



Geopark Environmental Educational Visits



Contents

Background	3
Occombe Farm	5
Goodrington Sands	6
Cockington Country Park	7
Berry Head	8

Background

Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust are a local, independent charity that safeguards over 1750 beautiful acres of green space across Torbay. The Trust exists because Torbay has an outstanding natural environment and heritage that needs special care and attention. We are the stewards of the most important natural places in the Bay – including Berry Head Nature Reserve, Cockington Country Park, Occombe Farm and various woodlands, cliffs and coastal walks.

The reason Torbay is a Geopark is because we have an unusual combination of a superb natural setting, rich cultural heritage, a very significant tourism industry and a pressing need to regenerate. The Geopark is based upon and flows from the natural world but it embraces culture, built heritage and economic development where these relate to the natural world. An over-riding principle is that we achieve regeneration in a sustainable way.

We encourage children of all ages and abilities to get outside and explore the natural environment around them whilst learning about sustainability and the importance of our natural and geological heritage. Our educational visits encompass a range of subjects such as Geography, History, Science, Math's, English, Art and Citizenship.

Visits can be either half a day (2 hours) or a full day (4 hours) with a standard full day being approximately 10.00am to 2.30pm, allowing a break for lunch. The natural enthusiasm of staff along with their extensive knowledge aim to make your visit a truly unique and enjoyable experience.

The key sites we lead outdoor educational visits are:

- Cockington Country Park
- Berry Head National Nature Reserve
- Goodrington Sands
- Occombe Farm

For more information on these sites and the activities that your school can do please see below or contact us on 01803 520022 or email chloe@countryside-trust.org.uk. We are also very happy to tailor activities to your needs and create bespoke packages.



Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust Sites



Occombe Farm



About

Occombe Farm is located on the outskirts of Paignton in South Devon. The farm is a fully working 150 acre organic farm with a beautiful nature trail through a Site of Scientific Interest. The trail includes a bird hide, a vegetable garden, fully equipped kitchen, 24ft yurt, Dig for Victory garden with air raid shelter, farm café and shop.

ACTIVITIES

- **FIELD TO FORK** *Where does your food come from?*

Gardening for produce- takes place in vegetable garden and polytunnel, opportunity to take home a planted seed
Discussion on food miles/ seasonality/ healthy eating
Learn about Occombe Farm including trip to see animals
Pick some produce from garden and learn more about food in the Geopark.

Cook a seasonal dish in our cookery school kitchen- discussion on types of foods and importance of eating the right amounts of each



- **OPERATION OCCOMBE** *What was it like to live on a farm during the war?*

Join us for a wartime themed day and evacuate your students to Occombe Farm. 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 a simple wartime dishes: rock buns, glory buns, carrot muffins.

Operation air raid- experience an air raid in our genuine Anderson Shelter, hear stories from the past whilst we wait for the all clear. Enjoy our wartime films in our shed cinema!



- **OCCOMBE DISCOVERY** *What is an organic farm?*

Introduction to organic farming and what mega-beasts live at Occombe Farm: From Alpacas, Ruby Red Cows, Ducks and Chickens. Discover why we have more invertebrates than on conventional farms that use pesticides etc. by going on a mini beast safari with the use of ID guides. Depending on season have a go at Meadow sweep net (spring, summer) and try to capture a Great Green Bush Cricket in the long grass or uncover creepy crawlies from under tree bark on a woodland minibeast hunt. Investigate the bird hide to see what birds are eating these bugs and get creative by making a megabeast out of clay to rehome along the nature trail.





Create your very own animal out of clay and find a home for it.
Children will learn how to attract wildlife to your garden through wildlife gardening- including plant study, soils and take home a seed bomb with a link to pollination and our resident bees

Goodrington Sands



toilets available for use.

About

Goodrington Sands is the ideal location for exploring the sandy and rocky shore and learning more about the history of a spectacular coastline and the Geopark. With activities to cater all ages including coastal geography, beach art, digging for worms, rocks and soils and more. There is no indoor space at Goodrington Sands however there is undercover shelter at the band stand or at the Spanish Barns in Youngs Park. Alongside this there are plenty of public

ACTIVITIES

- **SEASHORE SAFARI** *What lives on the seashore?* (rockpooling tide dependant)

Discover life on the seashore, sharing the experience through creative art on the beach.

Rockpool Ramble: Introductory session to life in the rockpools, students learn to treat the animals with care and sensitivity by following the 'Seashore Code', discovering the array of life here.

Beach Art: A very creative activity that encourages the children to work in teams and create their own 3D sand sculptures using as much natural strandline material as they can find. The art can only be of one thing, either fact or fiction, from the marine environment.

Shell Hunt: Children explore the beach and discover what has been washed up by the tide, they are encouraged to pick up as many different types of shells as they can find, looking at the different shapes, sizes and colours. Shells are then sorted into groups using similarities and differences whilst talking about classification.

- **SEASHORE DETECTIVES** *What different animals live on the rocky and sandy shores and why?*

Discover life on the seashore including rocky and sandy shores, sharing the experience through creative art on the beach.

Rockpool Ramble and beach art as above as well as Sandy Shore exploration s; including the chance to dig for worms beneath the sand!

- **COASTAL GEOGRAPHY** *What natural and human influences are affecting Torbay's coastline?*





Will Torbay last forever? Children will become coastal developers and learn about the natural and human influences that are affecting our coastline including erosion and the pressures of tourism. Explore the geohistory of Torbay learning about the rock cycle, fossilised corals are easily found in pebbles and in the sea wall. This is an opportunity for children to open their eyes and hunt for hidden treasure from the past and hear stories of how the Geopark has changed over millions of years.

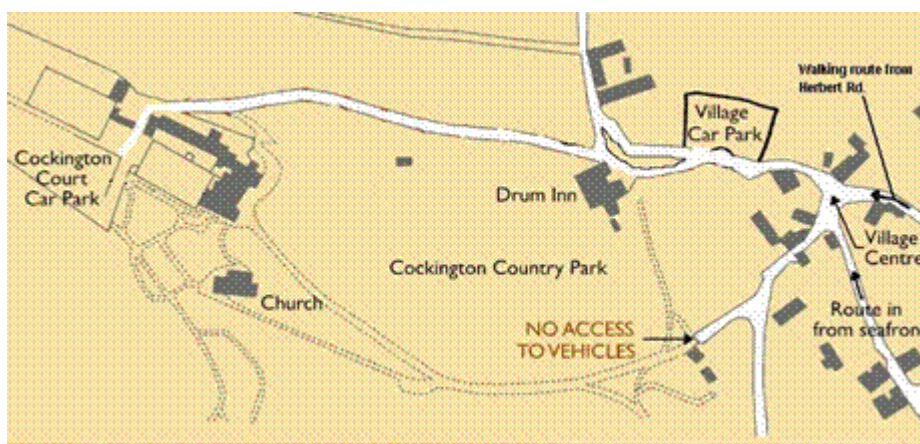
Coastal Erosion: By making a miniature Torbay in a tray, children will try to work out how the sea has shaped the coastline over thousands of years. Investigate how waves affect the coastline and how we could protect the coast. Children will find out about different types of waves, how they are formed and how they can affect the appearance of beaches.

Tourism: Working in teams, children will need to design and build their own Geopark seaside resorts taking into account the views and opinions of different community groups (Local residents, holiday makers and environmentalists).

- **ROCKS AND SOILS** *Become a rock detective and soil scientist and take part in activities and experiments to find out more about the properties and uses of local rocks and soils.*

Learn about the rock cycle and how they are formed. Travel through time in a time travellers game and find out how the Geopark has changed over the last 400 million years. Hunt for fossilised corals on the beach and make a miniature Torbay in a tray and work out how the sea has shaped our coastline over thousands of years. Learn more about different types of soils with our soil scientist experiments.

Cockington Country Park



About

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. 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.

ACTIVITIES

- **1000 YEARS OF HISTORY** *How has Cockington Country Park changed over time?*

(Option to focus on a particular time period)

History exploration around the 450 acre estate following an interactive trail, looking at different maps and aerial views to see how Cockington has changed over time. Children can record key information through digital media.





- **TEAM WORK** *Can your teamwork point you in the right direction?*

Team challenges- test your team work skills in cross the bog, shelter build, rope bridge and blindfold challenge

Compass and mapping challenge- Discover the importance of maps and the compass when trying to find your way around the parkland. Use your new found skills to orientate your way around a course!

- **BUSHCRAFT** *Could you survive in the wild and back in the stone age?*

What can be foraged in the woodlands and how can water be collected if you were stranded? An introduction to fire craft with smalls groups making contained fires to cook marshmallows on, followed by simple campfire cooking on a larger fire.

Use natural items in the wood to make group dens to fit the whole team in, to shelter from the weather.

- **A PARK FOR WILDLIFE** *What magnificent minibeasts can you discover?*

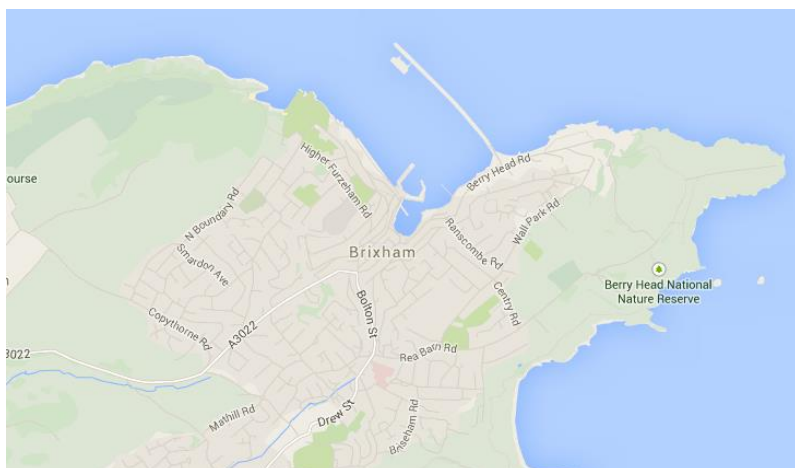
Tree trail- Discover the trees of Cockington and learn about seed dispersal, leaves and even discover the tallest tree in Torbay

Minibeast safari- Go on a hunt in different habitats dependant on the season such as meadow, woodland, stream, use spotter sheets and magnifying lenses to identify what you have caught

Creative art from a seasonal natural treasure hunt



Berry Head



showing rock and coastal formation and erosion as well as bringing history to life with man's use of the headland throughout history up to the present day.



About

Berry Head National Nature Reserve guards the southern half of Tor Bay. Berry Head is a fantastic natural resource for schools to aid the education of children and students of any age. There is a wide range of habitats and examples of nationally and internationally rare and endangered species of flora and fauna (hence its National Nature Reserve designation). It is also a geological resource



ACTIVITIES

- **SOLDIERS LIFE** *Why was Berry Head important throughout history as a military position?*

Mini dig- discover artefacts from an archaeological dig at Berry Head

Investigation- Teams must discover old buildings and their uses on the headland

A look at what basic training would have been like during the Napoleonic time at Barry Head.



- **400 MILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING** *How and why has Berry Head changed?*

Introduction into Berry Head- looking at its geohistory including fossil formation and map work, with a link to Geopark

Demonstration on how coastal erosion has affected Berry Head with a look at the coastal features within the area such as cave, arch and stacks.

Should the quarry be re-opened? A debate on quarry use by role play using key users of the headland quarry owner, quarry worker, ranger, hotel manager



- **FROM COWPAT TO BAT** *Why is Berry Head a National Nature Reserve?*

Bats and beetles- count the number of beetles in a pat and estimate how many bats our cows could support. Watch footage of bats

Flower identification- discusses limestone grassland, identify flowers using spotter sheet

Seabird study- estimate number of seabirds in colony

Should Berry Head be developed? Discussions on whether or not Berry Head should remain as a National Nature Reserve.



For more information on these sites and the activities that your school can do please see below or contact us on 01803 520022 or email chloe@countryside-trust.org.uk. We are also very happy to tailor activities to your needs and create bespoke packages.