



INTRODUCTION

This pack is for schools and families, and anyone wanting to explore the mysteries and marvels of Badbury Rings.

Why go to Badbury Rings? What makes it so special?



TEN REASONS WHY GOING THERE IS A LEARNING ADVENTURE:

- 1** The hillfort was an important Iron Age settlement 3000 years ago.
- 2** It was a strategic crossroads, connecting with other Iron Age and Roman settlements.
- 3** Ancient coins, Iron Age arrow heads, and Roman beads have been found there.
- 4** 50 million years ago it was under the sea, fossils have been found on the Rings.
- 5** It is one of the top ten sites to see wild orchids in the UK
- 6** Is home to a number of endangered species who rely on its healthy grassland
- 7** Rare birds like the cuckoos and skylark live there
- 8** 4000 Clubmen met there to protest against the Civil War in 1645
- 9** It is easy to get to, and easy to walk around
- 10** Badbury is a scheduled monument, a conservation area and part of Cranborne Chase AONB.

ABOUT THE PACK

Within the pack there are 8 activity sheets, supporting explorations / studies of the Rings, all linking with the primary school curriculum. We include top tips for what to look out for, and how best to go around the place without disturbing the valuable archaeology, and the rare birds and insects that live there.

The pack includes exciting and meaningful activities you can do on site, or back at school or at home. These will enhance your experience of the place. You can imagine you're a Roman soldier approaching the massive ramparts of the Rings, you can listen to songs about the Cuckoo, or paint with chalk. Walkers and families, you may enjoy the final sheet; a general introduction to the Rings' history, and ideas on when to visit.

The pack has been put together by Sarah Butterworth, Creative Director of Emerald Ant, an arts organisation engaging Dorset communities in their history and heritage through art. Visit <http://www.emeraldant.com> to read about us. This pack is part of the Glow Badbury project, which took place on Badbury Rings in 2023 -24. It engaged 5 local schools and community groups in learning about the hillfort and creating art for an illuminated event in September 2023. A film of the project can be seen at <https://emeraldant.com/glow-badbury/>

Sarah has worked with local primary school teachers to ensure the worksheets meet curriculum learning outcomes, and experts at National Trust Kingston Lacy. These include the ranger team who conserve the grassland, Kingston Lacy staff who are experts on the Bankes family, and David Smith, retired warden and ranger for the Kingston Lacy estate. David's passion for the place shines through the history worksheets.

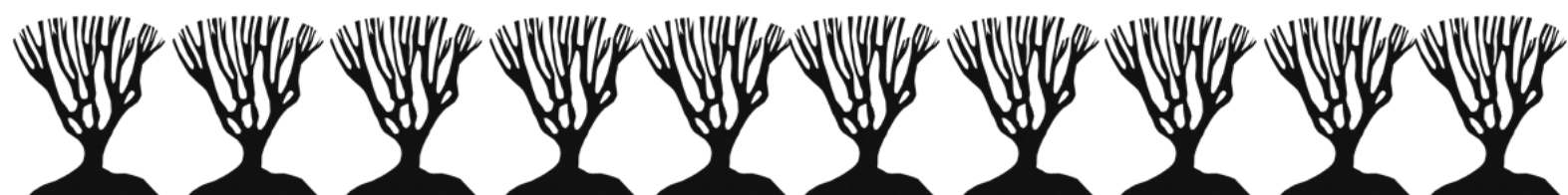
SCHOOL TRIPS TO BADBURY RINGS

A school trip is valuable, memorable learning, and it will bring history and nature to life. David Smith is available for guided visits to the Rings, and can bring his collection of 'hands on' Iron Age and Roman artifacts. Contact details on the back page. When visiting the Rings for a school visit please contact the Kingston Lacy estate office on 01202 883402 or kingstonlacy@nationaltrust.org.uk

MAKING THE MOST OF THE PACK

Read the worksheets first before doing the activities. Use some as a guide, and adapt them to your class, or link them with other studies.

Note that the activities focus on the hillfort, and not so much the area surrounding it. We look at the Celtic Durotrige people, who occupied Badbury up to 43 AD, rather than the Romans who did not live there.



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

David Smith, retired Warden of Badbury Rings and Kingston Lacy

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Emma Flood, Volunteering & Community Assistant, Kingston Lacy, expert on William John Bankes
Dave Farthing, Head Ranger and Ranger Megan Lucas, expert on bats

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Author: Sarah Butterworth, also David Smith

Illustrations: Sarah Butterworth

Graphic Design: Delphine Jones

Technical Support: Damon Allen

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