

Aylestone Meadows

Visitor Guide

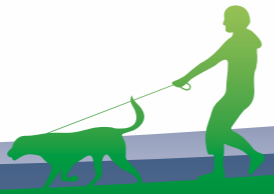


Aylestone Meadows has for over a hundred years been a location for the people of Leicester to spend their leisure time and today is still used for recreational activities such as walking, cycling, fishing, canoeing or horse-riding.



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | River Boardwalk | 6 | Pebble Beach |
| 2 | Changing Rooms | 7 | Kings Lock Tearoom's |
| 3 | Play Area | 8 | Great Central Way |
| 4 | Pack Horse Bridge | 9 | Longhorn Cattle Fields |
| 5 | Whippet Fields | 10 | St Andrews FC |

-  AED Defibrillator
-  Entrances
-  Cycle Route 6
-  Other Cycle Routes
-  The Great Central Way
-  Car Parking
-  Football Pitches
-  Tennis Courts



last updated June 2023

Aylestone Meadows is Leicester's largest local nature reserve, and its natural habitats support a rich diversity of plant and animal life. Scarce plants such as slender spike rush, tubular water dropwort, marsh arrow grass, ragged robin and lady's smock all feature on the site. Fauna such as otters, swans, long horn cattle and badgers make their home here.



History

Aylestone Meadows has played a key part in Leicester's historic transport story, from the 12th century pack horse route, through the canal heyday of the 17th and 18th centuries on to the railways peak in the 19th century. For many years a large part of it was used to dump ash from the power station, this area has now been transformed into green open space.

Illustration: Packhorse bridge

Park features

The park is a mosaic of pastures, trees, river margins and small ponds, criss-crossed by many paths.

Some parts of the park are designated as Local Nature Reserve and support wetland and grassland species particularly in the flood meadows.

The Great Central Way: Originally a railway line which opened in 1899. It provided a fast route between London and Sheffield; it was the most advanced railway at the time. With the tracks now gone and the cuttings filled in, it has been transformed into a footpath and cycleway. People now use it to commute safely into the city or take a pleasant walk.



The Grand Union Canal: The canal is a mixture of manmade and natural waterways based on the River Soar. During the summer boats can be seen carrying people on holiday.

Additional features and facilities

Changing facilities • Football pitches • Play area
Tennis courts • 12th Century Packhorse bridge

How to get there

Aylestone Meadows is located along the banks of the River Soar a couple of miles south-west of the city centre. Bounded by the Aylestone and Narborough Road it has easy access by foot, bicycle or bus; all of Leicester's Parks are linked to the national cycle network routes 6, 63 and 77.



Ragged robin

