

Outcomes:

Access to experts such as conservators and academic researchers

Curiosity and creativity through seeing, touching, hearing, feeling – a participant visiting a museum or gallery is in the presence of genuine artefacts which raise questions, stimulate thought and bring study to life

Building local communities – museums and galleries are often at the centre of a local community and provide a sense of continuity and cohesion

Skills centres – through experience of working with experts



Wicken Fen

Today, the Nurture Group visited Wicken Fen, a National Trust site.

We began our day by meeting Jack, who greeted us warmly and introduced the equipment we would be using. Each of us put on a pair of headphones, and Jack tuned us all to the same radio channel so we could hear him clearly throughout the session.

Jack demonstrated a parabolic microphone, a fascinating piece of equipment designed to capture sounds from specific animals and birds. Using it, we listened to a variety of birds, including blue tits, pigeons, and wrens—and even picked up the sound of a passing plane!

Next, Jack led us to a lookout point, where he shared many interesting stories about the area and its wildlife. Finally, we headed to the water to try out a hydrophone—a water-resistant microphone that allows us to hear sounds from aquatic animals beneath the surface.

