

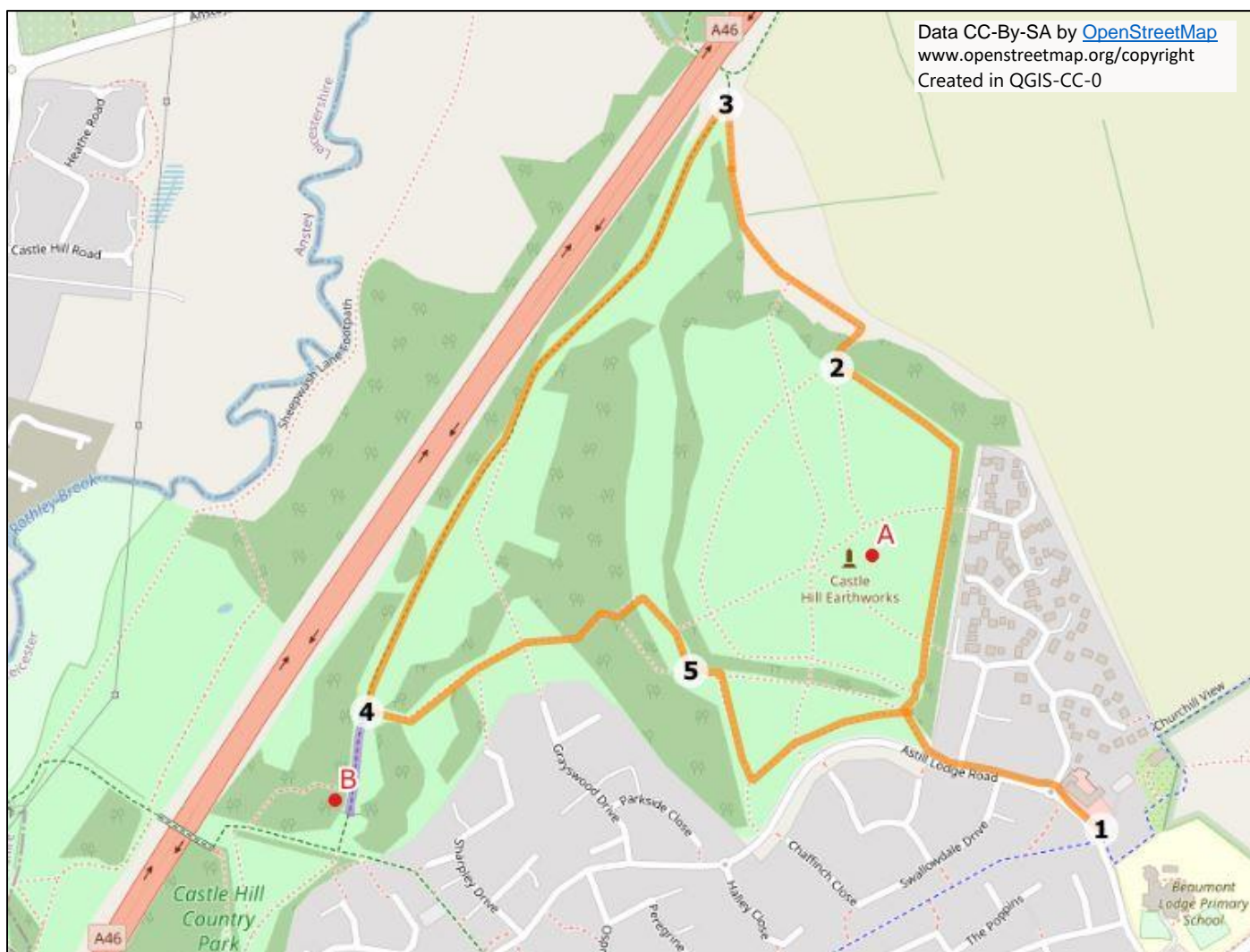
A walk in Castle Hill Country Park - Castle Hill Quarter

Start location: Outside the Beaumont Lodge shops on Astill Lodge Road, LE4 1EF.

Time taken: 50 minutes (approximately, steady pace) **Distance:** 1.6 miles 2.7 km **Circular**

Description:

Castle Hill Country Park is located right on the edge of Leicester. Here, we take a pleasant stroll through the grasslands and leafy woodlands of the historic 'Castle Hill' quarter, a piece of local countryside. You may like to pause at the information boards along the way to discover more about the meadow and woodland habitats, and about the medieval history of the area. Walkers may prefer to walk in company as this area can feel a little isolated.



- Main route — Extended route ① Stage / waypoint ● A Point of interest

*Time is calculated at a steady pace of 2mph. Allow longer to read the information boards.

This route was developed by staff and volunteers for Leicester City Council:

www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/walks

Walk starts:

Outside the Beaumont Lodge shops on Astill Lodge Road (off Bennion Road), Beaumont Leys, LE4 1EF.

Astill Lodge Road is on a bus route. There is a small car park near the shops. To plan your journey visit: www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk

Safety tips:

- Castle Hill Country Park is tucked away behind the residential estates of Beaumont Leys and can feel a bit isolated/ remote. Walkers may prefer to visit in company and at peak times.
- Take care crossing side roads. In Castle Hill Country Park, there may be occasional cyclists.
- Most paths in Castle Hill Country Park are unsurfaced and the terrain is soft and uneven. Paths are usually good during summer when the ground is firm but can be muddy in the wetter months. Suitable footwear is recommended.
- Due to the terrain and several gates along the route, this is not an accessible walk for those with prams/buggies or those using a wheelchair.
- Remember to observe the guidance on social distancing.

Route directions:

1. With your back to the Beaumont Lodge shops turn right and walk along Astill Lodge Road. Cross over Kingsbridge Crescent twice and then enter Castle Hill Country Park through the metal gate. Pass the bench and bear right onto the path through the trees and continue uphill on the mown path beside the meadow. Continue forward with the houses on your right, ignore the first exit at the end of the houses and continue down the hill. Take the next exit on the right, just before the stand of trees directly in front.

A. Castle Hill Country Park Castle Hill Country Park is named not for a castle, but for the medieval monastic grange (or 'Preceptory') of the Knights Hospitaller. This building was once located on the Castle Hill quarter of the park, although little evidence remains of it.

2. Pass through the metal gate and continue up the slope to the bench. Turn left at the wooden signpost and continue downhill on this grassy track, passing through the metal gate to the hard surfaced path just before the A46 bridge.
3. Turn sharp left on this firm path and pass through the metal gate. This path is parallel to the busy A46 and the traffic is audible. Continue ahead for some distance until you reach a wooden signpost to the right of the track. An arrow points left, marking the route to the 'Castle Hill Earthworks'. You will follow this route shortly, but first you may like to detour a little further to the large old oak tree and the information board (B). (If you reach the gate you have gone too far). After visiting the information board, retrace your steps to the wooden post.

B. The information board reveals some of the medieval history of the area.

4. At the wooden post leave the main path onto the soft grass path towards the 'Castle Hill Earthworks'. This path may be overgrown and difficult to see in the summer months. Follow the track past trees. The path now bears left and slightly uphill, with the wood to your left and grassland to your right. Pass the paths which lead off to the right which go towards houses. Where the track divides in open grassland, bear right and continue towards the tree line in front. Enter the

woods and continue along the wide, soil path. At the wooden signpost, cross the intersecting track and continue ahead to the edge of the wood. Exit the wood and immediately cross another intersecting track. Follow the grassy path ahead towards the tree-line, then continue beside it. Pass a gate to the left and continue a short distance to the next path junction.

5. Turn left, cross over the footbridge and take the path to the right that follows the line of the wood on the right. Continue ahead in the direction of Astill Lodge Road (a house will come into view ahead). Before you reach the exit onto Astill Lodge Road, take the grass path on the left and follow it uphill. Continue on this path with the community orchard on the left. At the bench, turn right to exit the park where you first entered. Turn left along Astill Lodge Road to return to your start point.

Route information:

History and wildlife leaflets as well as a [map](#) of Castle Hill Country Park are available on Leicester City Council's website: www.leicester.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/our-parks/castle-hill-country-park/

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to volunteer John for his assistance developing this route.