

# The Avon Ascent

## Secondary Teachers' Notes

### Topic Coverage

The Avon Ascent is a series of special places to visit in the Avon Valley, between York and Beverley. The self drive tour includes two major and several minor sites which can form the basis of landcare activities and experiences for students and other visitors.

The student activities developed for the two major sites, Gwambygine River Park and Avondale Discovery Farm, provide students with the opportunity to experience on-ground landcare action and to achieve outcomes in the Science and Society & Environment learning areas as outlined in the curriculum links section over.

### Further Reading

You can find more information about the Avon Ascent and surrounding areas on these websites:

- Avon Ascent: [www.yorkwa.com.au/AvonAscent/](http://www.yorkwa.com.au/AvonAscent/)
- Avondale Discovery Farm: [www.beverleywa.com/avondale/](http://www.beverleywa.com/avondale/)
- York Tourist Information: [www.yorkwa.com.au](http://www.yorkwa.com.au)
- Beverly Tourist Information: [www.beverleywa.com](http://www.beverleywa.com)
- General information (select 'Wheatbelt' for Avon area): [www.regional.wa.gov.au/reg\\_resource.asp](http://www.regional.wa.gov.au/reg_resource.asp)

### Contacts

To book a class visit to Avondale Discovery Farm or for more information about these teaching resources, please contact:

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### Overview

The activities in this package will:

- provide students with an historical perspective of land use in the Swan-Avon catchment and its impact on the Swan and Avon Rivers; and
- Increase students' understanding of how past impacts are being addressed and new sustainable farming methods are being developed and utilised by farmers.

More specifically, activities at the **Gwambygine River Park** illustrate the impact of past river management and introduces the concept that the Swan and Avon Rivers are the same and that land management in the wider catchment affects the health of the Swan and Avon Rivers. Other concepts such as flora distribution, water quality issues, reserve management and the cultural history of the site are also addressed at Gwambygine.

The **Avondale Discovery Farm** activities present an opportunity for students to experience the integration of landcare with farming systems. The Avondale site includes the Avondale Landcare Centre, a Swan-Avon Catchment display and a Landcare Drive, which explore soil management, the integration of new crops into the farming system and managing a farm for a sustainable future. Avondale also offers a range of agricultural education opportunities including an historic farm machinery collection, stables, shearing sheds and a variety of farm animals.

The activities have been broken down into common themes to enable the selection of activities relevant to your curriculum focus. While it might be possible to do all activities in a single day, it is suggested that teachers make a selection from the available material and cover this in depth.

Links to the Curriculum Framework for each activity are described over the page.



Department of Agriculture  
Government of Western Australia



# Curriculum Links

## Avondale Discovery Farm

Worksheet	Science	SOSE	English	Other
1. Revegetation	IS / CS / AR / L&L	ICP / P&S / R / N&SS / AC	P&S / L / S / W	Maths
2a. Land-use Planning	SDL / AR / E&B	P&S / R / N&SS / AR	P&S / R / W	
2b. Rotations	E&B / L&L	R / N&SS	R / W	
3. Erosion	AR / E&B	P&S / AC	R / W	
4a. Remnant Vegetation	L&L	P&S / N&SS	R / W	
4b. Feral Animals	AR / L&L	P&S	R / W	Maths
5. Riparian Vegetation	IS / L&L	P&S / N&SS	R / W	Maths
6a. New Ideas	SDL / L&L	N&SS	R / W	
6b. Integrated Landcare	SDL / E&B / L&L	P&S / N&SS	R / W	

## Gwambygine River Park

Worksheet	Science	S&E	English	Other
1. Plant ID	IS / CS / L&L	P&S / N&SS	P&S / W	
2. River Training	E&B	P&S / TC&C N&SS	R / W	
3. Protect and Save	L&L	ICP / P&S	R / W	
4. Soil Investigation	IS / CS / E&B / N&PM	ICP / P&S	P&S / R / W	Maths
5. Now and Then	-	ICP / P&S TC&C / N&SS	R / W	
6. What's where and why?	IS / CS / E&B L&L	ICP / P&S / N&SS	R / W	
7. Salinity	E&B	P&S / N&SS	R / W	
8. Nutrient Enrichment	SDL / L&L	P&S / N&SS AC	R / W	

### Key:

*(only strands mentioned above have been listed)*

#### Science

IS - Investigating Scientifically  
 CS - Communicating Scientifically  
 SDL - Science in Daily Life  
 AR - Acting Responsibly  
 SS - Science in Society  
 E&B - Earth & Beyond  
 L&L - Life & Living  
 N&PM - Natural & Processed Materials

#### Society & Environment (S&E)

ICP - Investigation, Communication & Participation  
 P&S - Place & Space  
 R - Resources  
 TC&C - Time, Continuity & Change  
 N&SS - Natural & Social Systems  
 AC - Active Citizenship

#### English

P&S - Processes & Strategies  
 L - Listening  
 S - Speaking  
 R - Reading  
 W - Writing