

DISCOVER OADBY & WIGSTON

YOUR PICKUP & PICNIC MAP

The blue numbers show our suggested food & drink shops and picnic spots - turn the map over for more details!

University of Leicester Botanic Garden

Stoughton Grange Farm Shop & Distillery

Wigston Deli

Brocks Hill Country Park

Milners Bakery

Joseph Morris Butchers

SOUTH WIGSTON

WIGSTON

OADBY

Grand Union Canal

BROCK'S HILL COUNTRY PARK
BOTANIC GARDENS
GRAND UNION CANAL

With thanks to

BROCKLEBY'S
Handmade in Melton Mowbray

Where to buy your picnic food and drink...

1 Wigston Deli
29 Carlton Drive, Wigston Fields,
Leicestershire, LE18 1DF

3 Joseph Morris Butchers
2-10 Newton Lane, Wigston,
LE18 3SE



Wigston Deli - aka "Not Just A Corner Shop" - is perfect for anyone planning a local picnic! Transformed from a typical corner shop into an emporium of locally sourced artisan delights under owners Pratik & Bee Master, the duo were named "Food Heroes of the Year" by the Great Food Club. This deli sources 80% of products from within a 40-mile radius of Leicester, making it an eco-conscious choice and a prime example of how a local focus can revitalise a business. You'll find breads and cakes from Hambleton Bakery, exquisite wines from Rothley Wine Estate and dairy from Vine Farm Dairy. Tempting too are samosas, sausage rolls, ready-made cobs and much more. Indeed, all the essentials for an extraordinary outdoor feast are here. Wigston Deli has tapped into a demand for quality, locally-sourced food and is open seven days a week. So, if you're planning a picnic and want it to be memorable, Wigston Deli is your go-to destination.

Tel: 07904 929374
notjustacornershop.com

2 Stoughton Grange Farm Shop
Gartree Road, Oadby, LE2 2FB

Stoughton Grange Farm Shop is ideal for anyone looking to craft an extraordinary picnic. Located next to the charming Cow & Plough pub, the shop offers a cornucopia of local goods. Fresh produce grown in their kitchen garden, succulent homemade pies and sausage rolls, meats like Fosse Meadows chicken and Launde Farm lamb, and delectable bread and cakes from Hambleton Bakery make it a one-stop-shop for picnic essentials.

The deli counter is an experience in itself, boasting a rich variety of British cheeses, including the unique Sparkenhoe Red Leicester. Whether you're a fan of mild or punchy cheese, expert staff can tailor the perfect cheese board for your outing. Owner Billy Allingham aims to reconnect people with the quality produce available before the era of global supermarkets. Whether you need artisan jams or freshly made cakes from local bakers, your picnic will not only be delicious but also support local producers, making Stoughton Grange the perfect destination for an exceptional picnic experience.

Email: shop@stoughtongrangefarm.co.uk
stoughtongrangefarm.co.uk

For those in search of local, high-quality produce for a delicious picnic, look no further than Joseph Morris Butchers. Known affectionately as JoMo, this family-run business has been a pillar in the community since its establishment in 1930. Now in its fourth generation, the business operates three stores across Leicestershire and Warwickshire, including a catering service and its own abattoir. What sets them apart is their commitment to local sourcing. All livestock comes from nearby farms, ensuring top quality while supporting the community. Short travelling distances for the animals also prioritise their welfare. For picnic essentials, Joseph Morris Butchers offers a magnificent range of homemade pork pies, sausage rolls, pasties and haslet. Their selection of home-cooked hams, roast pork, beef and turkey is excellent too. Finalist in the 2019 Meat Management Awards, JoMo takes pride in delivering excellent customer service and the highest quality meats.



Tel: 0116 2883353
joseph-morris-butchers.co.uk

4 Milners Bakery
50 Blaby Rd, South Wigston, LE18 4SD & Shire Ct, Gloucester Cres, Wigston LE18 4XJ

For those planning the ultimate Oadby & Wigston picnic, Milners Bakery is indispensable. Family-run since 1967, it has become a Leicester institution with five branches across Leicestershire, two of which are in Wigston. Led by Toby Milner, whose father founded the business, Milners upholds the core values of hard work and quality, earning it a reputation as one of the best 'cob shops' in the region. With a commitment to baking fresh every morning, Milners offers an array of delicious options perfect for a picnic. From their famed sourdough bread, crafted purely from flour, salt and water, to speciality loaves like cheese & pickle or roasted red onion focaccia, your picnic basket will be anything but ordinary. Don't forget to add some sweet treats like rainbow crispy cakes or red velvet muffins, and perhaps indulge in their legendary Nelson Slice - a moist, fruity delight making a nostalgic return by popular demand. With Milners, you're partaking in a local legacy of artisan baking.



This picnic map is part of Leicester & Leicestershire's Taste The Place Campaign. For more information, go to: visitleicester.info/taste-the-place

Where to enjoy your picnic

1 Brocks Hill Country Park

Looking for the perfect spot for an al fresco feast? Brocks Hill Country Park in Oadby is your answer. Bursting with natural beauty and history, this verdant sanctuary has welcomed visitors for more than two decades and is a haven for over 150,000 nature enthusiasts annually. Once a historical farmstead rich in Bronze Age artefacts, the park's terrain boasts medieval fields, hay meadows, and sparkling ponds.

Meander along 3km of wheelchair-friendly paths that snake through lush woodlands and fragrant meadows. Take a breather under the shade of century-old oaks, or beside ponds that glisten under the sun. Enjoy the community orchard, home to 172 traditional, local varieties of fruit trees including apple, pear, cherry, plum and mulberry.

Managed by a dedicated Park Ranger and a team of volunteers, Brocks Hill champions biodiversity. Witness this commitment in the carefully managed meadows, teeming with vivid wildflowers like Common Knapweed and Lady's Bedstraw. Buzzing with bees, flitting butterflies and chirping birds,

these fields are Mother Nature's dining tables. Satisfy your taste buds by packing a picnic full of locally sourced goodies. Imagine biting into a fresh sandwich with ingredients from nearby farms as you sit beside a serene pond. Wash it down with a locally produced drink.

Let's not forget the park's built-in adventure. From orienteering courses to themed trails and art installations, there's something for everyone. For the little ones, two play areas and a den-building zone ensure an action-packed day. So, pack your picnic basket, grab a blanket, and prepare to elevate your outdoor dining experience at Brocks Hill Country Park. This is not just a picnic; it's a feast for your senses!

Useful information:

Ready for a day of natural beauty at Brocks Hill Country Park? Set your GPS for Washbrook Lane, Oadby, LE2 5JJ. Plenty of pay & display parking is open daily and there are toilets on-site. Be mindful that the pathways occasionally get waterlogged. Brocks Hill Park is wheelchair-friendly.



2 University of Leicester Botanic Garden

Enjoy the tranquillity of nature while indulging in a picnic at the beautiful University of Leicester Botanic Garden. This 16-acre paradise offers a sensory feast with its diverse plant collections. It's also the perfect backdrop for a picnic of locally-sourced treats. Imagine enjoying artisan cheeses, fresh fruits and pastries amid an Edwardian garden, scenic arboretum, or by calming water features.

The Botanic Garden presents a unique blend of formal and informal settings. Sculptures and water features elevate the experience, offering character and charm. While the plant collections add textures and colours, the rock gardens, herbaceous borders and special collections of *Skimmia* and *Aubrieta* offer a refreshing backdrop.

The garden's focus on global biodiversity means you can match your food choices with the regions represented in the flora. Consider pairing some Mediterranean olives and bread with the sights of the garden's temperate collections, or enjoy a sip or two of local cider by the British native trees in this stunning natural environment.

Seating is ample, with benches strategically placed to offer the best views, or you can spread a blanket in one of the many open spaces. If you're interested in wildlife, parts of the garden are managed 'wild' sites where you can spot various species – making it educational as well as enjoyable. The different themes and areas will ignite the imagination!

So come for the plants and stunning setting, stay for the food, and leave with a full belly! Your ideal picnic spot awaits you at the University of Leicester Botanic Garden, whether you're a flora enthusiast, a foodie, or someone seeking a serene escape.

Useful information:

You can enjoy the botanic gardens every day from 10am to 4pm, and up to 5pm in the summer time, although the garden closes on December 25, 26 and January 1.

For the Botanic Garden, the public entrance is located on Glebe Road, Leicester, LE2 2LD, where you'll find on-street car parking and bike racks. No dogs or pets permitted except assistance dogs. The paths are wheelchair-friendly.



3 Grand Union Canal

The relaxed beauty of the Grand Union Canal provides a lovely backdrop for a picnic. The Leicester Line of this famous old British canal wanders into Oadby & Wigston for around three miles – a tiny fraction of its total length, which stretches 137 miles from Birmingham to London.

Following a similar course to the nearby River Sence – part of which forms the boundary between Oadby & Wigston and Harborough – the Grand Union Canal is lined with serene greenery. You could start your canal picnic adventure by parking at Crow Mill Bridge in South Wigston, where you can then stroll along the tow-path for nearly two miles to the hamlet of Kilby Bridge. You could enjoy your picnic in Kilby Bridge or pick a nice spot along the way.

Alternatively, continue another half mile to Clifton's Bridge, where a footpath leads towards Wigston Harcourt, adding more beautiful scenery to your experience.

The canal is easily accessible yet gives a sense of escapism, offering a peaceful respite from bustling town life. It's the perfect setting to savour a basket full of locally-sourced

delights – artisan breads, fresh cheeses, pork pies and perhaps a drop of local wine or craft beer.

A quick history note: The Leicester Line was once two separate canals merged in 1894, connecting the East Midlands to London. It's been part of the community's lifeblood, and now it can be part of your picnic adventure.

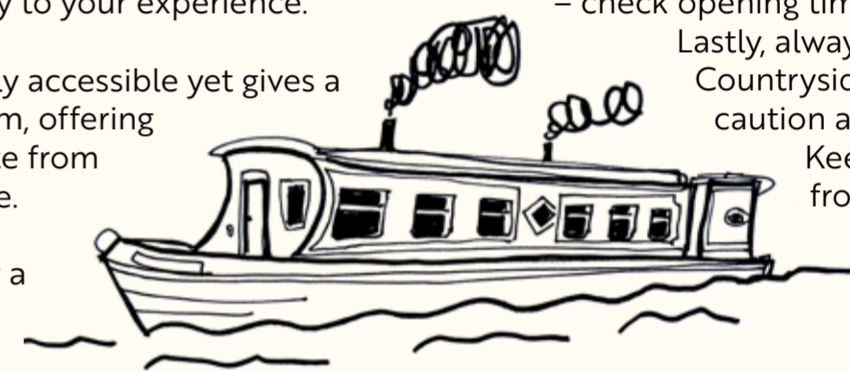
So take a break from the fast-paced world. Breathe in the fresh air, listen to the sounds of nature and enjoy a picnic near the Grand Union Canal.

Useful information:

Limited parking is available at Crow Mill Bridge (LE18 4AD) and Kilby Bridge (LE18 3TE) – please park considerately and be aware of restrictions. There are no public toilets along the canal. For refreshments, The Navigation Inn is conveniently located near Kilby Bridge – check opening times before you go.

Lastly, always adhere to the Countryside Code and exercise caution around the water.

Keep a safe distance from the edge, avoid going alone, and be mindful of other canal users.



WHERE TO PICNIC IN OADBY & WIGSTON



Great places to eat alfresco – and where to buy locally sourced picnic food and drink...

investow.co.uk

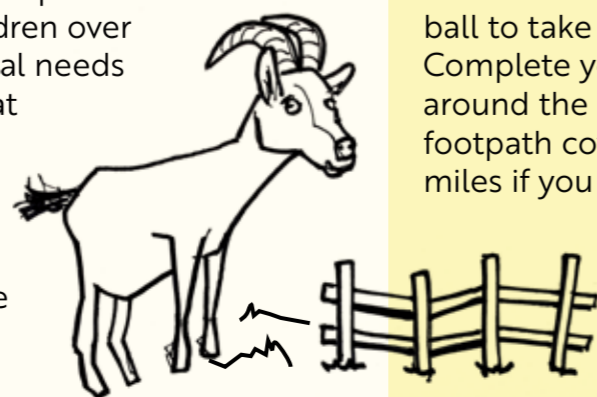
4 Stoughton Farm Park

Rediscover the joys of rural life at Stoughton Grange Farm Park in Oadby (note that there is an entry fee – see below). Recently reopened after more than 20 years, this idyllic setting offers excellent picnic spots and a cornucopia of family-friendly activities. After feasting alfresco, you can visit the wide variety of animals, from Stoughton Park's endearing pigs Burt and Winston, to their adorable donkeys, Thelma and Louise. Little ones can explore the straw maze, delight in pedal tractor rides, or enjoy the play area featuring swings and slides.

The on-site farm shop (see overleaf) is a haven of local produce, perfect for creating a delightful picnic basket. Fresh sandwiches, cakes and drinks are available from the cafe. Otherwise, picnic tables are conveniently scattered across the park, or find a cosy spot beside the woodland area. With a picturesque lakeside walk and opportunities to spot a variety of wildlife, Stoughton Grange is a great destination for a picnic day out.

Useful information:

Entry prices to the farm park are £9 for adults and children over two; infants and special needs carers are free. Book at stoughtongrangefarmpark.co.uk. Stoughton Grange is a cashless site. No pets except assistance dogs. There is a free on-site car park.



5 Willow Park

Located in the heart of Wigston, Willow Park – also known as Aylestone Lane Park – is a great spot for some outside eating. Whether you're sourcing scrumptious treats from Wigston Deli (see overleaf) just a ten-minute stroll away, or picking up gourmet grub from Joseph Morris Butchers (a 20-minute meander), you'll find this park a handy picnic destination.

With its wide-open green spaces, Willow Park offers ample room to spread out a blanket and enjoy a sunny alfresco feast. It's not just about the food, though. This family-friendly locale boasts play equipment for kids, ensuring little ones are entertained while you relax. For those interested in a workout before indulging, there's also outdoor gym equipment.

Football enthusiasts? Don't forget to bring a ball to take advantage of the park's pitches. Complete your visit with a leisurely walk around the park; one lap on the paved footpath covers 0.4 miles, extended to 0.7 miles if you include the gravel path.

Useful information:

Willow Park offers a free 20-space car park on Aylestone Lane, LE18 1BA.

6 Coombe Park

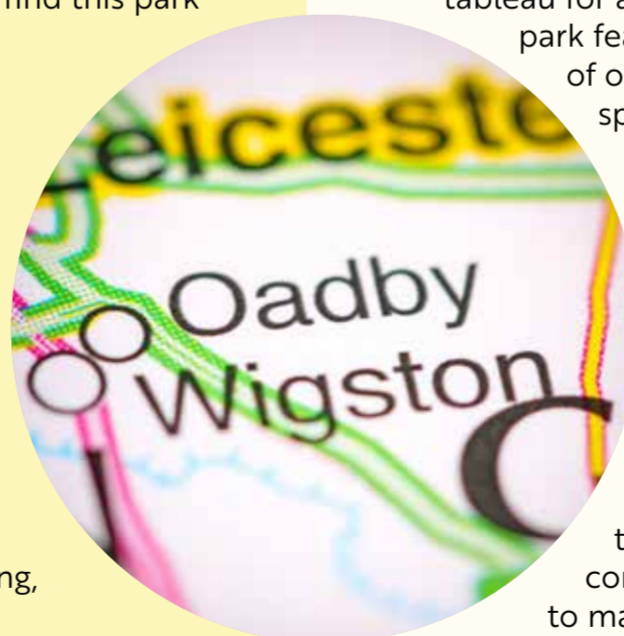
Situated near Glen Gorse Golf Club on Oadby's southern edge, Coombe Park is a spacious green area just a 20-minute stroll from The Grange Farm pub (Florence Wragg Way, Oadby). For those feeling energetic, it's a 50-minute walk from Stoughton Grange Farm Shop (see overleaf). Offering an inviting tableau for a picturesque picnic, the park features a sweeping expanse of open grass ideal for family sports and leisure.

Little picnickers will be captivated by the children's play area. Walkers can make use of the St Wistans Walk, which is only a stone's throw away from Coombe Park. Or for a more relaxed day, enjoy a tranquil stroll through the community orchard, home to many beautiful deciduous trees like spruce that come alive with vivid colours in the autumn, elevating your picnic experience.

Coombe Park is a versatile, accessible and pleasant location for your next picnic, whether you're kicking a ball around, enjoying a walk or simply unwinding with delicious local fare.

Useful information:

Coombe Park offers a free small car park off Coombe Rise, LE2 5UR.



7 Uplands Park

Uplands Park, one of Oadby & Wigston's most expansive green spaces, beckons as a great setting for a picnic outing. Just a half-hour stroll from Stoughton Grange Farm Shop (see overleaf), this park boasts a perfect balance of size – large enough for a refreshing walk yet intimate enough to offer a cosy, local feel. The park's perimeter stretches over 0.60 miles or 0.97 kilometres, providing ample room for various outdoor activities.

Children will find entertainment in play areas, while sports enthusiasts can make use of the basketball court and open green space. Fitness aficionados will appreciate the well-maintained outdoor gym, and others might enjoy a leisurely walk along the park's all-encompassing pathway.

Ample free car parking makes accessibility a breeze, and the pavilion serves as a central gathering point. Don't miss the beautiful display of cherry blossoms that bloom each spring, adding a touch of pink to the park's landscape. Whether you're a local or a visitor, Uplands Park in Oadby offers a versatile, family-friendly, locale for your next picnic.

Useful information:

Uplands Park offers a free parking off Uplands Road, LE2 4NP.



Brought to you by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council with Visit Leicester and Great Food Club #tastetheplace

greatfood Club

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All the information in this guide was compiled in good faith and believed to be correct at the time of printing. No responsibility can be accepted for inaccuracies or subsequent changes in the information supplied.

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