

## RESTORATION OF WOOD BANK AND WILD FLOWER MEADOW

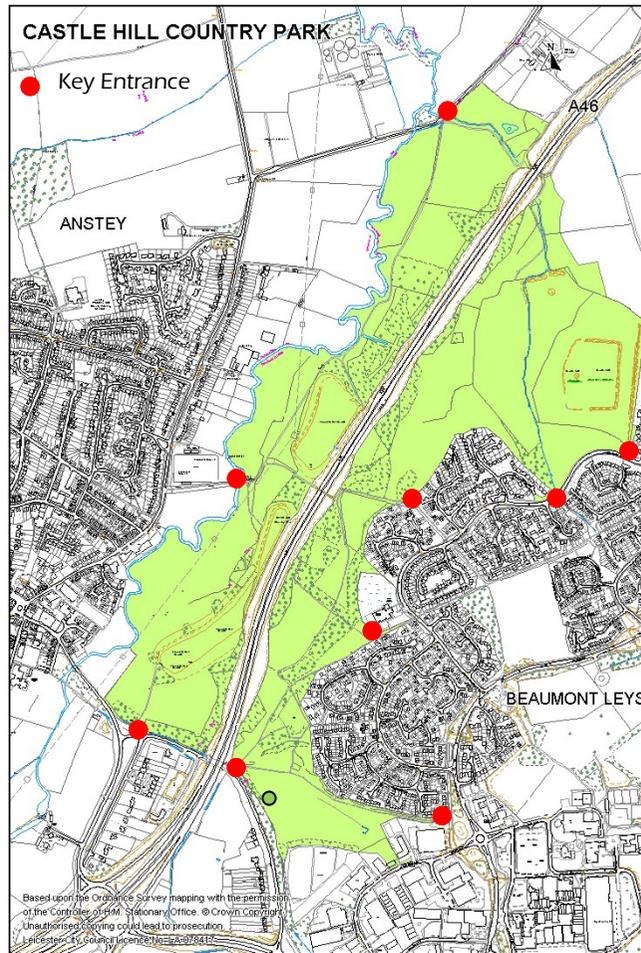
In association with local Gorse Hill residents, the Friends of Castle Hill and Leicestershire County Council's Stepping Stones Countryside Project, Park Services intend to restore this ancient hedgerow by removing all recently introduced plants, rubbish and repairing damage to the old hedge bank.

Additional environmental enhancement work is envisioned for neighboring lands including improved entry, tree planting and creation of a small pond/wetland habitat.



The grasslands are being managed as a hay meadow.

Gorse Hill and the neighboring Wild Flower Meadow is designated as a site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).



● Gorse Hill Wood Bank & Wild Flower Meadow

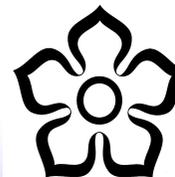
### CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK

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Leicester  
City Council

### CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK

## GORSE HILL WOOD BANK & WILD FLOWER MEADOW



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## ANCIENT WOOD BANK

The old hedge and bank running parallel to Gorse Hill, and forming the historic boundary between Leicester and Anstey, is one of just 5 ancient hedgerows left in the city. The old hedge bank and ditch would have formed the boundary of the



Beaumont Leys wood and parklands. The bank has many fine mature trees including Oak, Ash and Field Maple. In Spring time the woodland floor is covered with a variety of woodland flowers including Wood Anemone, Bluebells, and Dog's Mercury.



In recent years, foreign, and in some instances invasive plants and trees have been introduced to this remnant historic landscape, some of which threaten the continued existence of native flora. There has also been some damage to the hedge banks from BMX users. Fly tipping is also a constant problem.



## GORSE HILL AND ANSTEY LANE

Gorse Hill Anstey Lane is an old drove road used in the past for moving sheep and cattle to Leicester. The ancient road is labeled *The Great Road from Leicester to Ashby-de-la-zouch*, on a 1686 estate plan of Beaumont Leys. An equally ancient wood bank still follows the entire length of the Anstey Lane, though much eroded.



At gorse Old Hedge & Bank at Anstey Lane hill this bank forms the boundary between historic Beaumont leys and Anstey parish .

## GORSE HILL WILD FLOWER MEADOW

Adjoining the Gorse Hill hedge a wildflower meadow was created in 1986 by the City Wildlife Project. This area, some 4 ha in extent and supports an attractive diversity of wildflowers, including; Agrimony, Yarrow, Knapweed, Rough Hawkbit, Ox-eye Daisy, Wild



Meadow Heath

Carrot, Bird's-foot trefoil, Meadow Buttercup, and Self-heal. These plants attract a variety of butterflies including the Meadow Heath and Small Tortoiseshell.

**CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK**