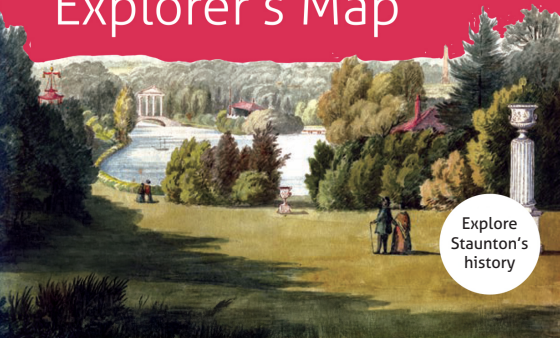




Staubton
Country Park

The Folly Trail Explorer's Map



Explore
Staubton's
history



Hampshire
County Council



COMMUNITY
FUND



heritage
lottery fund

One man's follies...

During the 1800's, Sir George Staunton decorated his estate with many ornamental buildings and structure called follies.

Only a handful of the ones shown on this 1843 estate map still remain today, but we have recreated many of the others digitally. Use your phone to view these recreations, and to listen to an imaginary Sir George as he describes them to his guests.





The Beacon

This small Ionic (Greek) temple designed by the architect Lewis Vuillamy, was built in 1830.

It is said that Sir George flew a flag to show locals when he was 'in residence'. Parties of guests from the house often had tea here.



Image credit, Tom Joyes

Quiz

Listen to Sir George's guided tour. Who had a similar temple in her garden?



Take the path down the hill and follow the red arrows





The Chinese Bridge

The little brick and wood bridge to the island in the lake is one of the four original George Staunton follies still standing. Its three graceful arches are based on the style often seen in the Chinese countryside, or in the gardens of Chinese nobles.

平安如意

Quiz

Listen to Sir George's guided tour. What do the Chinese words written on this side of the bridge mean?



The Fort

The mini Chinese style fortress was the scene of fireworks and 'mini' bombardments that were the highlight of parties given by Sir George.



Quiz

Listen to Sir George's guided tour. What was special about the fort's flag?



Walk back over the bridge and follow the red arrows



The Corinthian Bridge

The lake in the park was made by damming up a natural stream, and created three islands. Sir George took the opportunity to build no fewer than five bridges.

This was the grandest, described as “a brick bridge, of one arch, surmounted with a Corinthian Portico, and placed across the chief outlet.”



Quiz

Sir George didn't design this bridge himself – where did he get the idea from?



Follow the path and find the second folly marker



The Chinese Summer House

This was the site of a small pavilion with three sides open, where Sir George and his guests could take tea.

He would have seen summer houses like this in ornamental gardens during his travels in China.



Quiz

Listen to Sir George's guided tour. What did he put in the summer house to make it look Chinese?



Follow the lake up to the terrace



Temple Lawn

This viewpoint is the best place to see Sir George's park, with the follies half hidden among the trees. The next owner, William Stone, liked the view so much he built his house here - you can see the floorplan marked out on the lawn.

If you stood here with your back to the Lake in 1824, you would have seen a Greek Temple in the trees to your left. It held memorials to the people that Staunton particularly admired, in the form of urns, busts and plaques.



Quiz

Listen to Sir George's guided tour. What was the temple called, and who was the most important man it commemorated?



Go down the hill to your right and find the Shell House





The Shell House



The Shell House is a miniature version of the Market Cross in Chichester. Sir George used it as a sort of museum for some of his interesting collection of objects.

The plaques inside were originally located in the Temple, and honour his family and friends.

Quiz

Listen to Sir George's guided tour. What is the unusual sea creature specimen that he kept here?



Follow the red arrows towards Middle Park Way



21st Century Folly

To celebrate Sir George's love of follies, a new one was added to the park in 2020. Listen to the designer of the 21st Century Folly talking about the different elements and what they mean.





Can you find?
8 digital reconstructions putting vanished follies back in the landscape

Can you find?
The exact spot where the artist Gilbert painted this view of the park



The Lake

Stone Mansion

The Farm

P

P

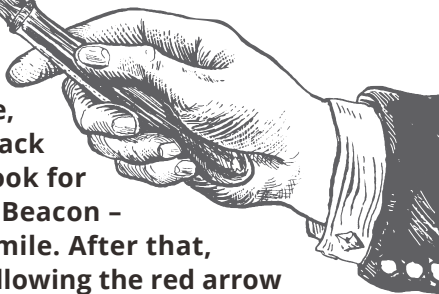
YOU ARE HERE



Can you find?
8 stone markers like this of the most important follies



Follow the Folly Trail



From the Coach House, take the main path back to the car park and look for the fingerpost to the Beacon - about a quarter of a mile. After that, stroll down the hill following the red arrow signs and walk anti-clockwise around the lake.

Key

- Info point
- Toilets
- The Coach House Café
- The Coach House
- Stone Mansion
- Parking
- Play Area
- The Farm
- The Lookout
- 21st Century Folly
- The Shell House
- The Chinese Summer House
- The Fort
- The Chinese Bridge
- The Beacon
- The Corinthian Bridge
- The Temple