

Stover Park



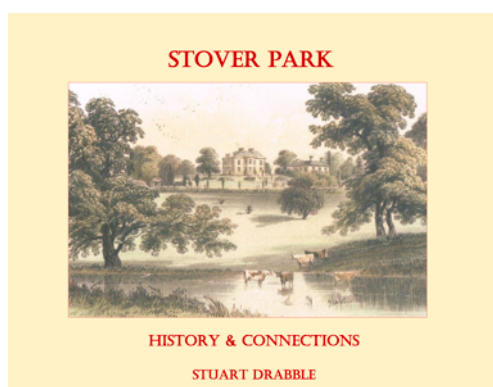
Stover Country Park and Local Nature Reserve has been awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £341,000 to help restore the historic landscape and enhance facilities for visitors. The 'Restoring Stover Park' project has brought together Devon County Council, the owners of the country park, together with other land owners and organizations. The grant is for the first two-year development phase that will include:

- finalising options to remove silt from Stover Lake to help restore it as a healthy fresh-water and improve the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)
- ecological and archaeological surveys
- technical surveys to help plan the restoration of three Grade II listed buildings, two of which are on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register
- feasibility studies on the restoration of the designed ornamental lake and improved water management
- investigate the expansion and creation of new walking and access routes
- develop educational opportunities and initiatives to engage with disadvantaged groups and individuals
- develop plans for expanding interpretation and an extension to the visitor centre and café.

These different aspects of the project were described in the *Stover Parkland Plan*, a ten-year vision published in 2014. Key objectives are to overcome the fragmentation of the historic designed landscape, to restore historic designed views, the conservation of listed structures, some of which are in very poor condition and some are dangerous. Other objectives include improving the setting of Stover Lake (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) and its water quality and to reverse the decline of some of Stover's wildlife species. A second delivery phase is expected in 2022-2025.



This is an exciting project affecting an historic designed landscape that is in divided ownership, which is considered to be one of the major threats to safeguarding the future of such historic landscapes, because separate management tends to affect detrimentally their character and appearance.



DGT was one of the supporters of the NLHF application. The Trust has also supported the publication by Stover Historic Landscape Trust of *Stover Park History and Connections* written and designed by DGT member, Stuart Drabble. The book traces the history of the park, the families who have owned Stover Park and the impact they have made on the landscape.