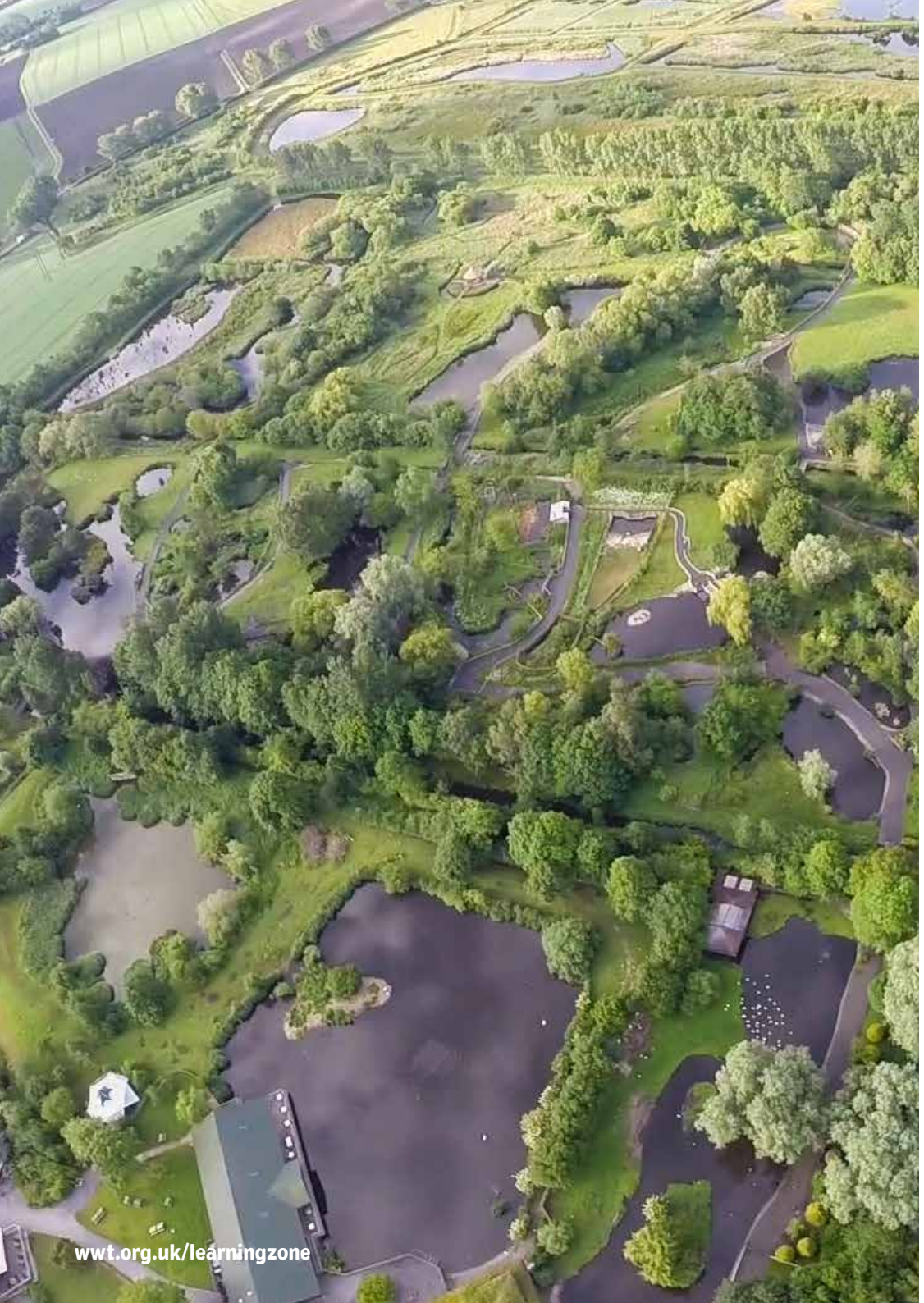
WWT
For wetlands. For life.
SECONDARY, F.E. AND H.E. VISITS
Martin Mere Wetland Centre
EXPLORE
Nature
DISCOVER
Wildlife
ENJOY
Learning



Martin Mere Wetland Centre provides great opportunities for visits by students in secondary, further and higher education. With the option of self-led visits alongside the potential to tailor a programme according to your needs, we try to offer as much flexibility as possible.

The best of both worlds

We're both a visitor attraction and nature reserve. We have access to wild, protected landscapes but also have all of the facilities you might need including a café, visitor centre, toilets and indoor classrooms.

We provide access to nature but also a safe, secure and convenient environment for your students.

What can we offer?

- A Ramsar-rated marshland with over 2,000 different species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates
- Thousands of over-wintering wild ducks, geese, waders and swans
- A haven for many Lancashire plants, such as the endangered whorled caraway, golden dock, tubular water dropwort, early marsh orchids, the large-flowered hemp nettle and purple ramping fumitory
- Ten wildlife hides providing great views of native wetland wildlife
- Discover some of the most eye-catching water birds from around the world - plus a couple of playful otters
- Opportunities for students to hear from experts working across a range of fields including reserve management, animal behaviour, habitat design and visitor engagement
- Purpose-built pond-dipping facilities with fully accessible raised ponds
- Ability to cater for large groups

Areas of study

We can support a range of science and geography syllabuses and programmes of study including:

Key Stage 3

Science

The interdependence of organisms in an ecosystem, including food webs and insect pollinated crops.

How organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment, including the accumulation of toxic materials.

Geography

Understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems.

GCSE Science

AQA

4.7 Ecology:
Adaptations, interdependence and competition; organisation of an ecosystem; Biodiversity and the effect of human interaction on ecosystems; trophic levels in an ecosystem

Required practical activity 9:
Measure the population size of a common species in a habitat

OCR

Gateway science combined science A

B4 Ecosystems

B6.1 Monitoring and maintaining the environment

Twenty first century science combined science B

B3 Living together – food and ecosystems

B6 Life on Earth – past, present and future

C1 Air and water

PAG B2 Sampling techniques

Pearson Edexcel

9 Ecosystems and material cycles

(inc. 9.5 core practical)

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‘A’ Level Science

AQA

3.4.4 Genetic diversity and adaptation

3.4.5 Species and taxonomy

3.4.6 Biodiversity within a community

3.5.3 Energy and ecosystems

3.7.4 Populations in ecosystems

Required practical 12: Investigation into the effect of a named environmental factor on the distribution of a given species

OCR

4.2.1 Biodiversity

4.2.2 Classification and Evolution

6.3.1 Ecosystems

6.3.2 Populations and Sustainability

Practical Activity Group 3: Sampling techniques

Pearson Edexcel

Biology A

Topic 4: Biodiversity and natural resources

Topic 5: On the wild side

Biology B

Topic 3: Classification and Biodiversity

Topic 10: Ecosystems

‘A’ level Environmental Science AQA

3.1.2 Conservation of biodiversity

3.1.3 Life processes in the biosphere and conservation planning

3.1.4 Opportunities for skills development and independent thinking

3.2.2 The hydrosphere

3.2.4 Biogeochemical cycles

3.4 Pollution

3.7.2 Sampling techniques

GSCE Geography

AQA

3.1 Living with the physical environment: Climate change; ecosystems (example of small scale UK ecosystem); UK physical landscapes (managed retreat – coastal realignment; natural flood management)

3.2 Challenges in the human environment: Water (water quality and pollution management)

OCR

Geography A (Geographical Themes)

1.3 UK Environmental challenges

2.1 Ecosystems of the planet

2.3 Environmental threats to our planet

Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds)

4.1 Why are natural ecosystems important?

Pearson Edexcel

Geography A

Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Topic 8: Geographical investigations – UK challenges

Geography B

Topic 7: People and the biosphere

‘A’ Level Geography

AQA

3.1.1 Water and carbon cycles

3.1.3 Coastal systems and landscapes

3.1.6 Ecosystems under stress

OCR

1.2 Earth’s life support systems

3.1 Climate change

Pearson Edexcel

Topic 5: The water cycle and water insecurity

Topic 6: The carbon cycle and energy security

Further and Higher education

We are ideally set up to enable higher and further education students to explore a range of areas of study including:

- Animal and plant adaptations
- Animal behaviour
- Animal migration
- Climate change: Impacts on wetlands and their role in carbon storage and flood mitigation
- Fieldwork and monitoring methods
- Habitat creation and management
- Human impacts (positive and negative) on the natural environment
- Hydrology and natural flood management
- Interdependence and interrelationships within ecosystems
- The importance of biodiversity

Exploring the arts

The landscape and wildlife also provide a great source of inspiration for art and design, performing arts, music, photography and creative writing.

Health and wellbeing sessions

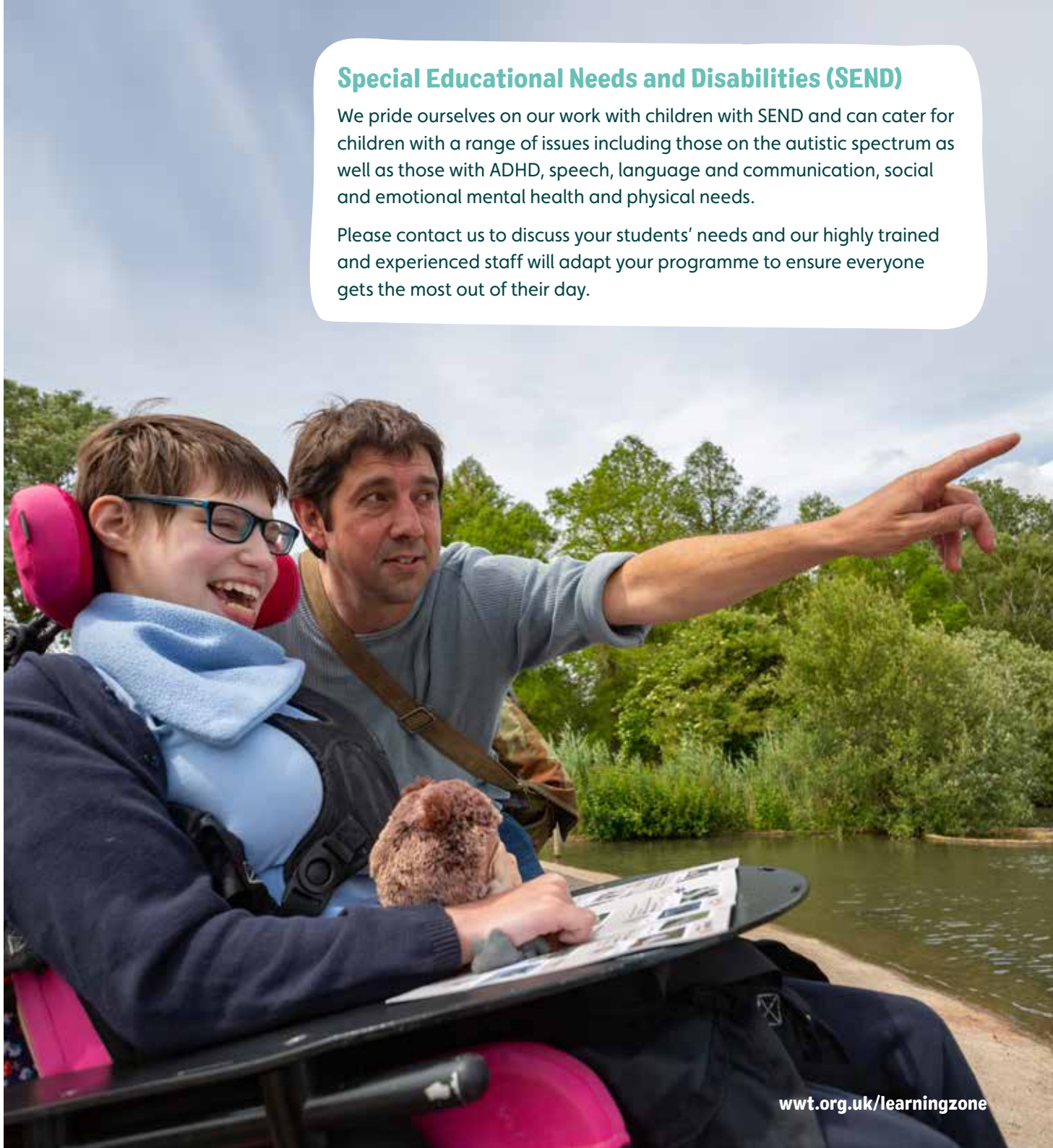
Our wellbeing sessions use mindfulness and a range of sensory approaches to improve student's wellbeing whilst inspiring a love of nature.

These sessions are great for everyone but especially beneficial for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH) and other Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We pride ourselves on our work with children with SEND and can cater for children with a range of issues including those on the autistic spectrum as well as those with ADHD, speech, language and communication, social and emotional mental health and physical needs.

Please contact us to discuss your students' needs and our highly trained and experienced staff will adapt your programme to ensure everyone gets the most out of their day.



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How do schools, colleges and universities use our services?

We are very flexible and can offer a range of approaches including:

- Bring a whole year group and follow a round-robin of short focussed activities
- Have a talk with one of our conservation experts on a particular topic of interest
- Take part in a guided walk, looking at key site features and species
- Take part in a practical guided learning session led by our expert learning staff
- Use our site to lead your own practicals in a safe, secure environment with access to all the facilities you need

A stress-free trip

We offer free familiarisation visits and our experienced learning staff are on hand to discuss your needs and ensure your students get the most from their day.

We offer free coach parking, a designated indoor space and our Mere Side Café is open every day.

We can provide risk assessments and safety information in advance and will do everything we can to ensure a stress-free visit.

Great value

We offer free entry to accompanying adults within our recommended ratios. For further details and our latest prices, please see our website. By choosing us for your visit, you are supporting our vital education and conservation work in the UK and across the world.

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How to find us

Martin Mere Wetland Centre is located six miles from Ormskirk and 10 miles from Southport. Follow the brown duck signs from all major roads and motorways.

Free coach parking is available at the centre.

Postcode for Sat Navs: L40 0TA.

Contact us

If you require further information or have any questions, please get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

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