



Nature Detectives

Learning Overview:

This session is designed to give pupils an overview of some of the different habitats that can be found in the National Park, and how we protect them. Taking place on site at Walltown Country Park, pupils can safely explore three different types of habitat – woodland, pond and meadow.

This is a hands-on activity where children look for and see close up the invertebrates as well as the reptiles, birds and mammals that live in each of these habitats, and understand how these creatures are adapted to live there. The session will be led by two of our Rangers with activities including pond dipping, sweep netting and mini beast hunt.

Suitable for: KS1 and KS2

Key learning objectives:

- Identify animals using keys and be able to examine classification criteria.
- Learn how the flora and fauna varies in different habitats and how it has adapted to suit its environment.
- Explore human impact on the landscape.

Key learning outcomes:

All children will

- Learn about the diverse range of habitats present across Walltown
- Use scientific terminology to describe their work
- Conduct a scientific investigation using the correct equipment to examine animals
- Be able to describe how living things are classified
- Understand why and how animals have adapted to different habitats
- Identify a range of species from different habitats

Most children will

- Learn about rare habitats found in the National Park and understand why it is important to protect them
- Use appropriate scientific language to describe adaptations
- Be able to both identify and classify animals from all habitats



Some children will

- Understand why animals have adapted differently and the environmental challenges that drive them
- Use advanced keys to successfully identify animals

Curriculum Links:

Science – working scientifically, plants, animals, seasonal changes, living thing and their habitats.

Geography – key physical features, maps, observational skills, enquiry skills, fieldwork.

Activities on the day:

On site:

Activities may vary depending on the weather, group size, arrival/departure times.

- Ranger led tour of the site, to introduce the different habitats and also talk about the history of the site and its journey from quarry back to a natural site.
- Pupils will then be split into groups to explore and examine three habitats – woodland, pond, and meadow. This will involve pond dipping, mini beast hunts, and sweep netting.
- Pupils will learn how to use survey equipment and how to correctly collect and identify animal specimens.