

Hadleigh Park

Stone Age to Iron Age

Example itinerary for school visit – Key Stage 2

9.30 Children arrive and put lunches and coats away, toilet break etc.
Health & Safety briefing and welcome talk.

9.45 Divide into classes:

Class A go to the 'Dig' where they learn how archaeologists work, before setting to work excavating the pits. This is followed by an opportunity to look at the artefacts discovered, and attempt to identify them and determine their significance. They then make clay coil pots.

Class B go to the Iron Age roundhouse, where they meet an ancient Briton. They learn how human society developed from the Ice Age to the Iron Age, research different aspects of past life by exploring the house and its artefacts, and have the opportunity to ask questions. They discover how fire was made and grind corn on the quern.

11.00 Groups change over

12.15 Lunch break

13.00 Hunters and Warriors

The children find out about the progression from hunting tools to weapons of war and are able to see and touch weapons and armour.

They then divide into classes:

Class A learn to throw javelins and use slings to shoot paper balls.

Class B learn sword skills and take part in hand-to-hand combat

Groups then change over.

14.20 Wash hands, visit toilets, collect bags

14.30 Home

Educational Visit Information

Bookings – Provisional bookings can be held for one week. After that confirmation is required to secure the date. Please contact the Park Rangers with any initial booking enquiries: 01702 551072 or hadleigh.park@essex.gov.uk

Coaches – It is advisable to bring a bag for any particularly muddy footwear. When booking your coach please try to ensure as long a day as possible with us. We want you to get the most out of your visit. If undertaking crafts activities, such as clay pot making, please bring suitable containers, such as crates or boxes to transport artworks back to school.

Parking – There is no cost to coaches or teacher cars that are on site in connection with groups taking part in a ranger led activity.

Clothing – Most of our days will be led by Rangers in Celtic costume. We would be thrilled if the children joined us, arriving dressed as ancient Britons or Romans. With this in mind we still have to remember the British weather and prepare for extremes of hot, cold and wet. Wellington boots are advisable for early spring visits, or if weather has been wet, and a mac or plastic bag to sit on at lunchtime if benches are likely to be damp.

Toilet Facilities – There are 6 cubicle toilets in all, one of which has full wheelchair access. The disabled toilet serves as the adult toilet during school visits.

Bag Storage – There is undercover storage for bags and coats. If the group goes out into the Country Park bags can be locked in the Roundhouse.

Wet weather – During bad weather activities may have to be altered but will continue in the Roundhouse or an erected marquee.

Lunches – Lunch may be eaten in the Roundhouse paddock, an enclosed grass area, with picnic benches and space to play, or in the Roundhouse itself. Drinking water is available from a tap. We recommend children bring a mac or plastic bag to sit on if weather has been damp. Teachers may wish to bring flasks. Lunchtime supervision is the responsibility of school staff. There is a café a short distance away for emergency food and drink, when open, and a supermarket in Hadleigh itself.

Worksheets – We strongly believe in learning by doing and have designed our activity days without the use of worksheets. However, we are happy to discuss and accommodate schools' particular requirements.