

New Forest Wildlife Park

Whilst we were in the New Forest over Easter, we visited the New Forest Wildlife Park. We



haven't visited a wildlife park for ages, so I thought this would be a lovely idea.

The first thing you walk through when you arrive, is the small children's play area, so of course my children wanted a play first. It was a fantastic play area for small children (up to age 6). It had lots of roped climbing equipment that you normally find in bigger children's adventure playgrounds, only it was in miniature! The children absolutely loved it, I thought it was so cute! There was also a lovely sandpit with a digger, so that kept BB amused for ages.

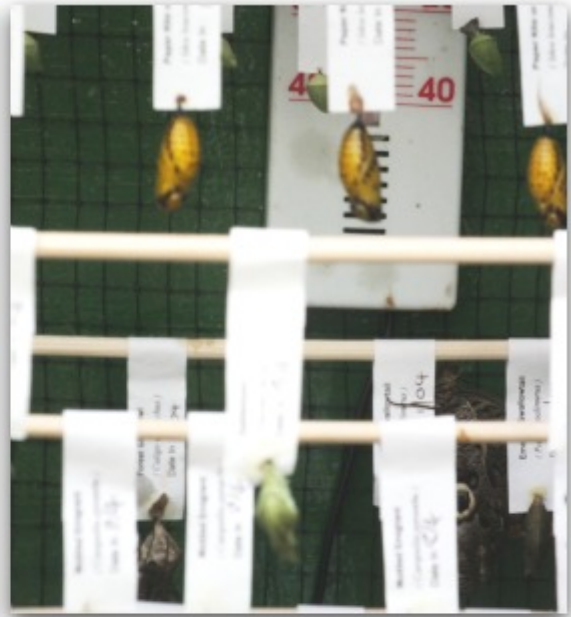




Once we managed to prize the children away from the playground, our first stop was the butterfly house. I wasn't sure how the kids would react to lots of butterflies fluttering around, but there wasn't very many at this time of year, so it was good to just spot a few.

The best part though, was the cupboard of all the cucooned butterflies, not yet emerged. It was amazing, I've never seen that before. The children were fascinated, especially BB. We talked to them about the life cycle of the butterfly using 'the very hungry caterpillar' as an example. It was a great

bring us! We walked on further, to the otters and happened to be there just at feeding time, so enjoyed watching



WHY IS A CATERPILLAR SO VERY HUNGRY?

New Forest National Park

The butterfly lays her Eggs on the underside of a leaf. This leaf is the first meal for the newly hatched Caterpillar.

The Caterpillar eats and eats. All day long it eats leaves until it is one big, fat and fully grown.

The fat, fat Caterpillar spins a silk thread to keep from a stem. Then slowly a hard tough shell forms around the Caterpillar. This shell is a Chrysalis or Pupa. No time for eating - inside the Pupa the Caterpillar is slowly changing into a beautiful Butterfly.

About 2 weeks later the Pupa splits open and out crawls a Butterfly. The Butterfly pumps blood into its wings so they gently unfold. Once they are full size the Butterfly pumps the blood out of the wings and it lays long up silk down until the wings are dry.

Now the newly emerged Butterfly can fly away to find a mate and before lay eggs on starting the process all over again.

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very cute, we could have watched them for ages.

We visited the deers, which was lovely, as we could get really close to them and the children even

that?). We visited lots of other animals whilst here, but these were our favourites.



We enjoyed a picnic lunch in the big children's adventure playground, which BB used, but my 4 yr

~~photo~~

bridge.
After we had seen all the animals, we went back to the



small children's play area for more fun. I just had to add this photo of Boo as she was so proud of the

sandcastle she made!



It was a lovely day out for all of us, we saw lots of animals and learnt loads too. We had fun in the play areas and loved every minute of it.



[Link to #FamilyFriday here](#)