



The colliery

Coal has been mined in this area for nearly 700 years. The monks of Beauvale Priory held rights to mine coal and it is believed there were shallow workings dating back to Roman times. Indeed, within a mile of nearby Brinsley Headstocks, more than 100 shafts were sunk over the last 200 years. The development of the towns and villages in the area owe much to this mining heritage.

Colliers Wood and the surrounding area was once the site of Moorgreen Colliery. Opened by Barber, Walker & Company in 1865, three shafts were sunk and coal production commenced in 1871. At its height the colliery employed a high proportion of the local working men and produced around 1,000,000 tons of coal per year. The colliery was part of a large complex of mines in the Greasley parish. Other pits included Watnall, New London, Digby, High Park and Lodge. Deep mining came to an end in 1985 with the closure of Moorgreen and Pye Hill collieries.

Information for Disabled Visitors

The site contains a variety of easy walks, with some seating provided along the paths. For up to date information please refer to the contact details below.

Please Help Look After This Site

- No horses/cycles/motorcycles.
- Take your litter home.
- Do not disturb nesting birds or other wildlife.
- Use the dog bins provided.
- Keep dogs on leads and out of ponds and copses.
- Do not light fires.
- Do not paddle, fish or swim in the ponds.

Further Information, Site Issues

More information about Colliers Wood can be found at www.broxtowe.gov.uk. To report any problems please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 7777.

Acknowledgments

The photographs used in this booklet have been kindly provided by Geoff Caldwell (Wildlife) and Anthony Kirby (Mining Heritage).

The woodland is open to the public at all times.

This information is available in large print and alternative formats upon request.



Friends of Colliers Wood

The Friends are a community group who, with willingness and enthusiasm, work to enhance the site. They run education and site based events to encourage use of the woodland. Anyone with an environmental or community interest is welcomed. Contact Margaret on 0115 9385101, or email focw@btinternet.com.

Facilities & Events

Site facilities include picnic tables and seats along the footpaths, a pond dipping platform and an outdoor auditorium. These facilities can be used by schools and community groups for educational or social activities. The Friends of Colliers Wood organise a series of site based events throughout the year. These have included, live performances, dog shows and volunteer conservation days. To find out more information, contact the Friends (see details below).

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Colliers Wood



An attractive woodland arising from an industrial past in the beautiful Borough of Broxtowe





Greater Reed Mace

Oak



Small Skipper

Wetlands

One of the attractions of Colliers Wood is its large pond, a fast disappearing wildlife habitat. With its shallow edges fringed with reeds and Yellow Flag, it provides a home for frogs, toads and the larvae of dragon and damselflies. As well as the main pond, scarce resources such as drainage ditches and wetlands have been created, providing different depths of water and bog, ideal for a rich community of aquatic species. The main pond has Moorhens, Mallards, and Mute Swans with the occasional Tufted Duck. A Grey Heron may also be seen. The watervole, an increasingly rare species, has been spotted in the drainage ditches on the site.

Woodlands and Meadows

The mixed deciduous copses at Colliers Wood contain mainly Oak, Birch and Alder, with additional tree species such as Rowan, Hazel, Willow and Scots Pine. These, together with the shrubs, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose, Dog Rose and Holly provide food and shelter for a wide range of insects, birds and mammals. The meadows adjacent to the copses provide open sunny spots for many wildflowers and butterflies to thrive. Small birds at the site such as Meadow Pipits, tits and warblers, attract Kestrels, Buzzards, Sparrow Hawks and Tawny Owls that can often be seen hunting over the woodland.

Community Woodland

Colliers Wood, created between 1997 and 1998, on the site of the former Moorgreen Colliery is a community woodland that forms part of the Greenwood Community Forest.

Spring and Summer

Grey Partridge and Common Pheasant emerge from the copses to feed in the meadows. Common Blue, Large White and Tortoiseshell butterflies fly in the sunny meadows with Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns along the woodland edges. During your visit you may hear a Skylark singing high above the meadows, see a Willow Warbler along the woodland edges or spot a Green Woodpecker flying low across the paths.

Autumn and Winter

In the autumn and winter months the berry bearing trees and shrubs provide rich pickings for flocks of Redwing, Mistlethrush and Fieldfare. In addition, the seedheads of the wildflower meadows provide a valuable source of food for flocks of Goldfinches and other seed-eating birds. The presence of other waterbodies nearby and the large number of fruit bearing trees in the woods means that there is always a possibility of something unusual visiting the site, particularly when the weather is cold.

Moorgreen Reservoir



B600 Moorgreen

Car Park

St Mary's Church & Beauvale Priory

Moorgreen Industrial Park

Durban House Heritage Centre

Moorgreen

Mill Road, Newthorpe

- Meadows
- Roads
- Woodland
- Surfaced Paths
- Mown Grass Path
- Wildflower Areas
- Water
- Dipping Platform
- Auditorium

Walks around Colliers Wood



Barber Trail - 1.7km - 35 to 50 minutes

This trail takes you alongside the woodlands, hedgerows and meadows of the site and provides views of neighbouring fields before returning to the main pond via Engine Lane's avenue of Limes. Listen out for Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs in the Spring or Goldfinches feeding in the Autumn. Gatekeeper or Speckled Wood butterflies may be seen along the trail in Summer. With links to other public footpaths it can easily form part of a longer walk. Please note Engine Lane is a public highway adjacent to the site.



Canada Geese



Walker Trail - 1km - 20 to 30 minutes

A short circular walk that takes you to the pond and dipping platform, up through the meadows and past the woodlands. Look out for House Martins at the pond or a Skylark over the meadows in spring. Insects such as Common Darter dragonflies may be spotted in summer. The walk can be shortened by taking the path to the left from the car park past the auditorium. Choosing the mown path to your left takes you across one of the meadows where you rejoin a path back to the car park.



Scarlet Pimpernel



Holly