



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

Surveying Biodiversity at Hillsborough Castle

Teacher Notes

Duration: 90 minutes

Meeting Point: Greenhouse

How biodiverse are the gardens of Hillsborough Castle? How does the biodiversity of a manmade habitat compare to a natural one?

Students will explore aspects of Hillsborough Castle's gardens as they uncover semi-natural, natural and manmade habitats. They will then work together to use a range of survey equipment to collect and record data from two different habitats in Hillsborough Castle's gardens, compare the results and consider the reasons for any differences or similarities.

Please note that this session does not include access to the house, but takes place entirely in the gardens at Hillsborough Castle.

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Learn how to use a range of survey equipment.
- Learn how to conduct a fair test and why it is important.
- Compare and contrast two different habitats, analysing reasons for their areas of similarity and difference.
- Learn about biodiversity.

National Curriculum links

This session supports:

- Development of enquiry and fieldwork skills using quadrats, keys, anemometers and thermometers.
- Exploration of environmental stewardship and biodiversity.
- Working effectively with others.

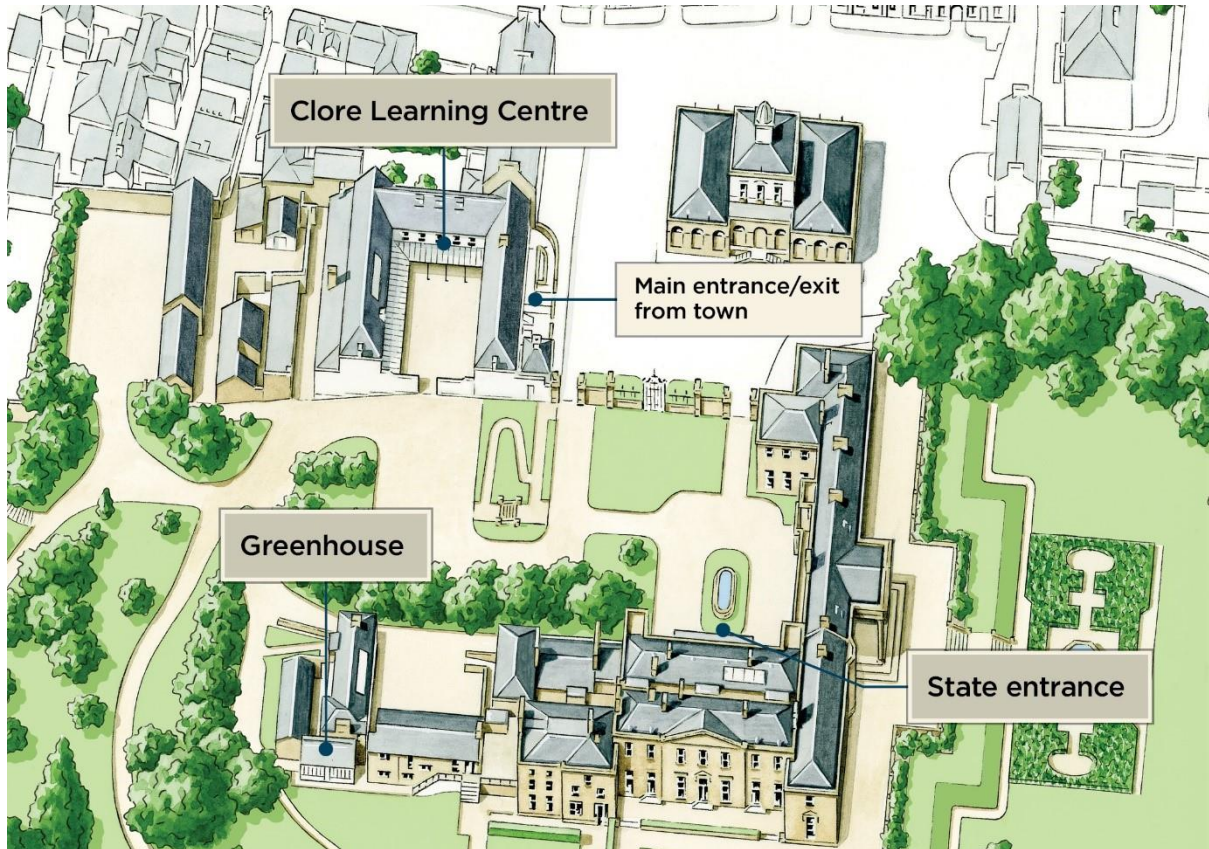
During your session:

Please note that the 1:10 staff to student ratio which we ask for throughout your visit still applies during your learning session. We ask that sufficient adults remain with the group as they will be encouraged to join in with the session activities. For health and safety reasons, our sessions are strictly for a maximum of 30 students. The session your group has booked with us takes place outside in Hillsborough Castle's gardens.



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Please meet your session presenter at the **greenhouse**. This is marked on the map below and is near the gardens toilet block.



This is where your presenter will meet you at your allocated start time. We recommend being there a few minutes early.

For your information, this session takes place entirely outside, whatever the weather, so please encourage your students to dress accordingly.