



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 its 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.

Education Centre: groups that have booked a visit with a Ranger may use the Centre which includes a suite of 10 PCs that are networked with Broadband internet access. The farm has a network of wildlife cameras that beam live pictures back to the computers in the Centre.

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. A height adjustable disabled workstation is available. The community kitchen includes changing facilities, cloakroom, 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 new 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.



Straw Bale Education 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

Occombe is a 150 acre organic farm located near Marlton on the main ring road around Torbay. The Trust opened it to the public in March 2006 having constructed a new farmyard and visitor centre. The project is designed to re-connect people with food, farming and the countryside. 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.

Possible activities include:

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. Tools provided. We also offer the Germination game for Year 3 and above.

Timing: 1.5 – 2 hours

Age range: any

Relevant subjects: Science, Geography,

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, mini

pumpkin pies, seasonal vegetable pizza, seasonal vegetable frittata or smoothies. Variations can be discussed. Children need to bring a container to take their dish home in.

There is a surcharge of 50p per child for this activity to cover ingredient costs

Timing: 1 – 2 hours

Season: All year (activities and produce will vary)

Age range: Year 2 and above

Relevant Subjects: Science, Food Technology, Literacy and Numeracy

For a class of 30 this activity will involve splitting the group into two. A Trust ranger will lead half the group for the pick and cook activity above. The second half of the group will require an adult to lead them around our self led trail (see below) and the groups will then swap. These activities are most appropriate for a morning session.

Self led garden challenge

A teacher or teaching assistant will lead half a class around this challenge trail in the garden. We have trails relevant for different age groups. Challenges include minibeast hunts, creating clay creatures and sowing seeds. Instructions, equipment and materials provided.

Timings: 1- 1.5 hours

Season: All year

Age range: all ages

Local Food Challenge Trail

Groups use a map to follow a trail around the farm including the community kitchen, garden, farm shop, farmyard, orchard and nature trail. At each location there is a task or question to be answered.

Timing: 1 hour

Age range: Year 4 and above

Relevant subjects:

Minibeasts and wildlife in the garden

- Groups can visit the garden and take part in a garden minibeast hunt.
- Worm charming and take a closer look at our wormery and compost area.
- Children can learn how to encourage wildlife into the garden by making bird feeders and minibeast homes.
- Sow wildflower seeds for the bees and butterflies.

Timing: 1 hour

Season: Spring and Summer

Age range: KS1 and KS2

Relevant subjects:

Art and crafts in the garden

Groups can get creative in the garden – activities include painting pebbles, making clay creatures, decorating signs and labels and making miniature gardens.

Timing: 45 minutes

Age range: Nursery – Year 1

Relevant subjects:

FEED THE ANIMALS

Groups can help feed the cows, pigs and chickens collecting eggs in the process.

Timing: 45mins, morning only

Age Range: any

FARM WALK

Groups can receive a general guided tour of the Farm which includes the farmyard and 2km Nature Trail. This can be combined with a multimedia slide show to create a general 2 hour intro to the farm.

Timing: 1 hour

Age Range: any

SLIDE SHOW

In the Education Centre describing the history of the farm, background of the project, food

<p>and farming issues, sustainable technology etc. Includes Quiz. Timing: 45 mins – 1 hour Age Range: Secondary</p>
<p>BAKING BREAD Bake your own organic bread 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 bread to make their own healthy lunch using ingredients from the Farm Shop. Timing: 1 hour Age Range: Year 1 up to adult Relevant Subjects: Science, Food Technology, Literacy & Numeracy, Geography, PSHE, Business Studies</p>
<p>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. Timing: 1 hour Age Range: KS2, KS3 Relevant Subjects: Geography, PSHE, Citizenship, IT, Food Technology, Literacy, Numeracy</p>
<p>FOOD PACKAGING Learn about the problem of food packaging and recycling through craft activity. Use food packaging to make farm animals. Children are encouraged to bring food packaging from home. Timing: 1 hour Age Range: Primary Relevant Subjects: Geography, Literacy.</p>
<p>MAPPING CHALLENGE Groups are given an introduction to the farm in the Education Centre before walking the Nature Trail and mapping the land use and features on to a template map. They will identify different types of pasture and habitat and features such as: paths, fencing, streams, buildings, ponds, etc. Timing: 1.5 hours Age Range: KS2, KS3, KS4 Relevant Subjects: Geography, Science</p>
<p>FARMYARD TRAIL Groups have to follow a trail around the farmyard including: cattle barns, grain store, pig pens, solar panels, manure heap etc. At each location there is a task or question to be answered e.g. measure size of one the barns. In doing so they will meet some of the livestock and learn about the main differences between organic and conventional farming. Timing: 1 hour Age Range: KS2, KS3 Relevant Subjects: Geography, Science, Literacy & Numeracy, Citizenship</p>
<p>FARMLAND BIRDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to birds on the farm with video footage in the Education Centre. View pictures from live cameras inside nest boxes around the farm. • Spot the bird game in the orchard with “hidden” pictures of birds that live on the farm. • Groups visit the Bird Hide on the farm to watch birds visiting the feeders we have set up. Use spotter guides to identify the birds and learn how to use binoculars which we loan out. Try to record the birds plumage by colouring in simple templates. • Learn about the Cirl Bunting our rarest bird. Timing: 1-2 hours, Spring Summer for nesting birds. Age Range: KS2, KS3, KS4 Relevant Subjects: Science, Geography, Literacy,</p>
<p>NESTBOX MAKING</p>

Small groups can make wooden nestboxes for specific species and then take them to put up in school. We can provide the materials (additional cost of £5 per box) and advice on installing them. There is also an option of a Ranger coming in to your school to do this activity and advise more generally on using your school grounds. We can also make bat boxes.

Timing: 1 hour

Season: Winter, Spring

Age Range: KS2, KS3,KS4

Nature games and activities

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

Timing: 1 hour

Age range: nursery – year 2

MINI-BEASTS

- Introduction in the Education Centre to organic farming and why we have more invertebrates than on conventional farms that use pesticides etc.

- Walk the Nature Trail and meadow with sweep nets looking for mini-beasts. Identify types of invertebrates with simple spotter sheets. Try to capture a Great Green Bush Cricket.

Timing: 1-2 hours

Season: Summer

Age Range: KS2, KS3, KS4

Relevant Subjects: Science, Literacy, Geography

Pond dipping

- Introduction in the Education Centre

- Walk the nature trail and visit the wildlife pond. Use nets and spotter sheets to ID pond species.

- Take part in a simple survey to find out how healthy our pond is.

Timing: 1 hour

Season: Spring and Summer

Age range: Year 1 and above

Relevant subjects: Science

NATURE TRAIL 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.

Timing: 1 to 1.5 hours

Age Range: KS2, KS3, KS4, A level

Relevant Subjects: Science, Literacy

LETTERBOXING

Groups locate 10 animal and plant stamps hidden in boxes along the Nature Trail using a clues sheet. They are given cards to stamp on.

Timing: 1 hour

Age Range: Pre-school & Primary

Relevant Subjects: Science, Literacy

HEDGEROWS EXPLORER

- Learn how to age a hedgerow by surveying the number of species present. Identify hedgerow species using ID sheets. Involves measuring and counting the occurrence of species. Also learning about the craft of hedge-laying.

- Insects & Invertebrate survey of hedgerow and oak tree.

Timing: 1-2 hours

Season: Spring/Summer

Age Range: KS3, KS4, A Level

Relevant Subjects: Science, Geography

WOODLAND EXPLORER

- Tree Trail – see above
- Calculating the age of an oak tree
- Fungal Foray in Occombe Woods in autumn.

Timing: 1-2 hours

Age Range: KS2, KS3, KS4

Relevant Subjects: Science, Literacy, Numeracy, Geography

Literacy

The farm offers excellent opportunities for activities linked to literacy. Some examples are:

- Baking bread using recipes
- Letterboxing on the nature trail using clues
- Bird Hide identifying birds and colouring them in
- Listening to stories
- Making simple picture books about the farm
- IT games and activities in the Education Centre
- Craft activities using natural materials based on farm vocabulary

Timing: varies

Age Range: Primary

Numeracy

The farm also offers opportunities for activities linked to numeracy. Some examples are:

- Baking bread using recipes
- Measuring barns to calculate livestock capacity
- Measuring fields to calculate yield
- Counting birds at the bird hide
- IT games and activities in the Education Centre

Timing: varies

Age Range: Primary

Sustainable Business and Green Tourism

Occombe offers an excellent opportunity for students to investigate sustainable business practices and the ideas behind green tourism.

BAKING BREAD

Bake bread and learn about how the bakery is operated.

BUSINESS SURVEY

Students undertake a survey of the various business activities at the farm including: the Farm Shop, Butchers, Bakery, Café, the Farm and our environmental initiatives.

SLIDE SHOW/FARM WALK

A slide show covering the history of the farm and the project, how the Trust secured the funding and what decisions were made affecting the business model. Followed by a walk around the farm.

PROJECT WORK

Students prepare a business plan for a new venture based at the farm.

Timing: one day

Age Range: secondary, college.

Relevant Subjects: Business Studies, Leisure and Recreation, Tourism.

ICT

The Education Centre has 10 networked PCs with broadband internet access.

The farm offers various opportunities for ICT related activities and projects.

PREPARING A MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

Students prepare a multimedia (powerpoint) presentation about Occombe Farm to be aimed at a specific audience e.g. to be shown in Tourist Information Offices.

Walking trail

- Walk from Cockington to Occombe or vice versa. Groups can combine activities at Cockington and Occombe e.g. morning and afternoon.
- Map work and navigation

Timing: 1 hour
Age Range: KS3 and up.

5. Booking and Costs

Contact Sarah Kent
sarah@countryside-trust.org.uk
 Tel: 01803 696258 or 696243
 Fax: 01803 696252
www.occombe.org.uk

Send in a Group Booking Form which Sarah will email to you.

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.

There can be a small additional charge to cover the cost of ingredients for pick and cook.

Lunch Costs

£3 per head includes organic cheese or ham filled roll (which children make themselves), juice, piece of fruit, flapjack, no salt crisps. The lunch is integrated in to the visit and local food message. (This cost is subject to confirmation)