

# Your guide to Beacon Hill Country Park



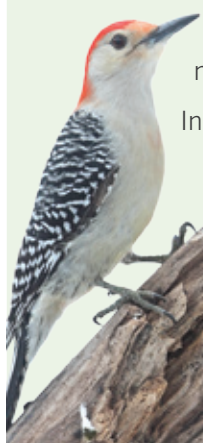
## Heathland and Livestock

The open heathland of Beacon Hill is of special value, providing an important habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna. Due to its ecological and geological importance, much of the Country Park is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The various grazing livestock we have at the park are vital in encouraging the growth of heathland plants.

English Longhorn and Highland cattle, along with Manx Loaghtan (brown) and Hebridean (black) sheep graze the heathland throughout the year.

Alpacas, which are native to South America, have been introduced to protect the sheep from dog attacks due to their natural protective instincts.



In addition, pigs are used during the summer months to help restore the valuable heathland habitat by uprooting and clearing the unwanted species such as bracken and birch scrub, allowing heather and gorse to grow.

## Geology

Beacon Hill is made of some of the oldest rocks (700 million years) found across the world. The crags at the summit were created at the bottom of the sea from compressed volcanic ash. The layers of rock would have developed horizontally, but they were buckled and tilted into their current position by earthquakes about 600 million years ago.

Look out for the unusual rock formation as you walk near the summit. You will see why it's referred to as the "Old Man of Beacon".



## Archaeology

Beacon Hill was confirmed as the site of a Bronze Age Hill Fort after bronze implements and a line of defensive earthworks were discovered near the summit of the hill. It is also believed to be one of the earliest known places where man made his home in the area.

Due to its great archaeological importance, Beacon Hill is legally protected by English Heritage as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.



## Visitor Information

At 248m, the summit of Beacon Hill boasts panoramic views across Leicestershire. The park covers over 135 hectares of land comprising woodland, heathland, grassland, wildflower meadows and adjoining farmland.

Both the upper and lower car parks use an automated pay on entry access system. The machines only accept coins and do not give out change or issue tickets.

Alternatively, annual car parking season tickets, which give you free parking at all Leicestershire County Council Country Parks can be purchased.

Walkers, cyclists and horse riders alike can take advantage of our multi-use track which loops around the edge of the park. There is also a network of paths throughout the park solely for pedestrians.

### Why walking is good for you

Walking is a great way to help beat stress, improve your health, boost your immune system and burns calories, so try to keep active 5 times a week for 30 minutes.



## Country Park Volunteers

A wide range of country parks, woodlands and other open spaces throughout the county are managed by Leicestershire County Council. However, with over 400 hectares of land to look after, we need your help!

Country Park volunteers are a diverse group of people who get together on a regular basis to carry out conservation tasks.

A number of volunteer groups work throughout the county undertaking a wide variety of practical tasks. These include hedge laying, surveying, working on heathlands, woodlands and grasslands, and general estate management.

### Get Involved!

If you would like to get fit, help local wildlife, learn new skills and maybe make some new friends, why not come along to our volunteer days?

**Get in touch**  
to find out how!



## How to Contact Us

For more information about this or any other Country Park, including car park charges, opening times, season tickets, events and group visits, please contact us.

### Get in Touch!

**T:** 0116 305 5000  
**E:** [countryparks@leics.gov.uk](mailto:countryparks@leics.gov.uk)  
**W:** [www.leics.gov.uk/countryparks](http://www.leics.gov.uk/countryparks)



[www.facebook.com/beaconhillcountrypark](http://www.facebook.com/beaconhillcountrypark)

## How to Find Us



We are located two miles south of Loughborough, in Leicestershire, near the village of Woodhouse Eaves.

The **Upper Car Park**, off Beacon Road, is best used for the summit, views and livestock. (LE12 8SP, SK509146)

The **Lower Car Park**, off Breakback Road, is best used for the Labyrinth, Natural Play Area, Native Tree Collection and the majority of the chainsaw sculptures. (LE12 8TA, SK521147)



# Beacon Hill Country Park



**Summit**  
Don't miss out on the spectacular views of Leicestershire seen from the summit, and the Old Man's Head rock formation which can be found along the path below.

**Natural Play Area**  
Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Loughborough Beacon and Welbeck College helped to build the Natural Play Area as part of the Rotary Club's 25th birthday. Timber grown within the park has been used to construct the play area which includes a log train, a hazel maze, log towers, and various sculptures.

**Native Tree Collection**  
As part of the National Forest initiative over 8,000 trees and shrubs, including Britain's 28 native species, were planted, and flourish alongside cultivated and ornamental varieties. Visitors to the Native Tree Collection can enjoy listening to nature-themed poems and stories that have been written and recorded onto a number of listening boxes by local school children.





**Rhododendron Labyrinth**  
A wooden boardwalk winds through thick twisted rhododendrons, making an enchanted experience for all visitors. Also look out for Tania's Tales amidst the tangled branches, which will entertain young and old alike.

**West Beacon Fields**  
27,000 trees have been planted here to create over 17 hectares of woodland with small wildflower glades and open rough grassland.

**Sculptures**  
Various wooden chainsaw sculptures, carved by a variety of sculptors, are situated within the park. Some have been with us for many years, others are more recent additions. More information on all our carvings can be found on our web pages.  
Sculpture Locations - ★

## Routes for walkers, cyclists and horses

Explore the great network of paths within the Country Park, taking in a wealth of landscapes, wildlife habitats and spectacular viewpoints. Why not try out one of the four, coloured, waymarked routes.

Route	Distance	Walking Time	Surface
 <b>Red Route</b> ●●●●●	½ mile (¾ km)	20 mins	Hard surface path, suitable for pushchairs/wheelchairs
 <b>Purple Route</b> ●●●●●	1½ miles (2¼ km)	40 mins	Hard surface path, suitable for pushchairs/wheelchairs
 <b>Blue Route</b> ●●●●●	2 miles (3½ km)	50 mins	Hard surface path with steep sloping sections
 <b>Yellow Route</b> ●●●●●	3¾ miles (5¼ km)	1 hr 15 mins	Multiuse, surfaced path with some sandy sections

**Broombriggs Farm Trail and Windmill Hill**  
Located just across the road from Beacon Hill, Broombriggs Farm is a 55 hectare mixed arable and livestock farm. It has a farm trail which is interlinked with a network of way marked footpaths and horse tracks. Between Broombriggs Farm and Woodhouse Eaves is Windmill Hill. The Windmill is open throughout the summer months on Sundays from 10am – 4pm.

## Our Visitor Code

Help us to keep the Country Park safe and enjoyable for all visitors by respecting our Visitor Code. Please:

- Keep dogs under strict control at all times
- Clean up after your dog and use the bins provided
- Take your litter home, and recycle where possible
- Only use the designated BBQ areas
- Do not light open fires
- Do not pick flowers, or fungi within the SSSI

Facilities Key	P	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿	♿
Lower Car Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Upper Car Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Broombriggs Farm	✓				✓	✓	✓

— SSSI  
— Broombriggs Farm Trail