



4. Temporary site facilities

If you are planning on providing ad hoc access to your woodland there are a number of low cost, temporary facilities options available to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Seating

It's good to have a gathering place in your woodland for the group to sit, leave any resources or return to if there is an emergency. Tarpaulins, gardening or camping mats can all be used to provide cheap temporary seating in woodlands that will not be used frequently.

Shelter

Having the option of shelter at your site is important to allow access in wet weather or to provide shade in hot sunny weather. For a temporary site, this can be as simple as a tarpaulin set up between two trees. Think about whether the shelter you have available is suitable for the group size. A 5m x 5m tarpaulin will shelter a class of 30 children but if they're going to want to move around under there or store equipment then you may need two or more.



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Once you have your shelter, you'll need to find a suitable spot to set it up. It's a good idea to practice before turning up with a group. Learn some simple knots that you can use to erect your shelter so you can quickly set it up if required. You could even make this a part of the session for older groups.



Developing a woodland space for educational access

Equipment

If you are taking educational resources into the woods or providing off ground storage for their bags, you may wish to purchase a trolley or find a suitable wheelbarrow. These should be heavy duty and robust, ideally with solid rather than inflatable wheels to avoid punctures.

Water

Think about whether the visiting groups will need to access water, both for drinking and handwashing. You could ask the groups to bring their own water, or you could buy a reusable 10 litre water container and some reusable cups which can be carried up to the site each time you visit.



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Water; tippy tap what is it and how to make one

<https://healingwaters.org/what-is-a-tippy-tap-hand-washing-device/>



Developing a woodland space for educational access

Toilets

Provision for toileting is essential regardless of how infrequently you're going to be using the site. You will need to communicate with the staff that are accompanying the group before they arrive to discuss the toileting arrangements for the group. It can range from a potty to a pop up camping one through to compost options

Think about any suitable toilets you have available and if these can be accessed safely by your groups. For example, you may have a toilet in an outbuilding that the group could access before they walk to the woodland site. If it's a single toilet, will that be adequate for the group sizes that you are planning on inviting into your woodlands? Make sure it's clean and hygienic for your groups. If they want to use the toilet during a visit, how far does it take to get back there? Will an adult have to accompany them?

If you do not have a toilet in your site think about what type of temporary facilities you are going to provide. What arrangements will you need to make to maintain the dignity and privacy of all potential users? If you decide on building a latrine, will the waste drain away (it may be wise to dig a test pit) in a reasonable amount of time? You should make sure that any waste is kept as far as possible from all water courses. Follow local planning guidance on this.

Compost toilets

<https://freerangingdesigns.com/collections/compost-toilets>

Food and hygiene

Think about how your groups clean their hands before and after handling and eating food. Do you need to let visiting groups know that they will need to bring their own handwashing equipment or are you able to provide running water, soap and paper towels?

Anti-bacterial hand gel could also be provided for this purpose, but it doesn't replace running water and soap.

If providing food during your sessions, it is recommended that you gain the Basic Food Hygiene certificate and follow the guidelines from the Health and Safety Executive on storage and preparation of foodstuffs.

Food hygiene at outdoor events

<https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/providing-food-at-community-and-charity-events>