

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

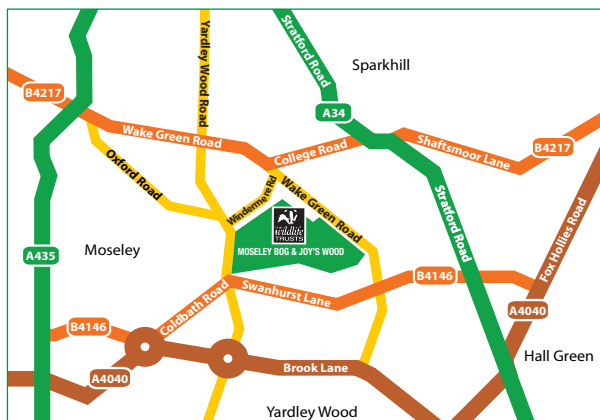
There are many ways you can get involved with Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood:

- 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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Birmingham & Black Country



Moseley Bog



Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Creating a Living Landscape

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve

Part of The Shire Country Park

Moseley Bog

Birmingham & Black Country



Water, Wildlife and Wonder

Moseley Bog is the oldest part of the reserve with a very different history to Joy's Wood. The area is a surviving piece of a landscape which has now mostly gone from this part of Birmingham, and there are many species and historic features which tell its story.

- The main watercourse in the Bog is the Coldbath Brook, in earlier times known as the Bulley Brook, which rises near the top of Cambridge Road in King's Heath, and flows east for one and a half miles before entering the River Cole near Sarehole Mill (via the mill pool).
- Surprisingly it isn't the Coldbath Brook that makes Moseley Bog so wet, the water actually comes from the numerous springs which emerge from the ground in the north of the site.
- Much of this lower part of the reserve was once a mill pool which helped supply Sarehole Mill with a constant source of water. The steps leading into the reserve from Pensby Close go up and over the large dam of the mill pool. In the 19th century the pool was drained and the area was left to 'tumble-down' to the woodland we see today.
- In 1980 Moseley Bog was declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), primarily in a bid to prevent the site from being developed following an application to build 22 detached houses on the site. The threat of development kick-started a campaign by local residents to 'Save Our Bog', a fight that lasted until 1986, when the city council bought a key section of the land to prevent the development, and so save the site for wildlife and the community.

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.

Front cover: Kingfisher © Malcolm Brown

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.

Wet Woodland – The water which seeps from the springs in the north of the site has created wet, soggy ground on which a special 'wet woodland' habitat has developed. This woodland is the oldest woodland in the reserve and a number of 'old woodland' species such as wood horsetail and various sedges can be found here. In the drier areas other old woodland species such as bluebell, wood sorrel and yellow pimpernel are present.

● ● ● All Access Path
● ● ● Other Main Path

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



The 'Bog' – The open area in the centre of Moseley Bog is not strictly speaking a bog, but in fact a type of habitat known as 'fen'. This is an uncommon habitat which supports numerous specialised plants and animals. Unfortunately much of the fen which used to be found in the countryside of Birmingham & the Black Country has been lost under our modern towns and intensively farmed fields. To retain this precious habitat The Wildlife Trust and Moseley Bog volunteers regularly remove colonising trees which dry the soil and shade out the plants and animals.

Pond – The pond started life as a small quarry and later became an ornamental garden pond. Today this is home to numerous amphibians including common newts, as well as many fresh-water invertebrates.

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

Burnt Mounds – Straddling the Coldbath Brook are the reserve's primary archaeological treasures: the burnt mounds. Dating from around 3,000 years ago, the mounds are made up of piles of cracked stones and fragments of ancient burnt trees. It is thought that Bronze-age man heated the stones on a fire and poured water over them to create steam for sauna-type bathing. This would have been done in a structure made from wooden poles and animal skins known as a 'bender'. Today the Coldbath Brook cuts through these Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Look out for: Sphagnum moss

Sphagnum moss is quite rare in Birmingham, but it grows in the damp woodland areas of Moseley Bog. It's important to many plants and animals because dead sphagnum moss forms the peat on which they live.

Due to its natural antiseptic properties, moss was used in massive quantities for dressing wounds during both World Wars. During the Second World War, collecting moss was classed as essential war work. Because it absorbs twenty times its dry weight of water, it has also been used as a nappy liner.

Sphagnum moss plants are tiny, but they grow together in close proximity forming spongy carpets. They range in colour from red and pink, to orange and green. See what colours you can find in Moseley Bog!