

**FRIENDS OF CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK  
&  
CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK USER GROUP**

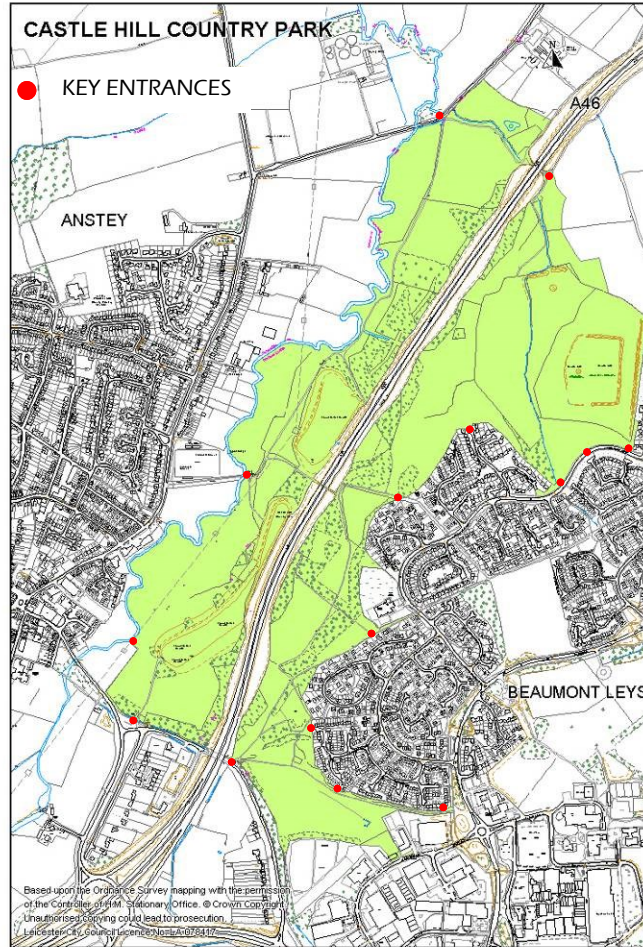
A Friends of Group for Castle Hill Country Park was established in 2008, and are actively involved in park improvements and events. A Park User Group meets locally on a quarterly basis to discuss park management matters. If you are interested in joining the Friends of, or attending the User Group meetings, please contact either Park Services or the Friends of Castle Hill Country Park.



REDWING



BUZZARD



Park Services, Tel: 0116 454 1003

email: parks@leicester.gov.uk

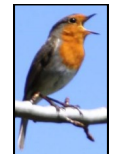
Friends of Castle Hill Country Park  
email: fochcp@aol.com



**Leicester  
City Council**



**THE BIRDS OF  
CASTLE HILL  
COUNTRY PARK**



Top: KESTREL.. Bottom (L) BUZZARD; (R) ROBIN

**Tel: 0116 454 1003**

CHCP Natural History Series Leaflet No.2: **Birds**

## THE BIRDS OF CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK

The diverse habitat of Castle Hill Country Park, with its mix of trees, hedges and woodlands, and its grasslands and wetlands support an interesting and extensive variety of birds.

Records from the 1980s to-date list over 80 different bird species for the Park, including over-flying and winter visitors.



BLUE TIT

The City Bird Survey / Breeding Bird Survey of 2008 recorded some 43 bird species, including 6 birds included on the UKBAP list priority, protected or local 'BAP' (Biodiversity Action Plan) species i.e. The Yellowhammer, Bullfinch, House Sparrow, Starling, Song Thrush and Skylark.



PIED WAGTAIL

Castle Hill Country Park was considered to be of particular importance as a breeding ground for the Song Thrush.



MUTE SWANS ROTHLEY BROOK

Birds frequenting the Park's trees, hedgerow and woodlands include the likes of Yellowhammer, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, and a variety of Tits – The Great Tit may often be heard and / or observed in the large crack willow trees that border the Rothley Brook and its tributary stream. The more elusive Tree Creeper may also be glimpsed searching for insects on the knarled trunks of the old Willows.



TREE CREEPER

The Green Woodpecker is often heard and occasionally glimpsed, most notably at 'Bluebell Wood'. The Jay, a shy, large woodland bird of the Crow family, is also present, The Jay's habit of burying acorns is probably responsible for the small Oaks growing at the 'Hill Ground' field margin. Common garden birds such as the Blackbird, Robin, and Magpie also frequent the Park's trees, hedges and woodlands.

Waterfowl such as the Coot, Mallard, Moorhen and Swan may be found in the Rothley Brook, along with the occasional Heron and Kingfisher. The Goldfinch, perhaps our most colourful bird, may sometimes be seen feeding on Teasel growing besides the Brook.



GOLDFINCH



PHEASANT

Birds typical of the Park's grasslands include the Pheasant (a common site at Castle Hill) and Warblers feeding on grass / flower seeds.



KESTREL

Buzzards and Kestrels are common: Kestrel often hover above the Castle Hill Earthworks in search of Field Voles and other small creatures. Buzzards nest in

the vicinity of the Park, with two or more often seen riding the thermals.

The Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and Sparrowhawk have also been observed hunting on the Park. Winter visitors include Redwing and Fieldfare, flocks of which often descend on the Park's hedgerows to feed on red berries.



FIELDFARE

### CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK

Park Services, Tel: 0116 454 1003

