

## OTHER BRIDGES SPANNING ROTHLEY BROOK

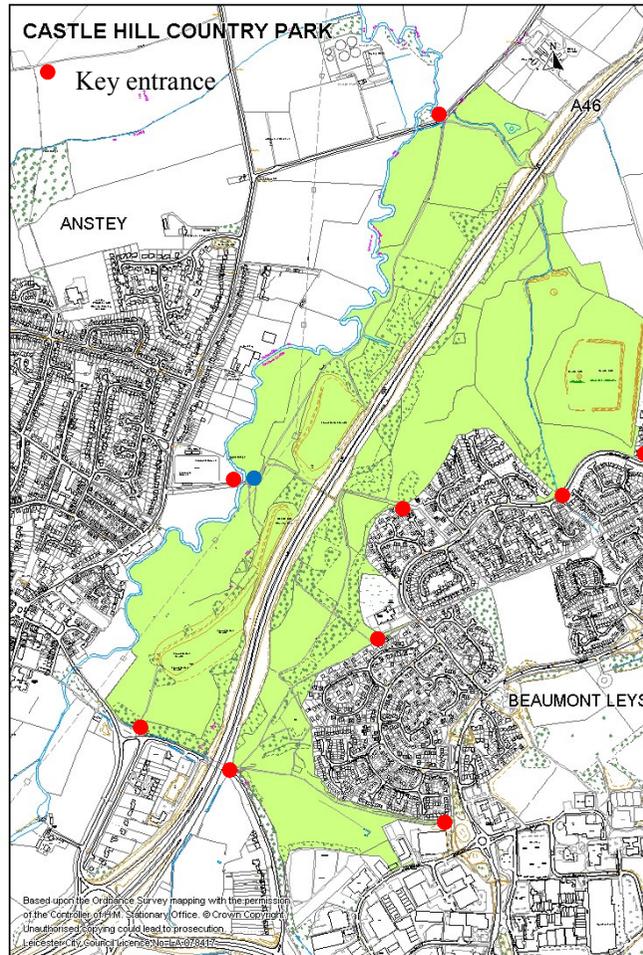
King William's Bridge is one of a number of old stone bridges spanning the Rothley Brook between Anstey and Thurcaston. These include the Anstey Packhorse Bridge, the 'Great Bridge' of old, and two bridges at Thurcaston.



The Anstey bridge is considered to be an investment of Leicester Abbey (who had land holdings in this area). One of the bridges at Thurcaston (below) has an old marker stone located besides it.



This stone may be associated with Leicester Abbey, as they had property here too, including Anstey's old Nether and Stocking Fields. located West of the Rothley Brook. All of the Rothley Brook bridges are located on Public Rights of Way.



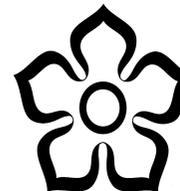
King William's Bridge

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### CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK

## KING WILLIAM'S BRIDGE & THE ROTHLEY BROOK



Tel: 0116 454 1003

## King Williams Bridge

Recently restored, this small stone rubble bridge has two arches and pointed cutwater on its upstream side. The bridge is medieval, possibly dating from 1500, but was widened in more recent times.



King William's Bridge, restored 2008

The bridge is named after King William III who visited Bradgate, residence of Lord Grey Earl of Stamford, in 1696. Early maps and records refer to it simply as 'Damgate'.

Tradition has it that the Bridge was widened to take William's entourage, but these works may well have been associated with Anstey Enclosures in the later part of the 18th Century. The brick-lined arches associated with the extension are clearly visible on the downstream side.

King Williams' Bridge is protected as a scheduled monument.

An old ford - 'Plumford' or 'Plumpford' - in old documents, was located upstream of the Bridge. This ancient crossing- point lined up with 'the Slang', and an old track leading on to Bradgate. It was destroyed in 1960s following developments on Cropston Road.

Another old ford was earlier associated with the nearby Anstey Packhorse Bridge, located off Leicester Road.

The old Anstey Enclosure map of 1762 Also indicates that there was once a large rectangular-shaped pool (livestock pond?) located in this vicinity.

## The Sheepwash

Formerly located at the bottom of Anstey's Sheepwash Lane, little remains of the old Sheep Wash. A brick arch visible beside the track leading to Beaumont Leys, marks the position of a stone based tunnel and line what would have once been the of an old channel linking up with King William's Bridge and Rothley Brook.

With floodgate management at the bridge, this tunnel may have once functioned as a sheep dip. The barrel of this tunnel is constructed of brick and slate, similar to the extension to the bridge, and presumably of same date.



King William's Bridge & Environs in the 1880s

CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK

## Rothley Brook

The Rothley or Anstey Brook has its source near Bagworth, North West Leicestershire and joins the river Soar at Rothley.

Historically known as the 'Great Brook' or 'Heather Brook' this stream forms the southern boundary to Charnwood Forest—a landscape of considerable natural beauty, and whose ancient rocks and geology are of national (if not international) significance.

The City Wildlife Project identified over



40 bird species for this section of the Rothley Brook, the observations including Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Little and Tawny Owl.

*The Rothley Brook* In the past there have been reported sightings of Water Vole & Otter.

Some large mature willow trees are found along the stream banks.

King Williams Bridge and the Rothley Brook are designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).