

Macclesfield Forest

Site Information



To be read in conjunction with Education Visits or Engagement Events risk assessment

Site Name: Macclesfield Forest – Main Site

Site details: Macclesfield Forest: used for Primary School visits, and Family events and activities (for Primary “River Study” and “Mountain Environment” programmes, see separate Site Information Sheet).

Meeting point: Macclesfield Forest Classroom

NB The Forest Classroom is situated within the private grounds of the United Utilities Forest Office. As this is a working yard, groups should stay close to the Forest Classroom and be aware of moving vehicles within the wider yard.

Many of our activities take place nearer to Trentabank Ranger Centre, further up the road.

Forest Classroom:

Grid ref: SJ 9603 7124. **Nearest Postcode:** SK11 0NS **What 3 Words:** coach.emeralds.format

Trentabank Ranger Centre: Grid ref: SJ 9616 7115. **What 3 Words:** submitted.surely.hungry

Mobile phone signal – Poor

(mobile phone reception is patchy and should be considered unreliable within the Forest)

Nearest landlines: Forest Classroom; United Utilities Forest Office; Trentabank Ranger Centre

Nearest A + E: Macclesfield District General Hospital (Victoria Road, Macclesfield SK10 3BL)

Nearest minor injury unit: as above.

Nearest PDNP office/base: Trentabank Ranger Centre. Tel: 01260 252 832

All PDNP leaders have more emergency contact details of other colleagues/centres etc on laminated cards on their rucksack.

General Description of site

Macclesfield Forest is a 1000-acre mixed conifer and deciduous woodland, in hilly terrain, surrounding two large reservoirs. The Forest Classroom is in the heart of the Forest, and provides shelter and toilet facilities. Most of our activities take place within the adjacent Arboretum, and the nearby picnic area and private Education Area. Some activities for KS2 children may use the wider network of paths within the Forest. All areas can be muddy, but the Arboretum and public Picnic Area are fairly flat and are generally accessible to wheelchair users.

The Education Area is mixed woodland, fenced off and not accessible to the general public. Within the Education Area the path is steeper and rougher and disabled access is limited to all-terrain wheelchairs. It contains a wildlife pond (fenced off), a designated minibeast-hunting area, and a woodland seating area.

Car/Coach Parking

There is ample parking for coaches and cars adjacent to the Forest Classroom, reserved for use by groups using the classroom. Detailed instructions on the best route to Macclesfield Forest by coach are sent with your booking information. It is very important to follow these instructions to avoid the coach getting stuck on steep narrow lanes. *(Don't follow the sat nav!)*

Lunchtime Information

Groups are able to eat lunch in the classroom, though in good weather, there is the option to picnic in the Arboretum. Picnic benches are available for staff, and large tarps can be provided as “picnic blankets” for children. Hands may be washed at the Forest Classroom toilet facilities. All litter must be taken home as we have no bin collection facilities.

Toilet facilities

Toilets are available in the Forest Classroom, including an accessible toilet. If needed, additional public toilets are available at Trentabank Ranger Centre, including an accessible toilet.

Distance/timing between important site locations

From the Forest Classroom, Trentabank Ranger Centre is a 200m slight uphill walk through the Arboretum, and then across a minor road. The public Picnic area is adjacent to the Ranger Centre. Access to the private Education Area is through the Picnic area. It is a further 150m uphill walk to the top of the Education Area.



Forest Classroom
Parking area for coaches here



Forest Classroom interior
(seating 60 pupils & 10 staff)



Public Picnic Area
(used for activities)



Lunchtime picnic spot, Arboretum



Woodland seating area within
Private Education Area



Wildlife Pond

Specific Advice / Information

PDNP leaders are provided with and must wear PPE including: Waterproof clothing (when appropriate); Walking boots/shoes.

School / other groups are advised (when booking) to bring warm and waterproof clothing, and outdoor footwear for their visit. We advise wearing long trousers (rather than skirts or shorts) due to long grass and brambles/nettles on site. Wellingtons are advisable if there has been any rain in the week preceding the visit. Spare shoes can be left in the Forest Classroom until the end of the day.

In the summer months, there may be midges; staff and participants may wish to apply insect repellent before visiting.

Site Information written by & date: Frances Arnott 11/9/20

Reviewed by and date:

