

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

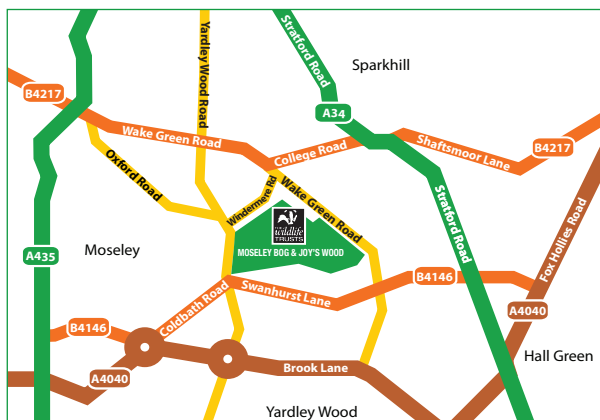
There are many ways you can get involved with Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood:

- 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



Joy's Wood



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

Joy's Wood

Birmingham & Black Country



New Life in a Lost Valley

Joy's Wood is the youngest part of the reserve with a very different history to Moseley Bog. The area is 'made ground' which was created when huge amounts of waste material were dumped in the natural valley of the Coldbath Brook. Despite this difficult history the area today is a haven of created grassland and woodland which supports numerous plants and animals.

- 100 years ago the site was a part of the valley of the Coldbath Brook, which has its source in modern-day King's Heath and flows east into the River Cole at Sarehole. The brook supplied water to the mill at Sarehole, and also to a mill called Lady Mill, located opposite the present-day entrance to the reserve on Yardley Wood Road.
- The land was purchased by Birmingham City Council in 1935, and over the decades that followed it was filled with an assortment of materials, including building rubble arising from the clearance of city slums. The Coldbath Brook was hidden in an underground pipe which still emerges at the foot of the steps descending from Joy's Wood into Moseley Bog.
- In the 1960s the land was 'capped' and used as playing fields. However, poor drainage and the occasional tendency for a protruding brick to interfere with the sliding tackle of the eager footballer made the area inappropriate for this use.
- In 1980 plans were announced to build 22 detached houses on land in Moseley Bog. This sparked a 'Save Our Bog' campaign led by local resident Joy Fifer, which culminated in 1986 with the City Council preventing the development by purchasing a section of the land.
- In the following year volunteers planted native trees and shrubs on the former playing fields: Joy's Wood was born!

Save Our Bog – The campaign to save Moseley Bog inspired local conservationists to found the Urban Wildlife Group. Years later this became The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & the Black Country, the first Wildlife Trust in the country to serve a wholly urban area.



© Jeanette Bushell



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

Birdlife –

In 1984 the first ever International Dawn Chorus Day was held in the reserve and broadcast live around the world on the BBC World Service. Visit the site at different times of the day and year to see the wonderful variety of birds, including goldfinch, jay, tree-creeper, tawny owl and many more.



Goldfinch



Meadows – The created grasslands of Joy's Wood are managed in the same way as traditional countryside meadows. This benefits wildflowers and the insects that feed upon them. The Wildlife Trust periodically carries out 'diversification' of the grassland when we add new plant species.

Performance Area –

The Performance Area makes a perfect outdoor classroom, performance space or informal meeting area.



Look out for: Sparrowhawks



© David Martin

Sparrowhawks are small birds of prey adapted for hunting birds in confined spaces such as dense woodland. As with most birds of prey, females are larger than males. As their name suggests, 98% of the sparrowhawk's diet consists of other birds. Listen for the alarm calls of smaller birds as they spot a sparrowhawk and alert other birds in the area to the danger. You might see sparrowhawks displaying to each other in early spring, when males perform a 'rollercoaster' flight, climbing up and diving back down again to impress females.

Joy Fifer – In 1999 the area of meadow, hedgerow and woodland which had briefly been playing fields was named Joy's Wood after Joy Fifer, in recognition of her vital role in saving the reserve from development. Joy was awarded the MBE in 2001 in recognition of her services to nature conservation.



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: Soldier Beetle © Raynah Thomas