

Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve



Why is Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve where it is?

- Before it was a nature reserve people used to work at Rainton Meadows. They were miners so they would dig coal out of the ground and sell it
- When the coal mine closed the holes were filled in, ponds were made and trees were planted



Do you think you will see any coal when you come?

What is a Nature Reserve?

- A place where wildlife is protected
- Animals and plants are wild and are not kept as pets
- Animals are not in cages and can come and go as they please
- We do not feed the animals with pet food, they find all their own food



When you arrive.....

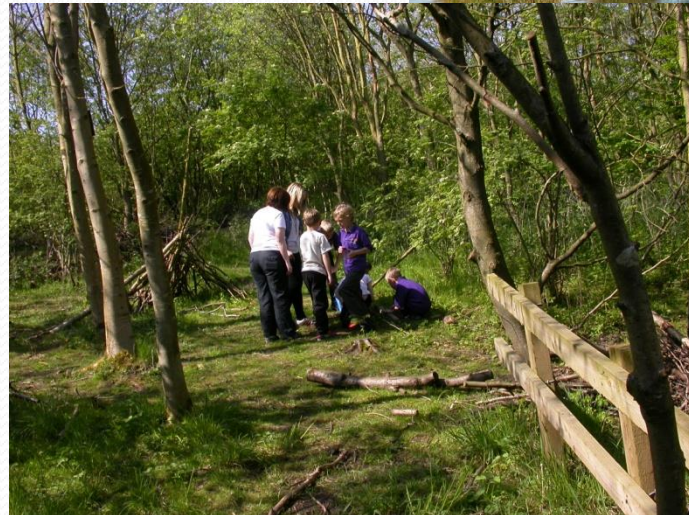
- The bus will drop you off at the Visitor Centre where we will meet you and take you into the Education Room
- You will be able to leave your lunches and spare clothes in the Education Room while you are out doing activities



We won't stay indoors for long because there is lots to do and see outside.

Rainton Meadows has different habitats to explore.....

- Grasslands
- Woodlands
- Pond



Will we find the same plants and animals in all these habitats?

We will visit this pond

Visitor Centre

Bus drives in this way



Key

- V Visitor Centre
- Wildlife Garden
- P Car parks
- BH Bird hides
- Great North Forest Sculpture

- Permissive footpath
- Road
- Public sculpture
- Bridleway
- Private track
- Reserve boundary

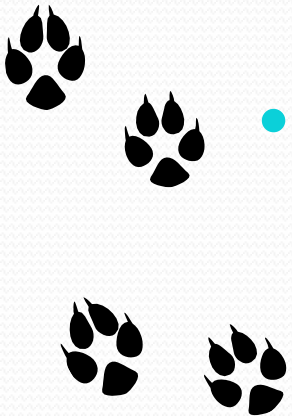
We will visit the woodlands here

We might pass the bird hide at Joe's Pond

What will we see at Rainton Meadows?

We don't want to spoil the surprise for you but you will see lots of different types of plants and animals

- Sometimes we might not see them but we might hear them. What animals might we hear?
- Sometimes we need to look for signs and clues that animals have been here. Can you think of any signs we could look for?



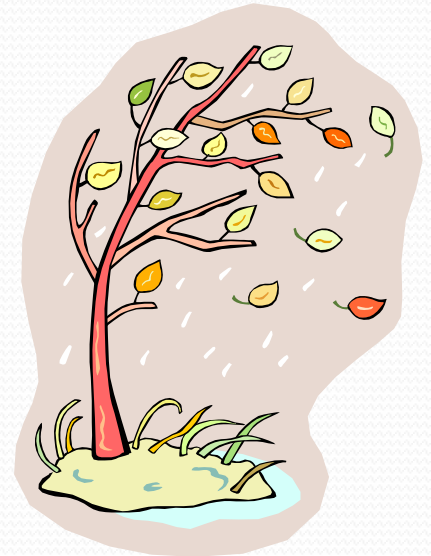
Be careful of these plants

- Make sure your legs are covered and you have long sleeves so that you don't get **nettle** stings
- **Thistles** are prickly but some moths and butterflies love them
- Look at the shape of this leaf. It is from a tree called **Hawthorn**. Birds love eating the berries from Hawthorn in Winter but be careful Hawthorn trees have thorns on them



What will the weather be like at Rainton Meadows?

- The weather changes all the time and we like to stay out exploring in all sorts of different weather, so come prepared
- Wear warm clothes, water proofs and be prepared for hot sunshine



Remember to bring.....



- Packed lunch
- Something to drink
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Hat
- Good solid shoes or wellies



We look forward to seeing you at Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve

