

ANGLO-SAXON EXPERIENCE DAY

*Dorchester Abbey
Education*



Display of Anglo-Saxon materials.

Our Anglo-Saxon Experience Day run in conjunction with the Hurst Water Meadow is firmly embedded in the requirements of the new Key Stage 1/2 National Curriculum.

Dorchester was a highly significant area in the Anglo-Saxon period, located within the Wessex kingdom and part of the early Christian missionary work with the arrival of Bishop Birinus in 635. Anglo-Saxon artefacts have been found in Dorchester and its environs. We have a historical re-enactor to add to the authenticity of the day.

A full or half day of study is possible with a range of activities and options available to choose from to suit your own specific curriculum requirements.



Archaeological activity investigating Anglo-Saxon artefacts.



Students posing near their Anglo-Saxon pagan shrine to the fertility goddess Frig. They also have the hurdle they made as part of their exploration of Anglo-Saxon farming activities.

A re-enactment of Anglo-Saxon pagan burial practices created as part of a visit.



Activities that can be included in your day include the following:

- ❖ A consideration of what it was like for ordinary people in the Anglo-Saxon period, in contrast to the King.
- ❖ An exploration of the food, dress, and some of the activities of ordinary Anglo-Saxons (e.g. role play dressing up, hurdle making, wool spinning, spindle making, herbs and their uses).
- ❖ An exploration of pagan spiritual practices, creating a shrine and associated materials.
- ❖ An exploration of pagan burial rites, creating crafts linked with this.
- ❖ An exploration of the impact of Christianity on the pagan Anglo-Saxons, with baptism and the changes to burial practices.
- ❖ An Anglo-Saxon metal disc brooch making workshop.
- ❖ An exploration of what happened after the Normans invaded.

To book your visit or for further details contact the Education Officer on 01865 343164 or via email education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk.



Left: Anglo-Saxon metal Disc brooch making workshop.

Right: Role playing Bishop Birinus baptising the Wessex King Cynegils and entourage at Dorchester in 635.

