

Get Involved

A lot of the practical conservation work at **Southern Country Park** is undertaken by the '**Friends of Southern Country Park**' (**FoSCP**) dedicated volunteers, under guidance from the council and the Countryside Management Service.

FoSCP usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month to carry out practical tasks around the park. Tasks undertaken to date include: woodland management, installation of steps, planting trees and hedgerows, repairing stock fencing, reedbed management and control of invasive species. If practical work is not for you, why not help to carry out a species survey? Current surveys include butterflies, flowers and reptiles.



Volunteers planting a hedge
Courtesy of Bob Clift

Steps
Courtesy of Bob Clift

To get involved contact foscp@gmx.com or visit www.facebook.com/foscp.bs



How to get there

By Road:

Southern Country Park Car Park
off Thorley Lane (East), Bishop's Stortford.

By Public Transport:

For travel details contact Intalink Traveline:
0871 200 2233 or www.intalink.org.uk

Email: operations.admin@eastherts.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 655261

www.eastherts.gov.uk

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

Parks and Beyond

CIRCULAR WALKS



Produced by Fitzpatrick Woolmer - 0800 130 3630



Walks around Bishop's Stortford



Southern Country Park



Green Woodpecker

Parks and Beyond

Explore the south west corner of Bishop's Stortford by following 'Parks and Beyond' circular walks which link together five East Herts Council managed open spaces – **Southern Country Park, Northern Parkland, Thorley Wedge, Bishop's Park** and **The Firs**.

Southern Country Park

Come and discover **Southern Country Park**, an award winning Green Flag Park which has something for everyone. You can enjoy a gentle stroll around the park, join a health walk or if you are feeling more adventurous, why not have a go at orienteering? The large grassy area is the ideal place for kite flying and ball games, with an exciting play area nearby.



Southern Country Park

Dogs are welcome in most parts of the park as long as they are kept under control. How about testing your pet's skills on the dog agility course?

A trip across the boardwalk gives you a chance to get up close to the wetland wildlife that lives in the reedbed and lake. Look out for dragonflies and damselflies hunting for food above the water during the summer months.

Between June and August, the chalk banks become ablaze with wildflowers and alive with bees, hoverflies and butterflies. You can also fish from the designated fishing platforms on the main lake.



Bee Orchid Courtesy of Bob Clift



Northern Parkland

Northern Parkland

The large grassed open space of **Northern Parkland** is located to the north of St. Michael's Mead. Dotted with small pockets of young plantation woodland and two children's play areas, gives plenty of places to explore.

Thorley Wedge

Thorley Wedge is a corridor of open space running from Friedburg Avenue to Thorley Hill. There are two children's play areas and at the eastern end of the site an area of mixed woodland.

Bishop's Park

Just off Woodpecker Close you can find **Bishop's Park**. With a large area of amenity grassland surrounded by trees and a young children's play area, it makes the perfect place for outdoor activities.

The Firs

A pathway lined with lime, pink chestnut and fir trees, makes this linear woodland of **The Firs** a popular route to the local college, schools and into town.



The Firs



Marbled White Courtesy of Bob Clift

Parks and Beyond

CIRCULAR WALKS

Why not take a stroll, leave the car at home and explore Southern Country Park and beyond?

Visit five East Herts Council managed open spaces – **Southern Country Park**, **Northern Parkland**, **Thorley Wedge**, **Bishop's Park** and **The Firs**, in the south west corner of Bishop's Stortford.

Follow the waymarked (green and orange) 'Parks and Beyond' traffic free routes along grassy footpaths, bridleways and tarmaced paths, as they link together the five parks.



There is a lot to see and do along the way. Explore a range of wildlife habitats including woodland, grassland, wetlands and residential areas too. Visit the lake at **Southern Country Park** in the summer and watch common terns catching fish to take back to their young. Look out for orchids and other flowers around the parks and see how many butterfly species you can count, making the most of the sunny glades. In the spring, an early morning visit will reward you with birds belting out their song and on an evening stroll you may be lucky enough to glimpse shy mammals such as foxes, muntjac deer and our only flying mammal, bats.

