



Torbay Coast &
Countryside Trust

Visual Story

This information is to help you prepare for a visit to **Cockington Country Park** in Devon.

Created by

Heritage
Ability



General Information



Cockington Country Park is a mixture of formal gardens, woodland, open parkland and rolling countryside. It is open to visitors all year round from sunrise to sunset and free to visit.

The village of Cockington is a protected example of days gone by and people visit partly just to walk around and look at the old buildings. Some of the buildings are privately owned and some are tea rooms and gift shops.



Visitor Centre Opening Times:

April to October 10 am — 4pm

November to March the Visitor Centre is shut most of the time. However, it may open some weekends in December and some Spring School Holidays for events, which can be seen on the [website](#).

Parking

There are 3 car parks to choose from.



The best disabled access is up behind **Cockington Court**, which is great if you only want to access the Court, Church and Estate Paths.

It costs £1 per hour for up to 3 hours and £4 for 4-12 hours.



The **Village Car Park** offers the closest route to the Visitor Centre in the village.

You have to pay with cash for parking.

There is an accessible toilet at the back of this car park.



The third car park is called **Higher Lodge Car Park**.

The advantage to this car park is that you can pay by card online.

You also have less of a hill to go up to access the park, but the hill down to the Visitor Centre is short and steep.

Visitor Centre



The Visitor Centre is open most days between:

10 am and 4pm (April—October)

November to March the Visitor Centre is shut most of the time.

However, it may open some weekends in December and some Spring School Holidays for events, which can be seen on the [website](#).



Inside the Visitor Centre, there is a **gift shop, information area**, where you can hire the Trampler, collect leaflets in accessible formats, collect a BSL guided tour and enjoy a range of interactive exhibits.

Trampler hire is £2.50 per hour and pre-booking is advised.



You are allowed to play with many of the exhibits.

Be aware though that some will make a noise and others will have flashing lights.

Staff and Volunteers



The Visitor Centre staff and volunteers can help and answer any questions you have about the site. They can tell you about the park; where to go and what to see. There are often staff and volunteers around the site who can help you as well.

Staff and volunteers can be recognised by their branded dark blue clothing.

Look on the [website](#) to see when event days are on:

For general enquiries contact:

Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust on **01803 520022** or

email info@countryside-trust.org.uk.

Facilities



There are three accessible toilets around Cockington Estate.

There is one in the village car park, located opposite the Visitor Centre.



This is what the inside of the accessible toilet in the Village car park looks like.



There is an accessible toilet on the right hand side of Cockington Court.

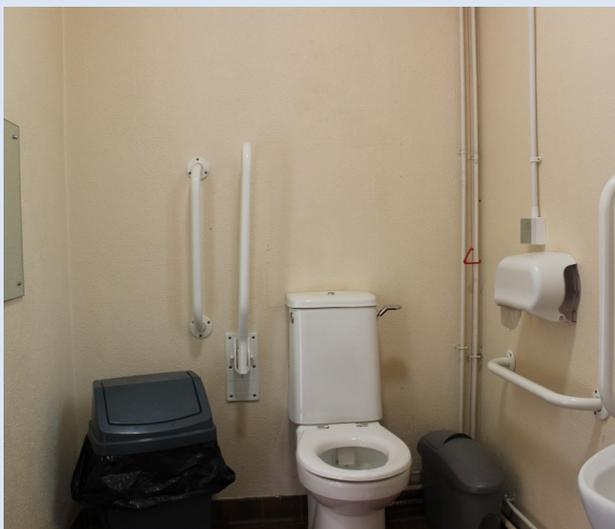


The accessible facilities outside Cockington Court look like this.



There is also an accessible toilet inside Cockington Court.

It is down this narrow hallway.



It looks like this.

There is a baby changing facility and emergency pull cord which alerts a member of staff if you need help.

Exploring

What is there to see and do at Cockington?

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Cockington is a treasure trove of beautiful walks, picturesque gardens and resident wildlife. Take time to explore acres of woodland and ornamental lakes, or just relax in a tea room and enjoy the old world charm of this Devonshire village and Country Park.

Whether you're looking for some good old-fashioned outdoor fun, or want to admire the work of the craftspeople in the studios around the Court, Cockington has something for everyone.

- 1 Children's Play Area
- 2 Walled Art Garden
- 3 Rose Garden
- 4 Cockington Church
- 5 Arboretum



Wander through the arboretum with its impressive variety of native and non-native trees.

The Drive
The Mill
Tower Lodge
The Lodge



- 1 Cob Barn Craft Studios
- 2 Sea Change Craft Studios
- 3 Stable Yard Craft Studios
- 4 Rose Cottage Tea Rooms
- 5 The Old School House & Gift Shop
- 6 Cockington Gallery Gift Shop
- 7 Weaver's Cottage Tea Shoppe
- 8 The Drum Inn
- 9 The Forge
- 10 Horse & Carriage Stables



Visit this historic manor house with contemporary gallery and tea rooms.



Enjoy a stroll around The Lakes with its Victorian woodland planting.



This thatched cottage has housed warreners, gamekeepers, gardeners, a museum and an education centre. It is now home to long-term volunteers who help look after the park.

- 10 Cockington Court
- 11 The Linhay Visitor Centre
- 12 The Lakes
- 13 Warren Barn
- 14 Gamekeeper's Cottage

There is a map outside the **Visitor Centre** that shows the grounds.

You can ask the staff inside the Visitor Centre for a large print map to take with you around the site.

There are also signposts and way markers around to show you the way.





From the **Visitor Centre**, your way to the park is past the tea rooms and water wheel.

There are mostly wide, gravel paths, but they do narrow in places.



You will go past a pub with lots of green space where you can have a picnic.

This may get busy during peak times and the summer period.



You will come to an accessible gate. This is the way to the park.



In wet weather the ground can get boggy.

The overhanging trees can be noisy in the wind and cast shadows.

You are then in open space and the experience will depend upon the weather and other park users.



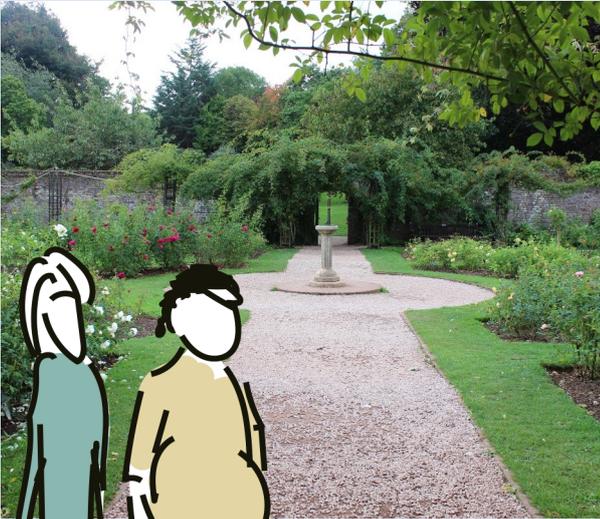
There are usually a lot of dogs in this area and some dogs will probably be off the lead.

There is also a fenced off area in the middle, to protect the cricket pitch.



Areas to explore in the park area include:

- The Rose Garden
- The Craft Shops and Workshops
- The Court Shop and Café
- The Church
- The Arboretum
- The Lakes



The **Rose Garden** is situated behind Cockington Court.

It is enclosed by a wall with two exit and entry points. Stay on the gravel paths, but walk around and enjoy the garden.

Gardeners may be active, but you are welcome and there are plenty of benches to sit on.

Dogs must be kept on leads here.



Needless to say, some of the rose branches hang over the paths and the thorns are sharp!



Behind the Court and beside the Rose Garden are the Workshops.

This area can get quite busy and noisy, but you are welcome to watch the crafts being made.



The Blacksmith's workshop is quite noisy.

He creates sparks, smoke, noises and smells.

Please note, the workers don't like flash photography.

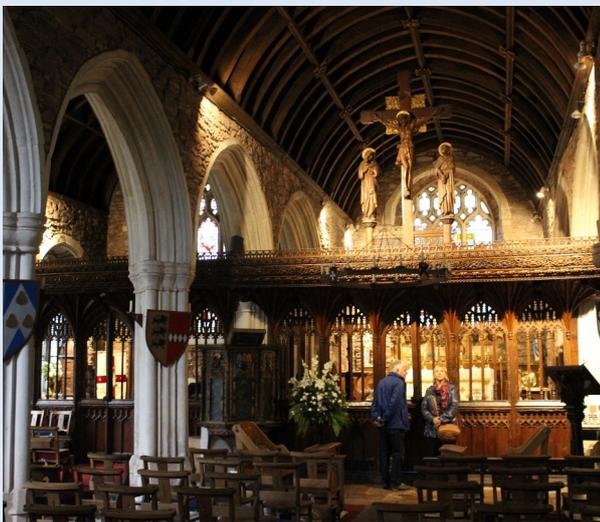


It is quite safe though, because there is a barrier that you mustn't cross.



There is a Church that you can usually go inside.

It holds regular services, so check for the notices on the door before your enter.



The inside of the church is quite dark.

It is a respectful place so you will need to keep your voice down.

The church has a particular atmosphere. It is quiet, but sounds echo. It also has a particular smell; dust, candles, incense.



The main footpath alongside the grass connecting the court to the village is firm and wide, with benches.

There are lots of quiet places outside.



The **Arboretum** is alongside the main path (carriage way). It is a collection of important and interesting trees.

You may walk around the trees and discover the woodland paths.

There is a lot of space to play here and search for wildlife.



Around the park are woodland paths like this one.

Wet weather may make them slippery so take care.

When the wind blows through the trees they can make strange noises.



There are lakes on the edge of the estate. There are benches to sit on and they are generally quiet areas.

Dogs may run along the paths so please be aware of the water's edge.

Cockington Court



This is **Cockington Court**.

There are seating areas for the café outside, so there may be lots of people.

You may go inside and look around. It seems dark as you first go in and the floors are wooden and can be noisy.



Be aware that carriage rides operate up and down the main driveway sometimes.



There are stables behind the Court, which is where the horses are kept who pull the carriage.

You are allowed to stroke them if the stable hands are present.



This is the café inside **Cockington Court**.

The acoustics are noisy inside the building because of the hard surfaces.



This is the **shop**.

It is quite a small space so it can get quite crowded and noisy in here.



The exposed radiator can get quite hot when it is on, so please be aware.



Accessed from the Rose Garden, or up one flight of stairs in the Court is a room that tells you more about the estate.

It is quite small in here, but usually quiet. It could feel quite claustrophobic, but allows you access into the Rose Garden.

The Village



In the main village, there are lots of interesting buildings you can go inside.

This was an old forge. Today it is a gift shop.



There is a tea shop which can get quite busy during peak times.



There are also other gift shops, tea rooms and places you are invited in to look around.

However, there are also private houses, so not every building is open to the general public.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



For more information about Heritage Ability,
visit www.heritageability.org



Delivered by disability charity Living Options Devon,
registered charity no.1102489



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