



# LEARNING & *Discovery at* WILDER DODDINGTON



*We want everyone to feel inspired by nature and to be curious about how nature connects to our health and the health of the planet.*

▲ Shelter building in the woodland

## *Wilder Doddington* OUR VISION

Wilder Doddington is an innovative 400-year project to rewild, bringing nature back to the estate.

We believe that everyone, young and old, should have the opportunity to discover and connect with nature. We know that regular connection to nature has positive effects on health and wellbeing and is vital to encourage people to take action to help wildlife and the environment.

Our learning programmes allow people to do this while they explore our developing landscape. Wilder Doddington offers a range of visits tailored to each school or group's particular needs.

Our primary programme seeks to inspire and create opportunities for awe and wonder, building confidence and self-esteem alongside curriculum-based learning.

A Level programmes cover topics across ecology and geography, making full use of the resources at Wilder Doddington including its skilled team and partners.

Alternative Provision programmes support individualised learner development by engaging students in activities in the transforming landscape.

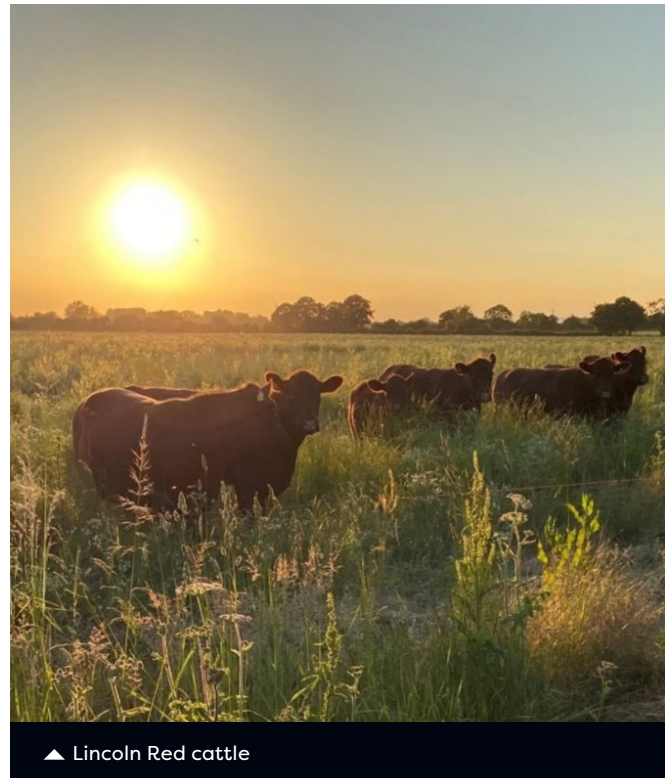
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:  
[DODDINGTONHALL.COM/WILDER/LEARNING](http://DODDINGTONHALL.COM/WILDER/LEARNING)

GET IN TOUCH: [WILDER@DODDINGTONHALL.COM](mailto:WILDER@DODDINGTONHALL.COM)





## *Wilder Horizons* ALTERNATIVE OUTDOOR PROVISION



▲ Lincoln Red cattle

At Wilder Doddington we understand that there are lots of different ways of learning and developing skills.

Every child is an individual and has different life experiences, abilities and social and emotional needs. For some children, school works well, but many find it a difficult environment in which to learn.

Wilder Horizons provides an 'out of the box' learning environment for people to develop. Delivered across a variety of settings at Wilder Doddington, opportunities are provided for learners to develop personal, social and academic skills, based on the individual's needs and targets. We use a trauma-informed approach and nature-connectedness pathways to guide our work. We work flexibly with students and recognise that their learning journey is as individual as they are.

We recommend at least an initial six-week Wilder Horizons programme to show learners that we are committed to them and that building a relationship is valuable.

### What we offer

- 1 or 2 days per child per week
- 1:1 or group sessions available
- Staff who love working with learners, especially outdoors
- Opportunities to develop skills, confidence and self-belief
- A focus on bushcraft, practical conservation, nature and wellbeing
- Instil a sense of ownership and achievement through building relationships
- Open communication between Wilder Doddington, pupils, parents, schools, local authorities (as appropriate) and others
- Programme content and length are tailored to individual needs.

# Example PROGRAMME OFFER

This example of a six-week programme shows how we provide structure and familiarity within a safe learning environment.



▲ Outdoor learning 1:1

Each session builds on the last and we work at the pace of each individual. We know that life happens and sometimes the plan we made last week doesn't fit, so we will adapt ideas to suit the learner's needs on that day. As we are mostly outside, we also have the weather to consider.

## Session Outline

- 10am: Arrive at meeting point, met by a Wilder Horizons team member
- Settling in
- Activity sessions with breaks
- Lunch
- Activity sessions with breaks
- Depart 2-2.30pm

Timings are a guideline and will be adapted based on transport to and from Wilder Doddington. Transport is not included.

## Activities may include:

- Natural art
- Woodwork, construction and crafts, including tool use
- Nature observation
- Practical conservation
- Fire lighting, shelter building and bushcraft skills



## Session One

- Introduce the outdoor setting, group rules and safety
- Build trust in each other, for example between the Wilder Horizons team and learner or group
- Use nature to support emotional check-ins

## Session Two

- Learn how to build different types of shelter
- Develop cooperation and planning
- Practise calming activities in built shelters

## Session Three

- Learn about fire safety and responsibility
- Explore fire lighting techniques
- Promote focus and patience

## Session Four

- Build motor skills and focus through tool use
- Reinforce safety and cook on a fire
- Create a small personal bushcraft item

## Session Five

- Increase awareness of and connection to the natural world
- Explore the idea of rewilding
- Build observation and patience skills

## Session Six

- Celebrate skills gained throughout the sessions
- Encourage reflection and pride
- Reinforce positive relationships with staff and peers and support future planning

# Our APPROACH

We understand that supporting a learner involves a collaborative approach which may include schools, parents and Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) packages.

To ensure that Wilder Horizons provides the right support for the learner, we provide regular feedback and evaluation and develop open communication networks with everyone involved, including the learner. This allows us to share achievements, progress and challenges in relation to individual learner goals.

Our staff and volunteers are committed to providing the right environment for each learner we support. Where possible, those working with learners will remain the same throughout their journey with us. All our staff and volunteers go through safer recruitment checks, including enhanced DBS checks and annual safeguarding refresher training. More information about our safer working practices can be found on our [website](#).

We want every learner to thrive as part of Wilder Horizons, but we also understand that being outdoors in all weathers is not for everyone. As part of any enquiry and consultation, we will consider whether we believe the learner will benefit from the opportunities we can provide.



▲ Wild House

## COSTS

The level of support required and whether learners are accompanied to sessions will affect our group rates.

1:1 session: £240 + VAT per person, per session

Groups (maximum of 8 students) vary depending on size and staffing.

If you wish to refer a child, please complete [this form](#) or email us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[WILDER@DODDINGTONHALL.COM](mailto:WILDER@DODDINGTONHALL.COM)





# Nature-based Learning AT WILDER DODDINGTON



▲ Grasshopper

Wilder Doddington is packed with a huge diversity of wildlife across its 1,900 acres. The site is grazed by a range of livestock including Lincoln Red cattle, Mangalitza and Tamworth pigs and Exmoor ponies.

This is a unique opportunity to engage students in a changing landscape that is managed with nature in mind, whilst still producing food and creating lots of employment opportunities that support the local social landscape.

We can adapt the delivery according to learning level and can explore increasingly complex concepts of land use. These include healthy soils (physical, biological and chemical), sustainability, food production, food self-sufficiency (we produce high quality nature-friendly forage-fed beef, venison and pork), economics, climate adaptation, and water management for flood and drought resilience. In addition, we use these topics as a backdrop for multiple academic subjects from sciences through history, physical and human geography to art and journalism.

Our focus is on nature connection and wellbeing as well as meeting curriculum requirements. We offer a range of visits tailored to each school and group's particular needs.

**Young Wildlings**, our Primary programme seeks to inspire and create awe, delivering learning and at the same time helping to build confidence and self-esteem.

**Wild Learning**, our Secondary programmes provide greater in-depth study, particularly those targeted at A Level courses. These make full use of Wilder Doddington's wide range of physical resources and our skilled team of experts.

**Wilder Horizons**, our Alternative Provision (AP) programme, is developed alongside learners and schools. At Doddington we understand its bespoke nature and our outdoor environment provides a safe, welcoming space where learners can experience a more holistic approach to learning. We can provide customised courses that help learners to build confidence, skills and aspirations.

The **Wild House**, our state-of-the-art learning and engagement facility, includes two large classrooms, a lab, offices and a volunteer hub. At the heart of the estate in its own dedicated space, it has been designed to Passivhaus Premium standards. This means it is highly efficient and generates more energy than it uses.

# *The Wilder* LEARNING TEAM

Our learning delivery team has a wealth of experience, with team members having previously worked in outdoor learning, heritage and culture, food production, academic research and lecturing, community engagement, wildlife conservation and reserve management.

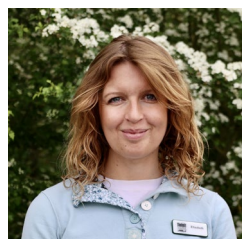


## ROSIE MOLTON

*Education Delivery Lead &  
Designated Safeguarding Lead*

Rosie facilitates sessions for groups and individuals of all ages. With over 10 years' experience in outdoor learning, predominantly with the Field Studies Council, Rosie has a wealth of experience delivering sessions to schools, colleges and SEND students both inside and outside the classroom.

She also leads the learning team, ensuring sessions are shaped to meet participants' needs and help young people connect with nature, engage with rewilding and experience the wider environment first-hand.



## ELIZABETH DUCKWORTH

*Education Delivery Officer*

Elizabeth moved into the outdoor delivery of nature-based learning programmes after eight years of teaching across KS3, GCSE and A Level. She has experience supporting learners with additional needs and those within alternative provision, adapting the National Curriculum into hands-on, sensory experiences.

At Wilder Doddington, Elizabeth delivers the Wilder Connections programme, helping students connect with nature, engage first-hand with nature recovery and experience the wider environment in a meaningful way.



## MEGAN WING

*Alternative Provision  
Support Officer*

Megan has experience working with SEND individuals in mainstream settings as a SENDCO and has a love of sport and the outdoors. At Wilder Doddington, she works with specific learners outdoors and values the fact that working with SEND individuals is unique every day. She is starting an Educational Psychology PhD in September.



## TAILORED SUPPORT

*Freelance staff  
& Consultants*

To support individuals as effectively as possible, we aim to match learners with members of the Wilder Horizons team so they can build positive working relationships and thrive. Alongside our full-time delivery team, we also work with freelance staff and consultants.