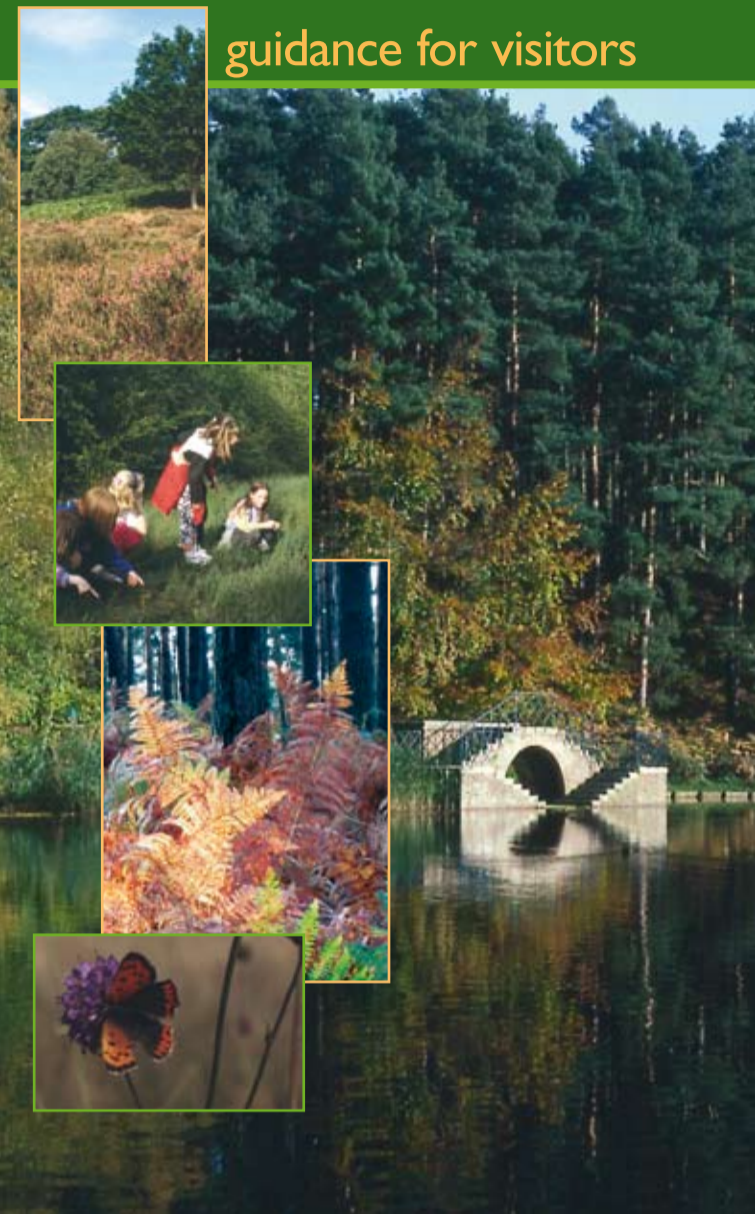


Stockgrove Country Park & Oak Wood

information and
guidance for visitors



The Stockgrove rangers

If you need any help or information during your visit to Stockgrove Country Park and Oak Wood please ask the rangers for assistance. Call in at the ranger's office or contact:

The Ranger's Office
Stockgrove Country Park
Brickhill Road, Heath and Reach
Bedfordshire, LU7 0BA

Tel: 01525 237760
rangers@stockgrove.co.uk

The Greensand Trust...

is an independent environmental charity, working with local communities and landowners to conserve and promote the distinctive landscape, wildlife and history of the Greensand Ridge, and to improve access, understanding and enjoyment of this fascinating area. For more information or to get involved, contact:

The Greensand Trust,
The Forest Office, Haynes West End
Bedford, MK45 3QT

Tel: 01234 743666
greensand@freeuk.com
www.greensand-trust.org.uk



Environmental Partnership in Action

Who looks after Stockgrove and Oak Wood?

Stockgrove Country Park is owned by the County Councils of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It is managed on their behalf by the Greensand Trust, a local charity.

Oak Wood is owned and managed by the Greensand Trust for the benefit of both wildlife and visitors.

relies on donations from visitors to help manage the area and protect the wildlife. There is a donation box beside the ranger's office door and gift aid envelopes are available in the café should you wish to contribute towards the upkeep of Stockgrove and Oak Wood.

If you would like a large print copy of this leaflet please contact the Stockgrove Rangers.



Feedback and comments

Please use this space to give us your comments about Stockgrove and Oak Wood. Tear off and place in the box provided in the café/visitor centre, or post to the rangers.

Where to go and what to see

Exploring ...

The map overleaf shows the main paths within Stockgrove and Oak Wood.

Stockgrove has a surfaced path around the lake which is suitable for people using wheelchairs and pushchairs. A wheelchair is available to borrow from the visitor centre; please phone the rangers in advance to check availability.

In Baker's Wood please take extra care to keep to the existing tracks and keep dogs under close control.

Cycling: Please ask the rangers for information on where to cycle in this area. Cycling is not allowed in Stockgrove itself.

Horse Riding is possible only in Oak Wood, either along the Public Bridleway or on the Permissive Horse Routes. Ask the rangers for a leaflet with details of these routes and how to apply for a permit to ride on them.



The boathouse on the lake once looked like this. There were fewer trees behind it, too.

Facilities for visitors

Grover's Café serves a range of hot and cold drinks, food and snacks. Private parties are welcome; please call 01525 234246 to book and to check opening times, which vary during the year. The café is run by The Greensand Trust: all profits go towards the upkeep of the Park.

Barbecues and Fires: you may use a BBQ in the main picnic area but it must be raised off the ground. Do not rest disposable BBQs on the picnic tables. Have plenty of water to hand just in case, and do not empty the used charcoal into a litter bin!



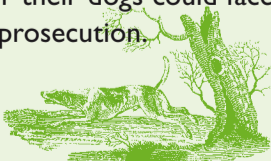
The vegetation in this whole area is very flammable. **Never** light a campfire or bonfire and take care not to drop matches or cigarette ends.

Fishing is prohibited in all lakes, ponds and streams in the area.



Dogs

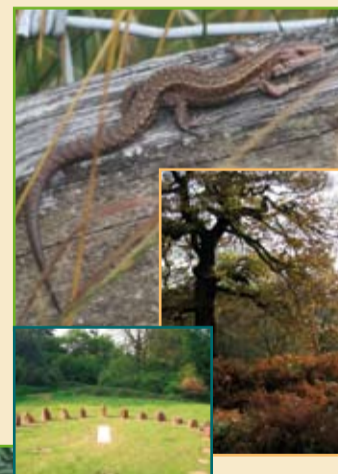
Please keep dogs under close control at all times. Please clean up after your dog in all areas and use the dog waste bins provided. Owners who fail to clean up after their dogs could face an on-the-spot fine or prosecution.



Events and guided walks

A variety of events, activity days and guided walks are held throughout the year at Stockgrove and Oak Wood. Many are suitable for families. Watch for notices at the visitor centre or ask at the ranger's office. School and group visits are also catered for; contact the rangers and ask for a leaflet.

A guided walk can introduce you to some shy wildlife or special places. Common lizard (right), county boundary oak (far right), sundial (right).



Learning can be fun! A school group enjoying the nature study area by the lake.

Do not pick wild flowers: leave them in their natural habitat for all to enjoy

Please follow the Country Code and take your litter home

Please respect the wildlife of the area and other visitors.

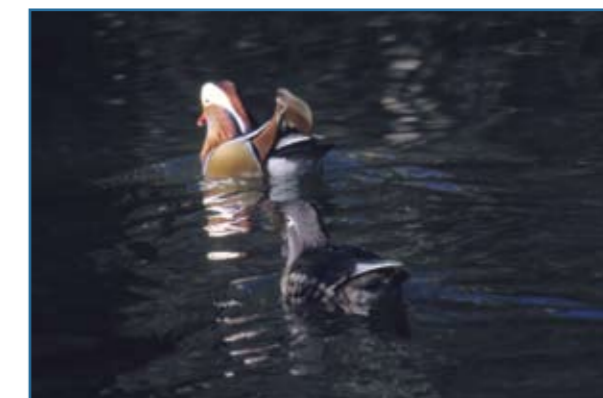
Stockgrove Country Park & Oak Wood



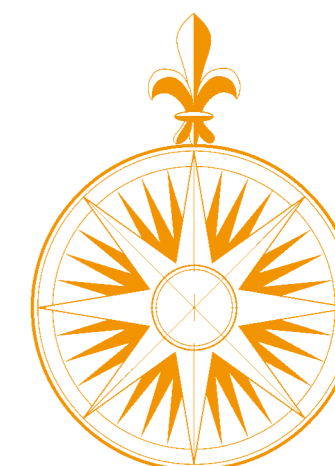
Green Woodpecker

Stockgrove Country Park opened to the public in 1972. It covers 80 acres with a variety of habitats including a lake, marshes, ancient oak woodland, conifer plantations, meadows and heaths. The lake is noted for its colourful Mandarin Ducks; on the meadows Green Woodpeckers may be seen feeding on ants among the wildflowers and grasses.

Oak Wood despite its name, consists of 100 acres of predominantly conifer plantations. Some remnants of ancient heath survive here, and in places the trees have been cleared to encourage its regeneration. At the southern end there is an attractive valley of wet woodland with small ponds and a stream. Some very rare marsh plants grow here.



Mandarin ducks were introduced to Britain from eastern Asia. In spring the female lays her eggs in down-filled holes in trees; try to spot a nest hole!



Key	
	Easy Access Route
	Path
	Public Bridleway
	Greensand Ridge Walk
	Gate; Stile
	Woodland
	Boggy areas
	Heather
	Areas where trees have been cut back to encourage regeneration of heathland.
	Areas where oak has been coppiced and fenced to prevent deer eating the regrowth.
SSSI	means Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Did you know? The Greensand Ridge

Stockgrove Country Park and Oak Wood lie on the Greensand Ridge. The rare lowland heath habitat that historically covered much of this area developed because of the infertile, sandy soils of the Ridge.

