

Moors Valley

Country park and forest



Visual Story

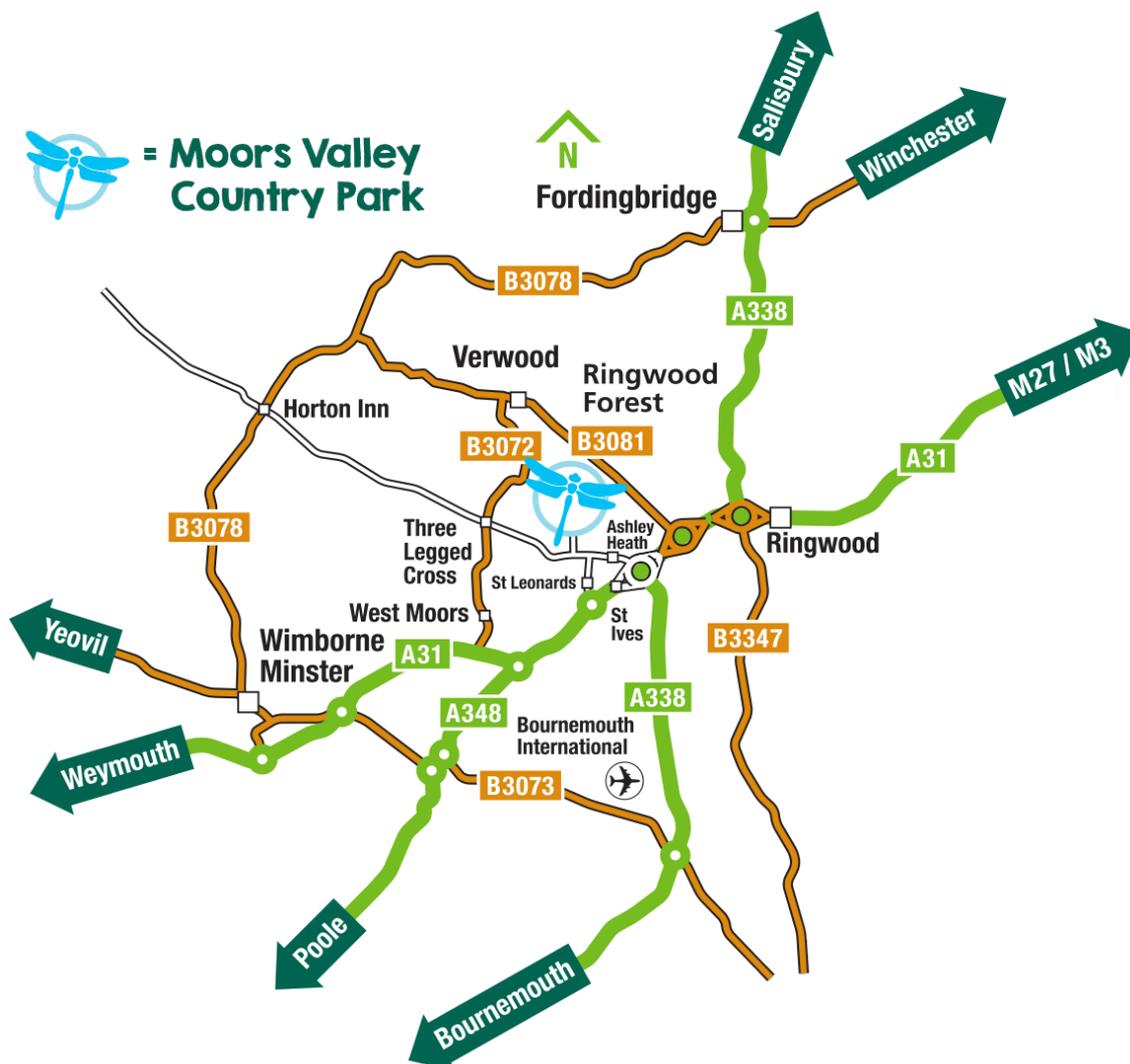
This information is to help you prepare for a visit to Moors Valley Country Park in Dorset



Reviewed by users, for users
in association with



Finding Moors Valley



Moors Valley is 10 miles north of Bournemouth, between Ringwood and Wimborne.

Look for the big wooden dragonfly that shows people where Moors Valley is.

On the entrance drive there are some barriers. The barrier will read your number plate and lift up to let you drive into the car park.



General Information

Moors Valley is open every day of the year, except Christmas Day.
The park gates open at 8am each day.
The closing time varies depending on the time of year.

Entry to Moors Valley is free for people who walk or cycle to the park.
Parking charges apply for cars, minibuses and coaches.



Some activities inside Moors Valley have different opening hours to the park gates.

Details of the opening times and costs for all the different activities can be found on the Moors Valley website:
www.moors-valley.co.uk

Parking

If the car park is busy you might be shown where to park by a Ranger. The busiest time to visit Moors Valley is between 11am and 3pm in the school holidays.

There are 13 accessible spaces.



You pay for your parking at the paystations near the Visitor Centre.

If you need help you can press the help button on the machine or you can go to the Visitor Centre and speak to a Ranger.



You pay for parking at the end of your visit before you go back to your car. Type your car registration number into the machine and it will tell you how much to pay.

You can pay with cash or cards. Prices range from £1.50 to £11.00.



If your car is tax exempt for disability you can park for free. You need to remember to bring your documents with you to show the Rangers in the Visitor Centre.

If you have a Dorset Max card there is a reduced parking offer. Show your Max Card to the Rangers at the Visitor Centre.

Who works at Moors Valley?

Inside the Visitor Centre there is a desk where you can talk to the Rangers and pick up a map to show you where to go.



The Rangers wear a uniform with a dragonfly. The Rangers are friendly and you can talk to them. They are trained to deal with emergencies and first aid. If you get lost they will help you find the people you were with. If you need help, go to the desk in the Visitor Centre and tell a Ranger.



A map of Moors Valley

A map will help you find your way around.
You can pick up a copy of this map in the Visitor Centre.



These are some of the things that people can do at Moors Valley:

- Go for a walk
- Go for a bike ride
- Go to the play areas
- Ride on the train
- Have a picnic outside or eat in the restaurant
- Go on the Go Ape Tree Top Adventure
- Play golf

You can choose where you want to go and what activities you want to do, but only people who are playing golf are allowed on the Golf Course.

Walking and cycling at Moors Valley

There are lots of paths in the forest where you can go for a walk. People are allowed to bring their dogs. There are some areas where dogs have to stay on a lead. Some of the footpaths are suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.



People can bring their own bikes to Moors Valley or they can hire some from the Cycle Hire Centre. There are cycling routes you can follow.



There is a bigger map that shows where all the walking trails and cycling trails are. You can buy one of these maps from the Visitor Centre.

Each trail is a different colour. You can follow the trails by looking for the posts with a stripe of the same colour.



Places to play at Moors Valley

The Play Trail is where you can walk through the woods and find places to play along the way. Your map will show you the play things you will see.

There are lots of things to climb on. If you want to you can climb inside but if you don't want to that's okay.



Sometimes the Play Trail can be busy with lots of people.

There are two big play areas near the Visitor Centre. One has two slides, swings and lots of places to climb.



The other play area has a castle you can go inside and a place where you can use buckets to move the sand around. You can bring your own bucket and spade to play in the sand.



The railway at Moors Valley

A train goes around the play areas and along the side of the lake. You can watch the train from the footpath or from one of the bridges. If you want to you can sit in one of the carriages and go for a ride on the train. If it is quiet you might be the only people in your carriage but sometimes there are lots of people on the train. The train has a whistle that can be very loud. The train goes through tunnels which can be dark. Sometimes children scream when the train goes through the tunnels.



There is a guard who sits at the back of the train. He wears a black hat and will help you if you need something. Sometimes the guard blows a loud whistle to signal the driver.



There are 18 different trains at the railway but usually only one or two are on the train track. All of the trains have a different name.

Places to eat at Moors Valley

You can bring your own food from home and have a picnic outdoors. There are two picnic areas. One is by the lake and the other is in the forest. There are no rubbish bins at Moors Valley for picnic rubbish so please take your picnic rubbish back home with you.



Or you can buy something to eat from the restaurant in the Visitor Centre. They sell hot food, sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and cold drinks. You can sit inside the restaurant or on the patio outside. Ask the staff at the counter if you would like something.



You can buy an ice cream or ice lolly from the railway station or ice cream kiosk.

Toilets at Moors Valley

At the Visitor Centre there are mens toilets, ladies toilets, a family toilet and two accessible toilets.

To use the largest accessible toilet you will need to ask for a Radar key from the Visitor Centre. This toilet has an adult changing bench.

There are baby changing facilities in the ladies and mens toilets and the family toilet.



The toilets at the Visitor Centre are sometimes very busy, especially at lunch time.

Some of the toilets have loud hand dryers. If you use an automatic sink to wash your hands, the hand dryer will start automatically after the water.



At Kingsmere railway station there are also men's toilets, ladies toilets and a disabled toilet.

The toilets at the railway are usually quieter.

They also have loud hand dryers but you can wash your hands at the sink without using the dryer.

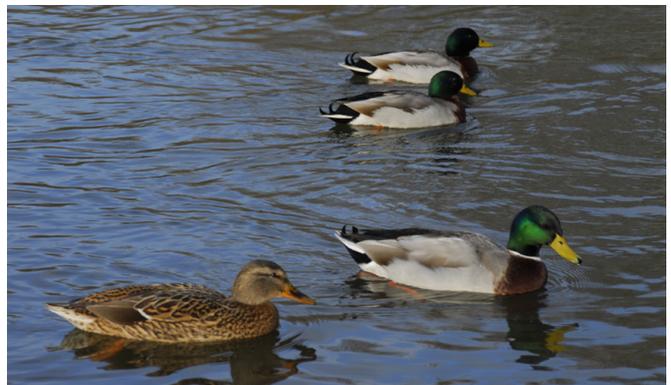


What animals live at Moors Valley?

Further away from the play areas and Visitor Centre, there are some quiet places where you might see animals or birds as you walk around.



There are lots of different types of birds at Moors Valley. You might see swans and ducks on the lake. you can buy some duck food from the Visitor Centre if you would like to feed the ducks. You shouldn't feed any of the other animals at the park.



Some of the animals that live at Moors Valley are hidden in the daytime. You might see some squirrels in the forest. If you are very lucky you might see a water vole in the river.



Gift Shop

Inside the Visitor Centre there is a gift shop where people can buy things to take home. The shop sells toys, sweets, cards and mugs.

It can be very busy in the shop and there are lots of things to look at. The quietest time to visit the shop is before lunch.



Time to leave Moors Valley

After you have played at Moors Valley the park will close at the end of the day. When you are leaving you can say goodbye to the Rangers. After your day at Moors Valley you can tell your friends and family about what you saw and where you played. The Rangers at Moors Valley are looking forward to seeing you soon!



If you have any feedback from your visit we would love to hear from you. You can email our Accessibility Champion, Katie, directly on ktdavies@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk

For more information about Heritage Ability,
visit www.heritageability.org

Heritage Ability is part of the disability charity, Living Options Devon,
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