



GROUP VISITS

WELCOME PACK

Proud to be part of



The University of Manchester



1. ON THE DAY OF YOUR VISIT

What to bring on the day

- Weather appropriate clothes to explore our outside areas.
- For young groups arriving on coaches, we also advise bringing at least one set of spare clothes in case someone gets travel sick.

Directions to Jodrell Bank.

Jodrell Bank Centre for Engagement is located at Bomish Lane, Lower Withington, Cheshire, **SK11 9DW**.

For more information, please visit [Getting Here - Jodrell Bank](#)

Arrival Instructions & Parking

Enter the site via the Bomish Lane entrance and follow the drive to the car park.

Coaches can park on the left-hand side of the car park, along the green fence line (signposted as coach parking).

Upon arrival, please gather your group and head over to the Gold - Ticket Booths, to sign-in your group. Please have your booking reference number ready.

Phone free zone

Jodrell Bank is a live radio observatory. Mobile phones interfere with our radio telescopes, which are in use 24 hours a day. We therefore operate a radio-quiet policy and require that all visitors set their phones to flight mode or switch them off.

During a visit:

- Mobile phones must not be used on site for calls, texts, internet, Bluetooth, or other wireless communication.
- Mobile phones must not be left switched on, unless they are on flight mode.
- If you may need to be contacted during the day, please give out our main reception line: 01477 571 766. Our staff will then relay the message to you.
- If you need to make a call during your visit, you are welcome to use one of our landlines; simply ask a member of our staff.
- You are welcome to use your mobile to take photos; provided it is set to flight mode.

Accessibility

Jodrell Bank has been designed to be accessible to all.

For more information, please visit [Accessibility Statement - Jodrell Bank](#)

Toilets

Toilets (including accessible facilities) are available in each of our buildings. Please note, the number of toilets in each building is limited; you may find it easier to split your group and visit different buildings.

Food and Drinks

We have two Cafes on site.

For more information about opening times, please visit [Food and Drink - Jodrell Bank](#)

First Light Pavilion Café is a cashless café, only card payments are accepted.

Planet Pavilion Café can accept cash and card payments.

We ask large groups to split into smaller groups when coming into the café.

Gift Shop

Our gift shop is situated in the Planet Pavilion. We ask large groups to split into smaller groups of no more than 20 visitors before going into the gift shop. Young visitors must be accompanied by an adult when entering the shop.

Please note, our gift shop is usually busy from 13:30 to 14:00 Tuesday to Friday, as multiple schools will be leaving. We recommend visiting the shop outside of these times, to make your experience more enjoyable.

For more information about products and prices, please visit [Shop - Jodrell Bank](#)

Film and Photography

You're welcome to document your experience via film and photography. If using a mobile phone, please make sure it's on flight mode.

Remember you may be in an exhibition/gallery with other visitors who may not consent to being filmed or photographed.

It is not allowed to film or photograph our presenter-led activities and Space Dome shows.

Smoking

All forms of smoking are prohibited within the Jodrell Bank Centre for Engagement. This applies to e-cigarettes.

Pets

Pets are not permitted at Jodrell Bank. Only assistance dogs are allowed within the premises or on the grounds of Jodrell Bank.

For more information about accredited assistant dogs please visit [Visitor FAQs - Jodrell Bank](#)

Vehicles and Remote-Control Devices

To protect the safety of visitors and our scientific work we do not allow vehicles or remote-controlled devices on site. This includes hoverboards, skateboards, cycles, scooters, and ride on toys, etc. Devices such as drones, model aircraft, etc., are also not permitted.

2. WHAT'S ON SITE?

Jodrell Bank is situated in the heart of Cheshire. It is a stunning green site surrounded by farmland and with an abundance of wildlife. There are numerous Pavilions to discover, alongside a range of outdoor exhibits and pathways to explore.

At the heart of Jodrell Bank is the giant Lovell telescope, which has been doing world-class radio astronomy since 1957.



Please note:

- We will be open to the public during your visit and your group will be sharing our exhibition spaces with members of the public and school groups.
- The Lovell telescope is sometimes undergoing maintenance from our engineers during the day; during these times it will not be observing or moving.
- Visitors are not allowed into the observatory building or up the Lovell telescope. The observatory is a working environment, and the Lovell telescope is in use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

You can download our site map from [Site Map – Jodrell Bank](#)

The First Light Pavilion

This is our newest building, containing exhibitions related to the heritage and history of Jodrell Bank, as well as the Space Dome. It contains the First Light Café and the 'Story of Jodrell Bank' exhibit.



The First Light Exhibition includes interactive displays, audio, and video about:

Ways of Seeing

- Building structures to understand the universe
- Why we use Radio Telescopes
- Using different wavelengths of light

Bernard Lovell

- What experiences he had through his life that led him to Jodrell Bank
- His work on radar during the Second World War

The "Fairground"

- Jodrell Bank Experimental Station – Early Days of astronomical research at Jodrell Bank

Building a Giant Telescope

- The engineering and financial challenges

Telescopes at Work

- The work of the Radio Telescopes
- Space Tracking
- The Space Race
- Researchers at Jodrell Bank today

Beyond Science

- Jodrell Bank in culture

Panels of the original 1950s surface of the Lovell Telescope are integrated into the exhibition and can be touched and projected onto. One of the projections is the Universe Projection. A changing image of the view from our planet in radio waves.

For more information, please visit [First Light Pavilion - Jodrell Bank](#)

The Planet Pavilion

This building contains the Planet Café, the Gift Shop, and an exhibition space with an orrery (a clockwork model of the moving Solar System).



The Star Pavilion

This building holds our events auditorium. There are no exhibitions in this building.

The Space Pavilion

This building contains our interactive Space exhibition.

The Space Pavilion exhibition includes:

- A live data feed from the Lovell telescope (please note, this is in the form of a data plot and not an image of what the telescope is 'seeing')
- A hands-on model of the Lovell telescope
- Interactive interviews with some of the scientists and engineers who work at Jodrell Bank
- An infrared thermal camera
- The gravity well; a hands-on model of a black hole
- The 'Big Bang cone' playing the 'sound' of the first 100 million years from real data
- A usable, see-through Newtonian telescope
- Information about the biggest telescopes around the world and some of the astonishing images they have created



Outdoor Exhibits

Jodrell Bank has various outdoor exhibits and activities. Since this is outside, please bring weather appropriate clothes in case the weather is inclement.

Our outdoor exhibits include:

- The Telescope Pathway - Follow the path around the base of the Lovell telescope and find information boards that will give you details of the construction of the telescope and object is observes.
- Outdoor Experiments - See how curved shapes can amplify faint signals with our Whispering Dishes, experiment with gravity just like Galileo, or find out more about Jupiter's rotation.
- Exhibition Pathway – Follow the path displaying images that illustrate Jodrell Bank at work, including the role of the telescope and what it takes to run an observatory 365 days a year.



Grounds and Woodlands

Jodrell Bank contains 35 acres of grounds and woodlands, which include an arboretum, a play area, multiple ponds, and an abundance of wildlife.

Please note that the arboretum and woodlands are closed early during the winter months and in severe weather conditions (e.g., high winds).

3. EXHIBITION WORKSHEETS

For groups bringing young learners, we recommend printing copies of our Exhibition Worksheets and bringing them on your visit. Don't forget to bring pencils or pens!

Our exhibitions worksheets are a good resource to support your time in the exhibitions and for young learners to gain more from the exhibits.

Our exhibition worksheets can be downloaded from the following links:

Ages 7-11

[Worksheets – Ages 5-7](#)

[Worksheet – Ages 5-7 Answers](#)

Ages 7-11

[Worksheets - 7-11](#)

[Worksheet – Ages 7-11 Answers](#)

Ages 11-14

[Worksheets – Ages 11-14](#)

[Worksheet – Ages 11-14 Answers](#)

Ages 14-16

[Worksheets – Ages 14-16](#)

[Worksheet – Ages 14-16 Answers](#)

Ages 16-18

[Worksheets – Ages 16-18](#)

[Worksheet – Ages 16-18 Answers](#)

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Code of Conduct

At Jodrell Bank Centre for Engagement, we support and empower diverse audiences and communities to participate in science, culture, and heritage. We aim to connect people with Jodrell Bank and with each other, and we understand the value of shared and inclusive experiences.

To provide our audiences with excellent service, remember that:

- Verbally abusive, harassing, discriminatory, undermining, or threatening statements or behaviour toward staff, volunteers or visitors are prohibited.
- The principles of diversity, inclusion, and equal access apply to all aspects of our operations, across all individuals.

Supervision and behaviour

Young visitors under the age of 18, should not be left unaccompanied during their visit. We ask adult group leaders to always remain with young visitors to ensure wellbeing and safety, and to supervise behaviour. Please note that schools/colleges/parents/leaders/other institutions remain responsible for young visitors whilst at Jodrell Bank.

Please make sure you have the correct adult-to-young visitor ratio. We recommend 1:6 for ages 4-7, 1:7 for ages 7-11, 1:10 for ages 11-16, 1:15 for ages 16-18. Please ensure any accompanying adults have the necessary experience and authority to supervise a group of children on a trip.

Before your visit, discuss appropriate conduct with young visitors. Any young visitor observed behaving dangerously will be challenged and if necessary, prevented from further participation in any activity.

Please be aware we operate CCTV on this site, and we reserve the right to charge visitors for any damage that is caused intentionally to our buildings, site, exhibits and fixtures and fittings.

Young visitors should always be accompanied by an adult. In the instance of a young visitor becoming separated from the group leaders, contact a member of staff. Brief your group that if they become separated, they should ask a uniformed member of staff for help and stay with them. Jodrell Bank staff are aware of safeguarding requirements when helping young people separated from their group. Ensure everyone is present before leaving the site.

Outdoors Spaces

Please remember that we share this site with an abundance of wildlife and carefully manage the grounds to cause minimal disturbance. This is why you will see wildflowers planting, regenerative works, and a large section of grass left unmown.

Our grounds also include several open ponds. We ask you therefore to be aware of the danger of open water, and of ice during colder spells. Ponds are not to play, and we kindly ask that children are always supervised.

Medical Emergency

If any of your group should require first aid, please contact a member of staff. There are first aiders on site that can help. Our site is equipped with automatic defibrillators and a first aid room.

If individuals require medication remember to bring it and keep it with you throughout the day.

Please note, individuals with pacemakers, insulin pumps, or medical electronic devices, must not interact with the plasma ball in the Space Pavilion.

Fire and Evacuation

The Fire Alarm comprises of two alternating tones when activated.

In the event of a fire or other emergency please evacuate the building through the nearest fire exit. Please leave the building and go to the nearest assembly point.

Assembly points:

- First Light Pavilion Assembly Point: In front of **Gold Ticket Booths**
- Planet Pavilion: In front of **Gold Ticket Booths**
- Space Pavilion: In front of the **Lovell Telescope Fence**.
- Star Pavilion: In front of the **Lovell Telescope Fence**.

At the assembly point please take the register and report any missing persons to a member of Jodrell Bank staff. Staff will advise you when it is safe to return.

Please brief your group what to do in the event of an evacuation, before your visit.

Risk Assessments and Other Documents

Our risk assessments can be downloaded from the following links:

[Groups Risk Assessment](#)

[Youth Groups Risk Assessment](#)

[Space Dome Risk Assessment](#)

Additional documents can be downloaded from the following links:

[UoM Safeguarding Children Policy and Guidance](#)

[Public Liability Confirmation of Cover](#)