

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, hoverflies and bees.



Spring is a great time to visit to see woodland flowers such as wood anemone and bluebell, when the nature reserve is alive with bird song.

The Friends of Hill Hook LNR is a local group of the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and we manage the reserve with the support of the Trust and Birmingham City Council.

Regular practical conservation days take place throughout the year with volunteers undertaking a wide range of tasks including woodland thinning, coppicing, tree planting, hedgerow restoration and meadow management, as well as the construction and maintenance of footpaths, bridges and boardwalks.

Several public events are held throughout the year including Bat and Moth nights, Winter Bird watch and organised walks.

Help is always welcome. Keep an eye on the noticeboard by the Mill Pool for details. Information is also available on the events page and the Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve page of the Wildlife Trust website.

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. Please note that we discourage visitors from feeding bread to birds - however sweetcorn, lettuce and rolled oats are a great alternative.

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



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Friends of



We welcome new volunteers to help with our practical conservation volunteer days, carrying out tasks from woodland management to hedgerow planting and nature surveys as well as helping with our public events including Bat and Moth nights, for the local community.

Find out more at:
bbcwildlife.org.uk/hill-hook-friends

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Birmingham City Council

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the Nature Reserve then please contact Birmingham City Council on 0121 355 6370 or by visiting www.birmingham.gov.uk/parks



Birmingham & Black Country
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Friends of Hill Hook
Local Nature Reserve

Welcome to Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve

Supported by:
Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust
Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council
Birmingham Airport

www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/hill-hook-plan-visit



Birmingham
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Working for nature's recovery

Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located in Four Oaks, not far from Sutton Park. This hidden green oasis, bordered by residential streets, is cherished and valued by the local community and visitors from further afield.

The large pool was originally created to provide water to Hill Hook Mill, which operated from the mid 1600s until the mid 1900s. The Mill Pool now provides the focal point for the 7.7 hectare Local Nature Reserve, which comprises an extensive area of natural green space, providing habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals.

The site was once home to the 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 which included swings, roundabouts and afternoon tearooms!

Visit Hill Hook LNR






The address for the main entrance is Netherstone Grove, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield B74 4DT

what three words: **edges.retail.slows**

The various access points are marked on the map to the right.

No fishing is allowed on this site.

Key

-  Paths
-  Station
-  Main Entrance
-  Access Points
-  Site of Hill Hook Mill

Hill Hook Mill (pictured left) became prone to vandalism and was eventually demolished in 1970. Birmingham City Council purchased the site in 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

Hill Hook LNR supports a diverse range of habitats including the Mill Pool with open water and marginal vegetation, streams, meadow, marsh, hedgerows, scrub, wet woodland and dry woodland.

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 reed-mace, 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 a range of bird species, including 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.

The site is also home to a healthy population of bats with seven different species recorded on site including Common Pipistrelle and Daubenton's. Hill Hook LNR is one of few local sites where the presence of Brants bat has been recorded.

