Learn about nature...

The three different habitats that make up Brandon Country Park and surrounding area are rich in flora, fauna and wildlife.

...and be entertained

We’re delighted that our year round programme of entertaining and educational events is proving so popular. Thousands of people attend our events every year.

The programme is being added to all the time, but here are a few of our current favourites:

Children’s Treasure Trail and Hunts

Nightjar, Woodlark, Bramblings and the Great Spotted Woodpecker

Learn about nature...

Your gateway to enjoying and understanding the Brecks

The Nightjar Evening Walk

Survival Skills Day

Earthstar, death cap and stinkhorn fungi, Fungi walks

Orange Walk

...newly created heathland

4 miles/6km - allow 2-3 hours

- From the Visitor Centre follow the signposted path on the left through the gap in the wood which leads across the heather on the newly created heathland to the woods board. Turn left and immediately take the right hand fork that winds through the trees.

- When you reach the end of this track turn right and proceed until you reach the hard surfaced arena.

- Carefully cross over and follow the woodland path straight ahead, which takes you into the forest.

- Continue on, crossing over a track, until the path departs downhill, into Row Bottoms. Here you follow the path to the right.

- At the crossroads turn left and walk to the top of the ridge straight over the major track and continue through a small headeraire.

- Where the track bends, head right up the hill and continue along this track until you reach the next crossroads, here turn left.

- At the next major track turn right onto Shadbolt Road, a Public Right Of Way. Continue straight on past the communication tower. You can enjoy the Forestry Commission Bird Trail and Bird Hide here.

- At the next crossroads carry straight on. Turn right at the next junction onto Forestry Commission’s Bosworth Street. White Rags with red numbering – leaving Route A.

- Continue along this major track taking the fourth main track on your right, just before the track’s slope descended. This is an excellent place to watch the forest.

- At the next crossroads carry straight on, down the hill. Look right as you descend and you’ll see some of Brandon Country Park’s most impressive trees on the tree line.

- Cross straight over the next crossroads. At the bottom of the hill and within a small clump of heather you turn left.

- At the next crossroads go straight on, taking care as you cross over the cycle track, keep going until you reach the track forks, where you should bear right. Here the left is the site of Fishponds Cottage, rear part of the old estate.

- At the next crossroads go straight on. Follow this track over the first crossroads turning right at the second. You’re close to the flight path of Lakenheath Airbase, which is great if you’re interested in aircraft but, if not, please be prepared to occasionally hear fly-by’s, very loud, GA6 jet fighters.

- Continue along this track crossing straight over the first crossroads. Walk through the kissing gate. This is a beautiful regeneration area in which to keep your dog on a lead, especially when deer are around.

- At the next crossroads turn right, follow this track until you reach another crossroads and turn left here.

- At the next crossroads bear left and then right at the next. Continue straight on through the kissing gate.

- At the next large junction continue straight up the incline, following the route of the purple trail.

- Follow this track to another junction, then take the second left.

- Immediately turn right onto a path between the trees passing the Mausoleum on your left, until you arrive at the lake.

- Walk across the lawn to the top left hand corner. Carry straight on, through the trees, back to the car park and Visitor Centre.

Red Walk...

...explore our arboretum

1.5 miles/2.5km - allow 50 minutes

- From the Visitor Centre follow the signposted path on the left through the gap in the wood which leads across the heather on the newly created heathland to the woods board. Turn left and immediately take the right hand fork that winds through the trees.

- When you reach another track carry straight on, until you reach the hard surfaced arena.

- Carefully cross over and follow the woodland path straight ahead, which takes you into the forest.

- Continue on, crossing over a track, until the path departs downhill, into Row Bottoms. Here you follow the path to the right.

- At the crossroads go straight on, then take the second track on your left.

- Black split crossing over the major track and over the next crossroads.

- At the next junction take the first right.

- Continue on this track, ignoring the path on your right, until you reach a major 5 junction. Turn right and carry on straight ignoring the next crossroads.

- At the following major junction head straight on, ignoring the two tracks on your right and the one on your left, which is a Forestry Commission Timber Extraction Route.

- Every 5 miles you reach a crossroads; turn right here and left at the next 5 junction. It’s worth taking a look on the ground for lichens here as these are a good indicator of how clean the air is.

Wherever you are in the Park and surrounding forest, look out for:

- Nightjar, woodlark, Bramblings and the great spotted woodpecker foraging near dead wood.
- Muntjac, Roe or Red Deer, (Britain’s largest mammal).
- Many different lichens, mosses and fungi are often found near dead wood.
- False Acacia. Look out for these when dead wood is present.

A brief history

For thousands of years the area where the Park is now was an open, sandy, windswept heath. Until 1942, when Lakenheath airbase was built, it was Europe’s largest inland sand dune system.

Edward Blln, a businessman bought over a thousand hectares of the Borelto in 1820 to create a woodland park and arboretum. At the end of World War One, the park had begun to revert to heath. As a result of the economic depression caused by the war the Government determined to become self-sufficient in timber. Thetford Forest, planted in 1927, is one of the heathland forests they created.

At the end of the last century, English Nature leased land from the Forestry Commission to return some of the commercial heathland areas to the original heathland. Brandon Park Heaths, only a mile from the Visitor Centre, is the result.

It has under 200 years, we’re some full circle.
Your gateway to enjoying and understanding the Brecks

Brandon Country Park – Getting here
The Park is south of Brandon on the B1106, close to the A11.

Brandon Country Park Visitor Centre
Ease Road, Brandon
Suffolk IP27 OSU.

Eating and drinking
You can enjoy light lunches and hot and cold drinks at the Visitor Centre - open every day (7 days a week) and serving refreshments to meet your every need.

Disabled visitors
There are 1.5m wide access paths and some 1.5m wide access paths to the Visitor Centre and lake. There are accessible toilets and PARKING for disabled visitors.

Public transport
There are bus stops within easy walking distance of Brandon Country Park. For details please visit www.suffolkonboard.com

Brandon Country Park is managed by Suffolk County Council and jointly funded by Forest Heath District Council. It is open dawn to dusk, 365 days a year. To find out more please visit our website www.brandoncountrypark.org.uk

Can we help?
We work in partnership with District Councils and local organisations. Brandon Country Park is accessible to all.

Beyond Brandon Country Park
You can find out more about the area’s local history – especially Brandon's well-known flint industry. The Neolithic flint mines at Grimes Graves are well worth a visit if you’re keen on watching wildlife and birds, you might like to head for Brandon Heath, where you may see rare Brecks birds such as stone curlews, woodlarks and nightjars – as well as deer and squirrels. You can also follow the little cycle path between Brandon and Thetford.

Visit our Visitor Centre
The centre is open every day, 7 days a week, providing refreshments and light meals. This is the place where you will find out everything about Brandon and the Brecks including our programme of future events.

Walled Garden
The walled garden is conveniently close to the car park and Visitor Centre. It was originally built to supply food for Brandon Park House. Today, the walled garden is a charming place to stroll, picnic and admire the flowers and herbs. Look out for the living yellow sculpture.

The Mausoleum
The wonderfully gothic-looking mausoleum was built by the owner, Edward Bliss, so that he could be buried on his own estate. He died in 1845 and his wife, Sarah, was also buried here. Their remains were re-interred in a Brandon churchyard. The Mausoleum is a feature of the park.

The Park is open dawn to dusk. The Visitor Centre, lake and lawns are non-cycling areas. Cyclists give way to walkers. Leave flowers for others to enjoy. Guard against the risk of fire – no barbeques. Keep your dog under close control. Keep your dog on a leads when asked to. Keep your dog under close control.

Tree and History Trail
This trail has been specially designed for visitors who are keen to learn about the history of the Park and of man’s changing attitudes to the environment. Please visit the Visitor Centre to pick up our FREE leaflet.

Waymarked Forest Walks
There are two linked cycle trails starting from the Visitor Centre and High Lodge Forest Centre:

Brandon Country Park and High Lodge Forest Centre: Brandon Park Loop – family route, 6.5 miles, green posts with yellow waymarks.

High Lodge Loop – family route, 6.5 miles.

Brandon Park Loop – intermediate, 6.5 miles, blue posts with yellow waymarks.

If you’re an experienced off-road cyclist, why not try High Lodge Mountain Park Trail Black Route? This 8 mile route will test your skill and fitness.

Waymarked Forest Walks

1.1 mile/1.8km - Allow 30 minutes

The Red Walk
The Purple Walk

1.3 miles/2.1km - Allow 45 minutes

The Orange Walk
6 miles/9.5km - Allow 2 hours

A place to enjoy nature

At Brandon, you can stroll and picnic in the charming walled garden. You can also head further afield, following the inspiring walks and cycle trails that guide you through the arboretum, commercial forest and restored heathland.

When you and your family want to enjoy nature, and learn about the environment and its history, visit Brandon Country Park.