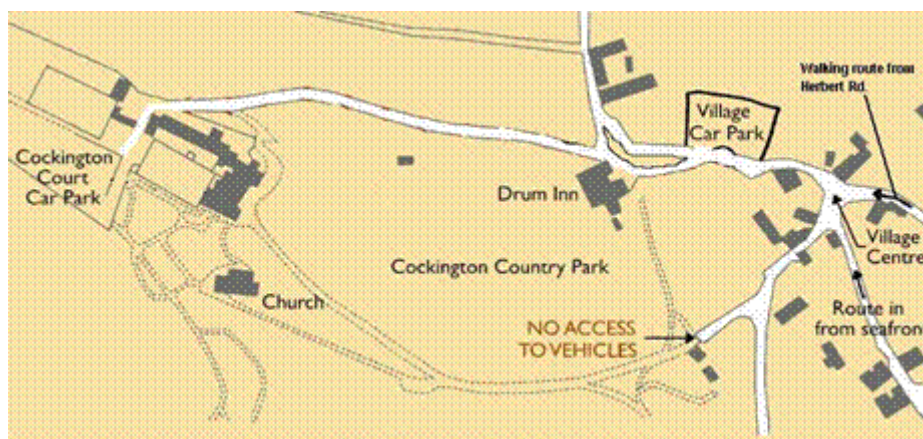
Send in a Group Booking Form which you can download from the website.

2011 charges			Minimum charge		
		Half day	Full day	2 hr (1/2 day) session	4 hr (1 day) session
Torbay LEA	excl VAT	£3.50	£4.50	£60	£90
	incl VAT	£4.20	£5.40	£72	£108
Other	excl VAT	£4	£5	£60	£90
	incl VAT	£4.80	£6	£72	£108

VAT is charged at 20%

These costs are subsidised by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.

5. Access and Parking



If using minibuses, a group coming on a trip led by a Trust Ranger can park in Higher Lodge car park for free (a bit further up the lane from the gated entrance to the park), the Ranger will provide you with parking permits on the day.

If travelling by coach the coach must stop just outside the village, in the marked coach parking bays on Herbert Rd (it is then just a 5 minute walk into the centre of the village where the ranger will meet you). There is no access for coaches actually into the village.