

SWANSEA SUSTAINABILITY TRAIL: EDUCATION RESOURCE



Tandem Tour 2: Gower Inspiration (KS2/3)

Visit two exemplar projects to explore biodiversity and/or sustainable building. **Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve** demonstrates how a site can be effectively managed for wildlife and people. The neighbouring **Down to Earth Project** is a showcase for sustainable living.

Curriculum Links

Swansea Sustainability Trail offers a wide range of learning opportunities linked to the NCW Programmes of Study and associated frameworks. Links particularly relevant to these projects include:

Science: KS2/3 – interdependence of organisms (contrasting local environments, interdependence)

Geography: KS2/3 – understanding places, environments and processes (features, change)

Design and Technology: KS2/3 – rigid and flexible materials; resistant materials; sustainability

Personal and Social Education: KS2/3 – sustainable development and global citizenship

Project Overviews

Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve: The limestone woodland provides a great setting for environmental education, with good pathways, trails and an impressive roundhouse constructed from local materials. The nearby Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre is the base for the reserve warden and Forest School staff who regularly use the reserve and the contrasting nearby seashore habitats for a range of educational activities.

Web: www.swansea.gov.uk/bishopswood

Tel: 01792 361703

Down to Earth Project: The project site exhibits a range of sustainability features including traditional cob buildings, renewable energy sources, organic gardening and farming, rainwater harvesting and sustainable waste management techniques.

Web: www.downtoearthproject.org.uk

Tel: 01792 232439

Practical Information

Bishop's Wood LNR is an open site but groups should make contact with the warden before visiting. Much of the site is accessible but some footpaths involve steep steps and slopes. Parking is available adjacent to the countryside centre and between the beach and reserve. Toilets are available in the Centre and by the beach car park. Down to Earth is based on a closed site and can only be visited by prior arrangement. Parking, toilets and indoor classroom facilities are available. Both projects have education staff and offer a wide range of educational activities and workshops, often free-of-charge.

Tour Alternatives

Other Trail Projects: The nearby Gower Wildflower Café showcases local wildflowers through interpretation boards and demonstration habitats. The Café demonstrates various sustainable building techniques including a native wildflower roof, rainwater harvesting and ground source energy.

Off the Trail: Oxwich National Nature Reserve, further along the coast, offers a wide range of interesting habitats and impressive wildlife to explore in another example of a well-managed reserve.

For more information on Swansea Sustainability Trail and the projects mentioned above visit the website www.sustainableswansea.net/sustainability-trail.html

Sustainable Swansea may be able to contribute to transport costs and accompany a tour.