

Name of Group: Friends of Stoke Lodge

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Stoke Lodge is a beautiful and important historic landscape forming the grounds of a listed building in Stoke Bishop. Magnificent specimen trees are carefully spaced throughout the parkland/playing fields to allow them to reach their mature shapes and to be properly admired. The BBC's first live "Spring Watch" series filmed with Bill Oddie, Kate Humble and Simon King (then called "Wild in Your Garden") was based at Stoke Lodge. The program said that its open parkland and surrounding properties form one of the best residential areas for wildlife in the nation.

It is well loved by locals but also used by teams from further away who have lost their playing fields to development. The Area Green Space Strategy has highlighted the locality's lack of public open space.

The aims of Friends of Stoke Lodge are to preserve Stoke Lodge Parkland/Playing Fields for future generations for sports and casual recreation and to retain its trees, its open aspect, its grass sports pitches, its wildlife and its undoubted beauty.