



the National Trust  
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a place for everyone

## Mar Lodge Estate

### Teacher's information



Mar Lodge Estate is recognised as one of the most important nature conservation landscapes in the British Isles. Set within the Cairngorms National Park, and with 15 Munros within its boundaries, it provides excellent opportunities for hill walkers. For other walkers and school groups, there are large low-lying areas with attractive woodland and riverside paths. From the Linn of Dee car park, a nearby walk offers stunning views of a scenic gorge.

The Estate occupies nearly 7% of the Cairngorms National Park. It covers in total 29,380 hectares and has some of the most remote and scenic wild land in Scotland. It also has some classic features of a Highland landscape: remnants of the ancient Caledonian pine forest, heather moorland and juniper scrub, as well as a large part of the high Cairngorm plateau. The range of habitats makes it home to a wide variety of wildlife with several species, such as the ptarmigan, dotterel and mountain hare, especially adapted to the extreme mountain conditions. Lower down many other creatures can be seen, including red deer, red squirrels, woodland birds and, high in the sky, the magnificent Golden Eagle.

The Estate is rich in the archaeological remains of old townships and shielings which tell the story of human habitation from the past.

All visits to Mar Lodge Estate will be led by NTS rangers.

#### **A school visit offers opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence:**

The Ranger Service can offer a variety of activities relating to the specific habitats of the mountain, such as woodland and scrub, burns, bogs and moorland. We also can cover wider conservation issues, or offer activities relating to archaeology. All age groups and levels are welcome. We recommend that teachers phone to discuss their requirements well in advance of the planned visit.

#### **Resources:**

- For more information about Mar Lodge, go to [www.nts.org.uk/Property/Mar-Lodge-Estate/](http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Mar-Lodge-Estate/)
- Mar Lodge Estate Activities, containing information about its landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage – pdf document available for download – go to the Mar Lodge web page: [www.nts.org.uk/Property/Mar-Lodge-Estate/](http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Mar-Lodge-Estate/)
- Mar Lodge Estate Management Plan – word document available for download – go to the Mar Lodge web page: [www.nts.org.uk/Property/Mar-Lodge-Estate/](http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Mar-Lodge-Estate/)

#### **Planning your Visit**

- To book: please contact the Mar Lodge Ranger Office to discuss your visit.
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment.
- Mar Lodge Estate is open for school visits all year round, weather conditions permitting.
- Maximum class size: 30 pupils, with a ratio of at least 1 teacher/adult helper to 10 pupils.

For more information, visit [www.nts.org.uk/Learn](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn)

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#### Planning your Visit (continued):

- Access: the estate roads on the lower ground, around the Lodge itself, are All Abilities. (These have fine views of fields, hills and the river - so pupils can get a sense of wild countryside.) There is also a short All Abilities path at the Linn of Dee viewpoint. The open hill areas are not accessible for wheelchair users.
- For Access and Additional needs, please do phone to discuss your requirements – we will do our utmost to accommodate your pupils.
- Toilets: there are fully accessible toilets at Mar Lodge, and the car park at Linn of Dee.
- Refreshments: There is no café. There are plenty of places for an outdoors picnic, and also wet weather facilities.
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers should prepare their own RA for the visit.
- Clothing: should be appropriate for outdoors. Mar Lodge is a remote, mountainous property. The weather can change quickly from warm to cold. Your pupils should have both warm and waterproof clothing and footwear. For sunny days, your pupils should have protection against hot sun – for instance, a long sleeved jacket, a sunhat or cap.
- Safety First for Outdoor Visits - to download please go to Schools/ Plan Your Visit/ Checklists at: [www.nts.org.uk/learn/downloads/checklists/Safety%20First%20for%20Outdoor%20Visits.pdf](http://www.nts.org.uk/learn/downloads/checklists/Safety%20First%20for%20Outdoor%20Visits.pdf)
- There is more information for schools on the NTS Learn website: [www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools\\_plan.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_plan.php)

#### Charges:

- There is no admission charge for schools with NTS educational membership.
- Schools without NTS educational membership will need to pay a charge – this will vary depending on the activity. Please check before booking.
- Accompanying adults are admitted free.
- All class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site.
- Membership: please apply to Mar Lodge – or go to the NTS Learn website: [www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools\\_membership.php](http://www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_membership.php)

#### During your class visit:

- All Walks are led by NTS staff
- The length of your visit will depend on the activities, and will be agreed at the time of booking.
- Large classes may be split into groups – with at least 1 teacher/adult helper with each group.
- Safety First: for a hill walk, staff carry shelters for emergency use.
- Teachers are responsible for pupils and their behaviour.
- Pupils may take photos/ films.
- There is no shop.
- On arrival, your class will be met by the Rangers, at a pre-arranged meeting place (agreed when booking your visit).

#### Getting to Mar Lodge:

- Mar Lodge is situated 3 miles west of Braemar. Ordnance Survey Reference: NO096899.
- There is a large parking area at Mar Lodge.
- PLEASE NOTE: Coaches should enter Mar Lodge Estate via the Linn of Dee and then the west drive. Coaches must not use the bridge into Mar Lodge Estate, on the road from Braemar to Mar Lodge. You will be given full travel details when booking your visit.
- There is also room to park coaches at the Linn of Dee, for the Viewpoint Walk.

#### For more information and a booking form, please contact:

Mar Lodge Estate Ranger Service, Mar Lodge, Braemar, Aberdeen & Grampian AB35 5YJ Telephone  
(Ranger Service): 0844 493 2173 Email: [marlodgeestate@nts.org.uk](mailto:marlodgeestate@nts.org.uk)