

Brocks Hill Country Park Sculpture Trail



Brocks Hill
Country Park & Centre



Oadby and Wigston
Borough Council

Owl and Badger Bench (marked as 1 on the map):

The owl appears in the centre of the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council coat of arms, making it a very significant image for the Country Park to have at its entrance, emphasising the importance of the Council's commitment to the community and nature. The name Brock was traditionally a Middle England word for badger. Therefore as Brocks Hill Country Park and centre we are linked closely with the image of the badger. Both owls and badgers are predominantly nocturnal, coming out at twilight to forage and hunt for food into the night.

Did you know?

It is estimated that badgers have lived on the British Isles for over 300,000 years! Fossilised owls have been found that are over 50 million years old.



Heron (2):

There are many species of heron, but the most common in Britain is the grey heron. It has distinctive long, thin legs with long splayed feet which allow it to stand in deep water and hunt for fish. They stand motionless for hours, waiting for fish to swim between their legs. This led many people into believing they had magical legs which attract fish.

Did you know?

Hérons swallow fish whole.

Butterfly (3):

Butterflies are a fundamental part of the natural environment as, like bees and other pollinators, they spread pollen between flowers. This crucial role ensuring the continued variety of our flowers is reflected in the butterfly sculpture and its positioning. It is placed within a bed of flowering shrubs, thus encouraging butterfly pollination. It is a metal sculpture which shows the beauty and grace of these delicate insects. Over the last hundred years, butterflies have become increasingly endangered. Planting habitat for butterflies is a way to help stop this and in the Country Park you will find several meadows planted with wildflowers for this very reason. Supporting the butterfly population in this way is essential to protect the future of the country's butterflies.

Butterflies have been a source of inspiration for many throughout history. As far back as Ancient Egypt there are recorded examples of butterflies in wall paintings. Butterflies have often been likened to flying flowers due to their delicate appearance and striking colours. Each individual butterfly is unique with no two the same which unfortunately makes them ideal targets for collectors over the years.

Did you know?

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Kissing Gate (4):

On the kissing gate at the entrance to the orchard you will find three wooden carvings. The first is of an owl, which is found on the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's crest. The other two are of fruit, nuts and seeds representing the produce of the Country Parks community orchard and the regeneration of nature through the seasons.



Did you know?

In plant folklore it is believed that pine cones can be used to predict rain as they close up if rain is coming and open on dry days.

Memorial Tree (5):

The memorial tree is a metal representation of a deciduous tree waiting for its spread of leaves. The Memorial Tree and the surrounding mound are designed to create an area of quiet reflection, contemplation and memory. It is an ideal location for sitting and remembering those who have touched your lives. The leaves are sponsored plaques bearing the names of loved ones and the tree was kindly donated by the Friends of Brocks Hill.



Did you know?

The UK's native trees arrived and grew here naturally after the last Ice Age and were not introduced by humans.

Human Sun Dial (6):

This sculpture highlights the importance of the Sun as it traces a regular path across the sky defining the passage of time. The number discs on the ground have images of wildlife that can be found in the countryside throughout the seasons. Use this interactive sculpture to tell the time; simply stand on the month and on sunny days your shadow will fall on the time but remember to consider British Summer Time in the answer you get.

Did you know?

Sun dials have been used as far back as Ancient Egypt and Babylon, over 5000 years ago.

Mouse, Walnut and Beetle (7):

This sculpture concentrates on some of nature's smaller creatures and the cycles of life. Mice generate mixed emotions in people as some choose to keep them as pets while others consider them to be pests, best destroyed. They are portrayed as creatures to be got rid of in rhymes such as 'Three Blind Mice' but also as clever and noble creatures in the story 'The Lion and the Mouse' which teaches us about friendship. In nature they are important as food for many predators such as birds of prey.

The mouse is holding onto a walnut, the beginning of the life cycle of a mighty tree that has been part of the British landscape for centuries.

Making its way up from the bottom of the sculpture is a beetle representing all insects. In Britain one animal in every four is a beetle and they are the largest group of insects in the world with 4000 varieties in Britain alone. They play a vital role in the food chains of many animals.



Did you know?

New-born mice are called pinkies.

Beetles have been around for about 270 million years.

Sun God (8):

This statue was inspired by the Ancient Egyptian sun god, Ra, who was often represented with the head of a bird. The circle represents the Sun, which plays a vital part in nature as it is the source of energy for plants. It is found at the top of every food chain; plants photosynthesise energy from the sun's light, these plants are then eaten by animals, and these animals are eaten by others and so on.

This importance of the Sun is celebrated by the sculpture as the very reference of a god signifies the key role it plays in life, ultimately as the origin of all we know. The role of the sun has developed even more in the modern world as we now harvest its light to produce energy through solar panels. It is therefore helping to maintain and protect the natural environment as an alternative energy source to fossil fuels.



Did you know?

Ancient Egyptians believed that the movement of the sun through the sky during the day was the sun god Ra riding a chariot of light across the sky.

Key:

1. Owl and Badger Bench
2. Heron
3. Butterfly
4. Kissing Gates
5. Memorial Tree
6. Sun Dial
7. Mouse, Walnut and Beetle
8. Sun God

