

Session 5: Site tour

Context: Introduction to Permaculture Design course

Duration: 45 minutes

Aims: To familiarise students with the site and demonstrate various permaculture-related concepts/technologies/approaches.

Learning outcomes: By the end of the session, students will:

- Be familiar with the site
- Appreciate the practical benefits of some methods commonly advocated in permaculture

Method & timings:

45 minutes site tour: The host leads the group on a tour of the site, pointing out aspects of the site of interest, for example:

- orchard,
- vegetable-growing areas/raised beds/hugelkultur beds
- greenhouses/polytunnels
- composting areas/wormeries
- compost toilet
- earthworks such as swales
- forest garden
- coppice
- beehive
- renewable energy installation
- charcoal kiln
- bodging workshop
- animals
- water butts
- etc.

Ideally the host will relate these elements to Permaculture design and/or principles as they go.

Resources: Site, host.

NOTES: It helps if you visit the site beforehand so that you can spot examples of ecosystem features & processes like woodland edge, indicator plants or succession, as well as examples of permaculture principles that you can bring in if the host doesn't.