

Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme



**New opportunities for Schools
in the Brecks**

‘Beastly Brecks’

Delivery Partner: Forest Heath District Council

Key Stage: 2 (Science and Local History)

Bring the Brecks to life with this touring show about the cultural and natural heritage of the area.

Based upon the ‘Horrible Histories’ format this touring play will bring an interactive drama into schools for key stage 2 pupils. Facts about the Brecks landscape, wildlife, history and people will be brought to life in a humorous and colourful way to complement the national curriculum.

There will be pre and post show activities and discussions to re-enforce the learning objectives within the play as well as associated resources for teaching staff. The project also aims to part write a second episode to be completed and performed by the pupils as a lasting legacy.



‘The Brecks Uncovered’

Delivery Partner: Norfolk and Suffolk Wildlife Trusts

Key Stage: 1-4

Get involved in an innovative programme of learning, training and enthusing teachers and pupils about their local Breckland environment.

This project focuses on primary schools in the Brecks and covers a different approach in each of their three years of delivery:

Year 1 –The project begins with a schools-based day of activities. Children will be introduced to the wonder and beauty of their local natural habitat and landscape through outdoor, hands on activities. This will enable pupils to gain knowledge about the importance of the biodiversity and heritage of the local area, and encourage teachers to continue using the outdoor Breckland environment to cover aspects of their curriculum.

Year 2 – Working with the same primary schools, the project moves onto exploring biodiversity, history, geology, archaeology and culture at a Wildlife Trust reserve or centre in the Brecks (e.g. Knettishall Heath; Lackford Lakes). There will also be a twilight session offered to teachers.

Year 3 – Primary schools will be re-visited to continue to develop learning in their local wild place. This will be through encouraging discussion, ownership, celebration, working with the local community and forming ideas to take forward on their own.



Seed Collecting (NWT)

‘Breaking New Grounds in the School Grounds’

Delivery Partner: Green Light Trust

Key Stage: All

Increase the biodiversity within your school grounds and engage with the heritage and nature of the Brecks.

Five schools have the unique opportunity to bring the features of the Brecks into their school grounds. In doing so, you will create outdoor learning opportunities and enhance your schools connection with the wider landscape. Each school involved in the project will get the chance to create:

- A Tree nursery (to share with community projects)
- A Bee and butterfly garden
- A piece of Brecks heathland
- A ‘Pingo’ style pond

The project includes site visits to collect local tree seeds. There is also an optional link to the Pine Lines and Pine connections project, which will be restoring and planting new Pines lines in the area.

Additional twilight training sessions are available to staff in tree seed propagation and forest school delivery.



'Pine Lines and Pine Connections'

Delivery Partner: Farm Conservation

Key Stage: All

Be a part of something special by restoring and creating the magical Pine Lines of the Brecks.

Pine lines are a unique character of the Brecks, originally planted as hedges in the early 1800s to prevent the loss of the sandy soil, they are now old and gnarly features of the landscape standing proud along roadsides and field margins.

This projects aims to restore 8km of existing Pine Lines and create a further 2km of new lines to ensure this Breckland character lives on. The aim is to engage with schools and arrange 6 planting days so that children can get hands on with the creation of this special feature. There will also be the scope to use the trees propagated by schools, in the 'Breaking New Ground in the School Grounds' project, giving children the chance to experience the process of creating the Pine Lines from the beginning giving a real sense of ownership to the schools involved.

This project also links into the 'Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow project and gives schools the chance to look at the unique wildlife which depends on the Pine Lines. This shows how important the restoration and creation project is not just in terms of local heritage but as an important ecological feature with a story to tell.



Pines Lines (Nick Ford)

‘Wings over the Brecks’

Delivery Partner: Forestry Commission, RSPB, Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Key Stage: All

A privileged view into the secret lives of some of our most elusive Breckland species

This exciting project aims to connect the local community, including school groups, with some of the most distinctive bird species of the Brecks through a series of ‘nest cams’ installed in the forests and heaths. The images will be shown in visitor centres in the area with skilled volunteers to interpret and engage. A ‘self-guided’ pack will be developed for visiting school groups so they can access this fantastic resource to aid learning and understanding of the natural world.



Hobbies in the nest (Forestry Commission)

‘Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow - learning how to record wildlife in the Brecks’

Delivery Partner: Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service

Key Stage: Adaptable to all Key Stages

We can help you and your pupils find out more about what plants and animals live in and around your school - you may be surprised what you find!

Our project aims to increase local communities’ knowledge and understanding of wildlife; provide volunteers with the skills and experience necessary to investigate and record their local natural environment; and provide a set of resources and support for those interested in recording the wildlife of the Brecks.

The beginner’s aspect of our project would be suited to local schools. We would work with other projects within this leaflet, particularly ‘*Brecks Uncovered*’, to provide opportunities for your pupils to experience wildlife within the school grounds. We can provide access to equipment and resources, which can make the experience very hands on and exciting and allow children the opportunity to see how technology plays a vital role in building up this picture. We can provide guidance and support in how to monitor the changes in wildlife in your school on a long-term basis. This will help to establish an on-going story about the wildlife in and around your school. We would be more than happy to tailor the activities to the needs of your school and to the ages you teach.

This project also offers schools an exciting opportunity to become involved in the Norfolk Bat Survey, details at: <http://www.batsurvey.org/>



The projects outlined in this leaflet can all be linked to the curriculum in key subjects such as Geography and Science. There are also opportunities for cross-curricular areas such as community, the environment, taking responsibility and team working.

If you would like to be involved in one or more of the projects outlined, or have any further queries then please contact the team:

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