

Opening Times

Every day from dawn till dusk (not Christmas Day).

Parking

The car park can be found at the Melbourne end of Calke Road close to the reservoir. The car park is situated on a slope, but each parking level is flat and surfaced with tarmac. The car park is Pay and Display (season tickets are available, call for details) but Blue Badge holders can park for free. There are eight disabled bays.

Trails

A scenic footpath (marked as Footpath A on the map) leads through the woodland from the southern end of the car park, past the edge of the reservoir. It is surfaced with crushed stone, (which may be muddy when wet) and has a variable gradient, which may affect manual wheelchair users.

As an alternative, the main tarmac-surfaced road (marked as Path B on the map) leads from the car park. The path is mainly flat, but has slight gradients at points. However, visitors to the Staunton Harold Sailing Club drive along the first section of this path, so please be aware of cars. The two paths merge after 230m.

Facilities

Visitor Centre, Ranger's Office and toilets (including disabled). Refreshment kiosk, open 11am until 4pm daily from Easter to the end of September and weekends throughout the year (weather permitting).

There is a children's adventure playground with spectacular views over the reservoir. Information boards, seats and picnic tables are located around the car park, visitor centre and reservoir.

Two wheelchair-accessible picnic tables can also be found near the Tower Windmill.

Coarse fishing is available: day permits are available, contact the Ranger's Office.

Staunton Harold Sailing Club is available for members only; visit www.shsc.org.uk or call 01332 862067 for more information.



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Location

Staunton Harold Reservoir, Calke Road, Melbourne, Derbyshire, DE73 8DN.

Severn Trent Water:

01332 865081

www.moretoexperience.co.uk

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of printing. However, the National Forest Company cannot be held responsible for any error, omission or subsequent changes.

Photos: Christopher Beech, Lesley Hextall & STW

This guide is available in large print. Call 01283 551211

Staunton Harold Reservoir

Access for All





Staunton Harold Reservoir

Staunton Harold Reservoir is a 85 hectare (209 acre) site, operated by Severn Trent Water. It was created in 1964 by the River Dove Water Board to provide Leicester and the wider East Midlands with drinking water, and today has a capacity of 1.4 billion gallons of water. The reservoir was developed from one of six ponds on the neighbouring National Trust Calke Abbey Estate, originally owned by the Harpur Crew family and is up to 80 feet deep in parts. Calke Mill (circa 1589), Furnace Farm (an old forge dated to the 17th century) and New England Farm were covered with water when the valley was flooded.

Staunton Harold has a colourful combination of beautiful scenery, varied outdoor activities and a rich and interesting history. The name Staunton is thought to originally derive from the local name for limestone, whilst Harold is named after a 12th century Saxon lord of the manor. The picturesque remains of the Tower Windmill that overlook the reservoir are believed to date from 1798. The First Lord Melbourne built the windmill at a cost of £250, to mill local grain, but by the late 19th century the mill was disused and it gradually fell into disrepair.

The reservoir includes part of the larger Calke National Nature Reserve and boasts three Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including the Spring Wood and Dimmingsdale Nature Reserves. Today, the reservoir, woodland areas and wildflower meadow support a rich diversity of wildlife, including birds, mammals, plants and butterflies. The site is an attractive and relaxing haven for walkers, wildlife enthusiasts and families alike, and provides an interesting and varied day out for all.

