



## 'LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM'

Environmental and Field Studies  
Primary and Secondary Schools



Engage & Inspire Every Child in Every Subject





# About Us and Our Ethos

Green Park Outdoors is managed by Buckinghamshire County Council's Outdoor Education Unit and is located at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, approximately 5 miles east of Aylesbury. The picturesque parkland and woodland was once the 19th century home of Sir Anthony de Rothschild, and although the manor house has long since gone, many of the landscape features, including an arboretum, remain. The site's natural environment has now been developed to provide environmental/field study activities together with a wide range of outdoor adventure and conferencing facilities.

At Green Park we are committed to:



*Raising the profile and importance of 'learning outside the classroom'.*

*Providing high quality, exciting outdoor education for every child across every subject.*

*Engaging young people with the natural environment and sustainability issues.*



*Enabling class teachers to make outdoor learning integral to their curriculum.*

*Providing young people with the knowledge and motivation to challenge and change the way we live.*



***'.....every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances'***

Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto DCSF



## What to Expect from Green Park

### Every Subject

We believe every subject is enhanced through 'out of the classroom learning'. We offer activities in, History, English, Maths, Drama, Art, Geography, Science, Music, RE, Citizenship and PSHE. Our activities also support Healthy schools, Growing schools, Sustainable schools, the Every Child Matters agenda and also develop creativity across the curriculum.

### 'Hands On' Learning

Our active approach to learning encourages the pupils to be 'doing and discovering' in context.

### Inspiring Teachers

We only employ fully qualified, highly experienced teachers or experts who are dedicated to enthusing and motivating pupils to 'discover and learn'. Teaching groups are kept small, between 15-22 pupils.

### Beautiful, Safe Environment

Your pupils' safety is our top priority. The self-contained 80 acre site is closed to the public and there are a variety of environments to explore including, woodland, parkland, chalk streams, a composting area and a canal.

### Excellent Facilities

Our authentic Yurt provides a truly unique teaching base with its wood burning stove creating a magical atmosphere and enabling visits all year round. The site has a wide range of outdoor adventure facilities, residential blocks, a campsite, seminar rooms as an indoor base, a sports hall and a swimming pool plus a large, modern restaurant.

### Complete Flexibility

The duration of your visit can be anything from a 1/2 day visit to a 5 day residential. Every course is carefully planned and individually designed to meet the needs of your pupils and your curriculum.

### CPD/INSET/In-School Workshops

We offer teacher training courses at Green Park or tailor-made programmes delivered in your own setting on both 'learning outside the classroom' and sustainability issues. We also run in-school workshops for pupils across the curriculum.



# Primary Courses Across the Curriculum

## Art

The natural environment provides an inspiring stimulus for exploring colour, texture, 3-D art, observational drawing and landscape sketching. We also offer themed days on Journey Art and Victorian Artists.



## Numeracy

Numeracy detective days provide an opportunity to make numeracy relevant and exciting. We have designed activities and trails to develop skills in, counting, calculating, ordering, estimating, ratios, percentages, problem solving, handling data and measuring.

## Geography and History

For geography the safe environment enables us to develop a range of skills and knowledge for map reading, map-making, environmental issues, water, the carbon cycle and recycling. Our history trail focuses on using primary sources and art to understand Victorian life.



## Literacy

The pupils engage with the natural world through story-telling and sensory activities to develop their speaking and listening skills and to broaden their descriptive vocabulary. Journey bags and drama games encourage sequencing and the development of different writing styles from report writing to fantasy fiction.

## RE, PSHE & Citizenship

All our activities encourage the pupils to develop cooperative skills, become responsible, make informed choices and consider their role in protecting the environment.



## Science

With the diverse habitats and our creative approach, Green Park is an ideal place to investigate habitats, adaptation, food chains, life-cycles, classification & variation, green plants, micro-organisms, materials and their properties as well as recycling.

## Music

We use the environment at Green Park to explore the 'sound symphony' of the natural world. Pupils will decipher bird song and discuss the emotions and sensations felt by the wealth of sounds before creating their own instruments from natural or recycled materials.



## Primary Cross-Curricula Programmes

In addition to subject specific days we provide cross-curricula programmes. Although most will be designed and tailored to the specific requirements of your themes/topics, the list below are examples of the type of programmes you can experience.

Programme and Year Group	Activities	N/C Links
<b>'The Gruffalo'</b> Foundation - Year 2	This creative day begins with <b>story-telling</b> in the yurt followed by <b>a journey through the woodland</b> . As the children explore they will experience a range of carefully designed activities to encourage them to work together, use their senses, extend vocabulary, understand sequencing, build a story and gain knowledge of living things in the Green Park environment. The day concludes with them designing and constructing their own fictional character from the objects they collected on their journey.	Literacy Science and Art
<b>Magic Numbers</b> Foundation - Year 2	This ½ day programme follows trails through the woodland to develop number recognition, counting, simple calculations, collecting and then sorting and sequencing.	Numeracy Geography Literacy Science and Art
<b>Where do I live?</b> Year 2 - 6	This day focuses on <b>adaptation</b> in the plants and animals at Green Park. Following an investigation in the yurt on adaptation, they explore the different habitats investigating colour and variety within each area.	Science ESD Geography DT and Art
<b>Food Chain Game</b> Year 3 - 6	The <b>food chain</b> game begins by transforming each pupil into an animal and then investigating the variety of plants and animals living at Green Park and the relationship between them. The day concludes with a <b>habitat destruction</b> activity demonstrating the effect across the whole food chain.	Science ESD Geography Numeracy Literacy
<b>'The Environmental Inspectors'</b> Year 3 - 6	During the <b>Geo-Science Day</b> the pupils will carry out a mini-enquiry to assess the quality of the different environments at Green Park. After lunch a wider investigation of global environmental issues will conclude with a debate on how Green Park can improve its impact locally and globally.	Geography Science Numeracy ESD
<b>'Nature Trail'</b> Year 3 - 6	A range of <b>sensory, creative and mathematical</b> activities have been set-up along a trail to enable a deeper understanding of the natural world with a focus on plants and trees.	Art Numeracy Literacy Geography Science
<b>'Canal Walk'</b> Year 3 - 6	A walk along the canal investigating the <b>history of canals</b> . Pupils will enjoy mapping activities along the towpath and literacy activities in the <b>woodland and meadow</b> .	Music Geography Literacy History Science



# Secondary Courses Across the Curriculum

## Art

Students explore colour, light and texture in the natural environment to develop different techniques such as landscape sketching, observational drawing and 3-D art with natural materials.



## Geography

We offer opportunities for pupils to experience field study skills, carry-out enquiries, develop map skills, explore environment quality and investigate the physical features of the Chilterns.

## Science

Tailor-made science days use the diverse habitats at Green Park and Wendover Woods to focus on variation, classification, micro-organisms ecology (food webs, predator - prey relationships and adaptation) plants, photosynthesis and energy flows.



## English

Using a variety of texts inspired by the natural environment, creative writing and genre styles are explored. Tailor-made courses to stimulate coursework writing are also available.

## Performing Arts

The natural environment is used as a stimulus for creating improvised drama focusing on environmental themes. A variety of texts are used to explore conflict resolution and group dynamics.



## Mathematics

An exciting opportunity to develop mathematical language and understanding through practical tasks in the natural environment, such as measuring slope gradients and both collecting and analysing plant distribution data.

# Citizenship & Cross-Curricula Dimensions

Many of our activities promote creativity, develop critical thinking, encourage debate, explore issues of sustainability and challenge the role individuals have in both the local and global society in which we live.



## Green Park Sample Secondary Programmes

In addition to our subject specific days, which are designed to meet the requirements of your key stage 3 curricula or examination board for key stage 4 and 'A' Level, we also offer cross-curricula days and field study skill days.

Programme and Year Group	Activities	N/C Links
<b>Geo-Science Day</b> Year 7 & 8	This course provides an excellent opportunity to experience geography and science in an exciting and engaging way. Finding locations to investigate through using maps, the pupils will then develop skills in field sketching, land use recording, comparing different environments and collecting data on different organisms found in a variety of locations.	<b>Geography Science PE</b>
<b>Real Geography</b> Year 9 & 10	Ideal for year 9 making option decisions or year 10 in preparation for independent coursework later. Slope measurement, footpath erosion, field sketching, soil sampling and environmental quality surveys. Clear guidance will be given on field study techniques and how they could be used for different enquiries. There is clear progression from the year 7 geo-science day.	<b>Geography Science</b>
<b>Mathematics and Science</b> Year 7 - 10	An exciting day developing mathematical problem solving and scientific knowledge.	<b>Mathematics Science ESD</b>
<b>Geo-Maths Day</b> Year 7 - 10	Accurate to scale maps are produced using field work skills and mathematical knowledge and language.	<b>Mathematics Geography ESD</b>
<b>Sustainability Day</b> Year 7 - 11	A sustainability trail is followed where a number of local and global issues will be investigated, such as, tourism, recycling, carbon footprints, composting and sustainable practices at Green Park. Field work techniques and 'Squirrel speed dating sessions' will be used.	<b>ESD Geography Science</b>



# Outdoor Adventure Activity Programmes

In addition to environmental and field study activities, Green Park also has excellent adventure activity facilities. Our programmes for outdoor adventure are designed to compliment and support the learning process in schools and colleges. Green Park is ideally placed to provide a progression of outdoor education experiences throughout all key stages of the National Curriculum.

Every activity makes a significant contribution to developing self-confidence, independence, responsibility, trust, co-operative working, team spirit, problem-solving and leadership skills. Activities include:

**Team Challenges**



**Archery**



**Climbing**

**Abseil & Zip Wire**



**High Ropes**

**Low Ropes**

**Wheelchair Challenge Course**



**Rafting & Kayaking at the centre's swimming pool**

**Night Line**



**Mountain Biking**



**Trebuchet**



**Orienteering**



## Environmental Activities at Chiltern Study Centre

Green Park has linked with Chiltern Study Centre to enhance and broaden the range of outdoor learning courses on offer. The centre is situated in the **historic village of Ivinghoe**, which is only a few minutes by coach from Green Park. The old Victorian school building is used as a teaching base, which is only walking distance from a wealth of resources that inspire learning:

### Ivinghoe Village

This picturesque village with Medieval, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian buildings is ideal for **history investigations** and **village settlement/locality enquiries**.

### Pitstone Green Farm Museum

A wonderful museum of rural relics that are brought alive by hands-on workshops in **lace-making, washing day, artefact investigations** and visits to **reconstructed rooms** showing a Victorian kitchen, blacksmith's forge, wheel wrights and a collection of children's toys, clothes and school equipment. The visit can be linked with a literacy session at the windmill in the adjoining field.

### Ford End Watermill

A magical experience, this working watermill provides an excellent environment to investigate Forces, Mathematics, History and Geography.

The centre offers flexibility providing tailor-made courses suited to pupils from **Foundation to 'A' Level**.



## Beyond School Groups

Green Park Outdoors, with both its adventure and environmental activities, are well suited to youth groups, colleges and community groups. (Please request our team-building or adventure activities brochures)

### Continuing Personal Development-INSET & Team Away Days

The combination of conference facilities and outdoor activities makes Green Park an ideal venue for the training and development of staff teams. We also offer a range of training days for teachers and youth workers in 'Learning Outside the Classroom' techniques or tailor-made programmes in your own setting.



## Residential Information

### Accommodation

The centre has a total of 62 beds within 4 independent residential blocks of single bedded rooms. The rooms are basic, but comfortably furnished and each has a sink with hot and cold running water. One of the blocks is adapted for wheelchair users.

We provide safe secure camping - the camping area has its own toilet facilities (no showers) and a fire pit for sing-a-longs and story-telling!

If you are staying for a residential trip the following will be available to you:

- Full board packages with freshly prepared tasty meals.
- Special diets catered for.
- A base/seminar room is available for your sole use during your stay.
- Use of sports hall and swimming pool in the evening, subject to availability (a life guard will need to be hired).



## Sample Residential Programme

<b>Day 1 Adventure Activities Day</b>	Groups rotate 3 activities Archery High ropes Team challenges Evening : Sports hall for self-led team games/swimming pool
<b>Day 2 Geography and Science</b>	'The Environmental Inspectors' programme Evening: self-led scavenger hunt or 3-D art sculpture competition
<b>Day 3 Habitats Investigation</b>	Food Chain Game Afternoon 'Poetree' session beneath the Weeping Beech Evening: Story-telling in the yurt.
<b>Day 4 Chiltern Study Centre</b>	Settlement investigation in Ivinghoe Visit to Ford End Watermill or Chiltern Hills walk



'Learning Outside the Classroom'

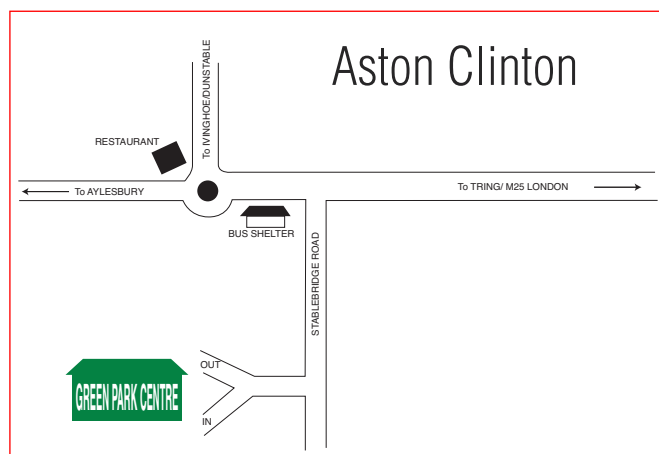
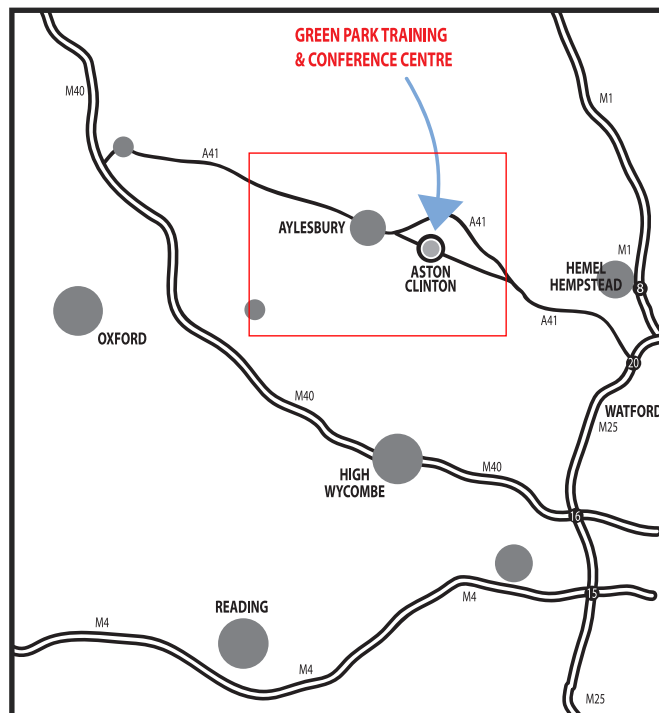
## Green Park is an Ideal Location

Centrally located in Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, approximately 5 miles east of Aylesbury just off the A41 and within easy reach of both M40 and M1.

Choosing a local facility like Green Park allows you to keep both costs and travel times to a minimum.

Buckinghamshire County Council Schools transport may be able to offer affordable mini-bus transport. For more information please contact us on 01296 633833 today.

To eliminate transport complications, some school groups arrange for children to be dropped off and collected by parents.



## For all bookings and enquiries please contact:

Green Park Outdoors, Stablebridge Rd, Aston Clinton, Bucks, HP22 5NE

Booking Tel: 01296 633 833

Course Information Tel: 01296 437 044

Fax: 01296 633 830

Email: [jgeorge@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:jgeorge@buckscc.gov.uk) Web: [www.buckscc.gov.uk/green\\_park](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/green_park)



# greenpark outdoors

## Out of the classroom



**Engage**



**Inspire**

**Discover**

**Excite**

*"It was just wonderful for our pupils to sit and listen to the sounds at Green Park"*

**Learn**

**Explore**

**Sustainable**

*"Fantastic programme - children engaged, motivated and challenged. They had a lot of fun"*

**Environment**

*"We really enjoyed our time here - a great place and so close to home"*

**Nature**



*"The activities really captured the imagination of the children and pitched just right"*

*"The pupils had to be dragged away from the nature trail to eat their lunch"*

