

The Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Project

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood is a valuable wildlife site that has long played an important role in the lives of local people. In 2010 The Wildlife Trust launched an ambitious and exciting partnership project with the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England, Birmingham City Council and the volunteers and friends of Moseley Bog. Together we're working for wildlife and people.

Get Involved

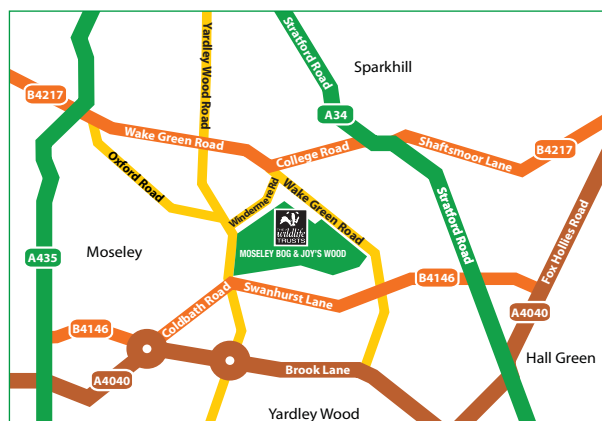
There are many ways you can get involved with Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood:

- Join us on our regular volunteer days and learn wildlife management skills
- Come on one of our walks and find out more about the area's wildlife and history
- Bring your school or community group along to a tailored activity day
- Make use of our free education packs
- Come and use our outdoor classroom
- Take part in a corporate volunteering day with your colleagues

For more information visit our website or contact the Moseley Bog reserve officer at info@moseleybog.org.uk 0121 454 1199.

Where to find us

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood is located in the Springfield area of Birmingham approximately 5.1 km (3.2 miles) south of the city centre. The main entrance is on Yardley Wood Road (the closest postcode is B13 9JX). The Ordnance Survey grid reference is SP092821.



PLEASE NOTE that there are no toilets on the reserve

Creating a Living Landscape

Birmingham & Black Country



The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & The Black Country is one of 47 Wildlife Trusts that cover the whole of the UK. Locally we work to make Birmingham & the Black Country a better place for wildlife and people.

Please support the Wildlife Trust by becoming a member

If local wildlife and green spaces are important to you, then by becoming a member of the Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust you can help to make a real difference. Our members' subscriptions provide the foundation for all our wildlife activities, and by joining you can help us to create a Living Landscape in which you and your family can enjoy wildlife, now and in the future.

Our members receive our **Wildlife Focus** magazine three times a year, where you'll find the latest news and information about our work with wildlife. Children will become members of Wildlife Watch, our children's club, and enjoy their own mailings. Other benefits of membership include:

- Your membership card - a passport to over 1,600 Wildlife Trust nature reserves across the UK
- Year round wildlife events and activities across Birmingham & the Black Country
- Volunteering opportunities with the chance to gain new skills and work 'hands on' with wildlife
- Advice and guidance on local wildlife issues by phone or e-mail
- National wildlife magazine **Natural World** (three times a year)

To join the Wildlife Trust please visit our website at www.bbcwildlife.org.uk or call us on 0121 454 1199

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Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve



Supported by
The National Lottery
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Creating a Living Landscape

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve

Part of The Shire Country Park



archaeology & history

Birmingham & Black Country



Experience 3,000 Years of History

There is evidence of man's presence in Moseley Bog dating back to the Bronze Age. At this time the area would have been part of the pre-historic 'wild wood', little impacted upon by man.

- By the time of Domesday in 1086 much of the woodland had been cleared and replaced with arable fields, meadows and pastures.
- In the 16th century a large mill pool was constructed in Moseley Bog. This was allowed to drain in the 19th century and the woodland began to return.
- The expansion of suburban Birmingham at the beginning of the 20th century saw the area around Moseley Bog begin to lose its rural character. By the 1950s all that was left of the area's agricultural past were archaeological remains.
- In the 1960s the upper area of the reserve, now known as Joy's Wood, was landfilled and converted into playing fields. The steep bank which separates Joy's Wood from Moseley Bog represents the edge of the landfilled area. You can clearly see pieces of brick and concrete, remnants of demolished Birmingham slum areas.
- In the 1980s the playing fields were planted with blocks of woodland and the whole area was declared a Local Nature Reserve.

This leaflet is part of a comprehensive package of interpretation and educational materials that are available for Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood. If you would like to find out more then please visit our website or contact us.

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood is a special place rich in wildlife and history. Highlighted on the map are some of the things that you can discover. As you explore the reserve look out for the information panels which highlight many others.



Clay Pits -

The hollows here are historic 'clay pits'. Nutrient-rich soil known as 'Marl' was extracted from here and spread on the adjacent fields as fertiliser.

Around the reserve you will see yellow waymarkers for the 'all access' path. This route has gentler slopes and no steps.

Victorian & Edwardian Gardens - In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries large suburban houses with long gardens were built along Wake Green Road. These only stood for a few decades and later in the 20th Century were replaced by St. Bernard's school and new housing. The lower-lying ends of the long gardens were, however, left undeveloped, and these now form part of the woodland of Moseley Bog. There are clear remnants of the gardens including walls, the foundations of a glass house, hedgerows with boundary trees and a number of garden plants of species that were popular at the time.

Pond - The pond started life as part of a quarry for the dam of the 'Great Pool' and later became an ornamental pond in the garden of a now demolished house called Mel Valley.

Mill Pool - A short walk east from Moseley Bog stands Sarehole Mill, first documented in 1542 as belonging to the priory at Maxstoke, nine miles away in modern-day north Warwickshire. To ensure a reliable supply of water for the mill a holding pool was created at the site of Moseley Bog by damming the Coldbath Brook. With the advent of steam-driven pumps in the middle of the 19th century it was no longer necessary to keep a holding pool, and when the dam was in need of repair the decision was made to break the sluice and allow the pool to drain. Due to the difficult wet conditions the site wasn't reused and was left to 'tumble-down' to woodland. The dam remains intact today and forms an impressive and clearly visible archaeological feature.

The steps from Pensby Close go over the dam of the 'Great Pool'.

Hurdles made from hazel harvested from Joy's Wood are used to protect the burnt mounds from the erosive effect of the Coldbath Brook.

Burnt mounds - Straddling the Coldbath Brook are two 'burnt mounds'. These Scheduled Ancient Monuments date from around 3,000 years ago and are made up of large piles of cracked stones and charcoal. It is thought that these stones were heated on a fire and had water poured on them to create steam for sauna-type bathing. This would have been done in a structure made from wooden poles covered with animal skins known as a 'bender'. Similar structures are known to have been used all over the world as a means of cleansing, as spiritual centres, as places to hold meetings and for healing.

Look out for the Wood horsetail



350 million years ago horsetails were the kings of the steaming swamp, often growing to 30 metres high. Today they are less common, and not so hard to miss. But horsetails do exist in Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve, growing in the understorey of the wet wooded areas. One of the horsetails that grows in the reserve is the less common Wood Horsetail. It is the only one of the horsetails whose branches are themselves branched.