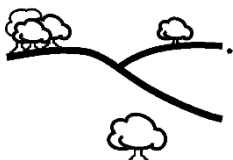


Nottinghamshire's green spaces and country parks



This easy read document tells you how to enjoy Nottinghamshire's green spaces and country parks.



Green spaces are outdoor areas where you can spend time in nature for free.



Some green spaces are **Local Nature Reserves**. These are places with something special that you can enjoy and learn about.



Local Nature Reserves are special because of the nature in the area. This includes the animals that live there, the plants that grow there or interesting ways the rocks and earth have formed.

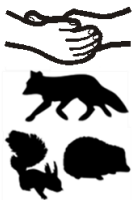
Our Local Nature Reserves include:



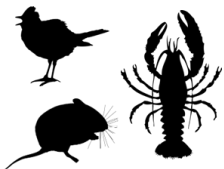
- **Lowland heath**, areas which are home for heathers, gorse and grasses and



- **Chalky grassland**, which is grassed areas above chalk or limestone. They can be home to up to 45 species of flowering plants in one square metre of grassland.



These areas need protecting because they are homes for animals who would be in danger if the areas disappeared, like:



- skylark
- water vole
- white-clawed crayfish



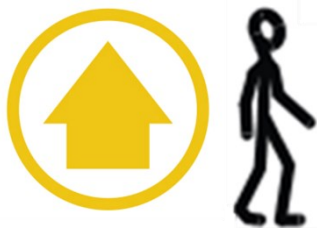
Local people help us take care of the things that make Local Nature Reserves special.



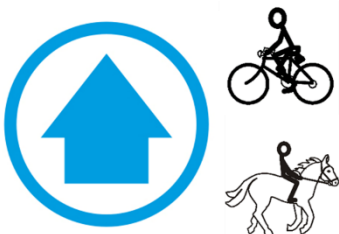
“Friends of” groups are people who volunteer to help take care of Local Nature Reserves. If you want to help too, you can [join your local 'Friends of' group](#). Or you can visit just to enjoy nature.



Some green spaces aren't Local Nature Reserves. These are places you can walk, explore, have a picnic or play games.



If pathways or routes in these area are marked with yellow arrows, these can only be used for walking, on foot or with a mobility scooter or powered wheelchair.



Some pathways or routes are marked with a blue arrow. These are called bridleways. As well as walking, you can use these to ride a bicycle or a horse.

Country Parks



Country parks provide a natural rural atmosphere for visitors.

They are usually close to built up areas so people can enjoy the countryside without having to travel far.

Country parks in Nottinghamshire are:

[Rufford Abbey](#)

[Sherwood Forest](#)

[Holme Pierrepont](#)

[Cotgrave](#)

[Bestwood](#)

[Clumber](#)

[Sherwood Pines Forest Park](#)

[Newstead Abbey](#)

[Wollaton Hall and Park](#)

[Other Green Spaces](#)



Rufford Abbey Country Park



Ollerton

Nottinghamshire

NG22 9DF

Rufford Abbey Country Park is open every day except Christmas Day.

At Rufford Abbey you can enjoy:



- adventure golf



- boating



- craft courses



- children's trails



You can visit the Rufford Abbey [website](#) for more information.

Sherwood Forest Country Park



Edwinstowe
Nottinghamshire
NG21 9RN



Sherwood Forest Country Park is managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), helped by the County Council.

SSSI

Site of
Special
Scientific
Interest

It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This means it is an important natural place that is protected.



The forest has 900-year-old old oak trees. One of the trees, The Major Oak, was named England's Tree of the Year in 2014.

Sherwood Forest Country Park is open every day except Christmas Day.

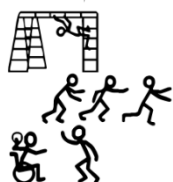
At Sherwood Forest you can enjoy:



- walks and trails



- bug hunts



- adventure playground



- events



You can visit the Sherwood Forest [website](#) for more information.

Holme Pierrepont and National Water Sports Centre



Adbolton Lane
Holme Pierrepont
Nottingham
NG12 2LU



The National Water Sports Centre is here.

At Holme Pierrepont you can enjoy:



- sky trails



- laser tag



- hire a Segway



- mini golf



- lakes and lagoons
- nature trails

Holme Pierrepont is open every day except Christmas Day.



You can visit the Holme Pierrepont [website](#) for more information.

Cotgrave Country park



Hollygate Lane

Cotgrave

NG12 3JW



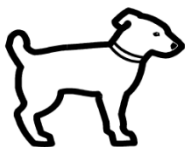
Cotgrave Country Park used to be a coal mine.



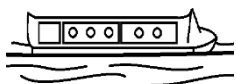
The site is now a country park with grassy hills with trees growing on them.



It does not cost any money to visit or park your car at Cotgrave.



You can bring your dog.



Grantham canal runs through the park.





There are no toilets at Cotgrave.

There are no places to buy food or drink at Cotgrave.



The main way into the park is from the carpark on Hollygate Lane.

At Cotgrave you can enjoy:



- woodlands



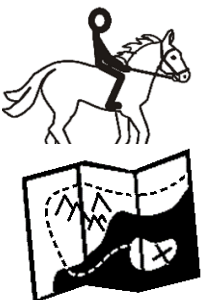
- wetlands



- lakes



- exploring the paths and trails on foot or by bike.



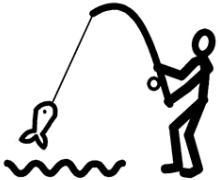
- go around the edge of the park on a horse.
- learn how to read maps.



There is a lake with fish in it called Heron Lake.



There is a fishing club called the [Cotgrave Welfare Diamond Angling Club](#).



You can only fish in Heron Lake if you are a member of this club.



You can contact the angling club by email: cotgraveanglers@gmail.com



You can visit the Cotgrave [website](#) for more information.

Bestwood County Park



Park Road
Nottingham
NG6 8TQ



Bestwood Country Park is between two villages called Arnold and Bestwood.

At Bestwood you can enjoy:



- walking
- riding a bicycle
- bird watching
- visiting Bestwood Winding Engine House.
This is an old machine that used to help dig coal out of the ground.



You can visit the Bestwood [website](#) for more information.

Clumber Park



Limetree Avenue

Worksop

S80 3BE



National
Trust

Clumber Park is managed by the National Trust



For more than 300 years, Clumber Park was the country estate of the Dukes of Newcastle.



The old house was demolished in 1938. You can visit the dukes' impressive chapel, known as the "Cathedral in Minature".



You can also visit the dukes' walled kitchen garden.



Clumber Park also has woods, open countryside, and farms.

Clumber Park is not always open.



Its opening times change for the different times of the year and different days of the week.



You have to pay to visit Clumber Park, but it is free if you are a member of the National Trust.



You can find more about the park, its opening times and entrance fee from the National Trust [website](#).

Sherwood Pines Forest Park



Forestry Holdings

Edwinstowe

Mansfield

NG21 9JL



Sherwood Pines is a working forest where trees are cut down for wood.



It is managed by Forestry England, which is part of the Forestry Commission. They make sure not too many trees are cut down.



They want to protect the forest for the animals who live there and the people who visit it.



At Sherwood Pines you can enjoy:

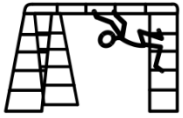
- Walking



- Cycling



- Mountain biking



- Outdoor adventure activities



- [Go Ape Zipwire](#)



- [Camping and overnight stays](#)



You can visit the Sherwood Pines page on Forestry England's [website](#) for more information.

Newstead Abbey



Nottingham Road
Ravenshead
Nottinghamshire
NG15 8NA



Newstead Abbey is a large old building near Ravenshead which was the stately home for the Byron family.



In 1643, King Charles the First made Sir John Byron a member of the House of Lords, with the status of a Baron. The title continues to pass down the generations.



The 6th Baron Byron, George Gordon Byron (1788 to 1824), was known as Lord Byron. He is considered to be one of the UK's greatest ever poets.



Lord Byron lived at Newstead Abbey. A museum about him at the Abbey attracts thousands of visitors from across the country.

Newstead Abbey is home to:



- Peacocks



- Swans



- Geese

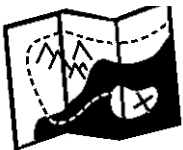
In the house, you can see some old things from the Abbey's history, like:



- Paintings



- Letters



- Maps



- Photographs



Information about facilities, opening times and admission prices is available on the Newstead Abbey [website](#).

Wollaton Hall and Deer Park



Wollaton Road

Nottingham

NG8 2AE



Wollaton Hall is a big, old house on a hill near Nottingham.



It has gardens and parks around it.



You can relax in the gardens.



You can also visit the Camellia House. This is a glass house with flowers growing inside. It is Europe's oldest glass house of this kind.



You can visit the Wollaton Hall [website](#) for more information.

Other green spaces



Country Parks aren't the only green spaces for you to enjoy in Nottinghamshire.

Some of the others are:



- [Cockglode and Rotary Woods](#)
near Edwinstowe
- [Daneshill Lakes](#)
near Ranskill
- [Dob Park](#)
near Hucknall
- [Freckland Wood](#)
near Newstead
- [Rainworth Water](#)
near Rainworth
- [Rookery Park](#)
in Huthwaite
- [Southwell Trail](#)
linking Southwell, Farnsfield and Bilsthorpe
- [Silverhill Pit Wood](#)
near Teversal

- [Teversal and Pleasley Trails](#)
Ashfield
- [Tippings Wood](#)
between Rainworth and Blidworth
- [Woodlands and Coach Wood Green](#)
Shireoaks

Links in this document

Join your local “Friends Of...” group

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/countryside-volunteering-opportunities

Rufford Abbey Country Park

ruffordabbey.co.uk

Sherwood Forest Country Park

visitsherwood.co.uk

Holme Pierrepont

nwscnotts.com

Cotgrave Welfare Diamond Angling Club

cotgraveanglers.com

Cotgrave Country park

cotgravecountrypark.co.uk

Bestwood Park

gedling.gov.uk/resident/parksandgreenspaces/bestwoodcountrypark

Clumber Park

nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/nottinghamshire-lincolnshire/clumber-park

Go Ape Zip Wire at Sherwood Pines Forest

goape.co.uk/locations/sherwood-pines

Camping at Sherwood Pines Forest

sherwoodpinescamping.co.uk

Sherwood Pines Forest Park

forestryengland.uk/sherwood-pines

Newstead Abbey

newsteadabbey.org.uk

Wollaton Hall and Park

wollatonhall.org.uk

Cockglade and Rotary woods

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/cockglode-and-rotary-woods

Daneshill Lakes

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/daneshill-lakes

Dob Park

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/dob-park

Freckland Wood

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/freckland-wood

Rainworth Water

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/rainworth-water

Rookery Park

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/rookery-park

Southwell Trail

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/southwell-trail

Silverhill Pit Wood

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/silverhill-wood

Teversal and Pleasley Trails

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/teversal-trails

Tippings Wood

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/tippings-wood

Woodlands and Coach Wood Green

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/green-spaces/woodlands-and-coach-wood-green

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Country Parks | Nottinghamshire County Council](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/culture-leisure/country-parks)

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/culture-leisure/country-parks

This easy read was first published 3 June 2025

This information was last updated 3 June 2025