

Parks and Beyond

Welcome to **SOUTHERN COUNTRY PARK**

Why not leave your car at home and explore Southern Country Park and beyond?

This is one of five parks in the south west corner of Bishop's Stortford that are linked together by 'Parks and Beyond' circular walks. Follow the waymarked (green and orange) traffic free routes along grassy footpaths, bridleways and tarmaced paths; and look out for similar interpretation panels at Northern Parkland, Thorley Wedge, Bishop's Park and The Firs.



The park is crissed-crossed with informal paths and public rights of way. You can enjoy a gentle stroll around the park, explore the maze or join a health walk. If you are feeling more adventurous why not try the orienteering course; designed for different levels of experience, starting from the car park.

The large grassy area is an ideal place to fly kites and play ball games. Nearby is an exciting play area – a dog free zone makes playing safer. Dog owners are welcome to exercise their dogs in most other parts of the park as long as they are kept under control. There is even a special dog agility course to test your skills.

The main lake and reedbed are a haven for wildlife with birds, minibeasts and fish all living here. As well as the resident ducks, water rail can occasionally be found and more commonly herons, with reed and sedge warblers visiting in the summer. Look out for dragonflies and damselflies hunting for food above the water.

Fishing is allowed on the main lake from designated fishing platforms only.

Around the park you will find other smaller ponds and wetlands, some dry up in the summer and others are deep and stay wet all year long allowing frogs and newts to breed.

In summer the chalky banks around the park are ablaze with wildflowers and alive with bees, hoverflies and butterflies. Look out for bee orchids, their flowers actually look like little bees. Sheep are occasionally used to graze an enclosed area of grassland in the park.

A lot of the practical conservation work on the site is undertaken by the 'Friends of Southern Country Park' under guidance from the council and the Countryside Management Service. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to download an orienteering map, please visit our website.

This site is owned and managed by East Herts Council
For all enquiries please contact Environmental Services on
t 01279 655261 e: operations.admin@eastherts.gov.uk

Please see back of notice board for park bylaws



To find out more about Parks and Beyond please visit: www.eastherts.gov.uk/bishopsstortfordparks

