

## School information pack

Wrexham Parks, Countryside and Rights of Way Service manages eleven parks across the County Borough, the Clywedog Trail and a section of the Offa's Dyke National Trail. It seeks to balance the needs of wildlife and recreation in the country parks.

The Service offers an extensive environmental education programme and the country parks provide an excellent educational resource for all ages to study a wide range of topics covering a number of curriculum areas.

All the programmes are available at Ty Mawr and Alyn Waters, with the exception of the Farm Walk. Nant Mill also has limited availability for ranger led school visit. All Wrexhams parks are available for DIY school visits. For a list of the parks and further information, please visit [www.wrexham.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/countryside).

All programmes are National Curriculum linked and offer a hands on experience to compliment and consolidate classroom learning.

We hope this pack provides with the information you require however if you would like further information or discuss your individual needs please contact us at any of the Country Parks.

# Ty Mawr Country Park

Cae Gwilym Lane, Cefn Mawr, Wrexham. LL14 3PE

Telephone: Wrexham (01978) 822780

On the banks of the River Dee, Ty Mawr Country Park is rich in wildlife with woodland, grassland and river habitats. Hay meadows along the river are managed in the traditional way using organic methods.

Donkeys, pigs, ponies, llamas and goats can all be seen at Ty Mawr. There are also, ducks, geese, chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs for children to feed.

Other attractions include a picnic area and children's play area.

## How to get there

The park is easy to locate situated five miles south of Wrexham in the village of Cefn Mawr. Signposted as Country Park at the Llangollen/ Ruabon exit of the A483. Follow the Brown on white signs to the park.

## Facilities

Visitor Centre

Classroom

Coach Parking

Toilets (including disabled)

Picnic area (+ wet weather alternative)

Gift Shop

Refreshments

Disabled Access

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us on 01978 822780

# Alyn Waters Country Park

Mold Road, Gwersyllt, Wrexham. LL11 4AG

Telephone: Wrexham (01978) 762122

The largest Country Park in the Wrexham area, Alyn Waters is situated in the beautiful Alyn Valley and is a haven for wildlife and a popular visitor attraction.

Attractions include 400 acres of woodland, open grassland and riverside habitats, a cycleway and sculpture trail, children's play areas and a purpose built visitor centre, and an orienteering course.

## How to get there

Alyn Waters is located 3 miles north of Wrexham between Gwersyllt, Bradley and Llay. To reach the visitor centre take the A541 Wrexham to Mold road, the park is signposted off this road. To reach the Llay side take the A5156 Wrexham to Llay Road, the park is on your left just before you enter Llay.

## Facilities

Visitor Centre / Classroom

Coach Parking

Toilets (including disabled)

Picnic area (+ wet weather alternative)

Gift Shop

Refreshments

Disabled Access

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us on 01978 763140

## **Foundation phase and KS2 Educational programmes**

- Habitats/mini-beasts
- River study (geography)
- River/Pond dipping- (year 2+)
- Plants and growing
- Orienteering/Map reading
- Farm walk (Ty Mawr only)
- Forest schools/woodland fun
- Seasonal walks

# Charges for Ranger led activities 2018/19

## Ranger led visits at the Country Parks

Half day session	- £4.60 per pupil
Full day session	- £6.70 per pupil
Minimum charge	- £25 per group

## Group Craft Sessions (unless part of a full day visit above)

One hour session	-£2.60 per person -(minimum £10)
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<b>Tractor rides only</b>	- £2.60 per person. (or included as part of ranger led farm visit)
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<b>Ty Mawr Barn room only</b>	-£13.50/£17.50 per hour(+VAT)
<b>Alyn Waters room only</b>	-£20.00/£24.00 per hour(+VAT)
<b>Nant Mill Education room only</b>	-£10.50/£15.00 per hour(+VAT) (for Non Profit/Profit making groups)

The charge can be paid on the day of the visit, or in advance by cheque or internal transfer, Please make cheques payable to 'Wrexham County Borough Council'.

## Safety during your visit

To help make your groups visit to the Country Park a safe and enjoyable one please follow these guidelines and talk them over with the group before your visit.

- \*Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions.
- \*Stay with your group to avoid getting lost or hurt.
- \*Cover any cuts or grazes with a waterproof dressing.
- \*Please do not eat, drink (or suck fingers) during the activities!
- \*Always wash your hands thoroughly before eating anything.**
- \*And most importantly, enjoy your visit and stay healthy and safe.

Please be aware that there are rivers, ponds and other natural hazards within the parks

Please note: The teacher/group leader is responsible for behaviour and discipline during the visit.

# Booking form

(page 1 of 2)

Park to be visited.....

Date of visit: .....

Name of contact: .....

Name and contact address of school or organisation:

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.....  
.....

Contact telephone number: .....

Age group and year groups:.....

Number in party: .....

Number of leaders/ adults assisting: .....

Expected time of arrival: ..... departure: .....

Do any members of your group have special needs? Please give details:

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.....

Have you pre- arranged any activities with the ranger? Please give details: .....

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Is your visit arranged as part of a national curriculum/higher education course? Please give details: .....

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*Booking form (page 2 of 2)*

Any other comments or information: .....

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Please enclose minimum £5 deposit.  
Please make all cheques payable to:- **‘Wrexham County Borough Council’**, payments also accepted by WCBC cost code or Bac transfer.

Remittance enclosed: £.....or  
WCBC cost code.....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**Ty Mawr Country  
Park,  
Cae Gwilym Lane,  
Cefn Mawr,  
Wrexham.  
LL14 3PE**

Or

**Alyn Waters Country Park,  
Mold Road,  
Gwersyllt,  
Wrexham.  
LL11 4AG**

If you have any further enquiries about your visit or Wrexham Countryside Service do not hesitate to ring the Rangers on **01978 822780**(Ty Mawr) or **01978 763140**(Alyn Waters)

We look forward to your visit!





## Goodie bag order form

At Ty Mawr Country Park, Nant Mill and Alyn Waters we have a small gift shop, selling sweets, pop, ice cream and novelty items.

We are able to provide small gifts for the children to take home from as little as 40p.

We can make up goodie bags if required to the value of £2.00 or £2.50, see below for contents.

School			Date
	How many	Total Price	Comments
Gift bags £2.00			
Gift bags £2.50			
Small Ice lollies 60p			
Other Price.....			
Total			

Please return this form with your booking form at least 2 weeks prior to your visit.

# Habitats/Mini-beasts

**Activity:** Habitats

**Available at:** All sites

**Age Group:** Foundation phase

**Duration of programme:** 1.5hrs - 2 hrs or extend to a full day

**Relevant to: Science- Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

During the day the following will be covered through a variety of activities and games.

The whole activity encourages the children to find out about different plants and animals in their environment.

## **Introduction: What is a mini-beast?**

Introduction to mini-beasts and camouflage through a simple game.

## **Activity:**

The children will carry out a mini-beast hunt and have a close look at a number of different mini-beasts.

They will look at the features of the creatures and discuss how these creatures could be grouped.

This activity will be followed by games to enhance and consolidate the information and knowledge they have gained.

If you would like to make your trip into a whole day see the adjoining sheet for suggested activities that compliment this activity.

## Habitats KS2

**Activity:** Habitats

**Age Group:** Key Stage 2

**Available at:** All Sites

**Duration of programme:** 1.5hrs - 2 hrs or extend to a full day

**Relevant to:** Science- Interdependence of organisms

**Introduction:** What is a habitat?

Introduction to habitats through a discussion

**Activity: Observing the variety of plants and animals found in different habitats**

The children will:

- carry out a mini-beast hunt in two different habitats.
- Be introduced to habitats through simple games
- Have a close look at a number of different mini-beasts.
- study the features of the creatures and discuss if different things were found in each habitat and how these creatures could be grouped and identified by using a key.

**Activity:** Food chains show feeding relationships in an ecosystem and nearly all food chains start with a green plant. The children will take part in a simple game to demonstrate food chains.

If you would like to make your trip into a whole day see the adjoining sheet for suggested activities that compliment this activity.

## Habitats complimentary activities

These are suggested activities to compliment the Habitats - programme and can be used to complete a full day programme.

**Clay models** make a clay mini-beast to take back to school

**Woodland beasts** make giant clay bugs in the mini-beast woods (great messy fun!)

**Mini-beast Masks** encourages the children to think about the creatures found in the morning in more detail

**Habitats Collage** create artwork for a display back at school

**River dipping (Ks2)** investigate a different habitat

**Bug homes or hotels!** spoil your new mini-beast friends

**Fun with words** create a soundscape of words or poetry

**Environmental art attack** Outdoor art using natural materials.

Other activities may be available at the site you are to visit and should be discussed with the Rangers at that site.

## Plants and growing

**Activity:** Plants and growing

**Available at:** All sites

**Age Group:** Foundation phase

**Duration of programme:** 1.5hrs - 2 hrs or extend to a full day

**Relevant to:** Knowledge and Understanding of the World

**Introduction:** What is a plant? Introduction to plants and the things they need to make them grow.

**Activity:** Plants in the Country Parks. We will go for a walk in the park and through a number of games and activities explore:

The effects of light/dark on plants  
Variety, colour, shape and texture

**Activity:** Build a tree

By all enacting different roles within a tree the children learn through play the function of the roots, bark, xylem, leaves etc.

If you would like to make your trip into a whole day see the adjoining sheet for suggested activities that compliment this activity.

# Plants and Growing

## Complimentary activities

These are suggested activities to compliment the Plants and Growing programme and can be used to complete a full day programme.

**Seed planting** to take back to school to grow on

**Flower Masks**

**Re-cycled plastic bottle flowers** a beautiful re-use of bottles

**Collage** create artwork for a display back at school

**Big Flowers** make tissue flowers to take back to school

**Leaf Printing and Bark Rubbing**

**Fun with words** create a soundscape of words or poetry

**Environmental art attack** outdoor art using natural materials.

Other activities may be available at the site you are to visit and should be discussed with the Rangers at that site.

## River Study

**Available At:** Ty Mawr Country Park  
Nant Mill Visitor Centre  
Alyn Waters Country Park

**Age Group:** Older foundation phase and KS2

**Duration:** 1½ and 2 hours or extend to a full day.

**Relevant To: Geography – Understanding places, environments and processes**

This activity gives children first hand experience of seeing river features and process of erosion and deposition.

**Introduction:** Recap on the water cycle.

**Activity 1:** Using maps find the source mouth of the river.

**Activity 2:** Walk looking at the river features.

**Activity 3:** Meandering, erosion, carrying capacity and deposition.

**Activity 4:** Using fruit (biodegradable) and a stopwatch we will measure the speeds of the water flow at different points.

If you would like to extend your visit to a full day's visit please refer the river studies complimentary activities sheet.

# River Studies Complimentary Activities

These are suggested activities to compliment the River Study and can be used to complete a full day's programme.

**River of words** create a soundscape of words or poetry

**Environmental art attack** outdoor art using natural materials.

**Pebble painting** create colourful reminders of the visit.

**River Collage** create artwork for a display back at school

**Water cycle** draw a picture re-enforcing the morning's ideas.

Other activities may be available at the site you are to visit and should be discussed with the Rangers at that site.



## River / Pond dipping

**Activity:** River and Pond dipping (habitat study)

**Available at:** Ty Mawr Country Park, Nant Mill Visitors Centre, and Alyn Waters Country Park (dependant on River conditions)

**Age Group:** Older Foundation phase and Ks2

**Duration of programme:** Approx. 1½ - 2 Hours or extend to a full day. See below

**Relevant to:** Foundation phase: **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

Keystage 2: **Interdependence of organisms**

The whole activity encourages children to look at the environment and find out about different animals in the river/pond habitat.

- A strong emphasis is placed on health and safety during this activity.
- Children should wear wellingtons for this activity

Children are encouraged to reflect on their surroundings before the practical activity begins.

**Activity:** Pond/river dipping.

The children will catch water mini beasts using nets. They will look at the features of the creatures, and record them using simple record sheets. The water quality can also be checked according to indicator species.

If you would like to extend your visit to a full day please see the attached sheet suggesting complimentary activities.

# River/Pond Dipping

## Complimentary Activities

These are suggested activities to compliment the Pond/River dipping activity and can be used to complete a full day's programme.

**River of words** create a soundscape of words or poetry

**Clay models** make a clay mini-beast to take back to school

**Pebble painting** create colourful reminders of the visit

**River/Pond Collage** create artwork for a display back at school

**Mask making** become a river bug!

Other activities may be available at the site you are to visit and should be discussed with the Rangers at that site.

## Farm Walk

**Activity:** Farm Walk

**Available at:** Ty Mawr Country Park only.

**Age Group:** Foundation phase/KS2

**Duration of programme:** Approx. 1.5- 2hs(with complimentary activities)

**Relevant to:** Foundation phase: **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

Children can begin to understand about food, and where it comes from.

The whole activity gives the children a simple introduction to the farm and farm animals.

**Introduction:** What is your favourite food and where does it come from? An introduction to the farm through simple question and answer sessions.

**Activity:** Animals can be grouped according to observable similarities and differences.

The children will walk around and feed the farm animals. They can look at their features and, using a simple tick sheet discusses how they can be grouped.

**Complimentary activities:** Approx. 20 minutes each.

**Tractor Ride** The session can be completed by a ride on our purpose built tractor trailer.

**Simple Craft** The children can make a souvenir sheep card using real fleece. (Gluing and sticking activity, no use of scissors needed)

If you would like to extend your visit to a whole day please see the adjoining sheet for activities to compliment this programme.

# Farm Walk Complimentary Activities

**These are suggested activities to compliment the Farm Walk and can be used to complete a full days programme.**

**Animal masks** become your favourite animal.

**Spinning, weaving or felt making** using our own sheep's fleece. (Ks2) *When available.*

**Farm Collage** create artwork for a display back at school

**Fun with words create** a soundscape of words or poetry

**Environmental art attack** outdoor art using natural materials.

**Simple cards** using real sheep's fleece

Other activities may be available at the site you are to visit and should be discussed with the Rangers at that site.

# Spring Walk

**Activity:** Spring Walk

**Available at:** All the Country Parks.

**Age Group:** Foundation phase

**Duration of programme:** Approx. 1½ Hours

**Relevant to: Knowledge and Understanding of the World.**

*Identify the effects the different seasons have on some animals and plants.*

The whole activity encourages children to look for signs of spring.

Through a series of outdoor activities and games the children will observe and collect signs of spring, build a nest, consider the importance of camouflage and look at colour in the spring environment.

If you would like to extend your visit to a whole day please see the adjoining sheet for activities to compliment this programme.

# Spring Walk Complimentary Activities

These are suggested activities to compliment the Spring Walk and can be used to complete a full days programme.

**Animal masks** become a spring animal or bird.

**Seed planting** to take back to school to grow on.

**Journey sticks** make a decorative reminder of your journey around the park.

**Sticky Crowns** collect leaves and petals to be the king or queen of the parks!

**Nest building** using willow and other materials an extension of the morning activity to take back to the school.

**Spring collage** to be taken back to school with the children.

Other activities may be available at the site you are to visit and should be discussed with the Rangers at that site.

# Autumn Walk

**Available at:** All the Country Parks.

**Age Group:** Foundation phase

**Duration of programme:** Approx. 1½ Hours

**Relevant to:** Knowledge and Understanding of the World.  
*identify the effects the different seasons have on some animals and plants.*

The activity encourages children to observe and consider autumn and nature's preparations for winter.

Through a series of outdoor activities and games the children will observe and collect signs of autumn.

If you would like to extend your visit to a whole day please see the adjoining sheet for activities to compliment this programme.

# Autumn Walk Complimentary Activities

**These are suggested activities to compliment the Autumn Walk and can be used to complete a full day's programme.**

**Camouflage masks** using natural decorations found during the morning's session.

**Planting seeds** to take back to school with you and grow on.

**Autumn collage** to make and take back to school

**Leaf printing** using leaves and paint to make natural images

**Leafy bookmarkers** make a laminated leaf book marker

**Leafy place mats** make a laminated leaf place mat

**Environmental art attack** outdoor art using natural materials

Other activities may be available at the site you are to visit and should be discussed with the rangers at that site.



## Forest schools/ Woodland fun

**Activity:** Forest school/Woodland fun

**Available at:** All the Country Parks.

**Age Group:** Foundation phase and KS2

**Duration of programme:** Approx. 2 Hours

The whole activity encourages children to gain confidence, work together and have fun in an outdoor setting.

Through a series of outdoor activities and games the children will become aware of health and safety, and learn about the textures, smells and habitats and the fun to be had in woodland!

If you would like to extend your visit to a whole day there is a range of art and craft activities to compliment this programme. Ask the ranger for details.

# Orienteering/Map reading

**Available at:** All the Country Parks.

**Age Group:** KS2

**Duration of programme:** Full day

**Relevant to:**

**Physical education** *Adventurous activities/Competitive activities*

**Geography** *Locating places, environments and patterns*

**Introduction:**

What is a map and what is it used for? An introduction to maps and their uses.

**Activity 1:** Introductory activities and games teaching the pupils to use simple maps and learn basic map reading skills.

**Activity 2:** Group/individual exercises to encourage pupils to gain confidence in their abilities.

**Activity 3:** Using the skills they have gained during the morning sessions the children will (in groups) do the purpose built orienteering course at Alyn Waters or follow a map trail around the park.