

recreation

At Stover Country Park our aim is to provide as much freedom as possible for people to enjoy a wide range of activities whilst ensuring that the environment and wildlife are protected. To achieve this often requires a fine balancing act between the needs of people and the care of wildlife. We want you to enjoy yourselves and have a respect for the Country Park and its more regular inhabitants.



The Rangers run a series of guided walks, events and conservation tasks all aimed at fostering interest in the Country Park and the countryside as a whole.

While you visit the Country Park please follow the Country Code and ensure dogs are kept under control.

public transport

Bus stops are situated just outside the parks' boundary. Call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 for information on routes and times.



how to find us



For further
information contact:

Stover Country Park,
Stover,
Newton Abbot,
Devon TQ12 6QG

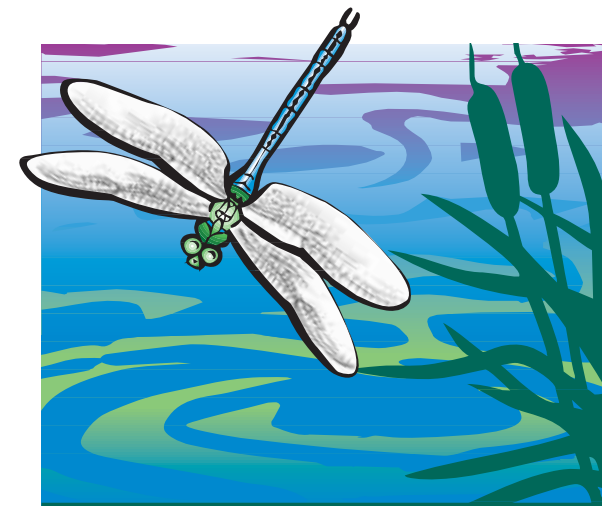
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Devon
County Council 



Stover

Country Park

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Information



Stover offers a range of facilities to help you enjoy the Park and appreciate the natural surroundings.

The sustainably built Nature Interpretation Centre offers high quality displays interpreting the wealth of plants and wildlife found at Stover. There are also two CCTV links, one to a fixed camera in a nest box and the other, controlled with a joystick, to a camera on a pole in the marsh showing the lake and its inhabitants.



Nature Interpretation Centre



Aerial Walkway

The Aerial Walkway, suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs, gives a 'tree top' perspective of one of Stover's woodlands.



Concealed in a woodland glade, a bird-hide provides the ideal opportunity to sit and watch completely undetected as the woodland creatures go about their daily routine. Designated picnic tables are set in the tranquility of a woodland surround.



	Coniferous Woodland		Marshland
	Grassland		Lake & Ponds
	Heathland		Deciduous Woodland

Surfaced Paths

Newton Abbot to Bovey Tracey cycle route

Toilets	Pay & Display Car Park
Picnic Areas	Bus Stops
Dog Free Picnic Areas	Templer Way Footpath

The Ted Hughes Poetry Trail (2 miles) and Children's Trail takes in specially designed Poetry Posts each displaying a poem by Ted Hughes on a theme relating to wildlife of the natural world; leaflets are available.

A network of paths on both surfaced and unsurfaced paths allows you to wander throughout the Park. The circular walk around the lake is particularly popular and is suitable for wheelchairs. For a longer walk, try the Heritage Trail circuit, part of the Templer Way. There is a designated cycle route through the northern part of the Park.

Look on the notice board for details of guided walks and other events that regularly take place within the Park. Toilets, including disabled, can be found at the Nature Interpretation Centre building along with wildlife and walks leaflets (Poetry Trail, Heritage Trail and Templer Way).



introduction

Stover Country Park is situated between Bovey Tracey and Newton Abbot in the beautiful South Devon countryside.

Conveniently close to the A38 dual carriageway the Park is only 3 miles (5km) from Dartmoor

National Park. Stover is one of two Country Parks managed by Devon County Council for the benefit of

wildlife, recreation and the local community. 114 acres of woodland, heathland, grassland, lake and marsh provide a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a wide range of activities from an afternoon picnic to serious nature study.

history

The fairytale story of James Templer, a young orphan boy, running away to sea and making his fortune is where the Stover story begins. On his return in 1765 he purchased an 80,000 acre (32,400ha) estate on the edge of Dartmoor and set about building Stover House (now an

independent school) and landscaping the grounds - much of which now forms the Country Park.

The 18 mile (29km) long Templer Way follows the route the quarried granite took as it was brought down off the moor by the Templer family's Haytor Granite Tramway and moved down the Stover Canal (another family venture) on wind driven barges and on to the sea. Lying half-way down this linear route, the Country Park provides a starting point for the circular 4 mile (6.5km) long Heritage Trail which takes in the middle section of the Templer Way.

Leaflets for both the Templer Way and the Heritage Trail are available.

wildlife

Undoubtedly the main feature of the Park, the 10 acre (4ha) lake and marsh, is particularly important for dragonflies, so much so that in 1984 it was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a Local Nature Reserve in 2002. The lake provides a sanctuary for an abundance of wildfowl and in winter flocks of snipe use the marsh as a daytime roost.

Extensive deciduous and coniferous woodland interspersed with pockets of lowland heath provide habitats for a wide range of visiting and resident wildlife. The ever present grey squirrel is a constant companion at a picnic table whilst the shy roe deer and dormouse keep to the quieter areas of the Park.

During the winter huge flocks of greenfinches escaping the cold weather find shelter and



protection in the trees where in the summer spotted flycatcher and tawny owl breed. Areas of heath within the woodlands are being reinstated at Stover through a Countryside Stewardship agreement, in order to attract birds like the nightjar, adders and a wide variety of insects.

Stover is particularly rich in plant life including some unusual and rare species. An abundance of flora attracts numerous butterflies, including the white admiral and other insects which in turn serve to pollinate the flowers.

The Country Park is host to a wide variety of fungi species which appear mainly during the autumn months.

