

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & the Black Country

Birmingham &
Black Country



Education and community resource pack



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Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve

Part of The Shire Country Park

Protected and conserved by The **Wildlife Trust** for **Birmingham** and the **Black Country**

Creating a **Living Landscape**

Welcome



About the Moseley Bog Project

The three year Moseley Bog Project aims to improve access and encourage more of the community to visit and enjoy the Reserve. Funding is provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Advantage West Midlands, Natural England and other funding streams.

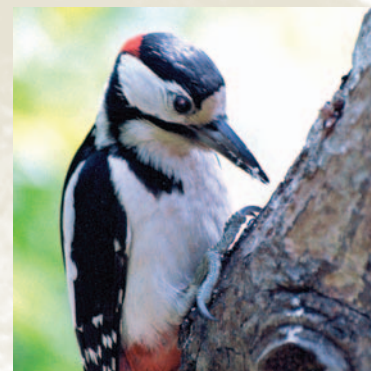
In addition to the on site improvements to the paths, we have produced leaflets and information panels. There are also opportunities for all members of the community to get involved in practical conservation, event support and generally enjoying the nature reserve.

Improvements to the reserve include the following:

- A boardwalk route accessible to wheelchair users.
- New interpretation boards.
- Improvements to the car park.
- Viewing platforms.
- A new feature entrance on Yardley Wood Road.
- An outdoor classroom area.

Take full advantage of the wonderful site improvements and the education and community opportunities.





About Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood was declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1991. It lies approximately 3 miles south of Birmingham City Centre, situated between Yardley Wood Road and Wake Green Road. The Reserve includes natural, semi-natural, prehistoric, and historic features.

welcome The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country is the proud lease owner thanks to years of hard work, determination and partnership work. Encouraging the community to enjoy and support the Nature Reserve is important to the project. It was through the "Save Our Bog" Campaign that individuals were inspired to form The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. With a myriad of habitat areas, the reserve offers a variety of opportunities for activities.

Moseley Bog Moseley Bog comprises wet and dry semi-natural woodland with patches of fen vegetation. It also has several areas of standing water, a pond, Coldbath Brook and the ditch system. The wet areas encourage species unusual to urban sites including Sphagnum moss, Wood Horsetail and Wood Sorrel. Bats, Song Thrush and Tree Creeper are just a few of the species that utilize the woods. Other features include an Oak estimated at over 300 years old and native Bluebell woodland.

Joy's Wood Joy's Wood comprises recently created grassland, hedgerows, woodland and mixed broadleaved plantations. Originally the area was a wetland valley which was land-filled, capped with soil and then used as a sports field. More recently it has been transformed by imaginative planting of native tree and shrub species including Blackthorn, Hazel, Birch and Hawthorn so creating what is now Joy's Wood. It is a delightful mixture of woodland glades and open spaces, one of which is dedicated to function as a meeting place, classroom or performance area.

In 1982, planning permission was refused. In 1986 a smaller development was approved which included a buffer zone to protect the reserve. In recognition of Joy Fifer's work and the campaign the plantation area was renamed in 2000 to Joy's Wood.

culture Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood has inspired many people, the most notable being J.R.R. Tolkien with his bestselling books 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'. As a child Tolkien liked drawing; "he would draw a tree then would climb the tree and talk to it" (Collins R. Davis, 2005). Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood would have made a perfect retreat. Through Tolkien's imagination, a new cultural event has emerged - 'Middle-earth' weekend, which combines demonstrations, walks, markets and other fun activities in celebration of Tolkien's works. Moseley Bog is part of this great cultural event hosting walks and performances.

archaeology & history Within the Reserve there is interesting evidence of historic land use. Two 'burnt mounds' within the site were designated Scheduled Ancient Monuments in 2002. The mounds have been dated to 3,000 years ago (Bronze Age). Archaeologists believe the mounds were places where stones were heated and then moved to a bender; a structure made from bent wooden rods and covered with animal skins. The stones were doused with water creating steam, giving a sauna effect. Similar structures have been used all over the world since prehistoric times for cleansing, spiritual centres and meeting places.

Sarehole Mill is situated south east of Moseley Bog and was supplied with water from the Great Pool (in Moseley Bog). East of the Reserve there is evidence of the old dam and remains of a sluice consisting of two phases of brickwork, handmade and machine made. The dam was leaking and around 1850 the pool was allowed to drain. Sarehole Mill pool is currently fed from water from the Coldbath Brook running through the Reserve.

environmental protection In the 1980s an application to build houses on the reserve was submitted to Birmingham City Council. As result of this, the Save Our Bog campaign was launched and spearheaded by local resident Joy Fifer. The campaign included street demonstrations, petitions and gained lots of public support.



Education



Education at Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve

Curriculum Areas

The Trust uses CRB checked experienced session leaders, particularly when developing and delivering curriculum based sessions. Below are some example activities that relate the Key stages and subjects areas. In addition our **Forest School** sessions can be tailored for any Key stage, and we can also develop bespoke sessions to complement lesson plans.

Early learners, Foundation Stage

Activity	Learning Objectives
Wood discovery Discover the wonder of woods, the plants and animals through investigation and play	Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2012 Physical, Personal, Social and Emotional development. Mathematics. Understanding the World.
Mini Beast Safari Search for mini-beasts and play games outside	EYFS Understanding the World. Personal, Social and Emotional.
Sense Nature Use the senses all over the reserve through activities, play and storytelling	EYFS Communication and Language; Personal, Social and Emotional. Understanding the World. Expressive Arts and Design.

Non-Curriculum Areas

At the Trust we also encourage non-curriculum play and learning activities. This can include sessions similar to the following activities. However we will adapt the sessions to the group size and dynamic.

Early learners

Activity	Learning Objectives
Teddy Bears Picnic	Using outdoor spaces for play activities.

Other reserves and educational opportunities

The Wildlife Trust has a number of reserves across Birmingham and the Black Country. We can deliver work and other educational sessions either at the reserves or at your schools. We also have three education centres for you to visit. You can find more information on our website www.bbcwildlife.org.uk, or you can contact us using the details opposite.

Key stage 1 & 2

Activity	Related Subjects	Learning Activities
Green Plants	Geography	Learn about the Reserve and how we manage environmental change sustainably.
Minibeast Safari	Science	Investigate minibeasts and their adaptations to the habitat or investigate minibeasts food chains and look for evidence of this in the reserve.
Outdoor Art	Art	Observe a natural environment, Investigate shape and form and make your own outdoor art from natural materials.

Key stage 3 & 4

Activity	Related Subjects	Learning Activities
The people of Moseley Bog	History	See the evidence of the Bronze age people that lived in the reserve. How did their lives differ from ours? Investigate the historic link between Moseley Bog Nature Reserve and Sarehole Mill.
Invertebrate investigations	Science	Organisms, their behaviour and the environment.
Tolkien Discovery	English	Speaking and listening; Discover Moseley Bog, a site that inspired Tolkien, write your own short stories, or poetry.

Key stage 1 & 2

Activity	Learning Objectives
Play Day	A variety of organised games and free play time.

Key stage 3 & 4

Activity	Learning Objectives
Craft Building	Den building or willow sculpture.



Community Events

Moseley Bog & Joys Wood Nature Reserve continues to be at the heart of the community and is host to many events throughout the year. Come and join us in making the Reserve a hub of activity.

The reserve is part of a network of reserves following the course of the River Cole, known as The Shire Country Park. The Shire Country Park has a variety of activities and workdays taking place throughout the year.

Moseley Bog continues to be a wonderful environment for community events. Middle-earth weekend which takes place at Sarehole Mill continues to link closely with Moseley Bog through walks and re-enactments. In addition Moth and Bat nights, woodworking events and ramblers walk are just some of the great ways to connect with likeminded people.

The Wildlife Trust encourages the community to make use of Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood for public events. If you wish to organise an event please contact us in advance with full details so that we can ensure that it meets health and safety guidelines. All events that involve groups of people using equipment or structures such as tables, sound equipment or gazebos require permission.

It may be possible to gain staffing support from the Wildlife Trust for some events.

Things you need to know

- There are no buildings or toilets on site.
- We recommend that you wash hands or bring anti-bacterial hand gel or wipes for cleaning hands after activities.
- If anyone in your group becomes unwell, they should inform your doctor that you have visited a nature reserve and the type of activities you were involved with.
- Please be prepared for all weather. In extreme weather circumstances the session should be cancelled.
- Parking is limited, so please inform the Trust representative about your travel arrangements.
- To discuss this further please contact us.

Contact Details

Francesca Jarvis-Rouse or Paula O'Reilly
The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country
16 Greenfield Crescent, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3AU

By email: info@bbcwildlife.org.uk

By Telephone: 0121 454 1199 By Fax: 0121 454 6556

See the Website:

<http://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/>



Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve



Getting to the reserve

Travel from within Birmingham

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country encourages the use of green travel when visiting nature reserves.

Walking

The reserve has a good network of footpaths from the local housing & shops including the main entrance off Yardley Wood Road, the pedestrian entrance from Pensby Close and access from Windermere Close playing fields.

Cycling

Plan a route via the journey planner on <http://www.cyclestreets.net/>

Please note that cycling is not permitted on the Reserve itself.

Bus

There are three frequent bus services from the City centre which stop 5 metres from the main entrance, which are as follows:

- 2 Birmingham City centre – Sparkbrook – Yardley Wood – Warstock/Maypole
- 3 Birmingham City centre – Sparkbrook – Yardley Wood – Shirley – Solihull
- 3A Birmingham City centre – Sparkbrook – Yardley Wood – Shirley – Acocks Green

Bus timetables: <http://nxbus.co.uk>

Parking

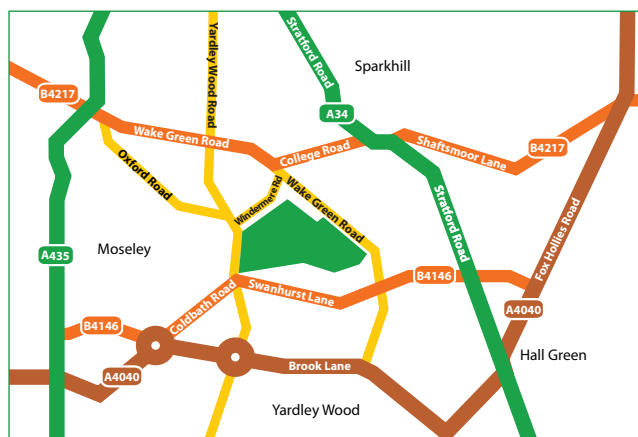
For parking advice please contact the Reserve officer.

Train

Walking directions from Hall green train station to Pensby Close entrance (15min walking)

1. Head northwest 102 ft
2. Turn left toward Stratford Rd/A34 95 ft
3. Turn left onto Stratford Rd/A34 0.1 mi
4. Turn right onto Cole Bank Rd/B4146
Go through 1 roundabout 0.4 mi
5. At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Wake Green Rd 387 ft
6. Turn left onto Thirlmere Dr 0.1 mi
7. Turn right onto Pensby Close
8. Head to the end of the close, here are steps to Moseley Bog

Please note wheel chair access is from the Yardley Wood Road entrance.





Visiting the reserve

The Wildlife Trust's principal aim is to create an environment rich in wildlife and healthy for people. We want a Living Landscape within Birmingham and the Black Country.

To help achieve our mission we work to inspire people of all ages to experience, value, enjoy and celebrate the natural world in urban areas and understand what they can do to care for it.

Things you need to know

- There are no buildings or toilets on site. If you contact the Reserve officer prior to your visit it may be possible to arrange to use of the nearest toilets - at Sarehole Mill.
- We recommend that you wash hands or bring anti-bacterial hand gel or wipes for cleaning hands after activities.
- If anyone in your group becomes unwell, they should inform your doctor that you have visited a nature reserve and the type of activities you were involved with.
- Please be prepared for all weather. In extreme weather circumstance the session should be cancelled.
- Parking is limited, so please inform the leader about your travel arrangements.
- If you have booked an event and need to cancel please inform the leader as soon as possible.

Pre site visit information

- The school will be required to produce its own risk assessment. You can also request copies of our site risk assessments.
- If any child in your party has a condition that requires medication, please ensure that they bring it with them.
- The education provider/school must supply adequate supervision for children under 18 years of age.
- You are responsible for members within your group and should have a Lost Person procedure. The leader can help you organise site specific procedures.

What you need

- Sturdy footwear.
- Waterproofs (if available).
- Sun hats and sun cream (if appropriate).
- Lunch (if appropriate).
- Bin bags to remove all litter from sites.

For Led sessions

In addition to the information above

- There will be a first aid trained member of staff, with a basic first aid kit.
- Appropriate tools and equipment for organised tasks will be provided for example saws, loppers, etc
- Site Risk Assessments and Trust Policies can be supplied if requested.
- The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country has public liability insurance.



Other educational sites and reserves

For other educational sites and opportunities please visit the website or contact us using the details below:

Moseley Bog Reserve Officer

Francesca Jarvis-Rouse

Administrator

Paula O'Reilly

Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve

Yardley Wood Road, Moseley
Birmingham, West Midlands B13 9YP
(nearest) Grid Reference SP094821

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