



**The National Centre for Birds of Prey  
Duncombe Park, Helmsley YO62 5EB**

**£ 3.50 per child  
(incl. VAT)**

**SCHOOL VISITS 2022**

**Teacher's Welcome Pack**



# Why visit the National Centre for Birds of Prey of Prey?

Located within the stunning grounds of Duncombe Park, The National Centre for Birds of Prey (NCBP) is the largest collection of these magnificent creatures in the UK with over 100 birds, including eagles, vultures, falcons, hawks, and owls.

## Flying Displays

We have three flying demonstrations daily with different birds flying on each demonstration. The displays are the highlight of any visit – see these beautiful birds up close and flying free, accompanied by commentaries from our highly trained staff. We also have an indoor flying area for poor weather, so no one need ever miss out.



## Conservation

The NCBP is a world leader in the welfare and captive breeding of birds of prey. We are passionate about birds of prey and their conservation and our aim is to educate and inspire by helping people to experience these beautiful birds up close. A pack about conservation issues and threats to birds of prey is available on request.



## Education

Birds of prey hold a fascination for all ages and provide excellent subjects for studying the natural world. The threats faced by birds of prey in the wild also help to illustrate environmental issues and the need for conservation and sustainability.

Birds of prey can also be relevant to many other subjects. We can tailor your visit to cover the topics that interest you most, and also provide worksheets and fun games and craft activities for your classes.

Interested teachers are welcome to come and visit us for free, so why not come and see for yourself? Just bring this Teacher's Pack with you for free admission.

# How to find us

## Address:

National Centre for Birds of  
Prey  
Duncombe Park  
Helmsley  
North Yorkshire  
YO62 5EB

The entrance to Duncombe  
Park is in the centre of the  
pretty market town of  
Helmsley, which is about 20  
miles from the A1/A1(M),  
between Thirsk and Pickering  
on the A170.



The NCBP is located within Duncombe Park, just opposite the stately home.

## Estimated driving times:

York: 40 mins  
Middlesbrough: 1 hr  
Leeds: 1 hr 15 mins  
Sheffield: 1 hr 40 min  
Newcastle: 2 hrs  
Manchester: 2 hrs 30 mins

There is plenty of free parking at the centre, including parking for coaches.

## Contact details:

Tel: 01439 772080  
email: [info@ncbp.co.uk](mailto:info@ncbp.co.uk)  
website: [www.ncbp.co.uk](http://www.ncbp.co.uk)

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# Prices and Practical Information

## Prices (incl. VAT):

£3.50 per child (1 adult free for every 10 children, additional adults at the normal rate of £10).

Groups should be a minimum of 15 people.

## Opening hours:

10.00 am - 5.30 pm (or dusk), 7 days a week, from 15 Feb until 31 October

## Flying demonstrations:

Our flying demonstrations take place two or three times a day, whatever the weather, with demonstrations indoors on rainy days.

We structure our demonstrations to showcase a range of birds and their different adaptations and flying styles. Each flying demonstration throughout the day features different birds.

Visiting classes will see at least one of these demonstrations, and we're sure they will be the highlight of your day!

## Flying times:

Summer (March 24th until October 31st): 11.30 am 2.00 pm 4.15 pm

Winter (15 February until March 24th): 11.30 am 2.00 pm

## Facilities:

Toilets: there are toilets (included disabled facilities) at our entrance and cafe

Picnic areas: there are many picnic areas located throughout the site

Gift shop: our shop stocks a range of toys, souvenirs, and locally handmade products

Owl House Café: Open from Easter to end of Oct. Serving hot and cold drinks, snacks, cakes and light meals.

Full disabled access throughout the site

## Map of the Centre:



# Your visit

We want you to get the most out of your day, and to enjoy yourselves! If you let us know what you would like, we will do our best to accommodate you.



We can make sure that our tours and talks cover specific subjects and are suited to different age groups.

We also have worksheets, games, and activities for different ages, including craft ideas and colouring sheets for younger children.

We can also provide feathers or owl pellets for classes to study.

## Guideline Itinerary (flexible):

10.00 am: Arrival at the Centre

10.30 am – 11.15 am: Guided tour

11.30 am: Our first flying demonstration of the day – not to be missed!

12.15 – 1.15 pm: Lunch. We recommend a packed lunch at one of our many picnic areas. There is an area that can be used for picnics on rainy days.

2.00 pm: Our second flying demonstration of the day, this time featuring different birds.

2.30pm: Time for activities or games, our free Ink Stamp Trail is always popular!

If the children wish to visit the gift shop, the best time will be as they are leaving the centre as the shop is at the entrance and exit to the centre.





## Curriculum Links

Birds of prey and owls capture the imagination in a way that no other animals do. This makes them a wonderful starting point from which to explore the natural world.

The range of birds that we have at the centre provides opportunities to explore adaptations to different habitats. The fact that birds of prey are top predators means that they make excellent subjects for studying food chains.

Birds of prey are vital environmental indicators of the health of an ecosystem. They and their natural habitats face the same threats as many other species and habitats all over the world. They can therefore be used to illustrate environmental issues of conservation and sustainability.

The mechanics of flight are a great way of demonstrating forces at work for science. History classes can look at the history of falconry, and the way attitudes to birds of prey and nature have changed

through time. The language of falconry and the representation of birds of prey in literature can be an interesting topic for English.

We think birds of prey also make great subjects for art projects.

A list of curriculum links for Key Stages 1 to 4 for all subjects is available on request.

We also have worksheets available for the different Key Stages, as well as games and colouring sheets for younger children.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for worksheets, ideas for activities, or for more information about the birds.

# Safety

It's always good to stay safe, so here are a few recommendations for your visit. Teachers and group leaders are responsible for their groups at all times and there must be enough adults to supervise the students.

## First Aid:

There are first aid kits on site, but we recommend that teachers also bring their own.

## Clothing:

Children should be dressed for the outdoors and wear comfortable footwear. Although there are indoor areas in the indoor flying area, shop, and café, we wouldn't want anyone to get cold and miserable or to have sore feet!

## Paths:

Our paths are gravel and may be uneven at times, so do take care. We have grassy areas where children can run around and visitors can have picnics, but please stick to the paths in the wooded areas.

## The Aviaries:

There are stand-off barriers around the aviaries for a reason! Please do not cross these and never put fingers into aviaries through the mesh. Some birds may bite, even if only out of curiosity. We also ask that visitors don't make excessive amounts of noise around the birds so as not to scare them. Under no circumstances should visitors ever attempt to feed the birds or to give them anything. They already have everything they need!

## Risk Assessments:

We have prepared a full risk assessment for school visits (see overleaf)

**We hope to see you soon!**

# Risk Assessments

## General Risk Assessment Form for school groups to the centre

Date: Dec 2018	Assessed by: Dr Vicki Lamb	Checked / Validated by: Charlie Heap	Location: ICBP Duncombe, Duncombe Park, Helmsley, YO62 5EB	Assessment ref SVRA 3	Review date Dec 2023
Task / premises: School Groups visiting the Centre: walking around the centre and watching flying demonstrations utilising trained birds of prey, to be flown in main arenas or specific areas.					

Activity	Hazard	Who might be harmed and how	Existing measures to control risk	Risk rating Severity x likelihood	Result
Prior to visit	Any pre-existing conditions, medical or otherwise	School staff members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School asked to notify ICBP and provide copy of their own RA</li> </ul>	3 x 2	
Moving from the coach to the entrance across the car park	Other vehicles moving or stationary in the car park	The children or accompanying adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsibility lies with accompanying teachers or adults</li> <li>Copy of their RA requested</li> </ul>	5 x 1 or 3 x 2	
Walking around the site	Tripping, bumping or falling	The children or accompanying adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial briefing to instruct teachers and children that they should not run around the centre</li> <li>No unaccompanied groups or single children</li> <li>Staff/volunteers to ensure pathways remain unobstructed whilst visitors are on site</li> <li>All centre staff and buildings have radios for direct contact with other staff and buildings</li> <li>Car park and paths regularly maintained</li> </ul>	2 x 3	
Leaving the site unobserved	Children may get lost or venture on to road	Children on visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The shop is staffed at all times</li> <li>There are no public roads close by</li> </ul>	1 x 2	
Missing person	Child lost	Child by fear or another person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff have been instructed in the procedure in these cases</li> <li>The shop is the missing person point. They are reported to the shop and return to the shop</li> <li>All staff have radios for immediate alert and contact.</li> </ul>	1 x 2	
Observing birds in outdoor 'hawk walk'	Tethered birds	Someone climbing the fence and trying to touch or grab at a bird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children instructed by Centre staff and own teachers that they should not try to touch the birds and that they must keep out of fenced off areas.</li> </ul>	3x 2	
Observing birds in aviaries	Being bitten by larger birds esp. vultures	Child/adult poking fingers through wire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stand off barriers and mesh guards are in place, and warning notices displayed.</li> <li>All aviaries are locked or padlocked</li> </ul>	3 x 2	
Watching flying displays	Seating	Public - falling from seating, catching on wooden seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular checks of seating to ensure fit for purpose</li> <li>Public reminded not to stand on seats or lean back</li> <li>All spectators asked to remain seated or still during flying displays</li> </ul>	2 x 3	
Flying birds free in the arena	The birds	People being hit or attacked by the birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birds have been trained to fly in close proximity to the public</li> <li>It is the birds that are more at risk than the public</li> <li>Public are controlled by ICBP staff</li> <li>Public remain seated during flying displays and are warned about remaining seated before each demo</li> </ul>	2 x 3	
Wheel chair users	pathways	Visitors if obstruction or uneven ground causes chair to tip and occupant to fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paths are on slopes in a few places</li> <li>Staff/volunteers to ensure pathways remain unobstructed when public on site</li> <li>Visitors verbally warned of any current obstructions</li> </ul>	3 x 2	
Visits by blind/partially sighted	All of above	blind/partially sighted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit preceded by assessment completed by staff of visiting organisation or on receipt of a copy of their own RA</li> <li>All individuals who may be affected to be accompanied by a fully sighted person. This could be an appropriate volunteer from the centre if arranged in advance.</li> </ul>	2 x 2	
Picnics	Birds	Picnickers/animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitors instructed not to feed birds/ animals</li> <li>Picnics to take place in designated area</li> </ul>	1 x 2	
Waste disposal	Infection	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All waste food, litter, rubbish and any spillages are cleared on a daily basis and disposed of away from public areas</li> <li>Rubbish bins are provided around the centre and are regularly checked and emptied</li> </ul>	2 x 2	
Education Room	Birds (indoor demos)	People being hit or attacked by the birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Birds have been trained to fly in close proximity to the public</li> <li>It is the birds that are more at risk than the public</li> <li>Public are controlled by ICBP staff</li> </ul>	2 x 2	