

The area to the north of Hill Hook Road has regenerating woodland and meadow. Summer is the best time to see the meadow flowers, butterflies and other invertebrates such as dragonflies, damselflies, hover flies and bee.



Spring is a great time to visit to see woodland flowers such as *Wood Anemones* and *Bluebells*, when the Nature Reserve is alive with bird song.

The Friends of Hill Hook LNR is a local group of The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and The Black Country and help manage the Reserve with support from Birmingham City Council.

Regular practical conservation days take place through the year and volunteers have undertaken tasks from woodland thinning, coppicing, Sycamore and scrub control to tree and hedgerow planting. Meadow management with grass and tall herb cutting, footpath, bridge and boardwalk construction and upkeep are also completed.

Several public events are held throughout the year including an International **Dawn Chorus Day** event, **Bat and Moth Nights** and organised walks.

Help is always welcome. Keep an eye on the **Hill Hook LNR** and **Wildlife Trust** websites & the notice board by the Mill Pool for details.

The Friends of Hill Hook LNR have been very active with practical conservation work, including installing boardwalks through the wet woodland to improve access.

Hill Hook LNR is an open site and lovely to visit at any time of the year.

Many local people visit the site for informal recreation from bird watching and sitting enjoying the view to feeding the ducks.

Access is available throughout the Nature Reserve, although some paths are uneven and muddy at times.



**Birmingham & Black Country**

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham & the Black Country, with the help of over 10,000 enthusiastic members, works to make your local environment a better place for wildlife and people.

If local wildlife and green spaces are important to you, you can join us and help make a real difference. To help you get out and enjoy nature, when you join you'll receive a free guide to reserves in Birmingham & the Black Country, magazines with fascinating insights into our work, news from other Wildlife Trust around the country and information on how to get involved.

To join the Wildlife Trust go to [www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/membership](http://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/membership) or call us on **0121 454 1199**.

You can also follow us on **Twitter @WTBBC** or like us at **Facebook.com/WTBBC**



Hill Hook LNR is easily reached by public transport from **Blake Street** station on the **Cross City** railway line and the **92, 902 & X12** buses stop on **Hill Hook Road**.

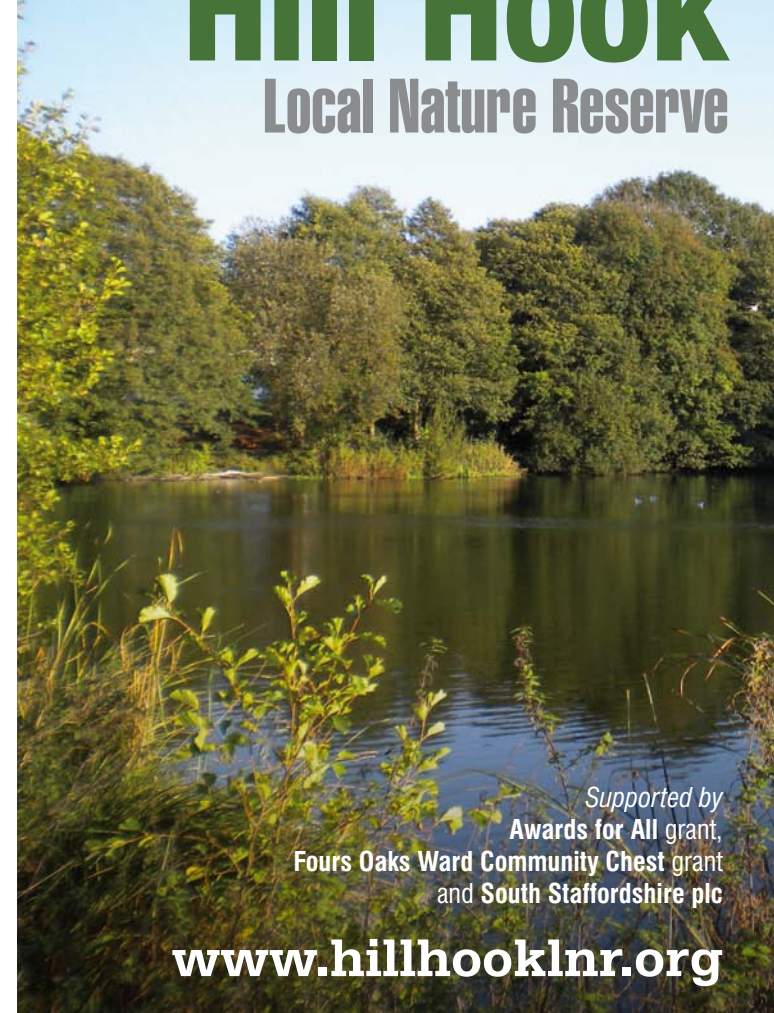
**NO FISHING IS ALLOWED ON THIS SITE**



**Birmingham & Black Country**



# Welcome to Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve



Supported by Awards for All grant, Fours Oaks Ward Community Chest grant and South Staffordshire plc

[www.hillhooklnr.org](http://www.hillhooklnr.org)



**Birmingham City Council**



Creating a Living Landscape

**Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve** is located in Four Oaks, not far from Sutton Park. This hidden oasis of green, bordered by residential streets, is known only to those who venture on foot or attend one of the Friends of Hill Hook LNR organised events. The man made large pool originally provided water to Hill Hook Corn Mill, which operated from the mid 1600's until the mid 1900's. The Mill Pool now provides the focal point for the 7.7 Hectare Local Nature Reserve, which comprises an extensive area of woodland and rough grassland providing habitat for a wide variety of plants, animals and birds.

The site includes the old, now demolished Hill Hook Mill which operated for more than 300 years grinding corn for local residents and farmers. The first record of a miller at Hill Hook Mill was that of Oliver Cartwright in 1671. During the 1900s a pleasure ground surrounded the mill area including swings, roundabouts and afternoon tearooms!



The **Hill Hook Mill** (pictured left) became prone to vandalism and was eventually demolished in 1970. The Birmingham City Council purchased the site 1980 to establish a public open space and Nature Reserve. Hill Hook was declared a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in 1990 and became a Local Nature Reserve in 2003.



## Wildlife and Vegetation

Hill Hook LNR is made up of a very good variety of habitats with the Mill Pool, marginal vegetation, streams, wet *Alder* and *Willow* woodland and marsh, through to hedgerows, established and regenerating broadleaved woodland, scattered scrub and meadow.

The whole site is a very attractive and valuable setting which acts as a green corridor for wildlife extending from the border of South Staffordshire countryside through the residential area into the north of Birmingham.

The varied and rare flora includes wetland species such as *Lesser Reedmace*, *Greater Tussock Sedge* and *Marsh Cinquefoil* as well as established woodland indicator species with *Bluebell*, *Yellow Archangel*, *Wood Anemone*, *Moschatel* and *Opposite Leaved Golden-Saxifrage*. Meadow plants are represented by *Common Spotted-Orchid*, *Cowslip* and many others.

The vegetation around the Mill Pool has good botanical interest, here *Lesser Spearwort*, *Pink Purslane* and *Marsh Cinquefoil* can be found. The wet *Alder* woodland has a good understory, with *Guelder Rose*, *Dog Rose*, *Rowan* and *Holly*, the waterlogged areas are often dominated by *Water Horsetail*, *Sedges* and *Ferns*.

In the drier areas the flora is typical of local woodland with *Bluebell*, *Foxglove*, *Bramble*, *Hedge Garlic* and *Ivy*.

The Mill Pool is a great attraction to wildlife. There are plenty of large *Carp* which can be seen as they roll at the surface. Amphibians including *Frogs* and *Common Toads*, along with a host of invertebrates such as *Dragonflies* and *Damselflies*, make the pool and its edges their home.

Many bird species either breed or overwinter on the reserve. Of the waterfowl *Mallard*, *Coot*, *Moorhen*, *Mute Swan*, *Pochard*, *Goosander*, *Great Crested Grebe*, *Tufted Duck*, *Canada Geese* and *Greylag Geese* are regularly seen. Woodland birds include, amongst many, *Robin*, *Blackbird*, *Song Thrush*, *Wren*, *Blue Tit*, *Great Tit*, *Long Tailed Tit*, *Greater Spotted Woodpecker*, *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*, *Treecreeper*, *Nuthatch* and *Tawny Owl*.

The regenerating woodland provides good habitat for *Whitethroat*, *Chiffchaff*, *Willow Warbler* and *Blackcap*. *Swallows*, *House Martins*, *Sand Martins* and *Swifts* feed over the Mill Pool in the Summer and Winter visitors such as *Waxwings* have been seen. *Grey Wagtails* nest along the banks of the stream running from the Mill Pool.