



Children's Countryside Day 2025 Teachers Guide



We warmly welcome you to the 19th Children's Countryside Day. We hope that you enjoy a day filled with outdoor education, where you can learn about the countryside, local wildlife, where your food comes from, farming, agricultural businesses, forestry and the history of rural Northumberland.

This Information Document contains important event information that must be relayed to all pupils, teachers and helpers who are due to attend the event.

LOCATION

Wooler Showfield, North Middleton, Wooler, NE71 6QX.

TIMINGS

We kindly ask all schools to be onsite by 09:30am and departures can be from 14:30pm. ALL vehicles must be offsite by 16:00pm.

ARRIVAL

ALL coaches/cars will use the main entrance to the Showfield, 2 miles south of Wooler on the A697 Morpeth to Coldstream road. The entrance has a highly visible sign for this year's Glendale Show, upon arrival you will be directed to the parking area.



Children's Countryside Day 2025

All adults in your party will be issued with badges to identify them, including your coach driver should they wish to come onto the field, they must be worn all day.

The children can then be collected from the coach to enter the site. We will send additional vehicle passes for any separate cars bringing adults or children to the event. These must be displayed to gain entry to the field. No-one will be allowed onto the site without proper authorisation and identification.

You will be directed to the School's Lunch Tent where you will be met by the Child Protection Officers and stewards. There will be a table designated for each school with your school's name labelled. There will be a bag for each child in your party to use to collect leaflets and items throughout the day. Please feel free to leave lunches, bags and coats on your school's table.

LUNCH

All children and adults attending are requested to bring a packed lunch with them including a drink. Limited drinking water will be available on site and a hot food van will be situated behind the Stewards' Tent where adults (including coach drivers) can purchase hot drinks and sandwiches if they so wish. If it is due to be a hot day please bring with you plenty of liquids.

There will be some picnic tables and chairs in the main ring area, but in case of wet weather we advise schools to bring a groundsheet for your bags and picnic rugs would be advisable for groups to sit on. If there is heavy rainfall during the event, lunch can be eaten inside the tent and a lunch schedule will be communicated to group leaders on the day.

Please note that refreshment stations in exhibitor tents are for **exhibition stand holders only**.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

Hand washing facilities are located around the field and outside the Lunch Tent. Please ensure that children wash their hands thoroughly before handling food. , toilets are located at various stations on the field and are also marked on the map.

FIRST AID & FIRE SAFETY

The first aid point is located in the secretary's & stewards tent, in an emergency you will be guided to the Fire Assembly point by stewards and the fire assembly and first aid points are located on the map.

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

This is an outdoor event taking place on a grass field where cows and sheep have been grazing, so please wear suitable footwear and clothing; wellington boots are advised if it has been wet along with outer clothing to keep dry and if it is forecast to be very hot and sunny please ensure children bring with them a sun hat and sunscreen.

Please ensure that every child in your school party is wearing easily identifiable clothes, e.g. school jumper/coat/hat. (we kindly advise children and adults to avoid wearing yellow high visibility clothing as this will be confused with the stewards at the event).



Children's Countryside Day 2025

MEDICATION & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

If children or adults are taking medication, or require medication for bites or stings, please ensure that they have it with them on the day. Please make appropriate arrangements for any children with special needs and check with us prior to the event if you have any concerns.

STEWARDS SUPPORT & STANDS

Stewards will be on duty around the Showfield, all stewards are known to the Society are there to help, direct and ensure the well-being and safety of everyone on site. They will be easily identifiable with yellow high visibility waistcoats.

Each school is requested to split into small groups of no more than 10 according to the number of staff you have with you. This is important to allow the groups plenty of space at the stands and to give all the children the chance to interact with the exhibitors.

Everyone is encouraged to visit as many stands and activities as possible. There will be a large number of children on site and it would be appreciated if you could move past the activities that are busy and come back to them later on. Please follow the stewards' directions.

PRESS & PHOTOGRAPHY

We are expecting press to attend the event and there will be photographing and filming the event. Photographers and Videographers will be wearing a red cap to be easily identifiable, so please make sure that you notify the photographer if any of your children need to be excluded from photographs/film, this is the responsibility of school and group leader. Press will be escorted on site at all times and will be wearing a coloured lanyard labelled **PRESS**.

SMOKING & VAPING

Please note that there is strictly no smoking or vaping on site.



SCHOOLS COMPETITION

‘THE OLD & THE NEW’

The theme for our annual Children’s Countryside Day School’s Competition is ‘The Old & The New’. We take a look back in history at how farming in the UK has changed over time, both in arable and on livestock farms.

When we think of farms, we often think of tractors, fields, animals and crops. But as the population has grown, and technology has changed, farms and farming has changed over the years too.

The changes and development in technology has enabled farmers to become more efficient at producing food and are more aware of what chemicals might be harmful to our environment. This has led to more modern and mindful farming practices. Farmers today use a combination of traditional and historic methods along with embracing new technologies and modern techniques. These help to preserve the earths resources and keep the future of agriculture moving forward.

One traditional farming method that is still used today is the ‘**Scarecrow**’. **Over the** years it has become a world renowned symbol of farming and harvest scenes. Scarecrows are built to stand in our crops and to scare crows and other birds away.

We are therefore asking all schools to create their very own scarecrow for this year’s competition. Please see the below criteria:

- Your scarecrow should be made from scratch and not exceed a maximum height of 1.8 m
- Your entry must be a single scarecrow per school
- You are encouraged to use recycled materials
- Your school name **MUST** be clearly visible on your scarecrow (we can supply labels on the day)
- Entries should be completed before the event and brought with you on the day.
- Entries will be displayed and judged during the day. There will be a prize for the winning school.
- Your model will be available for you to collect at the end of the event, **please ensure that you take your masterpiece home with you.**

SCARECROW FACT SHEET

To support the communication of this year’s school’s competition theme to children , please see the following fact sheet to share with your school. This includes information about what scarecrow’s are, how they are important to farmers and how they have changed slightly over time.



SCARECROW FACT SHEET



WHAT IS A SCARECROW

Scarecrows have been used for many years and are usually made from old clothes and straw or other materials to make them look like a person.

WHY ARE SCARECROWS IMPORTANT

Scarecrows are used to scare away birds and keep crops safe. They are made to look like a person standing in the field to protect newly sown seeds/growing crops from birds. They can be a cost effective way to reduce crop damage. Crows damage seedling corn plants by pulling the sprouts and eating the seeds. Similar damage also may be caused by other birds (pheasants, starlings, blackbirds).

THE HISTORY OF THE SCARECROW

Scarecrows were first made by the Egyptians! They were used to protect their fields that run alongside the River Nile by scaring crows away so that they wouldn't eat the crops



Since then, there has been lots of alternatives to scarecrows like mini windmills, but scarecrows are still the most popular method of scaring away the birds. There is even scarecrow festivals that take place all over the UK every year!

- In Medieval Britain there was a job for young boys called 'Bird Scarer', where they wandered the fields to throw things at the birds like a scarecrow does – don't try this at home!
- The most famous scarecrow is a character from The Wizard of Oz, who was in search to find a brain



HOW HAVE SCARECROWS CHANGED OVER TIME

Scarecrows have been modernised over time with a variety of different bird scarers now being used by farmers today.

- A popular option is a kite shaped like a predatory bird such as a 'Hawk', see the below image.
- Farmers also use bird scaring machines and devices which create large gun shot/bang sounds are designed to scare birds away from crops in the field. these can only be used by grown ups and have to adhere to farmer guidance and regulations.

