

Haysden Country Park covers an area of about 65 hectares (165 acres) in the Medway Valley, to the west of Tonbridge. It includes a range of habitats such as river, grassland, freshwater lakes, marshland and woodland. Part of the site is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

The Park covers an area of former agricultural land on the Medway Flood Plain. The Park contains part of the Straight Mile, and the Stone Lock, constructed in 1830 as part of the unsuccessful Medway Navigation Channel. More recently the site had been used for sand and gravel extraction, which was processed and distributed from Haysden Water. These works altered the landscape of the area and created Barden and Haysden Lakes. Once the gravel workings were completed, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council created a Park. The site was officially opened as a Country Park in October 1988.

Litter

Please use the bins provided or take your litter home with you.

Volunteer Litter Wardens litter pick in the Park throughout the year. To join, telephone the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership 01622 683695.

User Panel

Haysden Country Park User Panel aims to involve the local community in the running of the Park. To join please contact 01732 876172.

Haysden Park Volunteers

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) support this group which meets every month to carry out practical tasks in the Park. To join, contact the BTCV on: 01233 812033 or 01732 876172.

Events

We encourage the use of the Park for appropriate countryside related events which should be booked in advance by completing an "Events on Open Spaces" form available either by calling Tonbridge Castle on 01732 876081 or by downloading the form www.tmbc.gov.uk (look under the Leisure Services section.)

Accessibility

Barden Lake can be accessed more easily by using a RADAR key to open the barrier by the toilets, to access the viewpoint overlooking the lake. Many of the paths around the Park are surfaced, some seats are also provided around Barden Lake. RADAR keys are available by contacting 01732 876202.

HOW TO GET THERE

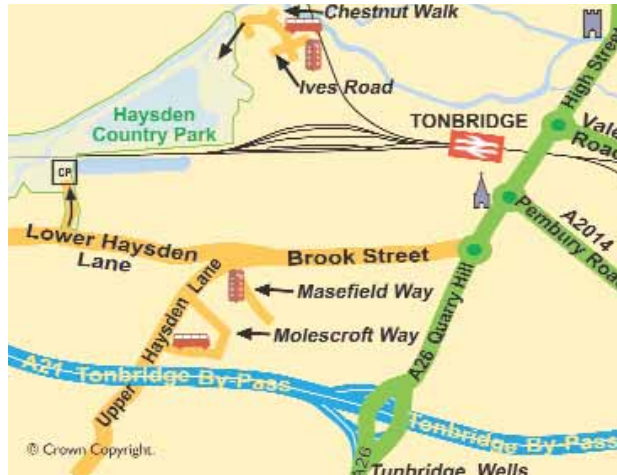
Road: Follow the Haysden Country Park signs from Tonbridge town centre, along Brook Street to Lower Haysden Lane where you will find the main entrance and car park.

Bus: Bus route 211 stops infrequently at Molescroft Way to the south of the Park followed by a short walk along Lower Haysden Lane (beware as there is no footpath) to the main entrance.

Bus route 211 also stops infrequently at Chestnut Walk followed by a short walk along the pavement to the north entrance of the Park.

Cycling: From the east, National Cycle Route 12 leads to the Park from Tonbridge town centre via the Racecourse Sportsground, to the north entrance of the Park. From the west, National Cycle Route 12 is signposted from Peshurst Place.

Walking: There are a number of Public Rights of Way that lead to the Park. From Tonbridge town centre follow the path on the far northern boundary of the Racecourse Sports Ground, along by the River Medway to the north entrance of the Park.



Opening times
Open daily at 7.30am. Closes at dusk. Actual closing times are displayed at the entrances. A two-metre height barrier is present at each entrance. Limited parking is available outside the barrier for over-height vehicles. The Park is owned and managed by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

This information is available in other formats, please contact Chris Fox, Leisure Services Officer on 01732 876172 or email chris.fox@tmbc.gov.uk

CODE 10/05



www.tmbc.gov.uk



A family day out

Walking
Many of the main paths around the Park are surfaced, although in wet weather, puddles do occur. A number of Public Rights of Way cross the Park including the Wealdway and the Eden Valley Walk.

Children's play area
The children's play area offers a variety of play equipment for a range of ages.

Catering and picnics
During the summer an ice cream van operates at weekends and on weekdays throughout the school holidays. Dogs are welcome but we do ask that they are kept under control and that owners clean up any fouling bags into the bins provided. Dogs are not allowed in the children's play area.

Toilets
Located near the main car park, including a separate accessible toilet.

Front cover kingfisher picture courtesy of Kent Wildlife Trust. Other photo courtesy of TMBC

Horse riding

There is a short Bridle Route in the Park (See map enclosed), but users are asked to keep to the marked route only and respect other users.

Cycling

Cycle racks are provided beside the Cycle Route 12 (the permitted cycle route through the Park), it is possible to cycle through to Peshurst Place to the west or east. Cycling is not allowed in any other area of the Park.

Nature and Historic Trails

Two free leaflets for self-guided trail walks are available at the Park.

Sailing

The Tonbridge Town Sailing Club uses Haysden Water. To join the club call 01622 817127.

Fishing

Day tickets are available at Barden Lake or alternatively through to Peshurst Place to the west or east. Fishing is not allowed in any other area of the Park. For more details call: 01732 359385.

Spring & Summer

In spring the Park comes alive with spring flowers. Many birds can also be heard in full song - some nest in the park. Field Maple and Ash to the amber and reds of Oak. In summer look for damsel and dragonflies which hunt along the damp shady areas of the Straight Mile and The Shallows.

The following are not allowed inside the Park: No fires, no Motorbikes, No camping, No unauthorised swimming or boating. Please respect the Park and other Park users by following the Countryside Code, and keep a close watch on your children especially near water.

Autumn & Winter

With many different trees and shrubs established in the Park the autumn colours range from the yellow of the Field Maple and Ash to the amber and reds of Oak. There are also many autumn fruits and seeds around the Park. Please do not collect the berries and seeds as some are poisonous. As winter arrives, migrant birds find their way to the Park.



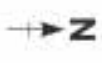


Banded Damselfly
Courtesy of Andy Vidler



Courtesy of Susie Sims

HaysdenCountryPark ParkGuide



Barnden Lake

Hawkthorn

Volunteer Planting Seat

Red Admiral Courtesy of Andy Vidler



Sailing at Haysden Water



Elfin's Foot - Trefoil



Canada Geese



One-Eyed Daisy



Kingfisher Courtesy of Ted Coleman KWT

Knapweed

Botany Pond