

Inkberrow Millennium Green

TEACHERS' INFORMATION PACK



One of the Medieval fish ponds

W. Johnson

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Birds foot trefoil

W. Johnson

SECTION 1: Pre-Visit Information

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in visiting Inkberrow Millennium Green. We hope that the experience will give your pupils inspiration and information.

The visit allows pupils to experience outdoor activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and to see for themselves how conservation and environmental stewardship work.

This pack will help you to prepare a successful programme tailored to suit the needs of your group.

The Farming Landscape

Farming has created the landscape that we see today. It is the hedges and walls that divide fields that give the landscape its pattern, along with areas of trees and the colours of different crops. By carrying out activities such as cutting hedges and planting trees, farmers and countryside managers are helping to look after much of the wildlife in the countryside.

Farming is the age-old practice of producing crops and livestock for food, fuel and fibre. The origins of human civilisation are closely linked to the development of farming when primitive hunter gatherers were gradually replaced by farmers producing the first domesticated plants and animals.

Modern agriculture is a highly competitive global industry. The UK produces 70% of the food we eat, the rest coming from other parts of the world. It is the first link in a sophisticated chain to prepare and process our food before we buy it in the shops. How the land is managed depends on individual circumstances such as location, weather conditions, size of the holding, history of the area and market forces.

Nowadays leisure activities and environmental schemes often form part of land management. Natural England provides advice and funding through Stewardship Schemes to encourage farmers and land managers to follow farming methods that enhance the landscape, encourage wildlife, protect resources, archaeological and historical features, and improve opportunities for enjoying the countryside by providing access. By conserving our countryside in this way we also play our part in the international agreement to maintain the natural diversity of animals and plants throughout the world.



Sheep grazing

W. Johnson

Inkberrow Millennium Green Information

Location: Church Hill
Inkberrow
Worcestershire

Contact details:

Contact person: Mrs Wendy Johnson

Contact address: Applecross
Worcester Road
Inkberrow
Worcester

Post code: WR7 4ET

Tel no: 01386 792094

Email: wendy.johnson@care4free.net

Booking a visit:

In the first instance, please telephone or email. Visits are free but you will need to organise and pay for transport. I will send a confirmation letter if required once a date has been agreed.

Cancellation arrangements:

If you are unable to carry out your visit, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make alternative arrangements.

How to get here:

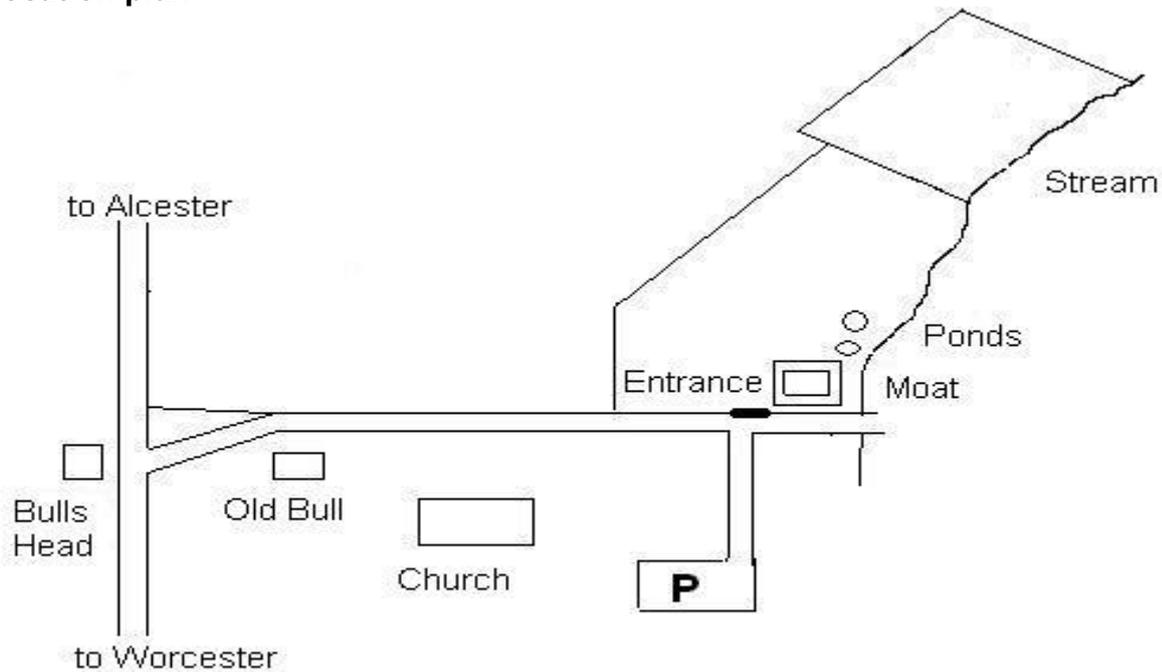
Grid reference: SP 017573

OS Map: Landranger 150

Worcester, The Malverns and surrounding area

Directions:

Inkberrow is situated on the A422 between Worcester and Alcester. From the middle of the village take the side road opposite the Bulls Head past the small green, the Old Bull and the Church and continue down the steep hill. At the bottom of the hill the entrance to the Millennium Green is on the left and parking is about 100m along the track to the right (also car park for Church).



On arrival:

Mini buses or one coach can be left in the car park where visiting parties will be met by Wendy Johnson or another trustee of Inkberrow Millennium Green.

Facilities:

The site is probably best suited to half day visits. There are no on-site facilities for toilets, hand-washing or shelter (possibility of gazebo tent) but it is close to the centre of the village. We recommend that teachers carry antiseptic hand wash / wipes and sterile water as well as a first aid kit. For longer / full day visits it may be possible to arrange for the use of toilets at one of the village halls. If your visit is planned to last for a full day, each group member will need to provide their own refreshments and a packed lunch. There are picnic tables and seats in the first field. Bags (but not valuables) can be left at the picnic tables and these should act as a meeting point in an emergency or if anyone gets lost – though on this small site it is very unlikely. There is wheelchair access to the first field where many of the activities will take place.



Picnic tables

W. Johnson

The visit:

You will be met in the car park by one of the Trustees or Volunteers for Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust and taken to the entrance where an introduction to the site and safety procedures will be given. Children may then work in smaller groups carrying out activities such as pond dipping and bug hunting, following a nature trail, studying the vegetation or learning about the history and archaeology of the site. The management of the Green under Higher Level Stewardship will be explained / discussed at a level appropriate to the age of the children. The exact programme will be arranged with the teacher when the visit is booked. It is emphasised to all teaching staff and leaders, that whilst the Inkberrow Millennium Green leader is responsible for the agreed activities on the site, the behaviour and discipline of the group remains the responsibility of the teaching staff or group leader.

Leader Qualifications

Inkberrow Millennium Green is run by Trustees helped by Volunteers and Advisers. They are all local people with knowledge of the site and area. They include retired biology and geography teachers and a school assistant. Wendy Johnson has experience of helping to set up and working with the education programmes at Worcester Wildlife Trust.

Evaluation Form:

This visit is provided free of charge. In order for us to be able to claim a payment as part of our *Environmental Stewardship Agreement* we require that you complete an evaluation form which we will provide. Please take a few moments to complete this form after the visit and hand it to us before you leave. Additional feedback regarding the visit is also appreciated. Thank you.

Complaints procedure

If you have any complaints regarding your visit please inform us so that we are able to improve our service. You may also write to:

ISS Environmental Stewardship Permissive Access Team
Natural England Cambridge
Eastbrook
Shaftsbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DR

Section 2: The Countryside Classroom

The countryside offers an invaluable teaching resource. Outdoor education can help educational attainment and give children greater awareness, knowledge of, and confidence in, the natural environment. Benefits include a greater depth of understanding and improved learning across all curriculum subjects and a more powerful grasp of environmental issues. The visit can be used to teach all aspects of the curriculum through learning about farming and the countryside. We hope that this information pack will give you ideas to inspire your pupils and get the most out of your visit.



Ridge and furrow

W. Johnson

Links to the National Curriculum

Giving children their first contact with nature can start a lifelong interest. Educational visits to farms and nature conservation areas can link to the curriculum and improve pupils' confidence, self-esteem and learning skills.

At Key Stage 1 the visit can widen the pupils' first-hand experience in a whole range of visual, tactile and other sensory situations. Within this are the important messages of the life cycle and seasonal change. There is a wealth of opportunity for language development and literacy skills.

At Key Stage 2 the visit can stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity. It also satisfies their curiosity as they begin to apply their knowledge and understanding of ideas. Pupils can consider the site visit as a good example of an environment affected by human activity, think about attitudes to farming and conservation, the rural environment and the conflicts of interest that arise. They talk about their work and its significance and communicate their ideas using a wide range of language.

At Key Stage 3 many different subject requirements can be satisfied. For example in history, the adaptation of farming methods over the centuries can offer first-hand evidence of social and technological changes. This readily promotes the skills of handling and assessing. Pupils can investigate and debate a wide range of complex issues and begin to understand the environmental, social and economic implications.

At Key Stage 4 and above visits can be used to deliver examination subjects both academic (particularly science, geography and history) and vocational. Contact with farmers and countryside managers will help to focus on the real life application of skills within the workplace, engaging pupils with contemporary issues and focusing on their role as users and consumers.

Section 3: On the Millennium Green

Things to remember when visiting the countryside

Risk assessment

We advise a pre-visit to our site, during which you can carry out a risk assessment and become familiar with the site. Any specific requirements or needs of the visiting group can be discussed. A copy of the Millennium Green general risk assessment is available on request and one for general school and children's group visits is included with this pack.

Clothing

Ensure staff and pupils wear appropriate outdoor clothing, including sturdy shoes or wellingtons, not sandals. Remember sun protection in hot weather and waterproofs in case of rain.

Behaviour

Teachers / group leaders are responsible for the children's behaviour throughout the visit. The children should understand how to behave in the countryside and always follow the Countryside Code)

The Countryside Code

[Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs](#)

[Leave gates and property as you find them](#)

[Protect plants and animals and take your litter home](#)

[Keep dogs under close control](#)

[Consider other people](#)

http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_know/countryside_code

Health & safety

We comply with Health and Safety Regulations. However it is important that all pupils and supervising adults are aware of the correct Health and Safety guidelines.

The risk of infection is very small, but disease caused by an infection could be serious. By following simple guidelines, similar to everyday basic hygiene recommendations, the risk can be easily minimised.

The Health & Safety Executive has produced guidelines, HSE sheet AIS23 – Avoiding ill health at open farms – Advice to farmers. The supplement to AIS23 advises teachers and others who organise farm visits on controlling the risk of infection from animals which the pupils may have contact with during their visit.

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans, causing ill health. Some, such as the bacterium *Escherichia coli* O157 (*E coli* O157) cause infections which can potentially cause disease, which may be particularly acute in young pupils.

While the hazard from infection resulting from a farm visit is real, the risk can be readily controlled by following sensible steps which will help make your visit safe, healthy and enjoyable.

- read and understand the advice in AIS23, and discuss visit arrangements with the farm management. Assure yourself that the facilities provided match the recommendations in AIS23
- decide what the ratio of pupils to teachers/assistants/parents should be, using advice from your local authority. As a general rule, the ratio of supervisors to pupils should be 1:1 for pupils under 1 year old, 1:2 for pupils between 1 and 2 years old, 1:3 for pupils between 2 and 3 years old, 1:4 for pupils between 3 and 5 years old, and 1:8 for those between 5 and 8 years old. If supervision levels are less than this, you should not allow direct contact with any animal for pupils under eight. The ratio of supervisors for pupils between 9 and 11 years old should be 1:10-15, and 1:15-20 for pupils from 12 years old and above. These are examples only and group leaders should assess the risks and consider an appropriate safe supervision level for their particular group.
- discuss with the supervisors, who may be parents or staff of the school, creche, etc. their role during the visit. They must understand the need to make sure that pupils wash, or are helped to wash, their hands thoroughly after contact with animals, and follow the other rules suggested below.
- discuss with pupils the rules for the visit, stressing that they must not eat or chew outside the areas in which you permit them to do so.
- check that cuts, grazes, etc. on pupil's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.

If a member of your group shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their parent/guardian to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals.

Further information:

Copies of the AIS23 information sheet and supplement and other useful Health and Safety leaflets are available free from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA

Tel: 01787 881165

Fax: 01787 313995

Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk

Health & safety

SECTION 4: The Millennium Green Site

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On Inkberrow Millennium Green (IMG) you can enjoy a variety of habitats. There are two fields of permanent pasture covering an area of 3.45ha. The grassland on the slopes is a typical remnant of the Mid Worcestershire flower rich grassland with plants such as knapweed, lady's bedstraw, bird's foot trefoil, cowslip and scabious. The best of this grassland is on the steeper slopes. There are large old anthills in the grassland where green woodpeckers feed. There is a small colony of marbled white butterflies as well as more common species.

The northern field is grazed by sheep supplied by a local 'hobby farmer' between July and March. Grazing by rabbits also has a significant impact in places! The southern field is cut after mid July, when the wildflowers in the grassland have set seed, and the hay is removed – some being raked up by hand by volunteers.

In the south east corner are a moat and two ponds. Much of this area, including the moat island, is covered by a copse with native trees including ash, oak, field maple, sycamore and yew. There are bluebells, primroses and wood anemones in the ground flora. Hazel stools coppiced in the past are being re-coppiced in rotation. The ponds have good water quality supporting a variety of wildlife including breeding common frogs, newt and dragonflies.

There are excellent views from the top of the bank at the Millennium seat.



Looking south across the Site

R. Talboys

The moat and fish ponds in the south east corner of the site form a Scheduled Monument (31941). They are of Medieval origin as is the ridge and furrow found over much of the site and formed by ploughing hundreds of years ago (see the interpretation board by the pond).

The 1840 Tithe Map shows that the southern field was then two fields; the part above the moat was described as 'Hill' and the area above and beyond the second pond as 'Brick Kiln Piece' – probably where a temporary kiln was set up to make bricks for local use. The second field was named 'The Dells' in the Tithe award and later known as 'The Dingles' – both terms meaning deep hollows. On the Inclosure Award of 1817 this field was still part of the Open Field called 'Churchway Field'. The 'Hill' is described as 'the Close including the walk and ponds' in 1817 and seems to have been part of the old vicarage grounds.

The site has been permanent pasture 'in living memory' and it was grazed by cattle and somewhat neglected in 1990s. Since 2000 it has been under the management of IMG Trust.



Boardwalk round the moat

R. Talboys

Soil:

The soils are mainly clayey loams, with pH between 6 and 7.5 and low N, P, K nutrient status, overlying Arden sandstone and clay. This suits the lowland wildflower grassland characteristic of the site. No fertiliser has been spread during the last ten years and probably not for many years before that.

Landscape:

There are moderate east and south east facing slopes running down to flatter areas by the ponds and the stream which forms the eastern boundary of the site. This aspect means that the site is quite warm and sheltered. There is a wet flush resulting from a spring in the northern field with rushes, figwort, water cress and brooklime. In other areas of this field there are patches of bramble and hawthorn scrub and nettles. Some old local varieties of apple, pear and plum trees have been planted.

The hedges are of native species - the one between the two fields dominated by hawthorn; the one by the road is an old mixed hedge. A length of new hedge with ten local native species has been planted and in the north west corner of the site is a short stretch of suckering blackthorn hedge.

Who looks after the Site:

The Millennium Green was created using funds from Inkberrow Parish Council and the National Lottery. It was opened officially in June 2000. It has been supported by Inkberrow

Parish Council, The Millennium Commission, English Heritage, The Countryside Agency, Worcestershire County Council and Aqua Vitae 21.

It is administered by the Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust and managed mainly by the Trustees, Advisors and Volunteers. There are regular Sunday morning work parties and much conservation work is done by hand. Contractors are employed to cut the grass and for other heavier tasks as required.



Trustees Site meeting

R. Talboys

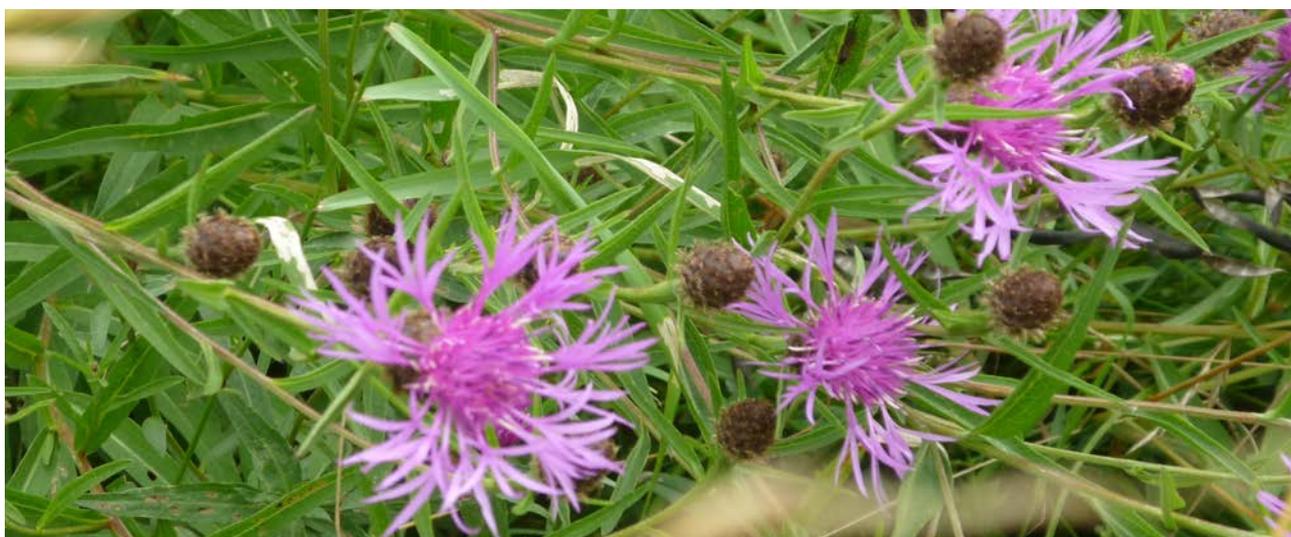
We aim to manage the Millennium Green to sustain, restore and enhance a variety of habitats with ecological and social benefits for the Inkberrow community.

Involvement under Environmental Stewardship Scheme:

IMG has recently gained Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) which is administered by Natural England. In exchange for payments we have to manage the site to conserve and enhance wildlife, history, landscape and access. In particular we manage the grassland so as to restore it all to the good quality wildflower grassland typical of this part of Worcestershire. This management also preserves the ridge and furrow and we look after the Medieval moat and fishponds to prevent deterioration and further encroachment of scrub. Hedges are being restored with some laid, and hazel is coppiced. We have a grant for educational access (hence this document) as we are able to offer educational activities on site for children of all ages.

Special designations:

The site is designated a Special Wildlife Site for its wildflower grassland - MG5 type - with crested dog's tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), and ladies bedstraw (*Galium verum*). It also lies within the Village Conservation Area.



Knapweed

W. Johnson

Encouraging wildlife:

Well over 30 species of birds have been recorded including all the common garden birds, buzzards, kestrels, sparrow hawks, peregrines, and ravens. Mallards and moorhen nest on the moat island and tits nest in some of the nest boxes. The most interesting and special bird breeding on the site is the green woodpecker which feeds on ants from the large anthills on the grassy slopes.

A number of mammals are regularly seen – there are always squirrels around the moat and rabbits in both fields, plus less frequently foxes, badgers, field voles, roe deer and muntjac.

About 20 species of butterflies have been recorded including the usual garden species such as peacocks and red admiral, but perhaps the best of all are the marbled whites which live on this type of grassland. There are also many insects in the grass and the ponds – good for bug hunting and pond dipping. The site also supports a good variety of fungus.

SECTION 5:

What Inkberrow Millennium Green has to Offer

Areas available for field work:

The whole of this small site can be used for pupil activities (except the moat island which is not accessible). Activities can be adapted to suit the age of the pupils and needs of National Curriculum from KS1 to A level. Whatever activity is undertaken we will explain to the children / young people how and why we look after the Millennium Green.

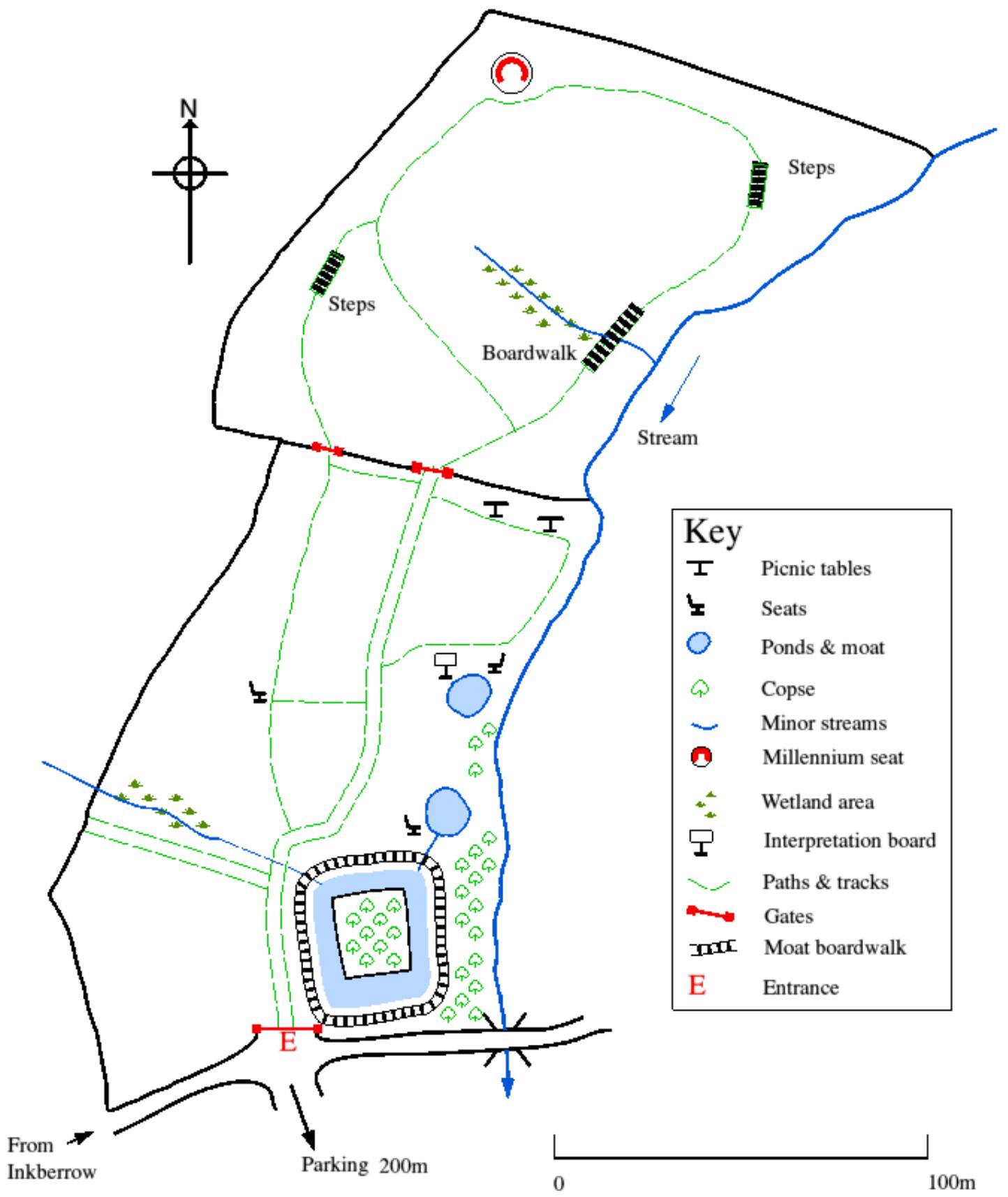
The table shows the types of habitats that may be used for study and some suggested activities linked to them. We can also provide conducted tours and set up nature trails. We are happy to work with teachers / group leaders to develop and provide activities suited to their requirements.

| Habitat | Primary / junior | Secondary |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Species rich grassland | bug hunting, identification of plants and insects, use of keys | quadrat studies, line transects, management techniques, HLS |
| Ponds and stream | pond dipping and life cycle studies, use of keys | Compare pond and stream fauna |
| Copse | bug hunting, tree and flower identification | quadrat studies, line transects, woodland structure, management techniques |
| Hedges | identify native shrubs, | identify native shrubs, pros and cons of hedge dating |
| Historic and archaeological features | Medieval farming | |
| Soils | how they are formed / make a soil | soil and hydrology - transects down slope, soil compaction on footpaths |

Equipment

We are gradually building up a supply of equipment such as nets but it may be helpful if you bring any that you have. Please discuss when booking.

Inkberrow Millennium Green



| Key | |
|-----|----------------------|
| | Picnic tables |
| | Seats |
| | Ponds & moat |
| | Copse |
| | Minor streams |
| | Millennium seat |
| | Wetland area |
| | Interpretation board |
| | Paths & tracks |
| | Gates |
| | Moat boardwalk |
| | Entrance |