

# Wildlife Walk – 6 miles


## Stackpole Estate, Pembrokeshire

This exhilarating 6 mile walk takes you on a tour of the Stackpole Estate National Nature, set amid the Pembrokeshire National Park. Discover an unusual combination of sand dunes, beaches and cliff top coastline, with woodland and lily ponds just inland.

### Getting there:

**Foot:** via the Pembrokeshire Coast Path

**Bus:** no.387 Coastal Cruiser from Pembroke  - see [www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk](http://www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk)

**Bike and car:** 6ml along (B4319) from Pembroke to the estate **Rail:** Pembroke  6 ml

**Map and grid ref:** OS Landranger 158: SR992958 (Stackpole Quay); SR977938 (Broadhaven South); SR968947 (Bosherton Lily Ponds)

### Facilities:

WCs and parking at Bosherton Lily Ponds, Broadhaven South and Stackpole Quay. Tearoom and pubs in Bosherton and Stackpole village. The Stackpole Centre for Outdoor Learning caters for school groups. Stackpole Centre and National Trust holiday cottages to stay at nearby.

**Contact us:** tel: 01646 661359; [stackpole@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:stackpole@nationaltrust.org.uk); postcode: SA71 5DQ

### Points of interest:

- **Stunning beaches:** Broad Haven (excellent for bathing) and Barafundle (voted best British beach in 2005 for its seclusion and golden sand).
- **Birds:** colonies of breeding seabirds including razorbills and guillemots are seen (and smelled!) on the cliffs around Stackpole Head. Also look out for the resident choughs; they can be acrobatic in flight and a joy to watch. On the lake, see herons and wintering waterfowl.
- **Animals:** otters are in the lake area but you'll need good luck to see these secretive mammals. Nine bat species reside at Stackpole, including greater and lesser horseshoe. Many of them roost in the old outbuildings on the estate.
- **Insects:** with such a variety of freshwater habitats, there are over twenty species of dragonfly living at Stackpole – each species has a different water-type preference.
- **Flora:** see fantastic displays of waterlilies on the Bosherton Lily Ponds. Stackpole Warren's meadows are also worth visiting in the summer months when the wild flowers are in bloom.
- **Stackpole Warren:** Bronze and Iron Age archaeology has been discovered on this wind-swept plateau behind the beaches and cliffs. The sand has even preserved the remains of prehistoric plough marks and cattle hoof prints. Now the area is grazed once more by ponies, cows and sheep to help maintain the meadows in an optimum condition for wildlife.

### NT places nearby

Tudor Merchant's House in Tenby and Colby Woodland Garden



Otters live in the freshwater rivers at Stackpole and feed on eels and other fish. They also make good use of the sea so their footprints may be found on the beach early in the morning

*The Mammal Society*



Stackpole is one of the few places in Britain where choughs live. They are distinguished from other crows by their red beak and legs. Watch them swooping and diving on the estate

*NT/Nature Conservation*



This banded demoiselle is noted for its brilliant metallic blue body and wings. It is one of the many dragonflies found at Stackpole around the lakes and in the Mere Pool Valley

*Marilyn Smith*

**'Lakeside, woodland, reedbed, marsh, flower-rich dunes and seabird colonies – Stackpole has everything and you can see many of these habitats and wildlife in a short walk'**

*Richard Ellis – Head Warden, Pembrokeshire*

### Distance, terrain and accessibility

A six mile (10 km) circular route with some steep inclines and cliff edges. Route not suitable for wheelchairs, but there are accessible lakeside and woodland paths from the Stackpole Centre (leaflet available from the estate or by post on request).

The tearoom at Stackpole Quay is fully accessible as are the toilets at Bosherton, Stackpole Centre and Stackpole Quay.

### Route and directions

1. Start at Bosherton car park. Walk down to the lakeside and turn left, following paths over two causeways and a low stone bridge (the 'Grassy Bridge').
2. Follow the path towards Broad Haven beach. Here you can add 1ml on to your walk and explore the secluded Mere Pool Valley, perhaps the best 'hot spot' on the estate for butterflies, dragonflies and wild flowers. Otherwise strike left up to the cliff top route.
3. Continue skirting around the coast path. Look out for choughs, before reaching guillemot and razorbill colonies on Stackpole Head. On a clear day spot Lundy Island on the horizon.
4. From Stackpole Head follow the coast path down to Barafundle Bay. The beautiful beach is backed by sand dunes and woodland where a very different variety of wildlife is found. Cross the beach and walk up a long flight of stone steps to the last stretch of cliff top before Stackpole Quay.
5. Explore this tiny 18th-century harbour and perhaps take a break at the Boathouse Tearoom. Head to the rear of the car park and return inland across fields.

If you are a little tired, catch the Coastal Cruiser bus from here back to Bosherton, Broadhaven or Pembroke (May – Sept).

6. Cross the Eight Arch Bridge near the site of the former Stackpole Court (the mansion was demolished in 1963 but a number of outhouses and cottages remain). This area is home to lots of bats. Turn left, following the lakeside path down to Grassy Bridge, and retrace your footsteps to Bosherton.



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