

## History & Heritage

# Journey through Time



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**Are you ready for  
a journey to discover  
the country park's  
historical past?**

Yeovil Country Park sits on the south-eastern edge of the town and has always been connected to it through the industry that has developed around it. The Country Park has both a rich heritage from the urban environment it is now a part of, and a natural heritage that connects it to the surrounding countryside.

# Historic photographs of Yeovil Country Park

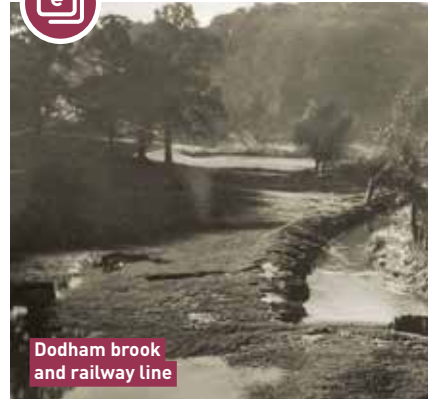
See where these were taken on the inside map.



Hendford Line



Ninesprings  
Valley Garden archway



Dodham brook  
and railway line



Glovers in Dodham Brook



Wyndham Hill  
Then and now 50 years apart

b



Ninesprings  
Valley Garden spring

c



Ninesprings Cottage



f



Gloving templates

1968



2018

Yeo Leisure Park car park

### Special thanks

This leaflet was enhanced by the contributions of many local people who were able to share their childhood stories about Yeovil Country Park.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to share their memories of the Park.

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### Did you know?



Factories used to line the brook and the effluent from the factories flowed through its waters. It was then a steep-sided ditch, taking the chemical run-off from those factories. The water would run many different colours depending on which dyes had been used in the factories. The stench and fumes were intolerable; Yeovilians used to call the area by the brook and the train line 'Hell' and the walk up the valley to the gardens would lead you to 'Heaven'.



The old railway ran through Ninesprings, then alongside Summer House Hill and into Wyndham Hill. Look at the photo of the trail at Wyndham Hill today compare to 50 years ago.

### Did you know?



Now journey back in time a few years. Yeovil was a centre for leather production, exporting leather throughout the world, using the train lines. Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, much of the local workforce worked in the leather industry, often whole families. Generally the men worked in the tanning factories or cutting; the sons were apprentices; the women and girls sewed the gloves.

10



It is now a scene of tranquillity: willow trees and alders bob their catkins over the gentle waters in spring; water voles and moorhens breed on the banks in the summer; fallen golden leaves rush along its surface in the autumn; and you may



FACT: The Yeovil Town football club is still nick-named 'The Glovers'.



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## Discover the Journey through Time

### Did you know?



Westlands constructed their factory near to this station so that they could despatch their products by rail. Journey back in time: can you imagine the rush of the steam trains as they pass you; the smell of the coal fires; clank of the rails as they carry off airplane parts, such as the Westland Wallace plane, ready to fly in World War 2?



Look up underneath the brick arched bridge. Can you spot the woodcarving?

### Did you know?



There is a listening post available in Ninesprings Cafe with the full versions of local people telling their childhood memories of what Yeovil Country Park was like many years ago and their childhood adventures.

Now this area is used for wildlife; see if you can spot a shy water vole near the reeds and the water's edge.

## The History & Heritage Trail

1.5 miles / 2.4 km



lder Road

Brunswick Street

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## More to read...

Further trail leaflets are available at Ninesprings Café to discover easy access routes, wildlife, art and more:



Yeovil Country Park  
**Exploring the Park**



Accessibility Guide  
**Easy Access Trails**



Wildlife Guide  
**Wonderful Wildlife**



Free Children's Activities  
**30 Things to Do**



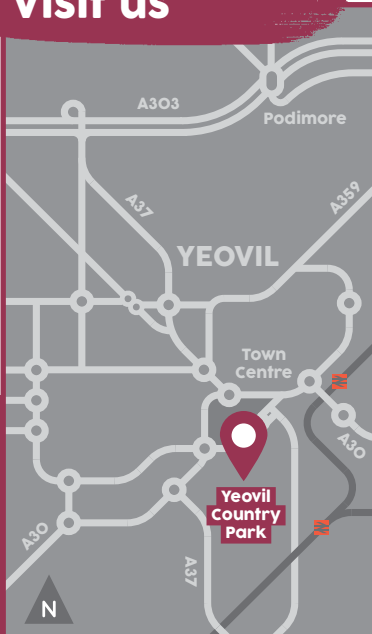
Artistic life Outside  
**Art in the Park**



Nature Trail Activities  
**Ranger Rik's Adventure**

## Visit us

## Further information



Follow us on social media for up to date information and photos:



**Yeovil Country Park**

If you would like more information about the country park, Ninesprings Café, our events & activities, the volunteers or Friends group please contact us:

**W:** [www.yeovilcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.yeovilcountrypark.co.uk)

**T:** 01935 382424

**E:** [Parks@yeovil.gov.uk](mailto:Parks@yeovil.gov.uk)

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Brunswick Street,  
Yeovil, Somerset,  
BA20 1QZ

**A:** Yeovil Town Council,  
The Town House,  
19 Union Street,  
Yeovil, Somerset,  
BA20 1PQ

**P** Goldenstones Car Park  
BA20 1QZ

