



CHILTERN

OPEN AIR

MUSEUM

*Where buildings come
alive through history*

Medieval Falconry

Location:

- Hawk and Owl Trust Education Centre.

Purpose and content of the activity session:

- Topics covered during this session will include the social significance of falconry, how birds were trained, falconry furniture and how wild bird of prey populations were regarded in this era.

Background Information

Falconry played a very important part in medieval life and was popular with all levels of the feudal society. Yeoman and villagers flew birds like the Goshawk against 'pot quarry' such as hare or partridge, whereas the more wealthy members of society flew more spectacular birds like falcons for sport. It is reported that the type of bird flown was dictated by one's social standing (an eagle for a king, a Merlin for a lady etc.). Indeed, keeping a bird above one's station was an offence subject to severe penalties.

The falconer was a highly valued member of the household.

The Hawk and Owl Trust is a registered charity working to conserve wild birds of prey and their habitats. Their work includes education and monitoring wild populations. No captive birds are kept by the Trust.