Observational Hide

Overlooking the pond on the north side of the Park is an observation hide where you can sit and watch the wildlife in their natural habitat.

Events & Activities

The Country Park Rangers organise many events throughout the year. Please find details of the guided activities on our notice boards and in the events leaflet which is available at any of our Country Parks and online. If you would like an activity specifically organised for your group, please speak to a Ranger.

Information Board

Information about Cudmore Grove and local events and activities is available on the Information Board in the main car park.

Information Room and Refreshments

The events programme and information leaflets about other Essex County Council Country Parks are available in the information room. We also serve ice creams and light refreshments, please check with the site for the seasonal opening times.

Opening Times

Cudmore Grove is open daily from 8am – dusk (please check car park for details of closing times)

How to get there

By Road: Follow the B1025 for 10 miles south of Colchester to Mersea Island and take the left hand fork to East Mersea for 3 miles. The Country Park is at the end of Bromans Lane. Follow the brown tourist signs to Cudmore Grove.

Car parking charges apply.

Easy Access: Cudmore Grove is a flat Park with fine views and easy walking ground mostly accessible by wheelchair.

Enquiries

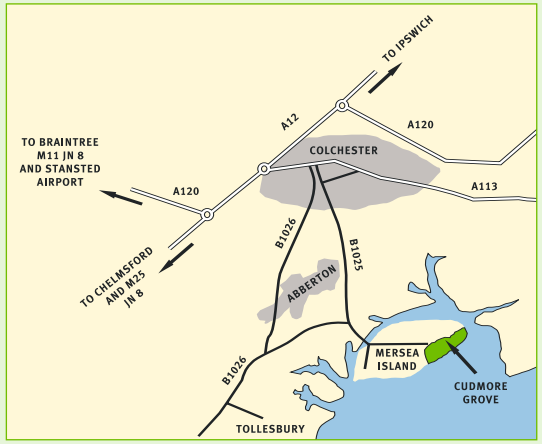
Rangers' telephone number: 01206 383868

Essex County Council Contact Centre: 0845 603 7624

Email: country.parks@essexcc.gov.uk

www.essexcc.gov.uk/countryparks

This information is available in alternative formats upon request.



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Cudmore Grove Country Park

Time and tide greet you at Cudmore

Essex County Council

Welcome

Cudmore Grove is found at the eastern end of Mersea Island next to the Colne estuary.

Experience peaceful coastal walks along the sea wall, explore the shore and watch the wildlife. Enjoy the open grassland behind the sandy beach, great for picnics, flying kites or relaxing with a good book.

Changing Landscapes

Between the two World Wars, Cudmore Grove was part of an eighteen-hole golf course, which then became a wartime defence site. The remains of some of the defences can still be seen in the Park. After the war, the land was farmed.

Essex County Council purchased Cudmore Grove in 1974 to preserve a piece of Essex for people to enjoy. The Country Parks Rangers now manage the land for countryside recreation, wildlife and historical interest.

Bird Watching

Many varieties of birds visit Cudmore Grove including cormorant, grebe and merganser, which arrive from breeding grounds in Siberia and Scandinavia to spend the winter along the Colne estuary. At low tide up to 15 types of wader come to feed on the rich mudflats. On the grazing fields wigeon and teal can be seen beside the large flock of brent geese. Spring and autumn months bring many migrant birds such as warbler, wheatear and whinchat to the Park, stopping off to refuel on their long journeys.

Wildlife

Areas of grass are left long throughout the year for small mammals, birds, lizards and insects, while other areas are cut each June as an organic hay crop. On summer days up to 15 types of butterfly can be seen feeding on meadows and hedgerows. The occasional common seal has also been seen visiting the Colne estuary.

Coastal Cliffs

The erosive power of the sea has worn away soft sands and gravels, leaving a cliff behind the beach. The cliff contains fossils dating back 300 thousand years.

Grazing Marsh

Walk east along the sea wall and you will notice low-lying grazing meadows, managed as a nature reserve. Careful management of this rare Essex landscape is essential for the wildlife of East Mersea. The middle ditch in this area has been dammed to keep the water table high, which attracts a variety of waders and ducks each winter and spring.