

Join our conservation volunteer group

Are you interested in conservation, wildlife or just working outdoors? If you have some free time then why not volunteer at Elvaston Castle Country Park.

If you want to help shape the future of the reserve, learn new skills or meet new people, then come and join the team. We run volunteer days on alternate Sundays. For more details please contact our site staff on 01629 533870.

How to find the Local Nature Reserve

Situated in the north-west corner of the Country Park. A single access point is signposted off the bridleway within the park. There is no other access point.



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Easy to follow circular route

Walk distance is 2 miles (3.2km).
Allow 1.5 to 2 hours; see inside map.

An easy circular walk that is relatively flat. It can be muddy in wet weather so make sure you wear suitable footwear. Not suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and most pushchairs.

Please avoid disturbance to wildlife by not bringing dogs or bicycles into the reserve. Dogs kept under close control are welcome in the park and gardens. There is a designated cycle route around the perimeter for cyclists.

Travel information

Car parking charges apply in the main car park. Why not use public transport and help the environment? For bus and rail services call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (national rate call), or Type Talk on 18001 0871 200 22 33. For more details on public transport in Derbyshire log on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport/public_transport

For further information please contact Elvaston Castle Country Park 01629 533870.

If you have difficulty in reading this leaflet it can be made available in other formats. Contact Call Derbyshire 01629 533190.

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Derbyshire County Council, County Hall,
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www.derbyshire.gov.uk.



Elvaston Castle Local Nature Reserve Trail

A pleasant circular walk within Elvaston Castle Country Park.
No dogs or bicycles please.



www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside

Welcome to Elvaston Castle's Local Nature Reserve

Elvaston's designated Local Nature Reserve sits within the Elvaston estate and was established in 1989. It spans 13.5 hectares and includes a wide range of habitats. This leaflet highlights just a few of the plants, insects and wildlife you might find here. Every season things will change and there will be new things to see. In late spring/ early summer you may even spot a Grass Snake.

The Nature Reserve Trail

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

- 1 Here you will find a bird hide overlooking the lake annexe. In spring you will see Herons 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 see a yellow carpet of Marsh Marigolds in this area. You may spot Frogs and Smooth Newts in or around the pond. 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 usually the scent of Wild Garlic.
- 4 This is a great vantage point to view the islands within the lagoon. Look for wildfowl nesting and raising their young. The wetland to the south is popular with Woodcock and Snipe.
- 5 Look for Buddleia bushes which 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 reed beds, 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 Local Nature Reserve.

