

Visitor Information

Facilities:

Visitor Centre (with exhibition, café, education room, toilets and baby change facilities) is open daily.

Car and coach parking, cycle rack, way-marked routes, picnic area, children's play area. For details of family events, education sessions or room hire, please contact us.

Accessibility:

Blue badge parking bays. Visitor Centre is fully accessible. The Circuit Walk is accessible to visitors of all abilities. The surfaced route is a minimum of two metres wide, generally flat and has no steps. There are two slopes but easier alternatives are shown. Other paths around the Park are generally flat but, those to the west of the Serpentine Bridge may be muddy.

Visitor Code:

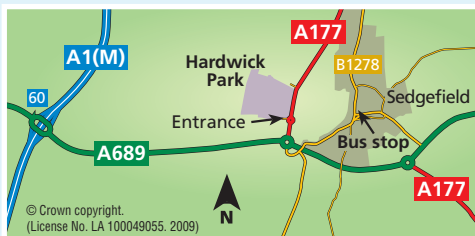
Please help us to preserve the Park, respect its wildlife and other visitors, and ensure your safety:

- ~ Keep out of the water
- ~ Do not swim, fish or use boats of any kind in the ponds or lake
- ~ Clean up after your dog
- ~ Keep your dog under close control on a short lead in designated areas
- ~ BBQ on the Temple Field picnic area only
- ~ Take your litter home or put it in the bins provided
- ~ Respect other users - cyclists and horse-riders must stay on the way-marked route and give way to pedestrians
- ~ Do not pick plants or flowers

Getting here:

Hardwick Park is on the west side of Sedgfield in County Durham.

Grid Reference NZ 346 288
(Ordnance Survey map Explorer 305)



By Public transport

Nearest bus stop is at Sedgfield High Street. From there it is a ½ mile walk following a signposted footpath through the arch of the Hardwick Arms Hotel.

Up-to-date timetables are available from Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

By Car or Coach

Hardwick Park is on the A177 Durham to Stockton road on the west side of Sedgfield. 2½ miles from A1(M) Junction 60 (well sign-posted).

On foot, cycle or horse

Paths allow easy access to the Park at all times. See Ordnance Survey map Explorer 305.

Images: Durham County Council, Geoff Hill, Graeme Peacock, www.northeastwildlife.co.uk, www.wildstock.co.uk, Hardwick Park original engraving by J Bailey, 1781, courtesy of Durham Record Office/Michael Rudd.

Contact us:

Hardwick Park Visitor Centre,
Sedgfield, Stockton-on-Tees TS21 2DN

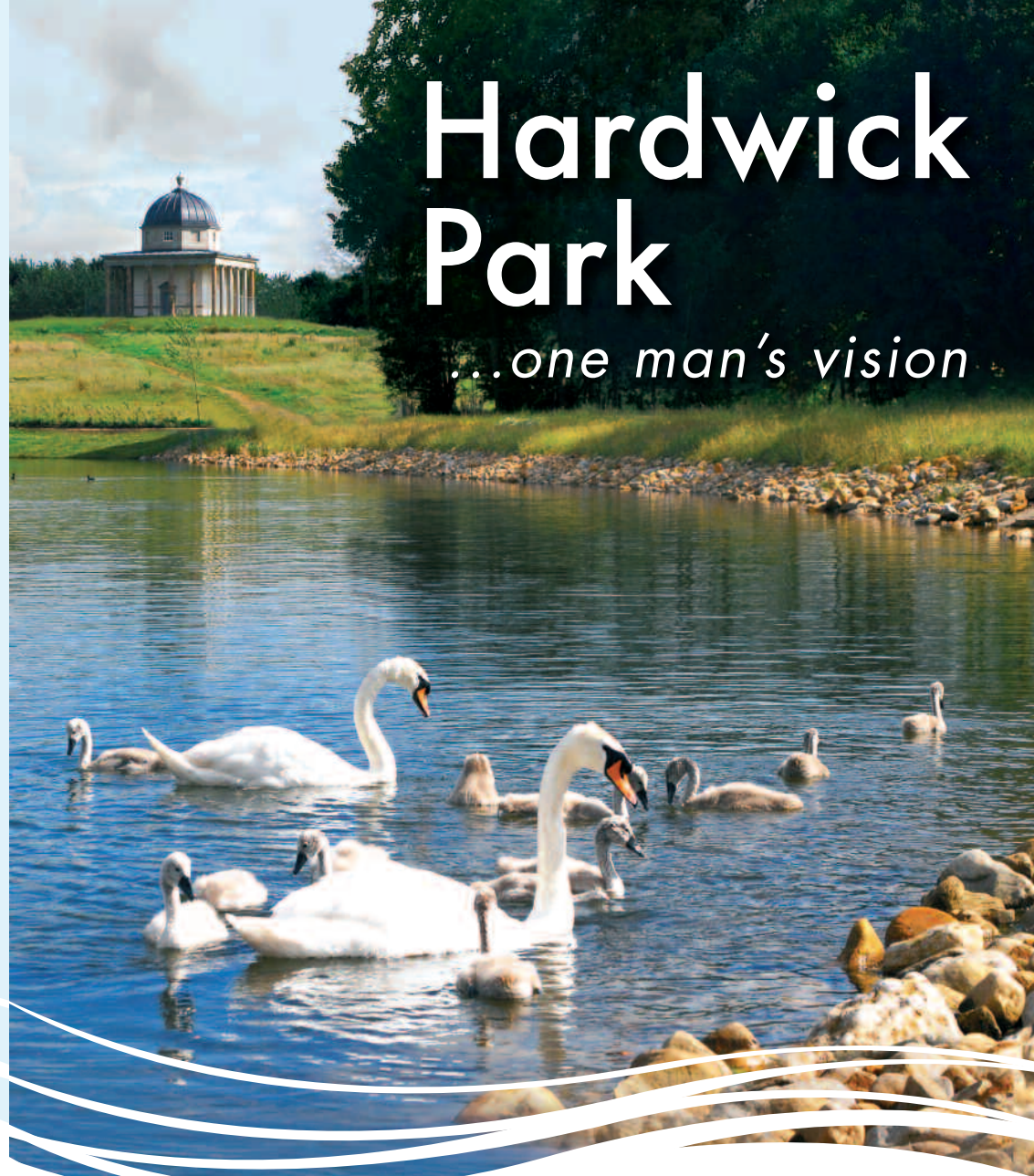
Telephone: 01740 621 505

Email: hardwickpark@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark

Hardwick Park

...one man's vision



Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

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Creating nature

In the 18th century, John Burdon set about transforming the Hardwick Estate into his own pleasure grounds. To help him achieve his vision he employed James Paine, a leading architect of the time.

Their aim was to create a garden that, although heavily engineered, was meant to look completely natural. It was a far step from the formal gardens of the past. Paine created ornamental buildings, 'ruins', lakes and woodland which looked like they had always been part of the landscape. Even the Serpentine was created to look like a river flowing through the Park.



Now you see it, now you don't

Although Hardwick Park is on fairly flat ground, it was cleverly designed so that it was impossible to gain a panoramic view. Plantings were carefully located to conceal or frame views, so that at certain points on the Circuit Walk, the visitor was greeted with a fresh and exciting view of the park.

Today you can follow in Burdon's footsteps by doing the Circuit Walk shown on the map overleaf.



The reawakening

The decline of Hardwick Park began early in the 1800's. Over time the original layout vanished in a tangle of undergrowth and many of the buildings turned to ruins, hidden amongst the trees.

Local residents were concerned that the historical importance of Hardwick Park was being lost and so, in 1999, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Durham County Council began the Hardwick Park Restoration Project. It has undergone a massive transformation into the wonderful place it is today.



Did you know that Hardwick was once occupied by the Romans?

Archaeological evidence shows that there was a major Roman settlement in East Park.

It was first discovered in the late 1990's when aerial photographs of the area revealed crop marks in the form of a Roman road and an arrangement of enclosures.

An excavation by Channel 4's Time Team confirmed the existence of a Roman settlement and uncovered metal working hearths and pottery kilns.

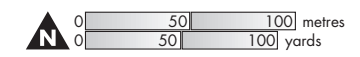
For further information go to www.keystothepast.info



Key to map

-  **Historical Circuit Walk**
way-marked:  Takes in all the views of the Park - 1.75km (1 mile)
-  **Avoiding slope**
-  **Circular cycle route**
way-marked:  Cyclists must stay on this route - 2.3km (1.4 mile)
-  **Horse-riding route**
way-marked:  Horse-riders must stay on this route - 900m (0.5 mile)
-  **Other paths**
-  **Unsurfaced path**
-  **Fen Carr Boardwalk**
-  **Gate**
-  **P** Car parks
-  **P** Accessible parking
-  **WC** Toilets (including accessible toilet)
-  **i** Exhibition
-  **C** Café
-  **Dog walking**
way-marked:  Dogs are allowed in the Park, but must be kept on a lead in this shaded area.
-  **Water**
-  **Road**
-  **Perimeter of Hardwick Park**

Scale





Sunken fences,
giant chairs and hidden views...

Come and explore

With its combination of beautiful views, rich heritage, archaeological remains and ecological diversity, Hardwick Park is a remarkable place to visit.

Uncover the history...

The past is brought to life within the Visitor Centre. Sculptures and information panels located around the site give further insight.

Discover the diversity...

The beauty of nature is all around. The lake, woodland and wildflower meadows attract a variety of birds,

insects and mammals. The fen carr is a nationally important habitat and can be seen from the boardwalk.

Enjoy the present...

Appreciate Hardwick Park for its tranquillity and green space. Come and feed the ducks, walk your dog, have a picnic or relax with a coffee in the café - Hardwick Park has something for everyone.

Guided walks, family activities and regular events celebrate the dramatic views, and the wealth of history and wildlife contained within these revived pleasure grounds. We also run education sessions for school groups and a programme of workshops and evening sessions for adults. Contact us for further details.



Improve the future...

Make your own valuable contribution to Hardwick Park.

To help the Park to reach its full potential, we need your help. We are lucky enough to have two sets of volunteers:



Friends of Hardwick

The Friends are local people who have a desire to see the historic

18th century landscape restored as faithfully as possible. They help by fundraising, carrying out historical research and helping out around the Park and at events.



Durham Voluntary Countryside Ranger Service (DVCRS)

These volunteers carry out practical conservation work. They help us by cutting back vegetation, monitoring the wildlife, repairing paths, picking litter and helping at events.

Of course, you can also assist on a more informal basis - you don't need to become a member of either group. If you are interested in finding out more please contact us.