

Welcome to Elvaston Castle's Local Nature Reserve

The Nature Reserve sits within the wider Country Park and was established in 1989. It spans 13.5 hectares and includes a wide range of habitats. This leaflet highlights a few of the plants, insects and wildlife you might find here. Every season things will change, if you are lucky you may even spot a Grass Snake.

The Nature Reserve Trail

Around the nature reserve you will find seven numbered wooden posts at points of interest.

- 1 -** Here you will find a bird hide overlooking the lake annexe. In spring, you will see Heron's nesting in nearby treetops and, sometimes, kingfishers can be seen fishing from overhanging branches.
- 2 -** The Newt pond and managed wetland ride. In spring, you will find a carpet of Marsh Marigolds. Here you may see Frogs and Smooth Newts living in this area. Look in the stream for Chubb, Rhudd and small Trout.
- 3 -** The waterfall area is a tranquil spot where you might see Goldcrest flitting around the vegetation. Yellow Flag Iris grows here and in spring there is the scent of Wild Garlic.
- 4 -** A great vantage point to view the islands within the lagoon. You can see wildfowl nesting and raising their young. The wetland to the south is popular with Woodcock and Snipe.
- 5 -** Our Buddleia bushes attract lots of butterflies. A wonderful Monterey Pine tree stands tall here and has amazing cones.
- 6 -** The 'Living Bird Table' areas within Gretricks Field provide food for numerous small song birds. The central unimproved grassland is a favourite hunting ground for raptors such as Buzzards, Kestrels and Sparrowhawks.
- 7 -** The raised seating area gives great views out over the reedbeds where you may see Reed Bunting and Warblers. Listen for the distinctive sound of the Water Rail.

For the protection of native wildlife please be aware no dogs or bicycles are allowed in the Nature Reserve.

