



Radford Park & Hooe Lake

Discover Radford & Hooe Lake's wildlife, habitats and heritage

In a small inlet off Plymouth Sound lies a tidal lake and a freshwater lake in the grounds of Radford Park. In the park is an Arboretum of many diverse trees and shrubs which has been created to not only preserve the area but to act as a haven for wildlife. It is an area of great historic importance which was frequented by such worthies as Sir Francis Drake & Sir Walter Raleigh, who, on a high tide would sail in to Hooe Lake and land their treasures transporting them to Radford House for safe keeping.

Wildlife & Habitats

The area supports a diverse range of rare wildlife including Herons, Egrets, Kingfishers, Cormorants, Moorhens, Curlews, Whimbrels, Redshanks, Greenshanks, Otters, Bats, Badgers & Foxes etc. The Quarries, Hedgerows and Foreshore are a unique haven for Flora, Fauna and for nesting native local species as well as a sanctuary for migratory birds. **The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) designated the unique area of Radford & Hooe Lake as one of only four sites in Devon as part of their Nation Wide Survey 'Birdwatch'.**



History of Radford & Hooe Lake

Few people are aware of the prominent role that Radford has played in Plymouth. Radford House in the grounds of Radford Park and Hooe Lake was home to the Harris family from Tudor times. Raleigh & Drake were good friends of the Harris family who were bankers, they often stayed at Radford House and had many financial dealings with them. **The defeat of the Armada** in 1588 was cause for great celebration in Plymouth and Christopher Harris duly hosted at Radford House the victory banquet in honour of **Drake, Raleigh, Howard, Hawkins** and the other Captains. The Seafarers gold & silver blocks, monies and riches were often deposited at Radford House before being divided up between Queen Elizabeth, themselves and the 'hangers on'. **Raleigh** on the other hand was less fortunate, later being imprisoned at Radford House before being taken, locked in the Tower of London and eventually be-headed for treason.

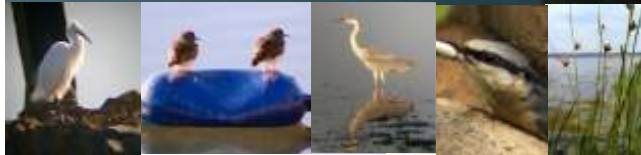
Radford Park and Arboretum

Situated in what was the North Park of the grounds of Radford House, next to the ornamental duck ponds, boathouse and armoury is one of Plymouth's most beautiful parks where a fine Arboretum has been established. There are now over a 200 varieties of trees and shrubs in the Arboretum. **The Arboretum was awarded 'Winner' of the Royal Horticultural Society 'Britain in Bloom' Community Award for 2008, 2009 and South West in Bloom 2012**



County Wildlife Sites

Radford Quarry is an important and irreplaceable wildlife habitat for many rare and endangered species, it is a 'County Wildlife Site' along with Hooe Lake, Radford Lake & Radford Woods. These sites contain some of the best areas of wildlife in the County as **designated by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC)** and complete a natural wildlife corridor from the land to the sea.



South West Coastal foot path

Hooe Lake, Radford Lake and Radford Quarry are on the South West Coastal foot path which is the best way to appreciate the wonderful coastal scenery, wildlife and heritage of Plymouth for visitors & Locals alike.



Hooe Quarry has already fallen victim to the developers...
200 plant species lost, wildlife habitats and nesting grounds virtually all destroyed

This beautiful area, rich in wildlife and habitats is under constant threat from local housing & business developments. Conservation of these green spaces is imperative. The impact of any development often goes far beyond what is environmentally sustainable and is more often forfeited for financial gain. More housing is short sighted. Any development in this area, if at all, should enhance & embrace it's wildlife, its unique history and be a contributing factor that enriches Plymouth's existing waterfront and its maritime heritage.

Help save Radford & Hooe Lake's habitats, wildlife & heritage, keep up to date with news, events & environmental issues...

Don't let this beautiful unique area be wasted & lost forever!

visit www.hooelake.org