



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

The sustainably built **Nature Interpretation Centre** (right) 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.



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

Concealed in a woodland glade, the walkway provides the ideal opportunity to sit and watch as the woodland creatures go about their daily routine.

Designated picnic areas are set in the tranquility of a woodland surround.



**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. Leaflets are available.

A network of 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 4.5 mile **Heritage Trail** circuit to the River Teign. There is a designated cycle route through the northern part of the Park which forms a link to the multi-use Stover Trail.

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 and Templer Way). [devon.gov.uk/stovercountrypark](http://devon.gov.uk/stovercountrypark)

- T** Toilets
- P** Picnic Areas
- P** Pay & Display Car Park
- B** Bus Stop

- Surfaced Paths
- Cycle link to the Newton Abbot to Bovey Tracey cycle route on the Stover Trail
- Dogs on leads

- Coniferous Woodland
- Grassland
- Heathland
- Marshland
- Lake & Ponds
- Deciduous Woodland



to Canadian Forestry Corps Memorial Sculptures

## 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. This often requires a fine balancing act between the needs of people and care of wildlife. We want you to enjoy yourselves and have 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 Countryside Code and ensure dogs are kept under control and on leads in designated areas.

## public transport

Bus stops are situated just outside the park's boundary. **Call Traveline on 0114 221 1282** for information on routes and times.

## how to find us



### Further information

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

Tel. 01626 835236

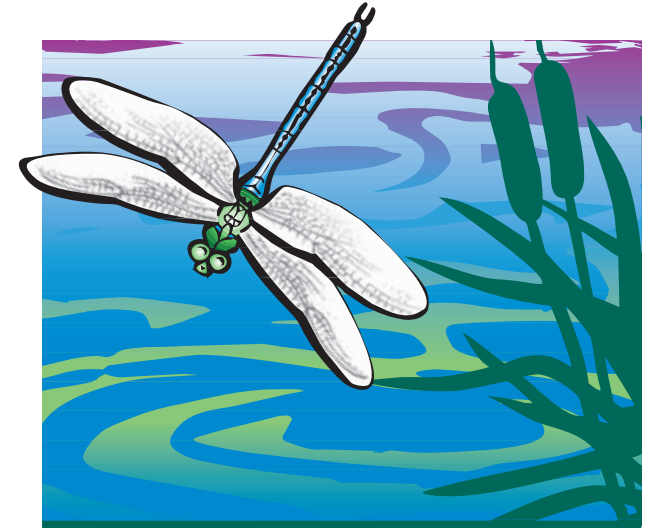
[devon.gov.uk/stovercountrypark](http://devon.gov.uk/stovercountrypark)



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Devon  
County Council 



# Stover

## Country Park

### LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

# information



## 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 story of James Templer, the son of an Exeter tradesman, making his fortune is where the Stover story begins. Aged 14 he was apprenticed to an architect in the city and eventually made his fortune as a Naval Dockyard Contractor. In 1765 he purchased Stoford Lodge and the Manor of Teigngrace, and set about building Stover House

(now an independent school) and landscaping the grounds - much of which now forms the Country Park. The Stover Estate eventually extended to over 3,000 acres.

The 16 mile (25.7km) 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 via Teignmouth.

The Country Park provides a starting point for the circular 4.5 mile (7.2km) long Heritage Trail, which guides walkers around Templer's estate including the Stover Canal.

The Heritage Trail also gives access to the Templer Way and the multi-use Stover Trail.

Leaflets for the Templer Way are available from the Visitor Centre.

## 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.

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 finches 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 have been 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.

