

Information Pack for Teachers:

Copsegrove
Farm
School

School visits to Copsegrove Farm

1) Full address and contact details:

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www.copsegrovefarm.com

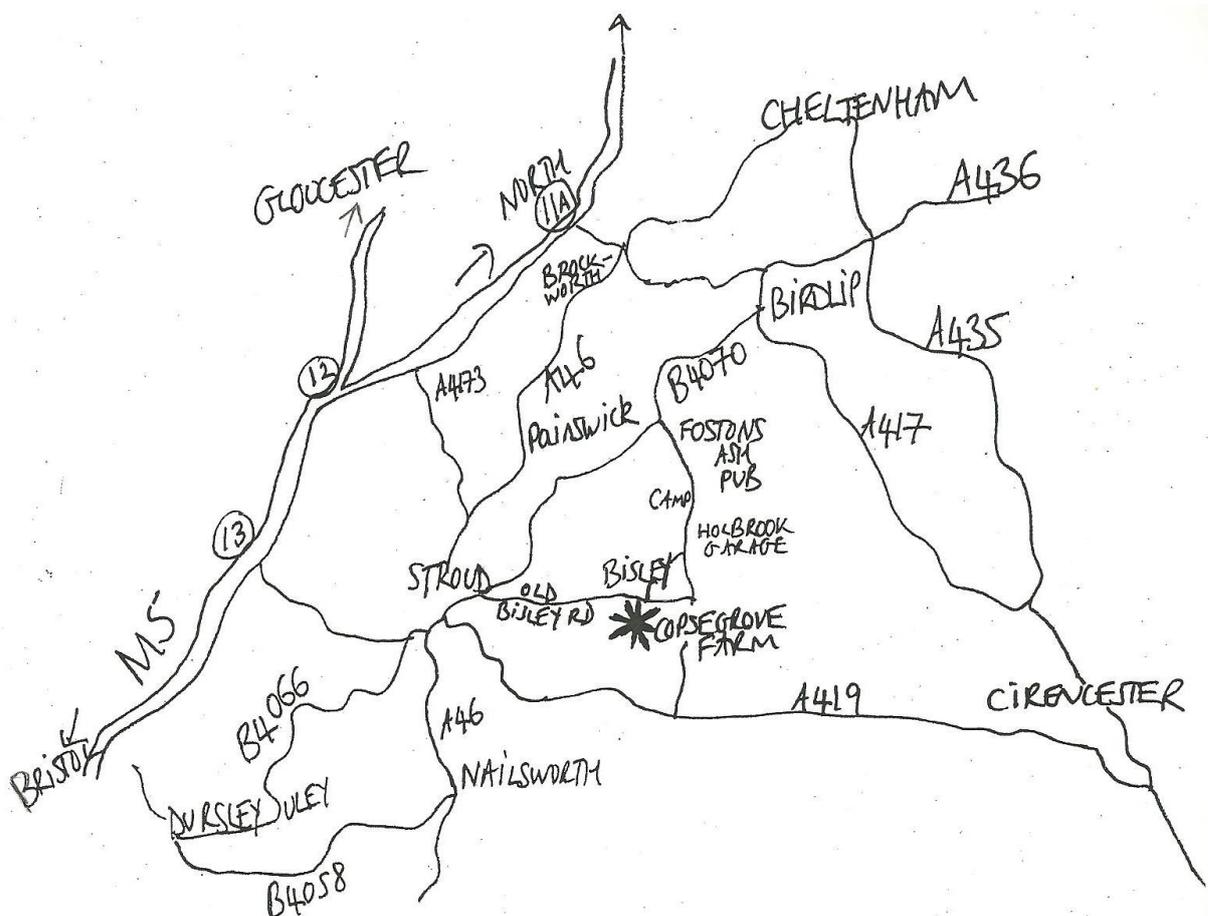
2) Directions:

From Stroud: Take the main road to Bisley out of Stroud (past the Police station and up the hill, passing Parliament Primary School on the left). Continue for 4 miles or so until you enter Bisley Village. You will see the Bear Inn on your right hand side ahead of you. Turn right BEFORE the Bear (there are 2 roads off on the right just before the Bear, but you can take either one as they eventually meet). Continue down this road, until the road bends sharply to the left. Follow the bend around, and immediately turn right after this bend. You will see a gateway on your left leading to a grassy area and two wooden sheds. Pull in here, you have arrived!

From Cirencester: Take the A419 to Stroud. Keep heading straight for Stroud through Chalford and Brimpscombe. Eventually you will meet a large roundabout with Waitrose ahead of you. Take second exit (straight on) to another roundabout. Go straight over this one. You reach another roundabout where you turn right towards Bisley. Now follow instructions above.

From Gloucester: Get to Birdlip. Take the B4070 to Stroud. Turn left at the Fostons Ash Pub, towards Camp and Birdlip. Drive through Camp, and continue until you pass Holbrook Garage and The Green Shop on your left. Take the first right after the garage. Turn left at the T junction and continue into Bisley. Follow instructions in the From Stroud section above.

Map:



3) About Copsegrove Farm:

We are a 320 acre livestock farm situated just outside the village of Bisley, a few miles from Stroud. We have a pedigree herd of Welsh Black and Highland Cattle, keep Gloucester Old Spot pigs and a few sheep, and sell our meat produce locally.

We farm extensively and in an environmentally friendly way, maintaining and conserving the many different habitats we have on the farm, thereby encouraging the natural wildlife.

4) School visits to the farm:

We have been successfully hosting school visits for nearly ten years. We offer a day out for children that provides them with a vastly different experience from the usual school visit.

Days are a mix of National Curriculum linked activities with a Forest School twist, with the emphasis being very much on hands on learning, and traditional old-fashioned fun.

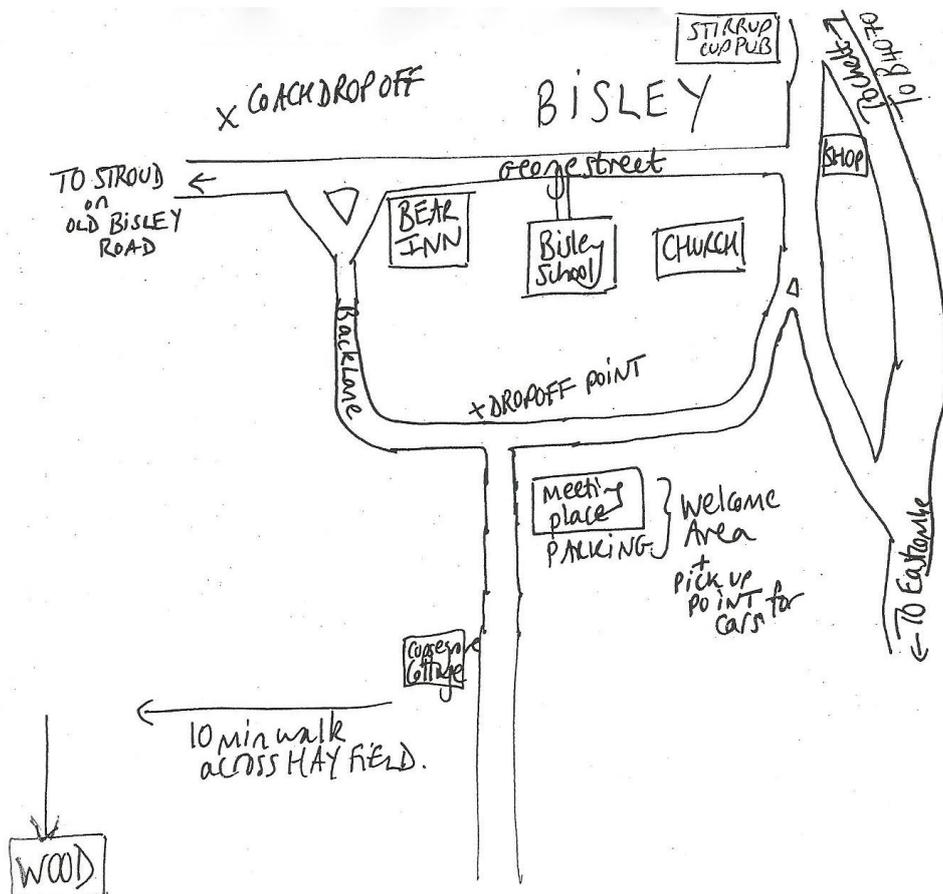
Children are given the opportunity to spend time in the great outdoors doing a variety of different activities, whilst also enjoying the pleasures of a camp fire and the toasted marshmallows that go with it.

A typical day looks like:

Session 1	Welcome and introduction to the farm. Brainstorm and discussions on farms, their role in food production, and the importance of local food (food miles etc). Copsegrove Farm as a meat producer. 10 min walk past highland cattle, and through the hay. Arrive at a 5 acre wood on the farm.
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- Session 2 Safety in the wood, loos with views, time to explore!- focused exploring on a set challenge.
- Snack Toasted marshmallows around the fire.
- Session 3 Activities - see our Website for a huge menu of tried and tested activities.
- Lunch Packed lunches around the fire.
- Session 4 Activities.
- Snack Cooking scone twists in the fire.
- Best bits of the day around the fire.
- Walk back to pick up point.

5) Map of farm, showing arrival and welcome area, and location of wood:



6) Facilities are basic:

Arrival and Welcome area:

Space for car parking/ minibus. Buses to drop off at corner of Back Lane, in Bisley, a short walk from farm entrance.

Rustic shelter.

Composting loos and hand washing.

Wood:

Two composting loos (with rather spectacular views)

Handwashing using plastic bowls, warm water from flasks and copious amounts of anti-bac soap.

In our experience, children relish the opportunity to use our “loo with a view”, and the basic facilities only add to the spirit of the whole day.

7) Cost of trip:

Some funding may be available from Natural England to limit costs for schools to just transport - please ask Kate for details!

Otherwise, approximately £5.50 to £9 per child per visit, which covers insurance, snacks around the fire, and other materials used during the day if around 30 children. (Costs may be more if class size is very small - please discuss).

8) Health and Safety:

a) Health:

It is essential that all children visiting the farm are in good health on the day of the trip due to the nature of the day itself, and the relatively remote location of the wood in which we spend the majority of our time. It would be advisable not to bring any child who is not feeling 100% in any way.

b) Dress:

Children need to arrive at the farm **suitably dressed** and equipped for the day.

Footwear needs to be sturdy and comfortable - wellies with comfortable thick socks are great.

Clothes need to be old, long trousers and long sleeved t -shirts are a good idea to minimise stings from nettles.

Waterproof coats and trousers are a must, and if not worn at the start of the day, need to be brought and carried in a rucksack or other suitable bag.

A sunhat and sunscreen are a good idea. A full water bottle and a packed lunch are also required.

Should teachers have selected the **den building activity**, an old pair of gardening gloves/gloves would be a handy thing for children to bring if they had them.

c) Risk Assessment:

We provide a full risk assessment on our Website for you to use, which is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Please ensure that all adults accompanying children on a visit to the farm have seen a copy of the document and are familiar with its contents.

d) In Case of Emergency:

You can also download from our Website a copy of our “In case of emergency” document which gives the procedure to follow should an emergency in the wood arise.

Once again, please ensure that all adults accompanying children on the visit have a copy of this document on the day of the visit, and are familiar with its contents prior to the visit.

e) First aid:

Kate Bankes has a certificate in paediatric first aid, and provides a first aid kit for use in the wood.

It would however be advisable to have an additional school first aider in the party together with a school first aid kit.

It would be advisable to be aware of any hay fever sufferers prior to the visit in order to carry any necessary medication required to alleviate symptoms should they arise during the day.

In addition, prior knowledge of allergies to wasp/bee stings is essential, together with prior permission given by parents to administer anthisan cream/waspeze medication in the event of a sting during the day.

f) Behaviour and Code of Conduct:

On arrival in the wood, an initial session will be run in which the wood boundaries are walked, safety rules around the fire and in the wood are discussed in detail, and expectations of behaviour are laid out.

The emphasis is very much on behaviour that keeps the individual and all those around them safe and happy. Children are encouraged to share their own thoughts and ideas about a sensible code of conduct in the wood, to help reinforce these important issues.

We would appreciate all adult helpers re-inforcing the basic safety rules outlined throughout the day to help ensure a safe and happy day is had by all.

g) Adverse weather:

There is a covered area should the weather be wet. We are keen to go ahead whatever the weather where possible, but can only reinforce the need for children to be properly equipped and suitably dressed!

Should severe weather be forecast 48- 24 hours before the day of the trip, a decision needs to be made between the school and ourselves with regard to whether or not the trip should go ahead. Gale force winds or torrential and persistent rain may warrant the trip unsafe and therefore unwise to run.

In the event of the trip being cancelled, it would be rearranged for another mutually convenient day.

9) Evaluation Form:

We would be most grateful if you could spare a minute at the end of the day to complete the evaluation form provided on our website. This helps us to continually improve the experiences that we give the children during their day at Copsegrove Farm.

There is also a link on our website to the Natural England evaluation form that needs to be completed if you received funding for your school visit from Natural England.

Thank you.

Kate Bankes.

www.copsegrovefarm.com