

# Burrator Arboretum and Nature Reserve

## Access All Areas!

Emily Cannon from South West Lakes Trust shares a favourite 'new' walk in the Burrator area.

If you would like to wander in the woodland, meander in the meadow, spot dragonflies, count the different birds you can hear and listen to the rippling Narrator Brook, then put an hour aside for a wildlife encounter in the newly reopened Burrator Arboretum.

The Arboretum and associated footpaths was originally created following the storms in the late 1980s as a collection of native and non-native trees. One of its primary functions is to provide easy access to reservoir visitors who may find it more difficult to explore other areas of the site. A network of ponds was developed to make this area a unique wetland ecosystem, with a variety of habitats that support a rich and diverse range of species.

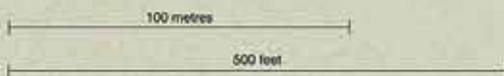
The reservoir and its surrounding area are owned by South West Water and managed by South West Lakes Trust who aim to protect and preserve the natural environment (terrestrial and historical) for the public, provide educational opportunities, promote public access and sustainable recreation.

Over recent years, due to increased wet weather, the footpaths have been eroded making access more challenging. However, since October there has been lots of improvement work going on, made possible with funding from Biffa Award, Heritage Lottery Fund, South West Water and West Devon Borough Council. As part of the wider Burrator Historic and Natural Environment Project, South West Lakes Trust employed Landmarc to put in drainage,

restore the main footpaths to create a 0.9 mile (1.5 km) circular trail, reinforce the boardwalk, and install a two way gate, enabling those with limited mobility to leave the reservoir road and access this beautiful and tranquil wildlife haven.



- Car park
- Road
- Arboretum easy access footpath
- Grassy footpaths
- Boardwalk
- Streams



### Self-guided nature trail

Volunteers from the surrounding area, Dove Project, Active for Life, City College Plymouth, EF Academy and University of Plymouth Student's Union created the self-guided nature trail, identified by 32 markers, and carried out lots of practical conservation tasks and site improvements. These included

removing the inner deer fencing, clearing larch brush to create a meadow, coppicing, and other site improvements, totalling an impressive 150 volunteer days to date.

### Official testing and re-opening

In April South West Lakes Trust and Active for Life at Plymouth



**Boardwalk**  
The Narrator Brook flows alongside the boardwalk. Take a seat and keep an eye out for damselflies. They love running water.



**Dragonfly Pond**  
Take a moment to enjoy the abundance of invertebrate life at the pond. Shallow pools like this are a real draw for wildlife, particularly dragonflies.

*Take a moment to enjoy the abundance of invertebrate life at the pond.*

Guild organised a visit for Dame Hannah's to come and test out the new easy-access footpath. The visit was a huge success. They found the footpath easy to manoeuvre, and, as one wheelchair pusher said, "it was so nice to be able to explore a whole range of environments in one continuous path." A highlight was pond dipping and playing Pooh sticks. Volunteers were also on hand to

## ROUTE INFO

**LENGTH:** Easy access footpath 0.9 miles (1.5km)  
**TIME:** Allow an hour  
**START/FINISH:** Burrator Arboretum car park SX 568689  
**TERRAIN:** Flat compacted aggregate footpaths and boardwalk, only a slight gradient in one place  
**MAPS:** OS Explorer OL28 Dartmoor,  
**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** Number 48 First Bus operates Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from Plymouth to Burrator. It will stop and collect from Burrator Dam and Burrator Turning Point. For the Arboretum it is best to get off at the 'Turning Point' stop and then walk along the road and over Norsworthy Bridge to reach the Arboretum, allow 20 minutes for this.  
**PARKING:** The Arboretum has its own car park. On reaching the main Burrator Dam follow the road to your left keeping the reservoir on your right. Drive over Norsworthy Bridge and follow the road past Norsworthy Bridge car park and continue round the bend until you reach the Arboretum car park on your left.  
**REFRESHMENTS:** Ice cream van at the main Burrator Dam and sometimes at Norsworthy Bridge car park.

**Woodland Wander**  
Walk through footpaths flanked by broadleaf and coniferous trees. There's a few exotics too.

**Meadow Meander**  
Watch an array of insects and butterflies flitting amongst the different grasses and wildflowers.

**Bird Encounter**  
This mosaic type habitat provides a fabulous place to watch the birds go about their business. How many can you see and hear?

**You are here**  
Map reference SX 568 689

**Arboretum Easy Access Footpath**  
This path was restored in 2014 to enable everyone to have the opportunity to swap walking on the road for a truly sensory experience and up close encounter with wildlife. Find out more information on this and other walks at the Burrator Discovery Centre.

Thank you for respecting this beautiful place and following the reservoir regulations and the countryside code.

- No fires or BBQs
- Do not leave litter or poo bags
- No camping
- No removal of trees or plants
- Dogs must be kept out of the water at all times - please clear up after your dog
- Please shut the gate to keep stock out

The background image is a display panel supplied by South West Lakes Trust

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provide more detailed information about the types of wildlife that might be seen in the area.

On Easter Monday the Arboretum was officially re-opened in partnership with BBC Radio Devon's *Walk Devon* programme. Over 100 people joined the guided walk with wildlife experts on hand, and families enjoyed taking part in the new nature trail and pond dipping. ■

For more information please visit the new Burrator Discovery Centre, view the new orientation board to be installed this summer at the Arboretum entrance which maps the network of footpaths and habitats, or telephone the South West Lakes Trust office on 01822 855700.