



Parkland Experience

Information Pack.



Introduction to Burton Constable Parkland.

Burton Constable Hall is an Elizabethan House set in over 300 acres of historic parkland. Situated near the Holderness coast the house was built in about 1570 and is the greatest house in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Before Burton Constable Hall was built a mediaeval village stood close by, the archaeological remains of which lie within the Parkland.

There have been many changes to the Parkland of Burton Constable through the centuries. In 1772 Capability Brown, a designer famous for making the countryside around great houses naturally beautiful, designed much of the landscape visitors can see today.

An inspirational resource for educational projects this "Capability Brown" landscape is being restored to its former glory with funding from *defra* Countryside Stewardship.

It is the ideal location for school children to learn about conservation and environmental issues during the restoration process.

Parkland Experience.

A 2 HOUR CONDUCTED TOUR FOR SCHOOLS AND INTERESTED GROUPS.

Including use of binoculars, insect catchers, maps, clipboards and education centre.

Led by Dave Nassau, groundsman and expert in parkland management.

Funded by Defra, Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Educational Access

- The Parkland Experience encourages children to discover the variety of habitats found within the Parkland. From ponds, fields, meadowland and hedgerows they are encouraged to ask questions and use their investigative skills to discover the rich diversity of life.
- Each Parkland Experience can be tailored to fit the specific needs of your group. Whether the learning requirements are to be based on scientific enquiry, geography fieldwork, PSHE or literacy, all work with your class will be designed to complement the National Curriculum.
- In this pack you will find full information about a Burton Constable Parkland Experience. We believe our Parkland to be unique in what it can offer to schools and are working constantly to improve access to this incredible resource.

Pre-visit.

We strongly recommend a pre-visit to Burton Constable Hall. This is free. Please phone to arrange a convenient date and time.

CONFIRMING YOUR RESERVATION.

Included in this pack is a booking form which you are asked to complete and return to Burton Constable confirming your requirements. It is appreciated if bookings can be made at least 6 weeks before your visit as we need to arrange staff, and ensure that any particular requests you may make are catered for.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

It is possible to combine a Parkland Experience with either a visit to Burton Constable Hall, an art workshop or orienteering.

You are welcome to contact us to chat about how to get the most from your visit.

We believe that Burton Constable is a truly amazing and inspirational place and will make sure you have a well organised, productive and above all enjoyable time.

ARRIVAL AT BURTON CONSTABLE.

- Your group will be met in the car park, our public toilets are located near here.
- Your group will then be taken through to the Education Centre where they can leave their packed lunches and coats if necessary.
- It is strongly advised that the children are wearing trousers and wellies while on the Park Experience. The fields are not sprayed as part of our conservation work so nettles, thistles and boggy ground can all be found in abundance. The fields are also used for grazing sheep.

THE PARKLAND EXPERIENCE.

- The Parkland Experience is a guided tour around 5 distinct areas of the Burton Constable Estate. A summary of the key features of each area is in this pack.
- The Parkland Experience is led by an expert in the management of the Parkland and the wildlife within it.
- There is time for the visiting group to look in depth at 2 areas of your choice.
- We have provided suggestions on how a Parkland Experience can be linked to National Curriculum requirements. You can select from this list or devise your own activities.

1. Designated wildlife area. Naturally developing.

This area is located within a level walk of the Education Centre. The grass has been allowed to grow with mown paths through. Several mature trees provide shady spaces. This area borders fields to one side and mown grass areas to the other. There are a variety of wild plants and insects. Easy to move logs and branches were placed here in the summer of 2004 to increase the range of wildlife.

2. Parterre garden, ha-ha and moat.

The Parterre is a level walk from the Education Centre and wildlife area. A formal area the planting is geometric, statues are carefully positioned between trees. The ha-ha has been created by altering one side of the original moat to create the optical illusion of a blurred boundary between house, garden and fields beyond. There are long views down an avenue of trees, a wonderful sense of grandeur and clear evidence of rabbits sharing the experience. Grasshoppers have been found near the boundary of the Parterre, cows and sheep are easy to see.

3. North Pond.

This is a section of the moat and again is a level walk. There is a good observation area at the eastern end of the pond where visitors may be lucky enough to see water voles or Great Crested Newts. There are many ducks on the pond and a variety of insects such as damselflies, dragonflies and water beetles.

4. East Park.

A - acre field that has small clumps of trees. These are home to several bird species including owls. This Parkland is grazed by the Burton Constable flock of Texel sheep. Patches of long grass have been left, increasing the range of habitats available to plants and wildlife. The ground is uneven and unsuitable for wheelchairs. In East Park visitors will experience walking through an ecologically managed field, learning about the wealth of plants and animals that can be found.

5. North Park

This- acre field is also grazed by sheep. In North Park the Experience looks at the variety of habitats that can be found within a field. It has a fenced in pond that has remained undisturbed for several years and a dewpond that is unfenced. The dewpond may be dry, depending on weather conditions. If it is full it may be suitable for pond dipping. Within North Park is a clump of trees with many easily moved rotting logs and branches. These provide an excellent habitat for minibeasts. There are plenty of rabbit warrens to see.