

## About Us

Activities are carried out on our 7 acre Nature Reserve consisting of wetlands, meadows and woods. Our log cabin classroom is available in bad weather, and outdoor shelters allow activities to continue during rain showers. The toilet block is now located on the Nature Reserve.

All activities are lead by our friendly, knowledgeable education team, and are aimed to give the children a 'hands-on' learning experience. The Nature Reserve is situated next to the BT Madley Communication Centre providing a unique backdrop of huge satellite dishes. The Nature Reserve also has great historical interest, including being part of the former World War 2 Madley Airfield.

## How to book

Select the activities you would like to do (each topic takes half a day) and book your visit by either phoning our Education Officer, Louise Murphy on 01981 251616 or emailing her at [louemurphy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louemurphy@hotmail.co.uk) NB Activities within topics are flexible, so call Louise to discuss a programme to suit your needs.

## Adult Ratios

Numbers of adults should be no less than 1:6 for KS1 and 1:8 for KS2. Generally, the more adults available, the more beneficial the trip is for the children.

## Costs

### Visits to MESC

Full day—£140 / class (upto 35 children)

Half day—£80 / class (upto 35 children)

A full day is up to 5hrs between 9am and 3pm.

A half day is up to 2.5hrs in either the morning (between 9 and 12am) or the afternoon (between 12 and 3pm).

### Eco-days at School

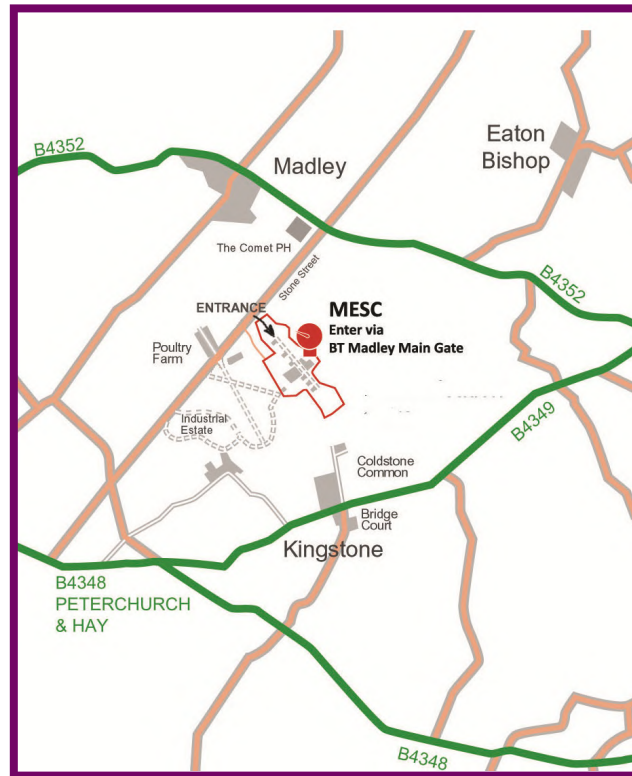
Full day—£150 + travel exp for up to 4 class sessions

Half day—£85 + travel exp for up to 2 class sessions

Eco-days can include an assembly if requested. Adult ratios do not apply, although extra bodies are useful.

## How To Find Us

MESC is less than 7 miles South West of Hereford, near the village of Madley.



## Directions from Hereford

Follow the A465 Hereford to Abergavenny road, turn right towards Madley shortly after the sign for the Belmont Golf Course. Follow the road through Clehonger until you reach the cross-roads at the Comet Inn, turn left in to Stoney Street and follow the road for about half a mile. Then take the turning on the left at the BT Madley Site entrance, and carry on up the drive to the gatehouse.

Pull up in the lay-by on the left and let the gatehouse know you've arrived.



**Madley Environmental Study Centre (MESC)**

where nature meets technology - [www.mesc.org.uk](http://www.mesc.org.uk) - charity reg. 1088379



# Wildlife Discovery

**For Key Stages 1 & 2  
At MESC**

*Enjoy curriculum based activities  
for a great day out in amazing  
surroundings*



## Pond Explorers

Pond dipping to find out what creatures live in the pond and how they interact together. Children use a simple recording sheet, differentiated for key stages.

Choose to focus on:

**Survivors**—looking at adaptations that enable animals to survive in water with the option of building their own creature from natural materials or playing the adaptation parachute game.

OR

**Dinner time**—finding out who eats who in the pond and make food chains or play the food web game. Younger children can play the dinner time parachute game.

## Mini-beast hunt

Collecting and comparing mini-beasts living on trees, under logs, in leaf litter and in the meadow, using a variety of techniques. Children use a simple recording sheet, differentiated for key stages.

The session finishes with either making a mud model of their favourite mini-beast or playing the popular woolly caterpillar camouflage game.

## Survival

Discovering what an animal needs to survive and identifying these resources in the woods, including following the wild food trail.

Younger children can play the woodcutter game and build shelters for toy animals. Older children can find out what happens if resources disappear by playing the 'shrinking habitat' parachute game or making full size woodland shelters.



## Trees of life

Identifying trees from their leaves using either a branching key (KS2) or leaf pictures (KS1).

Choose from a number of tree related games and activities such as making the 'human tree', 'meet a tree' blind fold game, tree-tops mirror walk, tree rubbing and making 'tree spirits'.

Alternatively methods of estimating tree height can be investigated or mini-beasts living on trees identified.



## Leaf Squares

Comparing meadow plants and where they grow by sampling long and short grass areas. Plant diversity is found by counting the number of different leaf shapes in the square, with one of each type of leaf being stuck onto the worksheet. Common plants can also be identified. This topic is more suited to KS2 children.

## Super Seeds (Autumn term only)

Following a seed trail, using clues to identify different seeds and work out how they are dispersed. Optional blindfold challenge to work out the seeds in buckets along a rope trail.

Combine with a sculpture using autumn leaves and seeds for colour and texture to complete the half day.



## Sensory Selections

Investigating the variety of colours, sounds, smells and textures that can be found in nature. Many activities can be chosen, including tree rubbings, colour palettes, colour match, touch collections and smelly perfumes. The 'woolly caterpillar' game or 'meet a tree' game can also be played.

## Natures Art

Exploring nature through art. The session includes creating woodland sculptures, painting using natural materials, tree tops reflection pictures, tree and leaf rubbings and observational drawings. Work of environmental artist, Andy Goldsworthy can be discussed, and used as inspiration.

## Numeracy in Nature

Following a numeracy trail through the woods to include counting, shape, addition and measuring (KS1) and multiplication, shape, measuring and estimating (KS2). Other activities include muddy meal maths, wild art shape challenge and tree measuring.

## Literacy from Nature

Creating story frames of well known or prepared tales out of natural materials in order to retell the story. Children can also create a play, story or poem inspired by woodland objects collected. Other activities include literacy scavenger hunts and woodland alliteration.

## Sustainable Living

Investigating the issues of sustainability surrounding waste, water, energy and global warming with games and activities. This topic is usually delivered at school.

