

Ducking down the Deben KS2 – can be adapted for KS1 on request

Session Overview and Learning Objectives

Visit Summary

- This visit is suitable for one class at a time, of up to 30 pupils. The day will be run by our Coasts and Rivers Engagement Officer. Children will be split into smaller groups of 3-4 where possible during the day, guided by your school adults.
- Required ratio – 1 adult: 8 pupils; we welcome parent volunteers from your schools. Children will be entering the water so these supervision ratios are essential.
- The day tracks the path of the river Deben from source to mouth, giving children the experience of observing and measuring the river in its different stages, from its freshwater beginnings to the tidal estuary it becomes.
- This visit allows pupils to explore the beach at the river mouth, with activities designed to encourage curiosity and exploration of coastal habitats.

Location

We start 1 mile from the source of the Deben at Debenham ford, which is a short walk from the coach drop off point. Following some measurements here we return to the coach to move on to Brandeston ford, almost 10 miles downstream from the source. Here we will enter the river to make observations before walking back to the coach. We'll stop for lunch in Woodbridge to observe the river as a group, before finishing the day at Bawdsey quay.

All equipment is provided.

Visit Outline

	Location	Activity
Arrival	The Butts, Debenham	Meet and greet; introduction to the site, setting boundaries followed by an overview of safety at the river.
Session 1	The source	Walk to the source and take measurements of the river (width, depth, flow rate) and observe surrounding land use
Session 2	Mid channel	Walk to the river and take measurements of the river (width, depth, flow rate), and enter channel to kick-sample invertebrates
Session 3	Lower channel	Lunch at Woodbridge opposite the tide mill, group discussion and estimates of measurements, observations of the tidal river here.
Session 4	The mouth	Group observations and discussion at Bawdsey, beachcombing for evidence of tidal saltwater species, sand sculptures (if time)
Departure*	Return to school	Return to coach

* A departure time of 2.30pm usually allows us to see each section of the river, however if an earlier departure time is needed the trip can conclude at Woodbridge. The journey from Woodbridge to Bawdsey is sometimes congested so on occasion we do not reach the mouth, depending on the group's behaviour and needs. If you are booking a coach the driver must stay with your group for your duration. The stopping locations will be provided in advance.

Learning Objectives and links to the National Curriculum

Our programme touches on a number of learning objectives in the science and geography programmes of study, including working scientifically, classifying living things, understanding the water cycle and the impacts of human land use.

All children will practise working scientifically and using their mathematics and reasoning skills. Children will be encouraged to use their observational skills and work in a group to record what they observe and measure.

Geography

- All children will use basic geographical vocabulary such as beach, cliff, coast, sea, ocean and river.
- All children will learn or revise vocabulary specific to rivers such as source, channel, mouth, meanders, sediments, tributary, bank and erosion.
- All children will be introduced to (or recap) the sea we live nearest to (the North Sea).
- All children will do some practical field work and collect their own data on the river.
- All children will be able to observe the varying landscape features at the different points of the river.
- Some children will discuss or revise the water cycle and how freshwater rivers fit into this.
- Some children will discuss the impacts of human land use on the health of the river, including pollutants.
- Some children will start to think about the human geography of the sites, looking at the economic activity around the river and its value in human settlements.

Freshwater and Coastal ecology

- All children will observe and identify freshwater invertebrates, looking at their physical characteristics and movements. Photo identification charts will be used to assist with their learning.
- Some children will use keys to classify freshwater animal groups according to shared characteristics.
- All children will identify some common marine species and the evidence of marine animals we find.
- Some children will be shown links between marine animals and their offspring (by observing egg cases).
- Some children will be able to identify and name some marine animals using identification sheets or keys.

Working scientifically together

- All children will work as a team to make repeated measurements on the river.
- All children will be encouraged to make estimates and hypotheses to test and discuss these in groups.
- All children will use different pieces of simple scientific equipment to take measurements.
- All children will do some simple division to calculate the flow rate of the river, using calculators.

Fun in a supportive environment

- We hope your children will enjoy their experience outdoors with their peers.
- We will keep your children safe but we do encourage them to calculate their own risks.
- We will try to meet your children's emotional needs during what can be an exciting day for them.
- Most importantly, we want your children to have fun!

You are welcome to discuss with us any specific learning objectives you may wish to touch on in advance of your session and we will try to incorporate this into your day where possible.

Our sessions are run by a Childhood Licensed Practitioner in the Thrive Approach who is also qualified to support children's emotional literacy via Suffolk County Council's ELSA programme. If you have any SEND children in your group please inform us at the booking stage. If any children will have 1-2-1 support on the day please let us know.