

Animals, action, adventure and engaging interactive history

ALL WEATHER ATTRACTION

Park Hall

the countryside experience

INFORMATION PACK FOR TEACHERS

This comprehensive guide will give you all the information you need to plan your visit:

The Farm

Science Zone

The Victorian School Lesson

The Iron Age Roundhouse

The Trenches Experience

Booking a trip

Health & Safety & Risk Assessment

When you arrive

Preparing pupils for a visit

Facilities

Further information



- Bring the classroom to the countryside -



www.parkhallfarm.co.uk



Park Hall Countryside Experience, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4AS

WELCOME

**Take the hassle out of planning a school trip
– just make the booking and we will do the rest.**



With a wealth of experience organising days out for groups we aim to offer the very best in out of classroom learning.

We will arrange the whole day for you, creating a timetable of activities which ensure at stress free day for teachers.

At Park Hall we are in the unique position of being able to provide not only a great range of ‘hands on’ farm activities but also excellent heritage experiences in our Victorian School, Welsh Guards Museum, Iron Age Roundhouse, and World War One Trenches. We also have a fascinating ‘hands on’ Science Illusion Zone.

The range and diversity of learning activities is comprehensive. Each activity can be booked individually or in combination. The visit will be tailored to your specific needs with a timetable of activities sent to you prior to your visit.

Rachel Mottram

Education Officer BA Hons

Out of classroom learning has so much to offer

EARLY YEARS FUN

Explore the many interactive learning experiences with animals
Lots of sensory stimulation and physical play

KS1 AND KS2 ACTIVITIES

SCIENCE:

Get involved with ‘hands on’ farm animal activities.

Discover and learn about their habitats and life-cycles

Visit the Science Illusion Zone – your eyes might deceive you!

GEOGRAPHY:

Discover the farm and its relationship to its environment.

HISTORY:

Visit the Iron Age Roundhouse to investigate daily life in Iron Age times.

Experience a lesson in the Victorian classroom to compare how schooling has changed.

Visit the World War One trenches to get a personal feel of the nature of trench warfare and follow this with a trip to the Welsh Guards Museum to discover a regiment that was founded during the First World War.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Outdoor Adventure Activities and indoor play.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Hands-on interaction with animals provides excellent tactile and sensory experiences.

Disabled access throughout the site (limited access to the granary).
Disabled facilities.





The Farm

The Farm Visit is designed for primary and pre-school groups and gives the opportunity for children to take part in hands-on activities with farmyard favourites. Each animal activity is supervised and led by a member of our education team. Your task is to get your group to each session.

Your timetable includes:

- Pony Grooming
- Rabbit Petting
- Tractor Ride
- Pig Racing
- Milk the pretend cow



Our Shetland ponies are on hand to be groomed by pupils. During this session our knowledgeable animal supervisors explain and ask questions about equine care and nutrition. By contrast the children are encouraged to lead the Heavy horses across the stable yard and chat about the use of these magnificent animals on the farm in days gone by.

Holding and petting rabbits is such a calming activity, and at the same time as stroking the rabbits children also get the opportunity to learn about the habitats, eating regimes and care of small animals.

Lamb feeding is one of the highlights in our farming year, although seasonal (February until early summer), this is one of our most popular activities.

Our dairy enterprise is an important element in the learning experience we offer. For children it is often the first time they have encountered the 'source' of milk, they can have a go at hand milking a real cow, then watch parlour milking and find out how our milk gets to the supermarket shelf.

Both the milking and lamb feeding are delivered in the form of a 'mini show' or demonstration. Everyone is encouraged to take part, whether it's getting physically involved with feeding, answering questions or making riotous animal noises! Learning is fun!

Pig racing is usually saved as a Grand Finale at the end of the school visit.



The Science Illusion Zone

The use of this fascinating illusion room can easily be incorporated into the activity schedule for the visit.

In the centre of the zone is a giant kaleidoscope that pupils can climb into and see themselves reflected over and over again in its clever mirrors.

There are also distorting mirrors, which are always a source of hilarity, but effectively show the contorted images that are produced by different shapes of mirror.

There are crazy light experiments, picture illusions and optical experiments which will leave you pondering how it all works.



DAZZLING ILLUSIONS





The Victorian School

The Victorian School Lesson is a valuable learning experience for those studying the Victorian period and changes in the past.

The Victorian School lesson can be booked as a single activity or can be combined with a farm visit. Pre-booking is essential (a minimum of 20, pupils required for a lesson, maximum capacity 55 pupils).

The lesson caters for all ages, though we recommend a minimum age of six years unless they have been well prepared for the discipline of the Victorian classroom. We have a qualified teacher to take the lesson which lasts for one hour in the classroom. Allow two hours for this activity.

Children are dressed in costumes prior to the lesson, girls wear a pinafore and bonnet and the boys a waistcoat, kerchief and cloth cap.

Pupils are then given a brief outline of the period and are given a Victorian penny to pay for the lesson. Discipline is strict, and rules are there to be rigidly followed.

The lesson covers the THREE 'R's', Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic with the odd smattering of geography and history during the Victorian period. Adding up in pounds, shillings and pence is always a challenge!

The Victorian Museum has lots of artefacts which depict both to school and home of the period. There are also four rooms which depict a sitting room, an artisan's cottage, a washhouse and a dairy of Victorian times.



The Iron Age Roundhouse

A tour of The Iron Age Roundhouse is another activity which can be booked separately or included in the farm visit.

As part of the Roundhouse activities children can dress up in tabards, paint their faces with 'blue woad', visit the roundhouse to discover how the building was made and experience what it was like to live in Iron Age times. They can grind wheat with stones at the Roundhouse.

For a small additional cost a weaver will take classes in hand weaving. Each child will have a handicraft to take home.

The Roundhouse was originally built as a representation of the type of dwelling that may have existed on the Old Oswestry Iron Age Hillfort which is close by.

The Old Oswestry Iron Age Hill Fort is a scheduled ancient monument and could easily be combined with a visit to our Iron Age Roundhouse.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-oswestry-hill-fort
<https://www.facebook.com/OldOswestryHillfort>

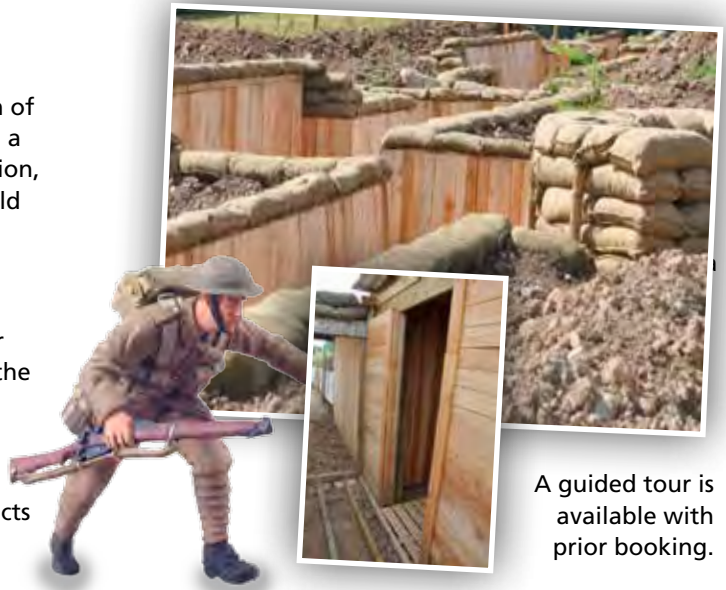


The Trenches Experience

Our 'Trenches Experience' is a large scale representation of trench systems of the First World War and beyond. Take a journey through the trenches to explore their construction, and discover the nature of a soldier's experience in World War I. The reconstruction does not aim to illustrate any particular battle during The Great War but to give perception from a soldier's viewpoint.

In addition to three types of walled trenches, i.e. timber lined, wattle walls and blanket walls, you can also visit the 'officers' HQ and first aid post. Craters replicating shell holes proliferate throughout the site and of course 'No man's land' can be found past the forward trenches.

Also discover the 'above ground' trenches used in conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan.



A guided tour is available with prior booking.

Booking a trip

For schools, the practical delivery of our education package is a major factor in the success of educational visits to the farm and the heritage activities. Each trip is precisely timetabled to meet the needs of the visiting group. Before the visit, the requirements regarding content of the visit and the practical arrangements are discussed with the teacher or group leader, a risk assessment is available and free pre visits arranged if requested.

An itinerary is emailed to the group before the visit so that they are aware of the structure of the day, for example if there are 90 children there will be six groups, each leader has a personal itinerary and the group is then ready to start when they arrive.

Each activity lasts for 15 minutes so there is no chance of anyone getting bored or losing concentration. All we ask of you is to get to each activity on time and enjoy yourselves.

The often repeated feedback from teachers is 'it's so well organised', and indeed, we take pride in getting the structure of the day just right.

The normal length of a visit during term time is 10.00am -2.00pm, or longer if you are able to stay.

Contact us

By phone 01691 671123

By email info@parkhallfarm.co.uk

By post Download a booking form and post to

Park Hall Countryside Experience, Burma Road, Oswestry SY11 4AS

Download a booking form



Health & Safety

Farm visits play an important part in the education and development of children and should be an enjoyable experience for all.

Health and Safety is a top priority for us when hosting any visit. We have excellent hand wash facilities at all animal contact areas with clear signage indicating when entering an animal contact zone and how to wash hands correctly. Our information handouts contain information regarding code of practice issues.

[Download the Code of Practice Summary](#)

[Download an extract from the Code of Practice - Advice to Teachers](#)

Schools through their teaching staff have a duty of care to their pupils, our risk assessment aims to provide information to help you assess the risks involved with a visit to Park Hall Countryside Experience.

[Download Park Hall Risk Assessment](#)

Preliminary visits to Park Hall are free to group leaders intending to bring a group to the farm. This visit enables an assessment to be made as to the suitability of the site for a school visit. The ultimate responsibility for deciding the suitability of the venue rests with the school.

Preparing pupils for a visit to Park Hall

We would advise that children wear trainers or sensible shoes for a trip to the Park Hall, wellies are only necessary if it is raining.

Please familiarise both staff and pupils with all the health and safety issues set out in the Park Hall Risk Assessment.

When you arrive

Check in at reception when you arrive.

Payment for the trip can be made at any time during the visit but if you require an invoice please give your pupil and adult numbers on arrival.

After an initial welcome and quick perusal of the timetable our Education staff and will take your group to their allotted lunch area.

We recommend the children bring their lunch boxes/bags in with them as this saves time when we stop for lunch.

Our first aid point is at reception.



Facilities

Lunch: We have a wide range of indoor seated areas for lunch, a dedicated area will be provided for each school or group

Lunch boxes: These can always be provided but pre booking is essential.

Ice Creams: These are available but pre booking is a good idea if the same ice cream is required for each child.

Tea Room: Our tea room is open for food from Easter onwards but hot drinks are available if requested.

Toilets: are located in the main building near the stable yard, a disabled toilet adjoins.

Gift Shop and Souvenir bags: Our gift shop has many affordable pocket money items, a visit to the shop can be scheduled into the day's activities. Gift/souvenir bags can be prepared at a reasonable cost.

Further information

www.farmsforschools.org.uk

www.lotc.org.uk

www.foodforlife.org.uk

www.milk.co.uk

www.farmattractions.net

Additional Downloads

[Risk Assessment](#)

[Booking Form](#)

BY ROAD: Park Hall is situated on the outskirts of Oswestry. It is just 30 minutes from Chester (A483) and 25 minutes from Shrewsbury (A5). When approaching Oswestry stay on the A483 or A5 do not turn for Oswestry Town. Take A495 off the Oswestry bypass follow Brown Signs.

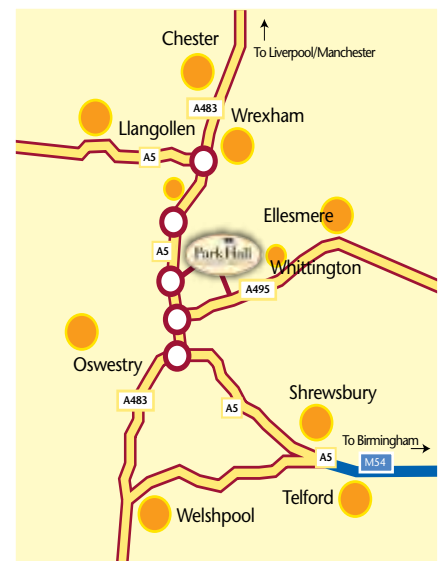
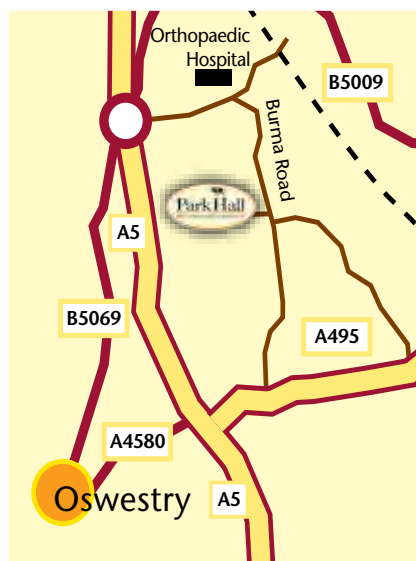
SAT NAV DIRECTIONS:

Postcode: SY11 4AS

Village: Whittington or Park Hall

Road: either Burma Road or North Road.

**OPEN ALL YEAR
ROUND FOR
SCHOOL GROUPS
(MIN 20 CHILDREN)**



The Industry Code of Practice see more:
www.farmsforschools.org.uk

Public Liability Insurance



www.parkhallfarm.co.uk



Park Hall Countryside Experience, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4AS