



Trees of Stover Country Park

Introduction

Stover Country Park was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1984 because of its wildlife interest including butterflies, dragonflies and overwintering wildfowl. It also became a Local Nature Reserve in 2001.

Trees and shrubs form the structure and layers in the various habitats on site. Offering nesting sites and food such as nuts and berries, trees also support lots of insects so they provide good habitats for a range of birds and mammals.

Broadleaved woodland, conifer plantations, an arboretum, a pinetum and planted islands can all be seen here as well as the wildlife they support.

The commonest native trees on site are pedunculate (or English) oak, birch and Scots pine, but many other native and non-native trees can also be seen.

Conifer plantations in the Park were established by the Forestry Commission between 1943 and 1966 on areas of lowland heathland.

Lake islands planted with exotic conifers.



The Visitor Centre is made of timber.

Most of the plantations are single-species stands of Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Scots pine, Sitka spruce, Japanese larch, coastal redwood and western hemlock.

Trees at Stover

Stover was once part of the grounds of Stover House and this has left a legacy of many species of exotic conifers. In the late 1700s James Templer was responsible for planting 200,000 trees including exotic species such as Wellingtonia, monkey-puzzle and Japanese red cedar. Examples of some of these can still be seen today.

Two of the lake islands also have a selection of exotic conifers (planted in the 19th Century); mainly Wellingtonia and Japanese red cedar.

In 1980 the Pinetum was planted to commemorate the Queen Mother's 80th birthday. Species include grand fir, Douglas fir, Monterey cypress, western red cedar, deodar cedar and juniper.

The Arboretum was planted in 1992 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Species planted include sweet chestnut, pedunculate oak, bird cherry, raoul beech, copper beech, false acacia, red oak, Italian alder and small-leaved lime.

Other specimen trees include Turkey oak and holm oak. Native trees such as hornbeam, hazel, guelder rose, rowan,

Species List

Native:	Non-native:
alder	sycamore
ash	horse chestnut
beech	monkey-quizzle
silver birch	sweet chestnut
downy birch	copper beech
hornbeam	laburnum
hazel	European larch
hawthorn	Japanese larch
spruce	raoul beech
alder buckthorn	Norway spruce
holly	Sitka spruce
juniper	Corsecan pine
crab apple	Monterey pine
Scots pine	Douglas fir
aspens	red oak
wild cherry	Turkey oak
blackthorn	holm oak
goat willow	false acacia
grey willow	coastal redwood
pedunculate oak*	Wellingtonia
rowan	western red cedar
small-leaved lime	Japanese red cedar
wayfaring tree	deodar cedar
guelder rose	Monterey cypress
elder	rhododendron (ponticum)
white poplar	western hemlock

*over photo by Rob Ballard



Country Park
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

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Habitat Management for Trees

At Stover the trees are managed for wildlife and landscape. Within the woodland rhododendron is cleared from the undergrowth to allow tree saplings and woodland flora to thrive.

When gaps appear, maybe through storms, suitable trees are planted. Tree guards have to be used because deer will graze the young saplings so that they do not survive. Squirrels are also a threat to trees as they tend to remove the bark in the winter months.

In some areas trees are removed, especially young birch and willow saplings in the heathland and marsh areas, also around rides, glades and ponds. Some areas of conifer plantation have been cleared as part of the heathland restoration project, others have had paths and clearings cut into them to allow in more light for the woodland plants to thrive. Conifers are also selectively pruned and thinned.

Where possible, mature trees are retained and dead and fallen branches are left as these are good habitats for fungi, wood-boring beetles and woodpeckers. Where trees are cut down some wood is left as log piles for these species too.

Some areas of the broad-leaved woodland, especially hazel, are coppiced to encourage vigorous re-growth. The felled timber supplies the charcoal burner.

Records and Sightings

We hope you have enjoyed your visit. Please let us know if you see anything unusual by calling in at the Visitor Centre.

The Visitor Centre has more information about the wildlife on site.



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Where to look for Trees and Shrubs

Stover is full of trees, from native broadleaves to exotic conifers. An Arboretum and Pinetum have been planted to help with tree identification and all the trees in them are labelled. Conifer plantations of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, Scots pine and Japanese larch can also be found. Trees and shrubs support a rich variety of wildlife. During each season there is something new to see - spring brings new leaves, summer brings flowers, autumn brings nuts, fruits and colourful leaves, and winter is a good time to see the structure of the deciduous trees and their different coloured barks.



Arboretum

Arboretum

Planted in 1992 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Trees are labelled to help with identification. Over 20 species of broadleaved trees are planted amongst 100 year old Scots pines.

Recent Broadleaved Plantation

One of Stover's more recent plantations includes aspen, hawthorn, hazel, pedunculate oak and ash.



Aspen



Beech provides spring and autumn colour, along with nuts in autumn.



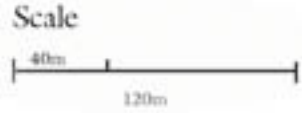
Sitka Spruce shoots



Conifer plantation.

Pinetum

Planted in 1980 to commemorate the Queen Mother's 80th birthday, the Pinetum includes species such as grand fir, Douglas fir, Monterey cypress, western red cedar, deodar cedar and juniper. Trees are labelled to help with identification.



Larch cones



Douglas Fir cone



Scots Pine cone



Mature Oak Woodland

Oak woodland is the most typical type of woodland in Devon and usually grows in association with hazel and holly in the understorey.



Hazel



Rhododendron grows in the understory across parts of the site and is gradually being removed.



Mature Scots pines in the heathland area.



Brook in the woodland.



Pedunculate Oak

Staple Copse

Mixture of natural broadleaved woodland with some historical planting. The Carriage Drive passes through this area and large Turkey and pedunculate oaks dominate the edges. Mainly oak and hazel, with birch and alder in the wetter areas.



Wellingtonia One of the world's largest tree species. Brought here in the early 19th Century from North America.

Alder showing tiny cones



Willow



Lakeside with alder, birch and willow.

Southern Marsh

In the marshy areas and around the lake edges are trees typically found in damp habitats such as willow and alder with some birch. Pedunculate oak also thrives on the lake-side but not in the damp soils. Also found around the lake path are azalea and laburnum.



Birch

