

What's on for schools



**North East
Ranger Service**

nts.org.uk/learning





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Introduction

The North East Ranger Service delivers countryside management and engagement for the National Trust for Scotland, with a focus on sharing the stories of nature at our places across North East Scotland.

Our estates offer opportunities for educational groups to learn about, experience and enjoy woodlands, ponds, meadows and the wildlife that calls them home.

Combining practical learning and knowledge with engaging and interactive activities, the North East rangers bring a wealth of expertise and passion to inspire your pupils.

Planning your visit

When joining the North East Ranger Service for your educational visit, be ready for interactive sessions with learning at their core. Our sessions take in some of the best examples of the wildlife and habitats in the local area. Led and guided by enthusiastic educators, classes can look forward to in-depth sessions with the rangers, using a variety of scientific skills and equipment. Expect your class to get hands on with nature!



Identify the topic you'd like to learn more about on your visit



Find out where this session takes place and choose the best location for you



Let us know how long you'd like to visit for – we will design sessions to fit your needs

Where to find us

The North East Ranger Service operates at National Trust for Scotland properties throughout Aberdeenshire and Angus including:

Barry Mill
Barry Village
Carnoustie
Angus
DD7 7RJ

Castle Fraser, Garden & Estate
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire
AB51 7LD

Craigievar Castle
Alford
Aberdeenshire
AB33 8JF

Crathes Castle, Garden & Estate
Banchory
Aberdeenshire
AB31 5QJ

Drum Castle, Garden & Estate
Drumoak
near Banchory
Aberdeenshire
AB31 5EY

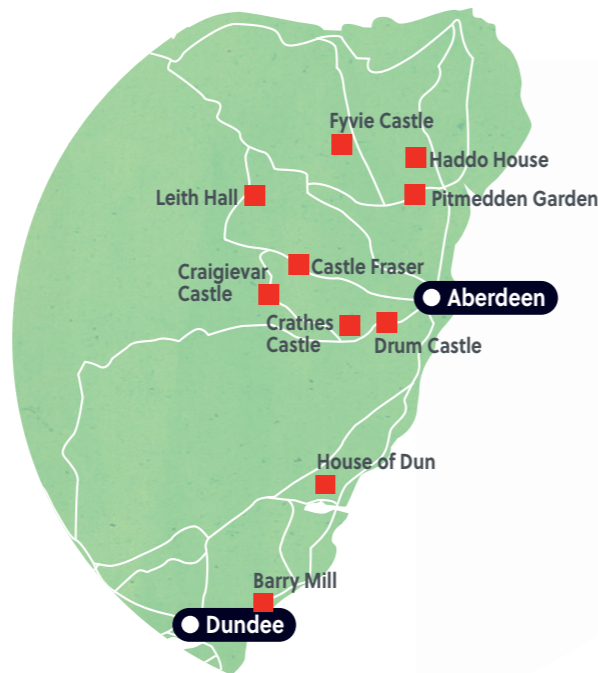
Fyvie Castle, Garden & Estate
Fyvie
Turriff
Aberdeenshire
AB53 8JS

Haddo House
Methlick
Ellon
Aberdeenshire
AB41 7NT

House of Dun
Montrose
Angus
DD10 9LQ

Leith Hall, Garden & Estate
Kennethmont
Huntly
Aberdeenshire
AB54 4NQ

Pitmedden Garden
Ellon
Aberdeenshire
AB41 7PD



Charges

£5 per pupil for ranger-led session ≥ 2 hours
£3 per pupil for ranger-led session ≤ 2 hours
Practical conservation sessions are free of charge.
Teachers and supervising adults are free of charge.



Practicalities

Booking in advance

All visits must be booked in advance. We book school sessions on a first-come, first-served basis. We advise booking with a minimum of 28 days' notice, but as much lead time as possible is recommended.

Once you have booked, you will be sent a confirmation email with pre-visit information. Please ensure you have read this prior to your visit.

How to book

To enquire about a session or to make a booking, please fill out our schools booking form, which can be found here: nts.org.uk/schoolform and email the completed document to NERangerService@nts.org.uk

Cancellations and amendments

Please let us know as far in advance as possible if there are changes to your anticipated pupil numbers, arrival time or if you will no longer be able to attend.

All of our activities take place outdoors. Inclement weather means we may have to change the plan for your visit, but we will always try to go ahead if possible. In the event that we have to cancel your visit, we will work with you to find a suitable alternative date. If this is not possible, you will be fully refunded for any pre-payment.

Parking

Barry Mill: Car park with coach access

Castle Fraser, Garden & Estate:
Car park with coach access

Craigievar Castle: Car park with coach access

Crathes Castle, Garden & Estate:
Car park with coach access and accessible parking

Drum Castle, Garden & Estate:
Car park with coach access and accessible parking

Fyvie Castle, Garden & Estate:
Car park with coach access and accessible parking

Haddo House: Car park with coach access and accessible parking

House of Dun: Car park with coach access and accessible parking

Leith Hall, Garden & Estate: Car park, but main gate limits vehicle size

Pitmedden Garden: Car park with coach access and accessible parking



Inclement weather

Outdoor learning means adapting to the elements. Unless the weather becomes a risk to safety, we will proceed with our planned sessions – rain or shine!

Suitable clothing should be worn for conditions (waterproofs and warm layers in cold weather; cool protective layers in warm weather, full trousers, hat, etc). For all outdoor activities, sturdy footwear such as walking boots or wellies are recommended.

To keep everyone safe, we may have to postpone or cancel a booking in the event of severe weather. This includes high winds (>40mph), Met Office weather warnings (Yellow, Amber or Red), extreme heat/freezing temperatures, or heavy snow/ice.

Toilets

Barry Mill: Accessible toilet outside the shop

Castle Fraser: Toilets outside walled garden and accessible toilets in castle courtyard

Craigievar Castle: Toilets in car park

Crathes Castle: Accessible toilet in café

Drum Castle: Toilets in courtyard and accessible toilet to side of castle

Fyvie Castle: Toilets in the castle and accessible toilet in walled garden

Haddo House: Accessible toilets in the house and courtyard

House of Dun: Accessible toilet in the courtyard

Leith Hall: Accessible toilet in the courtyard

Pitmedden Garden: Accessible toilet outside walled garden

Where you can eat

We will create a 'dry space' during all of our sessions to allow your pupils to leave bags and packed lunches. This space is also available to use when eating snacks and lunch. Please discuss your requirements with us when booking.

Visiting the shop

All North East properties have a gift shop available during the opening hours of the main building. Please discuss your requirements with us when booking.

Accessibility

We will make every possible effort to adapt our sessions to suit the accessibility needs of each group. Please contact us to discuss further on NERangerService@nts.org.uk

Four of our properties have accessibility guides available online for your reference.

Castle
Fraser

Crathes
Castle

House
of Dun

Fyvie
Castle



Sustainability

As advocates for nature, we design our sessions to re-use supplies and use natural materials wherever possible. While visiting our sites, please do your best to leave no trace so that we can minimise human impact on nature. Designated waste and recycling facilities are available at all of our sites.

Additional info

We suggest a ratio of 1 adult: 5 pupils (Nursery); 1 adult: 10 pupils (Primary); 1 adult: 15 pupils (Secondary). Where pupils require support on a 1:1 ratio, this adult should be included over and above these ratios.



Primary school sessions

Outdoor learning

Scurry with Squirrels

Castle Fraser, Fyvie, Pitmedden, Craigievar, Crathes, Drum and Leith Hall

North East Scotland is a stronghold for red squirrels in the UK. By taking on their role during this session, we will learn about these amazing, furry creatures and the impact they have in our local environment.

Suitable for Early Years & P1-P7

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:
SOC 0 & 1-07a | SCN 1 & 2-02a | LIT 1 & 2-02a



Take to the Sky



All NTS sites in the North East region

Flying is an evolutionary adaptation that appears in many different forms across a huge range of creatures. We will explore their diversity and ecology, focusing on birds, bats and insects. Discover the important role they play in our countryside and how their lives are intertwined.

Suitable for P1–P5

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SCN 1 & 2 -01a | SCN 1& 2 -02a | LIT 1 & 2 -02a

The Insect Kingdom

All NTS sites in the North East region

How can insects save the world? Look closely to find the little animals that provide us with so many benefits. Discover how they have evolved to have specific behaviours, and where they fit into the food web.

Suitable for P1–P7

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SCN 1-02a | SCN 2-01a | SCN 2-14a



Secondary school sessions

Outdoor learning

Beginning with Biodiversity

All NTS sites in the North East region

Biodiversity is the foundation of a healthy planet. Using survey methods, we will measure the biodiversity on our estates and discover its importance in supporting essential ecosystem services like food webs, water protection, nutrition and climatic resilience.

Suitable for S1–S4

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SCN 3-01a | SOC 3-08a | SOC 3-10a



The Secret Life of Ponds

Castle Fraser, Crathes, Drum and Barry Mill

What lies beneath the water's surface? Discover for yourself as we 'take a dip' in our ponds to look at the fascinating array of species that live in aquatic habitats. There is an unseen world to discover as we learn about the importance of aquatic species and the underwater ecosystems they support.

Suitable for P1–P7

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SOC 0-08a | SCN 1 & 2a | SCN 1 & 2-02a



Life of a Tree

All NTS sites in the North East region

Become a tree for the day! As we explore the diversity of species found in our local area, learn what it takes to be a tree and the extensive role they play in our ecosystems.

Suitable for P1–P7

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SCN 0-03a | SCN 1 & 2a | LIT 1 & 2-02a

The Evolution Challenge

All NTS sites in the North East region

Take on the Evolution Challenge by completing three different conservation tasks. We will learn that to help nature we must appreciate its beauty, sustainably use its resources, and try to record the species we have before it's too late.

Suitable for S1–S4

50–90 minutes

Curriculum for Excellence:

LIT 3-09a | SOC 3 & 4-08a | SCN 4-14c



Veterans of Drum

Available exclusively at Drum

How old are the trees in this wood? How can we tell? Learn how to read a tree and gauge its usefulness to other organisms within the ecosystem. Complete a Veteran Tree Survey in the Old Wood of Drum and discover how we can help the veterans of tomorrow.

Suitable for S1–S6

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

MNU 3-20b | SCN 3-01a | SCN 3-14a



Evaluation

We'd love you to share your experience of visiting with your class. Please complete our online survey after your visit: nts.org.uk/schoolsurvey

Visiting other Trust places

You can also arrange a visit to the indoor areas of our Trust properties in the North East. Ask the rangers to put you in touch with the relevant teams from each place.



Exploring our Outdoors

All NTS sites in the North East region

We might be used to reading books, but do you know how to read land? During this session we will explore landscape and habitat features that tell us about the land we are on, while developing skills such as navigation and tracking.

Suitable for S1–S6

Flexible duration

Curriculum for Excellence:

SOC 3 & 4-07a | LIT 3-02a | SOC 4-10a



Conservation in Action

All NTS sites in the North East region
(except Haddo House)

Join the National Trust for Scotland's North East Rangers for a day of practical conservation in the countryside at one of our beautiful estates. Tasks could include anything from removing invasive non-native species to managing dense vegetation, planting trees or monitoring wildlife. We will learn about the importance of the tasks and the overarching benefits for the ecosystem. By spending a day with the rangers, pupils will also get a glimpse into what this career entails and the skills needed to work in the countryside.

The conservation needs of our estates change with the season, so please get in touch to discuss further.

Please note that there is no charge for this session as it supports the conservation work of our charity.

Suitable for S1–S6

Flexible duration

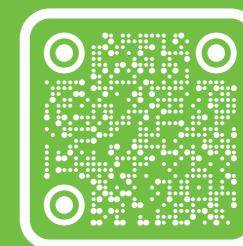
Curriculum for Excellence:

SCN 2-02a | SCN 2-02b | HWB 3 & 4-12a



Our 10-year strategy

From historic castles to natural landscapes, the special places in the National Trust for Scotland's care offer exciting opportunities to enhance learning and inspire exploration and engagement. Our 10-year strategy, launched in 2022, explains our vision to provide access and enjoyment of Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone. We are committed to being a leading provider of inspiring heritage visitor experiences, and a learning organisation championing skills to support conservation in Scotland.





**NATIONAL
TRUST *for*
SCOTLAND**

nts.org.uk/learning

The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity, SC007410